



# PAWLET NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2011

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PAWLET

This issue of the Pawlet Newsletter celebrates the Town's 250th birthday. 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. Save the dates and join in the festivities!

There are many ways to participate. Join the parade, bake pies, man a display booth and watch some fireworks! Read more to find out how you can be part of this historic occasion. The Town of Pawlet would like to thank Judy Coolidge, Phyllis Mason and all who have worked so hard to make this a very special event.

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 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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## AN INVITATION TO PAWLET'S 250TH BIRTHDAY PARTY ON AUGUST 26 – 28, 2011

This month Pawlet celebrates its 250th anniversary of charter. Join us for a fun-filled and memorable weekend on August 26 – 28. All events are free; food and souvenirs will be available for purchase. We invite everyone to come and celebrate. Newspaper clippings of past events describe the thousands that were on hand. We hope history will repeat itself.

**Friday, August 26:** The celebration will start with two performances at the Mettawee Community School by the Pawlet Players on Friday afternoon and evening – the actual anniversary of the town charter signing. Folks from the 1970s and 1980s will remember the zany summertime performances at the Town Hall by this group of local thespians, who adapted a fairy tale and into a hilarious performance. Many Pawlet Players who have moved away are returning for this occasion. Dot Leach's dancers will also lend their talent.

**Saturday, August 27,** is our Big Day, starting at 10 AM in both village centers and concluding with evening fireworks in West Pawlet. Morning activities in Pawlet Village include an antique vehicle and farm machinery exhibit at Edie Mach's field; an art and quilt show at the Library, along with many children's events and a visit from some Marlee Farm alpacas; a display of Pawlet treasures at the Town Hall, with a viewing of the historical painted curtain and postage



*Thanks to Matt Solon and Julianne McCarthy for Pawlet's special birthday sign, now displayed in Pawlet Village.*

stamp cancellation by Postmaster Val Davis. Stop by the open houses at the Morning Flower Lodge and the Chriss Monroe Chapel and take a ghost walk at the Mettawee Valley Cemetery.

Meanwhile West Pawlet Village will host a pie social, games for the kids, displays of old photos and objects, postage stamp cancellation by Postmaster Jackie

*Pawlet birthday invite continued on page 7*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR: AUGUST – OCTOBER 2011

### AUGUST

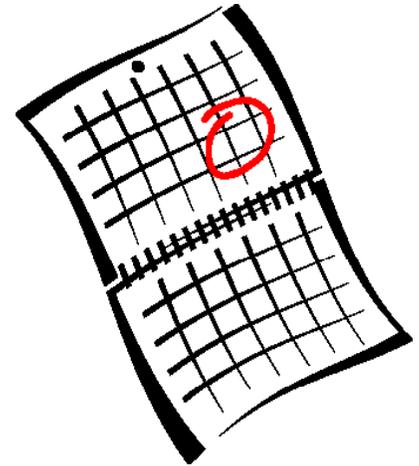
- 8/1, Monday, 7:30 PM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department (WPVFD)  
 8/2, Tuesday, 7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD)  
 8/5 - 8/6, Friday - Saturday. WPVFD annual carnival with chicken barbecue on Saturday  
 8/6, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church  
 8/9, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 8/10, Wednesday, Mettawee Valley Grange community picnic, Charles and Phyllis Mason's house, 458 Maple Grove, Pawlet. Call 325-2280 for information.  
 7 PM. UD #47 Board Meeting, Rupert Town Hall  
 8/11, Thursday, 3 PM to dark, Pawlet Library volunteer potluck picnic, Pavilion Building, Emerald Lake State Park, East Dorset, VT  
 8/21, Sunday, West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Auction  
 8/22, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall  
 8/23, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 8/26, Friday, 9 - 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn  
 8/26 - 8/28, Friday - Sunday, Town of Pawlet 250th Birthday Celebration  
 8/28, Sunday, 12 PM. WPVFD Annual Auction.

### SEPTEMBER

- 9/3, Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. Art on the Green, Pawlet Village  
 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church  
 9/5, Monday, Town Offices closed for Labor Day  
 9/6, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department  
 9/12, Monday, Property taxes due to Town Treasurer  
 7:30 PM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department  
 9/13, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors potluck lunch, Pawlet Church  
 9/14, Wednesday, 6 PM. Pawlet School Board meeting, Mettawee Community School  
 7 PM. UD #47 School Board meeting, Mettawee Community School  
 9/20, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 9/23, Friday, 9 - 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn  
 9/26, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall  
 9/27, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors lunch, Mettawee School. Call 325-3196 for reservations.

### OCTOBER

- 10/1, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church  
 10/3, Monday, 7:30 PM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department  
 10/4, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department  
 10/10, Monday, Town Offices closed for Columbus Day  
 10/11, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors potluck lunch, Pawlet Church  
 10/12, Wednesday, 7 PM. UD #47 School Board meeting, Mettawee Community School  
 10/18, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall  
 10/24, Monday, 7:30 PM. Planning Commission, Town Hall  
 10/25, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers seniors lunch, Mettawee School. Call 325-3196 for reservations.  
 10/28, Friday, 9 - 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn



### *Art on the Green Benefits Pawlet Scholarships*

The Pawlet Scholarship Fund holds its annual Art on the Green benefit on Saturday, September 3, 10 AM to 4 PM, on the green adjoining the Pawlet Library. Area artists will be selling arts and fine crafts, including paintings, sculptures, photography, pottery and jewelry – with local food vendors offering their wares also. Tents will provide shelter from sun or rain. Participating artists will be donating 20 percent of their proceeds to the Pawlet Scholarship Fund, which helps recent high school graduates and other adults from Pawlet and West Pawlet further their education.

Contact Anita Pomerance at [skysnows@vermontel.net](mailto:skysnows@vermontel.net) or 325-3786.



*Matt Solon display at 2003 Art on the Green*

## TOWN OFFICE NEWS

### Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins

**Unclaimed property:** The Vermont Treasurer's Office has unclaimed property, and there are many names from Pawlet/West Pawlet on the list. To view the list, go to [www.vermonttreasurer.gov](http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov) and follow links to unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property includes forgotten bank accounts uncashed paychecks, unclaimed security deposits, and unused gift certificates. The property comes from many sources — banks, credit unions, corporations, utilities, insurance agencies, retailers, and governmental agencies. The Vermont State Treasurer's Office acts as custodian to safeguard the assets until they can be claimed by the rightful owners or heirs.

**Cycling event brings visitors to town:** On Saturday, August 6, the Multiple Sclerosis Green Mountain Get-away annual cycling event will be traveling through Pawlet and West Pawlet between 8 AM – 3 PM. About 200 people will be passing through town. For more information visit [www.MSnewengland.org](http://www.MSnewengland.org).

**West Nile Virus:** To help track West Nile Virus, report any dead birds to the Vermont Department of Health at 800-913-1139 or 802-865-1308

**Register to vote:** If you are not registered to vote, come into the office during regular operating hours to do so. You can vote in Vermont only if you: are a citizen of the United States; are a resident of Vermont and a resident of the town in which you apply to be added to the checklist; take, or have previously taken, the Voter's Oath (formerly called the "Freeman's Oath"); and are 18 years of age or older (or will be eighteen on or before the day of election). For more information visit the Vermont Secretary of State web site at <http://vermont-elections.org/>.

**Dog Licenses:** If you have not yet registered your dog, you must come into the Town Clerk's office to do so as soon as possible. Vermont Statutes 20 § 3581 (a) states "A person who is the owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid more than six months old shall annually on or before April 1 cause it to be registered ..." "If the license fee for any dog or wolf-hybrid is not paid by April 1, its owner or keeper may thereafter procure a license for that license year by paying a fee of fifty percent in excess of that otherwise required." 20 §3621 states "a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers or constables, or pound keep-



*Town Hall, by Nancy Offensend Houghton*

ers, 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 ..."

**Upcoming holidays:** Town offices will be closed on Monday, September 5 for Labor Day and on Monday, October 10 for Columbus Day.

### Town Treasurer, Judy Coolidge

**Tax bills:** The 2011-2012 tax bills will be mailed out the first week in August. Due dates are September 12 and February 10.

### 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.

### Planning Commission

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

### 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](mailto:pawletclerk@vermontel.net).

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

### Reminders!

#### Hours for Washington County Transfer Station

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

**Closed holidays: Saturday, September 3; Tuesday October 11; Friday, November 3**

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

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

The Legislature has completed its first year of the current two-year session — a compact and productive period in which we addressed many important issues. We crafted a responsible, balanced budget reflecting a cut in spending and a commitment to maintain Vermont’s infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, promote telecommunication and facilitate renewable energy and energy efficiency. We invested in education of young children and consumer protection and in creating a high quality health care system.

We recognized our military veterans with: legislation to help their reentry into the job market after serving a deployment; an interstate compact to help children of mobile military families adjust to new educational situations; provisions for helping disabled veterans fully utilize credits to their property taxes.

Highway and public safety should improve due to stronger laws against repeat DUI offenders and more effective and less costly approaches to incarceration of nonviolent offenders.

This budget also invests in Vermont’s diversified agricultural economy and natural resources. The Legislature created a local foods coordinator position in the

Agency of Agriculture to facilitate marketing Vermont’s agricultural production.

We also committed to maintaining the important work of our local conservation districts, removing crucial meat processing bottlenecks, and helping farmers meet the increasingly strict food safety standards.



I was pleased to be appointed to the Vermont Milk Commission and to the Legislature’s Biomass Energy Development Working Group. This group is addressing the critical considerations of promoting the development of the Vermont woody biomass industry while also maintaining forest health.

Please contact me for more information at 325-3424, 1822 Rupert Mountain Road, Pawlet, VT 05761; JMalcolm@leg.state.vt.us. See the Legislature’s web site for information about specific bills, state statutes, and weekly schedules. Thank you!

*Representative John Malcolm*

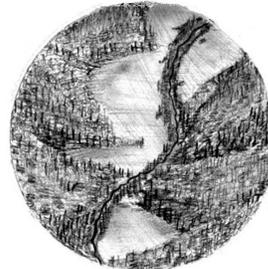


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**STAY INFORMED - GET PAWLET ENEWS AND VISIT YOUR TOWN’S WEBSITE!**

The editor of this newsletter maintains an email group list for updates on local events via email. To receive Pawlet eNews, contact Elizabeth Gibson at egib@vermontel.net. And visit the new web site for the Town of Pawlet at <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>. Leave comments, news and updates at the site or email egib@vermontel.net.

## A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PAWLET HOMEOWNERS by Elizabeth Gibson

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont is offering a one-of-a-kind home energy savings opportunity to all homeowners in Rutland County, regardless of income. As part of the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, NeighborWorks received a \$4.5-million grant for a county-wide effort to achieve wide-scale energy savings, create jobs, and put in place the infrastructure for long-term energy savings in Rutland County. In a 3-year period, NeighborWorks will help 1,000 homeowners undertake home energy improvements.

To complete this ambitious task, NeighborWorks has conceived an innovative approach combining competition with cash incentives. All 27 towns in Rutland County are competing to improve their residents' energy efficiency. Each town has a target goal of home energy improvements and is eligible to win significant cash awards that can be used toward the energy project of the town's choice, such as weatherizing a town building. Every town that achieves its target will also receive a financial award equal to \$50/home.

*Pawlet's goal is 24 homes improved; 5 have now been completed.*

The NeighborWorks program is a one-stop-shop for home energy improvements developed under the "NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad" banner. It includes help scheduling home energy checkups, energy advocates working on behalf of homeowners, project management for the homeowner during the energy efficiency improvements and access to financing for the energy improvements. The Rutland County competition phase of the project started in June and will last one year. Winners will be announced by July 15, 2012.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to improve your home and town at the same time! The cost of financing any improvements made should be considered in light of the considerable savings in fuel costs that will be realized. And NeighborWorks is offering low-interest, long-term loans to homeowners, as well as incentives up to \$2,500 – with no income caps. Contact NeighborWorks at 438-2303.



### NeighborWorks Home Efficiency Assistance Team (HEAT) can help make your home more healthy, comfortable and energy-efficient.

Home energy improvements keep drafts out and warm air in, saving 30 percent on average heating costs. Typical improvements are: insulation, sealing drafts, thermal shell improvements and sealing out moisture. Incentives up to \$2,500 are available – no income caps. Financing options are also offered. Get started on saving money and making your home more comfortable now! Call 438-2303 or visit [www.heatsquad.org](http://www.heatsquad.org).

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## PAWLET'S OWN FARMERS MARKET



*The Wood family of Pawlet offers their maple products and farm-fresh eggs at the Pawlet farmers market.*

The Pawlet Village Farmers Market is open every Friday, rain or shine, through the summer, 3 – 6 PM on the side lawn of the Pawlet Public Library on School Street. The market features local produce, handmade crafts, fresh food products, baked goods, maple goodies, music, and more. Come visit and support our local farmers. Interested vendors, please contact pawletvillagefarmersmarket@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

Take in some local art as well while you enjoy the farmers market. Stop by the Library's open art show in the cool downstairs gallery.

## TOWN HALL RESTORATION PROGRESS

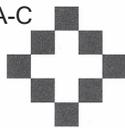
The ceiling of the upstairs auditorium in the Town Hall has been stabilized and repaired by Michael Smith, plasterer, and his helper Dave, who also filled in the missing plaster areas. This work was funded by a grant from The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, with matching funds made available through the generosity of private donors. The Town thanks all donors who made this crucial work possible.

The Pawlet Town Hall has housed the town offices continuously since 1881. Restoration began in 2003 when voters decided by a margin of 3:1 not to investigate construction of a new town office building. Since then the downstairs offices have been renovated and the entire building made ADA-compliant. The cupola has been fully restored. Remaining work in the auditorium includes skim-coating and stenciling the walls, installing lighting fixtures, and adding a fire escape.

*Please consider a 250th birthday gift to Pawlet in the form of a tax-deductible donation to help restore our historic Town Hall. Send checks payable to "Pawlet Town Hall Restoration" to Judy Coolidge, Treasurer, Town of Pawlet, Pawlet VT 05761.*

View the progress our community has made to restore our historic Town Hall! The upstairs auditorium will be open during Pawlet's birthday weekend Saturday, August 27, 12 - 3 PM and Sunday, August 28, 11 AM - 1 PM. The historic painted curtain will be on display. Sue LaPorte and Elizabeth Gibson will be available to answer questions about the restoration project.

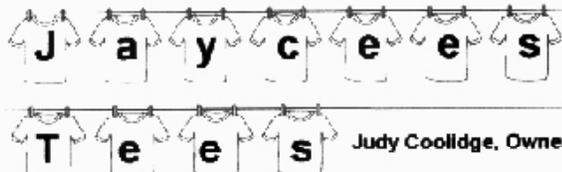
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*Pawlet birthday invite, continued from page 1*

Martelle and a farmers market. The Old West Pawlet Academy will feature a photo display by the Pawlett Historical Society of town celebrations from three different eras. Jack Rath will show some of his old machinery in front of the Academy.

Food vendors will be on hand in both villages, and information booths will have our events program, souvenirs and maps showing the location of all activities.

Memory tables will be set up in both village centers – at the West Pawlet Firehouse and the Pawlet Town Hall – where residents can display old photos and memorabilia. Please identify any family members or friends pictured in your photos.

Saturday afternoon activities begin in Pawlet Village at 1 PM, on the front porch of the Town Hall, where Representative John Malcolm will read the Resolution by the state Legislature announcing the celebration of Pawlet's 250th anniversary, followed by a reading from the town charter by some of our students. At 1:30 PM the Historical Society will offer a presentation by Daniel Webster reenactor Jim Cooke, followed by the long-awaited raffle drawing of the Society's cherry blanket chest crafted and donated by Gregg Gawlik.

From 10 AM – 2 PM the restored Braintree School in West Pawlet will be open for displays and hands-on activities with Susanne Rappaport and Patty Tobin.

Events in Pawlet Village conclude at 2 PM, and we move to West Pawlet for a parade at 3 PM. Lineup will be at 2:30 PM at Bob Jones' field. The parade route will follow Route 153 through West Pawlet village and end at Leslie Ironworks.

At 5 PM, Mettawee Community School, Mark and Margaret McChesney of the Barn Restaurant will serve a barbecue of pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, beverage, chips and drink. Then put on your dancing shoes for an old-time round and square dance in the

school parking lot. Our evening will conclude at about 9:30 PM with a huge fireworks display nearby.

**Sunday August 28** starts with a 9:30 AM period worship service at the Pawlet Church with pastor John Sanborn and music by Rod Hawkins. Displays at the Town Hall and Library will be open 11 AM – 2 PM.

*Help Needed:*

- Clowns to accompany the parade.
- Volunteers to man exhibits for a few hours.
- Pie bakers for the pie social.
- Youths and young adults to wear Green Mountain Boy uniforms in the parade.
- Marching units and floats for the parade.
- Fashions for the parade. Don your favorite costume from a particular decade and join us.

Contact Judy Coolidge (325-3073 or 325-3309x2) or Sarah Post (645-0480).



*Join the parade! Youths & young adults needed to don special costumes made for the U.S. bicentennial by Dorothy Ross & friends. Here Tobey Coolidge leads the Pawlet Boy Scouts as the Green Mountain Boys in 1991. Photo: Judy Coolidge*

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## METTAWEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS *by Linda Maness*

**Graduation News:** The Class of 2011 graduated on Thursday, June 16, 2011: Jonathan Amaral, Stephen Baker, Colt Ballard, Robert Barrett III, George Bourque, Seth Browe, Christina Chilkott, Jonathan Cleveland, Nadia Cox, Nicholas Edwards, Blake Georgeson, Hailey Godette, Rebecca Hinton, Jonah Knapp-Wilson, Carley Lund, Aidan Mayer, Julie Anne McNealus, Hannah Nichols, Zoë Paige, Asia Rees, Rudyard Senecal, Alexander Sperelakis, Bryne Tufts, Thea Vunk, Jacob White. Congratulations to all!

Speakers and presenters for the evening included Mettawee Community School Principal Nancy Mark, B-RSU Superintendent Daniel French, UD #47 School Board members Jed Mayer (Address to the Graduates) and Sue Ceglowski, Representative John Malcolm, VT-D (Irene Hanfield Award), Vicki Ripley (Annie McGuire Award), Ed & Marie Lewis (Ruth Lewis Krichner Award), Steve Williams ((Pawlett Historical Society essay prizes), Heather Lund (MCS PTO), and Lisa Hoyt (Music Awards).

The following awards were announced during the ceremony:

Annie McGuire Award - Julie Ann McNealus

Ruth Lewis Kirchner Award (Town of Rupert) - Seth Browe

Irene Hanfield Award (Town of Pawlet) - Christina Chilkott



*Mettawee Community School Class of 2011  
Source: Linda Maness*

Eugene Clark Award - Colt Ballard and Rudyard Senecal

American Legion Award - Carley Lund

Ellen Frances Luke Award (Highest Grade Point Average) - Zoë Paige

Presidential Academic Fitness Award- Excellence Certificate:

Christina Chilkott, Nicholas Edwards, Hailey Godette, Becky Hinton, Jonah Knapp-Wilson, Carley Lund, Aidan Mayer, Julie Ann McNealus, Zoë Paige, Asia Rees and Thea Vunk

*- School news continued next page*

### ***From Nancy Mark, Principal, Mettawee Community School***



I am proud to announce that the Richard E. and Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation of Colchester has awarded the school a \$10,000 grant for the expansion of the 1:1 Netbooks program currently in place. The Tarrant Foundation's mission is "... to create opportunity, help meet basic needs, and improve the lives of people in Vermont. In all matters, the Foundation's guiding principles are personal and fiscal responsibility." The Tarrant Foundation "... primarily makes grants in the fields of human service and education."

All of us wish Judy Bremer, longtime kindergarten teacher, our very best as she retires from teaching after 28 years in the Pawlet School and Mettawee Community School districts. The entire school community also sends good wishes to Jennifer Bloomingdale and her husband as they start a new chapter in their life — parenthood.

Elizabeth Perry, who has most recently been the 60 percent reading support teacher, will be teaching kindergarten this coming school year. Dawn Pratt Baker will be returning to Mettawee after two years at the Dorset Elementary School. Dawn will be teaching in third grade. Lauren Kelly will also be returning to Mettawee. Lauren previously taught at MCS for 7 years, and she returns now as the 60 percent reading support teacher. We are very excited about all of these staffing appointments.

School nurse Mandy Mayer has won the The American Nurses Association first-ever video contest for receiving the greatest number of votes for her video about her role as a school nurse. The "I Am a Nurse, I Am a Leader" contest challenged nurses to share what leadership meant to them and to demonstrate how they showed leadership within their practice environment. ANA judges evaluated some 60 entries and identified 6 finalists. The larger nursing community was then invited to cast a vote for their favorite. Nearly 4000 votes were cast in the competition. Congratulations to Mandy, who will receive a \$1000 Visa gift card. To view the winning video and the other finalists, go to <http://www.youtube.com/iamanurseiamaleader>.

*Mettawee Community School News, continued*

Presidential Academic Fitness Award - Achievement Certificate:

Seth Brow, Nadia Cox, Hannah Nichols, Rudyard Senecal and Bryne Tufts

Pawlett Historical Society Essay winners each received a year's membership in the PHS.

First Prize - Zoe Paige; Second Prize - Julie Ann McNealus; and Third Prize - Stephen Baker

**Mettawee Band Awards:** Stephen Baker, Colt Ballard, George Bourque, Seth Browe, Christina Chilkott, Nadia Cox, Nicholas Edwards, Hailey Godette, Jonah Knapp-Wilson, Carley Lund, Aidan Mayer, Julie Anne McNealus, Zoë Paige, Alexander Sperelakis and Thea Vunk

**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](http://www.mettaweeschool.org).

## METTAWEE COMMUNITY PTO SPRING EVENTS AND SUMMER REMINDERS

A Chili and Mac N' Cheese Cook Off was held in May, with 7 chili entries and 8 mac n' cheese dishes. Over 80 ballots were cast by community tasters. The contest proceeds, over \$600 in ticket sales, sponsorships and donations, benefited the school's music and band programs. Sponsors were: Green Mountain Tai Chi, Bud Coolidge Electric, Jaycees Tees, Rupert Rising Bread, Sissy's Kitchen and Southwind Farmstead Cheese.

Members of the MCS Band program, under the direction of music teacher Lisa Hoyt, played solos, duets and trios. Musicians included: Emma and Hanna Bryant, Catherine Thrasher, Stella Farrell, Zoe Paige, Adam Browe, Sam Freeman, Guillermo Yescas, Ethan Moore, Owen Pritchard and Jay Harris. Mettawee graduate McKayla Kashner, a graduate of St. Michael's College, played the oboe, demonstrating that love of music and an instrument that starts in elementary school continues through high school and college.

PTO Spring Raffle: 4th Grader Jay Harris was the winner of the 3G Wireless Kindle electronic reader. Over 400 tickets were sold! The Mettawee Community PTO plans to raffle off another Kindle during the 2011-2012 school year. Stay tuned for details.

The Mettawee Community PTO hopes everyone is having a happy and safe summer. Please keep the following programs in mind as you shop: Clip, save and send in Boxtops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education to: Mettawee Community PTO, Mettawee Community School, 5788 VT Rte 153, West Pawlet, VT 05775. Boxtops for Education is a cashback program.

Campbell's Labels for Education is a points program where points are redeemed for educational equipment. The Mettawee Community PTO also reminds community members that the Price Chopper "Tools for Schools" program will begin again in August. All shoppers with a Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card who have designated Mettawee Community School as the beneficiary of their shopping points need to re-enroll their card at a local Price Chopper store. If you don't have an AdvantEdge Card, you can visit the Customer Service Desk at any Price Chopper location. The school and PTO will have an opportunity to select school supplies following the close of the points-earning part of the program during the Winter.

Additionally the PTO reminds online shoppers of its continued participation in the One Cause online shopping program. The school can earn cash by way of a percentage of each shopping purchase made at a variety of online sites. Please visit [www.onecause.com](http://www.onecause.com) to designate the Mettawee Community School as the beneficiary of your online shopping.

The school also receives cash benefits from Target's business' education program. In store or online, Target shoppers using a Target Red Card (or Target Visa Card) can help Mettawee earn a percentage of the purchases made once a shopper has designated Mettawee as the beneficiary. Please visit [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) online or inquire at customer service in store.

The Mettawee Community PTO thanks everyone for their support of the school and its students.

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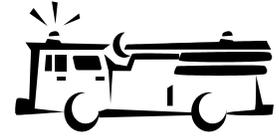
## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

**West Pawlet Fire Department:** The department hosts its annual carnival, Friday - Saturday, August 5 - 6, with a chicken barbecue on Saturday. And don't miss the firemen's auction at noon on Sunday, August 28 at the firehouse. (These dates events have changed since the PTO calendar was printed.) For more information contact Chief Dave Hosley at 645-0158.

### **Pawlet Fire Department:**

The PVFD held its annual charity auction the end of July.

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



Both departments will be participating in the festivities celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Town Charter in 1761, including the parade in West Pawlet on August 27 at 3 PM.

***Both departments remind everyone to dial 911 in an emergency!***

### IN HONOR OF OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary has been working with Clarence Decker and both fire departments to place U.S. flags on all lighted telephone poles in West Pawlet and Pawlet. The auxiliary successfully raised the funds required for this project, and all 69 flags have now been placed. Many of the flags were donated to honor someone who has or is currently serving in the military or in memory of one who served. Mike Mason of "Etched in Stone" in Granville, N.Y., is now preparing the slate plaque that will be displayed in the Town Hall to commemorate this project. The plaque will show the names of the donors and those who were honored and remembered.

*Thanks to everyone who helped with this project! Clarence Decker, Pawlet Select Board*

## LETTER FROM PAWLETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT STEVE WILLIAMS

For our first program this year, Chris Hadsel, director of the Vermont Theater Curtain Project, visited to discuss the restoration of the Town's own theater curtain. The Pawlet curtain was on display in the Town Hall auditorium for the occasion. In June 18 we held our annual yard and bake sale at the Pawlet firehouse. Thanks to all who donated articles and those who purchased them. We also appreciate the baked goods donated from our talented local cooks.

Now we are full swing in the summer raffle season. The prize is a fine cherry blanket chest, 36" wide x 18" deep x 20" tall, made and donated by local craftsman Gregg Gawlik. The estimated value of this fine piece is \$1,900. Tickets are for sale by Society members and at The Dorset Farmers' Market on Sundays. The drawing will be on August 27 at Pawlet's 250th anniversary celebration. Thank you, Gregg!

Also on August 27, the Society will be contributing to Pawlet's 250th anniversary celebration by repeating the popular ghost walks in the local cemetery, running programs at the Braintree School and presenting a Daniel Webster reenactor (Jim Cooke) on the porch of the Town Hall. (Daniel Webster represented the Town of Pawlet before the United States Supreme Court regarding the ownership of some so-called "glebe land," also claimed by the Episcopal Church). Also planned are exhibits of anniversary materials from previous major events: the Town's 200th anniversary celebration in 1961, Pawlet's celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, and the Town's 150th anniversary in 1911.

The Society welcomes as a new trustee Rhonda Schlangen of West Pawlet.

Thank you. *Steve Williams, President, PHS*



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## PAWLET PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Summer theme:** The Library's summer theme is "One World, Many Stories," and we are visiting places filled with art and adventure.

Tuesdays — Heidi Hammell offers a free story and craft activity from 10 to 11 AM. On Tuesday afternoons Cori Rail is conducting a journalism workshop for first through third-graders (1 - 2 PM) and fourth through sixth graders (2 - 3 PM); fee is \$9 per class.

Wednesdays — Heidi Hammell teaches art class at 10 - 11 AM; fee is \$10 per class. Wednesday afternoons Joanne Van Meter offers a free program for second through sixth-grade children, 4 - 5 PM, called "Take A Trip Around the World." Come in, get a passport, attend at least 3 sessions and have your passport stamped. You will then receive a prize!

Fridays — The Pawlet Farmers Market is on our side lawn, rain or shine, 3 - 6 PM; our downstairs art gallery is also open for browsing some fine local art.

**Regular weekly activities:** We continue our regular weekly activities: exercise, bone-builders, tai chi, yoga,

Dot's Dance, and more. Special events are also scheduled, including musician Karen Gallagher and Animal Educator Bernie Hoffman.

**Going digital:** We now have automated library cards with barcodes. Stop by to get your new card. The scan-based system will allow us to keep better track of our collection. Thanks to Betty Daly for all her help.

**Children's literacy program:** We have a new computer literacy program, known as AWE, with math, science, reading and art programs for children ages 2 through 10. The station has a colorful keyboard, a tiny mouse, and a touch screen to promote easy learning and discovery. Young readers can discover AWE while waiting for a sibling in dance class. The unit is available for use, but we still need donations to pay for it. Please consider making a donation in any amount.

Happy reading! See the Pawlet Public Library on Facebook and watch for news in the local papers. For more details call us at 325-3123.

Thanks! *Beth Kashner, Pawlet Library Director*



*Library book sale enthusiasts line up for a previous year's sale at Mettawee School. Photo: Glenn Munson*

**Annual book sale:** The 44th Annual Pawlet Public Library Book Sale was held at Mettawee Community School in West Pawlet July 30 - July 31, with more than 25,000 books on hand! Thanks to all volunteers and friends of the library who helped move and sort books and man the sale.

**Volunteer Picnic:** A potluck picnic for sale volunteers will be held August 11, 3 PM until dark at Emerald Lake State Park Picnic Pavilion in East Dorset. Past, present, future volunteers and family members are invited. Call Dolores Luebke at 645-0109 or the Library at 325-3123. Thanks, *Dolores Luebke, Book Sale Chair*

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## PROFILE OF A WEST PAWLET BUSINESS:

### New Seats for Old Chairs

By Linda Maness

You might find Adelle Seaman at a tag sale or an auction, or maybe in a barn or an attic. Why? Because she is looking for chairs – and not just any old chairs but chairs in need of her help. Adelle Seaman is a chair caner, and her business is “New Seats for Old Chairs.”

Adelle has been caning chairs for 12 years. She explains that chair caning, rush seat-weaving and splint seats are all terms for different designs and techniques used in weaving the seat of a chair, also called chair seating or chair seat-weaving.

Have you ever wondered how those amazing woven seats are made? Adelle says: “... caning is a dying art, and it takes small hands, so it is a ‘hobby’ taken up mostly by women, much like crocheting and quilting.”

Adelle took up caning after she found a chair needing repair and said to herself, “I can do this.” She practiced on many chairs found at lawn sales and auctions.

Adelle explains that the most well-known of the hand seat-weaving patterns is “octagon.” This method is woven by hand with individual strands of cane, through holes drilled in the perimeter of the seat, thereby creating the familiar eight-sided pattern of an octagon.

Splints, also known as splits, are prepared strips of bark (possibly ash, oak, reed or hickory) woven around the seat rungs, or dowels. Splint-wide porch cane, in long pieces, is usually used in the herringbone twill or basket-weave patterns, alternate top and bottom weaves. Adelle learned splint last summer and she has a splint mentor, Eric Ericson, in Middletown Springs.

Rush seat-weaving is a technique woven around the four seat rungs forming four distinct triangles in the seat pattern. Paper rush is used most often in newer or in chairs of lesser value. Adelle says, “Rush seats hold up best. I use wrapped, twisted brown paper. It comes in reels by poundage, in three sizes of twist.” The twist is a continuous strand and quite durable. She adds, “Rush is pretty easy once you know caning.”



West Pawlet's Adelle Seaman makes new seats for old chairs.

Adelle says that hand-caning is, “... careful, repetitive work. The steps are the same no matter how many holes and the holes come in all sizes.” She notes that round seats are easier, but, “... frankly, sometimes you wish you had three hands!”

How long does it take to cane a chair? Adelle says it depends on the size of the chair's perimeter holes: “If the holes are fairly big or wide, caning takes less time. A 65-hole chair can take four hours. A chair with smaller holes will need smaller cane, a more involved process.”

Adelle talks about her love of caning: “I feel like I get to know the history of a chair when I work on it. I look at the wear, and I imagine feet on the rungs. I picture the people and wonder who built it and who had it. I wash it, oil it and go to work on the seat! It feels good to bring it back.” She concludes, “I feel like I am preserving history. It's good to invest in the past and continue to make it last.”

When Adelle is not caning chairs, she runs Care Services, a home-cleaning, pet care and child care business. Adelle Seaman can be reached at 645-0242.

*Editor's note: If you run a business in Pawlet and wish to have it featured in a future issue as part of this series on local businesses, contact Elizabeth Gibson, newsletter editor, egib@vermontel.net or 325-3619.*

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## PAWLET CHURCH WELCOMES INTERIM PASTOR, SEEKS SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Trustees of the Pawlet Community Church are pleased to introduce Reverend John Sanborn as interim pastor. Mr. Sanborn, along with the church, will participate in Pawlet's 250th birthday weekend with a "period" worship service, Sunday, August 28, 9:30 AM.

The 2011-2012 Sunday School Year starts Sunday, September 18. Classes for all ages will be every Sunday at 9:30 in the community room of the church. Anyone interested in teaching Sunday School should contact Norma Weeden at 325-3366.

**Pawlet Community Church**  
*Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM*  
 38 VT Rte 133, PO Box 116, Pawlet, VT 05761  
 Rev. John Sanborn, Interim Pastor  
 Monthly roast pork supper fund-raisers, first Saturday

**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](mailto:sfcabriniwpawlet@gmail.com)

**Pawlet Food Pantry News**  
*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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### 4-H MEMBERS RECEIVE ED CONNORS MEMORIAL AWARDS

Ed Connors of West Pawlet was a marksman, leader of Uncas Rifle Team of Granville, NY, and a life member of the National Rifle Association. Connors taught hunter safety to generations of youth in Vermont and New York.

At the 10th Annual Marble Valley Friends of NRA Banquet in Rutland, Dolores Connors Luebke and Maureen Connors Hill presented memorial awards in

honor of their father's dedication to shooting sports. First place went to Maggie Wilson of Rupert for her excellent 4-H shooting sports project. Maggie received \$100 and a NRA shooting cap. Second place Hillary Fenton and third place Clayton Fenton, both of Wells, each received \$50 and NRA shooting caps.

All recipients are members of Oxbow Mountain 4-H Shooting Sports Club of Pawlet.

### AREA CHEESE MAKERS HOLD OPEN HOUSE CHEESE TOUR WEEKEND

On the weekend of September 10 - 11, local farmstead cheese makers will open their farms to the public for the Fifth Annual Washington County, NY, Cheese Tour. Guests will sample specially selected cheeses at each farm and experience the region's long-standing cheese making traditions. Participating farms include: Consider Bardwell Farm (West Pawlet, VT), 3-Corner

Field Farm (Shushan), Argyle Cheese Farmer (Argyle), Longview Farm (Argyle), and Sweet Spring Farm (Argyle). The self-guided tour is free; cheese can be purchased at each farm. Visit [www.washingtoncountycheese.com](http://www.washingtoncountycheese.com) for more information.



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## EVENTS FOR LOCAL AREA HAYSTACK HUSTLER SENIORS

The Haystack Hustlers seniors are enjoying a busy summer of picnics, visits to local businesses, theater, and more. This month we look forward to the August 26 – 28 town celebration in honor of Pawlet's 250th anniversary of charter. Unless you are younger than 30 years old, you probably will not see this type of celebration again. Make plans now to enjoy this one!

In September we resume our regular schedule of lunches every other Tuesday. See the community calendar on page 2 for our dates. We greatly appreciate the use of the Pawlet Church for our lunches on the

second Tuesday of each month. We used grant funds to purchase TV/VCR/video equipment for church use as well as our use. Mettawee School leaders and students are wonderful hosts for our lunches there on the fourth Tuesday of every month during the school year. The hot lunch cooks prepare a delicious meal, and the students present an interesting program. School lunches are by reservation; suggested cost \$3.50.

All area seniors are invited to join us. Meet new people, have a change of pace, and enjoy a great meal! For information contact Phyllis Mason at 325-3196.

## AN INVITATION FROM THE METTOWEE VALLEY GRANGE

The Mettawee Valley Grange needs you! The Grange has been a part of Pawlet for 104 years but must close unless you can help. We need new members and a place to hold our meetings. We don't want to give up on this wonderful organization, but we need new members to continue. We meet once a month, and we do a lot of community service – including "Word for Thirds," where we give dictionaries to the third-graders at Mettawee Community School every year. We would love to do more, so please help us. Don't let this wonderful family organization leave our special area! To help,

please contact Regina Mason, Program Director, Mettawee Valley Grange, 325-2280 or pawletmasons@gmail.com.

Come to our community picnic on August 10 at Charles and Phyllis Mason's house, 458 Maple Grove, Pawlet. Bring a dish to share. Drinks and make-your-own-sundaes dessert will be provided. Call Regina Mason at 325-2280 for more information. The Grange's recent coloring contest winners will be announced at the picnic.

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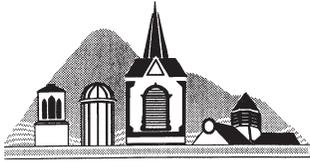
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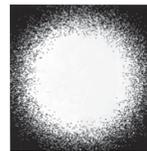
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Town of Pawlet Newsletter, PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761.

Deadline for ads & news for the fall issue: September 15, 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 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.