



PAWLET NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF PAWLET IN VERMONT'S METTOWEE VALLEY

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 4

SUMMER 2013

INTRODUCTION

The Pawlet Newsletter has been published continuously since April 2003 as a way of making town news available and encouraging community involvement. During this decade, news distribution generally has undergone a major transformation with the proliferation of online sources. In Pawlet, that has included the development of the Town's web site <http://pawlet.vt.gov> and regular email updates available from Town Clerk Deb Hawkins and Newsletter Editor Elizabeth Gibson. The Town is committed to continuing distribution of print copies of this newsletter, and it may also be viewed online at the Town's web site and also at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission web site (see "Town News" at www.rutlandrpc.org). While space in this print copy is limited, the Pawlet web site includes much additional information. The editor welcomes submissions anytime. Please send to egib@vermontel.net. Thanks! *Elizabeth Gibson, Editor*

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FIRE STAIR TO BE INSTALLED AT TOWN HALL

Pawlet's Town Hall is being readied for a fire stair to be installed on the back of the building this summer. This latest phase of the restoration project will make it again possible to use the upstairs auditorium for community events.

Installation of the fire stair has been made possible by a grant from the Vermont Arts Council. The grant required matching funds, which were provided by the town and by many generous donations.

Two major fundraising events also generated major contributions. The Town would like to thank Mark and Margaret McChesney of The Barn Restaurant, who hosted a holiday benefit dinner in December. Thanks also to Angela Miller of Consider Bardwell Farm, where a benefit Easter Brunch was enjoyed by many families, friends, and neighbors – as well as several goats and the Easter Bunny!

A third major fundraising event is coming up soon: The Wells Chapter of the Modern Woodmen of America will host Super Bingo Saturday, June 8 at the MWA Hall on Main Street in Wells to benefit the project. All proceeds from this event will be matched by the Home Office of the Modern Woodmen up to \$2,500. Lend your support to this worthwhile community project! See additional information on page 5.

The metal fire stair is being fabricated by Lyle Welding of Poultney. Russell Construction Services of Rutland is preparing the building: completing the porch



The fire stair will be placed on the north (rear) side of the Town Hall (top, left).

support framing for the west porch deck, patching the west porch roof, replacing the porch handrails, and installing a roof over the fire stair. NBF Architects of Rutland did the design work for the project.

Other improvements to the building were made in May. As recommended by an energy audit of the Town Hall in 2011, a vapor barrier was put down on the floor of the sub-basement and foam sealing was applied to the basement wall. This work was performed by Weatherization Works of Pawlet. Partial funding was provided by NeighborWorks of Western Vermont in recognition of Pawlet's participation in the county-wide home energy improvement program.

Town Hall, continued on page 5

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR: JUNE – AUGUST 2013

June

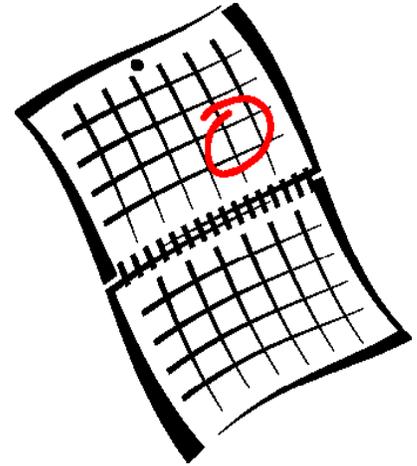
- 6/1, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church
 6/3, Monday, 7:30 PM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department
 6/4, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors, Pawlet Church
 7 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department
 6/5, Wednesday, 12 PM. Pawlet Energy Group, Town Hall
 6/11, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 7 PM. Sixth-Grade Graduation, Mettawee School
 6/12, Wednesday, 6:15 PM. Pawlet School Board Meeting, Mettawee School
 7 PM. Union District 47 Board Meeting, Mettawee School
 6/24, Monday, 7:30 PM. Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
 6/25, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 6/28, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn

July

- 7/1, Monday, 7:30 PM. WPVFD
 7/2, Tuesday, 7 PM. PVFD
 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 7/3, Wednesday, 12 PM. Pawlet Energy Group, Town Hall
 7/4, Thursday, Town Offices closed for holiday
 7/6, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church
 7/16, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 7/22, Monday, 7:30 PM. Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
 7/23 Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 7/25, Thursday, 5 PM. Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department annual auction
 7/26, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 7/27 - 7/28, Saturday - Sunday, Pawlet Library Book Sale, Mettawee School
 7/30, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall

August

- 8/2 - 8/3, Friday - Saturday, WPVFD annual carnival with chicken barbecue on Saturday
 8/3, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church
 8/5, Monday, 7:30 PM. WPVFD
 8/6, Tuesday, 7 PM. PVFD
 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 8/7, Wednesday, 12 PM. Pawlet Energy Group, Town Hall
 8/14, Wednesday, 7 PM. Union District 47 Board Meeting, Mettawee School
 8/20, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
 8/22, Thursday, 7:30 PM. Pawlett Historical Society program with guest speaker Paul Loding, Pawlet Library
 8/23, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet parsonage barn
 8/26, Monday, 7:30 PM. Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
 8/31, Saturday. Art on Edie's Green, Edie Mach's field, Pawlet Village



*For Pawlet Public Library events and news visit <http://pawletpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/>
 Watch local papers and <http://pawlet.vt.gov> for Haystack Hustlers Seniors summer activities*

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TOWN OFFICE NEWS

Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins

Transfer Station: Transfer stickers are no longer being sold. Earth, Waste and Metals now operates the Granville, NY, Transfer Station and continues to operate with cash or credit card payment at the time of service. They are open Tuesday, Friday & Saturday, 8 AM to 4 PM.

Dog Licenses: According to Vermont Law, owners of unlicensed dogs over the age of 6 months must come to the Town Clerk's office during regular operating hours to license their dogs.

Green Mountain Passports are available to qualified applicants for \$2 each. This is a discount program for senior citizens and veterans with disabilities. The passports can be used for free admission to Vermont state parks, Vermont State historic sites, and State-sponsored events. Information is available at the Town Clerk's Office.

Civil Marriage Licenses are \$45 and once issued are good for 60 days. A Civil Marriage License Application is *not* a license. The license will be prepared and issued by the Town Clerk once the application is submitted. Residents of Vermont must apply in the town in which one or the other applicant resides. Out of state applicants who wish to marry in Vermont may apply to any town in the state. Please note that *all* State of Vermont marriages, according to Vermont Law, are Civil Marriages.

Get connected: Are you on Facebook? Check out the Pawlet Town Clerk Facebook Page for regular updates, notices of meetings, election results, emergency management notices, and more! If you would like to receive updates directly to your e-mail, send an e-mail to pawletclerk@vermontel.net and put "add me to the e-mail list" in the subject line.

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

Holiday closings: The Town Clerk's office will be closed:

- May 27, 2013 for Memorial Day
- July 4, 2013 for Independence Day

Town Treasurer, Judy Coolidge:

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

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



Town Hall, by Nancy Offensend Houghton

"Select Board" page. The board has five members: Mike Beecher (Chair), Bob Jones (Vice Chair), Clarence Decker, Charles Weeden, Sr. & Shannon Hosley Landon. Clerk of the board is Kim Ayers.

Listers: The Listers' office is receiving questions regarding the appeal process for property assessments. The timing of the appeal process is governed by State statute and must be followed precisely.

The abstract of the Grand List will be lodged with the Town Clerk around June 4, and grievance hearings will start about 14 days later. Appeals must be based on estimated market values of the property in question and actual sales prices of comparable properties.

The Listers are holding informal pre-grievance information office hours to answer questions regarding assessments. Call the Listers' Office at 325-3309 or e-mail pawletlister@vermontel.net. Also consult our page at the Town web site <http://pawlet.vt.gov>. Listers are Charles Mason, Elaine Decker, and Karen Folger. Office hours are by chance or appointment.

Planning Commission: The Town continues the process of adopting subdivision regulations and will revise the Zoning Ordinance to have more local jurisdiction when property is subdivided. This process will likely change Pawlet from being a one-acre town to being a ten-acre town, meaning that Act 250 would only apply to development undertaken on more than ten acres. This means that Town's Development Review Board would be managing commercial development that is presently handled by the state.

The Commission is in the final stages of drafting a new set of regulations and hopes to have a public hearing on the proposed draft this summer.

Jamie Lee of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is the Town's consultant for developing the regulations. More information is available in a notebook at the Town Hall; meeting minutes are posted at the post offices in Pawlet and West Pawlet and on the town web site <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>; see "Planning Commission" page.

Town Office News, continued on page 4

Town Office News, continued from page 3

Health Officer Notice for Landlords: All owners of residential rental properties and child care facilities built before 1978 are required to file a copy of the essential maintenance practices compliance statement to the Vermont Department of Health every year to keep properties lead-safe. The Vermont Department of Health has developed a free online service that makes it easier to comply with essential maintenance practices mandated by the Vermont Lead Law. Call the health department at 800-464-4343 or visit <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/> for more information.

A property inspection is required annually as part of the essential management practices. The Pawlet Health Officer will do any necessary inspections for free for any property in Pawlet. Contact Health Officer Bob Morlino at 325-2116 if you need an inspection.

Highway Department: The Pawlet Highway Department has been working on storm drains along School Street in Pawlet Village to address recurring water problems that should be taken care of before work on the town green is completed. Foreman Keith Mason says that later this summer the crew will be paving Weatherby Lane, which loops off School Street by the Library. Addressing the drainage problems before the paving “is a quick, easy fix now,” Keith explains.

Eric Mach will be finishing the remaining curb work along Weatherby Lane, and after the one-way lane has been paved it will accommodate one lane of traffic and one lane of parallel parking.

In other work the road crew will be installing two aluminized steel culverts under Betts Bridge Road in West Pawlet and a box culvert under Towslee Hill Road in Pawlet. The culvert work is made possible by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation grants.

The town crew also maintains 26 miles of Class 3 dirt roads. “That’s 52 miles of ditch and culvert cleaning,” Keith says. In June the crew will be grading and applying liquid chloride to control dust and stabilize the road surfaces.



The road crew will install a box culvert on Towslee Hill Road this summer, similar to this culvert installed in 2010 on Route 153 in West Pawlet.



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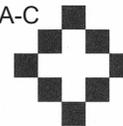
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Town Hall, continued from page 1



Ralph Nimtze of NBF Architects, Todd Davis of Russell Construction Services (center) and Sue LaPorte of Pawlet review recent repairs to the west porch of the Town Hall in preparation for placing the fire stair on the rear of the building.

The Town Hall has served Pawlet's town government continuously since it was built in 1881. The restoration project began in 2003 when Pawlet voters decided by a margin of 3 to 1 not to investigate the construction of a new town office building. Since then the first floor offices have been renovated, including the vault where town records are stored, and the entire building has been made ADA-compliant. The cupola has been fully restored, and the auditorium ceiling has been stabilized.

4-H CLUB TO COMPETE AT NATIONAL EVENT

Six members of Pawlet's Oxbow Mountain 4-H club of Pawlet will be traveling to Grand Island, Nebraska in June to compete in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition.

Clayton Fenton, Cody Keys, Maggie Wilson, Justin Cleveland, Thomas Wilson, and Tom Becker were chosen for this honor based on their commitment to 4-H, public service, and their consistent performance in safety and shooting skills.

Oxbow Mountain 4-H seeks donations for traveling expenses. To contribute towards this trip, please e-mail powertomove@hotmail.com.



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NEWS FROM THE METTAWEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

It has been a busy spring at Mettawee Community School. School is out on June 13 for the summer.

Brooke DeBonis, school principal, says, "I would love to take this opportunity to thank all community members, parents, staff members, and students for making this such a successful first year as principal of the Mettawee Community School. I looking forward to serving our community for many more years!"

Outdoor Classroom and Organic Seed Fundraiser: Thanks to parent and teacher volunteers Kim Perkins, Lynn Pratt, Zoe Loomis and Robin Kadet, an outdoor classroom is being planned. The school has maintained a vegetable and flower garden for the past several years and now the Four Winds program is looking to integrate the garden, and all it has to offer, into the school's K-6 day-to-day learning experiences.

Encouraging literature: On May 31 students in grades 5-6 capped off their year with a visit from award-winning author Steve Sheinkin, who just won the Silbert award for best non-fiction for children. Sheinkin's visit has been made possible in part by the Mettawee Community PTO and funding from the school's annual Book Fair.

Music at Mettawee: Music teacher Lisa Hoyt welcomed members of the Manchester Music Festival to the school on April 11.

The school also hosted a performance by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, April 25. The program "Percussion Means the World to Us" explored a culturally diverse repertoire and included demonstrations of non-Western instruments.

Pawlet Community Church Seeks Bids

The Pawlet Community Church has opened the bidding process for scraping, priming, and painting the north and east side of the building, including the entire bottom portion of the steeple. Anyone interested in obtaining the bid application should contact Charles Weeden at 802-325-3366 or Enoch Pratt at 802-325-3374. All bids must be sealed and postmarked no later than June 10, 2013.

Pawlet Community Church

Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM
38 VT Rte 133, PO Box 116, Pawlet, VT 05761

Rev. John Sanborn, Pastor
revjohnnwheels@gmail.com

St. Frances Cabrini Church

Sunday Mass: 11:15 AM
Rte 153, West Pawlet, VT 05775

Fr. James Lawrence, Pastor
(802) 265-3135; sfcabriniwpawlet@gmail.com



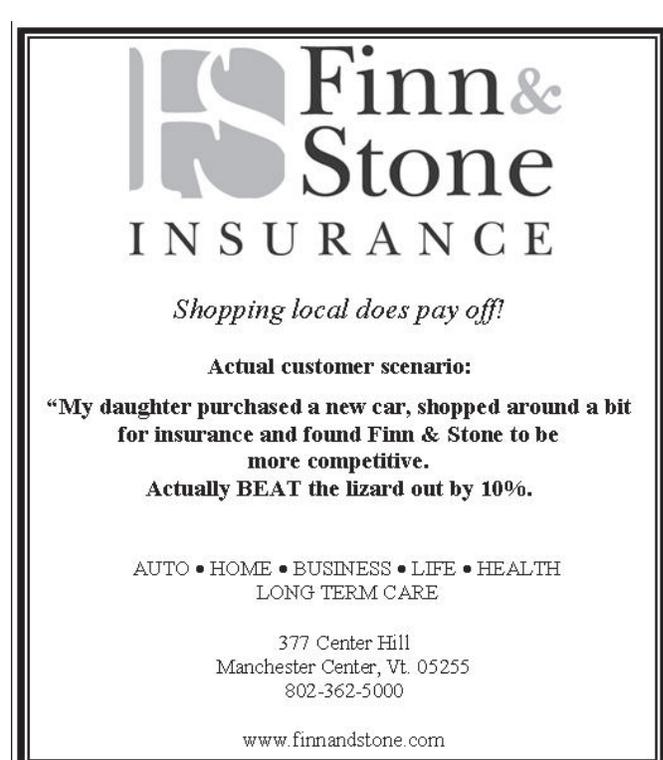
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Mettawee Community School, continued

LEARN TO TEACH ABOUT NATURE AT OUR SCHOOL

Mettawee Community School is looking for volunteers to lead natural science workshops for children.

Become a Four Winds volunteer and join a group of community members who share both an interest in nature and a love of children. Four Winds is a non-profit organization advancing the understanding, appreciation and protection of the environment through community-based natural science education.

As a Four Winds volunteer, you will bring fun and engaging natural science lessons to the children at the Mettawee Community School.

Adult volunteers meet on the second Wednesday of six months during the school year for training workshops taught by a naturalist/educator from the Four Winds

staff. All meetings take place at Mettawee Community School, from 8:15 – 10:15 AM in our music room.

Each month we learn about an interesting natural science topic with activities designed to teach children about this subject. We spend time outdoors exploring the school grounds and nearby woods and fields in search of insects, leaves, animal tracks, frogs and toads, to name a few. Later in the month, volunteers bring these programs to the classrooms, leading the children in the activities and taking them outside for a close-up look at the month's topic.

This is a good way to meet other people in our community, and volunteering your time in a classroom is a wonderful and important gift to the children of our school. For more information call program coordinator, Kimberly Perkins, at 802-645-9009.

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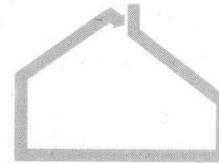
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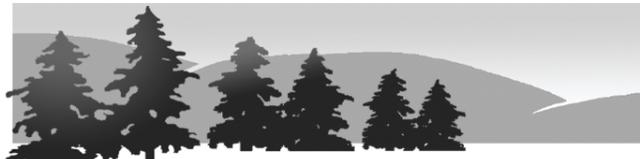
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STATE HOUSE UPDATE *John Malcolm, Representative for Pawlet, Middletown Springs, Rupert, Tinmouth and Wells*

The Legislature faced many difficult questions this session. We were reminded daily that we were elected to make decisions and not ignore that responsibility. Our decisions affect people in different ways. There are 180 legislators who each have priorities for their districts and for the future of the state. The final "casserole" of choices reflects the aggregate of those priorities, while the shadow of Federal budget and sequester cuts loom large.

This session we made choices about the quality and safety of our roads and bridges and how we pay for them. We made decisions about drug addiction and mental health treatment facilities. We made choices about how best to transition people off public assistance and into the workplace. We chose to support our seniors with heating fuel aid and our veterans

home in Bennington. And we have supported families with cost-effective early childhood education, our local community schools, and college scholarships.

We also discussed other choices, such as electrical generation, labeling of foods, end of life decisions, economic development, jobs, and environmental issues.

In the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee we discussed bills involving the siting of energy generation facilities, forestry harvesting



State House Update, continued next page



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State House Update, continued

guidelines, farm methane facilities, unused paint recycling, and amending land trust easements.

Please contact me about any legislative issues at 325-3424, 1822 Rupert Mountain Rd., Pawlet, VT 05761; JMalcolm@leg.state.vt.us. *Rep. John Malcolm*

Help Wanted for PHS Newsletter

The Pawlett Historical Society publishes 3 newsletters a year for its membership. We are looking for someone proficient in desktop publishing who can design and lay out each newsletter for printing. All newsletter material would be provided in electronic form; occasionally photographs would need to be scanned. The newsletter is usually 4 to 6 pages.

Please contact Susanne Rappaport at 645-0993 or ssr@sover.net if you are interested.

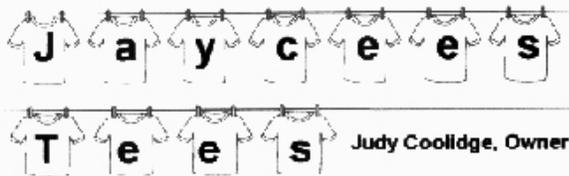
Steve Williams, Acting President, PHS

VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The new Korean War Veterans Memorial will be dedicated Saturday, August 3, 11 AM in the State pull-off on Vermont Route 7A 3 miles south of Manchester Center, just beyond Wilcox Dairy on the right. Funds for this memorial were generously contributed by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts, Ladies Auxiliaries and Men's Auxiliaries from all over Vermont.

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

If veterans or families would like a printed certificate containing the veteran's name and branch of service and honoring their Korean War service, please contact Steve Leach, Past VT State VFW Commander and Korean War Memorial Chairman at 802-325-3441.



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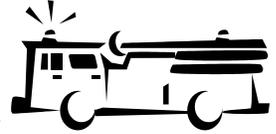
ART ON EDIE'S GREEN

We hope you'll join us at the Pawlet Scholarships' 17th annual benefit art show, 10 AM to 4 PM, Saturday, August 31, Labor Day weekend. Edie Mach's field is visible from the bridge and behind the fire house, and is accessible from Cemetery Road next to the post office. There's plenty of room for parking, and there will be lunch food for sale as well.

Participating artists donate 20 percent of their proceeds to the Pawlet Scholarship Fund. This fund has been helping residents of Pawlet and West Pawlet further their education, whether they are recent high school graduates, or adults changing or advancing their careers. Since 1996, Pawlet Scholarships has awarded 189 scholarships totaling almost \$300,000. For more information about the art show or the Fund, contact Anita Pomerance at skyshows@vermontel.net or 802-325-3786.

PAWLET FIRE DEPARTMENT THANKS JIM ANDRUS FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank Jim Andrus for 25 years of dedicated service to our community. Jim stepped down as Chief recently to give more time to his family and to allow a new generation of firefighters to take the reigns.



The department has grown tremendously during Jim's tenure as chief, and we offer him our most sincere thanks for his service.

Dale Decker has taken over leadership of the department, Bill McKenzie is our new 1st Assistant Chief, and Josh Brooks is our new 2nd Assistant Chief. The department thanks these fine firefighters for their continuing service to the town.

WEST PAWLET COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

A Year-Round Friday Night Market from 4 until 7 p.m.



Fresh, honest food and goodies from your local farmers, chefs, and crafters.

Fish & Game Building and WPVFD parking lot.

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"Like" the West Pawlet Fish & Game page on Facebook and watch for weekly market menus and specials.

Questions? Email Manager Laura Brown at laurabrowngray@gmail.com.

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FINDING LAND FOR FARMERS AND FARMERS FOR LAND

The Rutland Area Farm and Food Link is recruiting private landowners interested in making their land available to farmers and farmers seeking land to farm. Our advising services can help alleviate one of the primary barriers faced by beginning farmers and help maintain our working landscape and farm culture. Interested landowner and farmers, please contact Garland Mason at garland@rutlandfarmandfood.org or 802-417-1528.

INTEGRATED ARTS SUMMER PROGRAM

**With Erika and Gary Schmidt, Green Hill Studio
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*For girls and boys ages 10-15
two consecutive days per week during July
Discounts for families with more than one child*

Instruction in the foundations of art, music, dance and cooking, with an emphasis on creative exploration.

Erika will teach printmaking, pottery and contemporary dance, and Gary will teach music and cooking. They both have advanced degrees and offer over 30 years comprehensive experience as artists and educators.

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With Erika Schmidt

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Erika offers thirty years of teaching experience. She is a certified Cecchetti method ballet instructor and has trained students that work professionally on Broadway.

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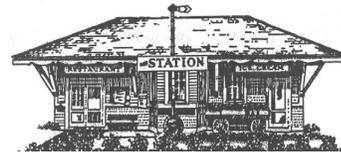


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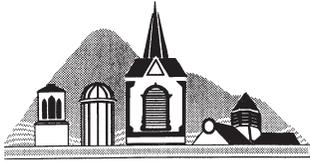
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Ads: Business Card \$25 (4 issues, 20% discount: \$80); Double Business Card \$50 (4 issues, 20% discount: \$160)

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

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