The Barnard Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2013 **Vol. XXVIII No. 9**

SELECTMEN'S NEWS

Transfer & Recycling Station: Wednesday hours end for the season September 25th. While we now take all plastics for recycling, it does not include plastic bags, automotive related containers or anything without the recycle symbol and a number 1-7. Another reminder that we don't take box board in Barnard. You trash it, take it to Bethel but not hide it in the corrugated cardboard. We're finding a generous distribution of trash along Rt 12 from pick-up loads not secured for 50mph. Please cover your stuff so it all gets down there.

In Irene recovery news (yea, we're still at it) we finally received FEMA approval for a scope change on the major bridge project on Old Route 12 but our engineer says it's too late to get it bid out and built this construction season. He intends to bid it this fall for an early 2014 start. We recently attended an applicant's briefing for a recently declared disaster covering the downpours of late June and early July. We had rather minor damage, mostly in South Barnard, but it will mean a few thousand dollars coverage for a little more paper shuffling.

Now that we all have our tax bills I'll devote the rest of our Bulletin space to trying to explain the 34 cent increase in the 2013 tax rate, up 22%. Then I'm taking my phone off the hook for the rest of the month.

As most people know, the Listers completed a three year rolling reappraisal this year which, in the declining real estate market since our last reappraisal, resulted in a Grand List reduced by 11.4%. Simply put, to cover the exact same State education spending or municipal spending as last year, our tax bills would be, on average, 11.4% higher. So there's about half of the increase we're feeling this year. For example, in municipal spending (the easy part), the rate went from 0.23 to 0.29. Exactly half of that is attributable to the reduction in the Grand List and half to increased spending approved at Town Meeting. And it constitutes only 15% of the total tax rate.

So, what about the 0.28 in the State Education Tax Rate you say. That's the tricky one. That's the one where only about half the money we raise and send to Montpelier comes back to educate our children. Your opinions of Act 68 and Act 60 notwithstanding, their application in setting each towns' education tax rate is about as digestible as the US tax code. For Barnard this year, it's kind of a perfect storm of factors exacerbating our already high "gold town" education tax rate: a 0.05 bump in the base rate approved by Legislature, a declining Grand List, increased per pupil spending penalty, falling into the "excess spending" penalty and an inverse affect of the new Grand List on the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) which is calculated in the year of revaluation by dividing the new GL by last year's equalized GL. Usually towns doing a reappraisal are doing so because their CLA has fallen in to the 70-80s so making that division usually increases the CLA. Not so with us: we had to reappraise because of a low COD (we won't get into that one); our CLA has remained above 100% for several years. So, making the division cited above actually lowered our CLA from 105% to 93%. Next year, they'll go back to calculating it based on a recent sales analysis and it should come closer to 100%.

Got it? Me either. For all the inscrutability of setting the State Education Tax Rate, PVR actually has a pretty helpful website, probably where some of our money goes:

www.state.vt.us/tax.shtml. Click on 2013 Frequently Asked Questions and on Education Tax Rates where you can type in any town and get the calculation for this year and last.

Good news is the CORN sign's out, the tomatoes are ripening, fall bass fishin's almost here and Rock got a Moose permit!

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THANK YOU FROM BARNARD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

On behalf of all members of the Barnard Volunteer Fire Department, we extend our sincere thanks to the people of Barnard and surrounding communities for supporting our annual July 4th holiday flea market and chicken barbecue at the Barnard Town Hall. Special thanks go the following organizations and individuals for their continued support of our fund raising efforts; Dead River Company, CV Oil Company, Mills Hardware, Vermont Castings, Tozier's restaurant, One Chicken At A Time Farm, and local businessmen who donated towards our raffle prizes. We also acknowledge all the people who generously donated items for our flea market sale.

* * * * * * * * *

PLEASE WATCH FOR SCHOOL BUSSES

School starts August 29th. Please remember that the school busses will be on the road mornings and evenings. State law prohibits the passing of a school bus, in either direction, if the flashing red lights are on.

BEES NEWS

FIRST BEES MEETING
OF THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR:

Tuesday September 3rd 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the Barnard Academy library

(The BEES group welcomes all school family, staff and community members to work together in support of a vibrant educational community.)

BARNARD ACADEMY
BACK-TO-SCHOOL POTLUCK:

Thursday September 5th 5:30 - 7:00 PM behind the school (or in the Green Mountain Room)

Please put this information in the September AND October bulletins:

BARNARD BEES FALL FOLIAGE BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 5, 2013, 8:00 - 11:00 AM

At the Barnard Town Hall

$10 adults; $5 ages 4-14; ages 3 and under - free

Please join us for a delicious, hearty breakfast in support of our school!

Nicole Conte Stevens,
BEES President
234.9786

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LISTER NOTES

As was noted by Tom Morse in his selectman's news, Barnard's education tax rate jumped .28. Tom's explanation of how the State calculates the Education Tax Rate is accurate, and as he noted the calculations are very complex.

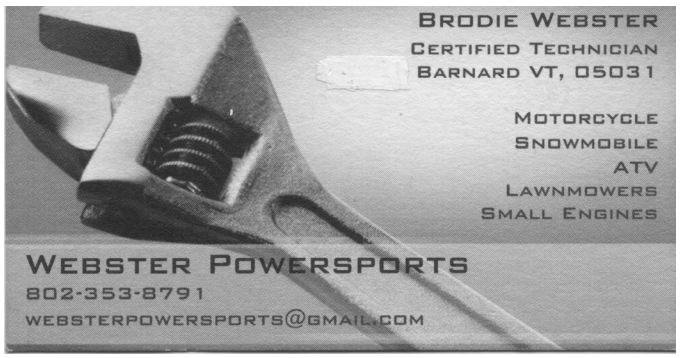
Because this year the Listers did a town wide reappraisal, the law states under § 5406, Paragraph C: "If the director of property valuation and review certifies that a municipality has completed a town wide reappraisal, the common level of appraisal for that municipality shall be equal to its new grand list value divided by its most recent equalized grand list value, for purposes of determining education property tax rates.".

What this means is that the normal procedure of calculating the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) by using the fair market sales over the last three years is not used. Instead the State takes what they determine as last years true value for Barnard's Education Grand List (the equalized list) and compares it to the Education Grand List as determined by the Lister's reappraisal of the town.

One problem with this approach is that the sales that occurred since the equalization of last years Education Grand List are not considered. Thus in a falling market the more recent sales, of a likely lower value, are ignored in the equalization process. Only those sales from 2, 3 and 4 years ago are considered as they were the ones used to calculate the previous equalized Education Grand List.

The Listers reappraisal does take these sales into account, as all sales up to April 1st are considered when calculating the new valuations as per state law and basic appraisal practice. This discrepancy in the State's dates of sale vs. the Listers date of appraisal skews the equalization process and in a down market will usually result in a CLA that is lower than it should be, and in a rising market it is likely to be higher than it should be.

The real problem is that a penalty is applied to towns that have a CLA lower than 100%, and this penalty is a good part of the reason that Barnard's Education Tax Rate jumped .28. It is expected that next year the CLA should be closer to 100%



NEWS FROM HELPING HANDS

Last weeks chilly temperatures remind us that fall isn't far away. Summers in Vermont always seem to fly by faster than any other season, as we pack so many activities into these warmer months. Sometimes I almost yearn for the quiet fall and winter bring.

The chill in the air has turned our thoughts to our annual Firewood Fest. Once again Ralph, Jason and Justin Ward are generously donating their time and the use of their log landing. It will be held earlier this year, on Saturday, September 21 from 9 to 1, with a rain date of September 28. We have been so lucky with the weather in past years and hope for more of the same.

We are hoping for donations of logs. If you are a logger and/or landowner and would like to donate wood this year, please contact Linda Beaumariage at levt@mac.com or Mary Blanton at marywbvt@gmail.com. They can be delivered to the Ward's Wood Landing on Route 12. Or if you sell firewood, would you be willing to donate a cord of wood. As a 501c3, we can offer you a tax deduction for your donation. We are anticipating a great need for assistance for the upcoming heating season.

We need volunteers too, so if you are willing to volunteer your time, please contact Linda or Mary. We need several people with chainsaws who can get there early (around 8:30) to start cutting the logs into firewood length for the splitters. We're also hoping that people who have splitters will consider loaning them to us for the morning and, if possible, running them. We are looking for donations of baked goods and cider too.

If you live in Barnard and need assistance with firewood, or if you know of someone in Barnard who does, please contact Linda or Mary. It is helpful if we know ahead of time approximately how much wood is needed. Pick up of wood will begin at 9:30.

We continue to be busy this summer with requests for driving, visiting and financial assistance. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you or someone you know could use a helping hand. We have people ready and willing to help. If the job is too big for us to handle, we can refer you to other available resources.

Gerry Botha – 234-6941 gbotha@aol.com, Heidi White – 234-6965 -heidi@hwfreelancecopywriter.com, Linda Beaumariage – 234-5624 letvt@mac.com, Louie Ahlen – 457-2621 lahlen8920@aol.com, Mary Blanton – 234-5541 marywbvt@gmail.com, Patty Hasson – 457-3886, patty.hasson@wildapple.com, Deb Rice – 234-5349 - debarice@gmail.com, Jo Oliver-Yeager - 234-6448 – jooliveryeager@gmail.com, Joann Ference – 234-9324 - vtscapeartist@gmail.com

LOCAL CRYPTOGRAM

A cryptogram is a code in which one letter is substituted for another. For example, the word "Church" could be written BWMSBW. The letter B would be the letter C and would be throughout the entire message. In this message Q = L**.** The solution is found by trial and error.

"I N C V K Q Y R X C N R P W C C J

Q K P Y J X Y I P V A C P N J C P P

I N A K T X N I N C Z K J I N K V R T X T P I,

R J S N C A C R J S I N C A C R U C Q Q K B

Q C R V P N K B P Y I P C Q V Q Y O C I N C

V Y A P I X A R U N R Y A R Z Y S P I I N C

Q K E O P K V R W C R T I U B N K N R P

P C C J K J C P C R P K J I K K Z R J U."

- K Q Y F C A B C J S C Q Q N K Q Z C P

The answer to the CRYPTOGRAM can be found on the inside of the back page.

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Dates to Remember

Aug 29	School Opens
Sep 3	Labor Day - No Classes
Sept 3	Bees Meeting, 6:00pm

THOMPSON CENTER NEWS

Submitted by Pam Butler

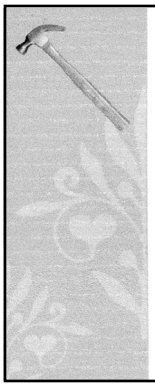
It's Fair season again and the Thompson Center has complimentary passes for Senior Citizens Day on Friday September 13th at the Tunbridge World's Fair. If you join our group and you are a senior, you are eligible for a free pass. Please call The Thompson to reserve your seat on our van as seating is limited. Later in the month we address the challenging topics of the new End of Life Law, dementia, and the challenges that care partners face. And since our dinner programs about nature and wildlife have been so popular, we encourage you to sign up for Naturally Curious, a slide and artifact program presented by Naturalist Mary Holland. Read on for details or visit us at www.thompsonseniorcenter.org.

Overview of Act 39: Vermont's New Patient Choice at the End of Life Law - Presented by Cindy Bruzzese, MPA, Executive Director for the Vermont Ethics Network: Thursday September 19th , 1-2:30PM. On May 20, 2013, Vermont became one of four states in the country to permit a terminally ill, capable adult to request and obtain a lethal prescription for medication to self-administer for the purpose of hastening their own death. This presentation will provide an overview of Act 39 including key provisions, process and documentation requirements; review some common questions with respect to the new law and its implementation; discuss Act 39 in the context of medical decision-making and end-of-life care options.

Vermont Ethics Network (VEN) is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage, educate and empower individuals, health care providers and policy makers about ethical issues, values and choices in health and health care.

"Naturally Curious", A Slide Program and Artifact Collection by Mary Holland: Tuesday September 24th, 5:30PM Dinner followed by 6:30PM Program. Naturally Curious is a visual journey through the 12 months of the year, as seen through a naturalist's eyes. Beginning in March, when the earth awakens, and ending in February, Mary Holland guides you through a selection of each month's most memorable natural events. There are images and informational tidbits about reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, insects and spiders, and plants of New England. This informative slide program is accompanied by a large natural history collection, including skulls, scat, feathers, horns, antlers and more. Copies of the author's book, Naturally Curious: A Month-by-Month Journey Through the Fields, Woods and Marshes of New England, as well as her children's books, Milkweed Visitors and Ferdinand Fox's First Summer, will be available for sale and signing following the program. Cost: $20.00 includes program and dinner.

Navigating Through the Early Stages of Dementia, Presented by Susan Moor: Thursday, September 26th, 4:30-5:30PM. This presentation is for care partners and anyone who suspects early stage dementia or has received a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Susan's talk will cover tips for daily living including managing memory loss, dealing effectively with other symptoms, home safety, how to share the diagnosis with family and friends, and organizing and preparing for the future. There will be time for questions at the end of the presentation. Susan Moor was the Early Stage Program Coordinator with the Massachusetts Alzheimer's Association until recently relocating to Woodstock, Vermont. Please call the Thompson Center to register in advance, a minimum number of attendees is required.



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BARNARD SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Will be held Thursday, August 22, 7PM, at the Historical Society Museum.

Election of a new slate of officers will be followed by a guest speaker from the Vermont Lakes and Ponds section of the Agency of Natural Resources.

Visitors and new members are welcome.

Refreshments will be served.

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TOP 10 REASONS FOR LIVING IN BARNARD, VT

Submitted by Cliff Aikens

10. Tax Rates in Barnard have been surpassed by California, New York and Massachusetts.
9. With Tropical Storm Irene being the "flood of 500 years" we are now safe for 498.
8. The new Helipad will not accommodate International flights.
7. With global warming now in full effect, Barnard now has only 6 months of winter.
6. East Barnard proposes new name for Barnard--suggests West Barnard.
5. Fable Farms grows world's largest cucumber--7 feet, 91 pounds.
4. BarnArts group attracts Broadway producers.
3. Barnard Listers ranked "#1" in statewide Listers Popularity Poll .
2. Barnard General Store back in business.
1. Sunday religious services at the Universalist Church followed by refreshments served by American Craft Distillers.

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YASMINA REZA'S "ART" AT SCULPTUREFEST

BarnArts Center for the Arts in coordination with Sculpturefest presents Yasmina Reza's ART at 7 p.m. Aug. 30th, 31st, September 6th, 7th and 2 p.m. September 1st and 8th at King Farm Barn in Woodstock. Tickets are $15 for adults, and $10 for students. For ticketing information please call 802-332-6020 or visit www.barnarts.org.

In the cast are Steve Hiller from Woodstock, Kevin Rice from Pomfret, and Paul Daniel West from Quechee. Direction and Set Design by Tom Beck

Yasmina Reza garnered international acclaim with her play ART for which she received the 1998 Lawrence Olivier Award for best comedy and the 1998 Tony Award for best play. How would you feel about your best friend if he suddenly did something so colossally stupid, it made you doubt the very basis of the friendship? It happens in Yasmina Reza's monster international hit, ART. ART is a hilarious comedy about an art lover, who buys what is in essence a pure white painting for a horse-choking sum. In turn, his best friend goes ballistic and a third friend gets squeezed in the middle. This knee slapping comedy poses questions about the meaning of strange modern art and strange modern friendships--and how they're sometimes not all that different.

"Chic, short, and wickedly, perceptively funny." - The Evening Standard

"It's an actor's dream, a nonstop cross-fire of crackling language, serious issues of life, and art, expressed in outbursts that sound like Don Rickles with a degree from the Sorbonne." Newsweek

For more information call 802-332-6020 or email info@barnarts.org

Jarvis Green, Artistic/Executive Director
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jarvis@barnarts.org, www.BarnArts.org

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EAST BARNARD NEWS

Largely Local Supper returns on September 7

by Virginia Glass Schlabach

East Barnard's second annual Largely Local Supper will be offered on Saturday September 7 at the Community Hall. The menu features turkey, gravy, stuffing, rolls, garden salads with maple dressing, maple-glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, and homemade fruit pies. All of the ingredients come from local farms and gardens or are purchased from independent and local businesses.

Come at 4:00 to browse the bazaar, which includes homemade craft items, "East Barnard: The Peaceable Kingdom" tee shirts, and raffle tickets for the "Buckeye Beauty" community-made quilt. Supper is served from 5:00-7:00, followed by the raffle drawing and music by local musicians. We hope you'll come early and stay late!

The price of the meal is $12 per person with reductions for children under 12. All proceeds benefit the East Barnard Community Club and renovations of the Community Hall. Questions? Call 763-7777.

Building Renovations: Contractor Bruce English began the Community Hall siding project on August 12 and, as I write this on the 15th, the transformative progress is moving apace. Meanwhile, Fred Schlabach reports that the Broad Brook fire house addition is done except for electrical outlets and switches, which should be installed this week. Following a final inspection by the trustees, it should be ready for use. You can see all these improvements in our village when you join us for the Largely Local Supper!

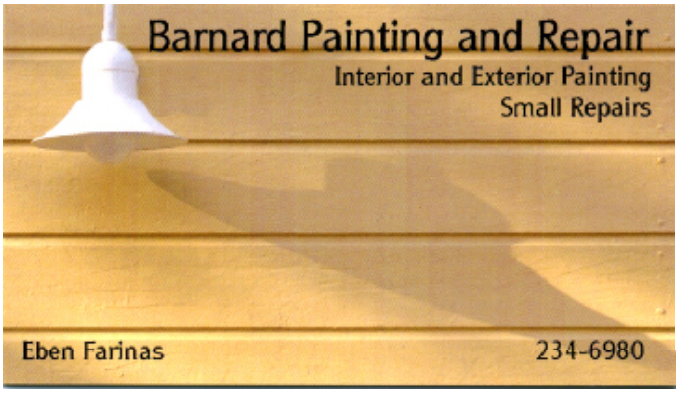
Church News: The new East Barnard Church Board was chosen at the annual meeting on July 28. Trustees: Heather Leavitt, Carol Robbins, Vali Stuntz; Treasurer: Cynthia Powers; and Clerk: Mollie McHugh. The final summer service on August 25 will be led by Claire Bamberg and include communion. In July and August the church sponsored three stimulating, well-attended Body and Soul potluck dinners with programs that included a poetry workshop, an interfaith exploration of the story of Adam and Eve, and "Journey of the Universe," a film exploring cosmic, earth, and human transformation.

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

"The foliage has been losing its freshness through the month of August, and here and there a yellow leaf shows itself like the first gray hair amidst the locks of a beauty who has seen one season too many."

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

East Barnard Community Hall is getting a face lift. The transformation should be complete by the time of the Largely Local Supper on September 7.



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FIBER ARTS BARNARD (FAB) - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the Barnard library community room, 3:30-5:30. Contact Janet Andersen, 234-5251, hywynds@aol.com, or Jenney Silva, 457-9000, hsilva86@yahoo.com.

THE BARNARD ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD meets at 5:00pm at the school on the last Tuesday of each month.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION meets at 7:00pm in the Town Clerk's office on the following dates. 2013: June 3; August 5; October 7; November 4; December 2. 2014: January 6; February 3; March 10.

BARNARD LISTERS listers@barnardvt.us, 234-9576. Office hours, except holidays, Wednesday 9:00am - 11:00am, by appointment, or anytime we are in the office.

BARNARD ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S office hours are Mondays, 9am – 12:00 noon.

BARNARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION meets the second Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, Town Hall.

BEES MEETINGS First Tuesday of each month allowing for school vacations, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, at the school library.

TOWN CLERK office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:00am - 3:30pm.

RECYCLING HOURS: Saturdays, 8:00am to 4:00pm, and Wednesday, 4pm - 8pm.

THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Barnard Town Hall as necessary.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets the last Tuesday of the month. Call 457-3020 for location. YOGA CLASSES offered at Danforth Library, Mondays 9:00am-10:30am with Suzanne Lacey, Tuesday 6:00pm-7:30pm with Amanda Anderson. For more information contact suzannelacey60@yahoo.com

DANFORTH LIBRARY is open Saturdays 10:00 to noon, Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00. Story hour is the first Saturday of the month. The Book Club meets the first Wednesday at 7:00pm.

SILVER LAKE CHAPEL 10:00AM Sunday Worship Service. The Chapel is located at 156 North Rd., Barnard-SELECTMEN meet the second and forth Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM at the Town Clerk's office

THE BARNARD BULLETIN, Box 161, Barnard VT 05031-0161, info@barnardbulletin.info, is published the 20th of each month. It is sent to the legal residents of Barnard. Non-resident subscriptions are $10.00 a year.

ADVERTISING RATES: Classified ads - 20 cents a word. Camera ready display ad - 3.5" wide by 2" high - $8.00. Special make-up work will be charged by the hour or part thereof - $10.00 minimum. Deadline for receiving ads will be the 10th of every month. Tel. 802/457-1792.