The Barnard Bulletin

DECEMBER 2014 *Happy Hollidays!* **Vol. XXIX No. 12**

SELECTMEN'S NEWS

Congratulations to Teo Zagar who will continue capably and enthusiastically representing us in Montpelier and to him and opponent Scott Woodward for an commendably gentlemanly race and even to Scott Milne and Peter Shumlin for not exposing us to the negative trashy campaigning typical of most of the country. Shumlin took the gubernatorial race in Barnard by only one vote in a town that generally votes 60% or more democratic sending a pretty clear message about property taxes, education funding and health care. While Barnard's 66% voter turnout is no cause for excessive chest thumping, it sure beats the 44% state turnout and even less nationally.

Budget time is nearly here again; right after the Thanksgiving holiday and deer season we'll be getting down to it on the proposed FY16 budget to be voted at Town Meeting. Adjuncts to Town government and anybody else who seeks public funding should submit your request in early December.

At the risk of causing you to keel right over out of your chair, we think a bona fide Town website is finally in the offing! A resident angel has taken the bull by the horns and organized the hands and resources of interested volunteers with the various skills to accomplish this reasonably mundane 21st century feat that has seemed inscrutable to your Selectboard who are generally more comfortable with trucks and excavators than desk top technology. We've looked at the Weathersfield site as kind of a template if you want to take a look and, of course, most towns, including neighbor Pomfret, now have something or other. I apologize that this has been so long sprouting wings.

Deer season has produced little but toe-tingling cold although those taken in the area are healthy with good weight and antler mass. We don't envy western New York their five feet of snow but we could use a little to quiet the woods and make it easier to keep a little heat in the house if it's going to be January cold. Thanksgiving is upon us; after I hit the "send" on this news, it's off to one of our favorite annual events, early Thanksgiving dinner in our beautiful Town Hall with Barnard Academy students and staff. We wish everyone a Happy and safe Thanksgiving with family and friends.

We apologize that due to scheduling and layout issues there is no Crypto Quote in this months Bulletin.

The Bulletin is available in PDF format at barnardbulletin.info after the first of the month.

NEWS FROM HELPING HANDS

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is right around the corner and Christmas only four weeks later. Deer season is in full swing, with fresh snow today to make the hunter's job a little easier. More snow is sure to follow and before we know it we will be pulling our skis and skates out of the closet.

The holiday season is Helping Hand's busiest time. We have already purchased and mailed Shaw's gift cards to nine families, who could use a little extra help purchasing food for their Thanksgiving dinner. We will also be putting together festive Christmas food baskets with a gift card tucked in for 20 families and individuals. If you know of someone in our community who you think could use a little help this holiday season, please let us know.

Would you like to be a secret Santa for a child in Barnard? We will be putting up our wish list Christmas tree by Thanksgiving. The tree will be decorated with ornaments, which contain holiday wishes from 23 Barnard children. Please stop by the BGS and choose an ornament and sign up on our gift list. Your gift will help make someone's holiday extra special. Gifts should be wrapped and returned to the BGS by December 16th. If you would like to purchase a gift, but find it impossible to stop by the BGS, please call Mary at 234-5541.

We mailed our annual fund raising letter in early November and we would like to thank those of you who have already sent us a gift. Your donations enable us to offer short-term financial assistance to Barnard individuals and families, who could use a helping hand. If you did not receive our letter, but would like to include us in your year-end giving, please mail your donation to PO Box 888, Barnard, VT 05031.

Louis Ahlen continues to make almost weekly deliveries to the two local food shelves. We are grateful to those of you who add food to the collection box. Here is the Woodstock Food Shelf's November's list of needed items: pasta and pasta sauce, hot and cold cereal, canned tuna, canned soups and stews, canned and packaged meals, peanut butter, jam and jelly, coffee and tea, mayo and ketchup and personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste and toilet paper. You can also add holiday food items. Thank you for supporting the food shelves!

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you or someone you know could use a helping hand. We have people ready

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Hands - Cont. from prev page

and willing to help. If the job is too big for us to handle, we can refer you to other available resources.

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THOMPSON CENTER NEWS

Submitted by Pam Butler

Our busy year at The Thompson is winding down and we have enjoyed seeing our Barnard neighbors and friends at many of our programs and special events. Please consider The Thompson if volunteering is one of your New Year's resolutions. We are your senior center! We thank the Barnard community for their vital support over the past year and we extend our sincerest wishes to you and your families for a joyous holiday season. May the spirit of hope and giving be with all of you in the New Year.

Our holiday tradition continues on the first Saturday in December when we host our Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk. It's a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping and support your senior center at the same time. Raffle ticket prizes are a Winter Stars Quilt 89"w x 113"l, created by Janet Maxham, appraisal value of $1,000; a Simon Pierce center piece bowl, valued at $120; and a booklet of 5 Chair Massage Certificates with Greg Somerville at The Thompson Center, valued at $100. Tickets are $5, or 6 for $20. All proceeds benefit The Thompson Center.

On December 9, Research Meteorologist, Roy Bates will be at The Thompson to present: The Arctic, Fifty Years Ago. This will be an interesting slide show and discussion for the weather buffs out there. Come in for lunch at noon and stay for the 1pm program.

Tickets are still available for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops concert at the historic Paramount Theater in Rutland, Sunday, December 14, 3pm performance. After the performance we will dine at Mountain Top Inn in the Killington region, a unique and rustically elegant venue overlooking a mountain lake and Green Mountain National Forest. We will depart from The Thompson on a Premier Coach bus at 1:45pm and return to Woodstock by 8pm.

In the January Bulletin, look for details about our new winter class and program schedule. Classes being offered at The Thompson will include using email securely and with confidence, a new beginning Italian class, and a holistic health evening class offered through collaboration with The Learning Lab of Woodstock. On January 7th we will host a Vermont Humanities Council program ~ Anne Frank's Neighbors: What Did They Do?, followed by a January 28th question and answer talk about Parkinson's Disease presented by Diane Church, coordinator of the Parkinson's Center at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. Don't let the post holiday blues get you down because there is something for adults of all ages at your local senior center. For more information on all of our classes and programs, please visit us at www.thompsonseniorcenter.org., or like us on facebook. Happy Holidays to all!

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Barnard Book Club meets in the Danforth Library on Wed., December 3rd at 7 pm. The book to read is "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand who also wrote the best-seller "Sea Biscuit". "Unbroken" is a 'story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption' as the author puts it. An Olympic runner joins WWII as an airman. The plane crashes in the Pacific and this true story becomes deeply harrowing as well as triumphant. We have modern lessons to learn from this book.

As a heads up, January 7th we'll meet again to talk about "Half the Sky" by Kristof and WuDunn, both writers for the NY Times. This much acclaimed book is a gripping discussion of the many areas/cultures of the world where women are oppressed in a way most of us Americans cannot fully understand. Women from around the world tell their stories and offer up hopes and dreams for their children.

What are the reasons, what are the solutions? Much to discuss here.

All are welcome at the Danforth and the Book Club, so mark your calendars and do join us for tea and talk at the Library!!

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BARNARD MOUNTAINVIEWERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB NEWS

VAST snowmobile trails officially open on December 16th and your local club is ready. In 2013 we were recognized by VAST for the "Most Improved Trails" and with our dedicated and focused groomer crew we plan to have our 45 miles of trails as good as any place you can ride. We will be running the same trail configuration this season as we did last season but have taken advantage of the new VAST map printing to change some of our route numbers to make finding your way around Barnard a little clearer. Intersection signs and trail markers have all been updated to the new route numbers. The club will be providing complimentary local trail maps at the Barnard Store. TMAs are available for our club in Bethel at Locust Creek Outfitters, and at Mills Hardware on Main Street in Bethel, and on our website, www.barnardmountainviewers.com.

Our club's annual Poker Ride will be on Sunday, January 25th. We will post details on our website at www.barnardmountainviewers.com or on the VAST website under events, and in the next Bulletin. Throughout this upcoming season we will be looking for photos from riders that we can add to our club website. Please email to stan.butler@lmsre.com.

If you are looking for a VT snowmobile safety course (required for any person 12 years of age or older born after July 1, 1983 before operating a snowmobile on the VAST trail system) visit vtvast.org for the most up-to-date safety class dates and locations.

It can't be said enough…we thank the many Barnard landowners who allow access through their property for the enjoyment of our sport. Without these landowners throughout the state we would not have a 4,700 mile VAST trail system.

And finally, we are saddened by the recent loss of one of our club's original members, David Luce of Pomfret. David absolutely loved snowmobiling and he was one of our early groomers, diligently grooming the trails in his area. He was a contributing member of the Mountainviewers and a familiar face with his wife Edna at Windsor County and local club meetings until his developing health problems kept him closer to home. We gratefully acknowledge his many, many hours of volunteering and extend our sympathy to Edna and their family.

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BARNARD VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES MID WINTER BLAST

The fire department will be celebrating its 13th annual Mid Winter Blast on Saturday January 17th at the Barnard Town Hall. Doors open at 5:30PM and a hearty spaghetti dinner will be served from 6-8PM. Adult tickets are $12 and children under 12 are $6. Door prizes will be awarded. Tickets can be purchased by calling Jack Dibble at 234-9284 or by visiting Locust Creek Outfitters and Mills Hardware in Bethel. Tickets can also be purchased from any member of the fire department. Please bring your families and come out and support your fire department.

Safety Officer Amanda Soule demonstrates to Barnard Academy students that fire fighting is not just a man's job. Amanda, along with firefighters John Hull, Steve Johnson, and Jack Dibble were at the school in recognition of October's National Fire Prevention Week. Photo courtesy of Lucinda Tokarski.

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EAST BARNARD PLANS CHRISTMAS EVENTS

by Virginia Glass Schlabach

With December on our doorsteps, East Barnard looks ahead to another Christmas memory tree, the annual Christmas Eve service, and other local festivities. Backtracking to early November, we were delighted to honor Ben Leavitt's accomplishments as he became an Eagle Scout. We also gathered at the Church and Community Hall to remember the long life of Peggy Wesbrook. The East Barnard Church began holding a monthly "home church" and the Community Club held its annual meeting.

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE: This new "tradition" was initiated a few years ago by John Leavitt and Marilyn Syme. For a donation of $5.00 per ornament, one can honor a deceased family member, friend, or pet with a ball bearing their name. The ceremony to light the tree and hang the balls is planned for 7:00 on Thursday evening, December 11. Names for balls and donations (checks made payable to East Barnard Community Club) should be sent to John, 3619 Allen Hill Road, S. Royalton, VT 05068, no later than December 8. Donations benefit the Community Club.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Similar to years' past, the East Barnard Church will hold a Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. on December 24 with a community bonfire and warm cider afterwards. We are very pleased that our returning minister, Kellyann Wolfe, will lead the service. Anyone interested in singing in the choir should contact Cynthia Powers at 763-8087.

"HOME CHURCH": The East Barnard Church has started hosting "home church" in the winter with our minister, Kellyann Wolfe. These services are held at someone's home on Sundays at 4 p.m., with a potluck afterwards. The first successful "home church" was held at Heather and Randy Leavitt's house in October, and Abner and Virginia Schlabach are hosts on November 23. We are looking for hosts/hostesses to share their homes for this intimate opportunity to share fellowship together. Please contact Heather Leavitt at 763-8780 if you are interested in hosting in early 2015.

COMMUNITY CLUB: At the annual meeting on November 6, Laura Leavitt was elected vice president; John McHugh, secretary; and Mary Croft, treasurer to join continuing officers Randy Leavitt, president, and Connie DeWitt, vice president.

EAGLE SCOUT: On November 2, Woodstock Troop 220 held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ben Leavitt. The East Barnard Hall was packed with scouts, friends, and family for the ceremony honoring Ben's achievements as a Scout. As a Scout committed to his home community, Ben catalogued the East Barnard cemetery and built a podium to enclose the records; he also designed and built steps and benches to enhance the nearby Amity Pond nature area. Well done, Ben! East Barnard is proud of you!

Ben Leavitt with his mother Jill at his Eagle Scout ceremony

Ben Leavitt becomes an Eagle Scout

"I DON'T DO DRUGS"

ANOTHER NOT-SO-FUNNY HUMOR ARTICLE

by Cliff Aikens

The recent spate of burglaries, thefts and embezzlement in Barnard are mostly attributable to drugs. Some of it by the children of our own neighbors. How did it come to this?

Our Governor and Legislature talk about the problem, lamenting its extent, while doing nothing to reduce it

Back in my corporate days in New York I once interviewed recent college graduate for a sales position who voluntarily declared, "I don't do drugs". I replied by saying, "Oh, that's good, Ed, that's very good".

We both were extremely naive I think. He for not realizing I was a 40's child, and not a 70's child and myself for not realizing the true impact of what he was saying.

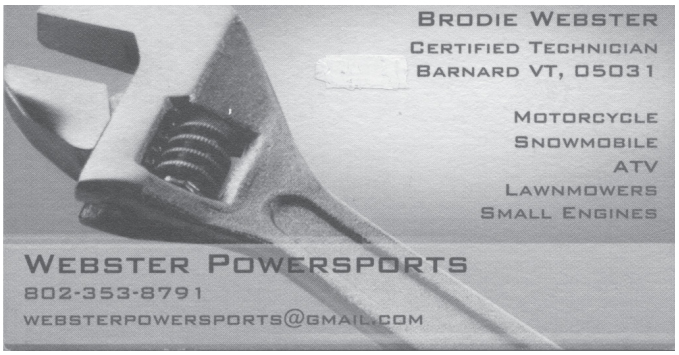
Vermont is now a state out of control in many areas. We are the butt of jokes about our drug culture. A recent article in the New York Times ridicules us and New York just sends more drug dealers into this fertile marketplace.

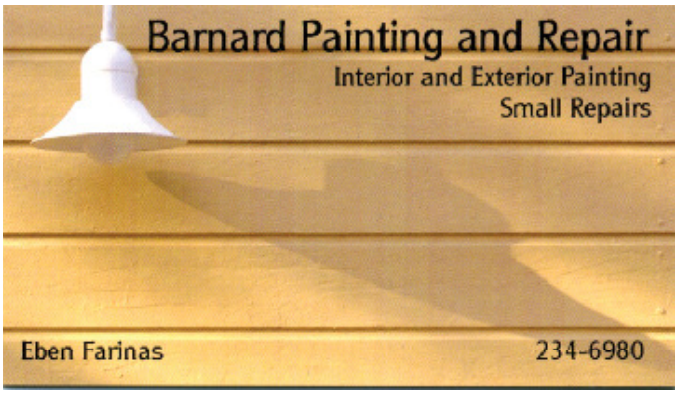
It's really very simple. Drug dealers prefer Vermont because there is no risk. If you get caught dealing drugs in Vermont, our liberal courts will say "naughty, naughty, don't do that again". In Texas that drug dealer would get 20 years in the slammer.

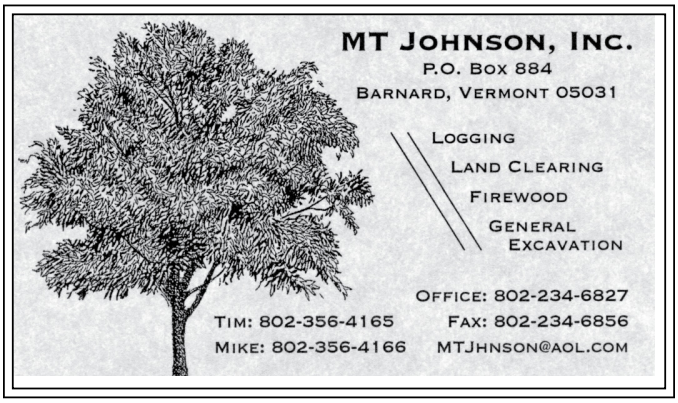
Recently on a late Friday night, while driving up from New York, our daughter-in-law was stopped at the State border by Vermont State troopers, who had barricaded the road and were searching every car for drugs. They knew the dealers would be pouring into Vermont for another "big weekend".

Our Legislature's answer to every problem is to raise real estate taxes. On this issue, it would be for "drug rehabilitation".

I would recommend instead that we tighten up enforcement, the laws and penalties.







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A LETTER TO BARNARD RESIDENTS

Submitted By Representative Teo Zagar

To everyone who voted for either me or Scott Woodward in this month's election, thank you. Those of us who cast a ballot represent a minority of Vermonters who chose to take part by making choices for who we want working for us in state and federal government. Some Vermonters voting for representatives and senators had very little choice, however, since few among us decide to run for public office and many state races were uncontested. This is just fine for the candidates since campaigning in a contested race is time consuming and labor intensive (without pay), but not so great for democracy. The challenges that Vermont faces require as many hands on deck as possible, and I feel lucky to have such an engaged electorate and worthy challenger to keep me focused and on task. Luckier still because I won, of course, but I suspect that Scott has a bright future in elected office as either a representative or senator should he choose to run again.

In the meantime, I am on duty for another two years and look forward - with a mixture of cautious optimism and sober realism - to continuing my service in the House and engaging in the toughest challenges that Vermont faces. I will also continue to be an advocate and intermediary on your behalf for specific issues that may arise in your business or personal lives to the extent that they interact with elements of state government.

With decreasing revenues and spending pressures we will have to do some re-prioritizing and restructuring of government policies and services. The national economy and political culture combined with other local and external forces don't make our job any easier, and I hope that we will be able to transcend partisan politics to achieve effective policy goals for the betterment of all Vermont. There will no doubt be many divisive issues and debates in the months ahead, and I promise to be as transparent and informative as possible as we wade through them. Bridging the party divide and building on common ground not just in the legislature but among the citizenry will be absolutely essential to making progress.

For many, the recent election was a referendum on rising property taxes and/or frustration over a failed health insurance website coupled with uncertainty about the future of healthcare in Vermont. Education spending, funding, governance and outcomes seem to loom largest in the eyes of most of the people I've talked to over the past few months. As proposals and plans are put forward I will engage with local taxpayers, school boards, select boards, educators and administrators to determine the best course. There is no easy solution and there will have to be compromise and sacrifice.

We also need to determine, as an entire state community, what kind of education system we want, what it should include and not include, and how it should be prioritized among other state functions.

One of my other main points of focus, assuming I am reappointed to the Agriculture & Forest Products Committee, will be to continue efforts to expand economic and job growth in agriculture. As I've mentioned previously, economic expansion in this sector is outpacing the Vermont economy as a whole by almost three to one, and many new businesses and jobs have been created over the past few years. This is one of our strengths and there is certainly more opportunity for growth and prosperity.

If you would like to sign up for my email list or have a question or comment, please drop me a line at info@teozagarforhouse.org or call me at 802-234-9125.

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NOTICE

2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR, BEES MEETINGS: FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Upcoming dates & times, variations due to holidays:

12/2 from 6:30 to 7:45 PM in the Barnard Academy library

Please contact Nicole Conte Stevens, BEES President, 234.9786, with questions or agenda items.

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 8:30 am at the school on the first 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, 9:00am - 12:00 noon.

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

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

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

SELECTMEN meet the second and forth Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM at the Town Clerk's office.

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

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

HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. Call 457-3020 for location.

THE ENERGY COMMITTEE meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Barnard Town Offices.

DANFORTH LIBRARY is open Saturdays 10:00 to noon, Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 8:00. The Book Club meets the first Wednesday at 7:00pm. The Library Trustees meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the Danforth Library book room at 6:30pm. Winter hours, starting Nov. 1st, are Sat. 10:00 - 12:00am & Wed. 3:00 - 5:00pm.

SILVER LAKE CHAPEL will be holding Sunday worship services on Sunday evenings at 6:00pm. Please contact Marty Bascom at 802-728-5764 for more information.

YOGA CLASSES offered at Danforth Library, Mondays 9:00 am - 10:30 am and 6:15pm -7:45pm with Amanda Anderson. Classes are by donation; for more info, contact theonlymissamanda@yahoo.com.

THE BARNARD BULLETIN, Box 161, Barnard VT 05031-0161, info@barnardbulletin.info, is published the 20th of each month and is sent to the legal residents of Barnard. Subscriptions are $10.00 a year. Tel. 802/457-1792.