



Egremont News

Issue 88

July, 2016

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall.

Selectmen:

Police Chief Brian Shaw is retiring on July 15, 2016 after serving as our Chief for three years. Chief Shaw did a great job in transitioning and leading Egremont's Police Department through a difficult period. We all thank him for his professionalism, dedication, and hard work. A search committee is currently screening applicants to be the next Egremont Police Chief.

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Nick Ball is retiring after 27 years of service to Egremont. His last day of work will be July 22, 2016. His dedication to the job has been greatly appreciated by all. Nick is the one who has kept our town buildings and grounds, and French Park in such good shape over the years.

The Board of Selectmen is happy to announce that Egremont is one of 6 towns chosen by MBI as a first round group to begin the process to bring Broadband to Town. Make ready work should begin this summer. Service should be available in 24 to 30 months. Please read the Technology Committee article for more details.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has awarded the Town \$50,000 for work needing to be done at the South Egremont School. The town's application was for \$100,000. We are quite thankful for the \$50,000, but this will require us to rethink our plans for the work to be done. The Board of Selectmen have invited the Superintendent and the SBRSD Buildings Grounds and Technology Subcommittee to its regular meeting on July 11 to discuss this project. Further, the project's plans are being reviewed by the Engineer hired by the town to oversee the project to determine the impact of the grant shortfall.

Members of the community who are

interested in serving on the SBRSD please take a moment to read the article regarding the SBRSD upcoming election in November.

ECO-TIP

BBQ party tip #1. Serve beverages (water, lemonade, iced tea, sangria) from pitchers. Provide paper cups and markers so guests can identify their own cups and reuse them.

Egremont seeking candidates to run for SBRSD School Committee

There will be 5 seats on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) School Committee open in the fall as follows.

Egremont – 1 seat, 4 year term (currently held by Marcella Bush who was appointed by the BOS to complete the remainder of Jennifer Sahn's term.)

Monterey – 1 seat, 4 year term (currently held by Maria Rundle)

New Marlborough – 1 seat – 4 year term (currently held by Kristen Sparhawk)

Sheffield – 2 seats, 4 year terms (currently held by Art Battachi and Vito Valentini)

The nomination papers and instructions may be picked up at the SBRSD Superintendent's Office. Twenty-nine (29) signatures are necessary, but the town clerks recommend that you collect a minimum of 35, in case some cannot be certified.

Procedure for collecting signatures and submitting nomination papers:

- Signatures may be obtained from residents of any of the five towns comprising SBRSD.
- The town must be indicated on the bottom of each form.
- A candidate cannot mix signatures from different towns on the same form. Signatures from Sheffield

must be on a “Sheffield” form; signatures from Alford put on an “Alford” form and so forth.

- Nomination Papers must be turned in to the Board of Registrars of the town indicated at the bottom of the sheet for certification, no later than Tuesday, July 26, 2016

- Nomination papers with certified names must be turned in to the office of the Superintendent of Schools, Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) on or before 5 p.m., Tuesday, August 23, 2016

If you have questions, please contact the Egremont town hall.

Treasurer/Collector:

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7am to 3pm
413-528-0182 ext 12
collector@egremont-ma.gov

Fiscal Year 2017 Preliminary Real Estate & Personal Property Tax Bills will be mailed no later than June 30, 2016. There is no grace period on taxes. In order to avoid interest and penalties, be sure to have your payment **in** the Tax Collector’s office by the due dates indicated on your tax bill(s).

On Line Banking: UNIPAY on line banking is a great tool for payments of real estate/personal property, excise, tax & water bills. Visit the Town of Egremont web site at www.egremont-ma.gov and click on “pay your bills on line”. Follow the instructions from that point. You will be able to use ACH or a credit card. There are fees assessed by the processor for this service.

Bank Bill Pay: When making payments through your bank bill pay, please remember to use your current tax bill number and check to be sure the remittance address is correct.

Remittance Address: Tax Collector, Town of Egremont, P.O. Box 358, So. Egremont MA 01258.

Questions concerning your tax assessment MUST be directed to the Board of Assessors at 413-528-0182 ext 14.

Transfer Station:



You may notice the new big red container on the opposite side of the driveway from the compactor. That is for bulky rigid plastics. The container will be moving to a more appropriate place this fall, until then please proceed with caution when crossing the driveway to place your items in the container.

Please, please, please read the signs as you go up the hill to the Transfer Station & Recycling Center, and the signs at the site. These signs were put in place to help you understand the rules. We ask that you conform with the rules on the sign, including obtaining and affixing to your vehicle each year the Transfer Station sticker, and conforming with the posted speed limit.



When you come to our site please slow down, take your time, be aware and considerate and treat each other kindly. And make sure that your trash is separated as per our signs which is in accordance with state law.

ECO-TIP

BBQ party tip #2. Encourage recycling by identifying bins for bottles and cans, keeping them separate from the garbage.

Egremont Historical Commission:

Changing of the Guard: The Commission thanks Jim Parrish for his time of service and his minutes as our Secretary; his talk on the Trained Band Building - the little side building with the decorated roof gables now attached to the Congregational church - and how the town regularly trained its own "band" of prepared militiamen - guns, powder, marching drills,

picnics and all!; his reports on the 200 plus buildings of Egremont in our first MACRIS files that secured our National Register Historic District status, and for all his years of service to our town that have been varied, and invaluable - Thank You Jim.

And we welcome Rebecca Turner, our newest member. Rebecca is a "next gen", working now at Clark and Green. With an ideal skill set for the architectural aspects of the work now before the Commission - Aging Gracefully in Place - both our houses and ourselves; the proposed expansion of the ATC's Kellogg Homestead, and analysis of the impact of the planning board's proposed zoning changes, her arrival could not be more timely. With an enthusiasm for history and the town in which the Turners have farmed for generations, she brings a personal point of view of the needs of young families here, and what we can do to promote a scale and vibrancy of life in the community to sustain our rural, multigenerational lifestyle.

To that end, we are actively engaged in the state's Healthy Streets initiative that hopefully will introduce more effective ways to live and work; walk, bike, and drive in our villages and our community. We continue to work on updating the MACRIS files, and invite you to visit the Archives the first Saturday morning of every month. We have new books available for those wishing to make their beautiful old homes energy efficient or ADA compliant, and have received into the archives some great material from Jeffrey P. Howard on his parents' business in south village during the 1960's, as well as some photos from Don Victor's collection.

Please don't forget that the 20th century is fading fast. We need your photos, your match covers, your menus, used lift tickets, polaroids of picnics and parades. So when you're cleaning out the drawers, think of us. thanks.

Board of Assessors:

The applications for Statutory Exemptions (Senior, Surviving Spouse, Veteran, Blind) have been sent out. If you have any questions about the forms, please contact our office. These forms must be completed and returned to our office by October 1.

The applications for tax abatement due to the use of property as forest, agricultural/horticultural, or recreational land will be sent out later in July. Property must consist of at least 5 contiguous

acres of land under the same ownership and be used as Chapter Land; that is, lands classified and taxed according to Chapter 61 [Forest Land], Chapter 61A [Agricultural/Horticultural Land], and Chapter 61B [Recreational Land].

If you have property in Forest Land make sure you have a current Certificate for Chapter 61/61A Forest Lands from the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Please request a **Change of Address Form** when you want to officially change your address. These forms can be found at the Assessors' Office and on the Town's website. Thank you for your attention to this.

The charge for **Abutters Lists** that are prepared by the Assessors Office is \$1.00 per parcel reported.

The Assessor page on the town website has links to state forms and tax information. You can also access the geographical information system to see tax maps.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Assessors' office at 528-0182, Ext. 14. Our Town Hall office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 or email us at assessors@egremont-ma.gov.

ECO-TIP

BBQ party tip #3. Avoid plastic tableware. Big Y has attractive compostable dinnerware pieces. Or buy compostable cups, plates, and utensils, and paper table covers, from the Egremont Green Committee, at bulk cost.

Water Department:

The annual Consumer Confidence Report has been certified and published. You may obtain a copy at Town Hall, or check the Town's website (http://www.egremont-ma.gov/2015_ccr.pdf) for the report.

Please let the Department know if you are going to be filling your pool! The recorder at the water plant shows an increase but we cannot tell if it is a leak or pool use or irrigation. A quick call will help us with our reporting to DEP. Thank you!

Did you know that a dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day! A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. These leaks waste your water and your money.

Toilet Leaks are hard to detect. They are usually caused by a bad main valve, flapper valve seat, a bad flush valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube. Test your toilets by dropping

a few drops of food coloring into the tank. DO NOT FLUSH! Wait for 15 to 20 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak and repairs need to be made.

Faucet Leaks are easy to find. If it drips, or worse, continues running after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is warm, it is costing you extra money! Water dripping or running from the shower head when the shower is turned firmly off, it is usually caused by bad washers or seats which need replacing. Also, check for leaks from the tub faucet when the shower is turned on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low-flow shower head because the water you save with the low-flow device is lost from the tub faucet.

If you have any questions about water supply or billing, the Water Department Clerk is available at Town Hall Monday - Friday from 7 to 3; telephone 528-0182 ext 17.

Sustainability Coordinator:

Happy New Year! Or, as we say here at Town Hall, Happy *Fiscal* New Year! We operate under a fiscal year which begins in July and ends in June. Here are some end of the *fiscal* year reports....

Municipal Energy Use The mild winter of 2015/16 wasn't great for skiing, but it was terrific for saving money on energy costs. Municipal energy use was down 50% thanks for the milder temperatures. Heating related costs of seven town buildings fell considerably too. Less snow also meant the highway snow plows and sanders were out less, so the town also saved money on diesel fuel costs.

As you are reading this you might be thinking "We have no control over weather. Hey, Sustainability Coordinator, show us something you can take credit for!". *Well since you asked....*right now we are in the middle of weatherization upgrades for seven of our town buildings, all paid for by the funding the town received when we became a Green Community. Some buildings will get new attic insulation, some lighting upgrades, some door and window sealing. This will make our buildings more energy efficient and conserve additional energy in the future.

Trash/Recycling Thanks to the care and attention our residents have given to recycling and composting we have seen a 25% reduction in our annual trash tonnage since 2012. I am happy to report that recycling in both the bottles and cans dumpster and paper dumpster is up, which translates

into additional revenue we receive from the Springfield MRP for the sale of these goods.

The town was rewarded with \$1600 in funding from MassDEP for the many recycling programs available to our residents. In addition to recycling bottles and cans, paper, composting kitchen scraps, our swap shop, metal collection, computer equipment and textile recycling through Goodwill we now have a permanent Bulky Rigid Plastics dumpster at the Transfer Station. BRPs are things like plastic flower pots, plastics garbage cans, children's outdoor large toys, plastic pet carries, etc. (for a complete list, go to the town web site: www.egremont-ma.gov). As with all reuse and recycling programs, this is a way to remove items which would have normally gone into the trash. The benefits from this are twofold: saving money on the reduced disposal and hauling fees and added revenue the items bring in as recyclable goods. SWEET!

Solar Array at the Water Department The 11 kWh solar array on the roof of the Water Department has chopped electricity costs a whopping 25%! Electricity costs went from \$14,000 in FY15 to \$10,000 in FY16. These numbers will most likely improve for the next fiscal year as the solar array went on line in October 2015, so the net-metering credits received were not for a full year.

The Egremont Water Department was recently recognized by the state for their efforts in energy conservation. This is a very big deal, not solely because of the costs savings delivered but for the combined positive impacts these reductions have on the environment.

It's been a very, very good year. None of these successes would have been possible without the guidance and leadership of our Selectmen and active participation from the residents. My thanks to you all. Let's keep up the great work so next year at this time equally good news will be reported.

ECO-TIP

Buy fruits and veggies loose or in reusable bags. No need to add those extra plastic bags to the waste stream

Update from the Egremont Technology Committee:

This update summarizes broadband network activities that have been underway during May and June.

RFP for Design, Engineering, and Consulting Services. On May 16 the Town issued a Request for Proposals from qualified network design/consulting firms. The RFP was sent to potential bidders of whom

we were aware, posted on the state procurement database, and advertised in the *Record*. After publication of the RFP, we responded to a number of questions from bidders (responses shared with all known potential bidders). The public opening of the responses took place at Town Hall on Wednesday, June 22, 2016 (the due date was extended seven days from the original June 15 deadline). The Town received four proposals. The Egremont Technology Committee will be evaluating these proposals during July. Section 5 of the RFP lays out the evaluation process. You can download the full RFP at <http://www.egremont-ma.gov/brdbnddesignRFP1605.pdf>.

MBI Alternative. Also in May, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute announced a completely revamped program to support unserved towns in western Massachusetts. The new MBI program essentially offers an alternative path for building the Town's network whereby MBI would hire and supervise contractors for utility pole surveys, network design and engineering, and construction. Two important features of the new program are a) MBI's recognition that no one solution is best for all towns, and b) a direct link between MBI and the Governor's Office, which has made broadband for western Massachusetts a priority (at last!). Another important benefit is that towns that choose to work with MBI (and *only* those towns) will share in the state grant for design and engineering services; Egremont's share is estimated at \$410,000. Given the attractiveness of the new MBI offering, the Town decided to consider the new MBI program in parallel with the RFP process. Accordingly, the Technology Committee and the Egremont Select Board held a joint meeting with key MBI leaders and staff on May 25. As follow up, we have been pulling together the information MBI needs to bring Egremont into their program. In essence, MBI has become another option along with the RFP bidders, and we expect to decide on a clear direction in July. Note: Egremont will be eligible for a separate state grant to support construction services, estimated at \$660,000, whether or not we choose to work with MBI. The new MBI program is explained on their website at <http://broadband.masstech.org/building-networks/last-mile/program-unserved-towns>.

State approvals. The Town is working through approval processes with MBI and with the MA Department of Revenue Division of Local Services.

We need approvals in order to a) qualify for the state grants, b) begin to receive MBI design services (should we choose this approach), and c) meet legal requirements for borrowing funds under the broadband debt authorization approved at the Annual Town Meeting in 2015. Because the Town is in a strong position with respect both to finances and to broadband network plans, we expect to secure all necessary approvals without difficulty.

MLP organization. In 2011 the Town created a Municipal Light Plant entity, which is the legal structure under which a town can operate a municipal broadband network in Massachusetts. The MLP has been dormant since that time. However, as the Town will soon begin expending funds for pole surveys, design work, and other network activities, it has become necessary to activate the MLP. On June 7, the Select Board decided that the SB will act as the MLP board during the start-up phase of the network project, with the following MLP appointments: Charles Flynn, Chairman; Bruce Turner, Vice-Chairman; Mary Brazie, Recording Secretary; Bruce Turner, MLP Manager.

Pole attachment agreements. The Town has in hand the contracts from National Grid and Verizon for attaching the Town's fiber optic network cable. Town Counsel is currently reviewing these documents. There are many rules and regulations governing use of utility poles by network cable operators. These agreements are the first in a long series of steps to obtain licenses from pole owners and to make sure each pole is "ready" (in terms of compliance with regulations) for cable attachment.

Note on WiredWest. Several residents have asked if WiredWest is a still a viable option for the Town. The answer is no, and here are the reasons: Recall that after the dispute between MBI and WW, followed by the resultant "pause," the Select Board decided not to wait any longer and voted that the Town would develop and issue its own RFP. Further reinforcing this decision, MBI has since revamped their program, and some of the early benefits of WW that were so appealing, such as access to state funding for design/consulting services, professional management of the design and construction work, and the possibility of various modes of collaboration with other towns are all once again available to us under the new MBI framework without having to be part of WW. Moreover, if we were to go with WW, we would be isolated from the rest of the "regional" network (Mt. Washington and Alford have opted out of WW), and therefore some other benefits such as shared equipment, common distribution huts,

etc. would be lost to us. Meanwhile WW is looking to work with some of the smaller hill towns east of here, and they are considering other network architectures such as wireless, which would be cheaper for the little towns, but also less robust and possibly less secure than a fiber optic solution. And, WW is still struggling to redefine itself and come to agreement with its membership on how it will work in the future, all of which will take more time.

More information. We expect that down the road the MLP will have a web page that will be kept up to date with network developments. Meanwhile, the Egremont Technology Committee will continue to provide an update in each edition of the Town Newsletter going forward. Meetings of the Committee are open to the public, and audio transcripts are available at Town Hall.

ECO-TIP

Don't cut your grass closer than 2.5 inches. Taller grass crowds out crabgrass and other weeds and conserves water.

Egremont Free Library:

Summer is here! Below is a list of museum passes available to Egremont Free Library patrons. Please see the museum pass policy below. We've added Mass MoCA in addition to all of the wonderful museum and area attractions. Enjoy!

2016 Library Passes Museums & Area Attractions

Museums

- Norman Rockwell: Pass allows admission for up to 2 individuals for \$10 per person . Children 5 and under are free.
- **Berkshire Museum:** Pass allows free admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children under the age of 18. Children 3 and under are always free.
- **Chesterwood:** Pass allows free admission for 2 adults. Children 12 and under are free
- **The Clark Museum:** Pass includes free admission for 1 adult.
- **Mass MoCA:** Admits up to two adults for free. Children 13 and under are free.

Area Attractions

- Hancock Shaker Village: Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and 2 children
- **The Ashley House:** Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and 2 children

- **Bartholomew's Cobble:** Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and 2 children
- **The Folly at Field Farm:** Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and 2 children
- **The Mission House:** Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and 2 children
- **Naumkeag:** Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and 2 children

Museum Pass Policies

- First Come, First Served... Patron must come to the library and if the museum pass is here, they may borrow it for 48 hours. Please **No calling ahead** to reserve.
- Patron must return museum pass in blue envelope provided within 48 hours of borrowing pass. They should put pass in envelope and place in the Book Drop Box outside library door.
- Only one pass may be borrowed at a time.
 - o FYI, Norman Rockwell changed their museum policy pass this year. The pass allows two people in at \$10 per person (admission is usually \$18 for adults; \$17 for seniors)
 - o The Clark changed their pass to admitting ONE person for free.

Fire Department:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Call #</i>
<i>/Location</i>	<i>/Type</i>	
4/23/2016	12:28 PM	46
Creamery Rd.		Medical
4/25/2016	4:33 AM	47
Hillsdale Rd.		Alarm/CO
4/25/2016	8:14 AM	48
Creamery Rd,		Medical
4/27/2016	10:34 AM	49
Main St		Medical
4/28/2016	12:22 PM	50
Creamery Rd.		Medical
5/2/2016	9:58 PM	51
West St. Mt. Washington		Alarm/False
5/2/2016	10:31 PM	52
Hillsdale Rd.		Medical
5/7/2016	3:17 PM	53
Hillsdale Rd.		Medical
5/9/2016	3:19 PM	54
Creamery Rd.		Medical
5/10/2016	9:38 PM	55
Hillsdale Rd.		Misc. Gas Smell
5/21/2016	10:38 PM	56

White Hill Rd.	
Misc. Gas Smell	
5/25/2016 8:48 AM	57
Westerhook Rd.	Medical
5/26/2016 5:32 PM	58
Jug End Rd.	Alarm/false
5/26/2016 8:19 PM	59
Creamery Rd.	Medical
5/30/2016 11:48 AM	60
Rt. 41 Great Barrington	Mutual Aid.
5/31/2016 11:19 AM	61
Hillsdale Rd.	Alarm/False
6/1/2016 6:04 PM	62
West St. Mt. Washington	Alarm/False
6/6/2016 8:37 PM	63
East St. Mt. Washington	Medical
6/11/2016 11:56 AM	64
Taconic Ln.	Medical
6/12/2016 3:59 PM	65
Mountain Rd. Mt. Washington	Alarm /Fire
6/12/2016 6:31 PM	66
Creamery Rd.	Medical/alarm
6/13/2016 6:37 PM	67
Farm Lane	Alarm/smoke
6/15/2016 5:33 PM	68
Main Street	Alarm/Smoke
6/16/2016 5:47 PM	69
Egremont Plain Rd.	Vehicle/Fire
6/17/2016 11:44 AM	70
Fisher Ln.	Medical
6/17/2016 1:12 PM	71
Main St.	Medical
6/19/2016 8:42	72
Baldwin Hill N-S	Alarm/False

4 Firemen took a 2-day Fire Academy class on Rural Water Supply. 1 day was classroom work the second was practical in which the class moved 70 to 80 thousand gallons of water from a fill site (a river) to a dump site (a simulated fire) in 2 hours. We also did ropes training with Copake Fire at Bish Bash Falls.

Conservation Commission:

Often people don't understand why it's best to check with the Conservation Commission when they are considering a project that potentially might involve wetlands; i.e., the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, which conservation commissions are charged with enforcing. Following are a few cases

we've dealt with over the past six months, each with different outcomes.

1. A realtor called inquiring about two properties her client was interested in. Both had potential wetlands issues. However, the client's inquiry was directed toward grazing sheep on the property.
Determination: Agricultural use is generally exempted from the WPA, except where it involves placement of structures or fencing. So, grazing, no issue. Fence the land, build a sheep shelter-- issue.
2. A property owner with a nice southern exposure was interested in installing solar roof panels. However, the southern exposure of the house includes many tall trees that would have to be cleared.
Problem: They all were in a substantial wetland. After explaining this to the owner, the project was abandoned.
3. Owners purchased a small plot of land from a neighbor and wished to turn it into a substantial garden.
Problem: The owners came to the ConCom *after* purchasing the land, which turned out to be unusable for the intended purpose due to its wetlands issues.
4. Owners had purchased a lot on which to build a residence. They had been assured by the real estate agent and the site engineer that there were no issues with the site, which borders a cattail swamp. Alerted to a potential issue, the ConCom made a site visit.
The site visit revealed that the foundation was within the 100-ft. buffer zone of a wetlands and thus needed to go through the standard approval process. The error in the original assessment was the measurement of the 100 feet: The measurement was taken down a substantial slope. The WPA requirements are 100-ft *horizontally*, which placed the measurement stakes 10 to 15 feet inside the wetlands.
By not checking first with the ConCom the owner incurred additional expense and a delay in beginning the project. All is proceeding well under the project's Order of Conditions.

It costs nothing for the ConCom to do a site visit and see if there are potential issues. We suggest this as a sensible first step.

Egremont Planning Board:

The Planning Board held an informational meeting at the North Egremont Firehouse June 11th regarding its proposed bylaw changes that would create three districts where Egremont's one General district is now. The districts will be: The North Village District, the South Village District, with remainder the being named the Rural District. Very large maps showing lot lines were available for viewing. The other proposed changes were also presented and discussed. Twenty-one citizens attended the two hour meeting and asked excellent questions.

All Egremont residents are invited to the Planning Board's Public Hearing on the proposed bylaw amendments that will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 7 pm, at the North Egremont Fire House. Please remember to park in front of Town Hall. Those with handicapped plates and tags may park in the specified spaces at the Fire House. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Your input is important.

Copies of the proposed bylaws may be found when you scroll down at <http://egremont-ma.gov/download.html>. Printed copies will be available at Town Hall, the town Library, South Egremont Post Office, and the North Egremont Store.

In addition, the Planning Board will be sending the proposed bylaw changes to everyone on the town's email list. If you would like to be added to that list, please either call Will Brinker at 528-0182 Ext 17, or email your request to wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov.

We hope you will read the proposed bylaw amendments and attend the Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 20, at 7 pm. The Planning Board is looking forward to seeing you and hearing what you have to say.

Other news about the Planning Board. The Board has been voted funds at Town Meeting to pursue citizens' participation in shaping Egremont's future. Lucinda Vermeulen is attending the Complete Streets Committee Meetings as the Planning Board Delegate. The Board has signed several Form A divisions of land and is in the process of approving the first part of a common driveway permit.

You are welcome to attend Planning Board meetings which are typically held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm on the second floor of Town Hall. However, the schedule sometimes changes so please check postings first.

Council on Aging:

Fairview Hospital Honors Volunteers:

Special recognition was given to Martha Wood of Great Barrington, who received a "Fairview's Finest" certificate for being recognized by a patient for her work: and Rachel Shaw of Egremont, who has served as the bookkeeper of Fairview's gift shop for over 40 years.

Money Bunnies 4-H club fundraiser.

Dear Egremont residents, the Money Bunnies 4-H club would like to thank you for your support with our fund raiser.

If you go to the transfer station you have probably noticed the big blue recycling bins by the glass and plastic recycling container. We are collecting anything with a deposit - bottles and cans that are returnable.

What has a deposit you might ask? Well, the easiest way to remember what has a deposit, is by remembering our slogan. IF IT BUBBLES, IT BELONGS!

Almost all carbonated beverages have a deposit. Beer, soda, seltzer, regardless if it is packaged in plastic, glass, or cans. Water does not have a deposit for MA. (Legislation has not yet passed that bill).

We hope to be able to continue our collection through this summer season. We will use the funds for entrance fees to rabbit shows, a self defense course, and giving to an Egremont family in need this coming holiday season.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Berkshire Summer Strings Press Release:

Berkshire Summer Strings is a music program featuring instrument instruction, singing, jam sessions

and speciality workshops in the genres of traditional, contra dance and folk music. From July 11-15, 2016, the outdoor program at French Park in North Egremont, MA, will host youth ages 8 and up with a least one year of study on violin, viola, cello, mandolin, or guitar, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Songwriting, mixed instrument groups (bands), performance workshops, artistic and outdoor activities area also included. Adult tune sessions will be held at 5:15 p.m. and advanced workshops and jam sessions will begin at 7:30 p.m. on July 11, 12 and 13. Private lessons are also available at this time. Details, Instructor Bios and Registration at www.berkshiresummerstrings.com.

Instruction for both the youth and adult programs will be led by Mia Friedman (fiddle, banjo), Aldo Lavaggi (fiddle, Mandolin), Ariel Friedman (cello, viola), Jordan Tice (guitar), and Eric Martin (fiddle, viola) and Bennet Konesni (fiddle, guitar, work songs).

Free events hosted by Berkshire Summer Strings during the week in session include Community Singing at 9 a.m. M-F, Community Jam at 4 p.m. M-Th, and the Community (Camper) Concert, Friday, July 15, 5:30 p.m. All free events located at French Park.

Berkshire Summer Strings is directed by Erika Ludwig, owner of Berkshire Strings Studio in North Egremont and founder of Fiddling Femmes - Group Violin Lessons for Women. "Berkshire Summer Stings is a unique opportunity to learn traditional dance and fiddle tunes from professional musicians and teachers. These instructors are award-winning composers and songwriters, active in the upper echelons of the Americana, bluegrass, and contra dance circles, with a passion for sharing their music and their gifts," says Ludwig. "The program is designed to encourage and engage the many acoustic musicians and young musicians in our community."

A benefit concert for the Berkshire Summer Strings Youth Scholarship Fund will be performed by the instructors on Thursday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m.. A donation of \$20.00 is suggested, any amount welcome. Please check website for updated location.

First Congregational Church of South Egremont:

The First Congregational Church of South

Egremont will hold a "Wet Paint Auction" and Artist Consignment Gallery July 23 (rain date August 20).

Artists will paint throughout the day on the church grounds and surrounding area of the village. The church sanctuary and parlor rooms will be converted to a consignment Gallery. Visitors are invited to meander through the village to view the artists at work or visit the gallery and add to their personal collection. The "wet paint" art will be available for viewing from 4-5:30pm and the "Wet Paint Auction will begin at 5:30pm.

Artists interested in participating in this contact Marica Alves at boat37@verizon.net or call 528-2368.

Although this is an event to help to raise money to preserve the First Congregational Church Building, it is also a community oriented event to bring people to the village as well as showcase our local artisans.

August 6 from 5-7pm the First Congregational Church of South Egremont will hold its 2nd Annual Bar-B-Que ribs dinner. Take-out will be available. Cost is Adults \$15 and children ages 5-10 \$5. This year it will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Meeting schedule:

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon
or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon &
by appointment

Council on Aging - Last Wednesday of each month
at 1pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday
8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm, Wednesday &
Thursday 8am to 1pm. Meetings - Thursdays as
posted 9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday
evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth
Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm January
through April. Other times as needed.

French Park Committee - 2nd Tuesday of each month
6:00pm

April through October at the Park.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm &
Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday
7:30pm
School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays
6pm Mt. Everett High School Library
Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to
3:00pm
Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm-
8pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon
or by appointment
Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to
1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to
4pm
Water Department - Meetings second Thursday
3:00pm at Town Hall
Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed
To reach a board member or to leave a
message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall. Support local businesses!

Prospect Lake Park and Campground -
camping, swimming
413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com
www.prospectlakepark.com
Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B
1 Prospect Lake Road
413-528-2882
www.innsweetwater.com

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
Restaurant & Lodging
413-528-6200
www.swisshutte.com

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.
Robin Walther
116 Egremont Plain Road
413-528-2537

robinschaircaning@gmail.com

Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restoration
413-528-1232
www.howardsantiquelighting.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal
polishing
413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects
195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)
413-528-5383
www.homeasianantiques.com

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern
furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and
decorative objects.
413-528-0112
www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Lessons, summer programs
www.bluerider.org
413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -
Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.
413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture
(CSA) & Farmers Markets
413-528-8301
www.indianlinefarm.com

Ivory Pond Farm -
Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug
Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and supplies.
Tom & Liz Marino
413-528-9465
www.lizmarinorughooking.com
Llamama@wildblue.net

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,
open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.
413-528-5710

B&S Gventer "Books & Ephemera" - Buy & Sell Books
http://blaize.com/
413-429-7467

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork
413-644-9979
www.CosmicResonance.com

Peter Goldberg, Realtor
Residential, Commercial, Land
Stone House Realty
35 Railroad Street, Great Barrington
413-281-6384m 413-528-4211 o

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor
44 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-9654
healingspiritdc@yahoo.com

Zorn Core Fitness -
Personal, Couples & Group Training
Cardio Room - \$25 per month Free 1 month cardio
for Egremont residents
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-1594
www.zorncorefitness.com zornari@gmail.com

Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe
Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-0828
kbyoga@gmail.com

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,
liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more
413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
413-528-9633

Closet Collection - clothing & household
consignment shop
413-528-6236

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail
wood veneer sales
413-644-9696

Toull Construction - Jobs large and small.
Lord St. Pierre
413-528-5548

“Jack of All Trades”-Handyman Services
Jack Buckley
413-528-1982
413-446-1982

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking Field
Mowing
413-528-0102
pager 413-261-2150

Jenna Brazie - gardening/weeding
413-854-3277

L&M Lawn Services: Michael Harrigan
Mowing and lawn care. Discounts for elderly.
413-528-3866

Glen: Home repairs, property maintenance, carpentry.
475-434-0686

Bonnie Wells: general housekeeping, maintenance to
construction clean-up, ironing, polishing, organizing,
window washing with free screen cleaning.
413-854-7417 bonbonz75@yahoo.com

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course
413-528-1262
www.catamountski.com

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales
William Pitt Sotheby's
413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920
anitaschilling@gmail.com

Florence F. Browner Real Estate - Full Service
90 Creamery Road
413-528-3266 flobro@wildblue.net

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel &
Accessories
39 Main Street
413-528-2330
www.kenverltd.com

Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger
154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23

The Agency Without Walls - Helen Krancer
Marketing Consulting and Copywriting That Get
Results. 413-644-9700
helen@agencywithoutwalls.com

RJR Enterprises - Roger Meyer
Audio/Video, "Home Entertainment"
Sales-Service-Installation
413-931-1027

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
PC repairs - Networking - Internet
413-528-5415
Matthew.wall@yahoo.com

Dellea.biz Computer Services - Arthur Dellea
<http://www.dellea.biz>
413-528-1141

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts
with nature. Eric F. Ives
Mass Problem Animal Control Agent
Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and
exclusionary work.
413-528-9813 413-250-5094

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric
shop and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road,
E g r e m o n t 4 1 3 - 5 2 8 - 0 4 4 5
www.brooksidequiltworks.com

Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing, much
more
Sue Delmolino Ives
413-644-0229 susandelmolino@yahoo.com

Stitched by JessaLu - Jessica Meyer
Handmade bags for your "Stuff"!
www.stitchedbyjessalu.com

Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford
berkshiresewn@gmail.com
413-528-3040

Gregory Cherin Photography
South Egremont 1-917-991-0553
info@gregorycherin.com
www.gregorycherin.com

Berkshire South Regional Community Center
15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA
413-528-2810 www.berkshiresouth.org
Non-profit community organization serving 17 towns
throughout the Southern Berkshires. Providing a variety
of educational, recreational and cultural programs for all
ages - from early childhood to senior citizens - and
partners with several local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm
Business law & litigation
40 Main Street
413-528-2698
www.gogel-gogel.com

House To House Hauling & Recycling
Trash hauling services and roll-off containers services.
413-528-0943

Jana Laiz: Local Author
www.crowfliespress.com
413-528-0943 www.janalaiz.com

The Berkshires
By Stanley Farnum

(Written in camp in Virginia, in 1943, just before being shipped to Europe to fight in World War II.)

It seems mans destiny that there shall be in each life a controlling influence that shapes the path to be followed through the years. That influence I have discovered in my own life, to be the love of the nature and the beauty of that part of the country I call home. From the time that I first began to realize the worth and greatness of wonders created in our world, till the present day, my existence has been continually swayed by them.

It is my fortune to have been born in one of the most beautiful parts of the United States, the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. For at lest a century, the fame of the Berkshires has spread as a locale of such beauty that artists from all parts of the world come to capture on their canvas, the mountains, the streams, the rolling fertile valleys and all the flashing colors of the seasons; the authors assemble from far concerns to find the mood in a peaceful a setting for their stories; and everywhere the more fortunate ones assemble in fall, winter and summer to enjoy this wonder; one of the nature's most previous establishments.

It was not until nineteen hundred forty-two that I came to realize fully how very much my life has been directed by these things. It seems through these trying days that there is continually before me a vivid picture of the years I spent there, and I am never far from the thoughts fo that wonderful home, which drives me harder and harder, that I may succeed in getting safely back.

These flat lands of Virginia often fade before my gaze and are replaced by the deep greenness of my own fields, and the stunted trees turn to the tall coolness of my beloved pines and maples. Even the water of the little streams whisper with a voice far different from the soft laughter of my mountain brooklets, and forever there is a shrouding sleepiness on everything that is the opposite of the half felt thrill that lives in the very air of my

forests. In the early morning up there is the crisp coolness of a high atmosphere: the pungent smell of the pines, and the song of the birds is soft as though to keep from waking, too early, a sleeping land; while high up, the mists swirl in frm the timberline, forming grotesque shapes against the sun and the blue sky battling its way to supremacy.

From my home I look out upon a series of fertile meadows filled with daisies in summer, and cut through with a little crystal clear stream that flows down form the mountains, rising some five miles distant. Always at first breaking of that sight on my eyes comes the old deep thrill and familiar strength of desire to do good things; and the clean healthy peace and beauty can but leave a free mind and a pure soul to any who have the ability to see and feel.

Often at night in summer I used to stroll down an old wood road that runs into the forest behind my home.

On those nights the moon was often high before I started, so the darkness was softened, and the objects along the way became half seen - perhaps instinctively felt, rather than observed. Always there, the sky is great purple void, shot through with such a galaxy of galaxies as to seem almost unreal; yet so real that one can't conceive of their distance, and the foliage of the trees is lace against their gleam.

There, also is the coolness of the night wind meeting the warmth of the earth, the forming of the dew, felt under foot, the murmur of the leaves disturbed at passing, and on every hand the little rustlings and whisperings of the small creatures of night. There is much more, so much more as to be beyond setting to words, but sum up in freedom, love, purity, and peace.

All my life I know that these powerful influences will be the key to my success and happiness; for, as I believe that success is dependent on happiness, so is my happiness dependent on a return to those things which I hold most dear in all existence.



*Town of Egremont
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413-528-0182
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