



Egremont News

Issue 98

January, 2018

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.

Town Meeting Schedule:

The Town's Annual Town Meeting will be on May 1st, 2018 at 7pm at the Mount Everett High School.

DEADLINE FOR WARRANT ARTICLES is March 15, 2018.

The Warrant will be posted and available to the public on April 16, 2018.

The Town's annual election will be on May 8, 2018.

HOME REPAIR GRANTS COMING:

The Egremont Select Board are applying for a grant that will provide up to \$40,000 per household for home repairs. Applications are available at Town Hall and funds will be available on a first come/first served basis. The type of repairs include roofing, foundation repair, installation of energy efficient windows and doors, insulation, roofs, plumbing, electrical repair or replacement, septic, water supply, lead paint removal, exterior paint and handicap accessibility.

Eligibility for the grants is based upon income. A two person households is eligible if they earn less than \$51,200; \$44,800 for one person; \$64,000 for four people. The program will be operated by an experienced provider who will screen all contractors, assist homeowners with decisions and handle all bidding. Homeowners or landlords are eligible. A 0% interest forgivable loan is provided. Most homeowners never repay any portion of the loan.

For information contact Alice Boyd at 413-258-7055.

French Park:

A huge thank you to the Wilkinsons for the donation of the sand for the little league field.

The new playground equipment was fully installed in the fall. We thank the French Park Fund for this generous donation.

The Band Stand at the park was repaired so that the stairs are now level and the footings are solid.

In the spring, the Greenagers will be building raised bed gardens along the tree line by Baldwin Hill North. These will be community gardens for the residents of Egremont who need garden space. For more information please contact town hall for contact information.

The horse back riding ring is back in use for horse shows on a monthly basis after being unused for a couple of years.

Transfer Station:

Do you have an Air BNB unit, or some other venue for a short term rental unit, in Egremont? We would like you to contact Town Hall so that we can give you a special transfer station sticker for your tenants to use and give you some recycling information to leave for the tenants. We have encountered a problem with some short-term rentals that require their tenants to dispose of their trash when they vacate. This has caused confusion at the Transfer Station as sometimes those tenants don't know the property owners name, and they never know our recycling program.

Highway Department:

There is to be no parking on any town road side in Egremont overnight or for extended periods of time beginning December 1, 2017 and ending April 15, 2018. All vehicles found parked on any road side will be towed at the owners expense.

Plowing snow from your driveway into a town road is a violation of Massachusetts General Laws. You will be fined if you, or your plow contractor, put your snow in the town road.

Board of Assessors:

Real Estate Tax bills will be sent out in early January. Property owners have 30 days after the issue date of the bill to apply for an abatement.

The Fiscal Year 2018 tax rate has been set at \$9.62.

If you have recently purchased property in Egremont, the tax bill will show the previous owner's name in care of the new owner for the coming year. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 11 states the name of the owner of record as of January 1 will appear on the tax bill for the next fiscal year (4 bills per fiscal year). Although your name is in the care of line, you as the owner are responsible for the property tax.

The applications for Non Profits and Personal Property/Form of Lists will be mailed later in January. Completed forms are due back to the Assessors by March 1. If you have a new business in town, please contact our office.

The Assessor page on the town website (<http://www.egremont-ma.gov/boa.html>) 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 please give us a call or send us an email.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

Assessor Office: 413 528-0182 ext 14; our email address is assessors@egremont-ma.gov

ECO-TIP

NOT FOR THE RECYCLE BIN: All **black plastic**, often seen as the bottom half of a food container. Toss it in the regular trash.

Technology Committee:

Charter cable TV license application process continues. As previously reported, the Town received Charter's application and proposed license agreement on September 11, 2017. The Technology Committee met on September 25 to discuss their proposal and came up with a list of questions and

concerns. Some of these were simple clarifications while others were more substantive issues. For example, Charter proposes that a "standard installation" would be an aerial "drop"—that is, a cable from their distribution system on utility poles along the road to the subscriber's dwelling—of up to 125 feet. But in rural communities like Egremont, most houses are a lot further than 125 feet from the road, and in many cases the utilities are underground. Therefore, we need a more inclusive definition of "standard installation." Another important issue is their proposed coverage area. Under their contract with the state, they are obligated to provide access to only 96% of dwellings in Egremont. We want to know where the 4% are that they plan to leave out, and what it would take to get those properties included to bring us as close as possible to the goal of 100% coverage.

Shortly after compiling our list of questions and issues on September 25, the Committee requested an informal meeting with Charter to go over the list prior to the Town's issuing its formal response. (In the jargon of cable TV licensing, the Town is the "Issuing Authority," and our formal response is the "Issuing Authority Report," or IAR.) Even though we were ready to meet right away, Charter was not able to schedule on their end until November 10.

When we did get to meet with Charter, we discussed each item on the list. While we did get several of our questions answered, some others were left open because the Charter representatives could not provide definitive answers without going back to consult with higher-ups. At the time, they promised to get back to us with all answers before the end of November, but this has not yet happened.

We have checked back with Charter a few times since then, and they assure us that they are working on it and will respond shortly. Meanwhile, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications (DTC) regulations require that the Town issue its IAR within 90 days of receipt of the application. As this time window was to expire earlier in December, the Town, with assent from Charter, requested an extension of the deadline to January 31, and DTC has so allowed.

These are the remaining steps in the process: After the Town receives the answers from Charter, the Technology Committee will meet to formulate its recommendation to the Select Board as to how the Town should formally respond. We will then draft the IAR as the Select Board directs. In addition, on advice of our

Special Telecommunications Council, we will update Charter's proposed license agreement to match the IAR and reflect the terms as we would like them to be. We will submit both the IAR and the revised agreement to Charter and the DTC.

Charter will follow up with their response to these documents in the form of a final proposal, which by law would be a take-it-or-leave-it proposition at that stage (no more negotiation). As further required by law, the Town will then hold a public hearing on Charter's final proposal to take comments from residents. Informed by the Committee's recommendation and feedback from residents, the Select Board will complete the process by taking an up-or-down vote to accept or reject Charter's final proposal. Naturally, we hope and expect that by that point in the process, the agreement will be sufficiently in line with the needs of the Town that the Select Board will be able to accept. This would make Egremont the only town (so far) in western Massachusetts to have two internet options from which residents could choose.

Fiber Connect continues "lighting up." FC "lit up" their first Egremont Phase 1 subscribers on October 10. Since that time, they have hooked up more than 100 Egremont subscribers (with more waiting, plus around 100 in Monterey), and they are working on their Phase 2 "make ready." You can see FC's weekly progress report at <http://www.bfcma.com/progress.php>. You can see their map of what areas Phase 1 and Phase 2 will cover at <http://bfcma.com/images/01258/phases.jpg>.

ECO-TIP

Do you tend to order too much when you go out to eat? Take a container from home for the leftovers.

Council On Aging:

We hope you've had the opportunity to attend one of the COA Luncheons at the Egremont Village Inn. Our November event featured Jane Apkins, founder of "Seniors Helping Seniors". Jane explained how her organization helps seniors and also shared some great ideas to keep our senior minds active.

In December Egremont's Fire department Chief Joe Schneider, along with FD members John Wells, Tom Sierau, and David Katzenstein, presented

a program on "Fire Safety For Seniors." We all need to remember that the most important thing to do in case of a fire is to get out of the building. You should always have an escape plan.

Joyful holiday cheer was celebrated on Dec. 10 at the annual COA Egremont/Mt Washington Holiday Party. Our friends and neighbors, "Sandy & Sandy" brought great warmth and cheer to our gathering. They performed so many of the songs we knew, could sing along with, dance to or just enjoy listening to over great conversations. Music and song brought 50 of our neighbors together for a wonderful afternoon of fun for all who attended.

Also on Dec 10 we honored our Egremont First Responders. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated and responsive volunteers in our town. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to FD members who were present: Bill Turner, Kevin Wheeler, and Tom Sierau.

Our January Luncheon will feature Elaine Ireland who is the new instructor for our exercise program (more about that later in this article. In February Bob Climo (GB Bagel Co) joins us to do a cooking demonstration. Our March presenter will also be Eunice Agar who will provide a hands on drawing lesson. Both Bob and Eunice were presenters last year and are returning because their programs were so popular. As always, lunch will be provided. Call 528-0182, ext 17, to make a reservation. We hope you will plan to join us. Check out the "Egremont Posts" website for more information on these events.

Council on Aging will also sponsor a class called "American Heart Association Family & Friends CPR". This course is designed for those who want to learn CPR but who don't need a CPR Course completion card. It will be held on Sat., Jan. 20, from 10:00 – 12:00 at the North Egremont fire Station. The class is limited to 6 people and pre-registration is required. Call 528-0182, ext 17, to register. Additional classes will be added if there is enough interest.

Starting in January the COA is sponsoring two small group (limited to 8 participants per class) personal training classes to be held Thursdays from 10:30 – 11:30, starting January 4th and Fridays, starting January 5th from 10:45 – 11:45. All classes require a minimum of six participants. The cost is \$30.00 for six weeks, payable to the Town of Egremont and due at the first class. You can register early by going to the Town hall or calling 528-0182, ext. 17.

The instructor for all classes will be Elaine Ireland. Elaine has worked in the fitness industry for over 30 years. She is certified as both a Personal Fitness Trainer and a Licensed Massage Therapist. Elaine utilizes the best integrative wellness practices to provide a truly unique, meaningful, and lasting experience for her clients. Her classes will benefit you by decreasing your risk of falls, improving your posture and muscle tone, and increasing your energy level. Plus the classes are fun and a place to visit with your neighbors.

Class schedule is as follows:

Thursdays: (Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15); (Feb. 22, March 1,8,22, April 5, 12); (April 19, 26, May 3,10,17,24); (May 31, June 7,14,21,28).

Fridays: (Jan 5,12,19, Feb. 2,9,16) (Feb.23, March 2,9,23. April6,13); (April 20,27, May 4,11,18,15); (June 1,8,15,22,29)

Please contact the COA office at the Town Hall at 528-0182, ext. 24 if you have questions, concerns, or if we can be of assistance. We would love to hear from you.



(Sandy & Sandy performing at the COA Holiday Party on Dec. 10)

Water Department:

The Department continues its leak detection program; replacement of older infrastructure is ongoing. The Water Department saves process time (and money) by treating less water as a result of these efforts.

As the colder weather sets in, remember to check outside hose faucets! If the spigot is not frost proof, it should be drained to avoid freezing.

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 water in 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 off firmly, 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. Happy Holidays!

ECO-TIP

Use (or supply your house cleaner with) cloth rags instead of paper towels. Old flannel sheets make great cleaning rags.

Emergency Management

If power outages occur in the area, it is imperative that they be reported via the National Grid Customer Service or Outage Reporting phone numbers. Please report any outages or downed wires via these phone numbers. Every outage phone call that National Grid receives is logged into their outage tracking system and better enables them to pinpoint the location of the issue. The sooner that they can identify the location of the issue, the better they can respond.

Please remember that if you do lose power, in addition to calling National Grid, please let the Egremont Police Department know of the situation too. There may be downed wires in the vicinity that could be hazardous. They may be reached at 413-528-2160 (if the on duty officer is out, the call will be answered by the County Dispatch facility).

Outage Reporting Phone Numbers:

Customer Service: **1-800-322-3223** (can also be used for any other general questions)

Outage Reporting: **1-800-465-1212** (automated line for reporting power outages, gas leaks or downed wires)

Conservation Commission:

When one thinks of the Conservation Commission, one immediately thinks of wetlands, or should we say, we hope you do. And, apparently you have. As 2017 drew to a close, we were pleased with the way you have come forward with your projects, large and small, and worked with the Commission to complete them legally.

It’s not just the biggies that are covered under the Wetlands Protection Act, which is the primary area of the Commission’s perview. Small waterways, such as seasonal intermittent streams are included. That seemingly small and unsightly cattail marsh on the back of your property—Yup! That too. We need to know if you plan to do anything with or near these.

As you probably know, Egremont is geographically diverse with mountains to the west and a significant central plain, much of which drains into either the Green River or Karner (Hubbard) Brook. Both streams flow east from the Taconic Mountains, pass through the lower elevations of Egremont, and enter the Housatonic River. And, we have several large waterbodies—Prospect Lake, Marsh Pond and Mill (Smiley’s) Pond.

A few years ago several State agencies conducted a detailed analysis of Egremont’s biodiversity, which included identifying significant wetlands aspects. Among the findings were that the town contains 120 acres of vernal pools, ~700 acres of aquatic and wetland core areas, as well as ~1,200 acres of buffer zones around these areas. As the town comprises more than 12,000 acres, these numbers may seem miniscule. However, consider where the majority of development and property maintenance and improvement has been and is occurring: It is focused in the lowlands—land along the floodplains of Karner Brook and the Green River, as well as around Prospect Lake.

If you’re planning a project, it’s always best to contact us at concom@egremont-ma.gov or to fill

out a Project Review form, available on the town website or on the shelves outside the Commission’s Town Hall office. And, to get a headstart on determining if your property may have a wetlands issue, check out maps.massgis.state.ma.us/images/dep/omv/wetviewer.htm

On another note, we expect the Selectmen to appoint a new Commissioner in January. More on this next time.

ECO-TIP

NOT FOR THE RECYCLE BIN: All plastic cups, such as Solo cups, DD & MacDonald’s coffee cups (including lids & straws).

Fire Department:

Date /Location	Time	Call # /Type
10/31/2017 Undermountain Rd.	9:08 AM	166 Medical
10/31/2017 Undermountain Rd.	6:19 PM	167 Alarm/False
11/1/2017 Town House Hill Rd.	7:27 PM	168 Smoke/Cooking
11/1/2017 Main St	8:42 PM	169 Medical
11/4/2017 East St. Mt. Washington	5:58 PM	170 Alarm /False
11/4/2017 Farm Lane	8:25 PM	171 Alarm/False
11/5/2017 Sheffield Rd.	6:46 PM	172 Oven/Fire
11/7/2017 Baldwin Hill East	9:09 AM	173 Medical
11/8/2017 Hickory Hill Rd	5:55 PM	174 Alarm/False
11/9/2017 Baldwin Hill E/W	12:51 PM	175 Medical
11/10/2017 East St. Mt. Washington	12:00 PM	176 Medical
11/11/2017 Lakeville CT	8:11 AM	177 Mutual Aid
11/12/2017 Baldwin Hill E/W	8:20 AM	178 Medical
11/12/2017 Hillsdale Rd	12:02 PM	179 MVA W/PI
11/13/2017	1:51 AM	180

Egremont Plain Rd. 11/13/2017 8:46 AM	Alarm/False 181
Main St. 11/20/2017 5:43 AM	Alarm/False 182
Greenwood Circle 11/28/2017 4:46 PM	Medical 183
Hillsdale NY 11/29/2017 2:00 AM	Mutual Aid 184
Townhouse Hill Rd. 12/1/2017 3:21 AM	Alarm/False 185
Under Mountain Rd 12/2/2017 11:22 PM	Alarm/false 186
Hillsdale Rd. 12/3/2017 1:12 AM	Medical 187
Hillsdale Rd. 12/8/2017 2:02 PM	Alarm/False 188
Main St. 12/9/2017 6:15 PM	Alarm/False 189
Egremont Plain Rd. 12/13/2017 4:04 PM	Alarm/False 190
East St. Mt Washington 12/15/2017 6:30 AM	Medical 191
Hillsdale Rd. 12/15/2017 10:56 AM	Medical 192
Mt. Washington Rd. 12/15/2017 2:30 PM	Medical 193
Highland Ave. Housatonic 12/18/2017 8:21 PM	Mutual Aid/Fire 194
Town House Hill Rd. 12/18/2017 11:50 PM	service call 195
Pine Crest Hill 12/20/2017 7:51 AM	Medical 196
Prospect Lake Rd. 12/21/2017 9:48 PM	Medical 197
Baldwin Hill N/S	Medical

From the Chiefs Office

Some emergencies are avoidable. Please be sure that your heating appliances and chimneys are cleaned, serviced, and inspected annually. Be sure that vents are kept clear. Winter presents unique obstacles in the way of our abilities to respond. Plowed driveways, shoveled walks and clearly visible 911 signs aid us in our response to your emergency.

BURN PERMITTS FOR 2018

Open Burning Season starts January 15 and ends May 1. An Open Burning permit is required. Open Burning permits may be cancelled if weather

conditions merit. The Fire Chief will make that determination and report it online.

This year permits must be obtained online at www.bcburnpermits.com. If you don't have internet access or have questions, please call Fire Chief Joseph Schneider at 413-717-7622.

A note from our Medical Officer

You've called "911"...

Now what can YOU do, while you wait for medical help to arrive?

Egremont Fire Department offers CPR/AED and First Aid training. This is available for healthcare and emergency professionals who need **American Heart Association certification**, as well as citizens and family members who just want the knowledge and training. (Small fees are based upon level of training and cost of materials/supplies.)

Contact: David Katzenstein
 djkatzenstein@gmail.com
 cell = 413-441-1569

ECO-TIP

Try to provide clean, high-value recyclables. We need to stop treating recyclables the way we treat trash, because this material has to be sold. If you're not sure it's recyclable, throw it in the trash.

Planning Board News:

The Planning Board continues to develop a Citizens' Questionnaire for distribution next year. We are wanting to learn more about what you as Citizens' of Egremont, part time or full time, want for the future of our town regarding pertinent issues including open spaces and housing.

Believe it or not, the Planning Board and all other departments in Town are working on the budget for 2018/19. This sensitive and serious process will continue into early 2018 since the Fiscal Town year runs from July 1st. to June 30th of the following year.

Thanks to the help of Berkshire Regional Planning Comm representative Tom Matuzko, we are learning new ways in which our Community can benefit from State Funds and services to address certain land use issues. Stay tuned.

Town Clerk:

In 2016 Egremont hit an important election milestone – the number of registered voters went above 1000. The turnout for the November 6, 2016 Presidential/State election was a phenomenal 86%, making for a very busy and long day for our excellent team of dedicated and experienced poll workers.

Polls for state elections open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm. When the polls close, our poll workers are usually there for an additional four, five, sometimes six hours, depending on the amount of votes cast, counting all of the nominations on the paper ballots. The counting of the ballots last November did not conclude until 1:30 in the morning, and ballots were not secured until after 2:00 am! Sometimes, if all of the columns and figures don't tally properly, the night can go even longer.

This is the primary reason why the Town Clerk will be requesting the funds to purchase an electronic vote tabulator next spring at our Annual Town Meeting to replace the wooden voting box used at all of our elections for the past 100 years.

That old and charming wooden box has become a cherished tradition in Egremont. Realizing that if this box should be replaced with a more technologically advanced model might be hard to accept for some, it is felt the time has come to keep current, while also dramatically reducing the length of the work day for our poll workers. Additionally, it has gotten to the point where finding replacement pieces and a serviceperson to make repairs to the wooden ballot box is now a concern. If the old wooden box should give out during an election, it would be a calamity of epic proportions!

The electronic vote tabulator takes your finished paper ballot that you will feed into it, and scans it, holding the information until the polls close. It can separate ballots that have write-in candidates and can also alert the voter that there is an error on their ballot (voted twice for one nomination, partially filled in a slot, etc.). At the end of the evening, a few buttons are pushed and a paper print out of all of the votes is printed. Vote counting is estimated to take 30 – 45 minutes.

Many other small towns in Berkshire County have already made the switch to electronic tabulators and others will be making an appeal for the funding

of a similar purchase at their town meetings. The hope is that voters at our town meeting will approve the funding for this purchase to enable us to stay ahead of the technological changes in our future.

Friends of Prospect Lake (FoPL):

THIS SUMMER PAST was a good one for Prospect Lake. Drawing on the expertise of our lake management consultants, SOLitude Lake Mgt, we arranged for three surveys of the lake, interspersed with two treatments based on the surveys.

Survey #1 in April to assess the types and extent of weed growth in the lake so as to determine the need for treatment. A truly major finding was zero to little presence of Eurasian Milfoil, the worst and most difficult weed to deal with. Sparse to moderate amounts of Curlyleaf Pondweed were found in specific locations, even less Tapegrass – the Curlyleaf blooms sooner.

Treatment #1 followed in May, aimed at the Curlyleaf Pondweed with SOLitude's airboat circling the lake's edges as subsurface hoses dispensed carefully controlled measures of weed treatment.

Survey #2 in July to evaluate the results of the first treatment. Findings were positive: the Curlyleaf Pondweed was greatly reduced. As expected, Tapegrass spread somewhat in the absence of its weed competitors. The spread was carefully mapped in the survey.

Treatment #2 targeted 25 of the lake's 55 acres, again using subsurface hoses on Tapegrass locations found around the perimeter of the lake in the July survey, along with some needed algacide.

Survey #3 in October to assess the overall results found trace to moderate measures of Curlyleaf, Tapegrass, and Benthic Algae in spot locations around the perimeter, with NO finding of Milfoil at all. The treatments were successful.

All this work served not just a body of water but the living beings who make use of it. Fish in particular seemed more abundant than ever before, an impression repeatedly shared by delighted fisherfolk drifting along in canoes/rowboats/kayaks/inflatables. One anecdotal finding: a dock owner used to see a half dozen fish nests off her dock in previous summers. This year, she counted 17! Mr. Beaver made a regular swim along the lake front at the same time most days. Birds were all over, including

a pair of bald eagles. And as this is being written, geese appear in uncounted numbers in the lakes chilly winter waters.

FoPL's direct focus is always on the condition of the lake, keeping the invasive and nuisance weeds at bay, learning from local and state agencies to work for the lake in environmentally sound ways, engaging a scientifically based lake mgt firm like SOLitude to help us understand, plan, and execute. These actions are FoPL's focus, the things that take up our time and money, but our *purpose* is enabling the use of the lake, making possible the uses it is put to by people, flora, and fauna. We work to keep the lake a viable home for animal and vegetable life, and a pleasure for humans.

We'd also like to thank the Town of Egremont for its far-sighted wisdom in helping finance FoPL's work. The Town's support is critical. FoPL earns its income from our Summer Tag Sale, our Holiday Cake Sale, and our Spring Membership Drive. The fourth source of our budget comes from the generous grant voted in at the Town Meeting. Prospect Lake is clearly one of Egremont's crown jewels. We all work together to polish it.

ECO-TIP

Each day in the US, more than 500,000,000 straws are used once and tossed—enough to circle the globe 2.5 times. Ocean Conservancy ranks plastic straws as 5th-most-often-found item on beaches. **The solution?** Just say **NO** to straws.

Map of Egremont, 2010:

Does 2010 sound like a long time ago? The map that preceded this one was created in 1904! Back then, a mapping company created maps for all Berkshire towns. Egremont may be the only town to have a recent one.

These maps are large (24 X 30") and on strong paper, suitable for framing or for mounting with magnets on the interior metal door to your garage.

All historical structures are highlighted, and you can find the name of every 2010 resident.

Your cost is our bulk-rate cost, \$18.

Also available are two collections of historical maps on a smaller scale (11 X 17"). One

set has 15 maps of the whole of Egremont (\$11 for the set). The other has 9 maps that trace the history of the north and south villages (\$9 for the set).

Contact Lynn (528-3919) or Marj (528-3726) if you want to purchase.

National Grid:

Reported utility billing and payment scams are resurfacing once again in New England. And National Grid is warning its customers to beware and know the signs of a scam.

Customers who reported the scams say they were contacted by telephone by individuals who claim to be from National Grid and who advised the customers they have a past due balance on their utility bill.

The scammers warn that service will be shut off immediately unless the customer purchases a prepaid debit card in a specific amount, such as Green Dot card, and provides the caller with the card's account number, or in the case of business customers, by way of a Western Union money transfer. This is a huge warning sign.

The scenario can change, but the goal of the scammer remains the same: scare customers into making hasty, often large payments.

National Grid does contact customers with past due balances by phone to offer payment options, but never demands direct payment through the use of a prepaid debit card and never accepts payment through these cards.

Scam artists have become increasingly sophisticated in replicating National Grid's recorded messaging and directions for phone prompts, making it more difficult to differentiate an actual National Grid call from an imposter's call. Similar scams have been reported across the U.S. by other utilities.

Customers who believe they have fallen victim to the scam should contact National Grid and local law enforcement officials immediately.

National Grid urges customers to know the red flags and offers the following tips:

Payment Scam 2/

Customers should always contact National Grid using the toll-free telephone numbers listed on the billing statement. If you are provided a phone number that does not match the numbers on the billing statement, it is likely the call is a scam.

Be vigilant. If you believe you are current on your National Grid account, it is highly likely a call seeking

payment is a scam.

Protect yourself. Ask the caller to provide the last five digits of your National Grid account number. If the caller doesn't know your account number and fishes for help, take charge and hang up immediately.

Do not take the bait. Scammers will not have access to your account information, and you should never offer that information if asked. National Grid representatives will know your account number.

National Grid may ask for a payment over the phone, but will leave the method of payment to the customer.

Do not fall for scare tactics and threats. National Grid will not contact customers demanding immediate payment by wire transfer, Green Dot Money-Pak or any other prepaid card service.

Do not cave to pressure. Never -- under any circumstances -- offer personal or financial information to someone who you cannot identify.

Every National Grid employee carries a photo ID card, and any contractor doing work for the company is also required to carry ID. If someone requesting entry into your home or place of business does not show an ID card, don't let that person in and please call National Grid or your local law enforcement.

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 - Third Tuesday of each month at
12noon. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday-Thursday 7am to 12noon.
Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am

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 - January through April. Other
times as needed.

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

Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting
dates.

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt.
Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm
or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm,
Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-3pm

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

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

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, farm programs
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.
Syrup and Honey
413-528-5710

Skip DelVaglio – Old Drone Apiary at Frog Cottage
(Local Honey)
1257 Sheffield – Egremont Road
413 528-2308

Frog Cottage Goodies: Phyllis & Cynthia
Pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, fruitcakes, cheesecakes
1257 Sheffield/Egremont Road
Great Barrington MA 01230
413-528-2308

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

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 @ month Free 1 month cardio for
Egremont residents zornari@gmail.com
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-1594 www.zorncorefitness.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

Steve Agar - driving services
Ride to the airport, train, etc
413-717-1607

Lord St. Pierre - General Contractor
Home renovations, maintenance and monitoring
413-522-3671
llstpierre@yahoo.com

“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

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

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

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

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

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
PC repairs - Networking - Internet
413-854-8660
Matthew.wall@yahoo.com

[Dellea.biz Computer Services - Arthur Dellea](http://www.dellea.biz)
<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, Egremont
413-528-0445 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.stitchedbyjesselu.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 Band Instrument Co. - Kevin S. Wheeler
185 Route 71, Egremont MA 01230
413-528-4955

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
413-528-0943
Trash hauling services and roll-off containers
services.

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

Aston Magna Music Festival
Saturday evenings at the new Saint James Place in
Great Barrington, mid-June to mid-July.
www.astonmagna.org
Susan Obel, Executive Director

From Stanley Farnum - 12/03/2017

*To all of the nice people in our nice town
who have spoken to me or written me letters about
my country boy poems and observations in the
newsletter, I thank you for making an old guy happy
enough to write for you for nearly six years.*

*Now, however, at age 96 the fires are
somewhat diminished that are necessary for the
raised heartbeat in love songs and adventure, and
quality wanes.*

*For 14 years I wrote serious poems for the
International Poets Organization and each year they
published a book of several hundreds of best poems
of the year. It is hard for me to believe but I had a
poem in each book and in five different years the top
poem of the year was mine.*

*Several of my shirts had holes under the
arms where I had walked around with my thumbs
stuck there until people figured I had gone silly.
They were RIGHT.*

*Anyway folks, I have been in failing health
lately, using a walker to get around or on good days
a cane and so I guess it is time to retire and hope
someone else will take over the page that I must
leave, and I will look for what they write with great
interest. Finally I leave you with a last poem which
is in my imagination for soon or later. Who
knows???*

*In friendship to all,
"Old Stan"*

My Imagined Curtain Fall
By Stanley Farnum

*I always wondered what it would be like
to reach the final day,
when all the countless hours have passed,
and I am on my way.*

*To where the shadowed figures wait
that I cannot see,
but seem that somewhere just beyond
they wait to escort me.*

*To some far place, I know not where,
but I've played the game this far,
as straight and fair as I know how,
it's up to God from there.*

*Somewhere my lost sweetheart waits,
and little girl lost waits too.
I've never been a praying man
but I think I may find you.*

*My kids and friends all standing close,
to see me on my way,
and somehow I am calm and warm
from the love they bring today.*

*My girls have whispered "Goodbye Dad",
and shed their tears of sorrow,
they know that I can't answer
and that I'll have no tomorrow.*

*I see them there my dearest ones,
though the light seems dimmed somehow,
and I am sad to give them pain,
but soon must leave them now.*

*Then suddenly my tall fair son
is there to take my hand
the darkness grows but he is near,
my best friend and this fine lad
no tears but a smile as I hear him say
"I'll see you later Dad."*



Town of Egremont
Box 368
South Egremont MA 01258
413-528-0182
www.egremont-ma.gov
tegrement@egremont-ma.gov

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"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity provider and employer."