



Egremont News

Issue 61

January, 2012

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in their 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.

We would like to be able to cut down on expenses of printing this newsletter if possible. If you are able to get the newsletter electronically please let us know.

Selectmen:

Welcome to our three new Finance Committee members; Jonathan Beattie, Ralph Noveck and Michael Bandzerz. There is still one vacancy on the Committee. If you are interested please contact Town hall.

And a huge welcome to our new Highway Personnel member Donald A. Peck. As well as to our new Town Hall Office Clerk William Brinker.

Tenants:

Do you have tenants in your building? Or are you a tenant? Please notify Town Hall of all tenants so that our town records can be kept accurate.

Important Dates:

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 - Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - Annual Town Election

Town Clerk:

It's hard to believe but it is Census time again. You will receive your Census Form in the mail shortly after January 1. PLEASE respond to this ASAP. Failure to respond to the Census will result in your voter status being changed to "Inactive".

There are four elections next year so it is important to maintain your voter status. Elections in 2012 will be March 6, Presidential Preference Primary; May 8, Town Election; September 6 (note: this is a Thursday), State Primary; November 6, Presidential Election. If you think you may need

Absentee Ballots for these elections please note that you can request for all four elections by either writing a letter or filling out a form that you may obtain at the Town Hall. If you request Absentee Ballots for the Primary Elections, you need to specify which party you wish to cast your ballot for.

2012 marks a shift for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to selling licenses in an all-electronic system. Unfortunately, this new system is not user friendly for Town Clerks. Egremont, along with most other towns, will not be selling licenses. To purchase a license online go to www.mass.gov/masswildlife. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions. I will be happy to assist you in purchasing licenses online.

As always, if you have question or concerns please do not hesitate to call me at 528-0182, ext 11.

Treasurer/Tax Collector:

PLEASE NOTE:

FY 2012 - Actual Real Estate & Personal Property Tax bills are in the mail. Due dates are February 1, 2012 and May 1, 2012.

Please note: Questions concerning your tax assessment MUST be directed to the Board of Assessors.

On Line Banking - UNIPAY on line banking is a great tool for last minute payments of any bill owed to the town. Go to the Town of Egremont web site 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. Thank you to all who are using the on-line product. It is working great. Please give it a try.

Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card – Now available at the Tax Collector's Office for all bills owed the town. You must come in person with your card to use this service. We cannot take charges over the phone. There is a bank fee for this service.

Note: 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.

Questions/Confusions - I will be glad to address any question that would be of general information to the taxpayers. Submit questions and concerns pertaining to the Tax Collector/Treasurer to Pat, P.O. Box 368 So. Egremont.

Office hours - Tax Collector 7-3 Monday through Friday and by appointment.

Eco-tip #1

Are you replacing your old clunker television set with a new flat screen? Retailer Best Buy will accept your old television set at no charge.

Board of Assessors:

Business Located in Egremont - Personal Property Tax Information

Personal property taxes are assessed on all personal property as required by Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts Laws. All Egremont businesses will be receiving a letter from the Board of Assessors in January about their Personal Property Tax. These forms are due in the Assessors Office by March 1.

Charitable Organizations – Not for Profits Located in Egremont – Tax Exemption

In January 'Not-for-Profits' located in Egremont will receive a local tax exemption for "Return of Property Held for Charitable Purposes", State Tax Form 3ABC. This form should be submitted to the Assessors Office annually. The form for Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013) is due March 1, 2012. If you do not receive a form from the Assessors Office and you have a Charitable Organization – Not for Profit located in Egremont please contact the Assessors Office.

If you have any questions 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 egremontassessors@yahoo.com.

Agricultural Commission:

The Egremont Agricultural Commission is still working closely with the "Keep Farming" project in Great Barrington. The next phase of the project is a Farmer's Forum which is an opportunity for all area farmers to come together and assess the

information that has already been compiled and to offer feedback and/or clarification. All compiled agricultural information concerning Great Barrington, Sheffield, Alford and Egremont will be incorporated into the master plan of Great Barrington and will prove useful for all the other towns. All farmers will be contacted in the near future with an invitation to this forum. We will be looking for your input at this special evening event.

Congratulations again this year go out to Turner Farms, Inc. The farm was awarded two more grants in their quest to make their farm "green". One grant came from MDAR (Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources) and the second grant was awarded through National Grid. These grants will be used to purchase two separate pieces of milking equipment and combined with the suggestions of National Grid should save more than two thirds of the farm's electric bill. Carla Turner is willing to help any farm owners interested in applying for similar energy grants. Presently the grants from MDAR are not available, however National Grid is willing to work with area farmers and the process is painless.

Lastly, the Egremont Agricultural Commission is still in the design phase of new "Right to Farm" road signs. Look for these in the upcoming year 2012. In conclusion, we wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Eco-tip #2

Have you recently upgraded your cell phone? Remember to dispose of the old one safely. There is a drop box at Town Hall which takes old cell phones and rechargeable batteries at no cost and will dispose of the material in an approved, environmentally safe way.

Egremont Historical Commission :

Have you visited egremonthistory.org, yet?

Egremonthistory.org is the new online home of

the Egremont Historical Commission. Check us out! An exciting new feature on the web site is the Living History project. As part of the Commission's new initiative to capture "Egremont's recent history from current residents for tomorrow's historians," residents are welcome to share their stories using our online questionnaire and form. If you grew up in Egremont and or have lived here for 50 years or more, please visit our site and share your family's history and your memories of Egremont. With your permission, your story will become part of our Living History Scrapbook, which you will be hearing more about this spring.

This fall the furnace in the Academy Building, which houses the Egremont Library and the Town's Local History Museum and Archives Room, caused some damage to the building and its contents. This required the Town to clean a number of our historic holdings and brought a sense of urgency to conversations the Commission is having about the best way to preserve what we have. We are now researching grants that will help us protect our Town's heritage. We are thankful that no significant damage occurred and we thank Mary Brazie and the Town for their prompt attention and appreciation for using the proper methods required to clean these historic assets.

We are also proud to announce that the North Egremont Historical Walking Tour is now complete and available online at egremonthistory.org. Thank you to the many Town residents who helped with this project. The tour contains 28 historic homes and sites and encompasses 1.5 miles. A brochure for the tour will be available this spring.

Save the date: Sunday, May 6, 2012, EHC will host a slideshow of Egremont with local historian and author Gary Leveille in our historic South Egremont Congregational Church. Gary has digitized hundreds of images of 20th century Egremont and has great stories to share about Egremont's past.

If what we are doing interests you, we welcome you to join us. We are always looking for new members. To learn more, please call Maxine Lome at 528-1827 or email info@egremonthistory.org.

Green Committee:

Here's an update on the energy upgrades at the Recycling Center and Transfer Station:

1. The photovoltaic solar installation has generated 4288 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity to date.
2. The total energy generated equals 3 tons of CO2 saved and 350 gallons of gasoline saved.
3. The highway garage building has not had an electric bill in four months and continues to carry over a credit.
4. Additional insulation and the installation of more efficient heating systems has reduced the monthly electric usage considerably

which makes the solar kWh generated go much, much further.

Have you noticed the growing number of solar panels on roofs all over town? Hats off to all who are making the investment in clean, renewable energy and taking advantage of significantly reduced electric bills each month. While an electric bill with a zero balance is a great thing, the bigger picture is the positive affect renewable energy has on climate change and healthier air quality. And to the many Egremont residents who had taken advantage of the many rebates and incentive programs and have upgraded your old, inefficient heating systems or have added more insulation to your home you too get the Egremont Green Committee "shout out" for doing your part.

Can I still change my Medicare Plan?

The 2011 Medicare Open Enrollment period ended on December 7, but there are still a few changes you can make, if you qualify.

For those with a **Medicare Advantage Plan**: Between January 1 and February 14, you can leave your plan and switch to Original Medicare, but you cannot switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan. Your Original Medicare coverage will begin the first day of the following month. If you drop your Medicare Advantage plan during this period, you will be able to join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan to add drug coverage. Your prescription drug coverage will begin the first day of the month after your enrollment. You may also add a supplement at this time.

For those with a **Tufts Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (drug coverage only) in 2011**: If you did not select a different Medicare drug plan for 2012, then you are currently without drug coverage. You have until the end of February to enroll in a new Part D drug plan for 2012, which will begin the first of the month after your enrollment.

For those with **Prescription Advantage** or getting "**Extra Help**" paying for prescription drugs: You can change your plan anytime during the year. Those with Prescription Advantage can do this only once each year. Those with "Extra Help" can change every month.

Trained SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) volunteers can help you! They offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. Call your senior center and ask for a SHINE appointment. You can also call 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), then press or

say 3. Once you get the SHINE answering machine, leave your name and number. A volunteer will call you back, as soon as possible.

Eco-tip #3

Even though you have long ago stopped using plastic bags, Big Y has a bin which accepts the other plastic bags you may have accumulated like bread and produce bags, Ziploc bags and dry cleaning bags.

Friends of Prospect Lake News:

The Lake

Although treatments are conducted in the spring and summer, the Board is currently discussing options for next year. Therefore in November Mark Roggen had a telephone conversation with Rob Wheaton of Lycott, the company that conducts the lake treatments. Following is a summary of that conversation:

Some neighbors noticed that the lake seemed cloudier than usual. Rob explained that this is due to the seasonal die-off of annual lake plants which release phosphorus into the water and also to the extreme amount of runoff which occurred this year as a result of the high amount of rain. The phosphorus levels will be tested in the spring to determine if another alum treatment is warranted.

The Board members discussed the feasibility of doing a drawdown in the future. Lycott would facilitate the permit process and would act as consultant in this project. The biggest concern related to doing a drawdown is the condition of the dam. The dam has to be inspected and will probably require repairs, the cost of which has to be determined.

The Fauna

Part of the pleasure of enjoying the lake is observing the water fowl and other animals which frequent the lake. Roger and Kai Reed have sighted hooded mergansers, common mergansers, golden eye ducks, ring neck ducks, ring-billed gulls, and a pair of eagles. One morning as we were having breakfast with family members we watched a big deer swim across the lake. In all the years we have been here, this is the first time we have seen such a sight. The herons are gone, but the kingfisher is still around.

Fundraising

The bakers continue baking the delicious fudge and rum cakes. Eighty cakes have been sold,

and we look forward to reaching our goal of 100 which seems very attainable.

*Happy holidays and a
prosperous new year*

Board 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 & Thursday 9am to 12noon & by appointment

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 Tuesday 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.

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

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-9pm, 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 - Office weekdays 8am to 2pm
Meetings second Thursday 4:30pm 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.
The Silo B&B - guest accommodations

- 413-528-5195
The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B
1 Prospect Lake Road
413-528-2882
www.innsweetwater.com
- The Weathervane Inn - Lodging
413/800-528-9580
- Baldwin Hill Farm B&B -
121 Baldwin Hill Road N/S
528-4092
www.baldwinhillfarmbandb.com
- John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
413-528-3469
- Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
Restaurant & Lodging
413-528-6200
- 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
- G&S Gventer "Books - Buy & Sell Books
413-528-2327
- Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork
413-644-9979
www.CosmicResonance.com
- Peter Goldberg, Dipl. Ac - Acupuncture, Pain
Management 413-528-5055
- 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
413-528-0828
kbyoga@gmail.com
- Cory B. Loder, L.I.C.S.W. - Individual & Couple
Counseling - Specializing in Dual Diagnosis
9 Miller View
413-528-0393
1-888-528-0393
- Divine Automotive - Automotive repair
413-528-8007
- Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,
liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more
413-528-4796
- Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
413-528-9633
- Details Interior Design, Inc.
Full service interior design and home
furnishings resource.
47 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-8550
- Closet Collection - clothing & household
consignment shop
413-528-6236
- Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail
wood veneer sales
413-644-9696
- L and L Construction - Home repairs, additions,

new home building
413-528-5548

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

Ron Brazie Jr - Full service property maintenance
and management.
413-229-8204 or 413-429-1833

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

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales
Barnbrook Realty
413-528-4423
anitacentury21@aol.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

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
PC repairs - Networking - Internet
413-528-5415
matt@cyber-knight.net

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

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

PAPERCHASERS Barbara Fields - Organizing and
Productivity Services, Project and Time
Management
413-528-2824

barbara@paperchasers.com
Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop
and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont
413-528-0445 www.brooksidequiltworks.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.

Chloe Woszyna's travels: to view go to
www.studelyofegremont.com

Support local businesses

The Last Word
Stanley Farnum

Dear Girl,

*Fair launched on the last quarter of a full century are
we and I know that soon one of us must depart; But
memory serves me well for ours was a life together of
the fabric from which good dreams are made. We had
the fine young years of fire and passion and the middle
years that brought fine sons and daughters to carry on
earth's legacy into the distant future; And I watched
through all the years as the flaming beauty of your
youth passed to the quiet loveliness of maturity and
finally to the serenity of age, and yet, in my heart you
are always young and beautiful.*

Dear Girl,

*Of course you know me well for all the long days we
have had and yet you know me not, for I am the quiet
one. Deep within me burns an eternal flame of love for
all of you and beyond the veil of time I will reach out to*

you so you will know I am there and waiting for you to come. What exquisite joy when we are all together again. I know Girl dear, the time will come when I am first to leave upon that journey to a far away land but though I pass, I know that where you are a part of me will still be there. Though you may see me but in memory and think you dwell alone, be not lonely nor said for I will be your warmth on the coldest night, your shelter in any storm, your light on the darkest day. Wherever you walk feel not alone for though I leave no footprint in the dust I'll be there; and if you trod upon the moon-shadowed lane where once we listened for the whippoorwill then feel a feather touch upon your hand for I am there. And when the soft wind of evening slips down from the hill and whispers through lilacs on the lawn, walk out in friendly darkness and you will hear in the gentle breeze, "I Love You", for I am there. Then should quiet rain start to kiss your upturned face, some drops will be my caress.

Remember in the field of summer to hold the golden dandelion beneath your chin and when the lovely glow appears you will know I watch and smile, for I am there.

So then one day, look up dear girl and there I'll stand; young and strong and tightly hold the hand of a laughing little girl, our Chrissy, and together we will watch you pass through the door of light and though you know it not, you will be young and beautiful. Then we will bide in joy and beauty until our beloved, one by one step through that door. Into forever.



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Office Staff as submitted by Town Departments.*
*"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity
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