



# Egremont News

Issue 97

November, 2017

## 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.

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## Selectmen:

The Board accepted Police Chief Tyler Race's unexpected resignation with regret and respect. We thank Chief Race for his months of service as our Chief, and for his years as a full-time officer. Tyler will remain with the department as a part-time officer. Former Chief Brian Shaw shall return on an interim basis to lead the department while a search for a permanent Chief is undertaken.

The Board voted to join with Monterey and Sandisfield to apply for a Mass Department of Housing and Community Development program for low to moderate income, year-round residents. Alice Boyd of Baily Boyd Associates will coordinate the efforts for all three towns at no cost to the Towns. If funding is obtained 5 to 7 homeowners in each town will receive up to \$40,000 in an interest-free, deferred, forgivable loan to make necessary repairs and code upgrades to their homes. This could potentially cover the cost of roof, window or furnace, etc. replacement. Bailey Boyd Associates will conduct a windshield survey of Egremont homes that appear to need repair from the outside in late fall or early winter. Some residents should expect to receive a pre-application form to express your interest in the program.

Road Superintendent, James Noe, is conducting a survey of the town's roads (see below) and preliminary estimates necessary repairs will cost \$1.3 million. The Town was not awarded a MassWorks grant for Creamery Road during the current round of funding. Plans are in place to re-apply during the next round.

Fire Chief Joe Schneider announces that the fee for all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors will be \$50 per visit effective immediately. Please call

well in advance for an appointment. If you make an appointment, please respect the time spent by our volunteer fire department and show up at the appointed time.

The Town, with funds obtained through a Complete Streets Grant, has installed bike racks and bike fix-it repair stations around Egremont. Two racks are at French Park, and a rack and fix it station are at the Town Hall and the Library.



Thank you to the French Park Fund for raising the necessary funds to add a new section to the playground at French Park for younger children.



## ECO-TIP

*Zero waste:* when the amount of your trash equals zero after you have reused, recycled, repurposed, and found other waste-diversion methods. It's a goal worth aiming for.

## Returnables at the Transfer Station:

We're looking for volunteers willing to work to make money for your favorite nonprofit organization.

The Sustainability Coordinator, with help from the Green Committee, collected deposit bottles & cans at the

Transfer Station in the month of Sept. More than \$800 was collected and sent to the Salvation Army for hurricane relief.

In October, the Berkshire Women's Action Group (Environment Committee) collected the b&c and have so far raised more than \$500 for the Plastic Ocean Foundation.

Do you have a favorite nonprofit that you would like to raise money for? Could you gather a few friends who share your interest?

If you have an idea, let us know. You can start with a reply to this email, or call Juliette Haas at Town Hall (528-0182, ext 22).

### **Southern Berkshire Regional School District:**

**Visioning committee.** As part of the SBRSD community, I have spent time listening, observing, and learning from teachers, school staff and students. For me, the development of a district-wide vision statement rose to the top as a way for the District to navigate the ever-changing educational landscape, and to set goals for how best to prepare our students for their future. Such a statement will articulate how SBRSD has committed itself to provide educational excellence for all learners. It will serve as the “North Star,” a point of reference when we are making student-centered decisions.

The team creating the statement includes people from all aspects of the five communities: Wendy Casey, Glenn Devoti, Kenzie Fields, Bob Law, Marya Makuc, Paul O’Brien, Tim Schroepfer, Jane Schur, Bonnie Silvers, Sandi Hubbard, Mary Turo, Stephen Willig, Kevin Woglemuth, Steve Rawlings and myself. To include even more voices, the Visioning Committee has prepared a short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sbrsdvisioning>, and we welcome your feedback through Nov. 3. Also, feel free to reach out to any member of the committee to share your thoughts throughout the process. We are striving to have the Vision Statement ready by early December.

**SBRSD cares.** A common theme that has emerged during my time in the District is how much SBRSD cares about students, staff, and the community. We decided to make October “Community Month.” We encouraged students and staff to participate in outside events like Construct’s annual walk and hosting a world-wide student

symposium, among other events. Our hope is to demonstrate how SBRSD cares each day, and we plan to celebrate these values throughout the school year.

**Hurricane relief.** One of the events in October was a Hat Day Fundraiser for hurricane relief efforts on Oct. 5 that raised \$1,331.51. To make the impact of our aid more visible to students, we decided to find a school to help and build a relationship with. Daniel Weston, the second/third grade teacher at New Marlborough Central School, is in the process of connecting with the Robinson O’Neil Primary School on Virgin Gorda. The New Marlborough PTA is planning to contribute Scholastic Book points for the island school to use to purchase and replace books for its students. The PTA is also making and selling crafts with proceeds going to hurricane relief at the New Marlborough Central Holiday Fair on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MCAS results.** Last spring, students in grades 3 to 8 took the “next generation” MCAS test. High School students took the original version, which is slowly being phased out. This version of the test will set a new baseline for student performance, making it impossible to compare this year’s scores with previous years’ scores.

The new test focuses on three areas: critical thinking abilities, application of knowledge, and the ability to make connections between reading and writing. The new test set more rigorous standards and results in four different scoring categories: exceeding expectations, meeting expectations, partially meeting expectations, and not meeting expectations. The goal is to establish high expectations and to better measure whether students are ready for the next grade level.

Still, please keep in mind that MCAS results are only one measure of a child’s growth and achievement. The scores don’t measure children’s social/emotional skills, their creativity, their love for learning or their resiliency. A child’s educational success is measured through a compilation of all of these indicators.

There will be more information in the weeks ahead as teachers and administrators use MCAS data and other indicators to identify areas for growth and targets for improvement, and to provide information on ways to improve instruction. This data provides the foundation for budget development and resource allocation recommendations for the current and future fiscal years.

**Coffee and Conversation with the Superintendent.** I am interested in creating opportunities to talk to members of the communities about people’s ideas and opinions about SBRSD and the educational

experience we are providing for our students. My goal is to set up at least one opportunity in the morning and one opportunity in the evening, once a month or so, for those who are interested to share thoughts and ideas or to discuss issues and challenges that can be ways to work as a school community to solve and improve the experience for the students in our care. We will look to set some dates in the next couple of weeks.

#### UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

##### **Students and Shakespeare.** Many Mt.

Everett students are taking part in the Shakespeare & Co. production of Romero and Juliet, Fri., Nov. 17 at 6:15pm at the Tina Packer Playhouse in Lenox.

**Winter concerts.** The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade band and chorus will give their holiday performance. Thurs., Dec. 14, 6:30pm at the TAC PAC. The high school band and choir will perform on Tues., Dec. 12, at 7pm. The middle school band and chorus will be Wed., Dec. 20 at 7pm.

**Holidays.** The schools will be closed from December 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 1st for the holidays. To find out more of the many great activities going on at SBRSD, check the website at [www.sbrsd.org/calendar](http://www.sbrsd.org/calendar).

#### **ECO-TIP**

Don't put those new PacTech 6-pack holders into the recycling bin. They are 96% recycled plastic and can't be recycled again. (Those flimsy ring ones aren't recyclable either, and you already know to cut them up before tossing into the trash.)

#### **Egremont Historical Commission:**

Good News and Bad News. Good News. The Historical Commission has just been able to acquire a mid nineteenth century financial ledger kept by Jeramiah Benjamin for the Town. Many old family names can be seen in his spectacularly beautiful handwriting and from the photographs it appears to be in excellent shape. Thanks to some great ebay surfing on the part of Gregg Siter, a former member of the Historical Commission, we were able to bring this back home. The bad news is that Gregg found this on Ebay in the first place. Provenance, or the orderly transition of ownership, is a tricky business, especially with dated government documents. The Town is not required, under law, to

keep things forever. Owning this document is not therefore illegal. What would be nice however is if anyone comes across an official document relating to the workings of Egremont, that the Town have a chance to acquire it. It would have been a shame to lose this into private hands. Once safely returned, the Commission will have a party for its arrival, and ask that if you have anything related to our history, that you offer it first to us. Also, as many of you already know, the Town's website now allows for credit card donations online to help the Village School Foundation project move ahead. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated and will only be used for the purpose of saving this historic structure. A matching challenge is in place for all monies raised in October.

#### **Holiday Trees:**

The seasons will come and with Fall here, it is time to think about the installation of the holiday trees in our public spaces. This is a Saturday afternoon get together sometime around Thanksgiving. For those who would like to help, please call Susan Bachelder 528 6505 for information.

#### **Council on Aging:**

On October 4, the Egremont/Mt Washington COA's held our first event of the 2017-18 year...a birthday celebration honoring those in our communities who turned 90 in 2017. Our Egremont nonagenarians are George Blanco, Jeremy Barnes, Virginia Farnum, George Mielke, Alwin Schaufelberger, and Jamie Weigle. Mt Washington residents turning 90 are Walter Crowell, Anita Garrett, and Philip Newell. They were all presented with certificates signed by Smitty Pignatelli. Two of our 90 plus seniors joined us: Bev Almond and Rachel Shaw! Lunch and birthday cake were enjoyed by all. This annual birthday celebration is always a very happy and special occasion!

Jane Apkin, the founder of "Seniors Helping Seniors", will be our speaker for the Nov. 1 luncheon. Her topic will be "Keeping Your Mind Active". Jane will be offering practical, easy ways to do this. Lunch, consisting of soup, sandwiches, and cookies will be available. Make your reservation by calling the Town Hall at 528-0182, ext. 17.

Looking ahead to December we will have two events. Our December 6<sup>th</sup> luncheon will feature Egremont Fire Chief Joe Schneider who will talk on fire safety

especially for seniors. On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our holiday party from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. “Sandy and Sandy”, a folk duo from Mt Washington, will be playing guitar and singing a variety of songs.

As always, we are grateful to the Egremont Village Inn for allowing us to hold our events at their facility.

The exercise class continues with instructor Sandy French at the South Egremont Congregational Church on Thursdays from 10:30 – 11:30. The cost is \$3.00 and you can join at any time. And you can do aquatic fitness at Simon’s Rock on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 11:00. The cost is \$3.00.

Are you having trouble hearing when you are answering the phone or listening to messages? Massachusetts has a program where you can receive a specialized phone for free if you are hearing or visually impaired. It is called the MA Equipment Distribution Program. Applications are available at the Town Hall or you can download by going to [www.mass.gov/massedp](http://www.mass.gov/massedp). For more information call the Town Hall at 528-0182, ext. 24. We would be happy to assist you with the application process. We also have information on medical alert systems. We can provide you with a list of those that are recommended by Elder Services of Berkshire County.

Just a reminder...there are two programs to help you with transportation issues. Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation has vans available to pick you up and take you to the grocery store, senior center, etc. The drivers are very helpful and will assist you with getting packages/groceries into the van and your home. The cost is \$10.00. Call 528-4773 to arrange a ride.

Also, if you need a ride to medical appointments you can call 413 499 0524. This is a pilot program, ending 12/31/2017. If we don’t use this program it will not be funded again so please take advantage of it.

We know so many of you like to keep active by walking or running. The days are getting shorter so we need to all be aware that it will be harder for drivers to see us. Be sure to wear your “Be Safe, Be Seen” vest. If you don’t have one you can pick one up at the Town Hall.

Peg Muskrat is at the Town Hall on Thursdays from 9:00 – 12:00. Please call (413 528-0182, ext 24) if you have questions, concern, or suggestions. Or just call to chat....Peg would love to hear from you.

#### **ECO-TIP**

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs? Check Carr’s for deals. It’s not worth replacing an incandescent bulb that’s rarely on (think attic or basement). Wait until those burn out, then throw them in the trash. Take old CFLs to Carr’s or Aubuchon, or to a hazmat collection.

#### **Technology Committee:**

*Update on the Egremont Broadband Network Project*  
Charter submits cable TV license application. The Town received Charter’s official application and proposed license agreement on September 11. By law, the Town, also known as the “Issuing Authority” in the jargon of cable TV licensing, has 90 days to respond to the applicant via the “Issuing Authority Report,” which enumerates the Town’s concerns and counter-proposals. Over the last few weeks since we received their application, the Technology Committee has reviewed Charter’s submission in detail, consulted with our special telecommunications counsel, and held two committee meetings to discuss their proposal and to formulate the Town’s response. We have identified several elements of Charter’s proposed agreement that should be revised or rethought to better meet the Town’s needs. One example is the definition of “standard installation.” In Charter’s proposal, a standard installation is 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. Accordingly, we will press for a more generous definition of “standard installation.” We are scheduling an informal discussion between Charter and representatives of the Technology Committee to go through our questions and issues, and come up with preliminary understandings that will help to inform our drafting of the Issuing Authority Report.

In a separate development, Charter notified the Town on October 5 that they have decided to build an all-fiber-optic system, including fiber to the home, instead of the hybrid fiber-coax system they originally proposed. Last spring when the Town was debating which of several broadband options to choose, many residents viewed the

hybrid model as inferior, based on older technology. The all-fiber solution offers the potential for greater capability in the future although at this time Charter is still planning to offer only 60 Mbps internet service (upgradable to 100 Mbps for an additional charge).

Fiber Connect begins “lighting up.” During September and October, FC has been stringing fiber optic cable along a number of roads in Egremont. FC “lit up” their first Egremont Phase 1 subscribers on October 10. 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>. Congratulations to Fiber Connect!

#### **Egremont Internet Options: Information for Residents from the Egremont Technology Committee:**

Several Egremont residents have called or emailed for advice on choosing between Fiber Connect (FC) and Charter. Each option has its pros and cons, and residents must determine for themselves which one will better meet their needs. There are several factors to consider in making this decision. The Technology Committee is providing the following general information to assist residents in working through the issues.

**Important:** This information reflects our understanding at the time of this writing, but please bear in mind that the vendors’ plans and pricing are subject to change, and their buildout plans, timing, and coverage areas remain somewhat fluid. This Q&A does not cover every feature, option, or policy of the providers or their services. You should investigate thoroughly before making any final decision. If you have questions pertaining to your specific situation, you should check directly with the service providers. For further details, you can visit the FC and Charter websites at <http://www.bfcma.com/> and <http://www.spectrum.com/cable-tv.html>, respectively. Note: Each company offers both residential and commercial services; the information below pertains to residential service.

**Q:** What are the main differences between Charter and FC?

**A:** Charter is a cable TV company whose primary product is program content, with different packages offering anywhere from 60 to 400 channels. They also offer internet service and telephone service.

Fiber Connect is an internet company that offers NO program content although you can get your own content by subscribing to separate services over the internet. FC also offers telephone service. FC’s internet service is an order of magnitude faster than Charter’s, but for common functions such as email and website access, the difference would not mean that much to most users. In both cases, internet speeds are far higher than anything currently available in Egremont.

**Q:** What is the current status and availability of Charter versus FC?

**A:** Charter. The Town is currently negotiating a cable TV license agreement with Charter. Taking account of the highly regulated negotiating process, utility pole licensing and make-ready work that Charter will begin after a contract is in place, and then the actual buildout of their cable system, our current estimate is that Charter service would become available sometime in the first half of 2019. Under Charter’s grant award contract with the Commonwealth, they are obligated to cover 96% of residences in the Town. As part of the negotiation, we are exploring how to extend this to 100% although this is not assured.

Fiber Connect is currently building its Phase 1 cable plant and has already “lit up” many subscribers in Egremont. They have begun working with National Grid and Verizon on the Phase 2 utility pole licensing and make-ready, and have said they will build out Phase 2 this winter and spring. 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>. They have stated that once Phase 2 is complete, they will have covered 80% - 90% of Egremont residences. They have no definite plans to go beyond that at this time.

**Q:** How do the costs compare between Charter and Fiber Connect?

**A:** Charter’s pricing in Egremont will be the same as in other neighboring towns. We know what this pricing is currently, but this could change by the time their service is

actually available here. Here's their current pricing in other towns:

- Connection/set up: \$49.99
- "Triple Play Select" Bundle: Includes 125 TV channels, 60 Mbps internet, unlimited local and long-distance phone. First year promo price is \$89.97 per month; after the first year it varies based on subscriber choices, but would typically be in the range of \$120 - \$150 per month.
- There are other packages with more channels for higher monthly fees.
- Certain equipment rental fees (DVR, etc.) apply after the first year.
- Just internet, not bundled with other services: \$64.99 per month for 60 Mbps service or \$104.99 for 100 Mbps service
- Charter does not require a contract.

Fiber Connect requires a 3 year contract, and there are penalties for early termination. Their current fees are:

- Connection/set up: \$999.00, but they sometimes offer promotional deals. As of this writing, connection/set up is \$499.00 for people in the Phase 2 area who pre-subscribe now.
- Internet: \$99.00 per month (3 year contract)
- Add-on phone with unlimited local and long distance (requires internet subscription): \$19.00 per month

**Q:** How much can I save by cancelling my other services?

**A:** With either Charter or FC, subscribers can—but don't have to—give up their Verizon land line phone service, their Dish or Direct TV satellite service, and/or their current internet service (DSL, Hughes, Wispring, ATT Hotspot, etc.). Obviously, these savings would be different for each subscriber. Such savings would partially—or perhaps in some cases fully—offset FC or Charter fees.

**Q:** How do independent program content streaming services factor into all this?

**A:** You can subscribe to program content from independent services on the internet (sometimes known as "cord cutting"). You might consider this if you give up your Dish or Direct TV, or if you get Charter but choose only their internet service without cable TV, or if you just want additional programming that is not available on your other service:

- There are many choices from Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, Sling, Roku, and many others. For more information, google "cord cutting services" or check out <https://www.consumerreports.org/streaming-media-players-services/cord-cutting-guide/>.
- Monthly subscription prices vary from \$7.99 and up, per service; you may need multiple services to get all the programming you want, which could add up.
- Some services also offer pay-per-view programming.

#### **ECO-TIP**

If you heat by hot air, change the filters in your air handler.

#### **Emergency Management:**

If you or someone you know would like to be checked on in an emergency such as severe weather events or power outages, please let us know! You may call or email the Town Hall or the Police Department and we would be happy to check in with you if the need arises. If you would like to change or add your contact information in the Town's Alert System, please let us know the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses. On Thursday November 9, the Town will send a test call to all residents to assure the contact information we have is accurate. If you do not receive the call, please let us know at 413-528-0182 ext 17 or email [wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov)

As the winter season approaches, it is important to be prepared!

Check flashlights and portable radios to ensure that they are working, and you have extra batteries. A radio is an important source of weather and emergency information during a storm.

Ensure that your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are working correctly and have fresh batteries. Check your outside fuel exhaust vents, making sure that they are not obstructed by snow or ice. Never use cooking equipment intended for outside use indoors as a heat source or cooking device.

Make sure you always have a well-stocked Winter Home Emergency Supply Kit that includes flashlights, portable radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food and a manual can opener.

Please note that during a power outage, National Grid may not be aware of your individual situation. Make sure they are aware of your loss of power by calling them at 800-322-3223. Also, please call the Egremont Police Department so they are aware of possible downed power lines, etc. They may be reached at 413-528-2160.

**Highway Department:**

The Mount Washington road bridge was finally completed and re-opened in April at a cost of \$600,000, most of it funded by MassDOT’s Chapter 90. These funds are awarded towns to supplement their local road repair funds. Using Egremont’s scarce road repair funds the bridge placed our road repairs for the entire Town behind schedule. As the October re-paving of OxBow Road and Baldwin West Road bears witness, the Town is aggressively looking at catch up in road repair and will continue to do so for the next few years. Grant funds for major repairs to some roads are also being sought.

Jim Noe and his crew have undertaken the complex task of evaluating the current state of Egremont’s 35 miles of roads - 31 roads - including 10 miles of high maintenance gravel roads. So far, 11 roads have been evaluated and the total estimated cost of upgrades is \$1.3 million. Some preliminary estimates are the following:

Baldwin Hill South	\$200,000
Town House Hill	\$254,000
Boice Road	\$170,000
Prospect Lake Road	\$170,000

This year the department replaced its obsolete fleet with a single axle dump truck and a 1 ton truck. These vehicles perform all forms of road maintenance, such as, snow and ice removal, hauling materials, equipment and personnel and a utility tractor. Additionally, a new utility tractor has arrived and will undertake gravel road maintenance, roadside and field mowing.

The Department and Town will continue to aggressively pursue all potential funding options to undertake the major repairs of Mt. Washington Road and Creamery Road and its intersection with Route 71.

Your window-sash locks aren’t just for security. Locked, they help keep drafts out. Get even more draft-free with indoor storm windows by Oregon company Indow: indowwindows.com.

**Sustainability Coordinator:**

Last May, at our annual town meeting, residents overwhelmingly voted to grant the Board of Selectmen the authority to enter into a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for solar net metering credits for our municipal electricity use. How Power Purchase Agreement's work is that we commit to purchase our municipal electricity from a solar array at a distant location that feeds into our electric utility. Not only do we commit to the purchase of electricity generated from solar, a clean, renewable energy source, but we receive a 20% discount via net metering credits in doing so.

Egremont's seven municipal buildings use approximately 125,000 kilowatts of electricity annually. The 20% reduction in electricity costs will mean a savings to the town of \$4,300 a year. Over the course of the 20 year contract, it is estimated the town will save a total of \$103,000 in energy related costs.

The town will soon be signing a contract with NuGen Capital to buy into their large scale solar soon to be completed in Winchendon, MA. NuGen has over 40 power purchase agreements with municipalities, schools and other government entities and owns and operates 15 large scale solar projects across the northeast.

Soon 100% of our municipal electricity will be powered by the sun. Feel proud in knowing here in Egremont we are doing our part to fight the negative effects of climate change.

**Friends of Prospect Lake:**

The Friends of Prospect Lake held our annual tag sale on August 26 at Town Hall. In terms of fundraising, it was our best year to date. In terms of donations of goods, it was our best year to date. Although we never asked for donations this year, we received more than ever before. We actually ran out of storage space! In terms of help, this was our best year to date. Our neighbors in North and South Egremont were there to help us load, unload, and sell. In terms of moral support, it was the best year to date. People helped us by advertising to friends and neighbors and, so importantly, by shopping. Town Hall kept

reminding Egremonters that the sale was on, and the business community generously contributed gift certificates:

John Andrews  
Old Mill  
Cafe Adam  
Swiss Hutte  
Indian Line Farm  
Mom's  
O's Hillsdale Diner

We send heartfelt thanks to all of you for helping us keep the lake clear of invasive plants. Come and enjoy kayaking, swimming, paddle boarding, fishing, and (very soon) ice fishing.

#### ECO-TIP

Too much Bubble Wrap to reuse? Deflate and take to Price Chopper bottle-redemption room for recycling. Or send to Sealed Air Corporation in Holyoke.

#### First Congregational Church of South Egremont:

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont will hold its Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Carols and Scripture at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend. Refreshments to follow the service.

#### Recently Published Egremonters:

Karen Berger hiked 17,000 miles all over the world. Karen shares those steps in her twelfth book: **Great Hiking Trails of the World: 80 Trails, 75,000 miles, 38 Countries, 6 Continents**, published by Rizzoli. The photographs are stunning. The book a subtle and convincing view that seeing the world on foot is a very effective way to explore the history, environments and cultures of the world.

A closer to home viewpoint is provided by a collaborative of 58 photographers, including Sharon Siter and Mary McGurn, of the Berkshire Photo Gathering—a gathering of professional, very serious and gifted amateurs. The books aim is to explore the native, natural and cultural backdrop of the Massachusetts Berkshires. Egremont contributed two photographers but many of the 56 wandered into Egremont. **Come Photograph the Berkshires** <http://berkshirephotogathering.com>

#### Fuel Assistance:

The fuel assistance program will be open for new applications next week.

Here are some web links to get the basic info about the program:

[www.heatinghelpma.org](http://www.heatinghelpma.org) and [fuelassistancema.org](http://fuelassistancema.org)

I want to highlight a few key points:

1. **The program has a fairly high income limit.** A family of 4 making \$66,115 or less annually is eligible; a family of two is eligible up to \$44,958.
2. **Most renters are eligible for fuel assistance, even if the heat is included in the rent.** In that circumstance, the program pays a portion of the rent.
3. There are many working families that don't apply because they assume they are not income eligible.

**Please do what you can to spread the word in your community that fuel assistance is open for applications!** In addition to the links above, there is a very helpful "Cold Relief" brochure that explains more about the program and where to apply. However, the state has yet to post the FY 18 version. However, the FY 17 brochure is on line, and is accurate/up-to-date except for the income-eligible numbers. FY 2017 brochure here: <http://www.mass.gov/hed/docs/dhcd/cd/cold/17coldreliefbrochure.pdf>

#### 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](mailto:prospectlk@aol.com)

[www.prospectlakepark.com](http://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](http://www.innsweetwater.com)

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant

413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-  
Restaurant & Lodging

413-528-6200

[www.swisshutte.com](http://www.swisshutte.com)

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

Robin Walther

116 Egremont Plain Road

413-528-2537

[robinschaircaning@gmail.com](mailto:robinschaircaning@gmail.com)

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal  
polishing

413-528-3230

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture,  
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[www.41mainantiques.com](http://www.41mainantiques.com)

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding  
Lessons, summer programs

[www.bluerider.org](http://www.bluerider.org)

413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -

Horse Boarding, lessons, judging, farm programs

413-528-2367 [arabpinto13@yahoo.com](mailto:arabpinto13@yahoo.com)

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture  
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413-528-8301

[www.indianlinefarm.com](http://www.indianlinefarm.com)

Ivory Pond Farm -

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Tom & Liz Marino

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[www.lizmarinorughooking.com](http://www.lizmarinorughooking.com)

[Llamama@wildblue.net](mailto:Llamama@wildblue.net)

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,  
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Syrup and Honey

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413 528-2308

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Pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, fruitcakes, cheesecakes

1257 Sheffield/Egremont Road

Great Barrington MA 01230

413-528-2308

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[www.CosmicResonance.com](http://www.CosmicResonance.com)

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor  
44 Main Street, South Egremont  
413-528-9654  
[healingspiritdc@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.zorncorefitness.com) [zornari@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bonbonz75@yahoo.com)

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course  
413-528-1262  
[www.catamountski.com](http://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](mailto:anitaschilling@gmail.com)

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel &  
Accessories  
39 Main Street  
413-528-2330 [www.kenverltd.com](http://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](mailto:Matthew.wall@yahoo.com)

[Dellea.biz](http://www.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, Egremont  
413-528-0445 [www.brooksidequiltworks.com](http://www.brooksidequiltworks.com)

Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing, much more

Sue Delmolino Ives

413-644-0229 [susandelmolino@yahoo.com](mailto:susandelmolino@yahoo.com)

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[www.stitchedbyjesselu.com](http://www.stitchedbyjesselu.com)

Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford

[berkshiresewn@gmail.com](mailto:berkshiresewn@gmail.com)

413-528-3040

Gregory Cherin photography, South Egremont 1-917-

991-0553 [info@gregorycherin.com](mailto:info@gregorycherin.com)

[www.gregorycherin.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.crowfliespress.com)

413-528-0943 [www.janalaiz.com](http://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](http://www.astonmagna.org)

Susan Obel, Executive Director

Stanley Farnum is not feeling well and was unable to submit a poem.

The following is the Prelude poem written by former resident David Allan Hunter in the poetry book that the Egremont Bicentennial Committee published in 1974. Mr. Hunter has portrayed a vivid picture of Egremont as seen by him in the early 1920's in his poems, which is still fitting today.

*'Tis but a little village –  
A simple country town  
With wealth of rural beauty  
To paint it with reknown.*

*Its quiet streets are shaded  
By elms and maples high.  
Around it through the meadow  
A brook goes laughing by.*

*While through it in the summer  
The crowds in autos tear.  
They hardly see the village  
Nor know it nestles there.*

*Yet there are those who know it  
As only friends can do.  
For in this little village  
They spend the seasons through.*

*It boasts no great distinction  
Has little claim to fame.  
And few would know the village  
If I should give its name.*

*It lives its peaceful being  
Unknown to city's thrills.  
And yet it's much like other towns  
Among these Berkshire Hills.*



Town of Egremont  
Box 368  
South Egremont MA 01258  
413-528-0182  
[www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov)  
[tegrement@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:tegrement@egremont-ma.gov)

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