



Egremont News

Issue 92

March, 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.

Selectmen:

For your calendar: This year's annual town meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2 at 7pm and the annual election is Tuesday, May 9 from 10am to 7pm at the North Egremont Fire Station. The deadline for articles for the annual town meeting warrant is March 15, 2017.

Nomination papers for Elected Officials are due March 21, 2017 at 5pm. The following offices are up for re-election. You can obtain nomination papers at the Town Clerks office:

- One Moderator for one year
- One Town Clerk for one year
- One Selectman for three years
- One Library Trustee for three years,
- One Cemetery Commission for three years,
- One member of the Planning Board for five years,
- One Tree Warden for one year,
- One Assessor for three years.

The Mount Washington road bridge remains closed. The bridge decking and footings have been installed and the contractor has begun backfilling in preparation for installing the approach ramps. A gravel topping is planned to be put down to allow the bridge to be opened to traffic before it can be blacktopped.

Again, this year the School District appears to show an approximate increase of about 2.4% in their overall annual budget. This, despite a continuing decline in student population. It appears that the Administrative staff will remain the same. Further, the school went from a Level II status last year to Level III. We are going to be looking at this budget request very closely. Egremont has always been and will always remain a staunch supporter of our Schools and School District. However, we also

demand excellence in education from our district leaders and sound fiscal management.

The Egremont Schoolhouse will undergo a major renovation this summer to bring it into 21st century compliance regarding the sills and foundation as well as make it Handicap Accessible. This is the result of the proactive efforts of a number of community volunteers as well as the generosity of Egremont residents appropriating funds at previous town meetings and the use of grant funds from the Commonwealth. Too often communities in the Commonwealth and a good portion of New England are abandoning their local schools for equally expensive larger schools. Could this be why Egremont continues to have a stable population of School Age children? Our children are our single greatest resource. Egremont stands proud in leading the way for other communities to support their schools and ensure that we will always have a growing mix of your and old in our community.

Egremont has received \$58,933 in funding from MassDOT under its Complete Streets program for projects that improve safety for bicyclists, pedestrians and other travelers throughout the town. These projects will include the installation of "your speed" signs that encourage drivers to decrease their speeds, installation of signage alerting drivers to the presence of hikers and pedestrians, and the installation of additional bicycle parking spaces and a bicycle repair station. Look for these additions to our local roads soon.

Update on the Egremont Broadband Network Project from the Egremont Technology Committee

This update summarizes broadband network activities which have been ongoing during January and February 2017.

MBI halts municipal project assistance program. On January 6, 2017, MBI Chairman Peter Larkin issued a letter that included new information about MBI-assisted broadband projects. This is the program that Egremont adopted last summer and for which the Town submitted considerable material documenting our “readiness” to undertake a broadband network project and our financial analysis to ensure the network’s financial sustainability. Under this program, MBI funded and oversaw the Egremont utility pole survey, which was completed in December and delivered to the Town in January. As originally promised, the Town expected that MBI would subsequently go on to fund and oversee the design and engineering of the network and to manage its construction.

Unfortunately, the letter stated that MBI was reconsidering their program and that there would be “a course correction with regard to design and engineering for towns that are utilizing MBI engineering support to achieve a municipally owned solution.” The practical effect of the “course correction” is to put the MBI program on indefinite hold. At a meeting with Egremont officials on January 25, MBI Implementation Liaison William Ennen indicated that there is no clear plan to revive the MBI-assisted design/engineering/construction management program and recommended that the Town find an alternative path for meeting our broadband network needs.

Town reviews remaining options. In response to the MBI news, which was a great disappointment and setback for the Town’s broadband project, the Technology Committee began considering other options. In evaluating alternatives, the Town continued to remain committed to the following principles:

- Get the job done quickly.
- Ensure access for all Town residents.
- Provide reliable service with good connection speeds at reasonable prices.
- Obtain good value for taxpayers.
- Maximize the likelihood of ongoing service and financial stability.

With the demise of the MBI program, the Town’s remaining options included:

1. Work with Fiber Connect to help to finance their buildout to the remaining 30% of Egremont residents not included in their current plans.

We note that Fiber Connect has submitted a proposal to MBI under the MBI “Private Provider” program for direct state funding to cover the remainder of the Town.

2. Accept a new proposal from Matrix Design Group to build and operate a network covering virtually all the Town.
3. Engage with MBI in their new “Private Provider” RFP process, specifically working with Charter Communications, which if approved by MBI, would build a conventional cable TV system with internet and telephone options.
4. Proceed with a Town-owned network, using design, construction, and operations contractors to be determined, but without MBI oversight.

Over the past month, the Technology Committee had presentations from Fiber Connect, Matrix, and Charter. The Committee also had a presentation from Crocker Communications, which is not a candidate for network design or construction, but which could be a potential service provider/operator of a Town-owned network in the future.

Not surprisingly, there are pros and cons to each option, and no one approach is “best” in relation to all the evaluation criteria. Each option has its own profile in terms of implementation timeline, service mix and subscriber pricing, Town investment required, etc. Moreover, in some cases there are unresolved legal questions concerning the Town’s ability to move forward in light of Massachusetts procurement laws.

The most recent Technology Committee meeting prior to the writing of this update was on February 21. At this meeting, each committee member expressed his/her views on the options at hand, and then the meeting was opened for public comment. The Committee determined that it needs more information from one of the companies (Charter) in order to complete its evaluation and make its recommendation to the Select Board. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 3, 2017 at 1:00 pm.

RABIES CLINIC:

At Egremont Town Hall, Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 10am to 12noon for dogs and Cats. Dog Licenses will be available at the same time.

Planning Board:

Planning Board members attended the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission session on January 29, “Municipal Actions on Marijuana Legalization.”

Massachusetts' voters having approved the referendum on recreational marijuana in November 2016, beginning January 2017, possession is legal of up to 10 oz. per person and up to 6 plants (or 12 plants for a household). The pertinent law is known as MGL Chapter 94G. Cities and towns may regulate certain aspects of retail sales of marijuana for recreational use through their zoning bylaws, but the state's Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), still to be appointed by the State Treasurer, will handle licensing of marijuana establishments. The initiation of retail sales was slated for January 2018, but it has been postponed to July 2018.

Furthermore, municipalities may vote to impose an additional two percent local sales tax in addition to the state 3.75% excise tax.

The Planning Board will be asking Egremont residents to vote for a moratorium on retail marijuana sales in Egremont at the May Town Meeting until such time as the Commonwealth promulgates regulations and the town can respond with appropriate legislation. You might remember that we did this for medical marijuana for the same reasons. We will use the time to develop a zoning bylaw to regulate the retail sale of recreational marijuana.

ECO-TIP

Planning to get a new roof? Did you know that asphalt shingles can be recycled? Find out more: <http://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-shingles/>

Historical Commission:

In the 1830's America was booming. Some citizens of Egremont, taking pride in their prosperity and a growing south village, built a church and a school. Both had steeples with bells, both were quite large for the size of the population, and both reflected the growing aspirations of this new and prosperous country. Both were built with private funds.

In the 1880's The Mt. Everett Academy School was sold to the Town and repurposed as the Town Hall and Free Library. It is still a town building that has housed our library for over 100 years. These same citizens then sold the church's buildings to the Congregation. No longer the meeting house, it is still a private non-profit institution under the law of separation of church and state, and is a house of worship.

A stool must have three legs, and so must a town. This idea is reflected in the architecture of just about every town in New England. Self-governance, public education, and freedom of worship. As we have experienced in the past, and experience now, the exercise of these principles - where we practice them, with whom, and who will pay for our right to do so - are being challenged.

We are not immune. As a community, we now face the possible closure and repurposing of the Congregational church in the heart of our National Register historic south village. A declining and aging membership has found that the annual corned beef dinner we all are looking forward to this month will not pay for the hundreds of thousands of dollars of structural work now required.

There are not many ways that the government can help a church financially. It has been suggested they separate their campus from the congregation and establish a 501c3 as St. James is doing. Because they are located in a National Register Historic District, the Town has been able to secure grants through the state for the Village School and the Library, both Town properties, but the Town's hands are tied so long as the church legally remains a church. And since this is endemic to the region, many churches like our own share the same needs placing pressure on other limited grant opportunities. The Northeast Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches, to which our church is affiliated, is only able to offer help suggesting fund raising and grant opportunities. There is little money there for the kind of work now required.

The church has invited us, Egremont's citizens to come to their aid. They don't appear to know how they will go forward and are looking for constructive and perhaps innovative ways we can, as a Town, secure this architectural gem that sits in the center of our historic village. March 5th at 2pm, we have been invited to meet and begin a dialogue to help a neighbor in need. The Historical Commission can only urge you to come, and to bring your best ideas for helping to fund their restoration.

Assessors

The applications for Non Profit Organizations and Forms of Lists for businesses and second homeowners have been sent out. If you have a new business in town, please contact our office. These forms must be completed and returned to our office by March 1.

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. M.G.L. 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 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 and property record cards.

Every motor vehicle and trailer registered in Massachusetts is subject to excise tax unless expressly exempted. Registering a motor vehicle automatically triggers an excise tax. The Registry of Motor Vehicles prepares data for excise bills according to the information on the motor vehicle registration and sends it to the Town Assessors. Towns then prepare and send the bills based on the excise data provided by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The owner is responsible for making sure the Registry has the correct billing address on the tax bill.

The Assessors' Office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am until noon. We are also available by appointment. You may email the Board of Assessors at assessors@egremont-ma.gov.

ECO-TIP

Ready to start gardening? Vow to avoid artificial fertilizers, which can harm the environment and our water. Choose organic fertilizers made from plant or animal byproducts rather than chemicals.

Emergency Management

If any power outages occur in our 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.

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 or downed wires)

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.

Egremont's Emergency Management Team encourages all residents to be prepared for weather events that affect us here in the Berkshires - from winter snows to severe thunderstorms. The information and links provided on the Town of Egremont website preparedness page will help you better prepare yourself and your family for these events.

Egremont is able to make announcements to townspeople by way of telephone and email. There are several messages that may be sent to you. Street closures, water issues, meetings and other general informational topics may utilize the system. In an emergency, the system is set up to call all of the numbers you have listed with Egremont, along with any email addresses you have registered in the system. It is also able to send text messages.

Egremont's telephone alert system works by detecting a voice when you answer the phone. After you pick up the phone and say hello, there may be a second or two of 'dead air'. The system will wait after you answer in order to determine if there is an answering machine on the line. The message will start after that.

If you wish, the system can send an email or text message to you. It can also call your cell phone or VOIP type telephone (through your television or computer if you have that service).

The important thing to know is that you must register those means of contact with the Town of Egremont; the system only has access to regular listed land line telephone numbers; it cannot detect unlisted numbers. It also cannot get VOIP or cell phone numbers, nor can it determine email addresses. Those must be manually entered into the system.

If you would like to change or add your information into the system, please email or call us with the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses.

If you have any questions about the alert system, please drop us an email or call us and we will be happy to answer them. Email: wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov Phone: 413 528-0182 ext 17

Water Department:

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

Toilet Leaks are hard to detect. They are usually caused by a bad main valve, flapper valve seat, a bad flush valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube. Test your toilets by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the tank. DO NOT FLUSH! Wait for 15

to 20 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak and repairs need to be made.

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

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

ECO-TIP

Gardening? Choose native plants that won't require extra watering. Suggestions at www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=MA.

Green Committee:

In Egremont, we take our trash and recycling very seriously. Our residents are aware of the importance of reducing our trash not only for the environmental reasons but also for the economic savings that result from reducing our hauling and disposal costs. In addition to the regular, state-mandated recycling of bottles, cans, containers, and assorted papers, we take advantage of various programs that recycle or repurpose many other items that would otherwise be thrown in with the trash.

For example, the community compost bin at the Transfer Station takes vegetable and food waste out of the waste-stream, thereby lightening our annual tonnage of trash, and the result is free compost for our residents. We partner with Goodwill Industries, which takes textiles of all kinds and most computer equipment, with the result that these items are either sold in their retail stores or recycled.

To further reduce our trash and save the town money,

- return deposit bottles and cans for a refund. You get money back and the town will see a reduction in our hauling fees.
- crush your milk, water, or cider plastic jugs

before putting them into the recycling bin. By squishing the air out, you reduce the volume in the dumpster, making room for more material and reducing the number of dumpster hauls.

- We know these steps take a bit more of your time, but the benefits are significant. For example,
1. cleaner air because recycling old cans into new ones uses less energy
 2. cleaner water because less trash goes into landfills
 3. cleaner communities because less trash litters the roadsides

For your conscientious trash disposal and for your participation in our many trash-reduction programs, the Egremont Green Committee thanks you.

Board of Health:

Forty-four percent of the American population depends on groundwater for its drinking water supply. In recognition of National Groundwater Awareness Week of March 5 - 11th, the Egremont Board of Health offers the following information to promote groundwater awareness and protection:

1) **Test your water annually** Test kits with complete and instructions, prices and the location of lab are available at Town Hall. A basic test includes testing your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates. Additional testing can include iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides and other water constituents that could cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor.

2) **Check your well head and cover** Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.

3) **Properly store hazardous household substances in secure containers** Things like paints, paint thinners, petroleum products, fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and cleaning products should be kept far away from your well, the ground and never, *ever* poured down the drain.

4) **Dispose of hazardous household waste at an appropriate waste disposal facility or drop-off** Egremont is part of a regional hazardous household waste collection program where you can dispose of these materials at no cost. Go to the town website www.egremont-ma.gov to find the upcoming schedule of events, locations and registration information.

5) Do not put any wastes down a dry or abandoned well Decommission abandoned wells on your property using a qualified water well contractor

6) Conserve water when you can

Americans are some of the largest users of water, per capita, in the world. Repair dripping faucets and toilets, retrofit household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors, choose appliances that are water and energy efficient, don't run the faucet when not using the water and only run your dishwasher and washing machine when it is full.

Clean water is a precious commodity -- don't waste it and don't contaminate it.

Town Clerk:

Street List Forms

Thank you to the many Egremont residents who returned the annual Street List form they received in the mail. If you haven't returned it yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. The information we receive on the form is required by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office and helps us keep more up-to-date records.

In early March a second notice will be going out to those you didn't return the first notice. So please, return the form.

Dog Licenses

It's dog license renewal time! Realizing our dog license fees have not been increased in 33 years, there will be a slight increase to cover the costs of the licensing software program and postage. **The license fee for each spayed or neutered dog is now \$8.00 and the fee for each intact dog is now \$15.00.** If you have a dog, please fill out the dog license application (available at Town Hall or on the town's website of www.egremont-ma.gov) along with proof that your dog is current with his/her rabies vaccine and payment. Your dog's license and tag will be mailed back to you.

Town Meeting and Town Elections

Egremont's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 2nd.

Egremont's Local Elections will be held Tuesday May 9th. Up for election this year are the following positions:

4. Selectman (3 year term)
5. Assessor (3 year term)
6. Planning Board (5 year term)
7. Moderator (1 year term)

8. Town Clerk (1 year term)
9. Cemetery Commission (3 year term)
10. Library Trustee (3 year term)
11. Tree Warden (1 year term)

The deadline date for filing nomination papers for any of the above-mentioned offices is Tuesday, March 21st at 5:00 pm.

ECO-TIP

When we send a load of recyclables to the recycling facility in Springfield, the Town pays per trip, not per pound. To save tax dollars for better things, crush your clear plastic milk, water, and cider jugs before you toss them into the bin so that less air (i.e., more material) will be hauled in each trip. (But don't crush returnable cans & bottles – we're still working on a good way to get those redeemed.)

Council on Aging:

It's been a busy few months for the Egremont-Mt. Washington Councils on Aging.

In January, we held our first luncheon program of the New Year. Eunice Agar, a well known local artist, presented a program which encouraged all attendees to do their own sketches. Despite many doubters we were all able to follow Eunice's excellent guidance and create our own "masterpieces"!

Our February program featured Nancy Wright, Mt. Washington resident and master quilter. Nancy gave us a short history of quilting and showed us several of her beautiful quilts. We all learned, that next to golf, quilting is the most popular hobby in the United States! Nancy was joined by Catherine Kane, owner of Brookside Quilts in Egremont, who shared her knowledge and skills on quilting. Both Nancy and Catherine were very enthusiastic presenters and convinced several audience members to give quilting a try.

Our March 1st program will feature Egremont Police Chief Tyler Race who will present a program on the latest scams and how seniors can protect themselves. Chief Race notes that not all scams take place on the internet. He says, "Scammers see seniors as easy targets on the phone and in person." We hope to see you at 12:00 noon to enjoy lunch and to learn more about scamming, which can affect each of us.

As always, our programs take place the first Wednesday of the month at the Egremont Village Inn. We are extremely thankful to the Inn for providing us

this space to hold our monthly programs. You can make your reservations by contacting Will Brinker at the Egremont Town Hall at 528-0182, extension 17. As always, please let us know if you need transportation and we will be sure you have a ride to the event.

In April, our presenter will be West Stockbridge photographer Doane Perry. Doane makes documentary and creative photos using a Fuji camera and iPhone. We hope you can join us to see some of Doane’s wonderful photos and to learn a few of his photography secrets. Please bring your cell phones if they contain a camera. We will be doing some photo taking and editing the photos on the spot.

On April 9th we will feature a special event. Romanian born pianist Matei Varga will present a program of music at the Egremont Village Inn. Mr. Varga has performed as a recitalist, chamber musician, and concert soloist at such major venues as Carnegie Hall, the White House Lawn, and the Auditorium du Louvre. Watch for more details about this event.

And, just to plan ahead, the date for the June picnic at French Park has been changed to June 7. Hopefully, we will have sunny skies and warm temperatures.

If you do not receive the emails about our events there are two ways you can ensure you do. Contact Bruce Bernstein, Council on Aging Chairman, at bhbernstein75@gmail.com to be put on the Egremont Posts email list. Or contact Town Administrator Mary Brazie at tegrement@egremont-ma.gov to get on the Town’s email list.

Our Council on Aging is participating in the “Be Safe, Be Seen” program. We know many of you are walkers or runners. We are working on getting more funding to provide reflective vests for anyone who would like one. We hope to have them available in the spring. Meanwhile, remember to walk facing traffic and dress so you can be seen. When driving, slow down when you see people walking on the roads, especially at dawn and dusk. We are so lucky in Egremont to have so many beautiful places to walk and enjoy our beautiful vistas.

Fire Department:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Call #</i>
<i>/Location</i>	<i>/Type</i>	
12/26/2016	6:50 PM	189
Egremont Plain Rd.		MVA/W/PI

12/27/2016	8:44 AM	190
Whites Hill Rd.		Alarm/False
12/28/2016	4:52 PM	191
Town House Hill Rd.		Alarm/False
1/2/2017	8:25 PM	1
Phillips Rd.		Medical
1/3/2017	1:43 PM	2
Lakeside Dr.		Medical
1/7/2017	6:30 PM	3
East St. Mt. Washington		Structure Fire
1/8/2017	3:39 PM	4
Creamery Rd.		Medical
1/15/2017	6:17 PM	5
Button Ball Ln.		MVA/W/PI
1/20/2017	10:40 AM	6
Main St.		Medical
1/23/2017	10:01 PM	7
Mt. Washington Rd.		Medical
1/24/2017	3:26 AM	8
Main St.		CO Incident
1/25/2017	8:05 PM	9
Prospect Lk. Rd.		Medical
1/28/2017	3:32 PM	10
Egremont Plain Rd.		Chimney Fire
1/31/2017	10:58 PM	11
Sheffield Rd.		Medical
2/2/2017	3:43 PM	12
Hillsdale Rd.		MVA/W/PI
2/2/2017	10:11 PM	13
Blunt Rd.		Medical
2/4/2017	10:23 PM	14
Jug End Rd.		Alarm/False
2/5/2017	11:26 AM	15
Sheffield		Mutual Aid
2/11/2017	11:14 AM	16
Sheffield Rd		Medical
2/11/2017	6:04 PM	17
Shun Toll Rd.		Alarm/False
2/15/2017	7:01 PM	18
Blunt Rd.		Alarm/False
2/17/2017	10:21 PM	19
Blunt Rd.		Alarm/False
1/19/2017	10:38 AM	20
Creamery Rd.		Medical
2/23/2017	7:57 AM	21
Mt. Washington Rd		Medical

Always Learning:

Members of the EFD continued to attend classes presented by the Massachusetts Fire Academy into this new year. Many skills were refreshed and

sharpened, while new skills were learned. In the fall of last year, one member attend training in Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue. Two members participated in an ice rescue class held in Gardner MA in January. EFD will be hosting a Pumps and Hydraulics class in April. One member is currently enrolled in the EMT class at the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad. Thank you for your continued support. We continue to commit to provide the most effective and broadest emergency services to our community.

You just called 911.

Do you know what to do until the Emergency Medical Service personnel arrive?

The **Egremont Fire Department** is sponsoring classes in American Heart Association **"Family and Friends" CPR**. This class teaches the most current techniques for responding to a cardiac arrest or choking emergency in an adult, child, or infant.

--Classes are available for individuals up to groups of no more than 6;

--A fee of \$15 per person is required, to cover the cost of an instruction booklet and disposable supplies;

--Allow 2 1/2 to 3 hours to cover all course material, with ample skills practice.

Contact: David Katzenstein (cell): 413-441-1569

(Instruction is also available for those who need AHA Heartsaver or BLS Health Provider level certifications.)

Conservation Commission:

Potable water. Clean air. Wood frogs. Invasive species like phragmites and curly pond weed. Salamanders. Our precious Green River and its tributaries. Do these topics make you sit up and take notice? They should. They matter. Big time. Now more than ever. These are topics that come up often at the Egremont Conservation Commission. Does part of you wonder about how you might make a difference, without a massive time commitment? That's what we do; make a difference, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. It's not a huge commitment, but it has huge results. And we need help with new commissioners. If these things matter to you, then please join us on the second or fourth Thursday of any month and sit in on a meeting or two. In March, it'll be March 9th and 23rd at 7:00 PM. In April, it'll be on the 13th and 27th. Experience not

necessary. Desire to make a difference is. Or contact any of the commissioners (Bill Tynan, Alina Hsu, Ted Rubsamen or Ben Barrett) at concom@egremont-ma.gov. We'd love to discuss how rewarding it is to make a difference.

South Egremont Congregational Church:

The calendar for the First Congregational Church is very busy for March and April

MARCH 5-Open House from 2-4 p.m. for all townspeople with a presentation at 2:30 to discuss the disrepair of this structure and see what level of interest the town has in the saving of this structure.

MARCH 17 Annual St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner 5-7 p.m. Adults \$14. and children ages 5-10 \$5. Under age 5 free.

EASTER SUNRISE Service 6 a.m. at Proctor's Bel-Air Farm. All are invited. Light breakfast following the service

Also, be watching, MAY 6 Chicken Pie Dinner..

Holiday Tree Team:

The Holiday Tree Team would like to thank the citizens of Egremont who contribute to light the Villages for the holidays. Special thanks to Peter Sweet from whom we purchase our beautiful evergreens that stay ever green through the entire winter season, and Peter Haupt and his team for getting our biggest tree lit. Rain and snow and wind can make tree lighting tricky and we lasted almost the entire season this year! Great Job! The Holiday Trees are privately funded however the Town accepts donations marked Holiday Tree Fund. This money helps pay for the public trees, lights, cords, and bases at the library, the fire stations; the town hall and the green. All donations must be marked Holiday Trees and are greatly appreciated. Thanks again to all for another beautiful season of light in the darkness.

ECO-TIP

Paper recycling: A small amount of dirty or greasy paper (or cardboard) can ruin the whole batch intended for recycling.

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 Wednesday of each month at 1pm. 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

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects

195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)

413-528-5383

www.homeasianantiques.com

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern
furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and
decorative objects.

413-528-0112

www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Lessons, summer programs

www.bluerider.org

413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -

Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.

413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture
(CSA) & Farmers Markets

413-528-8301

www.indianlinefarm.com

Ivory Pond Farm -

Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug
Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and supplies.

Tom & Liz Marino

413-528-9465

www.lizmarinorughooking.com

Llamama@wildblue.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glenn Gallagher: Home repairs, property maintenance,
carpentry
475-434-0686

Jenna Brazie - gardening/weeding
413-727-8727

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

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

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

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

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

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop
and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, 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 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

**She Smiled and Whispered “Yes”
by Stan Farnum**

**When first I found I loved you
To myself I promised then,
It will never be less than forever
And I’ll tell you again and again.**

**So I found I had soon convinced you
Though my heart had doubts I confess
For I saw a tear start upon your cheek
But you smiled and then whispered “Yes.”
And at once on my knees I felt weak.**

**Oh my girl how then my heart sang
And I told her of my vow,
That she would be mine forever,
On my knees I swear it now.**

**And so it was through the fleeting years
We shared our children the laughter and tears
That bring to us all the hills we must climb
But love did no change, it was there all the time.**

**Oh life runs swiftly our God given race
And fast oh fast comes the end we must face
So now I must sit and hold your hand
Though I know that you must understand.**

**That my vow to love you into forever
Still soothes my breaking heart
And though I see deep in your eyes
The shadow slowly climb
And you may only whisper now for this late time.**

**I know that you can hear me as I tell you again
That forever is where you will go, and I will find
you then**

**And will you be mine in love as before
When my own search for you comes to pass
And as the light died in her beautiful eyes
She smiled and whispered - “Yes.”**

**So now I wait and my heart still sings
My heart still sings
My heart still sings
For she smiled and whispered - “Yes.”**



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

*Printed, on recycled paper, by the Selectmen’s Office
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*“The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity provider
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