



# Wallingford News

135th Edition

SEPTEMBER 2016

## TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S OFFICE NEWS

**Town Clerk & Treasurer's Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday-8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:00-11:30 a.m.  
446-2336/townclerk@wallingfordvt.com  
The front door has an after-hours mail slot.

The Town Hall and Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day.

### Tax Rates for 2016

Wallingford's education tax rates were announced by the State.

The homestead rate for FY17 is \$1.3675, down from \$1.4290 last year.

The non-residential rate for FY17 is \$1.3724, down from \$1.3932 last year.

The Town tax rate is \$.3032, up from \$.2948 last year. The Fire Protection rate is \$.0803, up from \$.0784.

Property tax bills were mailed on August 18th. The first payment is due October 17th and the second payment is due April 17th. You will NOT receive a second bill for the April payment.

### FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Saturday, October 8th from 8:00-10:30 a.m. at the Transfer Station. Visit [www.wallingfordvt.com](http://www.wallingfordvt.com) for a list of acceptable materials.

On August 15th, the Selectboard approved a revised "Driveway Access Policy". Updates establishes minimum standards for the design, construction and maintenance of permanent driveways. Culverts must be a minimum 15" heavy duty HP culvert pipe. A driveway access permit shall be required in order to obtain a zoning permit. A temporary driveway (in place for six months or less) such as those used for construction, farm and/or logging operations, may be installed upon written approval of the Road Commissioner. You can read the entire policy online at [wallingfordvt.com](http://wallingfordvt.com) under Documents.

### ATTENTION

Need a mechanic? How about a babysitter, veterinarian, plumber or yoga instructor? Now, in addition to asking neighbors via our Front Porch Forum e-newsletter, you can also find what you need in the new online [FPF Business Directory](http://frontporchforum.com/business_directories). More than 5,000 small businesses and nonprofits have already created listings in this new resource for Vermonters. It's easy to use. It's free. It's another service brought to you by Front Porch Forum... the FPF Business Directory... [http://frontporchforum.com/business\\_directories](http://frontporchforum.com/business_directories)

Deadline for submission to the Wallingford News is the 23rd of each month.

Editor: Julie Sharon  
Town Clerk & Treasurer  
Wallingford News  
75 School Street  
Wallingford VT 05773  
(802) 446-2336  
[townclerk@wallingfordvt.com](mailto:townclerk@wallingfordvt.com)

### STICKERS (4") FOR SALE

\$3.50 EACH-AT TOWN HALL

Put it on your car window, your home window, your school book, etc.



NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT "2016 WALLINGFORD RECREATION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS"

# September 2016

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4:30pm Wallingford Rotary Lobsterfest	7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 4:00pm Library Book Discussion	8:30am Bone Bldrs		8:30am Bone Builders		
4	5 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 8:00pm EW Fire Dept. Town Office & Transfer Station Closed	6 8:00am Legion Breakfast & Meeting 8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Jr/Sr Training 6:30pm Energy Comm Selectboard 6:30 pm	7 10:30am BP & Foot Clinic 7:00pm MRUUSD Board	8 8:30am Bone Builders	9	10
11	12 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 6:30pm WFD Officers 7:00pm Planning Commission	13 8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Bus. Meeting	14 1:00pm Library Friends Meeting 6:00pm Prudential Committee	15 8:30am Bone Builders	16	17
18	19 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 6:30pm Selectboard	20 8:30am Bone Bldrs 12:00pm Legion Lunch 6:30pm WFD Training	21 7:00pm MRUUSD Board	22 8:30am Bone Builders	23	24
25	26 7:00am Rotary 12:00pm Seniors Meal 8:30pm Conservation Commission	27 8:30am Bone Bldrs 6:30pm WFD Work Detail	28 6:00pm Prudential Committee	29 8:30am Bone Builders	30	

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*(Please note that these meeting minutes are a brief summary and are not the final approved version.)*

### SELECTBOARD

**08/01/16.** Present: B. Brooks, N. Tift, R. Regula, G. Fredette, and M. Tessier

The board reviewed and approved Assessor Lisa Garcia's draft Request for Reappraisal Services for the 2018 Grand List.

The board reviewed and approved a draft letter to VTrans requesting immediate action to improve rail crossings at Route 140W and the south end of Hartsboro Road. Copies will be sent to U.S. Senators Leahy and Sanders and Congressman Welch as well.

S. Switzer confirmed Champlain Valley's fixed rate price of \$1.77 for #2 heating fuel.

B. Brooks asked whether the town should review late afternoon admission fees to Elfin Lake. The board agreed to seek a recommendation from the Recreation Committee.

S. Switzer confirmed that a Rutland County Sheriff will provide an escort for to a BCA inspection.

B. Brooks noted Charlie Woods and John Squier had gone above their road crew duties in cleaning up a large garbage mess in East Wallingford.

G. Fredette asked whether the Wallingford Alumni Association would be interested in the Little Red Schoolhouse bell.

The board agreed with the Recreation Committee's recommendation for a green tennis court with white tennis lines. They further agreed on yellow pickle ball lines.

There was discussion regarding the need for a health inspector to visit the Witham property on Route 103. The board directed S. Switzer to contact a Department of Environmental Conservation enforcement officer.

**08/15/16.** Present: B. Brooks, N. Tift, R. Regula, M. Tessier, and G. Fredette

Road Commissioner Phil Baker discussed a logging operation near Hartsboro Road. He said a dispatch service in Canada was sending several different subcontractors to haul the logs. N. Tift said each trucking company must obtain a permit or risk civil fines issued by law enforcement officers.

Mr. Baker noted the quote of \$6,700 from Pike to pave 150 lineal feet of the Homer Stone Road corner past the RR

crossing. He will determine if a smaller area could be paved to correct the deficiencies while reducing cost. He suggested Nicom Coatings provide an estimate to repair cracks in the basketball court. Pike would be paving Church St, High St and Nash Dr next month. M. Tessier noted Waldo Ln needs to be graded after the recent rain storms. Dugway Rd had washed out in a couple of areas and West Hill Rd needs to be repaired in some spots.

Mr. Baker asked to lower the speed limit on Church Street. Because it is an extensive process, additional speed limit signs will be installed. The road crew will be asked to remove two No Parking signs at the elementary school.

Five sealed bids were opened for the Earl Wade Road Culvert Replacement. The project was awarded to low bidder Phil Baker and Sons.

The board approved a new Driveway Access Policy.

The Board set the Municipal tax rate at \$0.3032.

The first meeting in September will be held on to Tuesday, September 6 because of the holiday.

R. Regula raised a concern from a resident regarding speeding on Railroad Street.

The board discussed state highway sign questions from engineer Paul McKechnie, who is working with VTrans. The need for more speed limit signs on Route 7 as well as other safety measures were discussed.

The Better Road Grant Agreement was signed.

The Department of Children and Families was contacted regarding a Route 103 living situation. The Department of Environmental Conservation enforcement officer Patrick Lowkes intends to investigate the same property.

Bill Brooks is willing to serve on the Prudential Committee as an interim or permanent member.

N. Tift and R. Regula would like to attend the VLCT annual Town Fair in October.

### Burn Permits

Fire Warden Dave Gilman 446-3100

Deputy Fire Warden Art Seward 259-2277

By State statute, a permit from the Fire Warden is needed for all open fires. Burning of garbage is prohibited by law. For general questions about open burning, please contact Dave Shepard at (802) 272-4088.

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

07/25/16. Present: M. Pramuk, D. Scranton, C. Macleod, D. Klock, and R. Nimitz

Kerry O. Furlani will hand-chisel the letters and figure in the central large stone.

WCC received the \$450 for the AVCC grant to initiate Bee Colonies in the meadow consisting of 4 hives. Kathy Upton donated Peter's hive boxes, head net, gloves, jacket, smoker and hive tool. VLCT will review site selected and appropriate precautions.

Two downed trees were cleared at Buzzard's Roost Trail and Lower Bog Walk, approximately 100 Poison Parsnip plants were pulled, Buzzards Roost Trail was raked, Rim Walk and Accessible Trail were trimmed and pruned, and log steps were created on steep slope on the Upper Bog Trail. One birch tree is needed at the parking area and more brochures will be ordered.

We need a sign that describes the history of Stone Meadow and the reclaiming, from a dump/gravel pit to nature center and exercise area. Also, there have been a couple of incidents of pick-up trucks entering from the Lodge Lane, crossing the meadow and up the steep slope to the Phillip's property. The "No Motorized Vehicles Allowed" sign needs to be rehung.

The next work day is planned for July 27.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

08/08/16. E. Berner, J. Biasuzzi, C. Martin, and J. Burkett

Chair Berner relayed information on her meeting with Ed Bove of RRPC regarding planning grants now available. E. Bove is to attend the next PC meeting to discuss and recommend the appropriate grants for the Town, with regards to assistance in Town Plan update.

J. Biasuzzi relayed the Selectboard's decision not to budget for an attorney or surveyor to determine the original parcel that was in the initial Industrial Zone in South Wallingford (zoning regs adopted in 1971). Discussion followed on each PC members' research progress on a specific portion of the Town Plan. J. Biasuzzi will request the required maps from RRPC referenced in the Town Plan.

J. Biasuzzi announced that the DRB has to review an illuminated sign permit application from the Union Congregational Church in S. Wallingford at a meeting on September 12th.

### PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

07/27/16. Present: S. Sendra and K. Stocker

Maureen reported that the bank had done a refinance of outstanding bonds and applied the amount to our principal balance. This year we are saving a little over \$6,800 on our outstanding water bond obligation.

The board approved the purchase of a second reach-in refrigerator for the lodge, and it will be delivered and set up on August 5th .

Maureen announced that the Fire District received a \$2,500 equipment grant from VLCT to purchase a sewer line camera.

Maureen reported that she had applied for Citgo gas cards so that the guys do not have to drive to Rutland to purchase gas for our lawn mowers.

08/10/16. Present: S. Sendra and K. Stocker

Maureen reviewed the invoice for the school project that was more than was expected as they came across some issues that were not anticipated. An old sewer tank was found and had to be pumped out. That extra charge should be paid for by the school, not the fire district.

The new sewer camera was delivered, and Chris will set up a time to train the men.

The board went over all the monthly financials and signed off on them.

Maureen received a suggestion from a recent renter of the lodge that more fans are needed to help circulate the air. The board asked Maureen to purchase of a few floor fans.

### ENERGY COMMITTEE

Read them online at [www.wallingfordvt.com](http://www.wallingfordvt.com).

### MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Read them online at [www.millriverschools.org/boards](http://www.millriverschools.org/boards)

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- Water Pumps
- Hot Air Furnaces
- Wood Boilers

### Wallingford Rotary Annual Lobster Festival

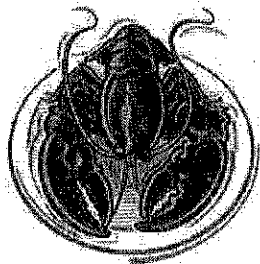
When: Sunday August 28th

Where: Boys Camp Wallingford

Lodge, Wallingford

Time: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per ticket (Lobster or Steak)



Tickets are now available from any Wallingford Rotarian or you can call Tammy @ 802-259-3711.

The Rotary also holds a raffle simultaneously with prizes donated by many local businesses. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Proceeds benefit our scholarship fund. Grand Prize is 2/3 of the Winning Pool. If you are a business or individual and would like to donate to our raffle, please contact us as indicated above!

#### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

I am proud to report that Doty Cemetery in South Wallingford is now among the best kept cemeteries in all of New England bar none! It could be the poster cemetery for the VT Old Cemetery Association. A great volunteer effort was made by Tom Giffin, VOCA President, Russ Schoengarth and his exceptional crew from Comcast: William Mills, P.J. Mallon, Chad Hicks, Jason Bates, and Simon Turgeon, as well as Rodney Ward from here in Wallingford.

All stones are now ram-rod straight, broken stones repaired, blow downs were cut-up and removed, brush cleared, posts straightened, grounds raked and threatening tree limbs removed.

It was a great pleasure to have participated in this project with such fine people. Of equal importance, I believe each of us felt somewhat humbled restoring some of the dignity of well-deserving Vermonters from years ago.

Thank you all. A job well done!

Craig Niedzwiecki

#### THE RUCKUS OVER REIKI (Part 2)

##### The Healing of Touch and the Touch of Healing

The Scriptures reveal that there is healing in touch. Frequently the witness of the Bible declares that Jesus, or one of His followers, touched someone and through that touch they were made well. This invites the speculation that the practice of reiki could be an extension of such healing. Let's consider one of those encounters where Jesus touch brought healing.

Luke 5:12-13 relates that While Jesus was in one of the cities, *there was* a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and pleaded, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Amazingly, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him.

In this encounter we see the touch of Jesus bringing healing. We also see, however the confident declaration of Jesus. He could make this declaration because He possessed the divine power to heal. Beyond that amazing truth is the profound event of a person touching another who is covered with leprosy, an action that would have been socially and religiously forbidden.

Unlike the practice of reiki, Christian healing was not dependent on the aligning of life energy in the afflicted. It was dependent on the sovereign authority of Christ and the power and presence in His touch. In addition, the final result is that the healing brings glory and attention to the presence and power of God. It's a reminder that true healing power is found in the touch and sovereign authority of God.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave, FBC Wallingford

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# GILBERT HART LIBRARY NEWS



## GILBERT HART LIBRARY

At the library we are saying goodbye to our summer guests and celebrating all the reading and activity that took place over the past three months. VT Reads events, books discussions, and the On You Mark, Get Set, Read! summer program kept us busy.

Fall brings more new book purchases, continued changes upstairs and down, and the end of the photography exhibit by Lowell Snowdon Klock that captivated our eyes in August.

Nine local youth participated in a production of *Tourists Accommodated* by Dorothy Canfield Fischer at the Town Hall.

The summer recreation program kids visited on Fridays - over 30 participants in all - and story times continue at 10:30 on Fridays, open to all families.

The library will be closed on Monday September 5 in observance of Labor Day, but otherwise we welcome you and your reading suggestions!

### Library Hours

Sun: Closed

Mon: 10 - 5:00

Tues: Closed

Wed: 10 - 8:00

Thurs & Fri: 10 - 5:00

Saturday: 9 - 12:00

Librarian Wendy Savery

Asst. Librarian-Angela French

Telephone: 446-2685

## HART LINES

No news for August.

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### BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

By Time Sale; Interest Free

GREEN HILL CEMETERY

South Main Street ~ Wallingford, VT

Call Charles Gauthier at 802-353-0996.

Terms: 20% down; balance paid in 10 monthly payments.

Deed will be written when last payment is made. If  
APPLICANT FAILS TO MAKE FINAL PAYMENT AS AGREED,  
APPLICANT WILL FORFEIT 20% DOWN PAYMENT.  
ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY PAID WILL BE RETURNED TO  
APPLICANT.

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**Maple Grove Cemetery  
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**MAPLE VALLEY GRANGE #318**  
31 Dugway Road, South Wallingford



~ September—NO Bingo

September 24th-basket raffle. Doors open at 11  
a.m., start draw at 1 p.m.

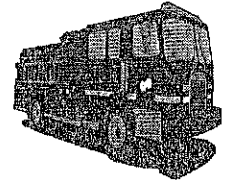
For more information, call Dennis at 353-4651.

**WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

**NON-EMERGENCY PHONE #446-2295**

Jr. Firefighters - Age 13-18 - Senior Firefighters - Age 18 - ? *We will train.* Volunteers  
needed

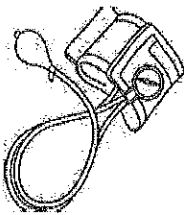
Age 16- seniors for work details, etc. Call 446-2295 for details.



**CONSTABLE JERRY TIFT - ON FACEBOOK AT "WALLINGFORD CONSTABLES OFFICE"**

Wallingford's Animal Control Officer is Constable Jerry Tift. You can reach him at 802-353-2378. The ACO handles calls concerning domesticated animals, and farm animals, to include animals running at large, animal cruelty, aggressive dogs, dog bites, etc. Wallingford's Animal Control Ordinance can be viewed at [wallingfordvt.com](http://wallingfordvt.com).

**WALLINGFORD SENIORS**



Foot and blood pressure clinic on the  
first Wednesdays of each month at 10:30  
a.m. at the Wallingford House, 10 North  
Main Street, Wallingford.

Remember the Seniors' lunch every Monday at Noon at the  
Rotary. Contact Linda Weightman at 446-2301.



Join Front Porch Forum ... see what  
you've been missing.

Wallingford's Forum started September  
10, 2013. Since then, 416 Members  
from 880 Households have posted 2,359  
Postings. It's free. It's local. And it's  
friendly.

Check it out at [http://  
FrontPorchForum.com](http://FrontPorchForum.com).

**PROPERTY TRANSFERS**

Seller: Bernard & Sandy Eddy; Buyer: Jesse & Alyson Groesbeck; 170 Cootey Ln, Purchase price: \$207,000; Assessed value: \$238,400.

Seller: J. David Egnor; Buyer: Nichole Freidah, 853 East St, Purchase price: \$155,000; Assessed value: \$171,800.

Seller: Mill River Unified Union School District; Buyer: Jonathan Davis; 91 Homerstone Rd, Purchase price: \$20,000; Assessed value: \$0.

**ZONING PERMITS**

Michael & Claire Poulin, 1550 West Hill Rd, new driveway access.

John & Lisa Cotrupi, 65 Florence Ave, above-ground pool & deck.

Keith & Tara Lidstone, 163 Davenport Dr, deck.

Stuart Wright/Lawrence Voigtsberger, 1475 Wallingford Pond Road, new camp.

**Building & Garage Sale Season** is here! Please check on if you need a Town Permit. Sheds, storage containers, above-ground pools, and other structures larger than 120 sq. ft. will now need a permit regardless of their construction value. "Casual Sales" and new businesses that will be operated for more than 15 days a year will need a Town Permit, and you may be obligated to collect VT taxes. The same applies to short term rentals, such as Air B&B's. Contact the Zoning Administrator with your questions at [Zoning@Wallingfordvt.com](mailto:Zoning@Wallingfordvt.com), or 446-2974, (NOW) Friday mornings—8:00-11:30 a.m.

**LAND FOR SALE-SELLING FINANCING POSSIBLE**

**WALLINGFORD** 9 acres with Killington Vistas, very private, asking \$65,000.

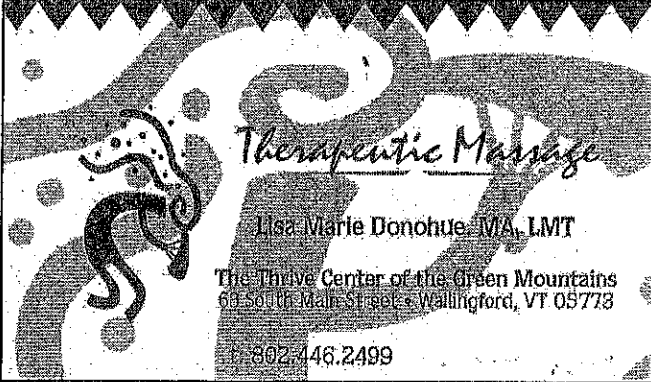
**BORDERS PINE PARK** 1/4 acre with city services, mountain views, \$18,000.

**OKEMO COUNTRY** 7 acres, owner/broker discount, \$49,000, private housesite with southern views.

**DANBY LIQUIDATION** 6 acres (2 bldg. lots), borders recreation forestland, views, \$50,000.

**CLARENDON** Insulated 12 acres with EZ-to-build home site. Walking distance to Mill River fishing & swimming. Asking \$64,900.

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**PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)**

**UPDATES:** The Town Planning Commission needs your **RESIDENT PARTICIPATION!** In the next year, the priority is to update the Town Plan. This maintains the Town's eligibility to receive Grants, maintain

Designated Downtown benefits for Property Owners, and have a Party Status in future Act 250 and Public Service Board reviews; such as the siting & screening of future alternative energy projects.

This Town Plan will then result in revised Zoning Ordinances. These will establish local rules for alternative energy projects, resolve a long-standing dispute on the Industrial District Zones, and correct or clarify language in the present zoning ordinance.

Without an adequate number of PC members, this work may not be accomplished in the required time frame. Two more resident members are asked to volunteer TWO hours a month to meet and another couple hours of their time to work on the issues at hand. Ideally, one resident from East & South Wallingford Villages would offer town wide representation. Please contact Sandi Switzer at 446-2872, or at [townadmin@wallingfordvt.com](mailto:townadmin@wallingfordvt.com) to express your interest in improving Wallingford's future.

**ZONING PERMITS; WHEN IS ONE REQUIRED?** The short answer is to ask the Zoning Administrator! Common zoning violations are a result of your contractor's claim that a permit is not necessary and work can start in 2 days; retailers deliver the pre-fab garage in one week; or your neighbor "ok's" your proposed construction. **Note that Property Owners are the only party liable for a Zoning Violation.** There is no longer a "\$2000 project value exemption". There are now additional fees for starting a project prior to its effective date in addition to possible Zoning violation penalties.

Zoning Administrator hours have changed to FRIDAY MORNINGS, 8:15 to 11:30 am. You may leave messages any time at 446-2974, or at [zoning@wallingfordvt.com](mailto:zoning@wallingfordvt.com). Permit Forms are available at Town Hall any day and on the Town website/Zoning page.

Wallingford Rescue Inc. Would Like To Thank The Following Businesses And Persons For Their Generous Donations To Our 2016 50/50 Raffle:

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ALDOUS FUNERAL HOME         | TRUE TEMPER CORP           |
| VT STATE PARKS              | TOM WHEELER FARM           |
| RUTLAND BOWLARAMA           | DOREEN'S DRIVE IN          |
| TOWN OF WALLINGFORD         | GILMORE HOME CENTER        |
| JEANNIE RAICHE FAMILY       | BAKER DISTRIBUTING         |
| VERMONT COUNTRY STORE       | TRACY LAMBERT              |
| IRENE JAKUBIAK PAMPERED     | CHEF CONSULTANT            |
| CUMBERLAND FARMS            | STEVEN AND MICHELLE BAKER  |
| PRO CYCLE                   | STEWART'S SHOPS            |
| GREEN MOUNTAIN DRYWALL      | MCDONALD'S                 |
| TINMOUTH SNACKBAR           | KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN     |
| MILL RIVER LUMBER           | GECHA FUEL                 |
| HANDS FOR HOPE              | 99 RESTAURANT              |
| HANNAFORD                   | NOBLE HARDWARE             |
| BARB BULLOCK                | JOAN KENNEDY               |
| COUNTRY HOUSE RESTAURANT    | WAL MART                   |
| AMY CHENEY-PREMIERE JEWELRY | F. W. WEBB                 |
| SHAW'S SALES & SERVICE      | CARL BUFFUM POTTERY SHOP   |
| DONNA WILKINS-FOGGY CREEK   | PHOTOGRAPHY                |
| WALLINGFORD COUNTRY STORE   | SAL'S SOUTH                |
| THE UNIFORM CENTER          | VERMONT FORGINGS           |
| WALLINGFORD AUTO REPAIR     | THE KEVIN SPENCER FAMILY   |
| CUTTINGS IN THE VILLE-LISA  | SHARROW                    |
| SUGAR & SPICE               | VERMONT STORE FIXTURE      |
| HARTSBORO POTTERY           | R. K. MILES                |
| THRIVE CENTER               | BIANCA SALON               |
| MERCHANTS BANK              | DIA LIND-31 BAG CONSULTANT |
| J. K. ADAMS                 | PRICE CHOPPER              |
| CROSS ROAD SUGAR COMPANY    | LAVALLEY'S                 |
| OTTER CREEK FUN CENTER      | DENNY'S                    |
| FAMILY DOLLAR STAFF         | RAY BEANE TIRE CENTER      |
| PET GEAR                    |                            |

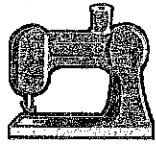
Many thanks to members and non members who volunteered their time and donated door prizes to help make this event such a success. Special thanks to everyone who purchased tickets this year. Congratulations to all of our winners!!

**Tinmouth Town Wide Tag Sales**

Saturday, Sept. 3rd, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All sales sites and road signs will be clearly marked. Maps of sale sites will be available at the town clerk's office on the sale day.

Refreshments will be provided by the Tinmouth Elementary Parent Club. Contact: [bethe97@vermontel.net](mailto:bethe97@vermontel.net)

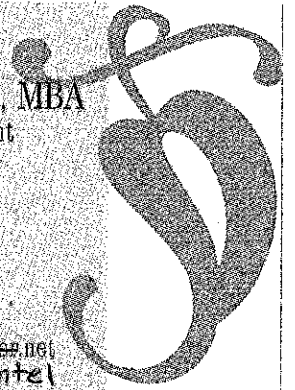


**ALTERATIONS**  
**MENDING**  
**GENERAL SEWING**  
**BONNIE GAINER**  
**446-2290**

Patricia A. Pranger, CPA, MBA  
 Certified Public Accountant

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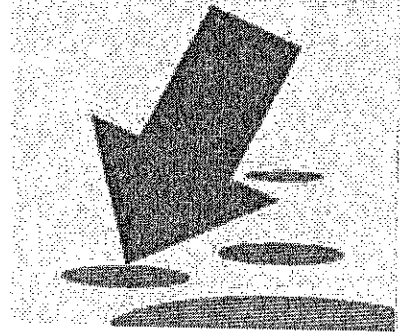
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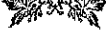
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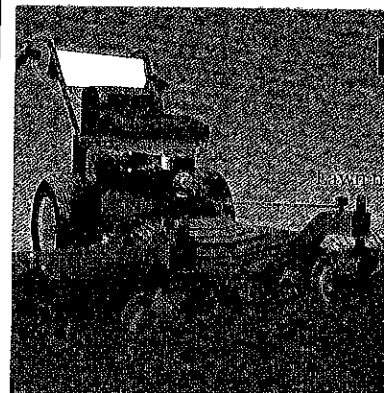
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Agency of Transportation

August 4, 2016

Town of Wallingford Selectboard  
Town Hall  
75 School Street  
Wallingford, VT 05773

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 2, 2016 regarding the two public railway crossings that you would like repaired immediately. I regret to inform you that we will not be able to take immediate action as you have requested, but we will be addressing one of these crossings this year and the other will have to wait until next year. While I do appreciate your frustration with the time it has taken to achieve a permanent fix for both crossings, the State Agency of Transportation simply doesn't have sufficient funds to maintain all public crossings in a state of good repair. Here is what we are going to do regarding the rehabilitation of both crossings.

The crossing on Route 140 is in our transportation capital program and will be reconstructed next construction season. The scheduled completion date is end of next summer. This particular crossing is complicated because of the close proximity to the bridge that also needs repair. According to the VTrans Rail Director, Dan Delabruere, the bridge project cannot be completed without removing the track from the bridge and when the track comes off the bridge, it also needs to be removed from the crossing. The two projects need to occur at the same time to get the best value for the taxpayer. I believe the Rail Director responded to your request last summer to make repairs at the crossing by sending out the district forces to patch it as best they could. I understand that Dan has requested the District take another look at the crossing this year to see if any additional patching would improve the situation. We do understand that ultimately what will improve the situation will be a brand new crossing which we anticipate building next year.

The Hartsfield Road crossing is scheduled to be repaired this construction season, sometime this fall and, while it is not a complete replacement, the work being done should eliminate the issues you are hearing about from your constituents.

If you have any additional questions, I would encourage you to communicate directly with Dan Delabruere, Rail Director for VTrans.

Sincerely,

Chris Cole  
Secretary of Transportation

cc: Dan Delabruere, VTrans Rail Director

