Montpelier Notes,  An occasional email for Pownal and Woodford residents. If you would prefer not to receive these notes please reply to botzow@sover.net and I'll remove you from the list. If you would like to be added please let me know. I do not give your email address to others. --Bill Botzow

January 3, 2011

Hello All,

I hope the first days of the New Year find you well and in good spirits from the year-end holidays. With the Transfer Station being closed for the holidays the last two Saturdays I haven’t had a chance to see many of you as regularly as usual. I look forward to that in the weeks ahead though this coming Saturday morning I will still be up north finishing up the first week of the 2011-12 legislative session. This year promises to get off to an especially busy start as we not only have a new legislature with many new members, we also have a new administration. On Wednesday afternoon Governor Douglas will give his farewell address and the next day Governor elect Shumlin will lay out his vision for Vermont in his inaugural speech. Soon the legislative committees will meet regularly—assignments are expected in the first week—and we will commence our oversight and legislative roll. If any of you have been thinking about legislation you would like to see please be in touch as legislator’s deadline for bill drafting requests will be coming soon. Call or email me and we can discuss your ideas.

E-Vermont Pownal News

Here are announcements for an upcoming website development workshop and for a new website with information on the biomass proposal—both presented by Pownal’s e-Vermont process working with the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

**“Getting Your Business Online”**

***When*: Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011 at 6:30 PM**

***Where*: Pownal School Library, Schoolhouse Road**

An interactive training and information seminar to learn about the website development process. Business owners or those interested in starting a business are informed of potential costs, benefits, expectations and processes involved with establishing an online presence. They are taken through the design process and given exercises to assist them in establishing how they want their website to function and appear. This workshop is a great opportunity for home-based businesses. This workshop is part of Pownal’s participation in *e-Vermont.*

**Information on the Permitting Process for Southern VT Energy Park Projects**

As part of Pownal's participation in e-Vermont there is a new website <http://energypark.weebly.com> up with information on the permitting process for projects at the former race track. The website states:

"The goal of this website is to provide an easy to understand guide to the permitting process for the biomass facility proposed for the Southern Vermont Energy Park. The solar component of the park has already received the permits described here. This site is not a place for posting information on the pro's and con's of the contested biomass component, or advocacy of any kind. The intent is to make sure everyone has a clear explanation of the regulatory framework in which discussions are taking place."

At present, only the biomass project is undergoing the permitting process, but any other energy projects would go through a similar process. Although this website concentrates on the permitting process, you can find links to other sites here as well. If you have suggestions for other links, please email them to helen@vtrural.org.

**A note from Linda Hall at the Solomon Wright Public Library:**

Happy New Year!
Now that you have seen all the beautiful horses in the Rose Bowl...come to downtown Pownal and enjoy (for the last week) the Literary Horse photography exhibit.....different breeds, young and old, ..Pegasus warm
in his quilt by the Pownal  250th quilt, ski jorling (what's that you say?), Panda the guide horse, riders and owners of all ages enjoying their life made better with at least one horse.......and catch a glimpse of our Pownal horses and owners in the entry way bulletin board shared by some of our many horse owners in the Pownal area!
Sign up for the horse raffle items and don't forget to sign up for your library card and/or get a barcode on the one you already have so that we can check items out to you on our new automated circulation system. Get
the URL for our online catalog and check our holdings from home!! What is on your reading list this year?
Volunteers serving you in 2011:
Linda H, Wendy H, Peter, H., Edna W., Donna I., Julie M, Karen B, Jackie
S & Leo, Joan Walsh, & Rita Burdick
Thanks to the Board for their service: Julius Rosenwald, Andy Dequasie,
Ruth Botzow, Wendy Hopkins (chair), Dr. Constance Berman,  Shannon Barsotti & Linda Donigan
See you in 2011,
Linda Hall
Director

In the weeks ahead I intend to write regularly as I have the last winters on what we are working on in the legislature. Also, if you would like to visit Montpelier or testify on any issue please let me know. The State House is “the people’s house”. It is a great honor to work there. I hope you will come visit while we are in session. There are always interesting and important discussions going on as we hear from the public and develop and pass legislation. Please let me know when you are visiting so we can meet and I can help introduce you to the legislature.

Thank you for the great honor of serving our communities and our state.

I hope everybody has a healthy happy and prosperous New Year.

Stay in touch,

Bill

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