

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

July 19, 2012

Hello All,

I hope you are enjoying summer and are staying cool in the current heat spell.

This version of my notes is a collection of items that have come my way that I hope may be of use to you or someone you know. As always, please let me know if you have an issue you need some help with. I'll try to do what I can.

Foreclosure information from the Federal Reserve

I received the following from the Federal Reserve in Boston. It may be some help if you or someone you know has been going through foreclosure.

“The Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency have initiated enforcement actions against a group of mortgage servicers because of deficiencies in the servicers’ foreclosure processes. The regulators are encouraging borrowers who were financially harmed in the mortgage foreclosure process in 2009 and 2010 to request an independent review. After the review, servicers may be required to provide compensation. You have until September 30, 2012, to submit your request. Get more information or start the process by visiting www.independentforeclosurereview.com “

Kaiser Family Health reform quiz

Since the Supreme Court decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), people have been thinking about what the federal health care bill does and doesn't do. I was sent the following easy to access quiz that comes from a reliable source. Here's more about the quiz “The health reform law promises to deliver big changes in the U.S. health care system. But, as

with other sweeping pieces of legislation, it can be hard to get the real facts about what it does. And it is all too easy for misinformation about the law to spread.

Take our short, 10-question quiz to test your knowledge of the law, and then find out how you compare to the rest of the country, as represented by the findings of the Kaiser Family Foundation's monthly Health Tracking Poll.”

<http://healthreform.kff.org/quizzes/health-reform-quiz.aspx>

Starting Over Strong Vermont

Last Saturday Starting Over Strong Vermont held a community event in Bennington to thank those who had worked to help out during Tropical Storm Irene and honor those who had been impacted. I wish I could have attended but was out of town at a legislative conference that day. Many people in our communities went through a hard time during Irene and are still working to put their lives back in order. Here's some information that may help those who are still recovering from Irene.

“SOS VT offers free, short-term interventions that promote individual and family recovery to those individuals experiencing distress and/or related emotional and behavioral difficulties from the flood. SOS VT is administered by Washington County Mental Health Services in conjunction with other designated mental health agencies and community services in the hardest hit regions of our State.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing distress or symptoms from the flooding please call SOS VT's toll-free number for help, 1-855-767-8800, or visit our website at www.startingoverstrongvermont.org<<http://www.startingoverstrongvermont.org>>.”

Mahican Moccasin Fire Recovery

Pownal Center experienced a very bad fire when Charles Gray's Mahican Moccasin Shop burned to the ground. Many community residents have been looking for ways to help out. Here's some information on how to contribute Rose Pelletier posted on Pownal's Front Porch Forum.

“On June 21st Charles Gray turned 80 years old and watched in disbelief as his Route 7 business Mahican Moccasin, in Pownal, VT was ravaged by flames and destroyed. I spoke with him and his wife and daughter a few days after the fire. His attitude is so positive as he returns to the site daily.

The building and contents loss and cost of cleanup far exceeds insurance coverage.

MAHICAN MOCCASIN FIRE RELIEF FUND has been set up to accept donations. Donations can be made any of the following three ways

By mail or at any TD Bank location:

TD Bank Williamstown

37 Spring Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mahican-Moccasin-Outlet/352310645008>

Online at Fundrazr <http://fnd.us/c/1Ke23>

Pownal Valley Fair July 28th

Every Summer the Pownal Valley Fair Association puts on a wonderful community fair the last Saturday in July. The fair is held in the field behind the Pownal Fire Department and the Pownal Post Office. It begins at 10AM and concludes with fireworks around 10PM. Come enjoy "Vendors, Crafters, the Exhibit Hall, Kid's Games, Tractor Pulls, Precision Wood Splitting, Dancers, Food, Pig Roast, DJ Bands, and The Best Fireworks in the area". This year's fair is dedicated to Francis "Bud" Willette 1927-2012. A lifelong Pownal resident and a friend of the fair.

Moonlight in Vermont Road Race August 4

The 2012 edition of the Moonlight in Vermont Midnight Road Race is set for the night of **Saturday, August 4**. In addition to the traditional four-mile race, this year's festivities will again include a two-mile "Community Ramble," a non-competitive walking event. The race will begin at the stroke of midnight under the light of a (nearly) full moon at the Pownal Valley Fire Department's station on Route 7 at the top of the hill in Pownal, with the Ramble starting shortly thereafter. Race prizes go three deep across many age groups, and entrants in both events will be eligible to receive the "Most Visible in the Moonlight" award.

Pre-registration for either event is \$12 for BKVR members, students, and Pownal residents, and just \$15 for others. Enter by July 28 to be sure you receive a commemorative T-Shirt. Vermont Moonlight Cookies returns as our generous sponsor.

You may print a pre-registration form from www.bkvr.org and mail it in. For more information, contact David Durfee, Acting Race Director at moonlight@bkvr.org.

SAVE THE DATE September 9

Sunday, September 9, is the Grand Opening of the new Lucy Wright Case Reading Room at the Solomon Wright Public Library. All welcome to come and celebrate this new addition to the library.

Some Miscellaneous Notes

Takoda's Market in Pownal Center now offers fresh fish by personal order. If you would like excellent fresh fish stop by the market or call Robin or Bonnie at the store 823-5445 to find out the details about ordering. Robin and Bonnie are also interested in offering home baked goods. Here's what they wrote on the Front Porch Forum : "Do you have a favorite baking recipe - bread, muffins, rolls, sweets..., healthy, not so healthy but wicked good? We are looking for individuals or a group interested in offering your home baked goods in our store. Anyone interested please stop by the store or call 823-5445. And Thank You to all the folks who shop with us for your support. Robin"

If you see **Jim Boutin** congratulate him on his home grown white wine. I saw Jim at the Transfer Station a few weeks ago and he happened to mention that he came in fourth out of thousands of entrants for his wine in the amateur division of an international competition. Thinking about all the great products that come out of Pownal it's safe to say we have very good soil and many talented growers.

Many of us take note of **Peter Crabtree's** great photographs in the *Bennington Banner*. Peter's work is currently included in the annual Mohawk-Hudson Regional Exhibition at the University Art Museum at SUNY Albany. One of the photograph's is a striking portrait of **Skip Baker**, a longtime Pownal resident who died last November.

We have all been pleased to see the long awaited **Track clean-up** of the rubble from the horse barns. This is in preparation for the solar installation. I am told the project is on track and aiming to be ready to go this fall.

A highlight for me on July 4th was Pownal's **Willy Jones** reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Bennington Battle Monument. Willy has been reading the declaration on the fourth for at least fifteen years and says that each year the crowd grows. This year the longest range visitors were from Colorado and Florida. Willy performs in period dress and the event is a reenactment of how the Declaration was read community by community across the colonies that would soon become the United States. If you haven't read the declaration in awhile here's a link. http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html

The Pownal Planning Commission is just beginning their work on updating Pownal's Town Plan. This is a guiding document for the future of our town. The Commission will seek public input and hold public hearings along the way. Also all the Commission meetings are public and warned. I attended the most recent meeting and I am sure the Commission would welcome you to their meetings. Look for announcements in the paper.

Stay cool in this hot weather and make sure to enjoy this great time of year. Also, please call whenever I can help you with your business with the state. I look forward to hearing from you.

Stay in touch,

Bill

1225 South Stream Road