



The Reading Informer

August 2016

Published by the Town of Reading

10th Annual Ducky Derby

What a great day !!!!!



We had a beautiful Old Home Day in Reading this year and a great turnout for our 10th Annual Ducky Derby. We have lots of people and businesses to thank for their donations, help and support of the derby. With the help of our supporters we were able to award over \$3500 in prizes.

We would like to thank Calista Brennan, Esther Allen, Milde & Jim Waterfall, Holiday Inn Vacations at Mount Ascutney Resort-Brandy Vittum, Mary Jo & Channing Smith, Osgood Welding, Echo Lake Inn, Upper Valley Aquatic Center, VINS, Fore U Golf, Fore U Ice Cream, Pentangle, Ramunto's, Okemo Mountain, Zampini & Son, Kedron Valley Auto Body, JP Larkin Golf Course, Imageworks Studio, L.L. Bean, Vermont Teddy Bear, Edgar Mae Health and Recreation Center, Watrobas General Store, Shaws, Springbrook Farm, Walmart, Red Rooster/ Woodstock Inn, Woodstock Farmers Market, Newhall Farms, King Arthur Flour, Riverside Restaurant, China Station, Worthy Kitchen, Reading Greenhouse, Ellaways Attic, Tip Top Pottery, The Vermont Standard, Mac's Market, South Woodstock Store, Green Mountain Smokehouse, Grosbeak Gardens, Downers Jiffy Mart, Yankee Bookshop, Singleton's Store, Newmans Own, Inc., Molly & Koreen Henne, Abby Rowlee, Denise Dupuis, Karen Harkins, Sam Mitchell, Tony Pikramenos, Kim Allen, Kevin Barnes, Junior Sanderson, Tom Baumann, Jason, Stephen & Leah Titus, Steve, Madison & Kennedy Moore and our wonderful Reading community.

Reading Recreation Commission/Reading Friends & Neighbors

Meeting Schedule

Board of Selectmen
Second Monday
6:00 PM at Town Office

Parent Teacher Org
Third Monday
6:00 PM at Reading School

Cemetery Commission
Fourth Wednesday
6:00 PM at Town Office

**Planning Commission
& Zoning Board**
First Monday
7:00 PM at Town Office

EC Fiber
Second Tuesday at 7pm
Oaks Hall 1st floor of Law
School
In S. Royalton, VT

R.A.T.S
2nd Wednesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

Fire & Rescue Dept.
First Tuesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

School Board
Third Wednesday
6:00 PM at Reading School

Fire Dept. Auxiliary
First Monday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

**Snowmobile Club,
Little Ascutney**
Second Thursday at 7PM
Sept-April, at Fire Station

Library Trustees
Last Tuesday
6:00 PM at Library

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Fire and Ambulance 911

State Police 457-1416

**Domestic/Sexual Violence Hotline
866-348-WISE (9473)**

Town Contact Information

Town Clerk/Treasure Office

484-7250

Mon—Thurs 8am-4pm

First Saturday of the Month: 9am-12pm

Website: www.readingvt.govoffice.com

Email: readingvermont@comcast.net

Post Office

484-5994

Retail Counter

Monday – Friday

9:30 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm—4:30 pm

Saturday Retail Counter

9:00 to 12:00

Lobby

Monday – Friday

8 am to 5 pm

Saturday

8am to 12pm

Library

484-5588

Tuesday 12:00 to 3:30, 4:00 to 7:00

Thursday 10:00 to 1:30, 2:00 to 5:00

Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

Listers

Call for appointment – 484-7258

Email: rtownhall_464@comcast.net

Reading Elementary School

484-7230

Fire Warden - Fire Burning Permits

Nathan Willard 484-0094

Reading– West Windsor Food Shelf

Monday 2:00 to 4:00 (Food Shelf)

**Thursday 4:00 to 6:00 (Thrift Store & Food
Shelf)**

Located at 3456 Tyson Road
in South Reading
at the Stone School House

The Thrift Store is open to anyone, not just
food shelf members. Please feel free to stop in

Inquiries please contact

Sara Norcross 484-5097

Dana Waters 802-291-3299

To send a donation please mail to:

**Reading– West Windsor Food Shelf
PO Box 384 Brownsville, VT 05037**

Copies of the *Informer* can be found on
our Town website at
www.readingvt.govoffice.com
Or we can e-mail a copy to you.
Send the Town Clerk an e-mail at
readingvermont@comcast.net
to request this.

Notice of Special Meeting by the Reading School Board

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

6 PM Reading Elementary School

The intent of this meeting will be to provide our own community an opportunity to discuss the Act 46 process and for the board to get a general understanding of the community's sentiment. This way we can ensure we are representing the interest of the community well. We encourage you to attend this meeting especially, if not additional meetings as well. At this meeting we will not only attempt to answer as many questions as possible, but also hear your thoughts, opinions, feedback, and concerns so we know the direction you would like to see the Reading Elementary School go.

With this in mind, please send us questions you might have on Act 46 in advance so we can try to provide as much information as possible. All questions are valid and important, no matter how basic you think they might be. Feel free to email questions to any one of us at:

Justin Sluka - justin.sluka@gmail.com

John Philpin - philpin@myfairpoint.net

Shiri Macri - rsmacri@comcast.net

The following notes were taken from the WCSU website to give you further information:

<http://www.wcsu.net/>

To meet the obligations of Act 46, the 6 WCSU districts (Barnard, Killington, Reading, Pomfret / Bridgewater [co-managing Prosper Valley School], and Woodstock) are being asked to either merge into one of the approved governance structures as defined in Act 46 -or- present a plan to the state by next November (9/30/2017) of how they are going to meet the requirements on their own. There are incentives for joining a more unified governance structure within the deadlines set in Act 46. The merging of school boards needs to be approved by each district in a town vote.

Step 1 was to form a WCSU Study Committee comprised of one member from each of WCSU's district school boards. Shiri Macri is Reading's representative. The Study Committee's task is to work together to research a path towards unified governance that makes the best sense for all the partner districts and still meets the requirements imposed by the state in Act 46. The Study Committee's plan would then be offered to each town individually to be voted on (likely at town meeting next March). If the plan drafted by the Study Committee is approved by 5 or more towns (out of the 6 in WCSU) then the boards would merge according to the plan, incentives would be awarded by the state, and the new district (and board) would have until July 1, 2019 to get itself established. If the plan is instead approved by 4 towns or less, then all 6 WCSU districts/towns would have until November 30th, 2017 to come up with an alternative plan or risk having the state make the decision for them.

Under the scenario of a unified board there would be a unified budget and funds to support the unified budget would be generated from a single unified district tax rate (basically an averaged tax rate). Under a unified board and averaged school tax rate, towns in the partnership with cost effective schools would see an increase in their current tax rate (e.g. Barnard, Woodstock); towns with less cost effective schools (Reading) would see a drop in their current tax rate. Basically, more cost effective schools view themselves as subsidizing the less cost effective schools.

We will have two choices this March: 1) find a solution on our own; or 2) become an equal partner in a group of peers looking for a larger solution together. It is important to remember that regardless of whether Reading votes the Study Committee's plan up or down next spring, Act 46 mandates that we demonstrate our school's ability to "meet or exceed" goals set forth in Act 46.

Selectboard's Meeting

July 11, 2016

UNAPPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Robert Allen, Gordy Eastman, Jim Peplau, Glen Town, Calista Brennan
Charlie Kimbell and Bradley Hinson

Robert started the meeting asking if there were changes to the agenda. Set the tax rate was added.

Minutes of the June 13th Selectmen's meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of 6/30/16, Expenses were \$66,287.82; Revenue was \$7153.44. Balance in LSB (G/L account) \$56612.88 and balance in the sweep account \$496362.85 for a total of \$555,975.73. Delinquent taxes for 2013-15 are \$65556.21. Jim moved to approve and Gordy seconded. Report is accepted.

Action Items:

- A) Bartley Field:** Bradley Hinson presented a request to do a family friendly fund raising music day in early August. It would be mostly solo musicians. They would sell food and donate any proceeds to a non-profit in Reading. The Selectmen agreed, but suggested he contact Chris Titus of the Rec Commission to find out if the water had been turned on and also suggested that a port-a-potty be on site.
- B) Charlie Kimbell:** Charlie was here to introduce himself as he is running for State Representative for Reading, Woodstock and Plymouth.
- C) Auditor Appointment:** Lisebeth Kozlowski was appointed to fill Channing Smiths' term until Town Meeting.
- D) Food Shelf Lease Response:** Robert received a letter from Dick Beattie on behalf of the RWWFS stating that they would pay \$1500 per year against the average cost of electricity and fuel of about \$2800/\$2900 a year. Robert replied to the letter asking how much the other Towns contribute that have residents that use the FS. Still waiting for a response from the Food Shelf.
- E) Highway:** The tree work on Bartley Road is scheduled for July 19th. The loader is back at E W Sleeper with the same brake issue. Glen is waiting for an update. The culvert and road inventory should be done July 12th.
- F) Request for Proposals - Bridge Projects:** Robert gave Jim and Gordy a copy to review and make any changes necessary.
- G) Request for Proposals - Town Hill Ditch:** Alan May wants to have a meeting before the scope of work is completed. He has some suggestions and thoughts for the project.
- H) Set Tax Rate:** The municipal tax rate for 2016-17 is .4616 based on the 2016 Grand List and the budget approved at Town Meeting. Gordy approved and Jim seconded.
- I) Other:** Short discussion on Insurance for building leased to RHS.

Being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Calista N Brennan



ECFiber Update August 17th, 7 pm Reading Town Hall

Curious about that spool of fiber that has been sitting along Rte. 106? Anxious to hear when you might be eligible to get wicked fast internet to your home?

Join us for an informational ECFiber meeting. Carole Monroe CEO of ECFiber/ValleyNet will be joining us to provide an update to the town and also answer any questions. Questions may also be submitted ahead of time through e-mail to myself by August 10th.

A free Apple TV streaming device will also be raffled off to one lucky attendee.

John Malcolm jrmalcolm@gmail.com

ECFiber Delegate for Reading

Reading Elementary School

**First day of school will be Wednesday, August 31, 2016
Please watch out for our children as they return to school.**



VERMONT PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 10 AM—7 PM

**This is a statewide Primary Election to vote
for candidates by 1 party only.**

Absentee ballots must be requested by 4 pm on August 8.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the polling place by 7 pm August 9.

Gravestone Repair Workshops

The Reading Cemetery Commission will be hosting 2 sessions of hands on training for gravestone repairs. These sessions will be September 11th & September 17th at Spear Cemetery. Training is limited to 8 people. If you think you would like to attend please contact Adam Kozlowski 801.389.6070 to make a reservations. More details will be in the September Informer or see the Town's website.



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KimAnn R. Vollers, Office Manager

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Recent Local Property Transfers

- ⇒ **Walter & Martha Schneider to Johanna Loring**
Town Hill Road 9 acres \$ 99,000
- ⇒ **Michael & Catherine Didero to Robert & Mary Hartnett**
Town Farm Road House & 49.4 acres \$835,000
- ⇒ **Walter & Martha Schneider to Bob & Sue Joyal, Rev Trust**
Town Hill Road House & 5 acres \$ 99,000



Librarian's Note

Lot's of helpful tools for your summer enjoyment at no cost!

Reading Public Library provides downloadable **audio books** and **e-books** for adults and children at no cost through "Listen Up Vermont." The collection can be accessed at **listenupvermont.org**. Once you've installed the free software and decided on a book, just add the title to your basket and sign it out with your patron number. If the audio book you want is checked out, you can place it on reserve and you'll receive an email when it becomes available.

After downloading the audio file to your computer, you can close the Internet connection and listen offline. You can also transfer the file to portable devices, and some books can be burned to CD. You can check out up to three titles at a time. At the end of the loan period, the computer files automatically expire and the books are returned to the digital collection. There are never any late fees or damage costs. For more information, take the guided tour on the "Listen Up Vermont" website. If you don't know your patron number, call or email me at the library.

The library offers a pass for many of **Vermont's state parks**, good for free entry into designated park day-areas for up to 8 people in a vehicle. The pass can be checked out for 2 days and is good at Ascutney, Plymouth, Wilgus, and Silver Lake state parks, among others. We've got a similar pass for half a dozen Vermont historical sites, including the Eureka Schoolhouse in Springfield, the Old Constitution House in Windsor, and the Calvin Coolidge Birthplace at Plymouth Notch. The passes are good until the parks and historic sites close for the season; those dates vary according to the rules of the individual park or site. The library also has a free year-round pass for VINS (VT Institute of Natural Science) in Quechee.

It's worth mentioning that the library does have air conditioning. If you're ever in need of a respite from the summer heat, stop in.

Cordially,

Tony



Reading Public Library. Tues. 12-3:30 p.m. & 4-7; Thurs. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 2-5; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mail: P.O. Box 7, Reading, VT 05062. Tel. 802-484-5588.

E-mail: reading.public.library@comcast.net. Web: www.readinglibrary.org. The board meets the last Tues. of each mth. at 6 p.m. Wi-Fi 24/7.



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**Weathersfield Transfer Station and
Recycling Facility**



As of July 1st, you need to have a burgundy sticker on your vehicle, the blue ones are no longer valid.

These stickers are available at the Reading Town Office during regular office hours for Reading residents. The first sticker for residents is free; a second sticker can be purchased for \$5.00. Renters must pay the \$5.00 fee to obtain a sticker.

Punch cards can be purchased at the Town Office also. Tokens are \$3.50 per punch. A 5 punch card is \$17.50 and a 10 punch card is \$35.00.

**Green Mountain Horse Association
25/25/50 Competitive Trail Ride and Drive Event
Please note that there will be carriages as well as horses on the following roads. Please travel safely.**

8/6 and 8/7 Starting at 6:30 AM

- Caper Hill Road
- Spear Cemetery Road
- Nauman Road
- Brown Schoolhouse Road
- Chase Corners Trail
- Jenne Road
- Bailey's Mill Road
- Kittridge Pasture Road
- North Puckerbrush Road
- Town Hill Road
- Whitmore Circle and Road
- Weld Cemetery Road
- Tattle Street
- South Puckerbrush Road



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Reading Historical Society
Preserving The Past For The Future
The History of the Reading Christian Union

Maybe it's a good idea for someone new to town to be writing about its past, for I have a million questions about places, people, and things that make up Reading's history. Several of those questions are about the building that will be the future home of the Reading Historical Society's museum. When was it built? Who used it? Why is it referred to as the Reading Christian Union?

From 1835 to 1860, Reading's Baptists and Universalists, shared a brick church in Felchville, each denomination using it every other Sunday. In 1860, that building was destroyed by fire. In 1861, a new church was built, the simple, proud, white building south of and on the opposite side of Route 106 from Robinson Hall and the library. For one year, it was shared by Baptists, Methodists, and Universalists. In 1862, the Methodists and the Universalists built the Universalist Church, the gray building a bit to the north of the white church.

The Methodists continued to use the white church for religious services as well as Sunday School and social functions. Until Robinson Hall was completed in 1912, it was also the site of town meetings. However, over the next 30 years, use of the building ceased. The same goes for the Universalist Church.

In 1946, Felchville resident Elizabeth Stevens was dismayed that there wasn't a house of worship in Felchville. She gathered a group of like-minded residents and formed a non-denominational church. At first, it held its meetings in the Universalist Church. In 1948, the Methodists, who still owned the white church, turned it over to this new fellowship of worshippers. In its bylaws, the group stated that the building "include in its activities all inhabitants of the aforesaid villages and hamlets [Felchville, Hammondsville, Bailey's Mills, Greenbush], of all ages, of all sects and beliefs, both religious and political, and of all races without discrimination and prejudice." The group was known as the Reading Christian Union or RCU.

The RCU thrived as an institution into the 21st century, when the building was again abandoned. In 2015, possession of the building passed to The Town of Reading, and the Town leased it to the Reading Historical Society for 99 years. The historical society won't use the building for religious purposes, but to showcase the town's history, which is forever bound to its religions, its sense of community, its people, and to sharing.

— Stephen D'Agostino

You may have noticed a few more cars parked at the old historical house on main street these past few weeks. That is because we are busy cleaning, sorting and packing up our collection in anticipation of moving to the RCU building. This is a wonderful adventure of uncovering Reading's history. Do you know where the Town had a tennis court located? At the same time we are updating the RCU building to meet state codes for electricity, ADA, plumbing, heating, etc. We have also had the cupola refinished to prevent further wood decay. We have a lot of work to do, but we are looking forward to the day when we can, once again, open our doors to the public and share our wonderful history.

Esther Allen, President Reading Historical Society



**Sponsored by the
Reading Fire & Rescue Department**

**12th Annual Reading
Community Calendar**

This calendar is personalized with the dates that you request for birthdays, anniversaries, or in memory of someone. We also include meeting dates and dates of annual town events. The calendar is also an opportunity for local businesses to advertise.

If you would like to order your calendar for 2017 please fill out this form and return it along with your check payable to **Reading Fire Department** to:

Kate Allen
PO Box 191
Reading, VT 05062

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN: September 16, 2016

Your payment must accompany your order form.

The calendars cost \$6.50; this includes 4 dates on the calendar for each calendar purchase. Each additional date is .50 cents.

Please indicate if the date is a birthday, anniversary, or in memory.

Please print clearly and check your dates:

Example: 1-12-2005 John Doe Birthday

Your name: _____

Street Address: _____

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<i>7</i>	<i>8 Selectboard 6 pm Town Hall</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15 PTO 6 pm—RES</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23 Library Trustees Mtg. 6 pm</i>	<i>24 School Board 6 pm Cem Comm 6 pm</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31 School Starts</i>			