

# October 2009

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Editor: Helen Fields  
Associate Editors:  
Priscilla Tracy  
Sara Bonthuis  
Vicki Crawford



## THE SCARECROWS ARE COMING!!!!

### The Stamford Gazette FIRST ANNUAL SCARECROW CONTEST: SEE PAGE 2 FOR CONTEST RULES!

# Stamford Gazette

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## Calendar

- ☞ Oct 1: All-Boards Meeting, 7pm
- ☞ Oct 6: "End of Suburbia" 7pm
- ☞ Oct 7; Int'l Walk to School Day, 8am
- ☞ Oct 8: SWIP Public Hearing, 7pm
- ☞ Oct 10 : HW Day 8-10am @ Transfer Sta.
- ☞ Oct 13: Democratic Party Caucus, 7pm
- ☞ Oct 17 Button Up Vt
- ☞ Oct. 24: Scarecrow Contest Judging
- ☞ Oct 23, 24 & 25: Stamford Seniors' annual Craft Fair

## SWIP, Hazardous Waste Pickup in Stamford !



Items to bring to the Stamford Transfer Station include bulbs, batteries, dry paint cans, antifreeze, pesticides and others.

By Helen Fields

After months of negotiating, Stamford will finally be able to collect household hazardous waste and deliver it to Shaftsbury during our next Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Thanks to the efforts of Lori Shepard, our Selectboard Administrative Assistant, citizens can bring HHW to the Transfer Station between 8 and 10am, where it will be safely loaded and transported to the Shaftsbury Transfer Station. If you are unsure of which items qualify, see the enclosed hot pink flyer or check out our website

Additionally, the Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) has been tentatively approved, and the second public hearing will occur on October 8 at 7pm in the Town Office. Copies of the tentative Plan may be obtained at the Town Office.

## All-Boards Meeting October 1

Over fifty volunteers, employees and elected officials of Stamford will gather on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 7pm for the annual All-Boards Meeting at the Stamford School Hall. The Selectboard invites all members of Town boards to "share your visions for the future of the Town of Stamford." It is expected that all board members will attend, and be prepared to, **"discuss your accomplishments to date...and discuss the future goals of the Town."**

There are many possibilities for the future of Stamford, and these times of struggle impart the opportunity for visionary planning. If you have a vision or hope for the future of Stamford, drop a line to one of the Board members, and let them know of your ideas and concerns. Public can come to listen but will not be invited to speak.

If you are interested in being part of the process, let the respective Board know of your interest. Those in attendance include: Board of School Directors, Board of Listers, Cemetery Commission, Library Trustees, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission, Justices of the Peace, Board of Civil Defense, Energy Coordinator, Septic/Health Officer, Road Commissioner, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Emergency Management, Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Warden/Deputy Fire Warden, Tree Warden, Auditor, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Selectboard and Selectboard Administrative Assistant.

## Got Eggs?

### CJ Vadnais

#### 758 Main Road

Brown eggs, large or pullet from Rhode Island Red and Plymouth Rock chickens (both known as reliable layers). Eggs are available when the sign is out front. Refrigerator and honor system cash box are just outside the garage.



### Maura Hawkins

#### 113 The Lane

Brown, green and blue eggs from Barred Rock (a variety of the Plymouth Rock) and Araucana chickens (known for the blue/green color of their eggs). Knock on the back door to ask for eggs. Evenings and weekends are best.



### Billmont's

#### 544 Main Road

White eggs, large and jumbo  
Brown eggs, large and extra large from Hall's Poultry Farm, a wholesale/retail outlet in Pelham, MA.

Store Hours: Mon-Sat 8-8; Sun 9-5

**Please contact Sara Bonthuis (sarabonthuis@gmail.com) if you have eggs available, are not listed, and would like to be listed in a future issue of the Stamford Gazette.**

## Light Up Your Life!

In collaboration with Efficiency Vermont, Billmont's General Store now offers the latest models of compact fluorescent bulbs at the following prices:

- ⇒ 60 watt OR 70 watt: \$.99 (less than a dollar!)
- ⇒ 100 watt: \$1.49
- ⇒ NEW 3-way lights: \$5.99

Stop by the store and check out the display.

## Get Town News Via Email Now!

Starting in October, residents will be able to receive notices of upcoming town meetings, events and activities via email by bringing the enclosed (hot pink) form to the Town Office. If you are concerned that the email list is public information, we recommend you use a free-service type address such as "Yahoo" or "gmail." All emails will go out as 'blind carbon copy,' meaning no one will be able to read others' email addresses.

Thanks to the resident who requested this service. It is hoped that this service will facilitate better communication and perhaps more citizen involvement in town business.

## Glass Art Class Offered

Joseph Tracy, a local glass artist, will be offering a class on glass fusing. Tentatively set for Thursday nights at 7pm, at his studio at 319 Mill Road, the class will begin with basic skills and simple glass jewelry. "From there we will make some fused glass bowls and possibly window hangings, lamps, etc. You can see my own work and samples of my students' work from the Putney Summer Arts Program at my website ([www.brooksideglassworks.com](http://www.brooksideglassworks.com))." For more information call 694-1590.

*Property taxes are due by November 19.*

## SCARECROW CONTEST

The Stamford Gazette is sponsoring a **SCARECROW CONTEST** for the residents of the Town of Stamford. It is a event for kids and adults. The contest hopes to inspire us all to be get outside and be creative and fun. There will be prizes for all around scariest, most inventive pose, best dressed and most fun. There will be a special prize for the all around best scarecrow constructed by a child age 12 and under. We are hoping for a large participation and even if you cannot build a scarecrow, you can enjoy the fun by voting for your favorites: Rules are simple:

Scarecrows must be homemade using any materials you can find.

Scarecrows must be at least 3 feet tall and must be completely visible from the road or your driveway.

Scarecrows must be complete by October 24<sup>th</sup>. (Of course, the sooner the better as we get to enjoy them).

After you build your scarecrow, you must register your scarecrow by:

- ⇒ Email [mhawkins@sover.net](mailto:mhawkins@sover.net) your name, street address, contact phone number and/or email, and let us know if you are 12 or under.
- ⇒ Call 802-694-1620 and leave a voice mail with the same information.
- ⇒ Fill out a flyer at Billmont's or Town Hall and mail to 113 The Lane, Stamford VT 05352.

**HAVE FUN!**

### ***International Walk To School Day***

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Selectboard, veterans and community members are invited to join Stamford elementary students, their parents and school board members as they celebrate healthy lifestyles by walking or biking to school!

The walk starts at the driving range and ends at the school, where refreshments will be served.

**Stamford Democrats** are invited to the biennial CAUCUS on Tuesday Oct 13 at 7pm at Town Hall. Election of officers and update of Vermont State governor's race will be topics on the agenda. Call 694-1526 for more details.

## ***Stamford Seniors: CRAFT FAIR!***

Be sure to plan a holiday shopping spree at the Stamford Senior Citizens annual Craft Fair at the Stamford School. Crafts from Vermont and Massachusetts include hand-knit quality items, jewelry, toys, holiday gifts and MUCH MORE. You won't want to miss the raffles, the auction, the awesome pies and excellent homemade soups:

- ⇒ Friday, October 23: 4-8pm
- ⇒ Saturday, October 24: 10am-4pm
- ⇒ Sunday, October 25: 10am-2pm

## **Snow and Ice Policy Approved**

The Selectboard has approved a new "Snow and Ice Policy," which fits our limited resources and prioritizes needs during winter storms. The guide includes the following:

During storms our priorities will be Stebbins Lane (the firehouse), school parking lot and school bus routes. There will be reduced service between 10pm and 4am.

At no time will any road be required to be completely free of snow before, during and after storms.

The Town will not be responsible for damaged mailboxes or windshields.

For further details, contact the Town Office.

## **Plock Retires from Planning Commission**

After more than twenty years of service, Ron Plock retired from his position on the Planning Commission. He hopes other interested town residents will bring new ideas to the table as we look forward to the upcoming revision of our Town Plan. Ron thanked the Selectboard for its support of the Planning Commission and its task.

## **End of Session Briefing from Rep. John Moran**

1. established a committee to reduce property taxes by replacing the Act 60/68 system.
2. decreased income tax for most Vermonters.
3. created jobs; helped farmers; bolstered tourism.
4. helped strengthen renewable energy sector.

## ***Leo Ethier Memorial***

*By Tegan O'Neill*

In memory of Leo Ethier, the town of Stamford is in the process of crafting a memorial area on the grounds of Stamford Elementary School. Leo Ethier was the principal of Stamford Elementary School, a volunteer fireman, and a community role model. The initiative to create a memorial began in 2006, spearheaded by Stamford Elementary School teachers and staff. The goal was to allot a “tranquil spot for parents and children to reflect...and to look at the beautiful mountains,” said Cindy Lamore, a member of the Stamford School Board.

An apple tree and a bench were purchased for the memorial, which is located in front of the school. Hosta and small flowering plants were added. Cindy Lamore knew the notion of the memorial was perfect but felt more was needed. She circulated a petition with the hope of being granted more money to have a brass plaque with a picture of Leo, along with a brief story of why this man was such an exemplary part of the community. The many signatures were a true testament to the appreciation town has for Leo's contributions to Stamford and “all the many hats he had worn to help the town,” Cindy noted.

The project has faced delays, but the committee keeps working. The committee includes: Leo Ethier's wife, Carol Ethier-Kipp; their sons Paul and Glen; and their daughters-in-law, Linda and Jennifer. In addition, Sheila Lawrence, Janice Farinon, and Jean Kurpiel, joined by Cindy Lamore are active participants on the committee. Once the plaque is finished, the rock will be moved in front of the memorial to give it an optimal view. Stamford Elementary School plans to maintain the garden and bench area. Stamford citizens are encouraged to come and enjoy the garden, and to join the effort to bring this memorial into full realization.

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## **Stamford Energy Focus Group News**

*By Joseph Tracy*

### ***End of Suburbia, October 6***

The Stamford Energy Focus Group which meets monthly to discuss energy issues and to inform fellow citizens will be showing the film, “The End of Suburbia” on Tuesday October 6 at 7pm, at the Stamford School. Free and open to the public, an opportunity for discussion will follow the movie.

This provocative documentary examines the history of suburban life and considers the suburban lifestyle in light of the peak oil phenomena. One of the journalists interviewed has since gained considerable attention for his eerily accurate prediction of the economic meltdown.

### ***Button Up Vermont! October 17***

Saturday October 17 at 11 AM : Button Up Vermont Home Energy Workshop at Stamford School (about 2 hours, refreshments served).

At this time a certified professional Home Energy specialist will give a presentation to teach

local home owners about the fundamentals of how homes lose heat and energy, and how to conserve heat and minimize energy use.

Within this presentation there will be: 1) simple do-it-yourself measures for incremental energy savings, 2) information and free DVDs on professional energy retrofits and the significant associated cost savings, 3) information on available technical and financial resources.

There will be forms so you can estimate the energy efficiency of your home and informational brochures on home energy issues. There will be posters around town to remind you of the date. If you can't make it there is a DVD at the Stamford Library to explain the process.

This presentation is sponsored locally by the Stamford Energy Focus Group, a local public service group. We would love people who are concerned about energy issues to consider joining us. Find us at the workshop, or call Elanor Kilfoyle at 413-441-6610.