



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

### Inside this issue:

Housing	1
State of the Town	1
MBI Mapping	2
Tax bills	2
Comcast Cable	2
Hardwick's Loss	3
Electric Agreement	4
Town Notices	4
Gilbertville Library	5
Toys for Christmas	5
Traffic Advisory	5
Septic Systems	6
Youth Center	7
Photo Contest	7
QUEST	7
Town Events	8

The Town of Hardwick (in partnership with the Town of Ware) is applying for state grant funds this winter to continue its longstanding housing rehabilitation program. Available to low-to-moderate income homeowners and to owners of rental properties with low-to-moderate income tenants, the program can provide up to \$35,000 in assistance for eligible improvements. If the grant is funded, the program would be administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). Eligible rehabilitation work includes elimination of building code violations, mitigation of unsafe or unhealthy conditions (including septic tank replacement), improvements to weatherization, and many

related activities. If you are interested in the program, please contact Shirley Stephens of the PVPC at (413) 781-6045. A pre-application for the program is also available online at [www.pvpc.org/Hardwick](http://www.pvpc.org/Hardwick), through the Town's website at [www.townofhardwick.com](http://www.townofhardwick.com), and at the Hardwick Municipal Office Building (307 Main Street, Gilbertville). Interested Hardwick residents are strongly encouraged to complete the pre-application or to contact Shirley for more information; the waiting list for this assistance is currently quite short, but it is expected to grow quickly.

**Save the Date**  
**Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**The 2nd Annual State of the Town Forum**

## The 2nd Annual State of the Town Forum

The 2nd Annual State of the Town Forum will be held on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Hardwick Elementary School. The forum will again be led by Professor John Mullin of UMASS-Amherst Center for Economic Development. The purpose of this Annual Forum is to bring together residents from all of the villages and areas of the town to learn about and discuss the preliminary findings from the Town's capital planning and facility needs studies and to participate in reaching a consensus on the best solution to meet the future capital needs of the Town.

The April 11<sup>th</sup> State of the Town Forum will include presentations on the Town's facility needs by the Capital Planning Committee and the Center for Economic Development at UMass Amherst, updates on the re-use of Town buildings, and the options for redeveloping the Hardwick Knitters Mill.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided by community organizations.

## The Fiscal Year 2015

### MBI MAPPING VERIFICATION PROJECT

On Thursday, December 12, 2014, Town Administrator Sherry Patch attended a Mapping Validation Open House in Greenfield, which was held to update communities on the key mapping and modeling work needed to plan for the expansion of broadband services to underserved areas, and to engage each town in the process of developing accurate and current data on cable availability. The selectmen are requesting your assistance in identifying that our cable mapping data is accurate. Residents living in unserved cable areas are strongly urged to stop by the municipal office building to make sure that their location has been identified as unserved on the maps. Maps will be available for public viewing thorough the month of January. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech (MBI) has been designated to partner with towns within the Mass-Broadband 123 footprint, including Hardwick, to expand cable broadband to more households in partially served towns. This past August, members of the Massachusetts Legislature and broadband advocates joined Governor Patrick as he signed the information Technology Bond Bill. From this appropriation, up to \$5 million dollars in state bond bill funds will be made available to expand broadband to partially served communities.

#### From the Collector's Office

In June we will begin Quarterly Billing for Fiscal Year 2016. You will still receive two mailings with each mailing having two payment coupons. We will provide you with more information in our Spring newsletter.

Remember you may make monthly payments on your Real Estate, Personal Property or Sewer Bills.

To inquire about payment information, please contact the Collector at 413-477-6710.

**The Fiscal Year 2015 Real Estate and Personal Property bills were mailed December 23, 2014 and are due April 1, 2015.**

The tax bills are based on assessments as of January 1, 2014. If you have any concerns regarding the value which appears on your bill please contact the Assessors' office.

Certain persons may be eligible for an exemption from a portion of their Real Estate tax bill. Contact the Assessors' office to see if you qualify. The general guidelines are:

**Elderly** -70 years or older with income and asset limitations.

**Surviving Spouse** – Any age with asset limitation.

**Veterans** – At least 10% disabled determined by the Veterans Administration.

**Blind**- Legally blind and registered with Massachusetts Commission for the Blind or medically documented.

**Massachusetts National Guard/Military Reservist** – Serving in a foreign country in the current fiscal year.

Both abatement and exemption applications are available at [www.townofhardwick.com](http://www.townofhardwick.com) via the Board of Assessors link or in the Assessors' office. The deadline for filing is April 1, 2015.

To inquire about abatements, exemptions or valuations, please contact the Assessors' office at 413-477-6709.



## **DONALD W. ROBERTS**

**1935 -2014**

Don was born in Arlington, MA on January 10, 1935.

He grew up in Lexington, MA

In 1963 he and his family moved here to Hardwick to become the herdsman for Jeanne Hanson a young widow with 3 small children who was struggling to keep her small farm going. In 1967 Don and Jeanne formed a partnership under the name of Hanson and Roberts Dairy Farm. Don retired from the farm in 1997. Don was an avid horse lover. He had owned and cared for a horse from the age of 10 years old to his death. After his retirement he rode his horse 3-4 times a week with his favorite group of fellow horse riders.

Don was appointed a part time police chief for the Town of Hardwick from 1977 until 1995. He was on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at a salary of \$4,000.00 a year.

Don was elected to the Paige Agricultural Fund Committee and served for 38 years. He was on the Town Planning Board from 1969 until his death. He was also a recipient in 2001 of "The Boars Head Award."



## **Thomas E. Collett**

**1946-2014**

Tom was born in Holden and a life-

long resident of Hardwick, where he attended grade school and Hardwick High School graduating with the Class of 1965. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. A sergeant, he was awarded two purple hearts and received many other medals and citations. Tom was the Town of Hardwick's Wastewater Superintendent for 28 years retiring from that position in 2002. He was Superintendent of the Hardwick Center, Gilbertville and Wheelwright Water Districts. Tom also served as a Selectman, Sewer Commissioner, and was a Parade Marshall for the Memorial Day Parade for several years. After his retirement, Tom continued the work he loved; operating his own business, Tri-S Water Services, which served many area water departments. Tom was member of the VFW and American Legion Posts in Gilbertville and the Ware Detachment Marine Corps League. Tom had a passion for baseball and softball, was an animal lover and enjoyed his red Corvette.



## **Charles Hinckley**

**1951-2014**

The Hinckley family moved to

Hardwick in 1951, where Jack attended primary school. He then attended Pomfret School in Connecticut and graduated in 1969. In 1973 Jack completed the engineering program at Brown University earning a B.S. in Mechanical and Space Engineering. After graduating Jack entered the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. Later that year he completed OCS, becoming a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Navy. After five years of active duty, he served an additional 17 years in the US Navy Reserves before retiring with the rank of Commander.

After completion of active duty, he began his career as a Mechanical Engineer, first at Coppus Engineering in Worcester and then at Smith & Wesson in Springfield, spending the majority of his career at Warren Pumps in Warren, working there a total of 33 years. Jack was highly regarded by his peers in the engineering community, earning his professional license, and was holder of two US Patents. During his life in Hardwick, Jack served terms on the School and Finance Committees, and was well known as an active and vocal supporter of Hardwick

## **Hardwick Approves Hampshire Council Electricity Aggregation Agreement**

On Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> the Board of Selectmen approved an electricity aggregation agreement with the Hampshire Council of Governments. Hardwick becomes the tenth Worcester County town to enter the program, joining 40 towns and cities in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties. Hardwick joins the other 150,000 people within the Hampshire Council's Aggregation. Aggregations have been enjoying significant energy cost savings across the Commonwealth.

Community choice aggregations are programs in which municipalities gain some control over energy prices for residential and business customers in their communities. Instead of utilities setting the price for electricity, towns work together to buy electricity at wholesale prices. National Grid will continue to provide all delivery services, including maintaining power lines and utility poles.

### **From the Town**

#### **TOWN CENSUS**

**The Annual Town Census has been mailed to every household in Town. Please check the form for spelling, correct address, DOB, occupation and veteran status. Make any corrections that may be needed, sign the form and return it to the Town Clerk's office in the envelope provided or hand deliver to the Clerk's office. If you haven't received a census form contact the Town Clerk's office at 413-477-6700.**

#### **DOG LICENSING INFORMATION**

**Dog tags are in. All dogs must be licensed before April 1 of each year. COST: male or female - \$10.00, spayed or neutered - \$6.00. There will be a fine of \$10.00 per dog and an administrative fee of \$5.00 for dogs licensed after April 1, 2015.**

#### **TOWN NOMINATION PAPERS**

**Nomination papers are now available at the Town Clerk office for Town Officers. Positions up for election are Selectmen, Town Collector, Assessor, Board of Health Member, Planning Board Member, K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee Member, Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee, Paige Memorial Library Trustee and Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioner. Last day to submit nomination papers is February 23, 2015.**



**The Gilbertville Library is collecting items for the Hardwick Food Pantry. Donate a non-perishable item and receive an item from our book sale area for**

## COMCAST CABLE EXTENSION UPDATE

The Comcast Cable expansion in the west part of Hardwick is on schedule for completion at the end of October 2015. Comcast representative Aaron Saunders confirmed that make-ready work is in progress and that residents will be contacted by Comcast when the project is complete.

## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS 2014

Thank you to everyone who donated to the **Christmas for Kids** program sponsored by the Hardwick Police Association. Your generous donations allowed us to assist 40 families this holiday season!

## TRAFFIC ADVISORY TURKEY STREET

Be advised that there is icing due to a drainage pipe that has rotted out between house numbers 817-862 Turkey Street. The pipe will be replaced in the spring. Residents are urged to use caution when traveling in this area.

## Septic System Do's and Don'ts

### DO ....

**\*Have the system inspected and pumped every 3-5 years. If the tank fills up with an excess of solids, the wastewater will not have enough time to settle in the tank. These excess solids will then pass on to the leach field, where they will clog the drain lines and soil.**

**\*Know the location of your septic system and drain field. Keep a record of all inspections, pumping, repairs, contract or engineering work for future references. Keep a sketch of it handy for service visits.**

**\*Grow grass or small plants (not trees or shrubs) above the septic system to hold the drain field in place. Water conservation through creative landscaping is a great way to control excess runoff.**

**\*Install water-conserving devices in faucets, showerheads and toilets to reduce the volume of water running into the septic system. Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets, run washing machines and dishwashers only when full, and avoid long showers.**

**\*Divert roof drains and surface water from driveways or hillsides away from the septic system. Keep sump pumps and house footing drains away from the system as well.**

**\*Only use additives that have been allowed in Massachusetts by MassDEP. Additives that are allowed for use in Massachusetts have been determined not to produce a harmful effect to the individual system or its components or to the environment at large.**

**\*Take leftover hazardous chemicals to your approved hazardous waste collection center for disposal. Use bleach, disinfectants and drain and toilet bowl cleaners sparingly and in accordance with product labels.**

### DON'T ....

**\*Use your toilet or sink as a trash can by dumping non-biodegradables (cigarette butts, diapers, feminine products, etc.) or grease down your sink or toilet. Non-biodegradables can clog the pipes, while grease can thicken and clog the pipes. Store cooking oils, fats and grease in a can for disposal in the garbage.**

**\*Put paint thinner, polyurethane, anti-freeze, pesticides, some dyes, disinfectants, water softeners and other strong chemicals into the system. These can cause major upsets in the septic tank by killing the biological part of your septic system and polluting the groundwater. Small amounts of standard household cleaners, drain cleansers, detergents, etc. will be diluted in the tank and should cause no damage to the system.**

**\*Use a garbage grinder or disposal, which feeds into the septic tank. If you do have one in the house, severely limit its use. Adding food wastes or other solids reduces your system's capacity and increases the need to pump the septic tank. If you use a grinder, the system must be pumped more often.**

**\*Plant trees within 30 feet of your system or park/drive over any part of the system. Tree roots will clog your pipes, and heavy vehicles may cause your drain field to collapse.**

**\*Allow anyone to repair or pump your system without first checking that they are licensed system professionals.**

**\*Perform excessive laundry loads with your washing machine. Doing load after load does not allow your septic tank time to adequately treat wastes and overwhelms the entire system with excess wastewater. You could, therefore, be flooding your drain field without allowing sufficient recovery time. You should consult your tank professional to determine the gallon capacity and number of loads per day that can safely go into the system.**

**\*Use chemical solvents to clean the plumbing or septic system. "Miracle" chemicals will kill microorganisms that consume harmful wastes. These products can also cause groundwater contamination.**

**\*Backwash water treatment systems into your septic system.**

## Hardwick Board of Health

PO Box 575, Gilbertville MA 01031

Telephone (413) 477-6197 x108

Fax (413) 477-6703

## 2014 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT PHOTO CONTEST

The Board of Selectmen will be holding a photo contest to select a photo for the 2014 Annual Town Report. Submit your photo of a scene around Hardwick between now and April 3, 2015. Photos can be dropped off at the Municipal Office Building, mailed to Board of Selectmen, P.O. Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or emailed to [admin@townofhardwick.com](mailto:admin@townofhardwick.com). Photos must have a description of where they were taken and be credited to the photographer. The selected photo will be featured on the cover of the 2014 Annual Town Report with credit to the photographer.

### Food Pantry

The Food Pantry located on the lower level of the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville is open the first and third Friday of the month from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. If emergency service is needed please call (413) 477-6635.

Non-perishable food may be left in a box in the Town Hall or at the Gilbertville Library.

### Youth Center Hours

The Youth Center located on the second floor of Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville is open on Wednesdays from 3-5 pm for children ages 5-12 and from 6-8 pm for

ages 13 and up and Fridays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am for parents and children age 0-5 and their parents. HYC is open to youth in the villages of Hardwick, Gilbertville, Wheel-



Kim Wright with Caitlyn Rich and Mason Pelletier-Biggs at the Youth Center

wright, and school choice students who attend Hardwick Elementary School. Sign up is not required for any of our programs, just come! If you have questions or would like further information please call (413) 477-8207 or email [kahwright@aol.com](mailto:kahwright@aol.com).

Bring your friends, bring your family, bring your Mom!! This night at the Barre Senior Center is fun for everyone!

The evening's menu includes soup selections from Exchange Street Kitchen, Barre, paired beautifully with homemade bread and desserts. At the end of the night, take home your special soup bowl, hand-painted by a Quabbin student. The event will include music by the Quabbin Jazz Band.

Tickets are \$10 per person. Tickets are available from Patty Stolz at the Quabbin High School Office, at Barre Savings Bank, or by calling 508-404-5509.

QUEST (Quabbin Education for Students and Teachers) will also announce the recipients of 2015 mini-grants and the Guiding Light award. QUEST's primary purpose is two-fold: first, to raise funds through grants, donations, and benefit events; and second, to distribute those funds in support of innovative educational initiatives. Parallel to the foundation's main work will be the establishment of an endowment fund that will serve as a lasting financial resource for the Quabbin District Community.

# TOWN EVENTS

## January

### 16 "SING-A-LONG GREASE"

7:30 **Abby Theatre, 242 Old Petersham Road, \$15**

Sing-a-long Greasers will be decked out in their own versions of fifties high school garb including poodle skirts and saddle shoes, black leather biker and powder-pink bomber jackets, chiffon scarves and skinny ties. Costumes are most definitely encouraged, but singing is mandatory! Then just sit back and watch Danny & Sandy and the gang, while singing and dancing along to the lyrics as shown on the screen.

**24** Quabbin Education foundation's annual **"Souper Bowl"** fundraiser **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Barre Senior Center.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Barre Savings Bank, from Patty, at Quabbin Reg. High School or online. All proceeds fund the mini grants available to any teacher in the Quabbin School district for projects, field trips or materials they would like for their classrooms and students.

### 25 2:00 *History of the Frohloff Farm*

Susan Gainley and Ed Hood will share their findings at East Quabbin Land Trust's headquarters, 120 Ridge Road in Hardwick Contact Cynthia at 413-477-8229 or at [chenshaw@EQLT.org](mailto:chenshaw@EQLT.org) with questions.

**30** Quabbin Glee Club Concert, 7pm, QRHS Auditorium

## February

**24** "Jazz-fest" Concert, 7pm, QRHS Auditorium

### Hardwick Senior Center

is hosting a **"Bingo Fest"** at Wrights Chicken Farm in Rhode Island on Friday April 17, 2015 from 10:00am to 4:30pm. Prizes Galore plus a "Family Style" Lunch are provided. \$49.00 **Money due by March 4, 2015** at the Senior Center For more information call Joyce Patch at (413) 477 6707

## Attention Residents

Sand is available for residents only at the Highway Barn during regular hours.

**Bring your own bucket!**

## March

**12** Quabbin Regional School District Public Budget Hearing 6:00pm at the District Office

**15** Tree Identification Walk along the Gilbertville Fitness Trail, Sunday, March 15th at 2pm Come stroll along the Ware River and learn what trees (and shrubs) are growing in the neighborhood with Kate Marquis, our state service forester. This walk is sponsored by the East Quabbin Land Trust. Contact Shelby with questions at [servicelearning@EQLT.org](mailto:servicelearning@EQLT.org) or 413-477-8229.

Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will be holding their annual **"SOUP FEST"** fundraiser in March.

Check the Paige Memorial Library website in late February for the date and time.

([www.paigelibrary.com](http://www.paigelibrary.com))



**if you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please submit your request and email address to [hwklet@gmail.com](mailto:hwklet@gmail.com). If you have any ideas we would like to hear them as well.**

Some of the events announced here are not sponsored or approved by the Town of Hardwick or the Quabbin Regional School District. They are offered by other town organizations and are listed here in an attempt to show the range of opportunities occurring in town. The Town Administrator reserves the right to edit or exclude any article or event.

**WE ARE ON THE WEB  
CHECK THE TOWN WEB SITE**