

THETFORD TOWN NEWSLETTER
NO. 83 JANUARY 2011

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Animal License Renewal are available **after January 1**

TOWN ELECTION DEADLINES:

January 20 – Petitions requesting articles for the town meeting warning are due. Petitions require approximately 105 signatures (5% of the voter checklist)

January 24 – Nominating petitions for the town and school officers are due to the town clerk. Petitions require approximately 25 signatures (1% of the voter checklist). See the list below for offices that have terms expiring March 1, 2011. For information on the various offices, please contact a selectboard member or the town clerk at 785-2922 x10

OFFICE	TERM
Town Moderator	1 year
Town Treasurer	3 year
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	3 year
Selectboard	3 year
Selectboard	2 year
Grand Juror	1 year
Agent to Prosecute/Defend Suits	1 year
Agent to Convey Real Property	1 year
Lister	3 year
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 year
Cemetery Commissioner	3 year
Cemetery Commissioner	1 yr to complete 3 yr
Latham Library Trustees (2)	4 year
School Moderator	1 year
School Director	3 year
School Director	2 year
School Director	1 yr to complete 2 yr

Mid February – Town Reports mailed

February 26 – Town Meeting

March 1 - Town Australian Balloting at Town Hall

Submitted by Tracy Borst, Town Clerk

THETFORD ACADEMY NEWS AND NOTES

***Thetford Academy begins the 2011 school year on Monday, January 3.** We hope it has been a warm and wonderful break for all our friends and families.

*The **Winter Choral Concert** will be held on **Saturday, January 8, at 4:00 pm in the Martha Jane Rich Theater** in Anderson Hall. Should the weather not cooperate, the **snow date will be January 9 at 4:00 pm.**

*TA will host a **VSAC Financial Aid Forms Night on Monday, January 10, from 6:00-8:00 pm.** Parents, guardians and students are invited to attend.

*The **Thetford Academy Board of Trustees** will hold their **monthly meeting on Thursday, January 13, at 7:00 pm in the TA Library.** The meeting is open to the public.

*Join us for the **Thetford Academy Alumni Association (TAAA) bonfire after the boys' basketball games on Saturday, January 15.** Enjoy the fire's warmth, and have hot chocolate and cookies, too! Clean, undecorated trees are needed for the bonfire. Drop them at the site across from TA on Academy Road.

*The much anticipated **Ten-Minute Play Festival** will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, **January 13-15**, in the **Martha Jane Rich Theater**. Watch for more information about performance times and ticket availability.

*The **Sophomore Class Dance** will be held on **Friday, January 21, from 7:30-9:30 pm**, for students in **grades 7-12**. Parents, join us at the Parent Café in the TA Library for refreshments and conversation while your student is at the dance, and avoid extra miles in the car driving back and forth between drop off and pick up.

***TAAA** will have its **monthly meeting on Monday, January 24, at 7:00 pm in the Alumni Room**. Call Wendy Cole in the TA Alumni Office—785-2600—with questions.

Submitted by Wendy Cole

SAFER TRAVELING IN WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS

Season's greetings! Winter is here and as conditions change so should our habits.

- To be safe while traveling please give yourself more time, think ahead about corners, bridges, pavement changes and meeting a snowplow.
- Cars colored silver, gray, brown, and sometimes black are harder to see in truck mirrors, and for that reason all travelers should have their lights on at all times.
- If you are following a plow truck please stay back. There is a good chance that it will back up at intersections or bridges.
- When plowing driveways remember it is against state law to plow snow in or across public right of ways.
- It is also against the law to obstruct a municipal vehicle from performing maintenance on a public road, so please do not park in the road.

Thank you and I hope this makes us all safer while we travel.

Submitted by Douglas Stone Thetford Highway Foreman

THETFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE, WARMTH IN WINTER SERIES

The Thetford Energy Committee's Warmth in the Winter series returns! **Our first movie this year will be *Fuel***. Rousing and reactionary, *Fuel* is an amazing, personal journey of oil use and abuse as it examines wide-ranging energy solutions other than oil, the faltering US auto and petroleum industries, and the latest stirrings of the American mindset toward alternative energy. *Fuel* challenges the audience to make a change and seek accountability, reinforcing the idea that the power of every individual can and will make a difference.

The film will be shown on January 30th at 7:00 pm at the Thetford Hill Congregational Church. This event is free and open to all. Refreshments provided.

Submitted by Alice Stewart for the Thetford Energy Committee

THETFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Like most Town committees, the Thetford Conservation Commission is usually content to conduct the bulk of its work in blissful obscurity. Still, from time to time, we do want Town residents to know what we are accomplishing on their behalf. With that intent in mind, we offer the following sampling. Since 2008 the Conservation Commission has:

*Collaborated with The Upper Valley Land Trust to help conserve the Zebedee Headwaters on Houghton Hill Road and the Willey Meadows on the east side of Academy Road

*Produced an updated version of the popular Thetford Walking Guide

*Conducted a series of "Conservation Charettes" with a cross-section of townspeople to better define key conservation criteria

*Developed comprehensive Management Plans (approved by the Select Board) for the four Town-owned properties—Post Mills Nature Area; Hughes Forest; Taylor Tract; and the Thetford Town Forest

*Created a set of Trail Procedures (with input from the Recreation Committee) for Town-owned properties

*Engaged in comprehensive invasive control (95 hours of volunteer time in 2010 alone) on Town-owned properties

*In conjunction with the Linking Land Alliance, documented animal tracking data to verify key wildlife linkage areas

*Mapped Town wetlands and associated plant communities, with support from the Upper Connecticut Mitigation and Enhancement Fund

All of the above does not include hours spent by various Conservation Commission members (or their designees) in blazing and painting property boundaries; pruning alder stands to regenerate woodcock habitat and mowing to preserve other wildlife habitat; professional development workshops, etc.

Questions? Please address them to Li Shen, Chair (Lilian.Shen@dartmouth.edu).

Other Conservation Commission members include: Vice Chair Eric Pyle, Treasurer Bob Pulaski, Secretary Amy McElroy, Members-at-large Connie Snyder, Stephanie Carter, Heather Carlos, Ann Lavanway, and Skip Sturman.

Submitted by Skip Sturman

FRIENDS OF THETFORD EDUCATION – PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND UPCOMING GOALS

Friends of Thetford Education is celebrating its 10th anniversary and we are asking for your help to reach our fund-raising goal. FTE is a nonprofit organization consisting of parents of Thetford Elementary School students or alumni, as well as Thetford residents, who are dedicated to improving education for Thetford students. **Our mission is to enhance the educational experience of students in Thetford by raising and distributing funds for special programs such as music and the performing arts, educational field trips, library development, special classroom projects and equipment, special education needs, and computer technology.**

Thanks to the generosity of parents, supporters, and community members, FTE has been able to fund a variety of projects over the past ten years. Last year's grants include the enrichment of the Thetford Elementary School garden to develop a high-yielding kitchen production garden, aquatic nets and pails for the Zebedee Wetland environmental curriculum; visible generators to enhance understanding of electromagnets and generators; books for incoming kindergartners to improve literacy; golf equipment, curriculum, and teacher training in support of The Vermont First Tee National School project sponsored by the PGA; and books to assist 4th graders in the development of their writing skills. Without your support, these projects would not have been possible.

Applications have started to arrive for the 2011-2012 year and we look forward to adding to the excitement of learning for Thetford's children by approving as many of these as possible. Friends of Thetford Education depends on your generosity to fund these grants. Please help us make this year the best yet with your tax-deductible donation. Any amount will be gratefully accepted; whatever you can afford will be much appreciated.

Friends of Thetford Education
PO Box 113
Thetford, VT 05074

More information can be found online via the Thetford Elementary School website, www.thetfordschool.org, under the "community" tab or by emailing friendsofthetfordeducation@gmail.com.

Thank you for making a difference in our children's education!

Submitted by Kelly Burke, Friends of Thetford Education

ACADEMIC TUTORING

Private tutorials for students in grades K-8. Enrichment and remediation

Contact Jane Friedlander at 785-4455 or visit: www.uppervalleytutor.com

Submitted by Jane Friedlander

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION INFO

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. Send news including contact name and telephone number to Sheila Fifield at Sheila.fifield@aol.com. Please list Thetford Town Newsletter in subject line. Thanks!