

THETFORD TOWN NEWSLETTER
NO. 87 MAY 2011

SUMMER HOURS – TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town Clerk's office starts summer hours May 1:

Monday 6-8

Tuesday –Thursday 8-4pm

Also available by appointment.

Submitted by Tracy Borst

THETFORD ACADEMY NEWS AND NOTES

*Thetford Academy students will be donating their time to raise money for the Selamta Children's Home in Ethiopia and the GoodWeave Project in Nepal on **Wednesday, May 4**, as part of their annual **Operation Day's Work**. Thanks to all of you who have hired a student.

***Parents of the Incoming 7th Grade, Class of 2017, are invited to an information night on Tuesday, May 10.** The evening starts at 6:30 pm and will be held in the Martha Jane Rich Theater in Anderson Hall.

***The TA Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 pm in the TA Library.**

*No school for Thetford Academy on Friday, May 13. We will have a "Sun Day."

***Wednesday, May 18, will be Step-Up Day for incoming 7th graders.** Current 6th graders tour the school and join in activities to introduce them to life as middle school students at TA.

***The Spring Musical at Thetford Academy** this year will be "**Lucky Stiff.**" Performances will be offered **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, May 19-21, at 7:30 pm** in the Martha Jane Rich Theater in Anderson Hall. Contact TA at 802-78504805 x 201 or 219 for ticket information. Reservations are recommended.

***The Spring Instrumental Concert** will be held on **Thursday, May 26, at 7:00 pm** in the Martha Jane Rich Theater, featuring a variety of ensembles and soloists under the direction of Mr. Greg Mellinger. Join us for the final concert of the school year.

***Thetford Academy will be closed on Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day.**

Submitted by Wendy Cole

TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL!

Beginning May 16th, two members of the Thetford Board of Listers will be visiting all residential properties to collect and confirm data. These visits will be preceded by an "appointment letter", which will advise you of your appointment date and time. If the proposed date and time is not convenient for you, please contact us to reschedule. We plan on sending this letter to each property owner about a week before the actual visit will occur, so please watch your mail.

- *Common Reappraisal Myth: A commonly held myth about reappraisals is that it will increase your taxes. In fact, what really happens is that everyone's assessment goes up so the tax rate goes down (unless large budgets are voted in). Besides reallocating tax burden, reappraisals bring the town's common level of assessment closer to 100% of fair market value. The closer a town is to 100% fair market value, the lower the town's Education tax rate will be.*

The Listers have contracted with the Vermont Appraisal Company to assist us with Commercial properties, Farms, and Elected Official's properties. They will also do all the Market research and build a land schedule which will be applied to all properties.

✓ **Some tips on how to make your site visit easier:**

1. Property Owners do not need to be present - they may assign an agent to let us into the buildings. The agent must be of age, cannot be a minor.

2. Please restrain all animals for their safety and ours.

The Listers office will continue to be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays (8:30AM - 4PM) and will conduct business as usual. We welcome a visit from any property owner who has questions or concerns.

We would like to express our appreciation in advance for your cooperation.

Submitted by Thetford Board of Lister; Telephone #: (802)785-2922, Ext. 4; Email: listers@thetfordvermont.us

THETFORD HOME ENERGY ACTION TEAM (HEAT) NEEDS YOU!

Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG) and the Thetford Energy Committee (TEC) are beginning to plan for a major town-wide outreach effort to promote home energy savings.

The two major parts of this project are:

1. A door-to-door campaign to every Thetford home this fall to inform homeowners about the technical and financial resources available to help them save energy in their homes, and
2. A weatherization expo at the Thetford Academy gym on Nov. 5th, where homeowners will have an opportunity to see weatherization measures installed and talk with service providers and funders.

This project will help Thetford residents save energy and money, strengthen our local economy and protect the environment. The whole town needs to be involved to make this effort successful. We invite individuals and representatives from organizations throughout the town to join us May 19th at 7pm at the Thetford Center Community Center for an organizing meeting to begin planning details of the project.

Please let us know if you, or someone else representing your organization, can attend the organizing meeting. We'd like your organization to be involved, even if you can't join us on May 19th, so please respond to let us know if you or someone from your group is interested in helping with planning or volunteering for the two events.

Thanks very much and we look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Submitted by Bob Walker, Sustainable Energy Resource Group; 802-785-4126; SERG@valley.net

MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL ~ OPEN FIELDS SCHOOL

May 28, 10 am - 4 pm on the Thetford Hill Green. Rain or shine.

\$5 per person or \$20 per family; free admission for ages 5 and under

On May 28, 2011, the Thetford Hill Green will come alive with the sights and sounds of a Medieval village. A King and Queen, knights and ladies, peasants, craftsmen, and farmers will gather together to celebrate the age via music, dance, games of skill and chance, authentic food, parades, recitation, and feats of juggling and acrobatics. This year's Festival features storytelling with Simon Brooks, Raptor Encounter with VINS, fencing demonstrations, puppetry, and an appearance by a dragon.

Come dressed in Medieval garb. Bring your own mug and napkin, or purchase them at the festival (our last festival generated only one bag of trash for the entire event!).

For more information, visit www.openfields.org/medieval_festival, or call the school at 802-785-2077.

Submitted by Rebecca Siegel

FUTURE OF THETFORD - 300

2011 – Our Town's 250th Year

2061 – Our Future 300th Year

Meet **Third Thursday of Each Month** at Latham Library

7:00-9:00 PM

Hosted by Thetford's Communiversity of Vermont

Submitted by Peter Blodgett

FREE WORKSHOPS AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Once again, Cedar Circle Farm will provide free garden workshops, led by the Education Director, Cat Buxton. The workshops will be held at the Thetford Community Garden, located on the Town Common in Thetford Center, on select Wednesdays, from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Listed below are the dates and descriptions of the workshops:

May 18: Plot to Plant

Topics include: Design logic, planning for succession crops, preparing soil, crop rotation, frost and sun protection, hardening plants, seeding tips, timing and temperature, thinning, using mulch

June 15: Staking, Training, and Pruning

Topics include: Basic staking, training, pruning and pinching techniques for better fruit and stronger plants

July 20: Garden Guests and Pests

Topics include: Attracting beneficial insects, common insects, assessing plant health, companion plants, knowing and eating weeds

August 24: Planning the Harvest and Curing for Storage

Topics include: Harvesting tips, planting garlic, protecting the soil, over wintering crops, season extension, and more

Submitted by Lori Harriman

RUN FOR HISTORY – JUNE 25TH

As part of Thetford's 250th celebration, the Thetford Historical Society is planning a full slate of events. On **June 25th**, you will have the opportunity to participate in the first (and last) **Run for History**. The 5k (3.1-mile) course will begin and end on the green, and will wind its way through the Academy trails. Every 200 yards or so, runners (and walkers) will pass signs relating interesting Thetford historical facts. When they complete the course, entrants will then have the opportunity to improve their times by taking a history quiz: correct answers will result in better times. The race may not necessarily go to the swift!

The starting musket will go off at 10 a.m., and the event will be followed by a lunch on the green (for a separate fee) for everyone, not just the competitors.

The entry fee is \$10, which includes a commemorative t-shirt. All proceeds will benefit the Thetford Historical Society.

A race like this only happens once every 250 years!

Questions? Contact Charlie Buttrey at charliebuttrey@yahoo.com or 785-4005

Submitted by Charlie Buttrey

THETFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

DISCOUNTED AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS are available through the recreation department for **Bromley, Six Flags & Great Adventure**.

YOUTH BEGINNER TENNIS - Fridays May 3rd to June 3rd from 3:00 to 5:00 at TES. \$30

SUMMER CAMP at Treasure Island - July 11 - 15 & July 18 - 22, \$100/week
Counselors needed, please apply at the Recreation Department.

MOUNTAIN BIKING - Fridays, noon - 4:00 July 1 through August 12.

BUILDING BONES - ongoing exercise program **Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 - 11:00 AM at Thetford Community Center**

REGISTRATION DAY for swimming lessons and other summer programs: **May 14, 10 - noon, Town Hall**

TREASURE ISLAND PASSES now available on line and at Thetford Town Hall, \$50/family, \$30/individual

Check our web site at www.thetfordrec.com for more programs

Submitted by Kathi Meyerson, Director of Recreation, Thetford

TREASURE ISLAND

We are getting close to summer!

Summer Swim Lesson Registrations will be held on Saturday, May 14 from 10-12pm at Thetford Town Offices. **On-line registration begins May 15 and is on-going at www.thetfordrec.com.**

Swim lessons are available for ages 4 and up, and run 1/2 hour daily weekday mornings, or as a separate series on Saturdays. Session Dates: June 20-July 1; July 5-15; July 18-29; August 1-12.

Summer Kayaking Classes and Teen Camp: Get out on the lake in a boat with boat provided and instruction from a guide. Children or Parent/Child. See www.thetfordrec.com or call the Thetford Rec. Dept. at 785-2922 for more info..

Treasure Island Community Work Day - Saturday, May 21, 10AM. You are welcome to come at any time in the day. Thank you!

SAVE the DATE - LakeFest! - Saturday, August 13, (Raindate - Sunday, August 14). See www.lakefest2011.org for more info. Don't miss this fun event!

Treasure Island Season Passes on sale now at Thetford Town Offices.

Family Pass = \$50, Individual = \$30. Buy your pass before June 1st and save \$10 off a family pass, \$5/individual.

Submitted by Scott and Ann O'Hearn, Treasure Island Managers

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!