

THETFORD ACADEMY

It's that time of year again when **traffic increases** on Thetford Hill and Academy Road. Please be extra cautious as this year's crop of new drivers heads to and from TA.

Tuesday evening Fun Runs continue in August. Runners and spectators should gather near the boys' (lower) soccer field next to the gym. All ages and abilities welcome. Participants may walk or run the 5K course. Choosing to do only 1/2 of the course (the lower loop) is also an option. Contact Coach Joe Deffner at Joseph.Deffner@Thet.Net.

The **TA Board of Trustees** monthly meeting is on Thurs., Aug. 18, in the TA Library in the White Building. The meeting starts at 7pm. The public is invited to attend.

Athletic practice for high school students participating in fall sports begins on Thurs., Aug. 18. Practice for middle school students will start after the school year begins.

Orientation and tours for new students and their families will be held on Mon., Aug. 22. Middle school students and families should meet in the Martha Jane Rich Theater in Anderson Hall at 5:30pm. Grades 9-12 will meet at 6:30pm in the theater.

Thurs., Aug. 25, is the **opening day** of school for 2016-2017. The bell at TA will toll at 7:30am to signal the start of the new year. Welcome back, everyone!

Wendy Cole

THETFORD LIBRARIES

LATHAM LIBRARY

ART SHOW RECEPTION Fri., Aug. 5, 5-7pm. Opening reception for "Thetford: 20 Artists One Show," an art show of work by Thetford artists which runs from July 30-Aug. 27 in the Thetford Bicentennial Building Gallery

(Latham Library lower level). This art show benefits the cooperatively managed Thetford Hill Green.

PUPPET SHOW Mon., Aug. 8 at 4pm. "The Perils of Mr. Punch." Modern Times Theater delights family audiences with their handmade wooden and papier mache puppets, in a modern Vermont update of the age-old Punch and Judy show. There will be live acoustic music on a variety of instruments from the ukulele to the bicycle pump. Appropriate for all ages, best for ages 4-10.

MAGIC: THE GATHERING Thurs., Aug. 18, 6:30-8pm. Come play Magic, the card game, with friends. All ages welcome. Please bring your own deck.

YOGA FOR KIDS WITH MOLLY STONE Mon., Aug. 22 at 4pm. Wear something comfortable. Best for ages 5 and up.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM FINALE CELEBRATION Mon., Aug. 29 at 4pm. Children who filled out an "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read!" reading log at Latham Library are invited to this party, which will include games and treats. Certificates will be awarded, and children who read and recorded at least three books will receive a special prize.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AT LATHAM LIBRARY

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME Fridays at 10:30 am. Children of all ages and their caregivers welcome.

KNITTING GROUP Thursday evenings from 6-8pm. Beginners and experienced knitters welcome.

PEABODY LIBRARY

PEABODY LIBRARY STORYTIME Wednesdays at 11am at Treasure Island Beach through Aug. 10.

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET... READ! FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Wed., Aug. 3 at 6:30 pm. "Air Bud: World Pup", rated G. Free popcorn!

PEABODY LIBRARY'S ANNUAL PENNY CARNIVAL! Wed., Aug. 17, 3:00-5:00 pm. Carnival games and yummy treats all cost one penny! Prizes, raffles, music, and a children's book sale will complete our favorite afternoon of the year. Start looking through your pennies now for the oldest and ugliest penny contests. Come celebrate the Peabody Library's 150th birthday at this great family event!

For more information, including lists of new books and movies, please visit www.thetfordlibrary.org.

Emily Zollo

VT. STATE PRIMARY AUG. 9, 8AM-7PM

New voters must register by Aug. 3 at 5pm. Absentee ballots available. Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 785-2922 or stop by to vote!

Tracy Borst, Town Clerk

TEN AUGUST LUNCHEON

Come enjoy a scrumptious meal and a rollicking good time on Thurs., Aug. 25, at 11:30 at North Thetford Church! Thetford Elder Network will be serving chicken stir-fries with rice, salad, a beverage, and pineapple with fortune cookies. Providing lively music will be the ever-popular Out on a Limb Band! Bring a friend or neighbor who needs to get out, and let's all get together.

TEN Luncheons are most months' fourth Thursdays and are sponsored by Senior Solutions. Donations are gratefully accepted. If you'd like to volunteer for a specific task, please let Cathy know at 785-3136.

Susan Rump

THETFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

2016 solar rates – not much time left!

You may already know that Green Mountain Power rates will not be as good for solar projects that start after 2016. Fortunately, there are still openings in a few existing community projects under the favorable 2016 rates. These community project managers have openings:

- Solaflect
Bill Bender, 649-3700, Cell 522-0702. bbender@solaflect.com
- Norwich Technologies
Troy McBride, 649-2356, Cell 738-8059. mcbrietroy@gmail.com.
- Soveren
Anna Bowler, 387-5517, Cell 376-9522. anna@soverensolar.com

Going solar in 2016 make sense as it typically costs 10-14% less than utility power and pays for itself in 7-10 years, while the systems are guaranteed to generate power for 25 years. In many cases, good financing can even result in energy savings higher than loan payments, meaning you start saving money from day one.

However, the Vermont Public Service Board has just adopted new rules, adjusting the state's solar "adder" – a financial credit for every kilowatt-hour your system generates – that will reduce solar savings between 1.6% and 53.8%, depending on where your system is located and whether or not you retain the Renewable Energy Credits beginning in 2017. A full description of the new ruling and how it affects rates can be found at <http://tiny.cc/energyruling>.

But the solar adder for anyone installing solar or joining a community array by the end of 2016 will be grandfathered in for 10 years at the more favorable rates in effect when the system was installed. That is, if you go solar this year, you will continue to get the higher value solar credit available under today's rules, even after the new rules go into effect in 2017.

For those whose homes are not well situated for solar or who don't want the solar panels on or near your home, you can also get the benefits of

going solar by joining a community solar array. Most solar contractors operating in Vermont still have time to either install a system on your home or get you into one of their community solar arrays before the end of the year. But you need to act soon. They are getting very busy as the end of the year deadline approaches. Find a contractor at REvermont.org.

*Bob Walker
Chair, Thetford Energy Committee*

PARISH PLAYERS

Auditions for the new play *Sleuth* will be held at The Eclipse Grange Theater on Academy Rd. in Thetford Hill on Sat., Aug. 13 at 10am and on Mon., Aug. 15 at 7pm. Cast needed: Men (only) between the ages of late 20s to 50.

Rehearsals will start mid-September. Production dates: Oct. 21 through Nov. 6.

We also could use backstage help, so if you are interested in participating but are not a man in the age range specified above, contact us.

Barbara Payson, 785-2727

THETFORD SENIOR AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE (SAHC)

The Thetford SAHC seeks your help in identifying salable property, preferably in East Thetford, for mixed housing for seniors and those with limited income.

Over the last five years, the Committee's search has focused on East Thetford, as it appears to be the most suitable place for senior and affordable housing. East Thetford provides a variety of services such as transportation, banks, stores, hair salons, restaurants, a church and a post office. Access to medical services is available in the near vicinity via the Community Nurse of Thetford.

Together with Twin Pines Housing Trust as its developer partner, and the Ompompanoosuc Community Trust, Inc. as its fiscal agent, SAHC has done limited planning on a number of potential sites. Unfortunately, development costs at

these sites prove too expensive to create a sustainable and viable housing project.

We would like your input: If you know of any property, undeveloped or with buildings on it, please contact the Committee. Your information will be confidential. Contact Betty Campbell, David Fisk, Dale Gephart, Manohar Grewal, Scott Hesser, Mark McMahon or Heinz Trebitz.

Our preferred site criteria: about three acres of land suitable for locating an appropriate septic system.

Mark McMahon, Chair 603-667-0335

NONFICTION BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of Thetford's informal nonfiction book discussion group will take place at Latham Library on Thetford Hill on Tues., Aug. 23 at 7pm.

We will be discussing *The Boys In The Boat* by Daniel James Brown; the story of the USA rowing team that took the gold medal at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, putting Hitler's nose out of joint.

You can find the book at your library; via interlibrary loan; as an audio or e-book via ListenUp Vermont or NH Downloadable Books; from your bookseller; or at bookfinder.com.

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

EDM Landman MD

GOT NEWS?

Is your news of general interest to Thetford residents? Send it to thetford@pendane.com or by calling me at 356-4542 by the 29th of the month. I generally enter news in the order in which it is received, and may need to edit for space. There may not be room for late submissions (but I do my best). Feedback is always welcome.

Susanna French