



The Stow Independent

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Inside This Edition!

\$.75
Newsstand Price

Volume 4, Issue 3

Stow's Townwide Community Newspaper

April 21, 2010

Selectmen Prepare to Move On

By Nancy Arsenault

Last night, the Board of Selectmen addressed several issues as they came closer to their last official duty with the current board membership, presiding over the May 3rd Town Meeting.

The group heard from six residents hoping to join the newly forming committee that will investigate future uses for Pompositticut School, they appointed several apprentice call firefighters, issued permits for the Garden Club Plant Sale and Springfest Parade, and approved \$1000 for a water study of contaminants in Elizabeth Brook.

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Town Meeting – The Condensed Version

By Nancy Arsenault

The Annual Town Meeting, a uniquely New England form of self government, will take place Monday, May 3 at 7:00pm in the Hale Middle School Auditorium. Residents will be asked to vote on a number of decisions that will directly affect their wallets, though, according to Town Administrator William Wrigley, the financial impact should be similar to what was experienced this fiscal year.

Inserted into today's Stow Independent is the Town Warrant, a listing of everything that will be discussed at Town Meeting, along with a brief explanatory summary of the topics, and in many cases, recommendations from the

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Spring Has Sprung, albeit two weeks early according to local orchard owners who report that blossoms on Stow's peach trees (pictured above at Shelburne Farm) and soon to be apple trees are flowering out a bit ahead of schedule. Mild temperatures both day and night are needed to protect Stow's fall crop. (Nancy Arsenault)

Illuminating Sustainable Stow

By Ellen Oliver

On April 22, Earth Day celebrates its 40th anniversary. Stow citizens can celebrate locally by examining a green benchmark for the town – our new Stow Sustainability Plans.

The Stow Energy Group has previously hosted events on climate change and energy efficiency, sparking the interest of Will O'Brien, a Stow resident and visiting professor at Clark University in Worcester. O'Brien teaches a Green Business Management course, part of the university's Environmental Sustainability curriculum. "Will initiated contact. He and I and Sharon [Brownfield] brainstormed on a few ideas and how they might fit in with Stow," said Arnie Epstein, who along with Brownfield, founded the Stow Energy Group.

The purpose of Clark University's courses and sustainability planning service is to link students with real clients, providing the students an opportunity for hands-on business experience and the client a roadmap for sustainability.

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Electronics Recycling Remains a Good Value

By Ann Needle

While some manufacturers and services have actually raised prices (or shrunk their products) to make up for lost customers during the recession, the Troop 1 Stow Boy Scouts have not. This Saturday, the Friends of Boy Scout Troop 1 Stow will hold its annual electronics recycling event, Operation Motherboard, at Hale Middle School on April 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. And their prices remain the same. The event is also an annual opportunity for citizens to help keep the planet-- and their basements---clean while raising funds for a good cause.

Since the Scouts kicked off the event in 2006, Operation Motherboard has remained a very reliable source of Troop income, according to Rob Langelo, who has organized the event in past years. However, he said that the still-tough economy has sliced into donations somewhat a reduction in people upgrading their electronics and more local groups starting their own recycling fundraisers.

Last year, the Scouts lowered the prices for recycling specific items and this

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Community Mourns Loss of Student

By Ann Needle

In an unfortunately familiar scene, students at Nashoba Regional High School were gathering around a makeshift memorial to a departed classmate yesterday morning, contributing flowers and penning memories on a nearby posting. The tributes were for Alex Doucette, a Lancaster senior, who died Monday after collapsing during track practice at the Bolton school.

Nashoba Superintendent Michael Wood called Monday at the high school "a very sad day," releasing a statement that the honors student collapsed on the Nashoba track during a trial 100-yard dash. After fellow teammates that also were emergency medical technicians tried to revive him, Doucette was transported to Clinton Hospital, but passed away before noon, according to Wood. He said that Doucette's brother, Nashoba freshman Braden, also was at the practice. Along with his brother, Alex leaves his father, Christopher, and mother, Deb.

Wood said that neither Doucette's December physical nor his family had noted any physical issues with the athlete and that an autopsy is planned.

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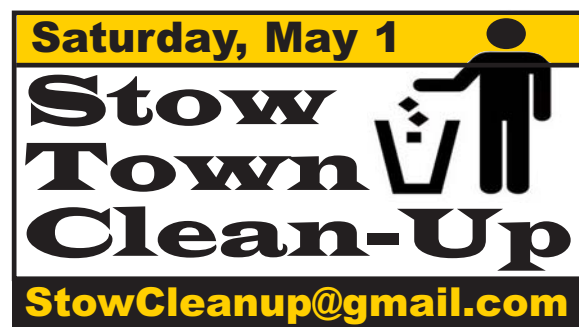
Stow Gets Ready to Clean Up

By Ann Needle

Stow's second annual Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, and just about anyone can join in at their own pace, making the streets and public land of the town a cleaner, safer place to be.

To participate, residents can pick up a free trash bag and gloves at the Lower Common near Papa Gino's, from 8 a.m. to noon on May 1. After that, participants can choose to pick up trash in any areas of town, whenever it is convenient for them, explained Marie Guiles, one of the event's organizers. Those who clean up over the weekend can leave filled bags on the roadside for the Highway Dept. to collect the following Monday, May 3. Participants can also choose to simply toss the bags in with their own trash.

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Sustainable Stow...continued from page 1

"Part of the method involves working closely with the client, so the plans are 'owned' by the client," explained O'Brien. "We've been involved all along with way," agreed Epstein.

The students from Clark University met with town officials, scoured local data, and examined maps and documents related to Stow's environmental, energy and business practices to piece together a sustainable development plan for Stow.



"We worked with the fire and police chiefs, Plantation Apartments, and Bill Wrigley. All were very receptive and supportive. Everyone we contacted has been helpful," said O'Brien. The Stow Energy Group also hosted two forums to tap input from the main two demographic groups in Stow. "We focused on senior citizens and middle-age people with families," said O'Brien.

From O'Brien's perspective, the project had two goals. "First was to define a roadmap that focused on 'low hanging fruit' initiatives, as well as fostering sustainable behavior within the community," he said. "After the first phase we looked at longer term capital initiatives. After you've lowered the electric bill and waste is reduced, look at larger investments. I challenged the students to propose cost-justifiable projects. This is a business course."

Familiar with environmental science, cost-benefits analyses, and bottom lines, the Clark students examined initiatives in energy efficiency, sustainability, and facility remodeling considering costs for the proposed activities. The final plans for the municipal projects (fire and police departments) will address costs related to improving building energy efficiency, energy efficient fleet vehicles, modifications to the heating/cooling/ventilation systems, and recommendations for recycling and water conservation.

The final plans will be in touch with the constraints of a small town budget, only one of the many challenges. After meeting with police and fire officials, the facility upgrades, especially for the fire department, were obvious. At first overwhelmed by the extent of identified modifications, the students prioritized their proposed retrofits and quickly realized that the timing was perfect for inserting green initiatives into Town operating budgets and future plans. "Bill Wrigley has communicated with the police and fire departments to include Clark's plans in their budget and operating plans," said Epstein.

The Clark students also incorporated current and past initiatives in Stow, gauging what some projects need to be more successful or why other efforts didn't stick.

To hear the results of the projects, the public is invited to the final plan presentations on April 26. The municipal presentations will be held in the morning, while the community findings will be presented at night.

9-11 AM at Town Building, Whitney Room, Rm 106:

- Fire Department
- Police Department

5-8 PM at Town Building, Whitney Room, Rm 106:

Starting the evening off at 5pm will be Eco-Mobility, including Assabet River Rail Trail Committee. Followed by:

- Community Engagement
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Stow Website

The presentation on Plantation Apartments had not yet been scheduled as of press time. The public is welcome to all of the presentations.

One of the other deliverables from the project is the creation of a new website focusing on Stow's sustainability. On April 26, the website www.sustainablestow.org will be available to serve as a starting forum for all things sustainable in Stow. The site will include the initiatives and activities of the Stow Energy Group, the plans provided by the Clark students, as well as links to other resources to help Stow residents go and stay green.

Electronics Recycling...continued from page 1

year, those prices will remain in effect, according to Langelo. The result of last year's efforts were "300 carloads" of recycling, according to Troop sources.

The price list includes \$5 for a small printer, \$10 for a smaller TV, and \$50 for an air conditioner. The full price list is available online along with the general items that are accepted.

The quick list of electronics the Troop cannot take includes batteries, large kitchen and laundry appliances, refrigerators, snow blowers, lawn mowers, fluorescent bulbs, and mercury products.

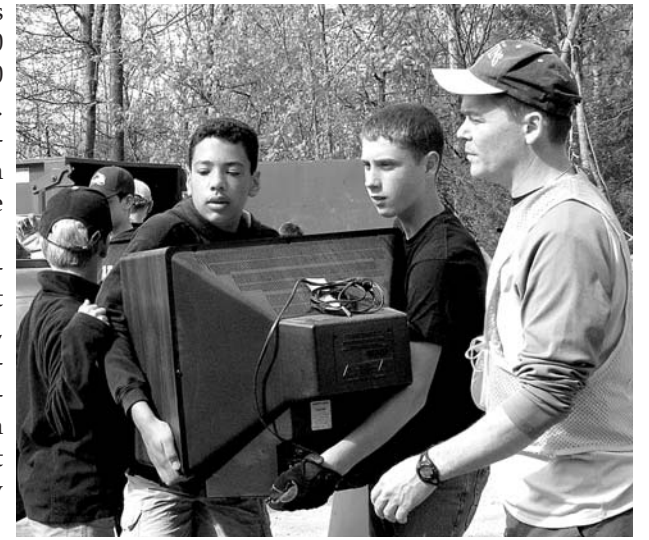
The Scouts conducted their annual pick-up of heavy items last Saturday from senior citizens and others who could not handle getting heavy electronics — such as air conditioners and stereos — to the event, or could not make it to Hale on Saturday, Langelo explained. He noted that the number of requested pick-ups for items also was down this year. While pick-up obviously is a lot of work for the Troop, "People just seem to appreciate it so much," Langelo marveled.

Blast from the Past

Though Operation Motherboard obviously is good for the environment, donors who hang around a while may find themselves taking in some low-cost entertainment. Refreshments are offered on the HOT-WIRE table, where some of the more upscale, working electronics are set up for sale. Langelo noted that, last year, an antique RCA table-top Victrola popped up — and was never taken. "It was a real shame, thinking of that beautiful woodwork being destroyed," he sighed. On the up side, Langelo pointed out that one child took home a motorized scooter.

And what was Langelo's take on the most unusual item to come through Operation Motherboard? "The breast pump still takes the prize," he responded without hesitation.

Langelo reminded everyone that all proceeds from donations to the event are funneled right back into funding Troop activities and equipment. For more information, the Operation Motherboard site is at troop1stow.net/recycling/.



2009 Operation Motherboard

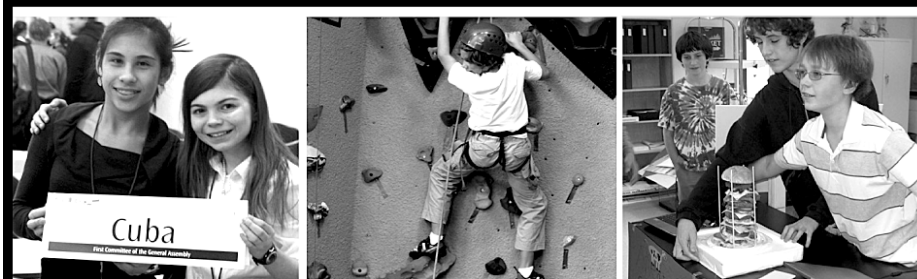
(Ellen Oliver)

5 Quick Summertime Saves:

1. **Keep Insulated** - The weather stripping and insulation used in the winter to prevent heat loss also keeps cool air in the house.
2. **Say No to the Oven** - Cook with microwaves and grills instead of the oven to avoid heating up the house.
3. **Keep your Junk in the Trunk** - A roof rack or carrier provides additional cargo space, but once loaded can decrease fuel economy by 5 percent.
4. **Then Unload the Junk** - Carrying unneeded items, especially heavy ones can reduce fuel economy by 1-2 percent.
5. **Raise (Your Eyes to) the Roof** - About a third of the unwanted heat that builds up in a home comes in through the roof. Investigate reflective coatings (available at hardware stores) and radiant barriers (can reduce heat gains by about 25%) to combat heat build up.

Source: Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

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| Am I going to fix the cracks in the patio? | My mother-in-law only fell twice... |
| Lined up a landscaper for the year? | Who do I call... |

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