



## Trash Talk

By Sandi Switzer

Punch cards could become a thing of the past at the town's transfer station if the Clarendon Select Board decides to include waste disposal fees in property tax bills.

Residents would be allowed to dispose of their waste without the coupons or cash, making their weekly trips to the transfer station a little bit easier.

The Select Board has been debating whether to eliminate the punch card system as a way to stem the flow of cash being accepted at the facility. By removing the requirement to pay out-of-pocket waste disposal fees, attendants would no longer be put in the position of accepting cash from residents who do not have punch cards available.

"Basically, it was an

accounting issue. The professional auditors are telling us we're doing a good job in town, except one of the things that could be an issue was accepting cash at the transfer station," Select Board Chairman Michael Klopchin explained.

After researching a number of options and reviewing transfer station practices in other communities, the board has focused on eliminating the punch card system and including waste disposal fees in property tax bills as the best way to address the accounting issue.

"To some extent, the taxpayers are funding part of it anyway right now. So to make it fair for everybody, we might as well go ahead and include it in the tax bills," Klopchin said.

Under the new sys-

tem, there would be a strict requirement that cars and trucks hauling waste to the facility must have resident stickers displayed on their vehicles.

"People would be required to have the stickers. Preliminarily, what we're thinking is sending out a bumper or window sticker in the tax bills. If you have two vehicles and want another sticker, you can send a self-addressed envelope or stop in at town hall and pick one up at no charge. That's what we're looking at right now, it's not cast in stone," Klopchin said.

The board chairman indicated there could be an increase in the amount of waste collected at the facility, but he noted the town would continue to encourage residents to recycle. "People who re-

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## Clarendon Messenger

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cycle now will continue to recycle. They recycle to help the environment and I can't see that changing," he added.

Town officials expressed concern that maintaining the punch card system, but prohibiting the acceptance of cash from residents at the transfer station without cards could lead to an increase in roadside dumping.

"This was one of our concerns. When we had it mandatory not to accept cash just punch cards, we were finding a lot more trash along the sides of the road," Klopchin said. "It's not to say people in town were the only ones doing it. We found trash with envelopes from people in Rutland and other communities, but it did have an effect."

Board members met with transfer station attendants recently and discussed the notion of having fees incorporated into tax bills. The employees had no objections to the idea, but indicated a few residents hearing about the plan urged the town to consider expanding transfer station hours to make it more convenient for citizens to utilize the facility.

The board did not vote on the proposal at its April 27

meeting, but intends to revisit the issue at upcoming meetings.

In other town matters, residents approved the municipal budget at Town Meeting in March. The spending plan included a \$10,200 increase in the public safety budget from \$14,500 to \$24,700. Most of the money, or \$19,600, will be expended with the Rutland County Sheriff's Department.

"With law enforcement officers on the road more often, I suspect we'll probably issue a few more tickets. But public safety-wise, I'm hoping the visibility of having marked vehicles in town will hold the speeders down," Klopchin said.

Some residents expressed concern at Town Meeting that police visibility would not have an impact on local matters. "Our constables couldn't always respond, so we had to get some other law enforcement agency in there. We'll try this for a year and see how it works," the board chairman explained.

The town will likely enter into a contract with the Rutland County Sheriff's Department to begin coverage after July 1, which is the start of the next fiscal year.

"We can better direct patrols. There's a couple of hot spots in town. One being up in Chippenhook and we have a lot of issues with speeders and overweight vehicles on East Road. We'll probably direct some of the patrol hours to those areas," Klopchin said.

He added the law enforcement officers would have designated hours in town and would also be available to assist in cases of emergencies. "It's a nice thought that they would be available. We have also reappointed Nelson Tift as a special officer and we would use him when necessary," Klopchin indicated.

The town constables, Rick Wilbur and Chuck Hall, will maintain their law enforcement roles in the community. "They'll be available for patrols when they can. They do still have a small budget, and they're both responsible people. If they're needed, I'm sure they'll respond," Klopchin said.

He noted, however, the constables' use of their own equipment had become a "big concern" for the Select Board over the past year. Klopchin explained when one constable had an issue with his car while on duty, the town insurance plan would not cover the repairs.

"We thought it was important to hire someone who has

the ability to patrol our town in a marked vehicle and is also covered by their own insurance,” Klopchin said.

In other town news, as the temperature rises so do the number of local animal complaints. The board chairman reminded residents the town has an animal control ordinance that is more than just a leash law.

“We had an ordinance that was more or less geared toward dog issues. Of course, the state now requires cats have shots for rabies and there’s other requirements. Our ordinance didn’t really cover any of that, so we broadened our existing ordinance and it’s more inclusive to a lot of the issues that come up,” he explained.

The new animal control ordinance addresses nuisance issues, noise concerns and even wolf hybrids. “Different sections speak to different concerns. It isn’t just nuisance dogs any more,” Klopchin said.

In most cases, neighbors

want to get along with neighbors and when alerted to an animal concern they will resolve issues on their own, he added.

Copies of the town’s animal control ordinance are available for review at the Clarendon Town Hall. The town’s animal control officer is Robert Minckler.

I WOULD LIKE TO

INVITE THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF OUR TOWN TO SUBMIT STORIES OF YESTERYEAR EVENTS. SEE LAST PAGE.

**Notice:  
THE CLARENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN IS  
POSTING THE FOLLOWING APPOINTED  
POSITION VACANIES**

- 1 Member to the Towns Board of Zoning Adjustment — 2 year term
- 1 Member to the Towns Grange Board — 1 year term
- 1 Fence Viewer — 1 year term
- 1 Weigher of Coal — 1 year term
- 2 Members of the Towns Planning Commission (vacancies as of 4/26/2009) — 4 year terms

If you have interest in serving the town in any of the above posted vacant offices, please submit a letter of interest to the:

Clarendon Board of Selectmen  
PO Box 30  
Clarendon, VT 05759

Questions about any of the posted positions should be directed either to the Clarendon Town Clerk at 775-4274 or the Administrative Assistant at 747-4074.

## Small Town Humor

There are two TV antennas on my neighbor's roof. They decided to get married. The ceremony was terrible, but the reception was wonderful!

An optimist is a person who falls off the Empire State Building and as he passes the 25th floor, yells “I’m still all right!”



# Clarendon Messenger

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From Montpelier

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Representative Dave Potter

With only a couple of weeks left in the 2009 Legislative Session, and a May 8th goal for adjournment looming straight ahead, House/Senate Conference Committees are forming. These are designed to reach a compromise position between the two different perspectives held by the Senate and House. The President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each appoint three members to sit on the conference committee. There is often a lot at stake in these discussions, especially over complex money legislation involving taxes, appropriations, transportation, and bonding. The pressure of an adjournment deadline causes movement to occur, but emotions can often run high, and the atmosphere can sometimes be contentious. NO is a popular word of choice. The conference committee meetings are open to the public. Some posturing may occur at that time, but many of the substantive decisions

creating movement are made by leadership behind the scenes. In any case, the final result has to be signed by two of the three conference committee appointees from each body, and then approved by the entire House and Senate before being shipped off to the Governor for signature or veto. Things move fast at the end!

Speaking of Governor's vetoes, the Governor did just that with the recent marriage equality/gay marriage legislation. From listening to the news and reading the paper, one would think this issue was all the Legislature did for two weeks. Not so. On the House side, only one of 14 committees, the Judiciary Committee, was involved in taking testimony on this issue. The other 13 committees went about their business as usual. When the issue hit the House Floor for a couple days of very public debate, you could feel the tension rise. The gallery, balcony, and Senate Seats were packed. Passionate speeches were delivered by members from both sides of the issue.

It did not follow exact party lines. I had more E-mails (over 1500), letters, petitions, and phone calls on this issue than any other in my five years at the Statehouse. There was no middle ground for compromise. In the end, the Governor's veto was overturned by the narrowest possible vote, 100-49. I voted in the minority to sustain the Governor's veto. Pro or con, the emotion present on the Floor following the announcement of that vote was like nothing I've ever seen. Many people could be seen crying. A recess was taken. After a couple such intense Floor sessions, I'm ready to see debate return to its more mundane form.

The bulk of the work of the House and Senate occurs in the much less visible and usually tiny committee rooms. Committees have been busy since the January opening of the Legislature. People often ask me, "What have you been doing the first couple months of the Session?" You must remember that nearly a third of the Legislature turns

over following a given election. New members must be introduced to the Legislative process, get to know the issues and state administrative staff appropriate within the jurisdiction of their new committee, and learn the names and personalities of 179 members they will be interacting with over the next two years. New bills must be drafted and introduced. Everything starts from scratch. It takes time!

I could describe a number of specific House positions on Energy, Taxes, Healthcare, and Economic Development in this newsletter. But, as pointed out, they would only be subject to change by the Senate and the subsequent conference committee reports. I will follow up on these in the next newsletter coming out after adjournment. Until then, please feel free to contact me with input on any issue of importance.

**CALL THE  
STATEHOUSE SGT  
AT ARMS (1-800-  
322-5616) OR DAVE  
POTTER AT HOME  
(438-5385) IF YOU  
HAVE QUESTIONS.**

# Clarendon Messenger

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## Save Money on Your Grocery Bill — Coupon Swap and Save

On Thursday, May 28, 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Bailey Memorial Library will be offering its free monthly coupon swap. This swap is designed to help teach people how to save money on their grocery bill. This event will occur on the 4th Thursday of each month. The Bailey Memorial Library is located in the Clarendon Community Center, at 111 Moulton Ave in North Clarendon . This event is open to everyone. Please bring scissors, unexpired coupons, and a non-perishable food item. The food will be donated to the Rutland Community Cupboard. For more information please call Joan Bixby at 773-6470.

## Bailey Memorial Library

Have you dropped into the Bailey Memorial Library recently? If not, you may be missing a great Clarendon Community resource. The library started 19 years ago in the McCormick machine shop building and moved to the Clarendon Grange Community Center in 2000. The majority of the books, movies, and tapes have been donated. In addition to all the donated material, every six weeks, the library orders new best selling additions for you to borrow. At the Bailey Memorial Library, you will find both non fiction and fiction books, as well as books on tape, DVD and VHS movies, music CDs and material for young readers. There is no charge for a town residence to borrow from the library. Non-residents must pay a one time fee of 3 dollars.

Hours:	Monday	11:00 am to 8:00 pm
	Tuesday	11.00 am to 4:00 pm
	Wednesday	11:00 am to 4:00 pm
	Thursday	11:00 am to 8:00 pm
	Saturday	9:00 am to 2:00 pm
	Closed both Friday and Sunday	

Need some computer time? Bailey Memorial Library can help! Computers are available for your use.



Story hour happens every Saturday morning from 11:30 to 12:30.  
Coupon Swap every 4th Thursday till 8:30 pm.

## Memorial Day Concerns

Joan Bixby has spent many years doing genealogy research around South-Central Vermont. This is a volunteer commitment of hers and she has published information and photos of the East Clarendon Cemetery on [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), a world wide web site. This web site lists grave plot locations nationally and internationally, including over 2000 East Clarendon Cemetery grave plots.

Mrs. Bixby would like to share her concern over the conditions of many area cemeteries that she has visited. She is seeking both information and help to find and identify hidden stones. She states, “I have been unable to find many of the in-ground stones due to the fact that the sod has grown over them.” She has spent a great deal of time uncovering many of the stones that she has been able to locate. It may be possible that some of your friends or family members who are interred in our regional cemeteries and have hidden in-ground stones. Mrs. Bixby would encourage everyone to help in her effort to locate and identify them, particularly those of veterans who served their country many years ago. Remember Memorial Day is coming soon.

You can contact Joan Bixby at 773-6470 if you can help.

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## The Clarendon Elementary School Young Writers Program

Before the advent of television, computers, and all the electronic toys, young students spent time writing letters to friends and relatives. They also engaged in creative writing making up stories and plays. At the Clarendon Elementary School, an after school program is giving students a chance to engage in creative and informal writing. A goal that holds great promise to produce gifted writers in the future.

### 5th grade student

“Wow, look at that thing. That does not look like an animal. Well, a normal animal anyway!”

### Splat– 6th grade student

She sat on her bedroom floor bored and drawing circles on her fluffy carpet with her dainty fingers. SPLAT! An egg hit her closed window sending shells and the yellow, gooey substance dripping down on the windowsill, leaving a mess for her to clean up later when it dried. She was hoping that it would rain that night. Pressing her nose to the window to peer down, she hoped the perpetrator would still be there. Like always, no one was there.

### Change the World - 5th grade student

I'm gonna change the world  
I'm gonna say no more this  
I'm gonna say lots more-a-that  
I'm gonna say oh no, no, no,  
I'm gonna say oh yah, yah, yah,  
I'm gonna let nobody stop me  
I'm gonna let everybody start me

No more this! Lots more a' that! oh no, no, no! Oh yah, yah, yah! Nobody stop me, Everybody start me! Ah ya! ah, ah, ah, ah ya!

I'M GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD!!!!

### The Woods - 6th grade student

I walk through the woods alone but huffy. I see giant trees that seem taller covered in snow and ice. I hear the birds chirping to one another from the safety of their nests from the cold. I smell the sweet pine from the evergreen pine trees. I feel so happy while I walk through the woods. Whenever I'm walking through the woods by myself it always feels as if someone that is strange, yet familiar at the same time, is walking with me. They stay with me until I leave the peaceful woods just as if they were watching me until I safely reach home, just like any friend wood.

### My Grandpa - 4th grade student

If I could be anybody in the world...

My grandpa is the person I would want to be. I would like to live as my grandpa when he was young because he lived in Hungary and did not have stuff that we have. I would like to see what it was like, and I would like to speak hungarian. On Easter this year, my grandpa was on the phone, speaking hungarian, and we were listening. He thought he was speaking in english, but when we reminded him and asked him what he said, he would translate for us.

### If I could be.... 6th grade student

If I could be anybody in history, I would like to be an Indian. I would live off the land and grow my own food. I would learn about the foods I could eat and I would be very close to nature. I would wear soft moccasins while I crunch through the leaves looking for food. I could swim in the clean fresh lakes with the sound of the water tinkling in my ears. I could smell the smoke from my fire, warming my shelter. I can hear the pops and cracks of the shellfish that I am opening. Now, I am completely free and running fast. I feel like a bird. And that's when I wake up, smiling.

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## **Waiting Room - 6th grade student**

I can smell soap and rubber gloves. I can see magazines and people just sitting there. I can hear peoples names being called and doors opening and closing. I can feel the hard chairs digging deep into my back. I hear myself asking my parents if this is going to hurt. I can feel my heart pounding as the nurse says my name. I am in the waiting room.

## **5th grade student**

If I could be anyone in history, I would be my mom when she was my age. I want to see what my grandma was like and how my uncle and aunt were. I want to see what their teachers were like, and hear what my mom thought about. I also want to know how it felt when her mom died. She died when my mom was only 12 or 13. I never got to meet my Grandma Mary. My mom was also very beautiful and popular. That is why I would want to be my mom when she was my age.

## **Extra Arms - 4th grade student**

“Ah!?! Two more arms? I can’t go to school like this! Where’s mom?”

“Mom!” I shouted. “Look what has happened!”

My mother’s mouth dropped open. “I’ll call the doctor while you are at school.”

School would be horrible, I was sure of it. I hid my extra arms inside my jacket. When I got to school I grabbed my sweatshirt and ran to change in the bathroom. People asked if I had a problem with my sweatshirt.

At recess, I only told the big secret to my best friend. She laughed and laughed at the thought until I took off the sweatshirt. Then I heard a shout from a boy who had been spying! Before I knew it, everyone found out.

I thought it was the end when the teacher on duty came up. She thought it was the cutest joke.

“Where did you get those?”

I shrugged and giggled to myself.

When I got home, I did my chores in a flash! Laundry done, bathroom done, dining room done, bedroom done.

I fell asleep that night with a thought in my mind... “I guess I won’t need a Halloween costume this year!”

## **Senior Citizens at the Clarendon Grange Community Center.**

Each Thursday area seniors meet for lunch at the Clarendon Grange Community Center. If you are a senior consider attending this great social event. Contact Eileen Brough at 775-3736 before Tuesday afternoon to make your reservation. The cost of the meal is 3 dollars a person. Serving begins at noon. Individuals should start arriving between 11:30 and 11:45.

Periodic field trips during the year entertain area seniors and provide them with great shopping opportunities. The next trip is planned for May 22 to West Lebanon for shopping and lunch at the Weathervane. There is a limit of 30 people per trip so if you are interested, Contact Nancy Buffum at 773-7861 to make a reservation. The cost for the bus ride is \$1.50 per person. All shopping and lunch are at your own expense.

## **Speaking of the Clarendon Grange Community Center**

Have a special event coming up? Consider renting the grange hall to hold it. Contact Ron Aber at 747-6967 for all the details. The Clarendon Grange Community Center is located at the corner of Moulton Ave and Grange Hall Road.

Publication dates:  
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[www.clarendonvt.org](http://www.clarendonvt.org)

A PLACE TO SHARE YOUR NEWS

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The newsletter will  
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Clarendon website.  
[www.clarendonvt.org](http://www.clarendonvt.org)

A few copies will be  
at the town hall and  
the town library.

*If you would like to submit articles to be published in this newsletter you may do so in one of three ways: First you may mail it to my address at the left, Second you may e-mail it to my e-mail address at the left, or Third you may drop off your article at the town hall. For articles to be published, they must include your name, address and telephone number. Your address and phone number will only be published at your request. I reserve the right to edit submitted articles. Letters to the editor will be published as written providing space is available. All inappropriate language will not be printed. Again, a letter to the editor must contain your name, address and telephone number. Your address and phone number will only be published at your request. Your telephone number will provide me a means to verify that you did indeed send in the article.*

**Your submissions must be received one week prior to the first Friday of the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November**

## Calendar of Events



**Board of Selectmen:**

2nd and 4th Mondays of each month  
6:00 PM at Clarendon Town Hall

**Clarendon Planning Commission:**

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month  
7:00 PM Clarendon Town Hall

**Clarendon Elementary School Board:**

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month  
6:30 PM at Clarendon Elementary School

**Mill River Union High School Board:**

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month  
7:00 PM at Mill River Union High School

**Coupon swap and save.**

Fourth Thursday of each month  
at the Bailey Memorial Library, North  
Clarendon Vermont 7:00 to 8:30 pm

**Village Sales Day**

Saturday July 25th 9:00 am to  
3:00pm Clean out your attic and base-  
ment, make some extra money.

**Senior Citizen Lunch**

Every Thursday at Noon at the  
Clarendon Grange Community Center.  
Call Eileen Brough at 775-3736 for a  
reservation.

**Your event could be  
listed here.**