

August- Municipal Corner

**Barbara Allaire's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** There will be an open house on August 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 1pm at the Akeley Building Memorial Room to celebrate Barbara's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. At noon or so we will cut the cake. The public is welcome to attend, so please stop by to wish her well. No presents are necessary, just stop by and give her a hug. Barbara is a lifelong Stowe resident and is the Town of Stowe's longest serving employee. She started in 1975 in the Lister's Office doing pole taxes. Over the years she was the Zoning Office Administrative Assistant, recording clerk for the Recreation Commission, and filled in during the absence of the Town Manager's Executive Assistance. She still serves as the recording clerk for the Development Review Board and the Cemetery Commission.

**Participation:** The Selectboard and I want to ensure everyone is aware that you are welcome to attend all Selectboard meetings and provide input, even if you are not a resident. You may have an interest as a taxpayer, business owner or otherwise. You can request an item to be on the Selectboard agenda by emailing me at [csafford@stowevt.gov](mailto:csafford@stowevt.gov). Selectboard agendas can be found on the Town of Stowe website ([www.townofstowevt.gov](http://www.townofstowevt.gov)). You can have the agenda sent to you automatically by clicking Selectboard agendas under Stay Connected. Your voice is important, but it is only heard if you exercise your right to participate.

**Dogs:** Stowe's Animal Control Ordinance requires dogs to be under the owner's immediate control at all times. In some areas, such as the Recreation Path, they are required to be on a leash. If you see a dog running at large or experience an aggressive dog, you can call the police non-emergency number at 253-7126. We also ask that you pick up after your dog in public spaces and properly dispose of it.

We are looking for volunteers that can be ambassadors to help hand out dog bags and educate pet owners of the importance of being responsible for their pets in order to preserve access to public spaces off-leash. Please contact Chief Hull at 253-7126 or a [dhull@stowevt.gov](mailto:dhull@stowevt.gov) if you are interested in volunteering to serve in this capacity.

**Request for the Town to Accept a Private Road as a Public Road:** The Town receives a number of inquiries asking the Town to accept a private road as a Town Highway. We often hear people say they pay taxes and should be entitled to the same services as other property owners such as plowing. When you purchased your property, you purchased a bundle of rights and it may not have included Town Highway access. This may be because the developer did not want to pay the cost to develop it to Town Highway standards or had an interest in it remaining private. It can be a challenge to subsequently have a private road accepted as a Town for many reasons including but not limited to construction standards, utilities, easements, right-of-way title, and permits.

**Mainstreet Overhead Utilities:** I am often asked when the Main Street overhead utilities and poles are coming down. The underground construction required to commence the effort is currently under construction. When complete, the individual utility companies can begin pulling wires and creating the new system required to connect and cut over individual buildings and systems. Once this is done, decommissioning and removal of the existing overhead utilities can commence. There is much more work to do and it will take time. There are six existing utility companies with overhead wired utilities on Main Street and all have a number of other projects they are working on as well and need to fit us into their schedule. It will be next year at the earliest before all of existing overhead wires and utility poles are removed.

**School Street Intermittent Road Closure:** Our contractor will be installing underground utility duct bank on School Street over the next several weeks. At times during the day School Street will be closed to through traffic from Main Street to Pond Street. However, businesses will remain open and accessible. We encourage you to patronize them. However, unless it is your destination, please take this into consideration when making your travel plans.