

## Green Up gurus



Photo: Sissy Walker

Troop 700 Boy Scouts, Nick Lockett, Carlton Cummiskey and August Peterson joined other members of their troop in Green Up Day activities on May 3. Scouts and members of Harwood's National Honor Society helped green up the lawns of the Waitsfield Church and Joslin Library.

## Waitsfield, Warren

# Voters approve solar arrays

By Rachel Goff and Lisa Loomis

Voters in Waitsfield and Warren approved bond votes to fund the construction of solar arrays that will save the towns money while reducing their carbon footprint.

The Australian ballot bond vote was May 6. Waitsfield voters cast 197 yes votes to 43 no votes for a total of 240 votes. Warren voters cast 141 yes to 47 no votes for 188 total votes cast.

### WARREN

This week Warren taxpayers approved a bond of \$462,829, subject to reduction by grants, for the installation of a 162 kW municipal solar array behind Brooks Field at Warren Elementary School.

The 522-panel array will produce 165 kWh of net-metered energy a year, which will offset about 88 percent of the town and town school district load. It will be installed by the Waitsfield-based company, Aegis Renewable Energy, and will occupy a total area of 45 by 500 feet split between two locations: a strip of land between the road on the far side of Brooks Field and the forest behind it, and another strip of land at the edge of the field within the town-owned Eaton Parcel.

The array's interface will be accessible by anyone on the internet in real time via a link on the town

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# Changes in store for Mad River Green

Crosspoint Associates, new owners of Mad River Green Shopping Center in Waitsfield, will be before the Waitsfield Development Review Board this month with three applications to be heard.

Crosspoint director of assessment management and spokesperson Kerry McCormack said that the first issue has to do with a permit issued last year for a change of use for the former Jay's Restaurant so that Canteen Brewery could operate a restaurant and microbrewery onsite.

That permit included creating specifications and parameters for an outside patio area which had not been completed. The deal with Canteen Brewery has not gone through because of an issue with how

much wastewater a brewery will create and where that wastewater will go. The current wastewater system for the Mad River Green is too old to handle the brewery effluent.

The second matter to be heard by the development review board is a change of use for the former Afterglow Day Spa from a personal service/retail unit to a 40-seat restaurant.

McCormack could not identify the potential new tenant but he did explain that the shopping center's wastewater system was capable of handling the 40-seat restaurant. Asked why the potential future restaurant tenant would not simply go to the former Jay's Restaurant, he said that Jay's, at 60 seats, was too large for their tenant.

The final matter that will come before the board is a request to revise the signage on the silo of the shopping center including a proposal to paint the silo white and change the lettering.

Asked why his company wants to paint the silo white, McCormack said, "Why not?"

"We think it will give us some character. There are a number of white silos in Vermont. We also want to



Photo: Jeff Knight

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# Solar arrays

Continued from Page 1 website, and Warren Elementary School students can learn about renewable energy by analyzing the output of a system they can see from their classroom.

In the end, the board asked taxpayers to approve a 20-year bond for the array which comes with a 25-year warranty for generating at least 80 percent of its original output. After 25 years, the panels will still generate electricity but at a decreasing efficiency and the financing plan accounts for annual maintenance and equipment replacement costs.

### WAITSFIELD

Waitsfield voters approved a \$306,000 bond for a solar installation that will make the town offices net zero and also provide electricity for the fire station, the Wait House, the school, the town garage, the library and potentially the street lights on Bridge Street. The project will make Waitsfield's new town offices completely net zero.

Waitsfield is also applying for a grant from Vermont's Clean Energy Development Fund. The maximum allowable grant amount is \$125,000. Grant applications are due May 9.

Over the life of the project it will generate electricity sufficient to result in an accumulated cash flow of \$149,000 if the town does not receive a grant. If the town receives a grant the accumulated cash flow from the project over 25

years will be \$259,000.

The array will be constructed at the Waitsfield town garage (off Tremblay Road) and will feature 330 fixed panels. The solar array is a 102 kW array. It was downsized from the original proposal of 120 kW. The town is working with Nils Behn of Aegis Renewable En-

ergy in Waitsfield on the project.

The project will take up 150 by 130 feet, or approximately half of a football field and will offset about 90 percent of the total municipal load. As proposed the town will own the solar panel array and its life expectancy is 25 years.

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**GARDEN TRIVIA**  
VALLEY REPORTER

Bumblebees are excellent pollinators of tomatoes, whereas honey bees are not. Many Vermont growers purchase a hive of bumble bees to pollinate their crop.

http://learn.uvm.edu

# MR Green

Continued from Page 1 change the signage so that it reads Mad River Green Shops instead of Mad River Green Shopping Center," he said.

He also confirmed that there is a potential new tenant for the Law Phelon Real Estate offices (next to Better Travel) but was not at liberty to disclose the type of business or the owner.

The meeting with the Waitsfield Development Review Board is Tuesday, May 27, at the town offices at 7 p.m.

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