

# Vassalboro selectmen give OK to state-sponsored PACE program

by Mary Grow

Vassalboro selectmen heard three requests at their September 2 meeting and postponed action on two of them.

The person who left satisfied was Rep. Patsy Crockett of Augusta, sponsor of the legislation setting up PACE. PACE – Property Assessed Clean Energy – is a program that lets homeowners and landlords apply for low-interest, long-term loans to help cover the upfront costs of energy improvements to their buildings. Crockett told selectmen that legislators did not want the program to be another state mandate. They therefore added a requirement that each municipality adopt legislation to make its residents eligible.

Two draft ordinances are on the web, one allowing the municipality to administer the program and one authorizing administration by Efficiency Maine, a state entity.

On Town Manager Mary Sabans' recommendation, selectmen voted to put the second ordinance on a November 2 ballot in Vassalboro. They scheduled a public hearing to explain the ordinance to voters for 7 p.m., Thursday, September 16, at the beginning of their next regular meeting.

Selectmen did not act on Ben Gidney's request to prohibit parking on the south side of Bog Road just west of the Route 32 intersection in East Vassalboro. Nor did they grant an exception to Greg O'Halloran's 2009 consent agreement with the town.

Gidney and his wife Denise intend to open a business called Evolution Golf Inc. on their lot on the southwest corner of the East Vassalboro four corners. The driveway will be on Bog Road,

Ben Gidney said, and he wants parking banned west of the corner as a safety measure, so drivers can see oncoming traffic and the stop sign. David Souza, owner of the Country Store on the north side of Bog Road, told selectmen he needs the parking for his customers. The highway right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center line, well onto the Gidney property, he said. Vehicles could park farther from the road if visibility is a problem; but after many years without accidents, he sees no problem.

Another potential complication, board Chairman Lauchlin Titus said, is that Bog Road is one of the roads where Vassalboro's Roadside Pedestrian and Bike Committee is considering adding a sidewalk or bikeway or both. Titus said he wants to support both businesses, but he was not ready to make a decision. Robert Browne agreed; Philip Haines was absent.

O'Halloran's problem started when he found asbestos had been used in building the old barn he tore down on his Stone Road property. State regulators have been supervising removal and safe disposal of the material. In April 2009 O'Halloran and selectmen signed an agreement giving him until July to finish the

debris removal. In October, the agreement was renewed with a December 1 deadline. Both agreements said that until all debris was gone, O'Halloran could not sell lots in his approved subdivision or get building permits for lots already sold.

O'Halloran said the barn debris is gone. What remains, he said, is soil that might be contaminated, waiting for a state environmental inspector. Since he has met his town obligation, he asked to be authorized to get a permit to build on one lot. Selectmen had written advice from Codes Enforcement Officer Daniel Feeney not to grant the request until state officials were satisfied. They accepted Feeney's advice, hoping to be able to resolve the issue at their September 16 meeting.

In other business September 2, Sabans said Vassalboro will participate in the regional household hazardous waste collection, to be held in Waterville on Saturday, October 16. Residents must pre-register and estimate the amount of waste they want to get rid of. More information will be available on the town's web site. Two other disposal programs, one for unneeded prescription medication and one for pesticides, will also be available, the first this fall

and the second as demand warrants, selectmen said.

Selectmen approved Evelyn Dutil's request to sign a proclamation designating the week of September 17 - 23 as Constitution Week.

Titus commended Road Foreman Eugene Field for get-

ting his pesticide applicator's license. "That's a tough exam to pass," he said.

Sabans said having a licensed pesticide applicator will save the town time and money, for example when poison ivy is spotted along a road.

## Tomato growers speak to Kiwanis

by Milt Huntington

Dana Berry, Backyard Farms human resources vice president, told Augusta Kiwanians recently of the 365-day-a-year tomato growing operations at their Madison plant which boasts the largest building in Maine.

With 11,500 growing lights in a mammoth greenhouse, locally-employed personal gardeners care for the produce and pick them only when they're red and ripe, according to Berry. The tomatoes are picked and shipped the very same day to retail outlets throughout the Northeast, Hannaford Brothers being their largest customer.

Berry said the company spends \$7 million annually for Maine-based contractors, truckers and suppliers, the local work force described as the key to productivity and quality. He reported that the operation began in Madison in 2007 and has operated at full capacity ever since. In response to market demand for high quality tomatoes, Berry said future plans call for a \$40 million expansion, another greenhouse and 100 year-round jobs.

For more information, search [www.backyardfarms.com](http://www.backyardfarms.com).

Talk to a Lawyer BEFORE You BUY or SELL  
**REAL ESTATE**  
 Joann Clark Austin ~ Austin Law Office  
 20 years experience in,  
 Real Estate Advising~Reverse Mort~Title Checks  
 Title Insurance Sales Contracts and Closings  
 ~ Kennebec and Waldo Counties ~  
**207.445.3333 ~ Fax 207.445.4477**  
 Jonesbrook Crossing Professional Building by Border Trust Bank

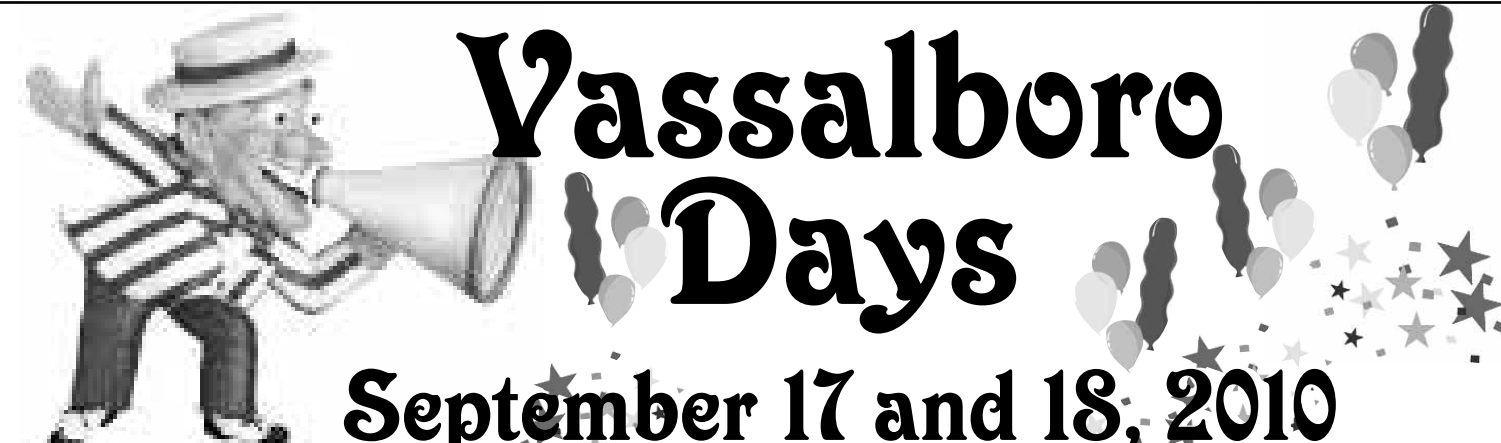


**NEW PORTLAND LIONS CLUB**  
**78th ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL FAIR**  
**15th MAINE CRAFTS FESTIVAL**  
 SEPTEMBER 17-19 2010  
 AT THE NORTH NEW PORTLAND FAIRGROUNDS ON ROUTE 146  
 (BETWEEN ROUTES 16 AND 27)  
**See Schedule on page 11**

---

**Little Dog Day Care** IN MY HOME CARE  
 24 hours a day / 7 days a week  
 From your browser  
<http://littledogdaycare.yolasite.com/>  
**\$2 per hour or \$20 per day**  
 Near Capital Park, Augusta  
**Call 462-4350**

**DOGGO CAM FOR PEEKING IN**



# Vassalboro Days

## September 17 and 18, 2010

B 207-445-4323  
 Cell 207-649-7981

**ADAMS REALTY**

PO Box 175  
 South China  
 ME 04358

Lucas Adams-Gri  
 Associate Broker  
 E-mail [lharealtor@hotmail.com](mailto:lharealtor@hotmail.com)  
 Web [www.adamsrealtyme.com](http://www.adamsrealtyme.com)

**\$600 to \$900 Down**

Sub Prime Financing  
 Economy to Luxury Auto,  
 Trucks, SUVs and 7 pas-  
 senger Vans. Also thou-  
 sands of Parts from junk  
 Toyota to Cadillac

**DAN'S USED CARS**  
 BENTON • 453-2391

**SWAN'S HONEY**

207-437-2251

332 Bessey Ridge Rd.,  
 Albion, ME

**Selling Wild Maine Blueberries**  
 Karen & Lincoln Sennett  
[swanshoney@roadrunner.com](mailto:swanshoney@roadrunner.com)

Championship Golf, Full Pro Shop,  
 Driving Range, and Modern  
 Clubhouse. Groups Welcome

**Natanis**  
 GOLF COURSE

Maine's Only 36  
 Hole Golf Course

Webber Pond Road  
 Vassalboro, Maine  
 04989 • 622-3561

**POOR BOB'S**  
 USED FURNITURE  
 AND APPLIANCES  
 FULL STORAGE SERVICE

46 Bridge St., Benton  
 4 Poor Bob's Ln., Benton

453-2926  
 453-7108

**FREDDIE'S**  
 Service Center

- USED CARS
- BODY SHOP

**24 HOUR SERVICE**

 923-9419  
 Nights 923-3260

378 Main St., E. Vassalboro

**CARPET BINDERS**

3 Bradley Lane  
 Vassalboro  
**923-4188**  
**923-4119**

Doing used & new carpet  
**FRINGING & SERGING**  
**& WIDE BINDING**  
 while you wait service

**The China Dine-ah**



**Have a GREAT Time at Vassalboro Days**

Closed Mon • Tues, Wed and Thur 7 am - 8 pm  
 Breakfast 'til 11 am  
 Fri & Sat 7 am - 9 pm Breakfast 'til 11 am  
 Sun 7 am - 3 pm Breakfast 'til Noon

281 Lakeview Dr., Rt. 202, China, ME  
 445-5700 • Web: [www.chinadine-ah.com](http://www.chinadine-ah.com)

**Monitor of Maine**

Monitor, Toyo,  
 Rinnai and Napoleon  
 Direct-Vent Heaters  
 and Pellet Stoves

5 Bangor Rd., Benton ME 04901  
 M-F 9 to 5 • Sat 9 to 1

**453-2253**  
 Glenn R. Bernatchez  
[monitorofmaine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:monitorofmaine@myfairpoint.net)

**CENTRAL MAINE PHARMACY**

- Competitive prices
- Drive thru window
- Easy Rx Transfers. Bring in your bottles

Owned and operated by  
 local resident **Chuck Roy**

**ALBION**  
**437-7777**

**THE VILLAGE JEWELER**

Have a Great Time  
**WE WANT TO BUY**  
 Gold • Silver • Coins  
 Estate Jewelry ...etc.  
**582-6676**

221 Water St., Gardiner  
 Service persons:  
 Barry Bolduc and Daniel Lane  
 Mon-Sat 9-5 and Fri 9-7  
**On Site Goldsmith**