

# Babbler

**Progress?** – The stimulus package has trickled down to Hopkinton. On the drawing board are plans to re-pave Elm Street. We're trying to find out a schedule so that we can help you plan for this, but the rain has tossed all the planning into the hopper. It should still be this summer.

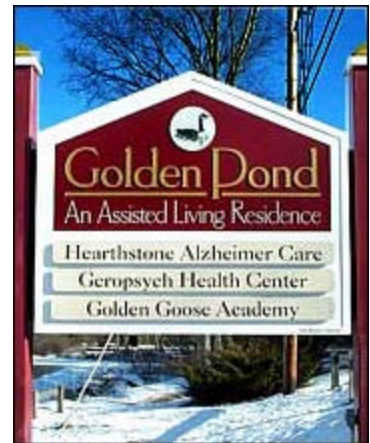
On Golden Pond is also planning an expansion that is going to re-arrange the wetlands in their area. You all got a letter about that. The town conservation commission still has to approve the changes they are requesting.

Cumberland Farms on West Main Street had just finished their store renovations. So what happens on 22 June? A driver crashes her BMW through the front door! Skid marks inside the store. And then the tow truck added to the wreckage when the crashed vehicle's wheels wouldn't unlock...

**Spindle Project** – A fix-it person (Gary) has gone around to all of the decks to look for broken spindles, railings that need to be re-attached, loose floorboards and other 'features' we'd just as soon not have on our decks. He's made a list of what could be fixed and how much it will cost. The board will be approving the exact work at the July meeting.

**Weybridge Paving** – The engineer designing the bid spec (Burt) is just about done. Bid requests will go out this week and will be due back by the end of the month. Depending on how affordable the bids are, the board is leaning toward having the entire lot done in September. To our readers on Weybridge:

- (1) You should expect that the parking lot will not be usable for (roughly) three days.
- (2) Enough people have asked the Board not to paint lines that the current plan is not to paint full lines. The Board felt strongly enough that some delineation should be present so a two-foot long white mark will be added to the berm edge of either side of each space. If you feel strongly that we should change this, please contact us.



**Weather** – We started off July with tornado warnings and marble-sized hail. Downtown and Colella's got flooded. At least three units at Indian Brook took on water too. We also lost an ash that fell over on Birchwood and blocked the entrances to a couple of units, another ash on Indian Brook lost several major branches, and a maple(?) on Leman's island splintered in a way that left a big branch poking all the way through the trunk. We were pretty lucky, and Riverside cleaned up a lot of the damage within 24 hours.

**Landscape** - This year the landscape committee decided to forgo adding more flowers in order to have the overgrown shrubs (mostly burning bushes) that block windows in front of buildings severely pruned by hand, to well below window height. This will happen at the same time as the regular annual pruning/shearing of under-15' shrubs, hopefully before the end of July (weather permitting). Given the maturity of our landscape, we'll need to do this periodically, maybe every 5-8 years; in between these bushes will get the usual shearing treatment.

**Sprinklers** – The Board has been wrestling with well pumps and sprinklers this year. The situation is being monitored. Corrections are being made. We need to ask for you to please help out on this. Here is the schedule for when your sprinklers should be running. If they aren't, please send us an email or call Dannin so we can get this right.

<i>Because of mowing, sprinklers do not run Weds PM/Thurs AM</i>	
<i>Rosewood (controller#1) 10 PM to 12:50 AM</i>	
<i>Leman (#2) 11:30 PM to 3 AM</i>	<i>Lilac (#5) 1 AM to 2:50 AM</i>
<i>Birchwood (#3) Midnite to 7:20 AM*</i>	<i>Lilac (#6) 4 AM to 6:05 AM</i>
<i>Doyle (#4) 3 AM to 5:45 AM</i>	<i>Turnbridge/Weybridge (#7) 9:30 PM to 7:50 AM*</i>
<i>* = more than one zone, ~2 hours each zone</i>	

**Painting Schedule** – Sometime close to the end of this month, painting will start on the buildings at 17-20 Turnbridge and 13-16 Birchwood. The board is holding off committing to more painting than that until it sees how much the paving will cost.

**#19** – CNN rated Hopkinton MA as the 19<sup>th</sup> best small town to live in the country.

**Speeding** – Earlier in the year, the *Babbler* asked Turnbridge residents to stop flying through the Turnbridge stop sign, to slow down, and to be aware of the young children and animals on Indian Brook. Thankfully, they have. We now need to ask the same thing of the people on Lilac. There is a stop sign at the top of your hill, please honor it. And please try to keep the speed down to something reasonable. There are at least two people who think 40MPH should be ok and it is not. Thanks for listening.

**Lamp Posts** – Another project that is going slower than the Board would like is the lamp post replacement. While the lanterns have been sourced at a good price from Crown Electric, the posts themselves have not. The board is waiting to find out how much the paving project will be before committing to buying and installing the posts. Whatever replacements are done will be done on a street by street basis. The extra lanterns will be stored until we can put them in too.

**Raccoons; Caution Advised** – Recently, some residents on Turnbridge *trapped* a raccoon on the grounds.



The problem is – what do you do with a wild animal once it is trapped? *Raccoons about during the day that also seem disoriented and/or appear to be off-balance may be rabid.* Approaching them is a bad idea and you should be certain to warn your children about getting too close. Releasing a sick, trapped animal can be very tricky. Understandably, the resident didn't want to deal with the problem the trapping had created. So a professional, our pest service, was called to remove the creature. The unnecessary cost was billed back to the unit.

Rather than taking on this work yourself, we'd like to suggest a better course of action, especially if you see a raccoon acting abnormally, is to contact animal control or the Hopkinton Police immediately. Then please call Dannin to log your sighting. The following steps can help avoid a visit from Rocky Raccoon:

1. Do not leave pet food or water dishes on your decks.
2. Raccoons are clever and strong; ensure trash barrel covers are tightly secured with bungee cords or rope.
3. Keep your deck lights on at night; raccoons prefer to avoid lighted areas.
4. Place all trash in barrels. Avoid using loose bags and do not untie barrels or put them in the parking area until the morning of trash pickup.

**Massachusetts Mandated STP Changes** – The Board has hired Onsite Engineering to design the new STP system. Our permit currently allows a discharge of 32,000 gallons per day while our daily rate is closer to 8,000. Because the mandated replacement is an expensive proposition, the Board has asked for the redesign to focus on a smaller system more appropriate to our needs. After all, there's little reason to buy a school bus if a mini-van will do. The finished product will hopefully be permitted to discharge something around 16,000 gallons per day (the state requires 2 times the average rate).

Board of Trustees	Alison Sholock, Brian Lachapelle, Debra Foley, Florence O'Donnell, Lily Zhan, Roland Janbergs, Scott Cellupica
	Next Board meetings: 6:45 PM 15 July at 5 Weybridge and 12 August at 18 Turnbridge
Dannin	Problems? Please contact Heather Denis <a href="mailto:hdenis@danninmgmt.com">hdenis@danninmgmt.com</a> or Justin Lopes <a href="mailto:jlopes@danninmgmt.com">jlopes@danninmgmt.com</a> first. Phone (617) 731-0222
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