

A local composter responds to the new state law

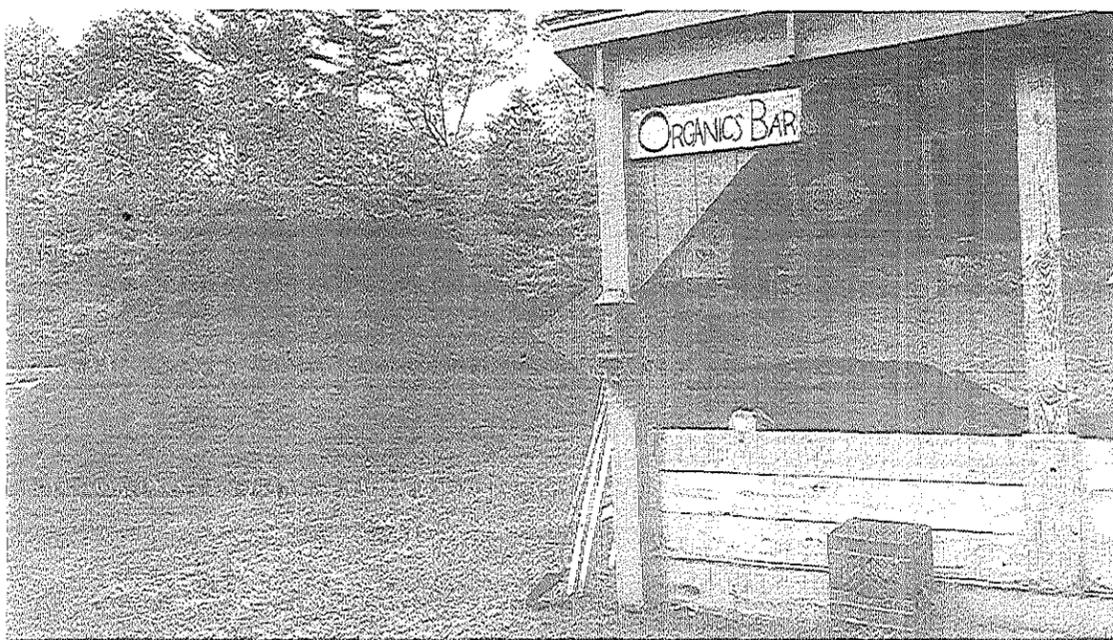


Photo: Rachel Goff

Grow Compost of Vermont, located on Route 2 in Middlesex, offers a self-serve "organics bar" in which customers can fill up reusable bags of the company's high-quality fertilizer.

By Rachel Goff

"We kind of all grew up thinking of apple cores and whatever's left on our plate as waste," said Lisa Ransom, co-owner of Grow Compost of Vermont, when really it could feed animals or be reincorporated back into the soil to grow more food.

As Act 250, the Universal Recycling Law, which requires that all organic material be diverted from the waste stream by 2020, is phased in over the next few years, companies like Grow Compost in Moretown have been working with their communities to reshape how they think about

food and waste.

Ransom started Grow Compost with her husband Scott Baughman in 2009. The couple had lived on their 40-acre Route 2 property for 18 years, where they maintained a small homesteading operation. "We had a farm and we needed compost and we had this field ... so we thought, why don't we just make our own?" Ransom said, and the business was born.

Now, Grow Compost has eight employees and sells its organic fertilizer all over the state. The company has a self-serve farm stand and organics bar, residential food scraps

drop-off bins, sheep, chickens, ducks and pigs and is currently constructing two hoop houses in which it will grow and sell food that was grown in the material it makes on site.

Last year, Grow Compost launched a commercial hauling service for large food waste generators, picking up food scraps from restaurants and businesses in The Valley, all the way up to Stowe and all the way down to Randolph. But that's not the only way their business has adjusted to Act 250.

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How was Memorial Day weekend on Bridge Street?

By Lisa Loomis

With Bridge Street and the covered bridge closed over what is traditionally the very busy Memorial Day weekend, *The Valley Reporter* reached out to some of the businesses and business owners on Bridge Street to hear how the weekend went.

"It went well. People are noticing the sign and stopping. Business might have been off a little bit, but it wasn't terrible. A lot of people are coming down to look at what's going on and when they start taking the bridge apart that will be an added attraction. So that's good, that the work is bringing people down. And the restaurants were busy at night. I think the signs are working and don't see anyone wandering around lost," said Mary Schramke, who owns the building that houses Artisans' Gallery.

Lori Klein of Artisans' Gallery concurred that business was good over the weekend but said that Friday was dead.

"Friday was dead on Bridge Street, but I think Saturday was very busy and there were great sales. Chris Alberti said that the restaurant (Peasant) was very busy all weekend,"

Klein said.

Across the street at The Madsonian Museum, David Sellers reported a very slow weekend.

"The museum had no visitors as they usually come wandering around looking at all the shops. There is no place to park. If the church would let us go through their lot we could get to the back of the museum to park, for staff and for the Christmas Tree Shop ladies," Sellers said.

There are deed restrictions on the church's parking lot behind the church that prohibit non-church use of that lot.

Barbra Gulisano, who with her husband Sam owns the blue building on Bridge Street that houses Peasant and several other businesses, said it was a pretty good weekend on Bridge Street. She said she felt the town and businesses need to keep encouraging people to come to the area and said more signage would help.

"We need more signs at the entrances of the village so that people don't just pass us by," she said.

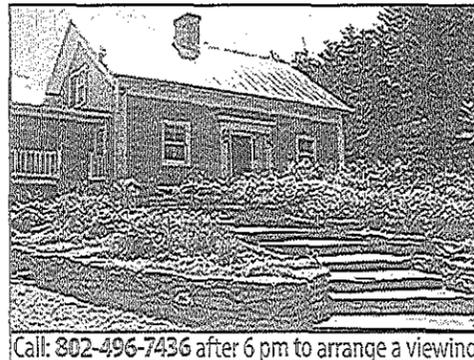
There are signs near the southerly entrance to Bridge Street Marketplace, signs

made by both the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce and Sam Gulisano, alerting drivers to the closure.

Both Gulisano and Schramke, while upbeat about the weekend, took issue with a recent advertisement by Redstone Development that sought tenants for Mad River Green Shopping Center who were "worried that the bridge closure will affect your business this summer." Redstone is a broker for Crosspoint Associates which owns the shopping center.

"I really want to share a complaint about the Redstone ad, about the meanness of their talking about the hardship we're having down here on Bridge Street. We're trying very hard to get through it and we don't need people flinging mud at us. It was a very short-term mean thing to do and it's not how we do things here," Schramke said.

"I was very upset over that ad. We're trying so hard and we worked so hard this year on the stars to make sure that part of town was included. It's inappropriate to try and take advantage of us or people's tenants during this time," Gulisano said.



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TOWN OF WARREN PUBLIC NOTICE Warren Development Review Board

The Warren Development Review Board has scheduled a public hearing at 7:00 PM, Monday, June 15th, 2015 at the Warren Municipal Building to consider the following application.

Application 2015-30-CU; Conditional Use for a Single Family Dwelling in the Forest Reserve District submitted by Mark Bennet, applicant on behalf of Aldo & Rosina Macioce, owners. The applicant seeks seeking Conditional Use Approval for the construction of a single family residential dwelling in the Forest Reserve District. The property consist of 3. +/- Acres, parcel ID # 001010-920, and is located on Burnt Mountain Road off of th Roxbury Mountain Road. This application requires Conditional Use Review under Article 5 and Article 2, Table 2.1, Forest Reserve District, of the Town of Warren Land Use and Development Regulations.

These applications will be reviewed under the Warren Land Use and Development Regulations as adopted by the Warren Select Board on March 25, 2008 and last amended November 11 2012

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a) (1) (C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite site to the right to take any subsequent appeal. A project description, application materials, and site plans for this project are available for public review at the Planning and Zoning/Warren Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours. If you have any questions regarding this application/hearing, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning and Zoning Office located in the Conference Room (old library) of the Warren Municipal Building at 42 Cemetery Road in Warren Village



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preview 9:00 AM,

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