WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE
‘OLE YELLAR’ SCHOOL... (In Union)

Rumors are starting to spread throughout the town about proposed changes to the old school and more importantly, what might happen to the current TCC, Day Care, Food Pantry, and Thrift Store. I hope to use this flyer to set the story straight in hopes that you will come out to the special town meeting on December 12th at 7pm down stairs in the town office and cast your vote.

Many years ago the town voted to let a group of individuals in town take over the empty school to develop a Community Center for all to enjoy while maintaining the building for its historical importance. A 99 year lease was signed and it became known as the Thompson Community Center in exchange the town was to receive rent of one dollar ($1.00) per year in order for the contract to be binding.

In the beginning many activities developed and over the past 30 plus years, Directors of the Board have changes numerous times. At present it operates more as a business than a “Community Center”. Needless to say as one can see from the outside that maintenance of the buildings has been extremely minimal. Paint is peeling, wooden trim boards are rotting, and many other areas need immediate attention. Inside the State Fire Marshall has issued numerous warning about the Fire System and the lack of a Sprinkler System (Phase I on a sprinkler project was recently completed). Many more areas are in need of repair: elevator (not working), gym floor (uneven and dangerous, plus in the area over thrift store floor joists have broken and been mended). This is just a quick picture of things needing repair, without these repairs the future this building is uncertain. There becomes a point where it’s not worth fixing something especially at tax payer expense. The current Board of Directors is doing the best they can but funding is just not there. As a previous member of the board I was able to review income and expense reports. Unless someone has made a large donation in the last year, they’re basically just covering the cost of heating alone, and the cost is unbelievable.

The Town of Union has an opportunity to enter into a contract with Penquis to refurbish the Old Yellow School and turn it into elderly housing providing approximately 23 individual units. Penquis has an understanding of the historical and emotional connections to this building to the community. They plan to restore the outside to its original look at the same time they are rebuilding the inside. This type of restoration has been completed in many old schools throughout the state with great success.
Beyond the exterior renovations, we have also negotiated with Penquis to allow the TCC to continue operating the **Thrift Store** and **Day Care Center**, **Activities in the Gym** and the **Restaurant** area, the Day Care may be relocated. **The Food Pantry Will Remain** in the community but possibly in a new location. Think of the possible volunteers located right on site that would more than likely “love” to help out in the thrift store, day care or food pantry…give these people something they can do instead of sitting in a chair waiting for time to pass.

Like everything there are two sides to this....

1. We vote to enter into a contract with Penquis for the elderly housing at no cost to the town (tax payers)
2. We vote not to enter into a contract and possibly in 5..10..15 years spend $.5 to $1 million to demolish the building, a major cost to the town (tax payers)

**DON’T JUST LIKE THE IDEA....YOU NEED TO GET OUT AND VOTE**....This **is** where your vote counts. Mark your calendars: December 12th at 7pm. At the community room downstairs in the Town Office.

Thank you for your time and assistance in making YOUR town a better, stronger and friendlier place.

Greg Grotton     Lyle Creamer     Jim Justice     John Shepard     Sara Drickey  
Chairman

Union Board of Selectman