



The Woodbury Village Store is for sale.

Woodbury Village Store for Sale, Will Stay Open Until Sold

by Will Waters

WOODSBURY — The Woodbury Village Store is up for sale, but will remain open for business until it is sold.

Jessica Waters and Zack Kirkpatrick have owned and operated the store since April 29, 2016. "We are not closing," said Waters, who said there have been many people who believed the store was closing for business. That has been "very frustrating" for her.

According to Waters, the reason for selling is mostly because her husband, Kirkpatrick, has Lyme disease and it is getting worse. According to the Mayo Clinic, the disease can cause extreme fatigue and joint pain.

Waters said they prefer to stay open for a buyer. "That's our plan, but we can't make a firm plan with how long it will take."

While the store is on the market, they will operate it as the supermarket, but may reduce hours after Columbus Day. "It really just depends," she said.

All-Clear on Lead Levels in School Water

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — Now tests for lead in drinking water, performed on September 1, should both be a sigh of relief for concerned parents and a warning for testing protocols.

Hazen Urdy's water passed with an average reading of 1.2 to 2 parts per billion (ppb). The water at Hardwick Elementary School (HES) averaged 4 ppb — with one exception, according to Orleans South Supervisory Union (OSSU) Facility Director Jeff Lecours. The level where the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends is 0.5. However, that recommendation, the only safe number in existence, is an exception.

When an exception was a drinking fountain at HES, which failed at 158 ppb. Lecours believes the elevated result is due to the same problem that occurred at a single test performed over the summer during the initial high lead tap water unseasoned and low flow. The fountain is now out of service and other drinking fountains are being re-tested, according to Lecours.

Having a municipal water system that is safe does not guarantee that the water in schools that draw from that municipal system is safe. "As part of the program, our eliminating lead program, an engineering and laboratory staff assist schools with their voluntary water testing, including recommendations for where and when to conduct testing. Through the Exchange Program, the department continues to work with the school once our Lab test results come back," says Lori O'Connell of the Department of Health.



Nazi Graffiti appeared overnight at Andersonville Farm, in West Glover. Mateo Kehler of Jasper Hill Farm left an effort to raise a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator.

Nazi Graffiti on West Glover Farm Barn

WEST GLOVER — At some point during the night of September 7, vandals defaced a hay storage barn at Andersonville Farm, in West Glover. The vandals used various Nazi symbols, according to Mateo Kehler, Managing Member of Jasper Hill.

Jasper Hill has an interest in the farm, as it buys milk from there. Jasper Hill is using its Facebook page to help apprehend the perpetrator, or perpetrators.

Kehler says, "We don't believe this was targeted. This is a broader problem for the area and at least seven locations (in the area) have been defaced."

He says that they contacted the Vermont State Police, who told them these types of crimes are very hard to solve. Of the other incidents, four were reported to State Police and three were not, according to Kehler.

If a company who felt a responsibility to our seventy-eight staff and the community to stand up against the kind of hate and violence this represents. We have an amazing diversity of people working here," Kehler says. "My grandparents fought and died to bring back this kind of ideology. It's time to hit the pause button, to remember the lengths we went to try and create a world where there was no room for this sort of thing."

To help solve the crime, the cheese maker is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of who defaced the barn. At the time, the barn was empty and we cannot represent. We have an amazing diversity of people working here," Kehler says. "My grandparents fought and died to bring back this kind of ideology. It's time to hit the pause button, to remember the lengths we went to try and create a world where there was no room for this sort of thing."

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vision a future in which our community would accept hate and the terror that it engenders on any town." Since the Vermont State Police said that this type of case is difficult to solve, Jasper Hill has started a GoFundMe campaign to raise the reward to \$5,000. If there is no arrest in the case, GoFundMe donations will be refunded, or donors will be given the choice of transferring their donation to the Vermont Food Bank, the Anti-Defamation League or the Southern Poverty Law Center. At press time, the campaign had reached its goal of \$5,000.

"This is just the beginning. We need to come together as a community to shut out words that would promote hate or violence," Kehler says.

If you have information about the vandals, you can contact the Vermont State Police at 802-241-8881. The link to the GoFundMe campaign is gofundme.com/hate-barnsteffert.

Equifax Breach Affects 240,000 Vermonters

by Doug McClure

ATLANTA, GA — Equifax issued a release on September 7, 2017, that its retail databases had been compromised. These are the databases that contain information about 143 million people's credit reports.

"Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and, in some instances, driver's license numbers (have been) taken," in addition, credit card numbers for approximately 200,000 U.S. consumers, and certain dispute documents with personal identifying information for approximately 182,000 U.S. consumers, were accessed," the release states.

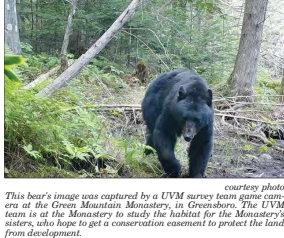
It adds "This is clearly a disappointing event for our company and one that strikes at the heart of who we are and what we do. I apologize to consumers and our business customers for the concern. See EQIFAX.com/EquiFive.

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — The Big South Main Street project is currently wrapping up and a handful of other paving and grading projects around town are finished, or almost done as well. Town manager Jon Dewett was at the construction job, as a crew closes against the changing weather into fall.

The town has finished up a number of areas in East Hardwick, where they still have some driveways to do. This week, they expect to do all the street lines and crosswalks.

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This bear's image was captured by a UVM survey team when conducting a conservation assessment to protect the land from development.

Block Party Part 2 Comes to Atkins Field on Saturday

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — Last year, the Community Allie's Fun Annual Block Party attracted around 250 people with live music, tons of food and generally proved to be a great success for the community. This Saturday, starting at 4 p.m., at Atkins Field, the time hope to duplicate that success and hopefully do so more of a community effort.

"We're very excited about our second annual event," Allies director Tara Reynolds said.

Some of the activities from last year will return, like a live-painting contest, live music by the Hair of the Dog, face-painting and free food provided by Jasper Hill, Pete's Great Village Restaurant, Tony and Mackenzie's Country Casses.

"We have a lot more community support this time, so a lot of donations come in from different businesses and organizations in the community," she said. "So, it really feels like a true community event."

She said they have a couple new kids' and family activities this year. There will be prizes provided by local businesses, including tickets to a date night at Highland Lodge and more from the Gallop Bookshop, and more.

Last year, the project lost about \$1,000 despite good turnout. This year, the organizers hope to break even while maintaining its "free" status.

"We made some significant changes this year, especially with the food, which is our most expensive part of the event," she says. "Getting the food and financial donations certainly has been most helpful, so we're hoping to break even."

There will be a lot for donations. An essential element it will still be free and open to all.

It's also a "rain or shine" event. Tickets are available at www.funblockparty.com. See www.funblockparty.com, Page Five

Busy Road Work Season is Wrapping Up Quickly

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — The South Main Street construction project is pretty much wrapped up. One last-minute decision was to have parallel parking on both sides of the street, the idea being that the current diagonal parking arrangement on the south side of the school, is dangerous to students out of.

The board also decided to continue to allow parking on the north side of the bridge on North Main Street. The feedback has been mixed regarding the one-year experiment, but mostly positive.

Those looking to continue to improve the town's curb appeal are turning from South Main Street to Village Restaurant should finally be done. They are adding concrete blocks that are now blocking their path.

According to the police report, there has been a lot of cell phone use and speeding while driving around the school zones of Hartwick and the town's non-uniformed officers are going to be patrolling those areas and school zones.

LaJeunesse Construction from Ferrisburgh, which suffered a major loss from a fire last winter, Jewett said he reached out to six companies, but this was the one to get back to him.

He said this is a good company that does a lot of municipal building. They use a local person from Hardwick to do the work and they definitely wanted to do this project.

Insurance money from the state will cover much of the cost of the project, Board member Howard Hickey said this is going to be a great deal in the end.

"Before...you could park a few pieces of equipment in there, but now it will have a brand new concrete floor and everything will be new."

The town is looking at having another well drilled, possibly by the town's gravel pit. Jewett said the town has money pat aside for this but there are other incentives as well.

"Our engineers, Albrecht and Elliott, told me that at this point the state wants more water systems, especially low-income water systems, to go ahead. They are offering to pay up to \$50,000," Kehler says.

If you have information about the town's existing wells is that they are old and they are not up to code. They are relatively close to each other, so in some ways, they are not as contaminated, both wells could be lost at once.

On October 2, at 7 p.m., at the Town House, there will be a meeting to discuss the construction of the 1971 switch from Hardwick Academy to Hazen Union. The academy was a self-contained school, meaning only Hardwick students attended. Board member and Historical Society member, Liz Lewis, noted this meeting should be especially helpful for anyone interested in seeing more such mergers throughout.

Dog owners in East Hardwick will have to follow the same rules as in West Glover regarding picking up after their dogs.

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