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Hardwick Green Up Day 'A Lot Busier Than Last Year'



Stephen Chason throws bags of roadside trash he picked up while greening up in Midville Saturday. The dumpster was located at the Hardwick Fire Station.

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — Hardwick and East Hardwick held this year's Green Up Day under substantially better weather than last year. The two factor organizers said contributed to a much better year than 2017. Organizers said the flip side of the greater participation was that it painted a sobering picture of just how much people trash towns on the roadsides of our towns.

"It makes you sick to think people just toss it out the window," said organizer Nancy Klotz, who staffed the East Hardwick collection station at the Grange.

Calais Salvage loaned the event three dumpsters, one for trash, one for tires, and one for metal. The town of Hardwick paid for tire disposal at All Metals Recycling. With over 100 tires collected, according to organizers, Karen Klotz, something needs to change.

"We need a deposit ball for tires, like there is for soda," she said. Klotz and Klotz both said proper disposal of a tire costs \$5. Klotz suggested when a tire is purchased, a \$5 deposit be added to the price, which the customer could get back when returning a tire for proper disposal. Each Green Up bag dropped off with a new raffle ticket. Kids get coupons for creamies from Houses of Pizza. Both sites ran out of bags and had to improvise and all 41 creamie vouchers were claimed.

Klotz said it was very busy, with cars practically on top of one another to drop off bags. Even while the raffle was being drawn, people were around the back of the first station picking up trash, which resulted in what the organizers described as the strangest find of the day: two gigantic fire losses behind the fire house, one left so long residents had to burn it, which took several people to extricate. Klotz watched a young girl holding a bag so big she struggled to get it out of her Go-Kart and



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Stephan Chason throws bags of roadside trash he picked up while greening up in Midville Saturday. The dumpster was located at the Hardwick Fire Station.

said at least a dozen cars had come through by noon.

Klotz said that while it was given out, she estimated that since some people did not collect their tickets, a more accurate bag count would be closer to 300. She said fifty-three households participated, with most collecting three bags.

the highest collected by one person was thirty-seven.

The raffle was held at 3 p.m. at the Hardwick Fire Station. Nine area businesses offered prizes to winners. Positive Pe offered four gift cards valued at \$30. Galaxy Bookshop also offered five \$20 gift certificates. Whistle Emporium offered two at \$20. Tops, one at \$20. Store's The Bench restaurant offered two \$30 coupons. The Stratton Brothers offered a gallon of maple syrup, and the Clip Joint a \$20 coupon towards a haircut. East Hardwick's Perini at Pleasures offered a box of flowers, and the Buffalo Mountain Co-Op a "basket of goodies."

Klotz said a big focus of the event is getting the community to work on a project together, cleaning up our roadsides. Klotz said one misconception people have about Green Up Day is that a bag left by the highway will be collected by the state road crew.

Despite warnings from Hardwick Police Department about the possible presence of needles or "pop-up" needles, Klotz said she did not yet hear of any instance where others had been found bloody. Police Chief Anne Cochran noted at a recent board meeting that he was very concerned about the use of drug paraphernalia, asking that just because a wrapper had been found doesn't mean it had been used for drugs.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Stephan Chason throws bags of roadside trash he picked up while greening up in Midville Saturday. The dumpster was located at the Hardwick Fire Station.

Heavy wind gusts snapped a large tree in two on the dirt road above Hardwick Elementary School. Despite the tree's size, Hardwick Electric's power lines held.



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Strong Storms Deal Knockout Blow to Utilities, Trees and Roads

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — At around eight o'clock on the night of Friday May 4, a series of thunderstorms roared into Hardwick on Saturday morning, bringing hail and torrential rain. The first round ended within less than an hour of its arrival. Once the last of the thunderstorms had passed, a cold front pushed through with damaging tropical-storm force gusts which knocked out power in the area. At 5:30 p.m., the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a flash flood warning, as well.

Weather stations in Hardwick Village and protected low-lying areas clocked gusts of 43 m.p.h. overnight Friday into Saturday, with higher gusts hitting Hardwick's hills. Further west, gusts of 80 m.p.h. were reported on the shores of Lake Champlain. The entire state of Vermont was under a tornado warning from 2:30 a.m. through 10 p.m. Friday. While roads were closed off in a few areas around Brimfield, the damage here was confined to downed trees and limbs, along with power outages.

Hardwick Electric Department (HED) General Manager Mike Sullivan said "We essentially took a direct hit. The storm had characteristics normally seen in Midwest or Great Plains severe weather events, where tornadoes can reasonably be expected. It was certainly an anomaly in Vermont."

A Hardwick weather station recorded 1.15" of rain, but much of the precipitation this storm produced in Hardwick came in the streets, where tornadoes can reasonably be expected. It was certainly an anomaly in Vermont."

See STORMS, 4

Crosswalks, Taxes Under Discussion

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — In a special select board meeting on April 27 and a regularly scheduled meeting on May 3, the select board discussed funding crosswalks and improving the walkability in the Village. At the May 3 meeting, the board also met with Concord N.H. Northern Forestry Center's Steve Robble to discuss the mechanics and seven candidates to fund tax credits for the Yellow Barn Project, now tentatively set to have its final event, the Yellow Barn Business Accelerator.

Crosswalks and Walkability in the Village
The rapid funding of painted crosswalks has encouraged the board to consider a change from painted crosswalks to thermoplastic crosswalks. According to L&D Safety Markings Inc., the thermoplastic material is \$1,000-1,200 per crosswalk, but is much more durable.

Town manager Jon Jewett said he did not believe the fifteen-year lifespan L&D estimated for the thermoplastic material. L&D estimated the cost in six, but expected at least three. The town just painted all its crosswalks in the Village last summer and most are now virtually invisible due to fading, trampling, and plowing.

L&D had originally proposed doing seven crosswalks, at the May 3 meeting the select board unanimously agreed to try four crosswalks in the Village in a trial and see if the longevity claims held up. At the special meeting, discussion also began about fixing the sidewalk outside Postive Pe, walkability in the Village, parking, and the possibility of making crosswalks safer.

One proposal to make crosswalks safer was adding flashing lights at the estimated cost of \$2,000.

SEE CROSSWALKS, 4

East Hardwick Looking to its Future

by Doug McClure

EAST HARDWICK — On a cloudy Sunday evening at the historic Cabot House in East Hardwick, a packed house listened to the presentation of the East Local entities about where East Hardwick has been, and more importantly, where it should go.

The bulk of the time was used for a presentation by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), ACCD Planning and Project Manager Richard Amore and Tax Credits & Grants Coordinator Caitlin Corkin, as gave a forty-five-minute presentation on the benefits of the Village Center Designation East Hardwick is seeking.

Interviewed later, Hardwick Zoning Administrator Kristian Leahy said she is filing the designation within the next week. Leahy said

the filing entails submitting the Hardwick Select Board minutes where the applications are in, the application is usually quick. A village designation (ACCD), ACCD priority, which is a non-profit and in need of major renovations, Corkin explained that non-profits — which do not pay tax — can take advantage of the tax credits by going to a bank and exchanging the tax credit for cash.

Amore said an add-on to the application is to file for a village designation. The application has to be filed by the end of this summer. The organization behind the effort

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New School Budget Proposal to be Discussed at Tonight's Meeting

by Will Waters

CABOT — The latest version of the school budget drops spending enough to bring the budget under the penalty limit, eliminating the nine percent penalty for exceeding the spending increase limit set by the state. Two of the school directors were not willing to agree to the proposal because it didn't do enough out of educating students for what is very insignificant benefits to the taxpayers.

The board looked at the issue to

"strike a balance between what our community can afford and what we want in the school."

For income-sensitive eligible taxpayers, the marginal tax decrease for an income of \$50,000 is only around \$2 compared to the last version. Director Jeremiah Rivers found cutting as much of the budget as this version does, reducing education by the students, makes it hard to find it worth the marginal \$2.40. For non-income-sensitive people, those earning over \$50,000, the cut would be

\$40.50. The decrease in the results of falling below the penalty threshold, at this proposal does.

Retaining the estimated rate to a property assessment of \$100,000, an income-sensitive taxpayer will have a state school tax bill of \$1,501. The tax on an income-sensitive taxpayer for a \$150,000 assessed property will be the same.

For non-income-sensitive taxpayers, a \$100,000 assessment will have a tax bill of \$1,820.75, an increase of 5.14 percent or \$20.08.

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'We Need To Get Somewhere': Opioid Forum Held at Memorial Building

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — On April 23, the 2018 Memorial Day service was in conjunction with the Woodbury Library's annual "We Need To Get Somewhere" opioid crisis with a panel including Hardwick Rescue, Hardwick Police Chief Anne Cochran, Hardwick Health Center nurse practitioner Jeri Walberg, and a series of speakers.

Woodbury librarian Beth Stan-

ard said that the event was unsuccessful for the library's community involvement.

"We often do a lot of natural history. For various reasons, that's not always the best option, but this was a very important event," Stanard said.

Jeri Walberg began the symposium with an abbreviated history of opioids, whose use goes back thousands of years. On and off through the 1800s, 1900s, and 2000s, they

have been prescribed for multiple ailments. It is a relatively new phenomenon, said the Bayer company marketed heroin in the early 1900s, "an addictive, cough suppressant." Just over a century later, following a recommendation by The Joint Commission, pain became a "vital sign." The Joint Commission (JCO) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies health care organizations and programs in the United States.

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NEW HCA DIRECTOR FROM CRAFTSBURY

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