

No Decision on Transfer of Derelict House

by Doug McClure
HARDWICK – A half-century-old house on the north side of the village has been made available to take over the derelict house adjacent to the market at 91 Mill Street. She is a lot of questions still to be answered. The property has been transferred, she said. “We’re in discussions.”
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Full Agenda for Select Board

by Doug McClure
HARDWICK – The select board heard an extended update on progress and prospects from the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) and an update on the Yellow Barn plus tackled complaints about shots fired at Mackville on the October 18 meeting. An escaped horse, asbestos and good budget news were also in the mix.
HED Commissioner Nat Smith presented a number of updates for the board. Erosion repairs to the Captain Lake Dam were completed this October. He also mentioned that the theft of a large amount of copper has been solved and the materials returned.
Smith said upgrades to the Mackville and Hardwick Village transformers, insulators and other equipment were well along, which could provide a reduction of 96 percent of system use costs, or if that were even possible, given the number of farms around. Jewett said he would write a letter to put the owners on notice.
Regarding the demolition of the old senior center, All Metals Recycling gave a price of \$16,000 to \$20,000 for demolition and an estimate of \$6,000 for asbestos abatement. Jewett said, “I have a clear memory that we said yes, we’ll give you the building, and that everything else is your problem.”
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InSports, 10

CROSS-COUNTRY

WRAP-UP



The front of the house in North Wolcott that was leveled by fire and a blast on October 18. The collapsed corner section is where the fire started.

Violent Fire Destroys North Wolcott Home

by Doug McClure
NORTH WOLCOTT – The Vermont State Police issued a release regarding an explosive fire in North Wolcott which began “On October 18, 2018 at approximately 8:30 AM the Wolcott Fire Department was sent to North Wolcott Road in Wolcott for a house fire. Upon arrival the fire department encountered a house fully engulfed in flames.”
The release goes on to describe that the fire was joined by firefighters from Elmire, Hardwick, Morrville, Hyde Park, and Craftsbury, saying that “it appears the fire started in a chimney pipe on the back side of the house.”
For Laurie Bohannon, the house owner, and fiancé Bruce Weston, the reaction was shock, disbelief and sadness. She said she and Weston liked living. She was recovering from a Labor Day house attack and finally feeling well enough to return to work part-time, so they decided to set out on a short hike with their two dogs that morning.
Before leaving, she said she

Police Nab D&L Armed Robbers

by Doug McClure
BARRIE TOWN – For the second time this year, armed robbers have hit D&L Beverage in East Hardwick. It happened just one day before Barre Town Police contacted the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) regarding a robbery in Barre with similarities to the D&L robbery.
At the October 16 Hardwick Select Board meeting, HPD Chief Austin Cochran briefly mentioned the arrest. “We had evidence from the first (armed robbery), so when Barre Town Police called in, Barre Town and (HPD) went all dispatched by the Lamoille County Sheriff’s as they were aware of what we had from the previous night. The car like suspects were not actually get stopped on River Street.”
See ROBBERS, 6



Left to right Gary McKelvey, select Ben Gossard, and GHEC Executive Director Anthony Courtney pose in front of the first of two fences that will compose the mural at the Mill Street parking lot in Hardwick.

In Towns, 2

CRAFTSBURY FIRE

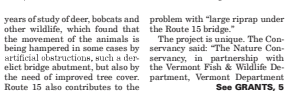
DEPT. PRESENTATION

Education Board Raises Questions about Act 46

by Doug McClure
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – While making no decisions, the Board of Education’s October 17 review raised questions over the Secretary of Education’s Act 46 recommendations for the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) elementary schools and Hazen Union.
Agency of Education Secretary Dan French questioned the scope of the proposed merger between the Woodbury and Hardwick elementary schools.
In the section of the original June 1 report that focused on Woodbury Elementary and Hardwick Elementary, the Secretary’s proposal said that “Although it would be structurally possible for the State Board to reconfigure the Hardwick and Woodbury Schools Districts to merge to create a union elementary school district, it is not clear whether there is sufficient educational or fiscal benefit to do so while the other intertwined relationships continue to exist.”
French noted that Lakeview Union School, Woodbury Elementary and Hardwick Elementary all had the same structure.
Dennis House-Savage of the Agency of Education said, “We re-evaluated the fact that Woodbury, Hardwick, and Lakeview all have the same operating structure, so there is more of a merger possible than was suggested. It is possible for a merger to move forward.”
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Wolcott Habitat Gets \$255k In Conservation Grants

by Doug McClure
WOLCOTT – On October 17, the Canadian Family Charitable Trust awarded the Vermont chapter of the Nature Conservancy a \$255,000, three-year grant directed at restoring the Wild Branch of the Lamoille River in Wolcott. This grant will be combined with another for \$30,000 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The Nature Conservancy, Towns of Wolcott, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and Vermont Department of Transportation together plan to restore the habitat of the river corridor. Wolcott Select Board Chair Eric Furs was excited about the project and said Wolcott towns did not have to match any funds. “It’s a zero-dollar cost to the Town of Wolcott’s taxpayers,” he said.
In a release, the Nature Conservancy said, “The funds will be used for wetland restoration, tree plantings, removal of a defunct bridge, and other enhancements to allow for wildlife movement in a changing climate landscape on lands owned by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.”
This project is the first of four



A view of the Wild Branch from the Gulf Road bridge in North Wolcott. The Nature Conservancy will be awarded a \$255,000 grant for habitat restoration and will work with the Town of Wolcott, Vermont Agency of Transportation and Vermont Fish & Wildlife to recover that goal.

years of study of deer, bobcats and other wildlife, which found that the movement of the animals is being hampered in some cases by artificial obstructions, such as a defunct bridge abutment, but also by the use of improved tree cover. Route 15 also contributes to the problem with “large rippars under the Route 15 bridge.”
The project is unique. The Conservancy said, “The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, Vermont Department of Transportation, and the local towns of Wolcott, Vermont, is the only project of its kind in the state.”
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In Arts, 6

VAUDVILLANAIRES

SHARE TOP HONORS