



photo by Doug McCure

On Thursday, October 24, Hanwick Town Manager Shaun Fielder addressed a group at the Lamoille Housing Partnership's "Celebrate Hanwick" event marking the completion of the street 8444 renovations in Hanwick. LHP Executive Director Jim Lovinsky is in the background.



photo by Doug McCure

The *Ardenville Library* held a fundraising contest in support of its planned expansion project. Whoever gathered the most votes won "spin" to kiss a pig. The winner was Hanwick Police Chief Alan Cochran. For good measure, Town Manager Shaun Fielder also kissed the pig. The pig had a Cliver and his assistant spotted person is Cyston Corke.

## Housing Nonprofits 'Celebrate Hanwick'

by Doug McCure

**HARDWICK** — On Thursday, October 24, the Lamoille Housing Partnership (LHP) and Housing Vermont (HV) hosted a gathering at the Seale House restaurant to celebrate the nonprofit's latest completed work on three Hanwick buildings. The Lamoille Housing renovation project cost \$4.6M, according to the LHP's Kerri Lahr. The largest of the three renovation projects was 8 South Main, formerly the Kimball Book and current home to the City Joint and several rental properties. Included in the restoration was a six-unit, circa-1900 apartment on Highland Ave and a five-unit building from the late-1800s/early-1900s on Shop II Hill Road. Along with previously restored housing at Bonita Block, properties on Cherry Street and Maple Street, and the newly-constructed Evergreen Manor, Lamoille Housing now offers more than eighty units of affordable housing in Hanwick.

LHP Board of Trustees Chair David Ford spoke of the LHP's larger goal as "community development," of which the Seale House was also a beneficiary. This past spring, the Preservation Trust of Vermont awarded \$65,000 to the restaurant for upgrades through the LHP as a

part of its ongoing renovations to the Bonita Block, where the restaurant is housed. The Bonita Block, which is managed by LHP, has 14 units of residential housing for the elderly and disabled. The Seale House is a commercial tenement building. Lahr clarified that for the day's event the Seale House was a paid venue, paid for by the owners.

Among those speaking were Son, John Kitchel (USA Assistant of Danville, who said that Hanwick has undergone "such a transformation" since she first visited the town in 1967. She cited LHP and HVT for the role they have played in the town's evolution. Kitchel, who is chair of the appropriations committee, said "the need is enormous for housing that is safe and affordable," and added that "there is lots more to do."

LHP Executive Director Jim Lovinsky described Hanwick as a "fabulous metropolis," and said LHP has been on the ground since 1985, when a massive fire destroyed two large buildings in the Village. Along with HVIT, Lovinsky and LHP brought their resources to bear on the rubble of the Kimball Block, rebuilding it as the 1390s and updating it in the latest round of renovations. Lovinsky said renovating took care to preserve the historical

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## Testy Board Meeting on Water Tests Puts Gavel to Use

by Will Walters

**CABOT** — The Oct. 22 select board meeting on municipal water quality test results that showed barely-detectable levels of a contaminant resulted in chair Fred Ducharme's repeated call to order, confusion over how to proceed and ordering a resident to be quiet or be removed.

The municipal water supply tested positive for Hexachlorocyclopentadiene dimer and (HFC-PODA), one of the so-called "forever chemicals" developed to replace earlier chemicals that were found to impose health risks. HFC-PODA, also known as GenX, is used in many common products such as food packaging, paints, cleaning products, wire-stick detectors, outdoor fabrics and firefighting foam. Board member Dan Goodrich said the chemicals

are also found in dental floss, pizza boxes, popcorn bags and even "dust in the house," which is said to range from 10,000 to 50,000 parts per trillion.

In her role as water superintendent, Goodrich provided copies of test results, information about the issue contacted for the town and links to state websites with further information on the substances. She also provided copies of emails that were sent from Jim Miller, current town water contaminants rules manager of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). The water supply testing, which ANR recommends be conducted every 18 months, changed contaminants by State Environmental Results came back at 2.5 parts per trillion (ppt), with a backup test showing 3.6 ppt. On October 16, 2019, two more tests came back at 2.2 ppt and 1.9 ppt. On Oct. 8, Jessica Miller raised

## Town of Hanwick Buys Yellow Barn

by Alison Low

**HARDWICK** — The Town of Hanwick has acquired the building that formerly housed the Greenboro Garage on Route 15, commonly referred to as the "Yellow Barn." The site was purchased from the 1763 Group LLC, which acquired it from the previous owners of the Greenboro Garage as part of a plan to develop the site as an agritourism accelerator and corporate campus.

The purchase was made possible by a \$250,000 grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission and funds from the town's own Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund. According to a press release from the town, "the Hanwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator and Corporate Campus will strengthen Vermont's food- and food-adjacent economy by allowing multiple establishments to grow and expand with other entrepreneurs, develop new products and improve export to external markets."

The project is a public-private collaboration involving multiple agencies including Hanwick municipal officials, the CAE, Northern Border Regional Commission, Vermont Development Association, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Northern Forest Center, Vermont Economic Development Authority and a variety of local business leaders. The Yellow Barn, Town has also been working with a Co-Op architect on the project.



courtesy photo

The town of Hanwick has acquired the Yellow Barn property as part of a plan to turn the site into an agrotourism accelerator. On October 22, a press conference featured (left to right) Town Manager Shaun Fielder and Select Chair Chris Rennie. Also in the photo were Hanwick Mayor Tom Nisbet, U.S. 131 Group LLC, and former owners Stephen Fabis, Blaine Nelson and Tom Nisbet.

According to the statement, "the project will consist of a two-story, 40,000 sq. ft. multi-purpose processing facility and an adaptive reuse of the historic 3,500 sq. ft. yellow barn — already an iconic presence along the Route 15 gateway to downtown Hanwick."

## Drug Takeback Day Spotlights Health Risk

by Michael Bielawski

**HARDWICK** — Residents in the Hanwick area took advantage of National Prescription Drug Takeback Day last Saturday to get rid of unused prescription drugs that pose a health risk to friends or family who are struggling with addiction.

According to the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), twice a year, in spring and fall, local agencies join with the Drug Enforcement Agency to hold the unused medication collection at designated disposal sites around the nation.

"This two-yearly event provides a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications while reducing the potential for medication misuse, accidental ingestion, and overdose," VDH states online. "During the 2018 spring event, Vermonters disposed of 4,506 pounds of medication." The statement outlines that improperly stored medications are also a risk to children and

posts who might accidentally ingest them.

This past Saturday the Hanwick Police Department was once again a drop-off location. At a select select board meeting, Police Chief Aaron Cochran said after the drugs are turned in they are destroyed by the DEA and eventually incinerated.

Town manager Shaun Fielder posted a statement online about this week's collection. "Medications that are stored and get rid of unused medications, always get their fix from either a friend or relative, usually straight out of the medicine cabinet."

"Medications that are not properly stored in your home can be a risk to kids, either a friend or relative, usually straight out of the medicine cabinet. "During the 2018 spring event, Vermonters disposed of 4,506 pounds of medication." The statement outlines that improperly stored medications are also a risk to children and

## Mill Street Bank Building Sold

by Doug McCure

**HARDWICK** — The brick structure known locally as the "Bank Building," a three-story building, was sold to K2 Realty LLC on October 17 for \$130,000. K2 Owners Jimmy Goldsmith and Kim Kaufman purchased the property with plans for restoration, according to Goldsmith.

"We're restoring it, not just demolishing it," Goldsmith said. "We don't just scrape it and rebuild." K2 owns and operates several restaurants in the region, Goldsmith said, including the former Morrisville railroad depot, built in 1872. The couple restored that building and created the restaurant 10 Railroad Street in 2013, which is operated by Goldsmith. Morrisville depot had fallen into disrepair.

While Goldsmith cited examples of K2's roles as owner-operator, he said that he and Kaufman has engaged in many other renovations throughout the region beyond food and beverage. The plan for the Bank Building is

not 100% yet... we've got to get the building right first." He said that a historical building is likely will have intrinsic issues with the budget, it is not yet projected. He added he said K2 also has a reserve of restored historical items that it can put back to use.

The building was originally built for and home to the Hanwick Savings Bank and Trust. The bank was established in Hanwick in 1892, was insured by the FDIC in 1917, which was 1917, which was 1917. The bank moved to the current Route 18 site in the late 1920s.

Previous owner Linda Ramsdell said she had owned the building in 1997, with the Galaxy Bookshop being its main tenant for over a decade until 2010. See BANK, 4

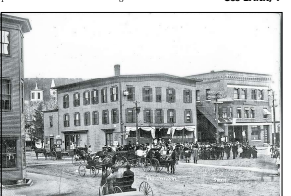


photo restoration by Doug McCure via Hanwick Historical Society. A street view of Hanwick Village between 1888 and 1910 showing the Greenboro Garage, Bonita Block and 8 South Main. The 1888 electric lighting is present in the photo which was installed around 1890 but the street lights are not yet paved, which Eriksen Co. of the 1910s had installed in 1910.

## Act 46 Challenge Goes to Vermont Supreme Court

by Doug McCure

**MONTEPELIER** — The appeal against Act 46 launched in late 2018 by almost three dozen school districts is now in the hands of the Vermont Supreme Court. The appeal focuses on two statutory and three Constitutional violations. Lead appellate attorney David P. Kieny of Crelbury's Connors, said he expects the court to rule in late 2020.

"I hope the appellate court will schedule oral arguments in about a month—but it is unpredictable," Kieny said. "The school districts argue that the forced mergers took a stated goal of Act 46, "to encourage and support local decisions and actions," and rendered it "illusory." The appeal states that districts had no choice but to merge, as has been the case with forced-mergers. The choice offered to them about whether to merge was misadvised.

Argued in all iterations of the appeal, including this one, is that the state never justified that the forced mergers were "necessary." The state argued that the merger was necessary as to what was "possible" and "practicable," and in doing so argued that "it is not possible to do otherwise." The appellants argue that the state's argument that "many districts can meet Act 46 goals without merging."

do it well, financially and with outcomes, you don't have to change a thing." Senator Joe Gowing (R-Colchester) of London is also cited for having said, "if you are indeed a small school and you are indeed operating in an efficient way and you're feeling that your children are in fact getting a proper education, then this bill does not affect you."

On constitutional violations, the appeal states that the board "violated the Constitution — all without determining whether the state's argument was in fact getting a proper education, then this bill does not affect you."

The appeal states that forced mergers violated the Education Clause, the Common Benefits Clause and constitutional questions on separation of powers. For the choice offered to them about whether to merge was misadvised. The state argued that "many districts can meet Act 46 goals without merging."

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