

THE Harwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Hardwick • Cabot • Calais • Craftsbury • Greensboro • Marshfield • Plainfield • Stannard • Walden • Wolcott • Woodbury

Volume 131 Number 21

Local Green Up Day Rules Adapt to the Pandemic

by Tyler Moutour

HARDWICK — As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Green Up Vermont elected to postpone Green Up Day to Saturday, May 30. Green Up Day is typically held on the first Saturday of the month.

This year is the 50th anniversary of Vermont's statewide communal outdoor clean up. Many towns have adjusted the way residents can pick up supplies or drop off trash, although for the most part Green Up Day coordinators see the need for volunteers remains the same.

"Everyone wants a clean, green Vermont summer, and it is heartening that we can rely on each other to provide this for everyone during such uncertain times," said Calais co-coordinator Janet Pocerobba. "It is empowering."

The Hardwick Recreation Committee will staff volunteers at the fire station from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, where bags will be available and collection of roadside trash will occur. People returning trash to the fire station are asked to wear masks.

Susanne Gann, who chairs the recreation committee, is reminding participants that household trash will not be collected, but everyone taking part in Green Up Day will receive a coupon for ice cream.

In Greensboro, bags are available at the town clerk's office. Collected trash can be brought to the recycling center behind the town hall.

In Cabot, garbage bags are available at the Cabot Village Store, Harry's Hardware, and the town office. Drop-off of refuse will be at the fire station. Hours of operations are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 30th.

Woodbury will not be participating in Green-Up Day this year. Coordinator Paul Conner reports the event has been canceled.

In Marshfield, volunteers are asked to provide their own gloves. Bags will be available for pickup outside the town offices.

Calais is arranging for drop-off sites for collected waste on Saturday and people will be asked to wait in their cars while vehicles are unloaded one at a time. Bags are available at the Maple Corners Store, the Adamant Co-op, and the East Calais Post Office in the pickup/drop-off areas of the businesses.

Bags for volunteers in Plainfield are sitting on the porch of the municipal building and may be used to pick up litter in advance of Green-Up Day. On Saturday, a map will be available from 9 a.m. to noon for volunteers to view and mark their routes. Green Up bags can then be brought to the town garage from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wolcott will make bags available for the public at the transfer station, town offices, and post office. Volunteers who pick up trash on Saturday or Sunday may leave the bags at the roadside and the highway department will pick them up on Monday. In addition, coordinator Ke Gillen says the transfer station

will cut the cost of the disposal fee in half for any tires brought to the transfer station by residents on Saturday or Sunday.

Green Up bags are currently available at Craftsbury's town hall. Collected trash can be returned to a waiting town truck at the Creek Road dump area on Saturday.

While Stannard typically holds a barbecue for participants, coordinator Regina Troiano says this year will likely be somewhat different due to social distancing requirements, but she

is hoping to offer residents who do come out some form of a snack or beverage for their labors. Bags will be distributed at the town hall starting at 9 a.m., with a dumpster on site to drop off roadside trash.

Walden will have a dumpster available to drop off Green Up trash at the town garage on Route 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Household tires are being collected at a reduced rate of \$2.50 to \$5, having no size. Bags are available in advance outside to town clerk's office.



photo courtesy Hardwick Historical Society

Hardwick Hospital as it appeared at the time of the 1918 pandemic.

A Backward Glance

How Hardwick Coped with the 1918 Influenza Pandemic

by David Kelley and Elizabeth Dow

HARDWICK — On Thursday, October 10, 1918, the *Hardwick Gazette* reported that to date there had been 100 cases of Spanish Influenza reported to the local area health officer. The flu had caused three deaths.

By October 17, the *Gazette* reported the total number of cases in the area was estimated at 250, and by December 1, there had been 22 flu related deaths in the area.

In October 1918 there were three doctors in the Hardwick area and two were ill with the flu. The Hardwick Hospital was crowded and "no extra help can be secured for that institution," the *Gazette* reported. Churches, libraries, schools and two barber shops were all closed. The post office, according to the *Gazette*, was "crippled."

Because of the shortage of doctors, Hardwick and surrounding towns sought help from the Vermont State Board of Health. Dr. Henri Pache arrived on Monday, October 14, with two fourth-year medical students from the University of Vermont who volunteered to help. Health crisis headquarters were set up at the Hardwick town hall and calls were routed to the town clerk's office.

Volunteer drivers from the Johnson Garage were "on the go night and day to carry doctors wherever sent, and their knowledge of the roads and county have made the system work out well."

The *Gazette* reported on October 17 that the "Red Cross is doing great work in the relief line, having headquarters set up at Mrs. Blanche Kent's," with Boy Scouts "always on hand" to do errands and deliver meals. A canteen was set up over the hardware store to provide broth and soups to sick families. Flash forward to the spring of 2020 and much has changed. While churches, libraries, schools and barber shops are closed down, even without a local hospital the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has not ravaged the Hardwick area anywhere near as badly as the pandemic of 1918. To date, there have been no COVID-19 deaths reported in either

Orleans or Caledonia County. There has been only one COVID-19 related death in Washington County. There have been no reported cases of anyone contracting the COVID-19 virus in Calais, Woodbury, Greensboro or Stannard. There have been, according to the Vermont Department of Health's report of current activity, between one and five cases in both Craftsbury and Hardwick.

In 1918 there were powerful forces set in motion guaranteed to make the severity of that year's pandemic exponentially worse. The war meant troops of soldiers were stationed in close quarters and were transported around the country in cramped rail cars. The troops were likely to spread the illness among themselves and the civilian populations they came in contact with.

Equally harmful was the Sedition Act of 1918, a blatantly unconstitutional law, that made it a felony, with a 20-year sentence, to express an opinion that cast the United States government in a negative light. As a result of that law, many health officials downplayed the extent of the 1918 pandemic as it unfolded. Between 50- and 100-million people around the world died as a result of the 1918 flu. In the United States 25 percent of the population was infected and approximately 670,000 people died.

In many ways our world is radically different today from what it was in 1918. There is no World War. There is no Sedition Act. The internet, Zoom, Google, and remote learning have all changed how we access information, how we communicate and how we learn. But perhaps just as importantly, especially in the area still served by the *Hardwick Gazette* today, our stories about neighbors helping neighbors and a community facing crisis together remain very much the same. The teachers and school employees delivering meals to students who are "sheltering in place" are much like those Red Cross volunteers and Boy Scouts who delivered food to families in 1918. The world has changed, but our tradition of being our neighbor's keeper, as well as our brother's keeper, carries on.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield faculty and staff (from left) Debra Stoloroff, Ryan Fay, Thom Costello, Lori Hudson, Cathy duPont holding her dog, Forrest, Liz Newton, Mavis Gosselin, Rachel Hartman, Dede Dufresne and bus driver Mike Gibbs decorated a school bus on May 12 and then delivered cars and towns to the school's seniors. The caravan, which was a surprise for the students, included two fire trucks, the bus and 10 cars. There are 32 graduates in the class of 2020.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Hardwick Recreation Committee's project of making improvements to the Mackville Pond Recreation Area is nearly completed. Stefan Johnson (left) and Bob Hodge (right) of RTA playgrounds installed the new play structure last week.

Play Equipment Installed at Recreation Area

by Susanne Gann

HARDWICK — The installation of new playground equipment at the Mackville Pond Recreation Area was completed last Wednesday.

A foot of muck is scheduled to be delivered and spread under the equipment on June 2. The Hardwick Recreation Committee purchased the Hickory Ridge Play System, as well as a single-bay swing, from AAA State of Play to replace the old wooden play structure at the park. The playground equipment features four slides: a left turn slide, a wave slide and a double slide for buddy rides.

There is a bench panel for resting, a pot climber, a rock hole climber designed to look like a mountain, a skip wheel attachment for piloting an imaginary ocean liner, a bone bridge to cross and a gear panel with moving parts for young engineers to explore.

The Hardwick Town Plan identified that the recreation committee was hoping to encourage greater use of the Mackville Pond Recreation Area as a village park for picnics and swimming. Later community forums supported this, so the committee moved forward with discussion and planning to improve the park.

Park signage, picnic tables for eating, benches for seating and charcoal grills for grilling have been enhancements added to the park in the last couple of years. A \$8,000 recreation facilities grant from the State of Vermont, combined with matching funds from the Town of Hardwick and money raised through the fundraising events allowed the committee to complete the project.

Other volunteers who gave their time at various stages of the project were Erik Gann, Jon Williams, Walden

Massie, volunteer allowed the project to move forward. Kristen Leahy and Michael Lew-Smith were both instrumental during the permitting process. Perry Heller allowed the committee to store the equipment safely near his on his property and Shawn Messier volunteered his time and equipment to prepare the land for the installation and will be returning to spread the mulch.

Other volunteers who gave their time at various stages of the project were Erik Gann, Jon Williams, Walden Massie, volunteer allowed the project to move forward. Kristen Leahy and Michael Lew-Smith were both instrumental during the permitting process. Perry Heller allowed the committee to store the equipment safely near his on his property and Shawn Messier volunteered his time and equipment to prepare the land for the installation and will be returning to spread the mulch.

Other volunteers who gave their time at various stages of the project were Erik Gann, Jon Williams, Walden Massie, volunteer allowed the project to move forward. Kristen Leahy and Michael Lew-Smith were both instrumental during the permitting process. Perry Heller allowed the committee to store the equipment safely near his on his property and Shawn Messier volunteered his time and equipment to prepare the land for the installation and will be returning to spread the mulch.

Other volunteers who gave their time at various stages of the project were Erik Gann, Jon Williams, Walden Massie, volunteer allowed the project to move forward. Kristen Leahy and Michael Lew-Smith were both instrumental during the permitting process. Perry Heller allowed the committee to store the equipment safely near his on his property and Shawn Messier volunteered his time and equipment to prepare the land for the installation and will be returning to spread the mulch.



photo by Jason Larabee

Alec Larabee of the Walden Fire Department works on the brush fire Friday afternoon on South Walden Road in Cabot.

Wildfires in Cabot, Fire Danger High

by Doug McClure

CABOT — The Walden Fire Department reported that it received back-to-back mutual aid calls for wildfires in Cabot on Saturday. The department posted on Facebook that neither fire was intentional, but stressed that with recent low-humidity weather and little rain, the fire danger is high.

"The bottom line is please do not burn, even if a campfire is tempting," the department posted. Winds helped drive both fires, the post said.

The first fire on Saturday afternoon was "well off Walden road" and "Walden Fire took out to respond to the hillside fire. Cabot, Woodbury, Marshfield, Plain-

field and Barre Fire also assisted, the department said. The department said Cabot Rescue was on hand, if firefighters needed it.

Walden Fire posted "We had just gotten back into the firehouse shortly after [3 p.m.], and while putting our trucks back together and racking hose, the tones dropped again for yet another major woods/grass fire." Like the first fire, the department described the location as far off the road, near 30157. Fire off of Route 2, Dunville, Peacham, Cabot, Marshfield, Woodbury, and Plainfield Fire also responded to the tone. Cabot Rescue was on hand as EMS personnel on-scene for firefighters.