

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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No More Positive Tests at Care Center

by Doug McClure

CRAFTSBURY -- After a COVID outbreak in mid-December infected 15 residents and 14 staff, the Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) as of Sunday had gone nine days without a new positive test in the facility, according to board member Penelope Doherty.

Doherty clarified those 29 cases do not necessarily count towards Craftsbury's total count of 38 cases as of Friday; many staff do not live in Craftsbury and would not be included in the community total.

The community itself experienced a separate outbreak, but as of last Friday, the case count had not increased for a week.

Doherty, who is working with others to help the facility deal with the outbreak, said that her mother, Eva Church, "this little fluffy thing from Ireland," is among those who took ill. Church celebrated her 90th birthday on December 4. After the first group of residents tested positive, a second round of positive results included Church.

Doherty said her mother has Alzheimer's which complicates

See TESTS, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Craftsbury Select Board organized a sign (right), created by Averill McDowell, that was set up January 2 in front of the Craftsbury Community Care Center thanking the staff and volunteers for helping to get through these very difficult times of COVID-19.

Yellow Barn Receives \$1 Million Grant

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK -- At its first meeting of 2021, the Hardwick Select Board discussed the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) announcement earlier that day of a \$1 million grant awarded to the Yellow Barn project.

"It's really significant for this project because, while there are some other details to be ironed out in terms of borrowing, this was the last major piece of the funding puzzle that was unknown," select board chair Eric Remick said.

Board member Lucian Avery said he recalled in previous meetings that the estimated overrun was described as closer to \$2 million and asked where the additional funding would come from. Remick said the balance of

funding would be covered through loans, and some of the original estimated grant-based offsets were derived from percentages that would proportionately increase with the increased project costs.

Lease partners also said they were amenable to adjustments in their agreements to help offset the additional expenses, Remick said. With new funding from the NBRC, loan applications had solid footing to proceed. He added that the new clarity in funding put the project on track to reach the construction phase as soon as the fall of 2021.

The board also heard from Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Chief Aaron Cochran about an unplanned reduction in the department's staffing. It is hard for HPD to compete with better-

See GRANT, 5

Hazen Board Clarifies, Reviews Budget Scenarios

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK -- After last Thursday's public information session, the Hazen Union School Board met Monday night to address the feedback received. Unlike the information session, which overflowed the Google Meet's capacity of 100 people and spilled into an unofficially hosted session, Monday night's session drew a small group of people interested in hearing the board's reaction and potential adjustments to the

budget reflective of that feedback.

With two scenarios developed in response to the informational meeting, though, the board could not make a decision after nearly two hours of Executive Session. Chair Steven Freihofner said "We are going to take no action, we're not going to have a vote because the board is not prepared to do

See CLARIFIES, 13

Parents, Students, Staff React to Hazen Austerity Budget

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK -- On Thursday, January 7, the Hazen Union School Board held an informational session proposing a greatly reduced school budget for FY2022.

At the meeting, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Director of Finance Brittany Currie explained that an error put the school over the state-mandated threshold for cost per equalized pupil.

See REACT, 4



photo by Doug McClure

A small group of merrymakers rang in the New Year just before midnight on South Main Street in Hardwick Village.

Contents

Police Report..... 3
 Select Board Agrees to Trade Loader 5
 Food Pantry Receives Grant 5
 Hardwick Eyes Upcoming Town Meeting 6
 Obituaries 7-9
 Outdoor Fun at Highland Center (photos)..... 10
 McBurnie Helps People to Repurpose 11
 Editorial: Finding Our Way Back..... 12
 Leaders React to Storming of Capitol 12
 New Art Exhibit Opens at NVRH Gray Gallery 13
 Select Board Wades Through Uncharted Territory 14
 Community Comment: Lichtenstein Remembrance 15
 Yankee Notebook: Living in a Double Bubble..... 16
 Letters from Readers..... 17
 Another Opinion: No More..... 17
 In the Garden: Guide to Nature in Winter 18
 Business Directory 19
 Sports: Basketball in Holding Position 20

Tests

Continued From Page One

mask wearing and other precautions, but that she is doing well on the treatments. “She’s from Ireland, and she went through World War Two there, sometimes wearing gas masks,” Doherty said. “When asking me early on why we all had to wear masks, she said ‘Well, dear, at least they’re not gas masks, right?’”

CCCC and the Hardwick Area Health Center (HAHC) coordinated quickly from the outset regarding an advanced treatment for COVID, monoclonal antibodies. The FDA approved their use in November and describes monoclonal antibodies as “laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system’s ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses.” Church was one of the first residents who received the treatment.

“They do [COVID] tests on Tuesdays and Friday with results usually in the first half of the next day,” explained Doherty. “My mom’s test was on Tuesday. I had her results by 10 a.m. on Wednesday. By late that afternoon, I had a message from Care Center staff asking me to research monoclonal antibodies and ‘can you be on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. with the doctor?’”

The HAHC is Church’s primary care provider. Doherty said that Thursday HAHC looked at the requirements for eligibility to receive monoclonal antibodies, “oxygen levels, etc., all the things that are required,” and “by Friday morning we were headed to Saint Johnsbury to get [the treatment]. I couldn’t believe how fast they all moved.” The Care Center arranged transport for Church and another resident eligible for the treatment. Due to COVID protocols, Doherty followed behind to sign papers.

“That morning it was zero degrees out. I brought a bunch of blankets and sat in my car outside and waited.” The treatments are administered at the Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury. “The infusion itself takes an hour and they observe for at least an hour to make sure no allergic reactions [occur]. It took longer overall with check-in and getting everybody settled, but apparently it went very well,” Doherty said.

Doherty said Care Center staff went to great lengths in a short time frame to facilitate the monoclonal antibody treatment once recommended for more residents. Monoclonal antibody treatments, in this case

Bamlanivimab, have specific eligibility requirements and also a very short window when they can be used effectively, with a major objective being keeping patients out of the hospital -- especially critical in older age groups.

“I have nothing but praise for this organization,” said Doherty of CCCC. “I love being on the board. I did the crisis response logistics in Texas for Family Protective Services for a long time, and I’m amazed at how calm, how deliberate, how gathered Care Center staff has been. They are so committed to the best possible outcome and direct resident care, which is why Board President Jane Marlin and I, along with other board members, are helping with questions and non-care logistics as much as possible.”

Doherty said the state itself has provided constant support to CCCC. The Care Center is scheduled to receive vaccines for residents and staff at the end of January, and again in February and March.

Beyond the medical side of responding to the outbreak, Doherty said a personal toll taken on the staff at the facility. Because CCCC is quite small, staff develop one-on-one connections with the residents.

“It had been a hard year for residents and families already, with several losses before the outbreak, and so also a really hard year for staff,” Doherty said. “One of the great things about this care center is that staff know residents’ habits, wants, likes, needs, and senses of humor. And it is very much like their family. So, when a resident passes or leaves for another level of care, staff can go through a grieving process as well.”

When staff are able to leave and go home, Doherty said, she hopes they can avoid bringing home the stress of the experience with them. “They’re so upbeat while they’re here. It’s just always amazing. But this is wearing on them, too,” she said.

The select board commissioned a sign thanking CCCC staff and volunteers, which has helped buoy spirits, Doherty said. Families have also been very supportive of their loved ones at CCCC. As for her mother and other residents undergoing treatment, Doherty said “she’s stable and others are stable. To me, it’s a testament to the care that Vermont and Care Center staff are providing. Our best wishes are with everyone who’s going through this.”



January 13 - January 19

Winter Clearance Sale Clothing 20%, 30%, 50% Off		Insulated Boot Sale 20% Off Jan. 13 - Jan. 19	
Food Club Canned Tomatoes 88¢ 28 oz.	Food Club Beans 58¢ 15.5 oz.	Amy's Soup 2/\$5 14.1-14.5 oz.	
Casa Visco Pizza Sauce \$2.99 16 oz.	Jif Peanut Butter 2/\$4 15.5-16 oz.	Progresso Vegetable Classic Soups \$1.39 18-19 oz.	
Motts 6 Pk. Apple Sauce 2/\$4 24 oz.	Kellogg's Frosted Mini Wheats 2/\$6 14.3-18.9 oz.	Kellogg's Special K Cereal 2/\$5 11.7-12 oz.	
Nabisco Ritz Crackers 2/\$5 12.9-13.7 oz.	9-Lives 4 Pk. Canned Cat Food \$1.69 22 oz.	Purina Cat Chow \$5.49 3.15 lb.	
Food Club Shredded Cheese 2/\$4 8 oz.	Hood 1/2 + 1/2 Creamer \$1.29 16 oz.	Almond Breeze Milk Alternative 2/\$6 64 oz.	
Hood Sour Cream 99¢ 8 oz.	Florida Natural Orange Juice 2/\$6 52 oz.	American Flatbread Pizza \$6.99 13.8-16.8 oz.	
Washington State D'Anjou Pears \$1.49 lb.	Tender Asparagus \$2.99 lb.	Broccoli Crowns \$1.49 lb.	

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

Dec. 21, Suspicious Event, N. Main St., Barre City.
 Dec. 21, Phone Problem, Woodbury St.
 Dec. 22, Threats/Harassment, High St.
 Dec. 22, Foot Patrol, S. Main St.
 Dec. 22, Traffic Stop, S. Main St.
 Dec. 23, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 23, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 23, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 23, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 24, Suspicious Event, High St.
 Dec. 24, Theft, Caspian Ave.
 Dec. 25, Welfare Check, W. Church St.
 Dec. 25, Traffic Hazard, Hardwick St., Greensboro.
 Dec. 26, Medical, S. Main St.
 Dec. 26, DUI, The Bend Rd., Greensboro.
 Dec. 27, Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rt. 15.
 Dec. 27, Snowmobile, Spruce Dr.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Background Investigation, High St.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Assist – Other, Wolcott St.
 Dec. 28, Suspicious Event, Cemetery Rdg., Greensboro.
 Dec. 28, Threats/Harassment, High St.
 Dec. 29, Lost Property, Dale St.
 Dec. 29, Alarm, Kate Brook Rd.
 Dec. 30, Assist – Agency, Bayley Hazen Rd.
 Dec. 30, Assist – Public, Main St.
 Dec. 30, Medical, Maple St.
 Dec. 31, 911 Hangup, Vt. Rt. 15W.
 Dec. 31, Citizen Dispute, Dale St.
 Dec. 31, Noise Disturbance, S. Main St.
 Jan. 1, Suspicious Event, High St.
 Jan. 1, Juvenile Problem, Craftsbury Rd.
 Jan. 1, Overdose, Upper Cherry St.
 Jan. 2, Suspicious Event, Church St.
 Jan. 2, Fraud, Wolcott St.
 Jan. 2, Dead Body, High St.
 Jan. 3, Citizen Dispute, High St.
 Jan. 3, Citizen Dispute, High Street.
 Jan. 3, Alarm, Hardwick St.
 Jan. 4, Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rt. 15W.
 Jan. 4, Citizen Dispute, High St.
 Jan. 4, Assist – Public, Lamoille Ave.
 Jan. 4, Suspicious Event, Vt. Rt. 14.
 Jan. 4, 911 Hangup, Vt. Rt. 15W.
 Jan. 5, TRO/FRO Service, High St.
 Jan. 5, Foot Patrol, S. Main St.
 Jan. 5, Assist - Agency, High St.
 Jan. 5, Threats/Harassment, Bunker Hill Rd.
 Jan. 5, Citizen Dispute, High St.
 Jan. 5, Citizen Dispute, S. Main St. #1
 Jan. 5, Suspicious Event, Vt. Rt. 15W
 Jan. 6, 911 Hangup, S. Main St.
 Jan. 6, Traffic Hazard, N. Main St./S. Main St.
 Jan. 6, Assist - Agency, Dimick Rd.
 Jan. 6, Assist - Other, Wolcott St.
 Jan. 6, Threats/Harassment, Lower Cherry St. #8
 Jan. 7, Suspicious Event, S. Main St.
 Jan. 7, 911 Hangup, S. Main St.
 Jan. 7, Assist - Other, Wolcott St.
 Jan. 7, Assist - Other, Wolcott St.
 Jan. 7, Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rt. 15E
 Jan. 7, Citizen Dispute, High St.
 Jan. 7, Threat/Harassment, High St.
 Jan. 7, Suspicious Event, Vt. Rt. 15W

Jan. 8, Medical, Lamoille Ave.
 Jan. 8, Alarm, Blockhouse Hill Rd., Greensboro
 Jan. 8, Suspicious Event, Vt. Rt. 14
 Jan. 8, Suspicious Event, High St.
 Jan. 8, Assist - Agency, High St.
 Jan. 8, Assist - Agency, Benway Dr.
 Jan. 9, Foot Patrol, S. Main St.
 Jan. 9, Alarm, Mill St.
 Jan. 9, Assist - Agency, High St.
 Jan. 9, Traffic Hazard, Bridgman Hill Rd.
 Jan. 9, Suspicious, Upper Cherry St.
 Jan. 9, Traffic Stop, Vt. Rt. 15
 Jan. 9, Suspicious Event, N. Main St.
 Jan. 9, Assist - Agency, Vt. Rt. 15E
 Jan. 10, Alarm, Kate Brook Rd.
 Jan. 10, Found Property, Main St.
 Jan. 10, Alarm, Wolcott St.
 Jan. 10, Assist - Agency, Saw Mill Ln.
 Jan. 11, Motor Vehicle Complaint, Wapanaki Rd.
 Jan. 11, 911 Hangup, Vt. Rt. 15W,
 Jan. 11, Accident - Property Damage Only, Craftsbury Rd.,
 Greensboro
 Jan. 11, Assault, Maggie's Pond Rd., Greensboro

DUI, Vehicle Interception

On December 26, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Officer Jenness and Sgt. Barber responded to a report of one vehicle off the road into the guardrail. The operator, identified as Liza Gonyaw of Greensboro Bend, showed signs of impairment. Gonyaw was brought to Hardwick PD for dexterities due to condition and was cited and released for charges of driving under influence. Gonyaw is due to appear in Orleans County Court on January 19 at 11 a.m.

On January 9, Sgt. Barber and Officer Lucas Marcoux responded to assist Morrystown PD units with a pursuit entering Hardwick. The officers set up spike strips in the area of All Metals Recycling, successfully disabled three out of the four tires on the suspect's vehicle and then assisted in taking the four occupants of the vehicle into custody. The occupants and vehicle were transported to MPD for processing. No one was injured during this incident.

Vermont State Police Assault, DUI

On December 24, at 11:04 p.m., the Vermont State Police received a report of a physical altercation at Austin Road, Marshfield. Vermont State Police responded to the scene. Investigation revealed Colten Baslow had assaulted another male causing bodily injury. Upon completion of the investigation, Baslow was issued a citation to appear in court and released, with a court date of Feb. 11, at 8:30 a.m.

On January 5, at 1:27 p.m., Vermont State Police responded to a report of a single motor vehicle crash on US Rt. 2 in Marshfield. Upon speaking with the operator, Kyle Hayden, of Hardwick, he showed signs of impairment. Hayden was ultimately placed under arrest for suspicion of DUI – Drugs. Hayden was issued a

Criminal Citation to appear at the Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on February 28 at 9:30 a.m.

On January 9, at approximately 9:15 p.m., the Vermont State Police was notified of a single vehicle crash on Route 2 in the town of Marshfield. Troopers from the Vermont State Police Middlesex barracks responded to the scene and found the vehicle had driven off the side of the road, striking two telephone poles. Subsequent investigation revealed the operator, Djeneba Bent, of Concord, to be operating under the influence of intoxicants. Bent was cited to appear in Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on January 28 to answer to the charges.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 13 survivors of domestic and sexual violence from December 27, 2020 through January 10, 2021. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984,

dedicated to resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

The 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

React

Continued From Page One

The state penalizes schools that spend too much on their students. The penalty was further exacerbated by another drop in the school's enrollment, she said. A bond vote to address the half-century-old building's infrastructure problems was scrapped in the fall due to financial issues caused by COVID-19.

"There were no good choices, just a bunch of really bad choices," Principal David Perrigo said. "Nobody feels good about this, nobody feels that this is a step toward making Hazen a better, stronger place for our kids. This is all pretty unfortunate that we have to do this."

Perrigo said steps were taken to avoid staffing cuts, including a 32% cut to instructional and tech supplies and a reduction in the maintenance budget for professional services. Even so, cuts to faculty and staff were unavoidable, he said.

Every department with the exception of athletics and driver education saw double-digit cuts. Athletics remained the only department with funding equal to that of three years ago with a 59.41% increase from FY2021's budget. Athletics' \$150,103 proposed budget is greater than the combined budgets for math, English, music, P.E., art, world languages, science, social studies, technical education, and driver education. [Ed. Note: the increase in the athletics budget is in large part due to a reclassification of expenses. Please see related article on the revised Hazen budget]. World languages was cut by \$5,984, or 86%, social studies by 71%, and P.E. by 54%. Math, English, music, science, and driver education were cut by slightly under 50%.

Salaries for teachers are proposed to take a 7.46% cut while coaches' salaries would be kept the same. Mid-management salaries were increased by 58%. Supplies for the drama department are proposed to get a 91.3% cut of \$5,250 to \$500 for the entire year. The food budget was cut by 36.71%.

The overall proposed budget cuts work out to 5.06%.

Residents, teachers, and current and former students at the meeting took exception that the arts departments would take the biggest hits, including effectively losing two staff members. Tech ed./ woodshop teacher James Raas, who is part of that department, said he had "dedicated 32 years of my teaching career to the OSSU" and "I see our shop as the engine that powers our whole school curriculum." He said his department embodied every initiative the OSSU was

taking, including learner agency, Flexible Pathways, Personalized Learning Plans, and social-emotional learning. Raas said shop class "often provides a calming effect", especially for students who have experienced trauma, and the shop itself helps every other department in the school. "As hard as these [budget] decisions may be, please don't drain the oil from the engine," he said. "Instead, make every attempt to maintain a healthy engine and power us in the future. Keep the position full-time." Raas later compared the cuts to a similar situation with Craftsbury Academy's budget years ago, what he called a "downward spiral" of successive yearly budget cuts. "Less things and less choices mean less people will be interested in joining your school," he said.

Music teacher Talan Bryant described the school's arts and music programs as "pretty high-achieving programs that can keep up with programs from around the state." He listed the music department's accomplishments and said "Music serves as a form of self-discovery that goes beyond just the elective of music. There's a therapeutic benefit."

Art teacher James Lockhart said, "I've had so many kids over the years tell me that art class was the only reason they were coming into school. Arts is where all the other [educational] content is applied. These electives are very important to these students. Some of them wouldn't come to school otherwise."

World languages and martial arts teacher Anja Pfeffer said "We cannot afford to cut any personnel. We talk constantly about a trauma-responsive approach to teaching which we desperately need and will need more as time goes on. It's the relationships and ways of relating to the students that are key. It's not the curriculum, it's the relationships." She added that cuts to support staff already operating on too thin of a margin would be problematic.

Several current and recently

graduated students agreed. Lucas Whitaker, a senior last year, said, "I've been to, I believe, seven different schools in my life and Hazen had the best arts department I've been a part of." He said a family tragedy made his senior year "very rough" and the arts teachers helped him get through it. "I think the happiness and mental health of the students is important, and for a lot of people, it's lifesaving," Whitaker said. "I know for me music and arts has been what's kept me going. Without that, a lot of students would have a very hard time even getting through the day."

Senior Leo McMurtrie, who said he moved here from Boston in 2015, echoed Whitaker's words. "I have been someone who, along with plenty of other people I know, struggled with their mental health," he said. "A lot of the aspects of school didn't help, such as bullying. The arts have been somewhere where I actually felt comfort. I was able to be myself and express myself without fear of being judged or ostracized." He said arts teachers "have really guided me through school. They have been a huge part of my life and I genuinely do not know where I would be without them. Arts is a huge part of my life and plenty of other people's lives and taking that away would genuinely hurt a lot of students."

Senior Olie Grant said they went to Hazen Union for both middle and high school and had the same math teacher for three years. "There has been no one more impactful than my teachers," they said. "Whoever it is [that gets cut] is going to matter to someone a whole lot. The relationship we form with our teachers is very much a two-way street. That's going to be really hard."

Parent Susanne Gann, whose son attends Hazen, said "We need to invest in our schools now to attract families and get students to stay. Investing now means that in the future that tax rate will be decreased." Like Raas, she referenced the budget cuts at Craftsbury Academy. She said if

the board explained why the budget might incur a state penalty and increase taxes, taxpayers might be willing to accept it as Craftsbury taxpayers had. She added that the possibility of Raas being cut was "very upsetting" to her son. Gann said the dropout rate was raised as a concern in a prior principal's report and "if you cut positions that students get excited about coming to school for ..." She described the classes as "vital to kids" and the reason they feel motivated to come to school. "As a taxpayer, a mother, I would rather the board present to the taxpayers a budget that meets all these students' needs and has a higher tax rate and face the consequences of it maybe failing than present a budget that doesn't meet needs and fails," she said.

Hazen Union graduate Daisy Reyes said she now attends UVM in large part because of the investment Hazen teachers made in her as a student. She said cuts would mean "lost moments for students, and for a lot of students, those moments could be the ones needed to push them through to graduate. Speaking from personal experience, if I had lost any of those relationships, I might not be where I am today."

Resident and Wolcott Elementary school teacher Kim Beckley said "As a taxpayer, I would prefer to help schools that are fully funded, fully staffed, that are able to meet the needs of our students and meet the needs of the future of our town than cut these positions. It's really hard to attract and keep people for half-time positions."

Former student Anne Hanson said, "Hazen was a grounding place for me, the courses I was able to take, arts were growing at the time [and] they fortified me. It opened the doors to life beyond Hardwick." She said she returned to Hardwick to work at the OSSU. "In this nation, in this time when there is so much disaffection, we really do have to think from the perspective of aspiration," she said. "Who do we want to be?"



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Food Pantry Receives \$5,000 Grant

HARDWICK -- The Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) has received a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to help with the expansion of the program to Craftsbury and Albany. The \$5,000 grant will help further food pantry's mission of providing food to those that are impacted by food insecurity.

"HAFP is extremely grateful for the generosity of the Vermont Community Foundation's Northeast Kingdom Fund. This grant will provide the necessary resources to allow HAFP the oppor-

tunity to expand our outreach in the Craftsbury and Albany areas and serve more families in need."

To build long term sustainability for food access work that meets the needs in the food pantry service area, HAFP and the Craftsbury-Albany Food for Neighbors have teamed up to incorporate the Craftsbury and Albany sites into HAFP operations as a multi-site program.

For more information call (802) 472-5940 or send an email to director@hardwickareafoodpantry.org.

Grant

Continued From Page One

funded law enforcement agencies that offer bonuses, he said. In the case of HPD's Corporal Steven Mitchell, Lamoille County Sheriff's Department made an offer Mitchell accepted.

Chief Cochran said Mitchell had been with HPD for nearly 10 years and his departure was a significant loss. Interviewing was underway to fill the position, he said. He added one applicant had withdrawn their application after receiving a better offer from another agency. A second officer is leaving HPD for deployment, Chief Cochran said.

The department received news that first-round COVID vaccinations were extended to police and fire, Chief Cochran said. A COVID outbreak at the end of 2020 sidelined half of the department for several weeks.

Town Manager Shaun Fielder said the recreation committee's Susanne Gann was stepping down, and a second member of the committee was also leaving. Both positions have been advertised. Reversing a previous decision, the committee opened the ice rink at Atkins Field. Fielder asked skaters to be "real delicate about following social distancing practices."

The ownership of River Street/Mill Street in East Hardwick is yet to be resolved. The town received an estimate of \$750 from a surveyor to help determine whether the road is a town road. Fielder described the step as "information discovery" and said "we've got a whole community of people upset about it; it seems like a good thing to do." The board agreed.

The board discussed responding to a petition from residents regarding the safety of the Glenside and Mill Street intersection. Fielder said Doug Morton of the Northeast Vermont Development Association assessed the signage and travel corridor

markings to confirm they met state requirements. A suggestion was made to trim back some of the foliage at the intersection in the town right-of-way to improve sightlines.

The board heard that vice chair Elizabeth Dow has decided she does not want to run again. "I'm reporting that I'm not going to run, I don't have the energy for this, I've got other things to do, and I don't think I'm very good at this," Dow said. The board objected to the latter characterization, noting that among other contributions, Dow often asked pointed questions that helped the process. Dow said she felt others should apply. "I have learned an enormous amount. This has been a very gratifying experience," she said. "Everybody should get involved in town government in some form just so you have an understanding of what goes into it, of how things work." Dow said she was "deeply impressed" by the hard work and commitment of town employees, volunteers and committees. "I've never had any sense whatsoever of any sort of self-serving [behavior] or corruption," Dow said. "It is a really clean, honest town government and I'm glad I did this."

Board member Shari Cornish previously said she would not run again, and clarified the decision was due to a shift in focus. She said, "my hope is I'm going to revive the downtown commission." Her decision in part came from recognizing the perennial topic of Hardwick seeking a Downtown Designation now had a strong case with the swinging bridge project. A large prospective grant for that project would be strongly assisted by the designation.

Board member Lucian Avery said he had not yet decided whether he planned to run again. Town Clerk Alberta Miller said as of this meeting no one had applied for any of the positions, but applicants have until January 25 to do so.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Jennifer LaPoint picks out some books during her quick visit to the library on December 19. The Craftsbury Public Library has received national recognition from America's Star Libraries for public library service and use. The Craftsbury Public Library scored the highest in the nation for a library of its size. Staff at the library include Susan O'Connell, Library Director; Princess Van Gulden, Assistant Librarian; and Jen McKenzie, Children's Librarian.

Select Board Agrees to Trade Loader

WALDEN -- The Walden Select Board meeting was held on December 21 at the town office. Present were Brenda Huntoon and Randolph Wilson in person and Lina Smith and Martha Bissell via Zoom.

After discussion, the board agreed to trade the loader by borrowing \$100,000 to be paid over a five year period. The remaining balance will come from the highway equipment fund. This will appear as Article 4 on the Australian Ballot at the town meeting in March.

Town Meeting was discussed. It is expected that the legislature will be discussing town meeting protocol in January when it reconvenes and, based on its decisions, the board will decide how to

proceed. The possibility of sending out postcards or ballots to all registered voters was discussed. The voting will take place at the town clerk's office, but voters are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot.

Martha Bissell reported for the library trustees. The appropriation request for FY 22 will be reduced from \$7,000 to \$4,500. The library is available to the public by appointment; call Martha at 563-2429. The wi-fi is always on at the library with the password posted on the door. The library trustees have two open seats on the five-member board.

The select board will next meet on January 18 at 6:30 p.m.

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CARD OF THANKS

The Hardwick Area Food Pantry Gives Thanks for Community Support

Dear Friends of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry,

As we say farewell to another year, we give thanks for the many ways that the community supports the Hardwick Area Food Pantry. We could not do what we do without your generous financial donations, food and fund drives, and volunteering. Together we are able to improve local food access and community resilience at a time when this work has never been more critical...Thank you!!

In 2020 the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) has grown and changed in ways we never anticipated - finding the resources within our staff, participants, volunteers, farmers, partners, donors and community members to navigate the incredible challenges and opportunities of this wild year. We are honored to continue to serve this resilient community and humbled by the myriad of ways people are coming together to care for each other.

HAFP's work has become more vital than ever during this pandemic. Major systems redesign for COVID-responsive operations include outdoor service, a home delivery program, virtual and physically distanced Grow Your Own food independence workshops, and partnering with the Center for an Agricultural Economy to distribute local grocery vouchers. We have expanded our services to offer more frequent visits, additional federal food distribution, and improved referral processes. Since March, we estimate a 25% increase in total households served monthly, with 30% accessing the delivery program and 30% accessing more frequent visits.

We are also moving forward on an expansion project to serve a distinct and significant new group of households within our service area that has been accessing the pop-up pandemic response food efforts in Craftsbury and Albany. To build long term sustainability for food access work that meets this demonstrated need in the HAFP service area, HAFP and Craftsbury-Albany Food Share are collaborating on an expansion to the HAFP that will result in a multi-site program, incorporating the Craftsbury and Albany sites into HAFP operations. We are energized by this strong collaboration and the clear and significant impact of this project in supporting community resilience in the greater Hardwick area.

Our engaged and generous community members (you!) have made it possible for us to meet the significantly increased need. We are grateful and humbled to continue our work with such a strong foundation of support that is offered by so many and comes in so many different forms.

To learn more about the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, contact director@hardwickareafoodpantry.org or 1-802-472-5940. Our open hours are Mondays from noon-2 pm, Thursdays, and Saturdays 9-11 am.

More info about the Hardwick Area Food Pantry can be found at NourishHardwick.org/pantry. Please feel free to contact Kris Coville at mama.kris.coville@gmail.com for questions specific to Craftsbury and Albany sites.

HAFP Board: Ruby Baker, Reeve Basom, Alice Fleer, Ruth Gaillard, Erika Karp, Jake Lester, Diana Peduzzi, Regina Troiano, John Tuthill. HAFP Director: LauraLee Sweeney, director@hardwickareafoodpantry.org

Hardwick Eyes Upcoming Town Meeting

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – With Town Meeting less than two months away, and Hardwick joining with other towns to oppose moving the date, several questions lingered over the select board meeting. Some questions depend on legislative actions yet to be taken, as the new legislature was just sworn in the day prior.

The board signed off on a budget to bring before voters, discussed finalizing several warning items, heard from resident Emily Lanxner about a proposed new warning item, and discussed the mechanics necessitated by using purely Australian ballot voting.

Business Manager Casey Rowell made adjustments and clarified changes that put the FY22 budget at \$3,525,629, a 1.75% increase over the FY21 budget approved last year. Projected revenues took a significant hit, falling \$33,770 to \$1,055,909, and the resulting property tax was expected at \$2,469,720, a 3.97% increase.

Changes were also made based on the receipt of final numbers, such as the cost of using Lamoille County Sheriff's Department for dispatching, which had dropped 22% to \$8,157. The COPS grant officer's \$80,638 was isolated from regular police department base pay to avoid confusion that occurred in earlier discussions.

Appropriations were not changed from the FY21 budget. Before appropriations, the estimated property tax rate for FY22 stands at \$1.31 per \$100 without appropriations and \$1.34 per \$100 with appropriations. Select Board Chair Eric Remick described the budget as "as good a budget as we could come up with, all things considered."

A warning item regarding cannabis businesses was considered. New legislation legalizing recreational cannabis requires towns to opt into the businesses. A template was supplied for the town's consideration containing three questions for voters asking whether they supported retail operations, integrated licenses, or both. Integrated licenses are combined licenses allowing cultivation, manufacturing, wholesale, retail, and testing.

All agreed the warning should include a fourth question asking if voters did not want cannabis businesses in Hardwick. Hardwick Police Department Chief Aaron Cochran stated he opposed cannabis businesses operating in Hardwick. "Do residents really want that on a South Main Street storefront?" Chief Cochran asked.

The board wanted to mull over the warning language for the next select board meeting when the items must be finalized to meet deadlines.

Another warning item will be bonding for the Wastewater Treatment Facility's capital improvements. The original estimated cost of the project was \$1.6M not including additional recommended fixes. At that time, it was estimated the impact on water/sewer bills for customers would be \$8-10 per quarter.

The board had since decided to go forward with the recommended items since the work would be subsidized by 40%. The current cost estimate stands at \$2.2M. Fifty percent of design fees and 40% of construction would be offset by state grants. The board recognized putting those figures before voters might be a tough sell given the current financial situation but noted those subsidies might not always be available to complete necessary work. Town Manager Shaun Fielder said he would pin down the expected rate increase the bond would create for water and sewer customers.

The language of the warning needed re-working in part because it was written with the expectation of a floor vote. The absence of a floor vote was one of the more challenging aspects to address, said Town Clerk Alberta Miller. She said she was "a little leery" of the process since many items typically handled in floor vote would now have to be dealt with as write-ins on a ballot. "My fear is that we're just going to get so many names [written in]," she said. It was proposed that people looking for positions consider filling out the consent form to offset the number of write-ins.

Miller said, "my concern is with the number of articles on the ballot, the number of ballots, the schools [budgets], that could very much increase our numbers for

voter participation. But that's a lot of ballots to scan."

The town will obtain a tabulator for voting but handling the write-in aspect was still not clarified by the secretary of state, Miller said. Australian ballot voting will also introduce significant costs in postage. Miller said Fielder indicated the legislature might help offset those costs, but the specifics were not yet available.

Resident Emily Lanxner requested to add the warning question, "Shall the Town of Hardwick be required to inform its residents when sources of radiation, such as that from cell towers and 5G antennas, are being proposed for installation within its town limits?"

The board took issue with the wording of the question and suggested Lanxner find more specific language. Remick noted the onus of informing residents about sources of radiation was not workable as phrased. He asked, "The biggest source of radiation we have is the sun, so if the sun's going to be out do we have to notify everyone?"

Board member Ceilidh Galloway-Kane expressed concern about the language "informs its residents" and asked what that would mean in practice. It was noted that the subject in question is the purview of the state Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Public Service, not the town.

Without a floor vote, it was noted residents might be coming to the ballot box without sufficient information about what they were being asked to vote on. For example, organizations asking for appropriations sometimes make their case to voters at town meeting prior to a vote. The board decided the best way to work around the loss of communication is to hold an informational session where such items could be expounded upon. The informational session is tentatively set for February 23.

Letters From Readers

We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to discuss and debate issues of the day.

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. Letters are limited to 400 words. Thank you notes are not considered as opinions from readers, and will not be printed as letters from readers.

Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can get in touch to clear up any questions.

If you have an opinion, send it to:

Letters From Readers

email: news@hardwickgazette.com

or

P.O. Box 367, Hardwick, VT 05843

OBITUARIES

MARY A. GUSHA

EAST HARDWICK – Mary Anne Gusha, 77, of East Hardwick, died peacefully, on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at UVM Medical Center in Burlington with her loving family at her side.

She was born August 1, 1943, in Newmarket, N.H., the daughter of the late Wilbur F. and Matie (Ellsworth) Gusha. She attended Thetford Academy.

On August 14, 1961, she married Francis Sydney Gusha Jr. in Barre. Together they raised five children.

Mary was employed at several local restaurants including Mer-Lus, Village Restaurant, E. Gauthier's Snack Bar, and the House of Pizza, all in Hardwick. She also worked for Ames Department Store in their snack bar and Price Chopper, both in Morrisville. She retired in 2002.

She was a member of Trinity Assembly of God Church in Hyde Park. She enjoyed Facebook, word puzzles, cooking, playing cards and putting puzzles together. Mary loved the time that she spent with her family and listening to country music, especially Rick and the Ramblers and Elvis Presley. She will be missed by her dear friends Pauline Parkhurst, Bertha Blair and all who knew her.

Survivors include four children: Debbie Cook and her husband, Gregory ("Pete") of East Hardwick; John A. Gusha and wife, Angie of Lakeland, Fla.; Charles "Chuck" Gusha and Marilyn Davison of Hardwick; and Florence Colbeth of Burlington; a daughter-in-law, Candy Gusha of Plymouth, N.H.; two brothers, Chuck Gusha and wife, Terri of Virginia; Peter Gusha and



Mary A. Gusha

companion Cathy of Springfield; two sisters: Stella George of White River Junction, and Clara Savery of South Strafford; 16 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson; a sister-in-law, and her husband, Janet Morris and Kenneth of East Barre; a brother-in-law and his wife, Frank Gusha and Gladys of Essex; and a sister-in-law, Cathy Gusha of Plainfield, N.H.; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary was predeceased by a son, Francis Wilbur Gusha in the fall of 2020; a brother, Wilbur Gusha and a sister, Grace Smith.

Graveside services will be held in late spring at the family's convenience.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Hardwick Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 837, Hardwick, Vermont 05843.

Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street Hardwick is assisting family with arrangements.

DONALD W. HISLOP

MORRISVILLE – Donald Willey Hislop, 79, formerly of Morrisville, passed away Tuesday, December 29, 2020, surrounded by loving family.

Don was born May 28, 1941, in Burlington, he was the son of the late Russell W. Hislop Sr. and Evelyn (Willey) Hislop. He graduated from Greensboro High School. On November 5, 1960, he married Patricia Ann Salls in Greensboro. She was the girl next door and was the love of his life for 54 years. She predeceased him in May of 2014.

Though never wandering far from home Don's local perspective offered a lifetime's vantage of the people and landscape of Vermont. A blue-collar worker, Don's diverse working experience fed his family and the local industry. From rising early to milk the cows, driving trucks for the town of Greensboro, hauling milk for local farmers, making cheese at Cabot and splitting firewood.

Donald acquired many hobbies throughout the years. He was a natural woodworker and created frames that glorified his wife's beautiful paintings. He loved to dance and could be seen swinging his legs with the grace and rhythm only his wife Pat was known to follow. He was an avid racing fan and spent many a Thursday night at Thunder Road, or weekends at the Catoomount Speedway. Don and Pat loved to camp and spent a good portion of their summer traveling New England in their RV with friends and family. Don was famous for his homemade onion rings and loved a big bowl of vanilla ice cream. He was a proud member of the Morrystown Fire Department, Lamoille Grange 223 and the Morrisville Swingers Square Dance Group.

Perhaps most notable about Don was his affinity for storytelling and the way they came to life in remembering. It wasn't hard to get him going about the "good ol'" days. He would share memories with humor and quick wit that easily drew in nearby ears. He was a living gazetteer - you could ride



Donald W. Hislop

any NEK backroad with him and he would be able to tell you about the farms and folks that lived there. Don's life and his essence reminds us to give gratitude to our individual story.

Survivors include: four children, Debbie and Brian Cote of Morrisville, Donna Hislop and Ron Aldrich of Maine, Gwen Hislop and John Laine of Morrisville and Danny Hislop and Kelley Wills of Hardwick; a brother, Russell Hislop Jr. of Greensboro Bend; sister-in-law, Jennie Allen of South Carolina; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; as well as nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his wife, Pat, he was predeceased by two siblings, Franz Hislop and Constance Hislop Brown.

Services will be held in spring-summer with location, date and time to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Lamoille Area Cancer Network, 198 Farr Avenue, Morrisville, Vermont 05661 or to the Craftsbury Community Care Center, 1784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, Vermont 05826.

Arrangements are in the care of Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick.

Online condolences may be sent to nothernvermontfuneralservice.com.

NOTICE TOWN of HARDWICK Recreation Coordinator

The Town of Hardwick is seeking a part-time recreation coordinator to provide administrative, project and community relations support to the Town Recreation Committee.

The hours are flexible and will vary based upon activity needs. The average is approximately five hours per week. The coordinator assists the committee in implementing recreational programs, in developing new projects and in ensuring the successful implementation of projects adopted by the committee.

Qualified candidates will have the ability to work independently; have strong organization, verbal communication, and writing skills with experience with recreation or human services programs. Experience with grant-writing is highly desirable. Direction and supervision are provided by the Hardwick Recreation Committee.

Competitive hourly salary. This position is available until June 30, 2022; continuation of the position depends on annual town funding.

For consideration: Send a cover letter and resume in care of the Town Manager Shaun Fielder via email at jobs@hardwickvt.org. A background check will be required. Position open until filled.

Northern Vermont Funeral Service

60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843

802-472-6861

Dian R. Holcomb
Funeral Director

PRENEED
PLANNING

OBITUARIES

DR. MARK DAVID LICHTENSTEIN

GREENSBORO – Dr. Mark David Lichtenstein died peacefully at his home in Greensboro, on January 5. He was 69 years old.

Dr. Lichtenstein was born in 1951 in Philadelphia. He met his wife Cynthia West, while studying Chemistry as an undergraduate at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Mark graduated from Thomas Jefferson University Medical School in 1976, where he was honored with the Arthur Krieger Memorial Prize in Family Medicine. Mark and Cynthia moved to Buffalo, N.Y., where he completed a family practice residency at Deaconess Hospital.

In 1979, Dr. Lichtenstein moved to Greensboro after accepting a placement with Northern Counties Health Care through the US National Health Service Corps. He served for many years on the board of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians and volunteered for Well Child Clinic Service as well as the Child Protection Team. He also filled the role of regional medical examiner for 20 years.

From 1986 to '88 Dr. Lichtenstein was the president of Copley Hospital medical staff and went on to become the hospital's medical director from 2003-2007. He also served on the Copley Hospital Ethics Committee.

From 1995 to 2014, Dr. Lichtenstein was a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family Practice at UVM where he was also a UVM medical student preceptor which



Dr. Mark David Lichtenstein

allowed medical students from UVM to come work with him at the Hardwick Health Center. It was through this program that he met his future partner and friend Dr. Brendan Buckley.

In 2012, Dr. Lichtenstein received the Vermont Family Physician of the Year Award.

From 1981 to 2014, Dr. Lichtenstein was the medical director of the Greensboro Nursing Home. His work there influenced him to become a board-certified geriatrician in 1992. He maintained his role as medical director of the nursing home until his unplanned retirement from medicine in 2014. By that year, Mark had served residents of the Northeast Kingdom as a primary care physician for 35

years.

Mark lived his dream career. In first grade, when asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, Mark said he wanted to be a doctor. Inspired by his Uncle Lou who was a doctor, he told the family: "I remember my uncle coming to make house calls at home whenever a family member would get sick. He loved to involve the families of his patients in their care."

As a physician, Mark believed that a good doctor has compassion and remains open-minded. He always tried to see the world through the eyes of his patients, doing his best to collaborate with them on a search for their optimal state of health. Mark always believed that health is not the absence of disease but is rather a state of being.

Mark always tried to find a balance between his professional activities and his family life. He and Cynthia enjoyed world travel, outdoor activities, music, reading, good food and celebrations. They shared their passions with their two sons, Isaac and Spencer. Mark and Cynthia spent time in Nepal volunteering his medical services and her language expertise. They went on to volunteer at animal sanctuaries in South Africa and animal rehabilitation centers in

western Australia and Belize.

Mark is survived by his wife, Cynthia West and two sons: Isaac and his partner Megan Fuerst of Washington D.C.; Spencer and his spouse Carrie Leigh and their daughter Alice, of Boston; his biological daughter Kara Sweet, her spouse Kyle and their son Jackson of Nashville. Mark also leaves behind his sister, Ellen Kolodner, her spouse Bernie, and their children Michael and Louis.

He was predeceased by his parents Oscar and Anita and his stepmother Margaret.

Mark had an unusual perspective on mortality, writing "There is a healthy way to be sick, and even a healthy way to die." Throughout his decade-long battle with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease, Mark's quest for balance continued. As sad as we are to see Mark go, we are sure he is enjoying another life, free of his disease.

There will be a memorial service for Dr. Lichtenstein planned for late summer to early fall. Please make donations in Mark's memory to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry or the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Arrangements are with the des Groseilliers Funeral Home. Memories and condolences may be conveyed at dgifunerals.com.

CARD OF THANKS

Imagine my surprise on December 2 when the entire Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department drove into my dooryard ... lights and sirens running! Luckily, they weren't there for a chimney fire but rather to help me celebrate my 93rd birthday!

I cannot tell you how much it meant to me. And I cannot thank you all enough (and you know who you are!) for remembering my years with the department and granting me an honorary lifetime membership in such a great organization. I even got a plaque for my car and a Woodbury Volunteer fire Department t-shirt!

Thank you all so very much for taking the time out of your busy lives to do this. It was greatly appreciated.

Kenneth King

CARD OF THANKS

In memory of Delma King, The family of Delma King would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those who offered such kindness, support and messages of sympathy and comfort in our loss. Until you have been the recipient of those calls and messages of care, you cannot know how much it means to those who grieve to have their loved one remembered. We want to thank Julie Shevlin, Delma's hospice nurse, and Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice for the care and support they gave Delma and her family. We also extend our gratitude to Dr. Kodali and the staff at Central Vermont Medical Center Hematology and Oncology for their care and laughter and taking the time to get to know their patients and families.

**Kenneth King
and family**

MASK UP VERMONT!

- Always wear a mask in public
- Use proper masks, correctly
- Protect yourself and the community

FLATTEN THE CURVE—ALL TOGETHER

Funding for development of this project made possible through a Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development Small Business Recovery Technical Assistance grant awarded through Northern Community Investment Corporation.

NEKsafe.com

OBITUARIES

CHRISTOPHER E. GRAVEL

HARDWICK – Christopher E. Gravel, 40, of Hardwick passed away unexpectedly on January 1.

Christopher was born at Copley Hospital on August 24, 1980, to Edward and Lynn (Gravel). He attended Walden Elementary School and then Cabot High School.

Chris worked for various construction companies as an excavator operator and recently worked for his dad on construction projects. Chris joyed skiing, hiking, four wheeling and other outside activities with his friends. Chris also enjoyed working out, running, and playing with his dog Benny. Chris had a big heart; he was always willing to help anybody at any time. He was always there for his father when he needed him.

Chris is survived by his wife Kim Gravel, his father Edward Gravel and stepmother Sandra Gravel, his brothers, Nicholas and Amanda Gravel of Woodbury, Eric Gravel and his fiancé Carrie McCloe, of



Christopher E. Gravel

Winooski, nephews Elijah Gravel of Cabot, Zachary Gravel of Woodbury, and many aunts and uncles. Christopher will be greatly missed. Chris was raised as a Jehovah's Witness; he believed in the Resurrection as quoted in Acts 24:15.

Pruneau-Polli Funeral Home, 58 Summer Street of Barre, assisted the family.

MARY IDA STYLES JOHNSON

HARDWICK – Mary Ida Styles Johnson, 74, passed peacefully at Copley Hospital with her two surviving children, James and Patricia by her side on Saturday, January 9.

Mary was born in Jamaica, Vt., on August 5, 1946. Mary's childhood was not traditional as she was born into a home with ten other siblings living in a dirt floor cabin, with very limited resources.

She was eventually adopted by Frank and Mary Arnold to be raised and loved in Bethel. She was a woman who broke boundaries throughout her life in several ways. She attended Whitcomb High School, but did not graduate due to getting pregnant with her oldest son Keith Johnson, whom she loved with everything she had. Even though Mary didn't graduate from high school, that didn't stop her from working in several fields to provide for her family. She worked for Bombardier in Barre and was an active member of the Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department for about 10 years as well as loving being a first responder.

Later in life she took up a career that, upon looking at her tiny stature, one would never guess. She became a truck driver for Werner Enterprises where she drove truck #34699. This is fondly remembered by her grandson Willie, who traveled the country with his grandmother for nearly two months during his middle school years of school. Mary was known as "Gram J" to all and loved each one of her grandchildren to the ends of the earth, giving them all millions of wonderful memories to carry with them.

Another boundary Mary broke was the fence between the grandstands and the race track. She raced against a field primarily made up of men. She truly was an amazing woman who loved her family more than anything in the world and stopped at nothing to show them. She was just four foot eleven and full of grace but when she needed to be eight foot and bullet proof make no doubt she was just that.

Mary is survived by four of her siblings: Irene Huard, Chris Merrill, Marge Collins, Gerald Dean Gilman, as well as two of her three children, James Allen Johnson and wife Maria Johnson, Patricia Anne



Mary Ida Styles Johnson

Fecteau and husband Randall Fecteau and Keith's widow Lora Johnson Sanford. She also leaves behind 10 grandchildren: Willie McAllister (and Leesa Gravel), Blake Fletcher (and fiancé Caitlyn Taboada), Andrew Fecteau (and Brianne Flanders), Kaylie Johnson, Samantha Villeneuve, Noah Villeneuve, Ethan Johnson, Cheyenne Saphore, Sienna Johnson, Ashlyn Johnson and four great-grandchildren: Curt McAllister, Andrew Fecteau Jr., Paislianne Fecteau, and Willow Fecteau. She also leaves her life-long, best friend Effie Farnham. Mary was predeceased by her parents, her beloved son Keith and four siblings: Sonny, Bill, Beth, Helen.

Those who knew Mary were lucky because of the way that she gave love. She was a strong and caring mother who softened into a goofy and fun-loving grandmother. She always made sure to find ways to support the ones that she loved. Whether that be by attending events for her kids and grandkids, making regular phone calls to make sure everyone was okay, or just being helpful wherever she was.

A gathering will be organized for people to tell stories, share memories, and mourn together when a more suitable time is upon us. We thank Blake for this beautiful tribute to a strong and loving pillar of our family!

Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made in Mary's memory to the Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 132 Wolcott, VT 05680. The des Groseilliers Funeral Home is in care of arrangements. Memories and condolences may be conveyed at dgfunerals.com.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Free Curbside Meal Jan. 20

EAST HARDWICK – A free curbside meal for the community will be served every Wednesday, beginning January 20th.

The simple takeout dinner will be served each Wednesday between 5 to 6 p.m., at the Caledonia Grange, 88 East Church Street

For questions or to arrange delivery, call 472-8987 or email easthardwickgrange@gmail.com.

This weekly meal is a project of the Small Farm Guild and Caledonia Grange #9, with support from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund.

Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a virtual hearing on Thursday, February 4, at 7 p.m., on Zoom. They will consider a Conditional Use request by Justin Keyes to build a new boathouse at 1183 Craftsbury Road. This application will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Uses, and 8.8 New Uses and Encroachments Within the Shoreland Buffer Resource Zone. There will be a socially distanced site visit on Saturday, January 30, at 11 a.m. Masks are required. Both the virtual hearing and the socially distanced site visit are open to the public.

To join the Zoom hearing, sign up for a free Zoom account anytime (Zoom.us), then at 7 p.m., on Thursday, February 4, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 810 8767 9909. There is no password. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 646 876 9923 (this is not a toll free number).

The application is available for review at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, www.greensborovt.org. Participation in the proceeding, either in person or in writing, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal. Interested persons may join the Zoom hearing or send a letter or email (zoning@greensborovt.org) to the Development Review Board at the Greensboro Town Clerk's office to comment on the proposed plan.

Greensboro Development Review Board

Further instructions for joining a Zoom meeting are on the Greensboro Town website www.greensborovt.org under Town Business - Committees and Commissions - Development Review Board.

Outdoor Fun at Highland Center for the Arts



Eleanor Andersen, 10, of East Montpelier skis along the 1.8-mile trail which loops from the Highland Center to the neighboring Wilson Farm with works of art displayed throughout the trail.



Examining the sculpture and art along the Open Air Gallery Ski & Snowshoe Trail are (from left) Annie Gaillard of Walden, Diana Griffiths of Greensboro, Loui Pulver of Walden and David Allen of Greensboro. They are looking at a sculpture of a 7 ft. X 2 ft. X 5 ft. Giraffe made of steel by Harlan Mack of Johnson.



An icy metallic aluminum sculpture by Phil Thorne of Norwich is one of 11 Vermont artists' works displayed at the Highland Center for the Arts Open Air Gallery. Family groups can be seen enjoying their lunch around the socially distanced bonfires.



Loui Pulver of Walden orders take out from the Cafe Saturday during an opening reception for the Open Air Gallery Ski & Snowshoe Trail at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro. The Cafe is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. for warm drinks and light lunch fare. There is no charge to ski and snowshoe along the 1.8-mile trail to view the works of art.

**Photos
by
Vanessa Fournier**

McBurnie Helps People to “Repurpose”

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO – When walking into Laurie McBurnie’s Carpentry Workshop for Women workspace, one is immediately struck by a sense of calm, balance, harmony, and warmth.

The building itself, a repurposed three-sided shed, was once used to store wood and general debris. Now it is a wood-sided, warmly stained paneled space, ensconced in earth colors. A bench made of repurposed doors rests on one side; a restored worktable was found as a basement discard; another small workbench is made of repurposed odds and ends; a handmade table was built with students from “what was lying around.”

An old World War II poster of Rosie the Riveter was found in the shed’s walls and is posted next to an array of hand tools.

Repurposing of buildings, repurposing of wood and objects, and helping people to repurpose their lives is central to Greensboro resident Laurie McBurnie.

McBurnie’s Carpentry Workshops for Women are designed to “help people repurpose their lives through working with wood and building things.”

“It is the building of things,” McBurnie said, “that is similar to building new pathways of thinking and making new connections in your brain.”

“One person sees a piece of wood as something to throw into the fireplace instead of a workbench in the making of something that comes alive again. It has to do with perspective and helps people to shift their perspectives.”

The impetus for creating her Carpentry Workshops is “wanting to share my love of working with my hands and all the self-taught

skills acquired over the years.”

She was inspired by Vermont Works for Women and hearing the comments from women, such as, “how do you know how to do this,” “I wish I could...,” “I will never be able to...,” or “I know nothing about...”

Her logo reveals a reaffirming, challenging mantra: a lone character stands on a promontory of “What we are” prepared to leap across the deep chasm to another promontory, “What we want to be.”

“I wanted to create a space where people could work in a sense of calm and feel free to explore and not be criticized,” she said.

The workshops will teach how to use hand tools - power drill, driver, sander, jigsaw, circular saw - and stationary tools like a table saw, miter saw, and router.

As a toddler, McBurnie’s father, a fine carpentry and cabinet maker, would give her scraps of wood and tell her to build something.

“I have worked with power tools for years, learning on my own, taking classes, watching videos, learning from others,” McBurnie said. “Having been a homeowner many times over, you learn to do things in order to be self-sufficient and independent.”

McBurnie works privately with clients and with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union’s Flexible Pathways program.

“The Carpentry Workshop,” she said, “is something of what I do as a coach by providing a safe, informal, non-judgmental and supportive environment in which to explore and expand. It gives the person room to develop self-awareness, confidence, and freedom to move outside a comfort zone. Skill building is a great way for a person to question beliefs about who they are and who they can be.”



photo by June Pichel Cook
Life Coach Laurie McBurnie believes women can work with power and carpentry tools when willing to try, not unlike Rosie the Riveter of World War II. She has opened a workshop, Carpentry Workshops for Women, to teach women how to use power and carpentry tools with ease.

The primary focus of the workshops, McBurnie said, will be learning safety and respect for tools, whether hand tools or power tools, and learning about what each tool is used for and capable of doing. Participants will learn basic knowledge about wood, joinery, and other aspects of working with wood.

“Basic carpentry skills can be applied to not only woodworking, but many Do-It-Yourself projects, such as simple home repairs.”

Class sizes are restricted

to 1 or 2 people maximum; each session can be customized to that person’s interests and goals. McBurnie can be reached at carpentrycoachVT@gmail.com or 802-999-9702.

McBurnie holds a degree in Psychology from Washington State University and an Associates Degree in Nursing. She is a Certified Life Coach and holds an IPEC (Institute of Professional Excellence and Coaching) certification. She grew up on Long Island and moved to Vermont in 1977.



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EDITORIAL

Finding Our Way Back from the Edge of the Abyss

On January 6, a mob of insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol to stop the final certification of the 2020 presidential election. One Capitol Police officer was killed, dozens of others were injured. The Vice President and the assembled Senators and Representatives had to be evacuated under armed guard. A wooden gallows was erected on the grounds outside the Capitol and some rioters chanted “Hang Mike Pence!” Windows and furniture were smashed. The Capitol was occupied by forces hostile to the U.S. government for the first time since 1814.

So much for 2021 being a rebound from a dreadful 2020.

It could have been worse. No elected officials were taken hostage, wounded or killed. The certification of election results was completed in the early morning hours of January 7. President Trump pledged that “there will be an orderly transition on January 20th.” The elections went as smoothly as could be expected. As the Elections Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council stated in a November 12 press release, “the November 3rd election was the most secure in American history. ... While we know there are many unfounded claims and opportunities for misinformation about the process of our elections, we can assure you we have the utmost confidence in the security and integrity of our elections, and you should too.”

In the end, dozens of legal challenges to the election results were dismissed by the courts. The insurrectionist challenge at the Capitol failed, too. Our democracy held.

So, what now?

First, we must work to fully re-establish the rule of law. Those who sought to disrupt peaceful government operations should be identified and prosecuted. An FBI official said that the Bureau

is investigating 150 suspects and that the number is expected to grow.

In addition, Federal and state governments are taking preventative measures to ensure that the military and law enforcement have not been infiltrated by potential anti-government agents. For example, a Vermont State Police trooper has been suspended and is being investigated for social media posts that support the uprising. Since several military veterans were identified among the rioters, the U.S. military is launching investigations to determine whether any of its members have violated relevant laws or regulations. The Army Command Policy (AR 600-20), for example, states in section 4-12b that “Soldiers are prohibited from ... actions in support of extremist organizations or activities. Penalties for violations of these prohibitions include the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions, both criminal (UCMJ), and administrative.”

These important steps to hold individuals accountable for criminal activity and bolster the public’s confidence must be free of hysteria or rush to judgment. They are, however, a critical step in restoring the rule of law.

Another, overdue, step is to address the broader threat of domestic terrorism. The October 2020 Homeland Threat Assessment issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security states that “racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists—specifically white supremacist extremists (WSEs) — will remain the most persistent and lethal threat in the Homeland.” Although the rioters do not seem to be limited to white supremacist extremists, there is ample evidence that some were. Additionally, the behavior of many of the rioters meets the definition of domestic terrorism under Paragraph 2331.5 of 18 USC Ch. 113B: “the term ‘domestic

terrorism’ means activities that (A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State; (B) appear to be intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and (C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.” It is time to enact a federal statute that specifically addresses domestic terrorism and work to prevent these types of crimes with the same vigor as we do international terrorism.

But what about folks in Hardwick? In Greensboro, or Craftsbury or Cabot or any of the towns that the Gazette has the privilege to serve? I suggest that all of us should follow, critically evaluate, and support the measures that are being taken at the state and federal level. I would also suggest that we face an important choice: we can turn toward each other or turn on each other. This is a time for considered legal and legislative action, not a time for witch hunts and personal recrimination. Let’s focus on building our communities while other, important issues are being addressed in Montpelier and Washington. If you can, donate time or money to your local food bank, free community dinner, or winter clothing drive. Wear a mask, if not for yourself, then to show that you support your community, even if you do not believe masks are effective. Get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible. These small gestures can help re-affirm that we are in this together, that we are working to get through this together and that we will emerge from this together.

R.S.

State and Town Leaders React to the Storming of the U.S. Capitol

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK, MONTPELIER – One week ago today, rioters attempting to stop the certification of the results of the presidential election stormed the United States Capitol. Some state and local leaders shared their reactions to the event.

Governor Phil Scott laid the blame for the “insurrection” at the feet of President Trump. Gov. Scott was the first Republican governor to call for Trump’s removal. “President Trump has orchestrated a campaign to cause an insurrection that overturns the results of a free, fair and legal election,” he said.

In a statement on Twitter, Lt.-Governor-Elect Molly Gray blamed Trump for what she called an “egregious attack on our democracy.” She said, “If ever there were a need for Vermont values in Washington, it is now.”

The Vermont House of Representatives voted 130-16 to pass a resolution condemning the insurrection and calling for Trump to resign or be removed. Opposing the resolution were 16 Republicans.

Rep. Vicki Strong (R-Orleans-Caledonia) was quoted in the media as doubting the reports from D.C., but later said the quote was taken out of context. She said her remarks were made in an off-the-floor caucus very early on when the situation was very confused. She could not believe that what she was seeing on the news could possibly be happening, she said. Strong said, “I did vote yes on the resolution on behalf of the constituents who I felt wanted me to support it.” Reps. Janet Ancel (D-Washington 6), Dan Noyes (D-Lamoille 2), Avram Patt (D-Lamoille-Washington), Katherine Sims (D-Orleans-Caledonia), Chip Troiano (D-Caledonia-2), and Dave Yacovone (D-Lamoille-Washington) were among the resolution’s sponsors.

Less than 24 hours later, the Vermont Senate followed with its own resolution. Senator Russ Ingalls (R-Essex/Orleans) was the sole dissenter. Ingalls did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

Strong said that “the events we saw on Wednesday, of violence in our nation’s Capitol Building, were shocking, scary, and brought grief

and raw anguish to my heart and mind. I have since been in prayer for those who were injured or lost their life, and for their families, and I am praying for our country to move forward in peace and healing. Our right to assembly should be honored in law-abiding, peaceful ways.”

Sen. Joe Benning (R-Caledonia) penned an Op-Ed and added as a postscript “I would say that Mr. Trump’s antics cost Republicans the Senate. In my eyes, his irresponsible behavior has deprived him of the right to be called a ‘Republican.’”

Rep. Troiano (D-Caledonia-2) said the insurrection brought back unhappy memories of his youth. As a 21-year-old soldier returned from Vietnam and stationed at Fort Meade in 1968, he said his unit was dispatched to the District to “quash riots” around the destruction of “Resurrection City,” which Troiano described as “a cardboard city that was erected on the Capitol mall by Black citizens in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination.”

Troiano said his unit, which was training in riot control, was not far from the city and were called out.

“We rolled into the city in armored personal carriers in full combat gear with loaded weapons,” he said. “They are not good memories of the days, of patrolling the streets of DC. The images of yesterday were all too reminiscent and did not sit well with me.”

Hardwick Select Board Chair Eric Remick said he was almost speechless. “I’m still trying to wrap my head around the fact that US citizens actually stormed the US Capital in an attempt to overthrow a free and fair election,” he said. “And that they were incited by the POTUS. I’m not much of a student of history but I can’t think of any precedent and I hope to never see anything like it again.”

Wolcott Select Board Vice Chair Linda Martin said, “I am in shock while at the same time not surprised.” Martin said she and an exchange student from Uruguay that she considers her son “were talking during the counting of votes for the President. My comment to him was ‘Now the civil wars begin.’ I am sickened at the assault on our Democracy that so many have fought for and the many who have lost their lives.”

Clarifies

Continued From Page One

at this time. Instead, we will schedule a special meeting given the extreme time constraints.”

A first order of business due to a statutory January 15 deadline was setting the school’s tuition. Approximately 20 students incur tuition expenses to attend Hazen Union, whether because the town in which they live is in the service area but has no high school, or through school choice. In FY2021, tuition for Hazen Union was \$16,500, which Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Director of Finance Brittany Currie said was “kind of right in the middle” compared to neighboring school districts. Private schools Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy were at the top end of the scale regionally in FY2021, at \$18,890 and \$18,500, respectively. Currie said she believed most schools had kept their tuition the same for FY2022, but noted that Lamoille South Supervisory Union had gone to \$17,100 in FY2022, when it previously was \$16,500. Lamoille North had, as far as she knew, kept its rate at \$15,500. Board member Mike Metcalf proposed increasing Hazen Union’s tuition to \$17,000, which the board unanimously approved. Currie said that the budget figures could be adjusted to see what change that \$500 increase would make on the tax rates. The board also decided that fourteen students could transfer in or out of Hazen Union under Winooski Valley Regional Public School Choice Collaborative. The schools participating in that program in 2020 were Bellows Free Academy – Fairfax, Cabot School, Craftsbury Academy, Danville School, Harwood Union High School, Hazen Union High School, Lamoille Union High

School, Montpelier High School, Northfield High School, Peoples Academy, Randolph Union High School, Spaulding High School, Stowe High School, Twinfield Union High School, U-32, White River Valley High School, and Williamstown High School.

Upon hearing the stakeholder feedback from last week’s meeting, Currie had come up with a second budget scenario that did not make cuts to arts programs, at least in terms of teachers. One point of clarification was an apparent \$55,877 change to the Athletics Budget, which Victoria von Hessert said struck her as “one-sided” with almost every other department seeing cuts. Currie clarified that the increase is not an actual reflection of the costs, but rather a reconciliation. Before this budget, numerous aspects of the Athletics Budget had been put into other departments’ budgets, so the figure represents a reclassification of items into the correct place instead of an actual major increase.

Since the majority of the expenses between the two budget scenarios were staff-related, the board went into executive session, which Open Meeting Law allows to avoid discussing personnel details in public. After almost two hours, the board could not decide between what Freihofner called “the two realities: declining enrollment (revenue implications) and effort to avoid staff cuts (expense implications).”

The overall budget without the arts program cuts would be \$6,556,806 and with the cuts \$6,467,420, a reduction of 4.29% or 5.58% from FY2021, respectively.

The Hazen School Board will convene in a public meeting via Google Meet on Friday, January 15, at 2:30 p.m. to finalize the budget.



Goat With Flowers

New Art Exhibit Opens at NVRH Gray Gallery

ST. JOHNSBURY – The Charles M. and Hanna H. Gray Gallery at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) announce a new display by Greensboro artist Isa Oehry. The exhibit will run until March 1.

Isabella (Isa) S. Oehry, who was born and raised in the Principality of Liechtenstein, works as a writer and artist at her farm in Greensboro. She loves the beauty and simplicity of farm life and enjoys rescuing old barn windows from their destined destruction at a dump, upcycling them into folk art.


Old, single pane windows get a new purpose. Oehry paints them with acrylic paint and leaves a large section of the glass unpainted. The paintings then hang against the wall and the unpainted section of the painting reflects the color of the wall. And, depending on the color of the wall, the

character of the painting can change drastically.

“My main goal is to bring a smile to the faces of viewers,” Oehry said. “I love painting humorous farm animals and living on a farm in Vermont provides endless inspiration.”

The Charles M. and Hanna H. Gray Gallery is located on the hospital’s main floor. Due to COVID-19, visit the exhibit in person only when you have a healthcare appointment at the hospital or view a short video of the exhibit on the Charles M. and Hanna H. Gray Gallery webpage at nvrh.org/the-charles-m-and-hanna-h-gray-gallery.

All exhibited art is for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefit the NVRH ARTs program. For more information, please contact Associate Director of Philanthropy and Art Gallery Curator Jennifer Layn at j.layn@nvrh.org or 802-748-7313.


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Select Board Wades Through Uncharted Territory

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – Holding town meeting via an Australian ballot process versus an in-person town meeting on March 2 is “uncharted territory” for the Craftsbury Select Board. The Vermont Legislature passed ACT 162, which took effect October 5, 2020, allowing municipalities to use Australian ballot for the annual or any special town meetings during 2021.

Select Board Chair Bruce Urie said, “We are doing the best we can in wading through uncharted territory. We expect there are going to be some glitches; everyone is looking at this.”

He said the board was making an effort to reach people who do not use Zoom or Front Porch Forum by mailing a postcard to all residents with important dates relative to the annual meeting.

The Annual Town Report must be available to voters 10 days before

the town meeting; the warning will be posted on January 31. Town reports will be ready as soon as they can be printed and sent out, Urie said. The deadline for submitting articles and committee reports to the board is January 14.

The Australian Ballot will list all Articles. Individual appropriation requests typically under one “bunch” must be voted separately: Memorial Day, Recreation Committee, Village Improvement Society, Cemeteries, Block Party Fund, and Historical Society. Additionally, organizations and agencies requesting funds must also be listed and voted on separately.

“We have to take all the appropriations we normally vote as a bunch and have separate articles,” he said. “There can be no amendments.”

Urie said the current ballot is two pages and but he expects a third page will be added.

The Australian Ballot allows no amendments and is a straight up or down vote.

Anyone seeking office must sign a consent form to be on the ballot; the consent form must be submitted to the Town Clerk’s office by January 25. ACT 162 waived the requirement to collect voter signatures to have a candidate’s name placed on the ballot.

Voters may call the Town

Clerk’s office to request an absentee ballot.

“Their names will be placed on a list as soon as we can we’ll start taking names,” Urie said. “An informational post card will be mailed out.”

The polls will be open all day on March 2, Town Meeting Day, for in-person voting. Urie said a strict mask mandate will be in effect.

The informational meeting held prior to the town meeting has not been finalized. The board is not sure an in-person meeting can be held at the school.

“We will have an informational meeting but haven’t finalized how we are going to do it,” he said. “Whether it will be by Zoom with small pods or one meeting or in-person. We are still working this out and it will be publicized as much as we can.”

“People can still come down to vote,” he said. “We are going to be careful about wearing masks.”

ACT 162 gave towns the choice to continue with floor meetings, but the town is required to comply with all relevant health and safety guidance from the CDC, VT Department of Health, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and Secretary of State.

The board voted earlier to hold town meeting remotely and use an Australian Ballot process.

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Thursday, January 14

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

UNITED CHURCH OF HARDWICK is providing 100 to-go meals during the gap in funding for the “Everyone Eats” program funded by the Federal Stimulus package. Call Rev. Evelyn Lavelli at 472-6353 to reserve a meal.

Friday, January 15

BLACK LIVES MATTER/Peace and Justice Vigil, 5 - 6 p.m., Fridays, Peace Park, Hardwick. All welcome.

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

MAGICAL DISPLAY OF LIGHTS, 5 - 8 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts grounds, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro. Take in the warmth of glowing fires and enjoy live music. HCA Cafe will serve light dinner fare, desserts and drinks. Wear outdoor gear. Social distancing and masks required. Purchase tickets at highlandartsvt.com.

Saturday, January 16

BLACK LIVES MATTER/Peace and Justice Vigil, 3 - 5 p.m., Saturdays, South Main at Wolcott Street, Hardwick. All welcome.

MAGICAL DISPLAY OF LIGHTS, 5 - 8 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts grounds, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro. Take in the warmth of glowing fires and enjoy live music. HCA Cafe will serve light dinner fare, desserts and drinks. Wear outdoor gear. Social distancing and masks required. Purchase tickets at highlandartsvt.com.

Monday, January 18

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, Mondays, 6 p.m., Touch of Grace AG Church, 104 Vt. Rt. 16, E. Hardwick. Men’s Addiction Group. Information: 802-279-2185.

Tuesday, January 19

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 20

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

EAST HARDWICK GRANGE SUPPER, Wednesdays, beginning January 20, 5 - 6 p.m. Caledonia Grange #9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. Information or delivery: easthardwickgrange@gmail.com or 472-8987.

Exhibits

HIGHLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Greensboro, 2875 Hardwick St., outdoor art experience. Ski or snowshoe at your own pace, and on your own time, in and through artwork by Vermont artists. The 1.8-mile trail begins at HCA and loops to the neighboring Wilson Farm. Open daily, weather permitting from dawn to dusk. Social distancing and masks required. Register online at highlandartsvt.org.

ELIZABETH NELSON/ICELAND, The Satellite Gallery, 71 Depot St., Lyndonville. 802-229-8317. [facebook.com/thesatellitertv/](https://www.facebook.com/thesatellitertv/) through January 31. Open Wednesday and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

To get your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, please e-mail: news@hardwickgazette.com.

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COMMUNITY COMMENT

Mark Lichtenstein: A Remembrance

by **Brendan N. Buckley, M.D.**

GREENSBORO – One evening, early in the year 1980, a phone conversation between Washington D.C. and Greensboro, Vermont concluded with words to this effect:

“Well, OK, if that all sounds good to you, then I guess you’re welcome to come here. Let me know when you’ll be arriving. I’ll find a place for you to stay.”

Over the preceding half hour Mark Lichtenstein had done his level best to talk me, a second year medical student, out of choosing Greensboro as the place to experience a summer of rural primary care medicine. And, when it came to making a point, Mark’s level best argument usually trumped most peoples’ debate skills, and their resolve to continue debating.

But, I was determined -- hidden behind the guise of an eager medical student, was a more eager soccer player, looking for an excuse to return to Vermont to re-join his summer soccer teammates in the Burlington area. Mark never stood a chance of successfully turning me away.

I arrived on an early summer Saturday evening, rendezvousing with Mark in the Mackins’ kitchen, a minute’s walk from the Greensboro Health Center (now library). Before my car engine had cooled I found myself accompanying Mark to the health center where he skillfully removed a piece of metal from a man’s eye - easy peasy, just so. Welcome to rural health care – Saturday evening urgent care visits and all.

Over the course of that summer, I was at Mark’s side most days, and at his and Cindy’s dinner table more often than not. For a medical student accustomed to tuna casseroles, spaghetti, and tacos, the food was eye-opening and mouth-watering as Cindy joyfully introduced me to a world of cuisines.

By day, I dutifully shadowed Mark. Our conversation paralleled primary care medicine – always something different, no two days, no two patient visits ever the same. But beyond the specifics of medicine -- hypertension, diabetes, foreign bodies in eyes, broken ribs, depression -- we spoke of the wonder and the challenge of delivering care in this beautiful place.

Mark saw the big picture -- the need for structure and foundation for the care he was providing. He saw the obstacles confronting access to care -- cost,

transportation, distrust, lack of understanding.

As I arrived, he had only practiced for a year, working within a health care structure that had been in place about five years, and that had been characterized by a revolving-door cast of physicians. Mark had already committed himself to staying for the long term. As part of that commitment, he embraced the idea of community health by reviewing and reforming existing practice habits, and introducing new ones: Child Protection Team, Well Child visits, incorporating alliances with mental health workers, setting standards for our on-site lab and pharmacy -- no task too unimportant for him to address.

Through the summer, over hours of conversation, as we drove to and from Copley, as we lunched on the grassy bank in front of the Greensboro Health Center, as we sipped beer and inhaled the aromas of Cindy’s cooking, in between patients, in between innings as we played for the Greensboro Lakers softball team, a deep friendship blossomed. By summer’s end we were already scheming how I might one day return to practice at his side.

And, lo and behold, thanks to a big push from Mark, and David Reynolds at Northern Counties Health Care, the National Health Service sanctioned my fulfilling my medical school scholarship obligation here, and I joined the health center staff in 1985. I arrived expertly trained to treat patients in their hours of dire circumstance -- pneumonia, heart attack, kidney failure, stroke, acute abdominal pain -- I was just who they needed. In short, I was very good at hospital-based care, and far less experienced at office medicine.

Mark never lost faith in me -- he answered all my questions, endured my many interruptions of his workflow, stayed later into the evening than he wished to review our day. His patience knew no limit; his enthusiasm for our partnership never wavered. He was the most understanding partner one might have wished for. As I began my career, he explained the vacation policy and then admonished me that he would not stand for me NOT taking every available day off that I was allowed. He was my partner, my mentor, my protector.

In the beginning, it was difficult for me to match his grace -- when he took time off, I felt a bit at sea without him to turn to,

so reassuring was his presence. As I grew into my role, as my confidence and self-assurance increased, I began to envision a life here and to imagine a future for our partnership and our health center. My interest caught Mark off guard. Not that he had not anticipated our working side by side for years to come, but, several years into his own career here, he had become accustomed to making all the decisions, to being the one voice that mattered; now I wanted to have a say too.

It should come as no surprise that, when I challenged Mark to share in the leadership of our health center, he understood my position and welcomed my input. In fact, over time we tried to foster a work environment in which all felt empowered to speak up with suggestions and concerns. I know that such a change was not always easy for Mark; it was within his nature and his intellect to quickly grasp issues and arrive at solutions; I am sure he respectfully bit his tongue at many a staff meeting while the rest of us wrestled with a question of policy or protocol.

To work beside Mark, to see him with patients, was an opportunity to learn about trust and caring. It was impossible to miss. He was an empathic man with a gift for understanding. A mutual devotion grew between him and his patients. Once he retired, at the end of 2014, a typical day for me at the health center would include at least one of Mark’s

former patients asking after him, singing his praises, mourning his departure.

It was difficult to lose Mark as a colleague in 2014. For many of us who had worked with him for so long, he WAS the health center. We cried then and we cry again now -- a devoted physician, a beautiful man, a dear friend, is gone.

A decade ago, a handsome building appeared along the Lamoille River, at the base of Slapp Hill -- a new health center. It had long been our dream to move from the old Hardwick Hospital building on High Street into a modern facility, one designed to best serve our community.

Already, that new building has undergone interior reshaping and renovation to accommodate an ever-growing staff. Where forty years ago there were four providers, now there are nine. The staff includes a community coordinator, a mental health counselor, and a nurse dedicated to help those in recovery from addiction. There are plans for a teaching kitchen. The employee and patient parking areas overflow.

Without Mark’s commitment to our community, and his vision for our greater welfare, I doubt such a health center would have come our way. His passion inspired a new generation of health care workers to join him. In following his lead, we helped build a health center in which we take great pride. May it stand as a legacy to Mark.

A FRIENDLY UPDATE FROM THE NEK COUNCIL ON AGING

The Scoop

is our monthly nutrition newsletter that is provided to our home-delivered meal recipients. It includes helpful hints on healthy eating and wellness.

“An archive of The Scoop” is available in the Nutrition section of our website www.NEK council.org.



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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Living in a Double Bubble

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER -- There must be plenty of us still alive who remember Dubble Bubble Gum. It debuted before World War II, was unavailable for a while after 1942, and came roaring back in 1950. Bubble gum sales reps, just like their yo-yo counterparts, held demonstrations and contests at various stores. I never entered any, mostly because I never mastered the truly giant bubble, but also because I strongly disliked picking the bits of exploded chewing gum off my face.

All that is utterly apropos of nothing – except that, as I consider my current existence in the State of Vermont, I feel as though I’m living in at least a double bubble, for which it would be churlish not to be grateful.

Consider: The national and international news floods in here around the clock. It’s currently awash in stories, photos, and video clips of the outrages of January Sixth. Although a full busload of unmasked Vermonters did travel to Washington for the festivities, they returned quietly enough in the wee hours of the next day, sleepy, and if any of them aboard that bus was infected with Coronavirus, about to come to grips with it themselves, making their home state look not so good in the national standings. Yet all that Potomac turmoil seems far away from our bubble.

Generally speaking, we’re at least as safe here as in almost any other populated place on the planet.

Our Governor and health officials hold frequent publicly broadcast briefings on our situation, plans, and prognosis, and are much trusted by almost all of us. I can walk unmasked in the park as long as I keep at least two meters between me and other human beings. Here in our house, there are only the two of us – Kiki and I – but we go out only together, so I never have to wonder whom she’s been with. She might worry about what I might be bringing home from the supermarket besides the groceries. But if she does, she never shows it.

We go about our daily routine much as we did before the pandemic restrictions: working around and from home, connected by e-mail and Facebook; a trip to the supermarket about every six days or so; a daily jaunt in the park – I shuffle, she trots, gallops, and zooms -- and an occasional trip to join the NHPB film crew to shoot an episode of our show. Yesterday, it was the White Mountains; next week, a hike on Cape Cod. Those trips are worrisome, but I’m sure my state health department is doing all it can to get the vaccine distributed (I’m in the next demographic to get the shot), so I try to keep my head down and be patient. When there’s little more you can do about improving a situation, it’s very nice to be able to trust those who are working on it.

While the flood of incoming information is macrocosmic – everything from the famine in Yemen to the strangulation of freedom in Hong Kong – our life here is intentionally



Kiki is waiting out the pandemic in Vermont.

microcosmic. Kiki clears the yard, morning and evening, of predators – pumas, mostly— while I exchange notes with friends. We spend a lot of time together in my recliner, keeping each other warm while I read. This week, while the riots raged in our nation’s capital, I read to her from Huckleberry Finn. She seemed more impressed with its loosening pages (a paperback bought for an American Lit course in 1956) than with its brilliant writing and social commentary. Evenings, while I catch up on my bank account, or a book order, or correspondence, she curls up on a fleece pad on the desk at my left elbow. Around eight, she asks to go out, and at ten, to go to bed, where she lies on my knees ‘til I’ve finished the newspapers and read myself groggy with a magazine (a great piece, by the way, about the Mormon Church

in this month’s Atlantic).

The ground was frozen before the last snowstorm, so I can see my way around the house at night by snowlight. I can tell which way the wind is blowing by letting Kiki out; she always stops halfway across the yard, sits, and faces the wind, sniffing. A relict Queen Anne’s Lace stalk, stiff brown beside the porch, tells me how hard it’s blowing. The chickadees and their upside-down pals, the nuthatches, swarm the feeder for ten minutes and disappear. The daylight lingers later every evening. Maurice Chevalier leads Buffy Sainte-Marie, Woody Guthrie, and Andrés Segovia across the speaker somewhere in the computer. The coffee steams in its cup. Like two tiny figurines in a snow globe, we wait together for spring, a new administration, and the end of the pandemic.

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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MEETING MEMO

Monday, January 18
Walden Select Board, every other Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Cabot School District Board of Directors' Special Board Meeting, 6 - 7 p.m., <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/82764174696?pwd=e-HFVZ29QZHpCOXpjRkVCV1R-sOEJpZz09>, Meeting ID: 827 6417 4696. 1-646-558-8656.

Town Websites, Town Clerks
Cabot: cabotvt.us
Calais: calaisvermont.gov
Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com

Greensboro: greensborovt.org
Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. waldentc@pivot.net
Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

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ANOTHER OPINION

No More

by Joe Benning

State Senator, Caledonia District

LYNDON – Today I saw a picture of a busload of Vermonters on their way to Washington, D.C. They were Donald Trump supporters who remain convinced that his election was stolen. I want to believe that all of them on that bus were heading down for a peaceful protest. But after witnessing several different news reports, and listening to the speeches of President Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., and Rudy Giuliani urging them to go to the Capitol, I have to wonder whether anyone in that group got duped into joining the assault of that beautiful and historic building.

I'd be interested to know because, as someone who has spent years trying to convince Vermonters that conservative and constitutional principles have merit, that message will be made all the more difficult to deliver if it is associated with those extremists who also call themselves Republicans.

Please don't embarrass us by saying these extremists were ANTIFA. Don't try to deflect by saying BLM or liberals started it or are just as bad. These thugs were Republicans devoted completely to Donald Trump. They are not "Patriots." They are not "real Americans." They are anarchists who believe in mob rule, plain and simple.

Many of them were egged on by a Donald Trump tweet today that alleged Vice-President Mike Pence would be shirking his constitutional responsibilities if he didn't reject elector certificates. Not only is the potential precedent of such a claim a direct threat to every election in the future, it has absolutely no foundation whatsoever in the one simple sentence (Article II, §1) in the Constitution that specifically directs the President of the Senate (Mike Pence) to open "all certificates." The President, in other words, was directing Pence to take an unconstitutional action.

I will credit Mike Pence for recognizing the Constitution does not allow him to reject elector certificates and its language limited him to a ceremonial role. But the extremists latched onto the President's false tweet to bash in the Capitol doors in

an action that has resulted in a woman's death.

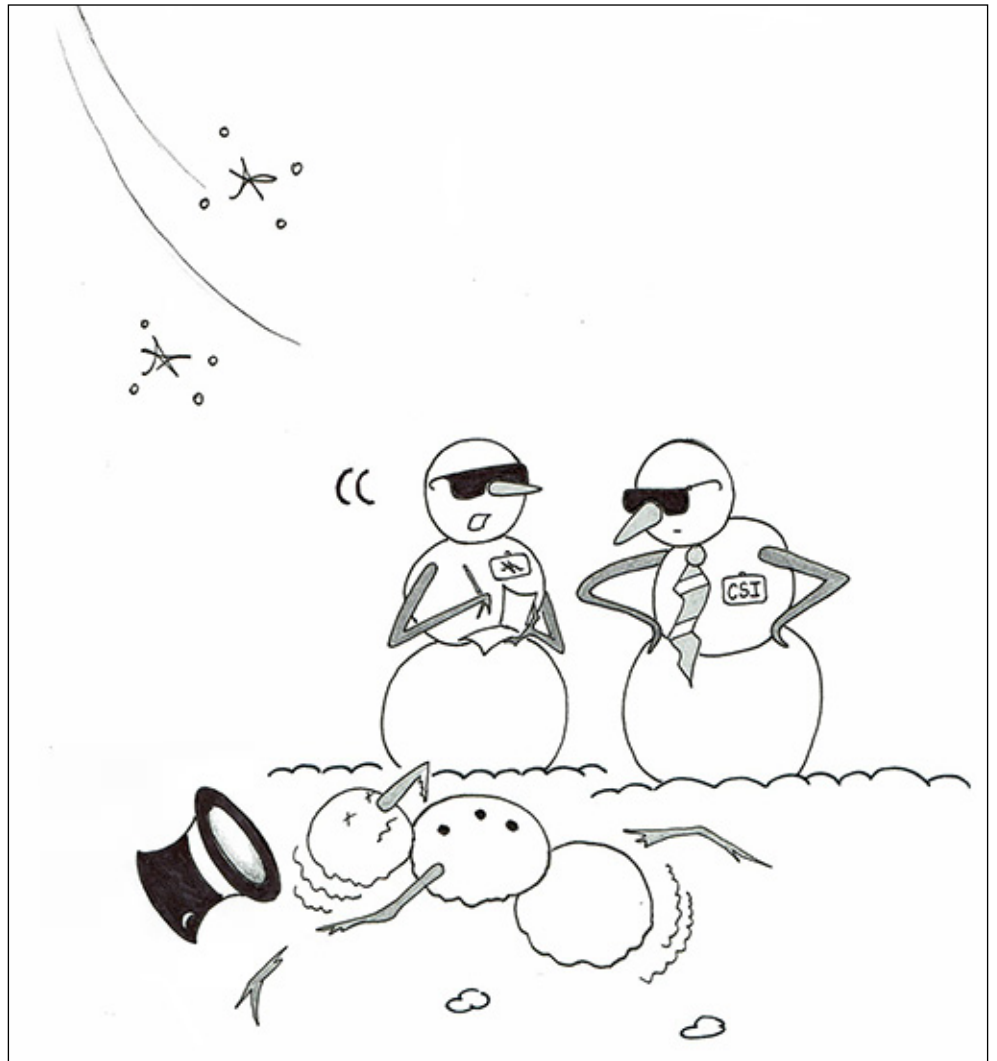
It is further troubling that these same extremists continue to believe the President's tweets over all the legal and factual arguments that counter them. Sixty courts at all federal and state levels, Senate Majority Leader (Republican) Mitch McConnell, the President's own Attorney General William Barr, and Republican Secretaries of State and State Attorneys General in all the states being contested have all concluded this election was not "stolen" and has never produced clear, unambiguous evidence of widespread fraud.

Yet some continue to cling to individual instances of alleged fraud and thus call for overturning the votes of millions of fellow Americans. They will accept nothing less than re-election of the candidate who lost BOTH the majority and electoral college vote counts. And as I type this, the citadel of liberty and freedom, our nation's capital, is shut down. I cannot imagine the glee now emanating from governments in Iran, Russia and China.

Enough is enough. Even Twitter has finally shut down the President's tweet account. Republicans like Mike Pence, who courageously upheld the Constitution over the President's public insults, need to find our voices. This is not the Republican party we are witnessing, but make no mistake it will be labeled so by those who seek scapegoats.

I have another picture of a group on a bus trip going to Washington, D.C. to visit the Capital. A young eighth-grade boy is seen at the top of the photo, peering over the seats of his sleeping classmates. On his visit to the nation's capital he was left with a wonderful idea of what America is supposed to be about. His class picture was taken on the very steps that Trump extremists invaded this afternoon. Today, fifty years later, he officially stepped down as Minority Leader of the Vermont State Senate. He will continue to espouse the Republican principles embodied in the VTGOP party platform as a State Senator, but he can no longer tolerate extremists posing as Republicans. He also prays other Republicans who believe in those principles will stand with him to reject the chaos and anarchy these extremists represent.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"WORD ON THE STREET IS THERE'S A POLAR VORTEX ON THE WAY!!"

LETTERS FROM READERS

Expel Them!

To the editor:

The coup d'état that almost destroyed our democratic Republic on January 6 was not the work of just one man, nor the work of the white privileged, white supremacist mob that stormed the Capitol. It was supported and abetted by those Senators and Congressmen/women who joined in Trump's lie that the election was stolen.

As active and tacit members of that coup, those Republican Senators, such as Hawley, Cruz and Kennedy, along with the 100-plus Republican Congressmen and women, should be expelled from their positions

in Congress. They have failed in their oath to protect the Constitution and our Republic, putting their own political careers ahead of the safety of our nation. They have sullied America's reputation in the world, forfeiting their right to represent their constituents.

Please join me in contacting Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders and Congressman Welch in demanding that those insurrectionist traitors be expelled from Congress.

Bob Hawk
East Hardwick

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Washington Unit Docket No.: 465-8-20 Wnpr
In re ESTATE of Joseph G. Gacy, II

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Joseph G. Gacy, II, late of Woodbury, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: January 8, 2021
Signature of Fiduciary: /s/ Renee L. Mobbs
Renee L. Mobbs
P.O. Box 66
Burlington, VT 05402
802-864-9891
Email: rmobbs@sheehevvt.com

Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette
Publication Date: January 13, 2021

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court,
Washington Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 65 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602



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IN THE GARDEN

A Guide to Nature in Winter

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – This is a good time to be outdoors exploring the fields and woods. But, you may ask, what is there to see? Trees, winter weeds, animal footprints, signs of insects, shelf fungi on trees, evergreen woodland plants and more. If I had to choose one person to show me the outdoors in winter, it would be Donald W. Stokes who wrote “A Guide to Nature in Winter,” that covers all these topics and more.

I find that learning the names and characteristics of plants and animals makes them more interesting. Many people look at all evergreen conifers and call them pine trees. But if you know the difference between a white pine and a Canadian hemlock or a balsam fir, you can decide if you want to grow one or the other on your property.

Stokes’ book explains that if you learn to identify the six most common deciduous trees and the six most common trees with needles or cones, you will know 80% of the trees in most northern forests. And you can do this in winter. Bud location, size and shape are good indicators for identifying trees.

1. Maples. Like ash trees, the buds, branches (and later leaves) are arranged opposite each other, while most other trees alternate the location of them on stems. Maples



courtesy photo

Beech buds alternate on the stem and are long and pointed.

have oval buds that are between and inch long.

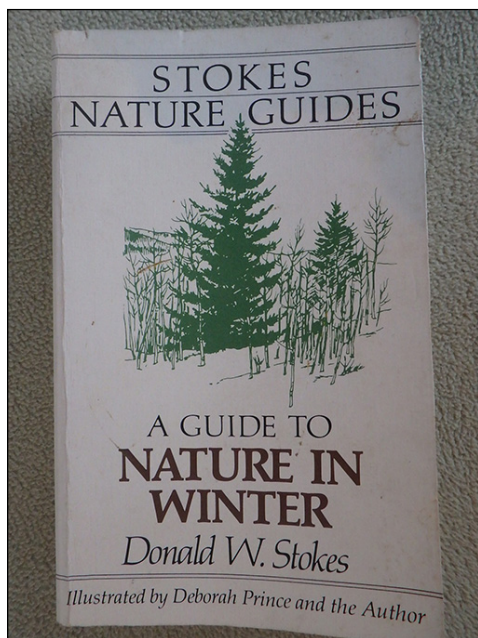
2. Ash. Buds on ash trees are larger than maple buds and are dark and dome shaped. The twigs on ash trees are generally thicker than on maples.

3. Oak. These have clusters of buds at the end of each branch, and the younger trees often hold onto their brown leaves through the winter. Buds and branches appear in an alternating pattern.

4. Beech. The buds on beech are long and pointy. But the most distinguishing characteristic is its smooth, gray bark. There is a beech fungal disease which can mar the bark, making it look like a bad case of acne.

5. White Birch. Most people can recognize white birch by its bright, white and peeling bark, but other birch species can have golden or greyish bark. The bark also has long horizontal lines marking it, and they often have catkins hanging from the tips of upper branches.

6. Poplar, also called aspen. These trees tend to grow in clumps in places with poor soil. The upper bark has a greenish tinge, and their



courtesy photo

A great book for exploring the winter landscape.

buds are variable in color, but always have sharp, pointy ends.

Then there are the evergreens:

1. Pines. They have clumps of needles in groups of two, three or five. White pine, the most common, has groups of five long, soft needles.

2. Hemlock. These trees have short (1/2-inch), soft needles with two white lines on the underneath side. There is a short stem between needle and twig.

3. Balsam fir. One-inch needles, also with two white lines underneath but no stem between needle and twig.

4. Cedar. Small, scale-like needles arranged along the twigs.

5. Spruce. Four-sided needles that are uncomfortably sharp to the touch.

6. Larch. No needles in winter, but cones may be present. Stubby twigs on branches.

After that basic list of characteristics, the Stokes book provides interesting details about the various species of trees, and differences within a genus. So, for example, he explains that most wooden sports equipment and the handles of our garden tools are made from ash because it is strong, relatively light,



courtesy photo

Old sugar maples have craggy bark.

and flexible. And he notes that sycamores, known for beautiful, variegated bark, are often hollow when large, and home to nesting mammals like raccoons and skunks.

I was fascinated to read that willow seeds, if washed away and deposited on a muddy bank (in spring), can germinate in two days and grow seven feet during the first year.

Poplars or aspen are often the first trees to grow after land has been burned or damaged by construction of roads. They often appear in clusters, as new trees pop up from the roots. They are not long-lived like maples or oaks, which can live hundreds of years: poplars, Stokes noted, generally last no more than 80 years, and frequently less.

Did you know that the sounding boards of many musical instruments are made of spruce? Stokes points out that it is especially clear of knots and imperfections and resonates better than other woods.

If you pay attention to your trees, you will learn to identify them by shape and bark. Sugar maples, for instance, have nice, rounded tops and older ones have craggy bark. I can identify a white pine from a fast-moving vehicle: branches



courtesy photo

Oak buds have pointed tips that come in clusters at the tips of branches.

on the lower part of the tree droop downward, upper branches reach for the sky.

So, head outdoors and study the trees along a woodland path. And bring along “A Guide to Nature in Winter.” Almost anyone will learn something from it in no time.



courtesy photo

Birches have horizontal lines on their bark.



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**Town of Stowe
Custodial Services
STOWE, VERMONT**

The Town of Stowe has an immediate opening for an Equipment Operator in the Highway Department. Candidate must possess a valid Vermont driver's license and a Class B commercial driver's license (CDL). The operator must have a demonstrated ability to operate a dual axel dump truck with a wing blade for plowing purposes. The ability to operate a grader, excavator, or other heavy equipment is desirable. The employee must also perform physical labor and other duties as required to assist with maintaining municipal infrastructure.

This is a full-time position that requires overtime during the winter season and during emergency operations, as well as participation in a rotational on-call schedule for off hours and weekends. The pay range is \$19.76-\$22.66 per hour dependent upon qualifications and experience. This position includes benefits which currently include paid leave, sick time, health and dental insurance and a retirement program. Pre-employment screening including medical examination, Motor Vehicles records check, background check and drug testing is also required.

Interested applicants should fill out and submit a Town of Stowe Employment Application available at www.townofstowevt.org and resume to: Town of Stowe, Attn: Recruitment, PO Box 730, Stowe, VT 05672 or email recruit@stowevt.gov. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

EOE

Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way. Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil and foliar. **Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.**

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000 feet of an electric utility right-of-way:

1. Sign up to receive written notification from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000 feet of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15, 2021, to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. Watch and listen for public service announcements in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. Check with your local electric utility regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. You have the right to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are distribution lines, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are transmission lines or sub-transmission lines, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

Vermont Electric Power Company VELCO	Agency of Agriculture	Department of Public Service
366 Pinnacle Ridge Road	Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt.	Consumer Affairs & Public Information
Rutland, VT 05701	116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602	112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602
Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584	1-802-828-2431	1-800-622-4496

Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15, 2021.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List

Name	Town/City of Affected Area	
Street Address	Home Phone Number	
Town	Work Phone Number	
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number" (circle one) Yes No
Electric Utility Account Number	Best time to contact you	
Affected Property:	Year-round residence	Summer residence
	Water Supply Organic Farm	Land
		Commercial property
		Other (circle all that apply)
Line/Pole identification Utility initials	Pole numbers	

Please fill out this request to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification.
MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY BY FEBRUARY 15, 2021.

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SPORTS

High School Basketball in a Holding Pattern

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Governor Scott gave the green light for Vermont high schools to have the option to begin noncontact basketball conditioning and skill drills inside gymnasiums throughout the state on December 28. With Hazen Union, Craftsbury Academy, and Twinfield exercising that option, the hope was to start the season this week, but those plans have once again been put on hold.

Athletic directors, coaches, players, and parents around the state will be holding their breath this week as they wait for a decision from the Governor on whether or not they can begin full contact practicing in earnest. Once that decision is made, team's must log seven days of practices before being deemed ready to begin their season.

With the season already drastically pushed back due rising cases of COVID-19 throughout the winter, it will be a mad scramble for athletic directors to recoup games that were postponed. Once the season does tip-off, it is a statewide mandate that there must be two days in

“Once the season starts, we hope to have the varsity girls play on Mondays and Thursdays and the boys on Tuesdays and Fridays.”

between every game played, so the reality of an abbreviated high school basketball season with multiple cancellations is real. Games will be played without fans and players, coaches, refs, and personnel will be required to wear masks at all times. If a favorable announcement by the Governor is made this week, then theoretically some teams could start their season by next weekend, but the general consensus is that it will be later than that.

“If I had to guess, we probably won’t start our seasons around here until late January or the beginning of February,” said Hazen Union Athletic Director John Sperry. “Once the season

starts, we hope to have the varsity girls play on Mondays and Thursdays and the boys on Tuesdays and Fridays. As postponements happen, this should give us a little wiggle room to have the opportunity to make up a game on the weekend, while still maintaining two days in between games. Everyone is going have a challenge managing their schedules and I can envision a lot of calls being made to other schools late in the season to try to add a game here and there. I think we’ll be lucky to get a ten or eleven game season in at this point.”

Craftsbury Academy (CA) will have some new faces on the sidelines this winter when the season eventually tips off. Tyler Gillespie replaces Evans Bouchard as the varsity boys’ head coach after two seasons. Gillespie will look to inject a spark into a program that has enjoyed just two wins in the last two seasons. Gabriela Silva is the new athletic director at CA and will also coach the varsity girls’ squad. Silva hopes to be able to field a varsity girls basketball team at CA for first time since the Lady Chargers made it to the division IV semi-finals at the Barre Auditorium in 2017.



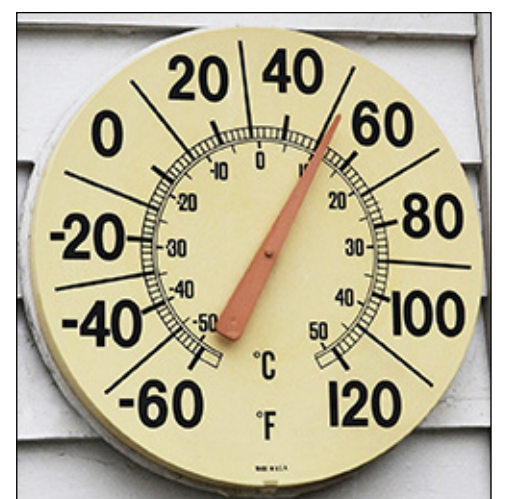
Strong winds brought down this spruce tree across Young Road in Greensboro on Christmas Eve. Someone cut some off the limbs so one lane of traffic could get through. Phil Greenia, of Greensboro, passes through Saturday before the town of Greensboro Road Crew cleared it out of the roadway.



Above, Memorial Park in Hardwick shows no snow on Christmas Day with a temperature in the low to mid 50s.



December 27 brought five to six inches of snow to the Hardwick area. This photo was taken on Spring Street.



Right, Christmas day brought an unseasonably warm temperature of low to mid 50s to the Hardwick area.

photos by Vanessa Fournier