

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Volume 132 Number 4



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Smoke billows from chimneys Sunday in Hardwick as the temperature dipped to minus 16 degrees bringing residents the coldest morning so far this winter.

## Meet the Hardwick Select Board Candidates

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Three select board positions will open up at this year's Town Meeting. Vice Chair Elizabeth Dow and board member Lucian Avery will not seek reelection, while Shari Cornish decided to run again.

Cornish submitted the paperwork for re-election for the three-year seat at deadline on January 25, the only candidate vying for that seat to make it on the ballot. On that day, Avery "rescinded his consent to be on the ballot," Town Clerk Alberta Miller said. Miller said the two seats

See MEET, 3

## Bellavance Running for Select Board

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Gary Bellavance was "bred and born right in Hardwick." He graduated from Hazen Union and later from Vermont Technical College with a degree in civil engineering.

Bellavance said he's running for the select board because "I think what the board needs is a little common sense and someone that's not afraid to speak their piece" and "taxes have gone up exponentially over the years, and I just want to know why."

Bellavance said he believes the town did what it could to respond to challenges caused by COVID-19, but a mask ordinance "should happen." While recognizing enforcing a town law would be difficult, "there's a lot of places

See BELLAVANCE, 2



Shari Cornish

## Shari Cornish to Run for Re-election

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Shari Cornish is running for re-election, after all.

Cornish has been a member of the Hardwick select board since 2007. At the end of 2020, Cornish had said "I am planning to take

See CORNISH, 4

## Under-billed Electric Charges Still in Limbo

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury School District and Hardwick Electric Department (HED) have been at odds over a \$143,927.83 under-billing to the district accrued since October, 2010. The issue now lies before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

An evidentiary hearing was held by the PUC on January 21 via GoToMeeting, with hearing officer Michael Tousley, staff attorney. The next step is awaiting his findings in a proposal for decision and conclusions of law with final recommendations. No recommendations on settling the issue have been made to date.

Attorney Pietro Lynn, representing the school district, said, "We presented compelling evidence that the district was not responsible for the mistake and in both equities and law they should not be made to pay for HED's mistakes."

"We are confident, both factual and legal, we were persuasive."

The genesis for the dispute dates back to 2010, when the Craftsbury Academy was completely renovated into an energy efficiency facility. Faulty installation of metering equipment resulted in the meter registering only 15 percent of the actual power utilized, according to Hardwick Electric General Manager Michael Sullivan.

The problem was discovered in April, 2019 when Craftsbury Academy Facilities Manager Ryan Bjerke sought HED's help in determining the sizing for a back-up generator at CA. Bjerke explained CA is a designated emergency site and an important element in the town's emergency preparedness strategy.

Sullivan discovered in 2019 that the CA monthly power usage was about equal to an average home, which was obviously incorrect and prompted him to investigate. Sullivan wrote to Bjerke on June 3, 2019, detailing the issue and attempts he had made to contact former Superintendent Joanne LeBlanc and Chief Financial Officer John Smith.

New metering equipment was installed at the end of June, 2019.

Sullivan indicated at that point Craftsbury Academy had been underbilled \$139,019.75 since 2010 and proposed the district paying 90 equal installments of \$1,545 due the first of each month. No interest charges were being assessed. Negotiations between the school district and HED did not result in any settlement. Reports were the school district had offered to pay \$20,000, but had taken the position the problem was created through HED's mistake.

In his opening statement at the recent evidentiary hearing in

See LIMBO, 5



photo by Doug McClure

January 28 saw the first full moon of 2021, but the sky refused to clear until two days later. The result was a bright clear moon riding the knee of the Constellation Leo that hovered over the Village on January 30.

**Contents**

Police Reports ..... 3  
 NEK Day Focuses on Region's Success, Challenge ..... 6  
 Obituaries ..... 7  
 Michaud Brothers Place at Invitational..... 7  
 VEC Seeking Candidates ..... 8  
 Our Communities ..... 9  
 Craftsbury Warning is 44 Articles ..... 10  
 Town Splits Format for Annual Meetings ..... 10  
 This Week's Events..... 11  
 Outside Art Shared Weekly ..... 11  
 Yankee Notebook: I Sympathize ..... 12  
 Another Opinion: Wildlife Governance ..... 13  
 Letter from Readers ..... 13  
 In the Garden: Starting from Seed..... 14  
 Business Directory ..... 15  
 Winter in the North Country (photos)..... 16

**Bellavance**

**Continued From Page One**  
 in town that allow people in their establishments without a mask and I don't agree with that," he said. "Most of us are doing our part, whether it works or not at all. But you do your part, we're going to get rid of this thing. We have to stay vigilant to get to the other side." He said business owners who allow people in their establishments without a mask "should be shut down."

Bellavance said the revenue drop seen in the FY2022 budget reflected a nationwide pattern. "This is Mother Nature, coming at us hard with this pandemic," he said. "I do think that there's some town entities that could be changed to save some tax dollars." He said while the road crew and Hardwick Police Department "do a great job," the police department is "a bit over budget."

On the topic of town priorities for the upcoming year, Bellavance said he intends to "find out where all the money's gone. Taxes went up a lot last year and they've gone up a lot this year." He said he recognized the larger chunk of property tax paid by residents is education tax and beyond the town's control, but he doesn't think that should be the case. "I think the town should be able to decide what they're paying, not waiting for the state to tell them what they have to pay for education," he said. "There's probably no way to change that, but it's worth discussing."

On the topic of equity and racial Justice, and the role of the town and HPD, Bellavance said "I think has been blown way out of proportion. My life matters as much as anyone and I can't put that out anywhere because I'd be called a racist." He said the racial justice movement is "making it hard for the police department to pull anyone over. Why do you think that they can't find enough people to fill the police academy — who wants to be a cop today? Look at the news a couple of nights ago with Burlington."

On the issue of allowing public signs and protests on town property, Bellavance said, "I don't think you should be able to protest on public property. You want to go through town meeting and get it legalized to do that, then go ahead. But putting signs on public property is wrong."

He proclaimed the Yellow Barn to be "a money pit. It was stupid to buy that, that's all I'll say."

On Wastewater Treatment Plant and its bond, he said

"If you vote that down, you're saying you don't want any corporation, any business or anything to come to town. The treatment plan is pretty much maxed out and you have to upgrade it in order to have anything in town."

He was less charitable to Jeudevine Library, proclaiming it "another money pit."


On the proposed AT&T Tower [Bellavance owns the land this was intended to be sited on] he said, "I understand everyone has their own opinion, but it really irritates me that people can say what they want when someone else's land is being utilized." He said the "bottom line" is there is not adequate service coverage for Hardwick Police Department radios. "And if they take their views over health and safety, you know then people can live with it," he said.

On the issue of expanding broadband, he said "I think it has to happen. There's been people even with this virus, they can't get to make an appointment for their virus shot because of online issues. You've got to do something. I mean, this is 2021. Come on."

On the topic of creating opportunities for Hardwick students after they graduate Hazen and engaging them in community and government, Bellavance echoed his comments on the Wastewater Treatment Plant's bond. "You have to do something to create capacity for big business to get to Hardwick," he said. "And when you do get hired, you have to have the talent. Look at Caledonia Spirits. They kind of threw them out of town. The [town] wasn't willing to work with them." Bellavance said there is little opportunity for graduates in the community. "What's here for kids in Hardwick?" he asked. "What's here for kids when they graduate? Taxes are crazy high. There's no employment for anyone with a college education."

Bellavance said he has been bothered for years by the fact that "it seems like every issue that comes up that's a little finicky, they (the select board) go to executive session." He argued that "anything that can be said in executive session and voted on an executive session can be said in a public forum and voted on in a public forum. And I, for one, will refuse to go to an executive session."

In his closing remarks he said perhaps he could have given a better interview, "but that's who I am."



**February 3 - February 9**

<b>Valentine's Day Accessories Sale</b> Upstairs in Clothing Feb. 12 - 15		<b>New Shoes &amp; Hiking Boots</b> from OBOZ	
<b>Post Honey Bunches of Oats</b> \$1.68 13-14.5 oz.	<b>Progresso Beans</b> 78¢ 19 oz.	<b>Green Mt. Organic Tortilla Strips</b> \$2.99 8 oz.	
<b>Green Mt. Salsa</b> \$3.79 16 oz.	<b>Starbucks Ground Coffee</b> \$6.99 12 oz.	<b>Newman's Salsa</b> 2/\$5 16 oz.	
<b>Food Club Tomatoes</b> 3/\$2 14.5 oz.	<b>Hellmann's Mayonnaise</b> \$3.49 15-30 oz.	<b>Vlasic Pickles</b> 2/\$4 16-32 oz.	
<b>G.M. Cheerios or Cinn. Toast Crunch</b> \$2.99 12-16.8 oz.	<b>Kellogg's Raisin Bran or Raisin Bran Crunch</b> 2/\$5 15.9-16.6 oz.	<b>Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies</b> 2/\$5 9.5-13 oz.	
<b>Nabisco Snack Crackers</b> 2/\$4 7-10 oz.	<b>Tide Liquid Laundry Detergent</b> \$6.99 46 oz.	<b>Cabot Cheese Bars</b> 2/\$5 6-8 oz.	
<b>Florida Natural Orange Juice</b> 2/\$6 52 oz.	<b>Lactaid Milk</b> 2/\$6 64 oz.	<b>TGIF Appetizers</b> 2/\$5 7.6-11 oz.	
<b>Kings River Heirloom Navel Oranges</b> \$1.29 ea.	<b>Tropical Mangos</b> 99¢ ea.	<b>Crisp White Cauliflower</b> 2/\$5 hd.	

The Willey's Store

Since 1900 Greensboro

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

802-533-2621 • toll-free 855-533-2621

- Full-service grocery & hardware
- Clothing
- Housewares
- Hunting & Fishing
- Coffee Bar
- Beer & Wine
- Toys
- Gifts

"If we don't have it, then you probably don't need it."

True Value HARDWARE

# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police

### Media Log Summary

January 25: Suspicious Event, Eveningside Rd., Greensboro; Fraud, Baker Hill Dr.; Traffic Hazard, Mackville Rd.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; 911 Hangup, Vt. Rt. 15W; Alarm, Hill Rd., Greensboro; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.

January 26: Assist – Agency, Williston Rd., Williston; Accident – LSA, Rte. 15 and Rte. 14S; Suspicious Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Suspicious Event, Dutton Rd., Suspicious Event, Benway Dr.

January 27: 911 Hangup, Vt. Rte. 16; DLS, Mill St.; Suspicious Event, Church St.; Directed

Patrol, Hardwick Farms Rd.; Directed Patrol, Hardwick Farms Rd.

January 28: Alarm, Log Yard Dr.; Traffic Stop, US Rte. 2, Cabot; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hardwick Farms Rd.; VIN Verification, Loon Rd., Greensboro; Welfare Check, Bayley Hazen Rd.; Wanted Person, High St.

January 29: Assist – Public, High St.

January 30: CO Alarm, Tousant Hill, Greensboro; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 14, E. Montpelier.

January 31: Alarm, N. Main St.; Alarm, Miller Rd., Greensboro.

February 1: Directed Patrol, Hardwick Farms Rd.

## Vermont State Police

### Car Hits School Bus, DUI, Death on Ski Trail

On January 26, at approximately 4 p.m., VSP Derby Troopers and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner responded to a report of an unresponsive male on a trail at the Craftsbury Outdoor center. The victim had been pronounced deceased after resuscitative efforts by EMS prior to the arrival of troopers. The investigation revealed the victim had suffered a medical event while out on a cross country trail and became unresponsive. The victim was located shortly thereafter by a passerby who initiated CPR and contacted emergency services. Resuscitative efforts were ultimately unsuccessful and the victim was pronounced deceased.

On January 31, at approximately 3:03 a.m., a trooper with the Vermont State Police drove up upon a car off the road on Burton Hill Road in the town of Barton. The operator was identified as Rebecca Poquette. It was revealed Poquette was traveling south on Burton Hill when she lost control of her vehicle and drove off the roadway to the right into the snow. While on scene, Poquette displayed signs of impairment and after a subsequent investigation was taken into custody

for suspicion of DUI. Poquette was transported to the derby Barracks for processing and was later released on a citation.

On January 29, at approximately 8:30 a.m., Vermont State Police responded to a two-vehicle crash located on Coles Pond Road in Walden. Investigation revealed that while Phillip Orr, of Hardwick, was operating his passenger vehicle down a hill, he lost control due to slippery road surface conditions. A school bus operated by Sabrena Ducharme, of Hardwick, was traveling the opposite direction. Orr was unable to regain control of his vehicle which resulted in a collision with the front of the bus. There were no other passengers on the bus at the time of the crash and no injuries reported by either operator. The bus was towed from the scene by Lyndon Truck Center and the passenger vehicle was towed by Roland's Wrecker Service due to disabling damage.

This report is based on information provided by the Vermont State Police but is not a full accounting of police activity. Persons named in this report are presumed to be innocent unless they plead or are found guilty in court.

### Bad Checks, Fraud, Suspended License

On January 2, Benjamin Humphrey, of Hardwick, was cited into Caledonia Court for April 12 on the charge of Bad Checks.

On January 9, Joel Sargent, of Woodbury, was cited into court for April 26 in St. Johnsbury on the charge of Fraud.

On January 22, at 9:30 a.m., Tyler Demers, of Hardwick, and Shawn Columbia, of Coventry, were backing into 1955 Vt. Rte. 16 in East Hardwick when they struck each other. Both vehicles had minor damage to rear ends.

January 25, at 3:30 p.m., Todd Luce, of Hardwick, was cited to appear in court in Caledonia County to face the charges

of Disturbing the Peace by telephone on Feb. 22 at 10 a.m.

On January 27, at 8:40 a.m., Liza Gonyaw, of Greensboro Bend, was operating a 2018 Jeep on Mill Street in Hardwick. Gonyaw is under criminal suspension and was cited to appear in Caledonia County Court to face charges of Criminal DLS on April 19 at 10 a.m.

This report is based on information provided by the Hardwick Police Department but is not a full accounting of police activity. Persons named in this report are presumed to be innocent unless they plead or are found guilty in court.

### AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served nine survivors of domestic and sexual violence from January 21 through January 29. 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.

### Meet

#### Continued From Page One

remaining open had just two people apply, meaning barring an unprecedented write-in challenge, we now know who will fill out the 2021 Select Board. Gary Bellavance and Michael Deering are the two candidates on the ballot for the two one-year seats.

Candidates were asked to give a brief biography and share what they hoped to accomplish as a select board member. They were asked if the town could do more to address the COVID-19 virus and questioned on damages incurred by Hardwick businesses as a result of the pandemic. State-released data through September 2020 indicated Hardwick restaurants lost approximately one million dollars as compared to 2019.

Candidates were also asked to weigh in on the FY2022 budget, which saw a significant drop in revenue and little room for

expenses. They were asked if there are certain services a town the size of Hardwick simply cannot afford to provide.

They were asked to give a “quick take” on some of the bigger topics of the 2020 select board meetings, including equity, racial justice, public discourse, the Yellow Barn, the wastewater treatment facility, the library's bond, the proposed AT&T tower, broadband, and opportunities for young people engage more in town civics.

As of press time, Michael Deering had not responded to the questions. Deering was a critic of the Buffalo Mountain tower and filed a public comment with the state that the tower “violates a myriad of town plans” and the town risked “the potential decrease in property values of all who are in site [sic] of this behemoth.” He argued “whatever gains are made in the area of expanding cell signal coverage would be minimal.”



**Calderwood**  
INSURANCE AGENCY

Offering you *outstanding* service and protection since 1979

132 South Main St.  
Hardwick, VT  
802-472-5517  
www.calderwoodins.com



Mike Gauthier, CIC  
Trusted Choice  
mikeg@calderwoodins.com

**Cornish**

Continued From Page One

a break from running for Select Board. So the one year seat that I am in will be open to someone else to take a turn.”

Even up to the January 25 deadline, she continued to express that stance at select board meetings. However, the scope and scale of the work needed to bring the pedestrian bridge back into service her position seemed to soften her position, helped by the number of responses from citizens concerned about the bridge. On January 23, Cornish sent an e-mail to all the board members, as well as the Gazette, noting “The signal that 80+ citizens have completed the survey speaks volumes. The public IS ENGAGED:)” and “I fear public interest and engagement will [wane] if there is a ‘cheap alternative’ and we will essentially lower the bar and disrespect the historic and essential value to our downtown infrastructure.”

She had previously brought up a \$100,000 possible grant toward bridge replacement that could only be leveraged if Hardwick sought a Downtown Designation. Related to that work, and in her responses to this set of questions, it seemed she had changed her mind as to whether it would be more effective to work as a private citizen to revive the dormant Hardwick Downtown Commission or continue in her role on the board.

Her roots in Hardwick run deep. “I grew up visiting my grandmother and relatives on my mother’s side of the Carey family in Hardwick and Vermont,” she said. There is a road named after her family just south

of town. Cornish said she and her husband Edgar moved to Hardwick around 2001 and took up residence in “the house that was my grandmother’s.” At the time, she was a sales rep in the gift industry with a territory covering Vermont and western Massachusetts. Edgar was an actor and substitute teacher who worked at the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union. Cornish said her involvement in the community started “after attending the Creative Communities discussion/presentation” shortly after arriving to Hardwick. She joined the Town House Board of Directors soon after and became a select board member in 2007. Cornish is known as a passionate and outspoken advocate for the Town House as a venue for high-quality arts and a community space. She opened South Main Street shop, Whistle Emporium, on March 17, 2013.

Cornish said she discovered the supportive nature of the Hardwick community when Edgar passed away from cancer in 2016. “I experienced a tremendously heart-warming outpouring of support from the Hardwick community when Edgar died,” she said. “I am certain that I have never lived anywhere else where that would have occurred, and I continue to be grateful for that comfort.”

The community has also been supportive of her business. “Whistle continues to be a thriving business despite the bumps of the pandemic,” she said. “Many customers remark at how much Hardwick has changed in the last decade, or whenever they were here last. I am proud to feel like I have participated in that positive change.”

Cornish said she is committed to playing a role in “the positive trajectory Hardwick has had over my past decade-plus of serving on the select board.” Reviving the Hardwick Downtown Commission is one of her priorities. The commission was created in 2015 but was “never really established”, she said. One part of that initiative, seeking a Downtown Designation from the state, could open the door to \$100,000 or more in grants for the repair or reconstruction of the pedestrian bridge. It was Cornish’s involvement with the commission that inspired her to change course and run for the select board again.

“I felt like I could continue the Downtown Commission work as a citizen,” she explained. “I thought of taking a break and not running for re-election to the select board to make space for another community member to engage.” But when the seat remained open on the last day, “I felt compelled to run to continue to work toward a better Hardwick overall,” she said.

On the issue of COVID-19, Cornish said she believed Hardwick did everything in its power to respond to the pandemic. She did not know what more could be done to help hard-hit restaurants during the recovery phase.

Of this year’s tight budget, Cornish said “every budget is difficult and every year the select board works to maneuver as it is best possible to serve the citizens of

Hardwick.”

She said her priority on the refreshed select board is to “continue to act as best I am able to support, improve and develop opportunities for social, cultural and economic development.”

Cornish offered “quick takes” on several topics of frequent discussion in the past year’s select board, including the town and HPD’s role in equity and racial justice, (“working on it”), allowing public signs and protests on town property (“yes”), the Yellow Barn (“positive development”), the Wastewater Treatment Plant and its bond (“important infrastructure”), the Jeudevine Library and its bond “long overdue”), the proposed AT&T Tower (“not happening”), and expanding broadband (“important infrastructure”).

Cornish said Hazen school curricula should include courses in local government engagement to prepare students for potential post-graduation opportunities in community and government, but “parent engagement is the primary model” for students.

Cornish’s primary focus is the Hardwick Downtown Commission, she reiterated. “I am committed to working to revive the Hardwick Downtown Commission,” she said. “I would hope that this select board will take up some discussion on how we can help citizens identify the benefits of volunteerism, activism, and participation in our community and municipal government.”

**HARDWICK DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing of the Hardwick Development Review Board will be held virtually on Zoom on Wednesday, February 17, beginning at 7 p.m. to discuss the following:

Conditional Use Review regarding an Addition to a Public Facility (Library Expansion – 5,164 sf) – 7 p.m. – Application #2021-002 (Town of Hardwick/Jeudevine Memorial Library) at 81 and 93 North Main Street, Hardwick, Vermont.

To join the Zoom hearing, sign up for a free Zoom account anytime (zoom.us), then at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, February 17, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 916 3891 0712. The passcode is 951642. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 301-715-8592 (this is not a toll free number).

Join this Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91638910712?pwd=N-0VwRTlwUW81Ukl5L3dOeUh6UGYxQT09>

The application is available for inspection outside the Hardwick Memorial Building or on the Hardwick website – <http://hardwickvt.org>. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. “ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Persons wishing to be heard may join the Zoom hearing or be represented by an authorized agent or attorney at the hearing.

Communications regarding the above applications may be filed in writing with the Hardwick Development Review Board at the Zoning Administrator’s Office in the Hardwick Memorial Building or by email at [zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.org](mailto:zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.org). Communications must be received prior to the scheduled virtual hearing.

Kristen Leahy, Zoning Administrator

**Better together.**



**Jennifer Bellavance CPIA**  
802-472-5721  
31 North Main St.  
Hardwick, VT 05843

**The more you protect the more you save.**

I can help you protect more than you’d expect. I also have lots of ways to help you save when you bundle your policies.

Get the savings you deserve. Call me or stop by my office for a free quote.



We’re always here with local advice you can trust.

**Allstate**  
You’re in good hands.

Subject to terms conditions and availability. Savings vary by state and product line. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Indemnity Co., Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Co., Allstate Insurance Co. © 2015 Allstate Insurance Co. 112492107

**Limbo**

**Continued From Page One**

January, attorney Lynn explained the dispute arose from work done by HED in 2010 and was “hired to perform certain work on the electrical system which included among other things, installing electrical meters.”

He explained what took place in 2019 when Sullivan investigated the metering discrepancy and estimated an under-billing of \$150,000. Lynn noted that Craftsbury had paid all electric bills in a timely manner and should not be penalized for HED’s faulty installation and “let Hardwick Electric Department bear the burden of its mistake.”

He noted, “...to expect that all of a sudden a small community in Craftsbury is going to come up with nearly \$150,000, for no fault of their own, where they voted on budgets in the past and relied on Hardwick Electric is not in the best interest of Vermonters.”

Attorney Eli Emerson, representing HED, disputes that the fault is HED’s alone but noted that was irrelevant as the bill was owed and due.

Former Director of Building and Grounds for CA Dylan LaFlam testified that in 2010 Mike’s Electric had installed the box that attached to the CA building and all socket hardware. HED had installed the current transformers and transformer wiring and did the connections to provide power to basically the infrastructure of the building.

Bjerke testified that in 2019 when Sullivan investigated, he “referenced an incorrect installation and wiring related to the meter was reading incorrectly.”

When HED had threatened to turn off services to CA, the district appealed to The Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) in Consumer Affairs complaint #2019-CAPI-12509.

Carol Flint is the director of the Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division at the Vermont Dept. of Public Service. In her pre-filed testimony, Flint outlined the methodology used

by HED to determine the under-billing and billing process. She indicated an attempt was made to help both parties reach an informal resolution. When Craftsbury indicated it was seeking legal counsel, the informal investigation was closed, which is a normal practice when complainants engage an attorney.

She stated, “I also put forth and explain the department’s recommendation that the consumer complaint be denied and that Craftsbury be permitted to pay under-billed amount without interest over a period of nine years.”

She reiterated that recommendation again.

“The department therefore recommends that Craftsbury be permitted to pay the underbilled amount without interest over a period of at least nine years, which amounts the same period of time during which the underbilling occurred.”

Back on January 13, 2020, Sullivan wrote to Bjerke that it had been seven months since the matter had been closed by Flint. The charges owing were \$143,927.83 accumulated over a total of 103 months.

He wrote: “This results in 103 installments of \$1,397.36 which will be due the first of each month beginning 2/1/20 – and the final payment will be due on 9/1/27.”

He wrote: “Director (Carol) Flint informed me that she has closed your complaint, and that she advised you that HED would/should bill for all monies owed.”

At the PUC evidentiary hearing on January 21, 2021, Atty. Tousley explained the hearing purpose was to allow each party to give an opening statement, cross examine witnesses, and allow each party to articulate the relief they seek. If a declaration judgment is made for HED, he noted, and the school district did not pay the judgment, then HED would have to pursue the issue in civil court.

Testifying for the school district were Board Chair Harry Miller, Principal Merri Greenia, LaFlam, and Bjerke.



photo by EHNO

The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization used the Bernie meme to let folks know about FREE hand-knitted children’s mittens in their Little Free Library.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lakeview 6th grade student Emily Churchill participates in the long jump event held during the school’s K-6 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Celebration January 27.

**Important  
Town Meeting information for  
Registered Voters of Wolcott**

In response to the concerns posed by COVID-19, the Vermont Legislature passed ACT 162, which allows a legislative body to vote to use Australian ballot for any town meeting (annual or special) in 2021:

All voting in the Town of Wolcott for Town Meeting Day 2021 will be held via Australian Ballot. No floor meeting will be held in 2021 (as voted by the Select Board on 12/30/2020). Information on website: wolcottvt.org



**Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Preschool Registration**

Children who will be 3, 4, or 5 by September 1st, 2021, living in Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, Wolcott, or Woodbury qualify for 10 hours of preschool education a week for 35 weeks (in a public or private Universal Pre-K Program) at no cost to families!

OSSU is now accepting registrations for public school preschool programs AND universal Pre-K programs! Packets can be picked up at any elementary school location (and Craftsbury Academy) or online at: [ossu.org/resources/registration/act-new-166](https://ossu.org/resources/registration/act-new-166) .

Contact Jessica Lambertson at [jlamberton@ossu.org](mailto:jlamberton@ossu.org) or 802-472-2584 for more information.

# NEK Day Focuses on Region's Successes, Challenges

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – On Friday, January 29, the NEK Collaborative (NEKC) hosted its third annual “NEK Day” with a mission stated by Interim Director Tom Lovett of celebrating the successes and advancing the priorities of the region. The goal was to use dialog among participants in the Zoom meeting to identify what the successes of the past year had been as well as recognize the challenges faced by the Northeast Kingdom and produce a document to take to decision-makers in Montpelier. Lovett noted that the first NEK Day was held three years ago by then-executive-director Katherine Sims, who now is a state representative.

Among the participants in the chat were legislators, stakeholders, and the Newark Street School sixth grade, which is working on an “Education for Sustainability” program. Newly-elected Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray led the session off by congratulating the NEK Collaborative and Sims for “just amazing” work.

Gray cited NEK Collaborative numbers that put some of the challenges facing the region in the same category as much of the state but far more severely felt here.

A point echoed repeatedly by all participants was that quality broadband, which has long been identified as critically lacking in the NEK, continues to be a major stressor on the future prospects of the region. Rep. Chip Troiano, as well as most every legislator, placed broadband as a top major challenge that needed addressing, noting “the state can’t do it alone, the citizens can’t do it alone, the federal government can’t do it alone. We have to collaborate.”

While broadband was identified by almost every participant as a major hurdle, a second major problem has been the demographic challenge that goes hand-in-hand with lack of broadband.

As the NEKC has identified, younger people are leaving because there are few good jobs since businesses won’t locate to communities without good cell and broadband infrastructure. Rep. Vicki Strong pointed out that the demographic challenge also applied to a bedrock of the NEK, farming. “We’re really talking about the diversity of farmers and younger farmers coming in,” she said. Rep. Scott Campbell said the question on his mind was “What are the wisest investments we can make to attract the next generation of Vermonters and NEK’ers to support us as we go into our dotage?” Others concurred with that concern, noting its impact on the tax base, with Rep. Mark Higley offering tentatively encouraging news that based on the census figures he had seen it looked like Rutland and Bennington Counties were losing population and the NEK did not so far seem to be losing as much.

Sen. Bobby Starr and many others identified one 2020 success as keeping Northern Vermont University (NVU) open, a point echoed by many others with wide-ranging implications.

Sen. Starr said, “I think if we hadn’t worked together and really all together it would have been a disaster [to lose NVU].” Rep. Troiano said, “the educational and economic impact [of NVU] is huge.”

Sen. Starr said that a challenge with a possible solution in the works is food insecurity. He said as chair of the senate committee on agriculture he was working with other regional

partners on a “strategic plan for food security not only for Vermont but with other states in New England.” The program he referred to as “35x35” has a goal of “to try and get our percentage of food we produce and grow here in the state up to 35 percent by 2035. He said currently the number is about 6 percent “and most of that is because have such large milk production.”


The NEK pandemic response was brought up as a relative success story by many participants. Sen. Starr felt that even before cases began to rise in the region people took necessary precautions by wearing masks and social distancing. Greensboro resident and community organizer Naomi Ranz-Schleifer noted a “big success in the ways our communities have rallied during the pandemic” in terms of connecting people with resources and help needed to make it through.

Ranz-Schleifer did note that one pre-existing problem that has long been identified by the NEKC is housing and the pandemic exacerbated that. While she said she is lucky that she can live on land owned by her family, she said, “if I were looking to find a place I could affordably rent it would be tough, and even tougher to buy. All the houses

here have been snatched up very quickly.” Sen. Russ Ingalls, who also works in real estate, agreed that housing was a major problem that had only gotten worse due to the pandemic.

Sen. Joe Benning (R-Caledonia) brought up what he said was “something nobody else seems to have raised,” which was the judicial system was “virtually shut down right now.” He urged people to take the earliest opportunity to get vaccinated which would allow the “three courthouses and two jails as well as all the associated programming” to resume operations and worried that until vaccinations reached an inflection point “we also have a danger of people becoming infected in facilities” that could, in turn, infect the communities.

Rep. Katherine Sims closed out the meeting with Lovett introducing her as a “great convener of voices.” She was quick to discourage taking full credit for NEK Day. “This was not my work,” she said. “It was harvesting the potential of our region. Identifying what’s working for our region and what the gaps are, [such as] broadband, how do we get universal service?” She also said work needed to continue on equity and racial justice, as well as education.



Family Owned And Operated

## HARDWICK VILLAGE MARKET

13 Mill Street, Hardwick • 472-6677

T-Bone or Porterhouse Steaks, USDA Select Beef, lb.....	\$6.99
Pastrami, New England Traditions, deli sliced, lb.....	\$6.98
Asparagus, lb. ....	\$1.68
Sirloin Steak, USDA Select Beef, boneless, New York, lb. ....	\$4.49
Chicken Tenders, family pack, lb.....	\$2.59

Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • effective February 5 - February 11  
We accept MasterCard, VISA and EBT Cards

# MAKE TRACKS

TO

## Dona's Car Store

for your automotive service needs before you hit the road!

Oil & Lube • Computer Alignments  
Spin Balance • VT Inspections  
Tires • Brakes • Shocks  
Exhaust Systems

~ A Full Service Shop ~

Dealership Quality At Service Station Prices



### DONA'S CAR STORE

Lower Wolcott Street • Hardwick, VT 05843  
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
472-5501





# OBITUARIES

## RUTH E. FLETCHER

BARRE – Ruth E. Fletcher, 93, passed away at Barre Gardens Rehabilitation Center on Monday, January 25. A private, spring burial will take place in the Village

Cemetery in Cabot. Arrangements are with the des Groseilliers Funeral Home. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at dgfunerals.com.

## H. RUTH BUNDE

VERGENNES – God added a star to his celestial home and extinguished a bright light in our lives with the passing of Helen Ruth Daley Bunde on January 29, at the age of 98.

Ruth began her life as the eldest of the four children of Esther and Theodore Daley on May 15, 1922, in Yonkers, N.Y. She graduated from Roosevelt High School and continued her education at a business school for secretarial sciences. While working at the W.T. Grant Co. in New York City, Ruth met her husband, Arthur Philip Bunde. They wed in June of 1948 and began their lives together, sharing it with their son from Artie's first marriage, Robert. After losing her first son, they had two more children, daughter Helen Lorraine and son Neal Philip.

Ruth worked part time at the Nash Fence Co. as a bookkeeper until her children were in school and then took a civil service secretarial position with the Yonkers Board of Education. She was active in the P.S.#14 PTA, serving as its president and in her church, Crescent Place Reformed Church, serving as the Sunday school superintendent and on the church board. Her career took her back to her alma mater and she worked at Roosevelt as secretary to the principal for many years.

In 1987, Ruth retired and she and Artie bought their cute log cabin in Hardwick to be closer to her brother and his family. Ruth embraced her new community and they her and she continued her busy life working as church secretary at the United Church of Hardwick. She was a member of a church circle and the Hardwick Senior Center. One of her passion projects was the renovation of a building for the Hardwick Historical Society, where she served as treasurer.

In 2010, Ruth made the decision to leave her home in Hardwick and moved to Vergennes, to a duplex she shared with her son, Neal, so she was closer to her children. She remained in this home, living independently, until her death.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband, Arthur, in 1996,

her three siblings, Dorothy "Dot" Guth, Theodore "Ted" Daley, and Robert "Bob" Dale, her sister-in-law Barbara Daley, and her daughter-in-law Janet Bunde. She is survived by her sister-in-law Gloria Daley, her children Robert Bunde, Helen Greg (William Thiel), and Neal Bunde; her five grandchildren Debra Bunde Ream (Matthew), Todd Bunde (Mary Catherine), Adam Bunde (Jamie), Jesse Bunde and Bassim Bunde; two "adopted" grandchildren, Jessica Thiel (Jesse Hildebrand) and William "Bear" Thiel (Adrienne); and great-grandchildren Freddie, Abbie and Henry Reams; Ford, Keragyn, Emma Kate and Adam Joseph Bunde; Peyton Culhane; Link Hildebrand; and Adrienne Aster Thiel. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews and their families who she remained close with and loved dearly.

In honoring Ruth's wishes, there will be no viewing or funeral. A family interment and celebration of her birthday and her life is planned for May. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Vergennes Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Squad, 106 Panton Road, Vergennes, VT 05491, (802) 877-3683, whose kindness and assistance were very much appreciated by Ruth and her family over the years.

She is sadly missed and in our hearts forever.

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



H. Ruth Bunde

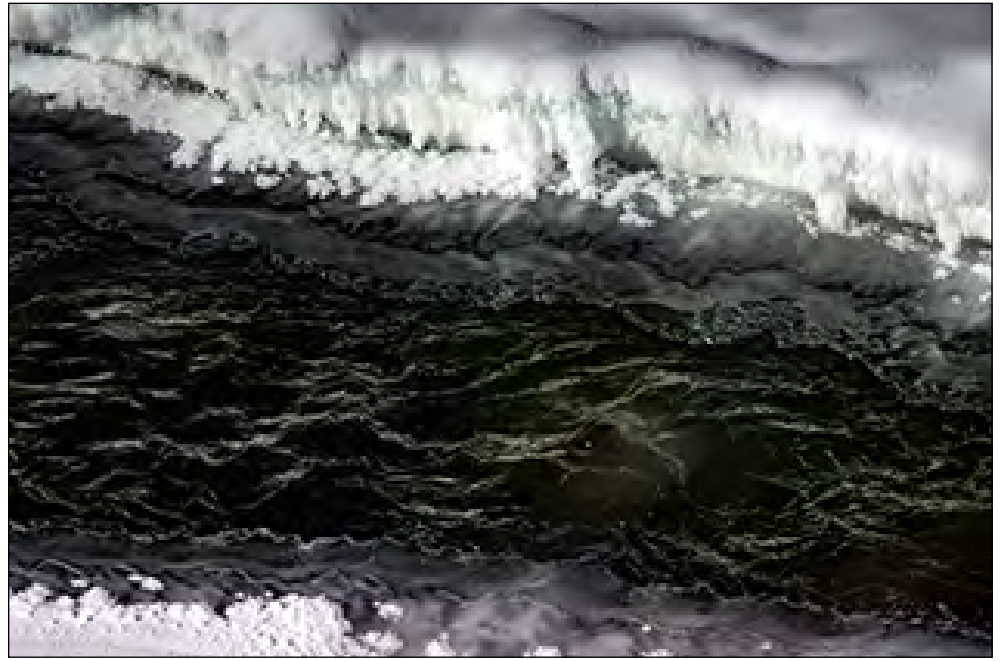


photo by Doug McClure

With temperatures staying far below freezing and some nights below zero, the Lamoille gradually began freezing over, leaving a narrow channel of water open.

## Michaud Brothers Place in 4-H Invitational

BURLINGTON – Gabriel Michaud came in thirteenth and his brother, Lincoln Michaud, placed sixteenth in the Virtual 4-H Contests Invitational, hosted by Utah State University Extension. Both are from East Hardwick and members of the Kingdom Country Farmers 4-H Club.

The national event, held online in January, included several dairy, livestock and horse competitions, attracting competitors from

25 states. The Vermont 4-H'ers took part in the dairy judging contest in which they judged six classes and provided oral reasons for three.

Team rankings were determined by combining the individual scores of the top three finishers on each team. Vermont placed third after two teams from Florida.

The team was coached by Elizabeth Hall, East Montpelier, and Jen Thygesen, Tunbridge.

**OUR E-MAILS**  
 news@hardwickgazette.com  
 ads@hardwickgazette.com

**Northern Vermont  
 Funeral Service**  
 60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843  
**802-472-6861**

**Dian R. Holcomb**  
 Funeral Director

**PRENEED  
 PLANNING**

**des Groseilliers Funeral Home**  
 Douglas and Nicole  
 472-5541 dgfunerals.com

*We are here to assist with your end-of-life intentions  
 in advance and at time of need.  
 Offering arrangements in the comfort of  
 your own home.  
 Two generations of funeral and cremation care for  
 families in the greater Hardwick area.*

# VEC Seeking Candidates for Board of Directors

JOHNSON – The Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) is seeking petitions from eligible candidates for three seats on the board of directors that are up for election in May.

To run for the board, a candidate must be a VEC member and may not be employed by the cooperative. Candidates must have a principal residence within VEC service territory that is also in the district they are running to represent. Directors are elected to serve four-year terms.

The board generally meets in the afternoon on the last Tuesday of each month, either at VEC's main office in Johnson or virtually via teleconference if safety guidelines call for that. Directors receive a stipend and mileage reimbursement for attending meetings and have training opportunities to learn more about energy issues and the cooperative model.

Completed applications, including a petition signed by VEC members, are due by 4:30 p.m., on Monday, March 15. To learn more or request application materials, call Laura Kinney at (802) 730-1172 or email her at lkinney@vermontelectric.coop.

A list of the three seats that are up for election and the towns they represent include Albany, Craftsbury and Greensboro.

### CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Mark David Lichtenstein would like to express sincere thanks for the support and sympathy they received after their sad loss.

Thank you to our extended families, relations, neighbors and friends, who helped and supported us in so many different ways, for which we are deeply appreciative.

The family is grateful to our team of medical providers: Mary Ready M.D. Hospice and Palliative Medicine (NVRH), McKalyn Leclerc M.D. and support staff (HAHC), Deborah Black M.D. (CVMC).

Your words of comfort, cards, flowers, trees planted, delicious meals delivered, and donations were just what the doctor ordered! Mark is surely smiling down on all of us with his pint of Ben & Jerry's in hand.

We have been touched by the generosity that continues to come in to our charity fundraiser for Northern Counties Health Care in Mark's memory (gofund.me/c5e920d6).

It would be impossible to thank everyone individually; please accept this acknowledgment as a token of our appreciation.

### CARD OF THANKS

The Hardwick Gazette would like to thank Jacqueline and Gilles Molleur who so generously made a donation in support of the paper. We really appreciate it.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Michelle Hay created this Valentine's Day scene on Cedar Street in East Hardwick. She decorates her porch, located beside Hay's Auto Repair, for special occasions.



**Healthy Lamoille Valley has mini-grants of up to \$500 available to towns, agencies, businesses, organizations, faith-based institutions, colleges and schools to support the Vermont Department of Health's 3-4-50 Program for community health in physical activity, nutrition and tobacco prevention.**

**We all play an important role in shaping the health of Vermonters.**

**Application Deadline: March 1st, 2021**

**Learn more and apply at [www.healthylamoillevalley.org/mini-grants](http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/mini-grants)**

### 3-4-50 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT! NORTH CENTRAL VERMONT RECOVERY CENTER

**"We can change the world, and create a better world, through the collective impact of our individual choices and actions if we so choose. We can each make a difference."**

**DANIEL FRANKLIN,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NORTH CENTRAL VERMONT  
RECOVERY CENTER**

Read Daniel's blog post on becoming a 3-4-50 gold partner at [www.healthylamoillevalley.org/ncvrc](http://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/ncvrc)



**Just say "Charge it!"**

VISA and MasterCard accepted for subscriptions and advertising.

Display advertisers with current accounts eligible for 5% discount.

**(802) 472-6521**

[news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com)

THE **Hardwick Gazette** Since 1889



# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Free Family Workshops on Thursdays

HARDWICK – Grass Roots Art and Community Effort (GRACE) is offering free family workshops. Each week will be a different art activity exploring different materials. A short instructional video will be posted each Thursday with a live meet-up the following Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon, to share the work created, socialize and meet up with other families. See [graceart.org/free-family-workshops/](http://graceart.org/free-family-workshops/) for more information and email [carol@wonderartsvt.org](mailto:carol@wonderartsvt.org) if there is a need any free art supplies.

## Snowshoes to Go

MARSHFIELD – The Jaquith Library has 12 pairs of snowshoes to lend in all sizes for all ages. Those using the snowshoes will also receive a laminated card for animal tracking and other wildlife discoveries. Call to reserve a pair today at 426-3581. For those needing help

ordering books and materials, setting up an account, remembering a library card number, or working through the use of any of these systems, please call or email the library 426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com) and a librarian will help.

## High-Speed Internet Available at Spark Annex

GREENSBORO – The Spark Annex is now open with free shared desk space with high speed internet to community members in need. Dedicated desks and workspace are available for a membership fee.

Members of the community in need of faster internet may visit the new workspace in Greensboro, situated in the former Lakeview classrooms in the town hall building. Pandemic safety protocols are in place, and visitors must register in advance and follow safety guidelines when in the building. Contact [jake@wonderartsvt.org](mailto:jake@wonderartsvt.org) to learn more or to arrange a visit.

## Build a Snow Sculpture Feb. 12-20

MARSHFIELD – Community members are encouraged to build a snow sculpture for the snow sculpture garden, sponsored by the Jaquith Library.

Building will take place between Friday afternoon, February 12, through Saturday morning, February 20, followed by the snow sculpture garden celebration.

When a family group has completed a sculpture, they will receive a gift certificate to a local business of their choice as a thank you. There will be multiple building sites clearly marked, with ample distance between each one. Only one family group (or pod) is allowed per site, and sites must be reserved by contacting the library.

For more information, call or email the library 426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

## Community Book Discussion Feb. 17

MARSHFIELD – A community Zoom discussion of “The Hate U Give”, will be held on February 17, at 7 p.m. The discussion is organized by the Jaquith Library.

The book, by Angie Thomas, will be facilitated by Vermont Reads Facilitator Catherine Brooks.

This discussion will take place on Zoom and participants must register to receive the link by calling, emailing or filling out the registration form on the library website. This event is free and open to the public. There are four copies of the book to give out by request during curbside lending hours. For more information and to register, please visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org/programs.html](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org/programs.html).

## Snow Sculpture Celebration Feb. 20

MARSHFIELD – On Saturday, Feb. 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the Old Schoolhouse Common, the Jaquith Library will feature the community-built snow sculpture garden. Viewers may snowshoe, ski or walk between each one and take a break for hot cocoa and wrapped refreshments.

For more information, call or email the library 426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

## Makerspace Kits Available

MARSHFIELD – The Jaquith Library has makerspace kits available for checkout. There are eight STEAM-focused maker kits including a robotics kit, snap circuit electricity kit, engineering, and more! For a full list and description of maker kits, click the link and scroll down: [jaquithpubliclibrary.org/new-and-featured-kids.html](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org/new-and-featured-kids.html).

## Story Time at Home

MARSHFIELD – The Jaquith Library has 10 different story time at home bags to check out and bring home. Each bag contains a collection of picture books (both fiction and non-fiction titles) and a related craft with all the supplies and instructions needed to complete it. Themes available are snow, owls, transportation, butterflies, friendship, music and dance, moon, gratitude, pumpkins, and bedtime. Contact the youth librarian at [jaquithyouth@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithyouth@gmail.com).

## Adult Book Discussion is Online

HARDWICK – The Jeudevine Memorial Library will host a book discussion for ten people to read the book “A Door in the Earth” by Amy Waldman online book.

The author was a journalist in Afghanistan for the New York Times after 9/11. She uses her experience there to create a complicated novel about the clash between cultures, moral limitations, and the difficulties in finding the right thing to do in a morally ambiguous world. With compelling characters, action and suspense, the book has themes which resonate with anyone wanting a story with complex ideas.

The first ten people who sign up will get copies of the book to check-out. For those who have already read the book and want to attend the discussion, contact the library to join the discussion. Email [jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.org](mailto:jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.org) to join the discussion or call 472-5948.

## Exploring Red Clover Picture Book Series

MARSHFIELD – The Jaquith Library will host an online exploration of Vermont’s 2020/2021 Red Clover Picture Book nominees! Over the next few months, the library will provide recorded readings of each of the 10 nominees, paired with resources for diving deeper into the book. Every two weeks until May, a new link will be available. Visit the library website for the schedule and to enjoy the

first five books in our program: [jaquithpubliclibrary.org/red-clover-award.html](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org/red-clover-award.html). This program is geared for 5- to 10-year-olds.

In the spring, children can vote for the winner of the Red Clover Book Award.

Those interested in the take-home craft portion of the program may contact the youth services librarian at [jaquithyouth@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithyouth@gmail.com).

## Black History Month Round-the-Town Scavenger Hunt

HARDWICK – The Jeudevine Library has initiated a Black History Scavenger Hunt. Scavengers may find ten quotes posted around Hardwick which are from people who are important in the story of black people in the United States. There will be ten quotes posted in various windows in downtown Hardwick and up North Main Street. Scavengers may find the quotes, write down the quote and find out who is the author of the quote. Each quote will

be numbered. Write down the number of the quote and the name of the author for each quote and either put your answers in the library book drop or email them to [jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.org](mailto:jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.org) with your name and phone number.

All who enter and correctly identify the authors of the quotes will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to the Galaxy Book Shop. For information call the library at 472-5948.



# Craftsbury Warning Reaches 44 Articles

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The March 2 Australian ballot for Craftsbury voters fills two and a half pages of legal-size paper, encompassing 44 articles.

The warning and sample ballot are posted on the town's website. Absentee ballots will be available on February 10. Voting is scheduled for March 2, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Article 1, election of town officers, rarely draws contests, with incumbents winning handily without facing challengers. This year, voters will have a choice for the three-year select board post. Incumbent Susie Houston will face off with Mike Martin, who announced his candidacy for the spot.

Martin, a graduate of Craftsbury Academy and Vermont Technical College, owns the Martin Auto Repair on Town Line Road. In a phone interview, he said, "I feel like you should be involved in town and serve your community. I've had an interest before in being on the board and want to give it a try."

Houston was elected to the board in 2006 and serves as the liaison on multiple town committees. She said she is interested in continuing with the ongoing town committee projects she helped spearhead.

"I am excited about pursuing those projects," she said. Houston

serves as liaison to the energy committee, planning commission, conservation commission, and Neighbor to Neighbor Task Force. She is the board's liaison to new committees established through the impetus of the community visit by the Vermont Council of Rural Development in 2015 to 2016 – road safety, trails committee, and childcare.

Article 2 seeks to raise \$480,658 for the town's operating expenses and highway department. Although the budget increased \$10,799 over last year, the amount to be raised in taxes dropped \$105,909. Reimbursements from FEMA in large part drove a reduction in the amount to be raised by taxpayers. Expenditures made the year before as a result of devastating storms were reimbursed in 2020.

The Volunteer Craftsbury Fire Department is seeking an increase of \$2,850, for a total request of \$53,900.

Articles 5 through Article 9, normally one appropriation, were broken down into the separate town entities seeking funds. None of the requests have changed from last year, but missing are the block party and Antiques & Uniques funds, dropping the total appropriations by \$2,000.

Article 10 through Article 37 are requests from outside entities and organizations seeking town funds and totaled \$32,659 in FY

21; this year the total is \$36,229. Appropriation requests remain the same as FY21 for the majority of the organizations. Missing is a \$100 request from the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force.

Food associated groups are seeking more funds. The Hardwick Area Food Pantry is asking for \$2,500; last year the request was \$500. The Green Mountain Farm-to-School program is seeking \$850, an increase of \$350.

New requests came from the following entities: Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, \$250; Northwoods Stewardship Center, \$500; Old Stone House Museum, \$700; Orleans County Fair, \$500; Salvation Farms, \$500; and Vermont Family Network, \$250.

The Craftsbury Public Library's request for town support dropped \$800, for an appropriation of \$39,200.

Chair of the board Edward Houston said, "We hope people will support the library. We've reduced our request and understand there is pressure on the budget. It has been difficult for us to do our standard fundraising activities."

The Craftsbury Community Care Center is seeking \$12,000 from the town, the same amount requested last year.

The select board wants to establish a reserve account for the town's infrastructure

and equipment in Article 38. The board is asking voters to approve using \$12,000 from the Good Neighbor Fund (GNF) to establish a reserve account.

In Article 39, the Craftsbury Conservation Commission is asking the town for \$7,000 for the Craftsbury Conservation Fund. Last year, the conservation commission sought \$10,000 from the Good Neighbor Fund for the Craftsbury Conservation Fund but amended that amount to \$7,000 so all groups tapping into the GNF could be accommodated.

The Craftsbury Saplings sought \$6,000 in FY21, but that sum was amended to \$4,200 to accommodate everyone seeking money from the GNF. The request this year, under Article 40, is \$6,000.

Article 41 seeks \$3,000 from the GNF as matching money to secure a Better Connections grant to undertake a Craftsbury Village Master Plan.

Articles 42 and 43 sanction taxes collected by the town treasurer and determining tax due dates.

Article 44 is an advisory article for the select board seeking to assess the town's feelings of having Australian ballot possibilities along with the annual town meeting in the future. One possibility of particular interest is town officials elected by Australian ballot at the annual town meeting.

## Town Splits Format for Annual Meetings

by Tyler Molleur

STANNARD – Both the select board and school board are aware of the limitations brought to their typically lively town meeting discussions by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each board, however, came up with a different way to deliver their questions to the voters.

The school board moved on January 18 to provide all questions related to the district via Australian, or secret paper, ballot, to the registered voters. This includes the election of officers and approval of the proposed budget, which increases per-pupil spending by \$246, a 3 percent increase in the home-stead tax rate to \$1,843.90 on \$100,000 of property value.

An informational meeting will be held on Friday, February 26, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. via

remote call-in options.

In the 2021 election cycle, Diane Janukajtis is seeking re-election to her seat. Julie Swank, who was appointed to a vacant seat last year, plans to run for election to complete the remainder of the vacant seat's term. The vote will proceed on Town Meeting Day. On January 19, Gov. Phil Scott signed H. 48 into law, which allows municipal governing bodies and school districts the option of mailing ballots to residents on the voter list. The school board has not met since this action was taken to deliberate the issue.

In accordance with another section of H. 48, Jan Lewandoski reported that the select board decided at its January 20 meeting to take a different approach to conduct town business by delaying a floor meeting by two months. On May 4, 2021,

the town plans to conduct this meeting outside to ensure social distancing requirements can be met. This removes the challenging variable of occupancy limits related to the pandemic, which make inside meetings complicated due to the lack of predictability of attendees.

H. 48 recognized that many municipalities wanted to continue their long-standing tradition of discussing business from the floor.

The current maximum occupancy limit for indoor meetings is 1 person per 100 square feet, according to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. For a space like the Stannard Town Hall, there is no guarantee such parameters would hold the

typical turnout of voters, which was 29 of the 149 registered voters in 2020.

Lewandoski said if it is determined that weather or further pandemic-based restrictions will limit the ability to conduct an outdoor meeting on May 4, the meeting can be further postponed until optimal conditions exist.

The Stannard Town School Board has moved its regular meeting day to the first Wednesday of the month and will begin this new schedule today by hosting a virtual meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Members of the public can go to the Stannard School Board section of the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union webpage to find the link to the meeting.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com  
ads@hardwickgazette.com

# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

## Thursday, February 4

**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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

**GRACE FREE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**. Free online art class every Thursday, 1 - 3 p.m. Join at <https://meet.jit.si/GRACECommunityWorkshop>. Free materials kit available for pickup or delivery. Information: [carol@wonderartst.org](mailto:carol@wonderartst.org) or 802-472-6857.

## Friday, February 5

**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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com). ets at [highlandartsvt.com](http://highlandartsvt.com).

## Saturday, February 6

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

## Monday, February 8

**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, February 9

**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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

## Wednesday, February 10

**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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

**EAST HARDWICK GRANGE SUPPER**, a free meal for the community, Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m. Caledonia Grange #9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. A curbside dinner for the whole family to enjoy. Information or delivery: [easthardwickgrange@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://highlandartsvt.org).

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



*courtesy photo*

A piece by Amanda Daniels. Amanda created a highly imaginative and personal landscape. Her work disregards perspective and uses colors with complete freedom.

## Outside Art Shared Weekly

**HARDWICK** – River Arts and Grass Roots Art and Community Effort (G.R.A.C.E) will share “Outside Art” virtually every week through the River Arts Facebook page.

Each week, curator and Artistic Director Kathy Stark will share a selection from G.R.A.C.E.’s collection of outsider artwork.

“Outsider Art” is defined as having a feeling of spontaneity and innocence, a childlike quality. There is an abandonment of the rules of

perspective, composition, and juxtaposition that leads to a freshness.

Viewers are encouraged to use each piece as inspiration and a departure point for an original creation. Finished pieces can be submitted for display on River Arts and G.R.A.C.E.’s social media platforms. Participants may be invited to participate in a group exhibition or be featured in an “artist of the month” in the future.

For more information see [riverartsvt.org](http://riverartsvt.org).

We welcome VISA and MasterCard for subscriptions and advertising.



**THE Hardwick Gazette** Since 1889

(802) 472-6521 [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com)

**BUYING CEDAR LOGS**  
Call for specs and prices.  
**GOODRIDGE LUMBER**  
183 Bailey Hazen Road East, Albany, Vt. • (802) 755-6298

**TJ'S SMALL ENGINES**  
Quality Service and Reasonable Rates  
Repair of lawn and garden equipment.  
Pick up and delivery available.  
16 years experience.  
Used equipment available.  
Tracy & John Harris  
802-888-2833  
416 Corley Rd. • Wolcott, VT 05680  
Free Removal of Unwanted Equipment

# Wedding And Party Planner

Presenting professionals whose products and services will assist in creating your special celebration!

Weddings, Special Events, Sympathy Design

**AMY'S Artistic Floral**  
AMY TALLMAN, owner/designer  
178 Scott Road, Hardwick  
(802) 472-8354 • (802) 595-3751  
[amysartisticfloral@yahoo.com](mailto:amysartisticfloral@yahoo.com)

**THE RING SAYS YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT. CAPITOL PLAZA SAYS YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT RIGHT.**

Attention to detail... it's what separates the ordinary from the truly special.  
Call for customized wedding packages for up to 250 people.  
802 223 5252  
100 State St. • Montpelier

For information about advertising in the Wedding & Party Planner call The Hardwick Gazette at 472-6521!

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## I Sympathize, but Can't Empathize.

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – I have an old friend in Texas, a former classmate, who reports that her years, her eyesight, and her decreasing ability to handle complicated matters are leaving her more dependent upon her family – a few of whom, luckily live within miles of her home. One of her sons recently tackled the COVID telephone site and got her signed up for her first shot.

I frequently sympathize with her, but can't empathize. After all, I live in a relative garden spot for old-timers: the State of Vermont, where everything we need is easier for us – Department of Motor Vehicles, Medicare and Medicaid sign-up, heating oil assistance, help of all kinds from our local senior centers. What can possibly go wrong?

With this attitude instilled in my bosom, I waited patiently for the morning of January 25, the first day that, the state announced, we over-75s could sign up for our shots. Then I pounced: "Vermont Dept. Health COVID 19 signup." A cheerful-looking, simple site popped up, asking my name, address, date of birth, phone number, and e-mail address, and promising to get right back to me.

**"Well, that's the first appointment available, I'm afraid. But if you should happen to expire before that date, be sure to let us know so we can give that spot to someone else."**

That was Monday. Tuesday, nothing. Someone told me to give them 48 hours. So I did. Still nothing. All of a sudden the process of vaccination, which had been of abstract interest, was pertinent and personal. So I called the number on the web site. It began, suspiciously, with "855."

Time was, I got cramps in my left arm holding the phone up to my ear while on hold. Now I just put the phone on "Speaker" and set it down on the desk, where it plays elevator music and from time to time reminds me how important my call is to the callee.

After about twenty minutes a young girl came on, asked me the questions, but seemed confused about the answers. She asked three times for my birth date, twice how to spell

Montpelier (Hah! I thought. That's what the 855 was about), gave me an appointment for the very next day, but then said she'd have to call her supervisor, who'd be there soon. "Look," I said. "I've been on the phone an hour, and, frankly, we're getting nowhere. I'll try again another time. Thank you."

True to my word, I tried again. This time I got a young man, but with a je ne sais quoi that told me I was dealing with a worthy adversary. We sailed along swimmingly. He asked my county, and then my home town, and then how to spell Montpelier.

"Wait a minute!" I cried. "You're not here in Vermont!" No, he wasn't, he allowed; he was in Cincinnati. "Hey!" – I was getting excited – "I can spell Cincinnati, and it's not even your capital. Didn't you learn state capitals in high school?" He hadn't, and expressed thanks for the information.

Then he asked my date of birth. "Five, twenty-four, thirty-five," I responded. Was that 1935, he asked. "No, you imbecile! Eighteen, thirty-five!" I could tell he was jerking my chain, but we were getting on famously. I liked this kid.

He scrolled through the openings around Montpelier and gave me an appointment in Barre on February 16. "February sixteenth!" I shouted. "Criminy! 'll probably be dead by then!"

"Well, that's the first appointment available, I'm afraid. But if you should happen to expire before that date, be sure to let us know so we can give that spot to someone else."

I was enjoying this conversation more every second – especially now that it'd proved fruitful. "It must be hard," I sympathized, "to deal all day with confused, crabby old farts like me."

"Well, they're not all crabby," he said. "Like you, I mean. Can you really spell 'Cincinnati'?"

"Damn straight," I assured him. "And even the Roman guy it's named after. But thank you for not only the shot date, but for making my day a lot brighter. I hope yours is equally blessed."



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lakeview teacher Joanne Campisi (right) helps Summer Chernovetz (left) and Willow Lockamy (center) make sun catchers during a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Celebration held Wednesday.

## THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc.,  
Main Street, Hardwick, Vermont 05843  
Tel. (802) 472-6521, Fax. (802) 472-6522. E-mail: news@hardwickgazette.com  
Publication (ISSN 0744-5512).  
Periodicals postage paid at Hardwick, Vermont 05843.  
Postmaster send address changes to  
The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 367, Hardwick, Vermont 05843.

**EDITOR**  
Ray Small

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Sandy Atkins, Michael Bielawski,  
Ken Brown, June Cook,  
Jim Flint, Eric Hanson,  
Pat Hussey,  
Willem Lange, Doug McClure,  
Daniel Métraux,  
Joyce Slayton Mitchell

**SPORTS EDITOR EMERITUS**  
Dave Morse

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Vanessa Fournier

**CIRCULATION**  
Dawn Gustafson

**PRODUCTION**  
Sandy Atkins, Dawn Gustafson

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Erica Baker  
**CARTOONIST**  
Julie Atwood

The Hardwick Gazette assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertisements but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error appeared. Advertisers must notify the Gazette within five days of any error that occurred. Copyright 2021 by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc.

## MEETING MEMO

**Tuesday, February 9**  
**Twinfield Union School**  
**Regular Board Meeting,**  
6 - 8 p.m. <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/81041771610?pwd=QzMvbJY5FVhSUpYWFZwVGFQQ1ZTUT09>.  
Meeting ID: 810 4177 1610. Passcode: 909520. Dial 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

## ANOTHER OPINION

### Wildlife Governance and the Need for Change

by David Kelley

The front page of this week's Barton Chronicle, with a picture of someone holding up a bobcat he had shot, brought back an old memory.

When I was twelve years old, I was allowed to go hunting alone. I had a Stevens single shot 410, but in one of my earliest forays in the woods I took my father's 12-gauge shotgun. I remember almost every detail of one part of that warm, sunny, autumn day. Most of the leaves were off the trees. I saw a squirrel leap to a branch a few yards in front of me. Without thinking, I raised the gun and shot. The squirrel was so close the bird shot didn't have time to spread. The squirrel was dead with just a big hole blown in the center of its body and I just left it. I tell myself now I was so young I didn't know what I was doing. Hemingway wrote "... what is moral is what you feel good after, and what is immoral is what you feel bad after." I don't know if that is really the litmus test, but I remember to this day how I felt. Even as a twelve-year-old I could feel I had done something wrong.

I have grown to have an abiding respect for those who hunt with skill and care. A hunter hasn't paid someone else to kill his food for him. A hunter knows his quarry was born free, lived free, and was never subjected to the hideousness of factory farms, cattle cars or slaughter plants. But looking at last week's Chronicle I wondered why that bobcat was killed.

In all of the years I have spent in the woods I have only seen one bobcat. It was toward the end of the day. I was in Glover with my father. He spotted it first and we were both thrilled to catch a glimpse of it. There is still to this day something awe inspiring about these animals and the struggle and strength it takes to survive in the wild, their unfettered freedom, and the harsh beauty and simplicity of their lives.

I practice law for a living. I have spent a good deal of my career thinking, and arguing, about the difference between right and wrong, legal and illegal, ethical and unethical. I think most grownups understand that being legal isn't necessarily right. Slavery was once legal.

Beating children was once legal. Morality asks us to ask the fundamental question "why"?

Bobcats eat mice, moles and rodents. Those mice, moles and rodents spread ticks and Lyme disease. Those ticks threaten our deer, moose, domestic pets and even humans. The bobcats and foxes that help control an increasingly dangerous tick population are doing us a great service while they are alive. I don't know what good they do dead. Nobody eats fox or bobcat, except as some kind of stunt. No one deserves to have his picture on the front page of the Chronicle just for killing one. In fact, New Hampshire hasn't allowed bobcats to be hunted since 1989.

Our fish and wildlife are a public trust, but the rules of right and wrong regarding fish and wildlife are made by a small, layperson board, chosen in a seemingly incestuous process where qualified applicants do not even receive an acknowledgment of their application, much less notice that they haven't been chosen. The result of this process is a board impervious to change or public interest. It refuses to end any abusive hunting practices including killing contests, no bag limits, or even 24/365 open seasons for some species. As human technology evolves some of that technology, such as "smart" rifles, drones, GPS systems, radio collars and live action trail cams makes it even more imperative that we begin an open, transparent and public conversation about the rules and ethics around hunting and wildlife.

We live in a world where most of us hope and try to make things better. I think I can say with confidence that most Vermonters are opposed to unreasonable and unnecessary waste or cruelty toward wildlife. The vast majority want fact-based, science-based governance of wildlife. If, in our governance of fish and wildlife, we can't ask that all important question "why" more openly and more often, then hunters will eventually become the so-called "antis" – anti-science, anti-wildlife and anti-public interest, and Vermont's hunting tradition will be forever diminished.

[Editor's note: David Kelley is Vice Chair of the Vermont Wildlife Coalition].

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"WHICH ARM DO YOU WANT?"

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Australian Ballot is Deadly

To the editor:

The voters of Greensboro will be asked to make an important decision this year. They will be asked to have all votes on by-laws, ordinances and elected officials done by Australian Ballot.

Two of Vermont's most esteemed political scientists, Frank Bryan and Susan Clark, in their book *All Those in Favor*, called the Australian ballot "deadly" to the town meeting tradition. They wrote: "The Australian ballot takes away your right to legislate — to be part of the lawmaking process — and it doesn't even replace it with a deliberative body that represents you. It simply allows you to vote up or down, yes or no, on an issue prepared by the select board or in many cases by a small group of private citizens with a special interest."

When North Hero voted to adopt a proposal similar to that

now proposed for Greensboro the percentage of eligible voters attending town meeting dropped from 28% to 5% in three years. When Peacham adopted a similar initiative there was a temporary increase in the percentage of eligible voters casting ballots, but after several years it fell in line with previous town meeting participation rates.

Talk, speech and debate are the heart of democracy. The free exchange of ideas is critical to good decision making. Ironically, we are being asked to make this transition to Australian ballots by Australian ballot -- without the robust give and take of a town meeting. If it is the best path forward it should prevail after that open exchange and debate at a town meeting. I urge people to vote "no" on this proposal.

**Dave Kelley**  
Greensboro



# IN THE GARDEN

## Starting from Seed

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I hate to be the one to give you bad news, but some seed companies are already running out of seeds. Don't panic: there are, in fact, plenty of seeds out there. And if one company doesn't have your favorite tomato or zinnia variety, chances are that some other company will.

Before panicking, you might want to go to your local feed-and-grain store, garden center or food coop for seeds, too. Most of those have racks of seeds, some with just one brand, others with several.

Most seeds are good for three years. Of the seeds I use, onions and parsnips are just good for just one year. Peppers, parsley, corn and leeks are good for two years. Most of the cabbage family (kale, broccoli, etc.) and squash family (cukes and zukes) are good for four years. Basil and some flowers are

are created equal, and I want those that are ready to explode with pent up energy, ready to grow.

It's important to know what seeds need to be started indoors, and which can do well planted directly in the ground. All your root crops are best started outdoors in the ground, though beets can be started indoors. Beans and peas are direct seeded outside, too. Corn can be started in the ground, or indoors in flats. Crows love freshly germinated corn seeds with a little green leaf, so planting four-inch plants started indoors is good if you have just a small plot.

Although you can start the vine crops directly in the soil, I have troubles with striped cucumber beetles killing the young plants when they first germinate by stripping them of their first leaves. So I start squash-family vines in small pots indoors a month or so before outdoor planting day, and the plants are big



*courtesy photo*

*Carrots and most root crops need to be planted directly in the soil.*

in Maine that is favored by commercial growers. They provide excellent growing information. This year they provide excellent comparison photos in each section - all their tomatoes, side-by-side, for example.

Last year I tried John Scheepers' Kitchen Garden Seeds and liked them a lot. If you are interested in unusual vegetables like shiso, Karikachi edamame, tatsoi, mizuna and other Oriental veggies, they have plenty to choose from. They even have peanuts for northern gardeners! Like Fedco, no color photos in the catalog.

Like Italian food? Seeds from Italy carries the Franchi brand Italian seeds, and more. They also have kitchen items, garden tools and more. All high quality.

Hudson Valley Seeds started as a seed library in New York State, and became an excellent seed company with seeds others do not carry, like their Siberian watermelon.

Fruition Seeds in upstate New York is another favorite of mine. They grow much of their seed on their 24-acre farm, specializing in heirloom seeds for short seasons like those we have in New England. They have some nice varieties not

found elsewhere. The owners are young and full of energy, and grow only organic seeds.

Renee's Garden Seeds has great seeds - but no print catalog. Still, I order from them most years. I love their mixes of different color veggies in one pack -- three colors of beans, or two colors of carrots.



*courtesy photo*

*Corn seeds planted in plug tray indoors.*

And lastly, don't forget Burpee Seeds, one of the oldest and biggest seed companies for the home gardener. They sell lots of varieties that they have developed, especially disease-resistant hybrids.

So get busy, and buy your seeds now before all are sold!

[Editor's note: Another option to consider is our own High Mowing Seeds in stores and at [highmowing-seeds.com](http://highmowing-seeds.com).]



*courtesy photo*

*Heirloom tomatoes are often irregular in size and shape, but they are tasty and you can save seeds for next year.*

good for five years.

You can prolong the viability and vigor of your seeds by storing them properly: they do best in a dark, dry place cooler than 40 degrees. Freezing is fine, too, but put them in an airtight container. In fact, that's always a good idea.

Despite what I wrote above, I have germinated seeds much older than the suggested limits when I have not been able to find the varieties I wanted. There are downsides to using old seeds. They generally germinate at much lower rates. You can test this by wrapping ten older seeds in a paper towel and keeping it moist on a sponge. If less than half germinate in a week or two, buy new seeds. You can do that now, before you place your seed order.

Older seeds also have less vigor. That is the main reason I avoid them, even if they will germinate at 60%. Not all seeds

enough to survive some leaf damage by those insect pests.

Tomatoes, eggplants, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kale and lettuce I start indoors in April or buy in six-packs. Peppers and some flowers need to be started indoors very early: March 1 is good where I am.

What are my favorite companies? This year I ordered most of my seeds from FEDCO Seeds, a co-op based in Maine. I like that it's a cooperative and does everything in a low-key, sustainable way: their catalog has no color pictures designed to make me drool. They offer small seed packs for as little as \$2. And instead of saying that every tomato variety is "The Best Tasting" they tell the flaws as well as the positive attributes of each variety.

I always get some things from Johnny's Selected Seeds, an employee-owned company



*courtesy photo*

*Catalogs are great fun to study.*

We welcome VISA and MasterCard for subscriptions and advertising.



THE **Hardwick Gazette** Since 1889  
 (802) 472-6521 news@hardwickgazette.com

## CARPENTER

Leading Stowe builder is looking to hire an experienced frame and finish carpenter. Decent working conditions with good hourly rate and vacation pay!  
 Call Steel Construction at 253-4572 and schedule an interview, or email johnsteel@steelconstructionvt.com.



Delivering On A Promise  
**Dead River Company**

Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel  
 Heating Equipment Installations  
 189 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT  
 (802) 748-8934 or (800) 222-9276

### 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 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt. 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 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	Commercial property
	Water Supply Organic Farm	Land	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.**



### Production Team Member

Concept2, a market-leading manufacturer of stationary fitness ergometers and composite racing oars, seeks a motivated craftsperson to join our Oar Production team, full time, in our Morrisville, Vt., headquarters. We will train you to make the finest oars in the world, used by a majority of Olympic rowers.

Must have at least a year of professional experience working with your hands, be able to lift 50 lbs. (only occasionally), and be committed to doing high-quality work.

Successful Concept2 employees combine self-sufficiency and personal accountability with strong teamwork skills. Concept2 has an informal setting, a friendly and professional work environment, and excellent compensation and benefits, including fully paid medical, dental, and vision premiums for employees and their families.

To apply, submit resume and cover letter at: <https://concept2.bamboohr.com/jobs/>  
 Equal Opportunity Employer

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

click here for more information

## Apartments

### Apartments in Hardwick

One- and two-bedrooms  
 87 S. Main Street  
 Contact  
 claudegohl@gmail.com  
 (802) 730-0576

## Financial Services



Financial Advisor  
 The Old Post Office  
 31 Lower Main Street, Suite #2  
 P.O. Box 1639  
 Morrisville, Vt 05661

**Edward Jones**  
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
 Member SIPC

Bus. (802) 888-4207  
 Cell (802) 498-4343  
 rich.jacobs@edwardjones.com  
 www.edwardjones.com

## Home Improvement



Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Sat., 9 a.m. - noon  
 "Quality You Can Stand On"  
 454-7301, Hollister Hill, Plainfield

## Plumbing



LICENSED & INSURED  
**HOLMES PLUMBING**  
 Glenside St., RFD 1, Hardwick, VT 05843  
 Josh Holmes • 472-6228  
 Cell: (802) 745-8390

## Services

### Toya's Play Shop LLC

TAYLOUR HAY  
 Owner-Technician

1043 Dimick Road, off Rte. 16, Greensboro • open Mon.-Fri., 9-5  
 (802) 533-7070 or (802) 498-8822 • toyas.play

## Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing  
 Camera Inspection • Hydro-Vac Services  
 Catch Basin Cleaning • Lift Station Maintenance  
 24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE  
 802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

## Services

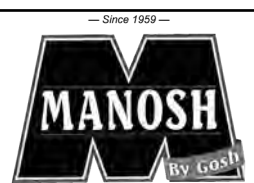
### LUDDITE CARPENTERS

John Campbell  
 Cabot, Vt.  
 20 years experience  
 Fully insured



Remodeling • Additions • Home repairs  
 General carpentry • Hardwood flooring  
 Interior painting • Siding • Decks  
 Door/window replacement  
 Contact for free estimates: (970) 980-6908  
 ludditecarpenters@gmail.com  
 ludditecarpenters.com

## Services



Water Wells • Complete Geothermal Systems  
 Water Treatment • Pump Sales & Service  
 Aggregate- Gravel & Stone Products  
 Pond Aeration  
 24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE  
 802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

# Winter in the North Country



Volunteers (from left) Dave O'Brien, Ben LaPoint, Erik Gann and Jon Williams work on unfolding the liner Saturday for the town's ice rink located on Atkins Field in Hardwick.



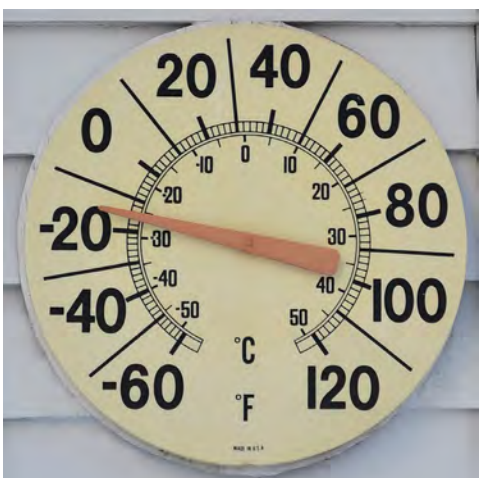
Hardwick Recreation Committee members and volunteers (from left) Erik Gann, Holly Bolio, Mallory Greaves, Ben LaPoint and Jon Williams spread out and position the liner for the rink located under the Center for an Agricultural Economy Pavilion at Atkins Field. Ten people worked in 7-degree temperatures to set it up.



Tom Fadden (left) empties water from a tanker Saturday after the Hardwick Rec. Committee and volunteers set up the town skating rink under the Pavilion on Atkins Field. Watching the rink fill up (from second left to right) are Erik Gann, Jason Bahner, Justin Lander, Jo Lander and Jon Williams.



Several people were ice fishing on Woodbury Lake on Sunday.



On Sunday morning this thermometer in Hardwick showed a temperature of minus 16 degrees, the coldest so far this winter.

Right: Wayne Renaud grooms the Hardwick Trails under sunny skies on January 31.



**Photos by  
Vanessa Fournier**