

THE Hardwick Gazette

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

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Board Seeks Answers to Street Ownership

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At its February 18 meeting, the Hardwick Select Board again discussed the ownership of River St./Mill St. in East Hardwick.

Some residents and the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) said documentation exists showing the street was previously owned by the town. They believe the town had authority to intervene in a dispute over whether the White Water Gallery and the owners of the former post

office had parking rights there. A resident claims exclusive property rights over the road and does not wish to allow parking.

At the meeting, Town Manager Shaun Fielder said Sunwise Surveying of Marshfield said they found no evidence River Street was ever a town highway. Fielder said in the surveyor's opinion "it seems unlikely that those [right-of-way] rights would have been deeded if the road were thought of as a town highway." According to this finding, the land the road sits on belongs to

See **STREET, 2**

Deering is Select Board Candidate

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Michael Deering is one of two candidates on the ballot for a one-year seat on the Hardwick Select Board. Write-in candidate Lawrence Hamel is also running.

Deering said he has "long-term ties to Hardwick, with many family and friends living here." He is himself a recent transplant, having lived here just over a year. His previous public service included six years on the Barre

See **DEERING, 3**



Michael Deering

Lawrence Hamel Seeks Write-in Bid

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Lawrence Hamel, Town Service Officer as well as the owner of both the 1874 Building and Hardwick Inn, said he is making a bid for select-board as a write-in candidate. The two open one-year seats have two candidates on the ballot, Gary Bellavance and Michael Deering. Hamel said, "I have been contacted by several people that I highly respect, and they asked me to run as a write-in candidate. I'd like to have a bigger part in the direction the town takes."

Hamel, who goes by Larry, has already made an impact on

See **HAMEL, 4**



Lawrence Hamel



photo by Doug McClure

On February 25, 2020, the Hazen Union boys' basketball team does a chant before the game. See team reactions to beginning the 2021 season on sports page.

NCHC's Jeri Wohlberg Wins State Award

by Doug McClure

ST. JOHNSBURY – Northern Counties Health Care (NCHC) announced Friday that interim Assistant Medical Director Jeri Wohlberg, a family nurse practitioner at Hardwick Area Health Center (HAHC), has won The American Association of Nurse Practitioners' 2021 State Award for Excellence.

In a statement, NCHC said the award was for "outstanding achievements in clinical practice" and NCHC CEO Michael Costa issued a statement.

"High quality care is something built day by day, and Jeri Wohlberg's commitment to NCHC, and the communities we serve, is remarkable," Costa said. "Jeri consistently offers great care to her patients, serves as a leader on our team, and she has become our point person in responding to clinical questions related to COVID. We are extremely proud to have Jeri represent Vermont in receiving this award."

Wohlberg said her role as interim assistant medical director



Jeri Wohlberg

was added "in the midst of the COVID pandemic when it was clear that there was much time and attention that needed to be directed towards NCHC's COVID response." She said the position expanded as COVID slowed down and she now fills several key roles in the HAHC/NCHC COVID response.

"My role is to continue managing our COVID response,

See **WOHLBERG, 7**

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Street

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the East Hardwick Fire District.

Board member Shari Cornish said, "I think the fact she's [Sunwise Surveying] citing that the fire district owns the land under the road is the most important part. We knew that going in. The question is whose land was that?"

The board discussed whether the town should act independent of the findings. Residents and the EHNO have said the dispute impacted two businesses in the East Hardwick Village Center area, a section of town the community hopes to revive.

Board member Lucian Avery said, "In some ways, it sounds like it doesn't have anything to do with us, it's out of our hands." Chair Eric Remick suggested the town could play a "heavy handed" role and take the property by eminent domain. The board was hesitant to take such a step. Fielder agreed to reach out to the involved parties.

In other board business, roofing repairs for the Public Safety Building and the Depot will soon go out to bid. Fielder said an attempt to solicit bids last fall had not produced a realistic price and he hoped this effort would be more successful. He said if a qualifying bid were received, the town could potentially parlay the contractor's expertise toward pricing out much-needed work on the Memorial Building's slate roof, or at least get a recommendation for a suitable contractor.

The board filled the final seat on the equity committee open to non-Hardwick residents. One member stepped down, and Craftsbury resident and equity advocate Audrey Grant expressed interest. Seats are still available for Hardwick residents.

The planning commission grew by one with the select board appointing Cornish. "I'm very, very interested in what they're working on," Cornish told the board, adding she frequently attends the commission's meetings already and has a vested interest in their work.

The board signed off on the purchase of a new truck for the road crew. The cost of the International HX620 is \$145,739 after factoring in the trade-in of the truck it will replace. Road Foreman Tom Fadden recommended the truck, Fielder said, with the next-lowest-cost option nearly \$30,000 higher. The board also approved financing for purchase of the fire truck.

Chief Cochran described a "frustrating" year for Hardwick Police Department cruisers.

Issues affecting police vehicles included failure to start, parts needing replacement, and radio issues.

As of last weekend the HPD received its second round of COVID shots, prompting board member Ceilidh Galloway-Kane to inquire why the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department was the agency present during the state-run vaccinations at Hazen Union School. Chief Cochran said it was a state contract and out of his hands, but he wished his department had been given a chance to take the lead. "I don't know what they're worried about [protecting]," he said. "It would have been nice if they had reached out to towns that have police departments."


He said between the COVID vaccinations and additional state funding, traffic enforcement could increase. "We're really excited to get out there and start getting back to work [on additional patrols]," he said.

Hardwick Electric Department (HED) General Manager Mike Sullivan spoke to the board about the organization's budget. Purchased power expenses were its biggest budget item at more than 60% of the budget and they came in 2% under for 2020 with "near-to-perfect" coverage. This year, HED will be impacted by Green Mountain Power's (GMP) 6% rate increase in purchase power costs. Avoiding the increase was a driving factor behind HED's decision to acquire a GMP transmission line.

Sullivan said he wanted to coordinate the HED audit more closely with the town. Still in question is whether the town's auditor is "peer-reviewed" in the energy industry, as is required. Further investigation will be done. Sullivan said he wanted to bring the board's attention to the power service proposed for the Jeudevine Library Expansion which he described as "really overkill" and said would be expensive. He said of the three-phase, 400-Amp service, "In practical terms, that would fully run over thirty single homes, literally enough to run a small manufacturing facility."

The board met last night to discuss its budget and conduct a hearing on the wastewater treatment facility upgrade project bond.

Town meeting is next week. Three of the five seats on the board are up at town meeting, with Shari Cornish running for a three-year seat and Gary Bellavance, Michael Deering, and write-in Lawrence Hamel vying for the two one-year seats.



February 24 - March 2

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Progresso Vegetable Classics \$1.39 19 oz.	Food Club Beans 69¢ 15.5 oz.	Prince Pasta 5/\$5 12-16 oz.	
Barilla Pasta Sauce 2/\$4 24 oz.	Betty Crocker Instant Mashed Potatoes 5/\$5 4.7-5.6 oz.	Kellogg's Honey Smacks, Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies 2/\$5 12-15.3 oz.	
Kellogg's Special K Cereal 2/\$5 12-12.5 oz.	Cascadian Granola \$3.49 9.2-16 oz.	Nabisco Saltine or Oyster Crackers 2/\$5 9-16 oz.	
Florida Natural Orange Juice 2/\$6 52 oz.	Stonyfield Yogurt 5/\$5 5.3 oz.	Morning Star Farm Veg. Patties 3/\$10 8-12 oz.	
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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

February 15: Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; DLS, Vt. Rte. 15; Juvenile problem, West Church St.

February 16: Citizen Dispute, W. Church St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14S; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14S.

February 17: Background Investigation, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15; Accident – Property Damage Only, S. Main St.; Threats/Harassment, Bake LHHD; Medical, Maple St.

February 18: Juvenile Problem, Bayley Hazen Rd.; Assist – Agency, High St.; Background Inves-

tigation, High St.; Citizen Dispute, Slapp Hill; Assist – Public, Ward Hill Rd.; VIN Verification, Wolcott St.

February 19: Citizen Dispute, Maggie’s Pond Rd., Greensboro; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Spring St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, S. Main St.; Custodial Dispute, Dimick Rd.; TRO/FRO Service, Carey Rd.; Assist – Agency, Union St.; Unsecure Premis, Wolcott St.

February 20: Assist – Agency, Anairs Dr.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Hardwick St., Greensboro.

Car Sideswiped, Expired License

On February 12, at 5:10 p.m., during child exchange at Hay’s Service Center, Gaston Paquin, of Cabot, was irate and purposefully drove by, “sideswiped” his ex’s vehicle, then left, after which she called police.

On Feb. 20, at 1:40 p.m., Gabriel Deangelis of Montpelier was stopped on Wolcott St. in

Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for Expired License.

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 February 14 through February 21. 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.

Deering

Continued From Page One

City School Board, where he was “very involved with several legislators,” he said. “I have been active in Vermont environmental issues as well as taxation issues.”

Deering described himself as a “proponent of local control.” He said, “I am a fiscal conservative yet maintain close ties to socially progressive movements.”

He said he “honorably served in the Marine Corps” and has worked for both state and federal government in information technology positions and assisted agencies on environmental issues. “I have worked closely with policymakers in Montpelier, most definitely not always in agreement with them,” he said.

His motivation in running for the select board, he said, was he felt the board needed “new blood with fresh ideas and ways of addressing issues.” He also noted his “desire to see Hardwick succeed as a community” and provide local residents with “more input into Hardwick government and its operations as well as priorities.”

Of the economic challenges caused by COVID-19, Deering said, “I believe that Hardwick has done an amazing job of COVID mitigation.” He said the town needed to strongly impress upon the state “the need for more targeted assistance programs,” as “all industries have been impacted [by COVID] to a great extent.”

After reviewing the budget, Deering said he felt it required a more detailed review. “I would agree that there are some things that the town just simply cannot afford with the reduced revenues,” he said. “I believe the entire budget must be gone through and adjusted with a serious eye on cost cutting, as well as level funding.”

Deering said the board’s top priorities should be broadband availability and economic growth. “We need to encourage and assist in the deployment of a town-wide fiber optic network to ensure all of our residents and businesses are able to effectively utilize technology,” he said.

Here are Deering’s quick takes on issues that have come before the select board in the past year.

Equity and racial justice

“Equity and racial justice are human rights. No person should be looked upon any differently than any other based on social positioning, color, gender

or any other of the myriad of ways people choose to classify others. People should all be judged on actions, statements, and character. I think that the Hardwick Police Department does a fine job in that area.”

Allowing public signs/protests on town property

“I am a supporter of allowing public signs on public property as well as protests. That being said however, I believe that in order to be a protest it must be peaceful. At the first sign of any sort of violence or intimidation, it is the responsibility of the Town to put an end to it.”

The Yellow Barn

“The yellow barn project could be very worthwhile. However, I think it needs to be far more inclusive as to who gets use of the spaces it creates. With a great deal more focus on local use from town citizenry. It seems to me that the current plans for it are somewhat elitist.”

Wastewater treatment plant and its bond

“I firmly support the wastewater treatment facility bond. Without critical infrastructure, we will never attract businesses to bolster our economy.”

Jeudevine Library and its bond

“The Library has rather seriously outgrown its current property. Without adequate parking resolution, I don’t feel that any amount of money will help the situation.”

The proposed and then abandoned plan for the AT&T tower

“I am in no way opposed to a new cell tower. I am however opposed to any proposed tower that attempts to circumvent established town plans, as well as any that are submitted without the corporate entity doing its homework and trying to end-run the plans in place. Which is exactly what I believe AT&T attempted.”

Expanding broadband

“As I have said, I am very much in favor of expanding broadband. Fiber optic broadband is already in the works for the Northeast Kingdom and I believe that is exactly what is needed.”

Creating opportunities for Hardwick students

“We must offer opportunity through increased business growth as well as educational opportunities. I feel that the Town should also invest in apprenticeship programs to allow our youth to stay rather than force them to leave the area in order to find stable economic opportunities.”



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Hamel

Continued From Page One

Hardwick. Both the Hardwick Inn and 1874 Building were condemned when Hamel and his wife bought and renovated them. Using grant funding and their own money, along with Hamel's knowledge as a builder, the restoration was seen as a major success by the State of Vermont and won a 2012 Preservation Award from the Preservation Trust of Vermont, which produced a video highlighting the work. The state has highlighted the redevelopment as exemplifying a way to revitalize a village center. Now the two properties have twenty-nine tenants and are "viable, valuable businesses in that part of the downtown," Hamel said.

Hamel has also served as a Town Service Officer for eight years, a role he said he intends to continue and is proud of his work in.

"Prior to my taking my position, no town service officer had served a client ever because nobody knew what the town service officer did. But now the police department's figured out that [my position] gets them off the hook if they have somebody that's stranded in town or otherwise misplaced. It's my job to make sure [that person] sleeps in a warm place. And I've had twenty-two clients in the eight years that I've done it. No one has slept outside. No one's gone away from my office hungry or broke. And it's a job I take seriously and take pride in because people need help sometimes."

Hamel is originally from Baltimore "so I'm technically a flatlander. I moved to Vermont because I was not satisfied with the way things were going down there. And I moved to Vermont because I like the way things are here. I'm not trying to change it back into something else." He currently lives in East Hardwick with his wife Lisa.

Hamel has served on the select board previously. Hamel said he has read through the budget and noticed some things he doesn't agree with, among them, that the town owns properties. "I notice in there are several [town-owned] properties. I don't think the towns should be in the real estate business. The Yellow Barn is a prime example. Here we're going and buying another big property that we're going to have to support and maintain and maybe or maybe not collect taxes on. I'm a big supporter of the Hardwick Historical Society. The town supports the Historical Society and they ask for an appropriation. The same with the Town House. [The Yellow Barn] is a big piece of

"They [the road crew] do an outstanding job and work with what they have. No town could survive without a fire department or, in my opinion, a police department. They've worked with me, they've solved several crimes."

real estate that if private business couldn't operate at a profit. I run a private business. I know what it's like to have to come up with the money to pay the bills. And if you've got a giant enterprise like that owned by the town and you don't have to hustle up your own money, it makes a big difference. So these are the things that should be looked at, the town buying real estate and getting involved in these big multi-million dollar projects that don't pay their own way."

He said he is "highly supportive" of the road crew, the fire department, and the police department, which are the biggest-ticket items in the town's budget. "They [the road crew] do an outstanding job and work with what they have. No town could survive without a fire department or, in my opinion, a police department. They've worked with me, they've solved several crimes. You couldn't manage all this without that town manager's office or the town clerk's office. These are the things we've got to have, and we've got to iron some of these [budgetary] things out. I will go over the budget and see, because I know how to do that. I had a budget for this building and I got the job done," he said.

Hamel is concerned about COVID's aftershocks on the town's economy but doesn't necessarily see a direct role the town could play either in encouraging people to wear masks or help with businesses' recovery. "I think the governor's orders are a little over the top. I think we need to open up business and I think we should trust people to use their own brains to avoid people. It's totally real, there's no doubt, there's no question, and you're either going to get it or you're not going to get it." He said that one example was other people in a store picking up items and putting them back which could cause exposure despite all a person's efforts. "You make precautions as you see fit and not how the government sees fit. I would like to see business open up. I would like to see people be able to go back to work and protect themselves.

"I wouldn't even call [the effects of COVID on the economy]

economic impact. I would call it killing them, putting them out of business. I don't know that it's the town's job [to help businesses get back on their feet]. We went through that last year where they wanted to put outdoor tables out [in the park] to open things up any way that you can. And I was very supportive of that. I called the Village Restaurant and a couple of [restaurants] because anything that I can do to contribute to helping them succeed is what I hope to do."

Here are Hamel's quick reactions to questions that the Gazette has asked other select board candidates in previous editions:

Equity and Racial Justice

"It's something that somebody thought of to make themselves feel good. I don't see a lot of racism in the town of Hardwick. I saw a lot of racism in Baltimore. That's why I moved. You know, it's something that every incident has to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. You can't put a blanket over racism or anything else."

Allowing public signs/ protests on town property

"Town property should be town property. Somebody sets up a sign out front here even if I don't agree with it, it's town property, so no, I don't much care for it."

The Yellow Barn

"The Yellow Barn is something that private business should be involved in, not the Town of Hardwick."

Wastewater Treatment Plant and its bond

"The wastewater treatment plant [bond] is something that's ridiculous to oppose. If you want to expand business in the Town of Hardwick and don't have a wastewater treatment plant, you're not going to do it. It's something that has to be kept up."

Jeudevine Library and its bond

"I think I played a big part in that because I drew up the plans of what they came up with and weren't my ideas. I took everybody's ideas and put them down on paper and made a plan that the library could work with, the architects could work with. I don't

claim to be an architect. I'm in the building business, which is why they recruited me. But what it boils down to, having a library is important. I do a lot of reading. I do a lot of research. They worked to get this bond. They also worked to get half matching funds, which is a big part of it."

The proposed and then abandoned plan for the AT&T Tower

"If you're going to oppose something that's going to bring business to Hardwick or [public] safety to people and tell property owners what they can or cannot put on their own property, that's something that I'm not for. There's certain things that the government should keep an eye on, but it should not have been killed. I don't have a lot of use for 5G, or extended coverage, but there are a lot of people that do. And there's a lot of people that can't come here or won't operate a business here because they don't have the services that they need."

Expanding broadband

"I'll say I'm not the most tech-savvy person. You know, it's progress. I'm all for it. [But] I think it should be left to private business, you know, whether it's AT&T or Consolidated or Comcast or whoever it should be up there to bring it out to everyone. You know, it's a business like any other business."

Creating opportunities for Hardwick students

"Well, that goes along with expanding the infrastructure. The town's lost many valuable businesses since I've been here. When I first got here, Caspian Arms was a big business right here in town, right up there in the Jeudevine Mansion. The town wouldn't work with them. Give them whatever it was that they needed. And they left for Wolcott. Caledonia Spirits, [the town] couldn't have taken that Yellow Barn property and offered it [to them]? I don't have the answer for it, but they were foolish to let that leave here because that's an industry. I mean, that's something that was here and had opportunity for growth."

In closing, Hamel stated that "Like I said, I'm interested in the growth of Hardwick. And keep an eye on it, keep it affordable, because we all live here. And that is not just Hardwick. Hardwick can't go it alone. The State of Vermont can't go it alone. But people that talk about grant money and all these things that we get from the federal government, it still comes out of our pockets. The federal government does not have money. That's our money. And people don't seem to understand that. So we should spend it wisely."

Changes Imminent at Transfer Station

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – At its January 17 meeting, the Wolcott Select Board took steps toward addressing several unresolved issues at the transfer station.

The board stated the problem of shortfalls in receipts was likely due to a process issue. Previously, the board described the station’s operating mode as not conducive to a smooth and controlled environment. At the December 16 meeting, Vice Chair Linda Martin said of the station, “It almost needs the state police up there sometimes. People have gotten so used to doing what they want, paying what they want... there needs to be some control.”

Central to the problem, the board stated, was the shack at the top of the stairs was not intended for its current use at the transfer station.

“The shed was originally built as a re-use center and never designed for an attendant,” Martin said. “Having to go up and down those stairs all day is really hard on people’s legs, and I think that’s why there’s problems with receipts at the register.”

Martin said the Central Vermont Solid Waste District (CVSWD) recommended consolidating the station’s service window from two days to one day with longer hours. The CVSWD told her the Worcester transfer station was roughly the same size but required only one worker. Board member Richard Lee said the comparison to Worcester was not apples-to-apples because the Worcester shack was designed for its use.

“At the shack in Worcester, people can drive right up to the window and do the transactions,” Lee said. “The shack is located where they have a good view of all the containers, it sits closer to the containers than ours does.”

He agreed the Wolcott shack should be replaced with a service

window “where the cashier is just sliding open the window, taking money, and giving change. With no stairs.”

Beyond the issue of the stairs, the shack has no heating system. Town Administrator Randall Szott said a resident left a heater for the attendant’s use, but the attendant wanted a different kind of heater that did not require an open flame.

“Applying for a grant [for a new shed] is something we should be doing,” board member Kurt Klein said. The board agreed. Szott said he was not sure whether the grant currently under investigation would pay for the building or only its design, but he would look into it further. The deadline for the grant is March 10.

The board followed the CVSWD’s recommendation and, effective March 6, service hours will be changed to Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The board wanted to move more quickly, but board member Kurt Billings said additional time was needed for residents without internet who could not see the online notice.

Vice Chair Martin said she attended a technology seminar in advance of town meeting to help her better understand virtual meeting application Zoom. The seminar also covered adjustments to the open meetings law, including that minutes should include only those who spoke at the meeting and not every participant.

In his town administrator’s report, Szott described several items he was working on. Among them was state testing of automated vehicles a.k.a. driverless cars. Klein wondered if these types of vehicles would function on dirt roads. Szott said that was one of many questions he hoped the testing would answer. “There’s always a person in the car that can take charge during the testing,” Szott said. “It’s not

like you have these robo-vehicles wandering through your municipality, there’s a human being that can intervene if something goes haywire.”

Szott also followed up on a proposal made last fall for a Wolcott Town Forest. Kate Warner of the Trust for Public Land told Szott she was currently identifying and speaking with property owners to determine what would and would not work. Warner also spoke with the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, who told her they were “very interested in participating” should Wolcott move forward. The outdoor center offered to help design and build mountain bike trails. If it goes forward, the project could be funded in part by accessing Vermont Clean Water State Revolving Funds.

Alison Link of Healthy Lamoille Valley spoke to the board about that organization’s quick-turnaround mini-grant program. The state put forth an unfunded initiative known as “3-4-50” which refers to three behaviors (no physical activity, a poor diet, and tobacco use) that leads to four diseases (cancer, heart disease and stroke, Type

2 Diabetes, and lung disease) that it says kill 50 percent of Vermonters. Healthy Lamoille Valley, which has its own funding, is working to augment town initiatives with \$500 mini-grants. Link noted Wolcott was ahead of many other Lamoille County towns because its town plan already included a detailed section on health and wellness. The state recognized Wolcott on its 3-4-50 website, calling the town a “success story.”

Healthy Lamoille Valley is seeking town projects that further its mission to end substance use, especially among youth. She said children imprint on adults and mimic their substance-use behaviors. The grants have are quick-turnaround, with a March 1 deadline. Grant funds are to be spent before the end of May. Martin suggested the library’s outdoor areas as a project the mini-grants could help with, and Lister Deb Klein said, “I would very much like apply for the mini-grant and I would take responsibility for writing that up.” Deb Klein said she and Szott would work together with librarian Sally Gardner on an effort to secure a grant.

OUR E-MAILS
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Wolcott Residents:
Effective Saturday, March 6, the Wolcott Transfer Station will have new operating hours. It will be open **SATURDAYS ONLY** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Steady Progress on Broadband

WALDEN – The Walden Select Board met on February 15, with select board members Brenda Huntoon and Randolph Wilson present in person, and Lina Smith, Roger Fox and Caro Thompson joining via Zoom.

Caro Thompson reported steady progress from NEK Community Broadband (nekbroadband.org).

A town meeting informational meeting was scheduled for Monday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 pm via Zoom and an

additional informational meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 23, via Zoom.

A Class 3 road maintenance complaint was discussed. Short term and long-range solutions will be researched and reported March 1, and one overweight permit and bills were signed.

Town Meeting Day, March 2, will have in-person voting at the town office with a limit of two people at a time. Masks will be required.



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Chicken Leg Quarters , family pack, lb.....	79¢
Top Round Roast , USDA Choice Beef, boneless, extra lean, lb.	\$3.69
Pork Ribs , Southern style, boneless, lb.....	\$2.29

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photo by Hal Gray

Customer B.J. Gray, GUCC Pastor Rev. Sunday-Winters, and cook Cilla Bonney-Smith (showing contents of container) during Shrove Tuesday.



photo by Hal Gray

Paula Harmon and supper organizer Judy Dales with filled containers awaiting pick up at the GUCC during Shrove Tuesday.

Fluffy Pancakes Challenge Winter Storm

by Hal Gray

GREENSBORO – Nearly 300 fluffy pancakes were served to almost one hundred hungry diners as the Greensboro United Church of Christ celebrated Shrove Tuesday with its annual pancake supper on February 16. This community event was held this year as a free grab ‘n’ go distribution on a day that threatened up to a foot of

snow.

Church Moderator Judy Dales organized teams of socially distanced church members who showed up throughout the day. Shelly Jungwirth and John Howard were first to occupy the church kitchen in the morning to cook nearly 600 sausages. Then Judy mixed the batter using Carol Smith’s Highland Lodge recipe from years ago, because it resulted

in especially fluffy and delicious pancakes.

Next were Jan Travers, Rosann Hickey and Cilla Bonney-Smith, who cooked the pancakes which Sherral Lumsden packed in environmentally correct (compostable) containers, along with sausages, butter and maple syrup. Paula Harmon, Cilla Bonney-Smith and Rev. Sunday-Winters took over at 4 p.m. to hand out containers as

people drove through the church parking lot until 6 p.m. while snow was falling.

Shrove Tuesday is the celebration preceding the somber 40 days of Lent and Christ’s Crucifixion. Since many people chose to fast, Shrove Tuesday became the day to use up all the rich food left in the house, hence the tradition of pancakes on this day before Ash Wednesday.

Board Approves First Grant Applications for Pedestrian Bridge

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At its February 18 meeting, the select board approved two grants to fund a replacement for the pedestrian bridge, a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Small-Scale Grant, and a USDA Rural Business Development Better Connections Grant.

The VTrans grant is to improve and repair sidewalk sections on West Church, North Main, and Maple Street as identified by the AARP Walkability Study. The grant is a 50/50 match with the town, Town Manager Shaun Fielder said. The town’s matching contribution could include work from the road crew and use of the crew’s equipment, with a value of \$40,860 in time, equipment, and material provided by the town.

Fielder said, “If we add on \$6,120 out of our sidewalk capital improvement fund, that allows us to potentially go after a project worth up to \$81,720. So, it’s a really good opportunity and I think we have a pretty sound application.”

He said another important point was that this grant’s focus integrated with the pedestrian bridge replacement project, as well as improvements to sidewalks in Memorial Park down to the village leading to the pedestrian bridge.

The USDA said a previously awarded grant for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) taken over by VTrans could be used for related work.

“This helps to cover the argument that this is a really good readjustment of the LVRT improvement grant to improve the bridge, but also improve access from the trail going into the village area,” Fielder said.

Board Chair Eric Remick said, “it sounds a little bit odd to me that we’re providing a letter of support for our own application,” but Fielder said it was a quirk of the process. He added Community Development Coordinator Geoff Sewake said he thought the letter would “polish off” the application. Board member Shari Cornish noted that the planning commission had drafted its own letter of support and motioned to approve the grant application. Vice Chair Elizabeth Dow seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

The Better Connections Grant is focused primarily on planning. The board was not required to provide a letter of support, but Fielder said it was necessary to record the board’s support in the minutes. He said the goal was to work with the planning commission to develop “a community transpor-

tation plan to meet the needs of the town, to be thoughtful, equitable and provide for sustainable growth of the community.” He said other recent studies, including those conducted by the AARP and the Pedestrian and Safety Task Force, could be pulled together as part of the community engagement process.

“In a nutshell,” Fielder said, “with this support on the planning phase, we get ourselves in a position to say, what are the best ways we can implement improvements for the good of everyone involved?”

Fielder said the grant’s deliverables would “facilitate a community process designed to engage the Hardwick community more fully” with an eye on a community-driven transportation plan that integrates ideologies of smart growth and “complete streets,” and develop visual aids “to assist the community in imagining key parts of the plan.” Remick clarified that “complete streets” refers to the concept of thinking of streets as for more than just cars.

Fielder said expected outcomes would be “to officially adopt a community-driven transportation plan; an inclusive, sustainable, thoughtful, equitable, and environmentally-thoughtful approach to multi-modal devel-

opment and infrastructure in Hardwick; improve safety for the users of the roads and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; community and municipally-driven action stemming from this project’s engagement process and resulting plan; and a more equitable, diverse and welcoming community.”

Additional, previously obtained LVRT-related grants for a bicycle rack and information kiosk would complement this grant, Fielder said.

“This is a planning-phase thing,” he said, and intended to provide the basis for larger grants toward the bridge’s replacement. The targeted grant amount is \$75,000, with \$7,500 coming from town funds. “We would have to use some of our local monies in this planning exercise,” he said, adding the money is there for the match.

Remick described the grant as “fairly sizeable” for a planning grant. Fielder said the goal was to locate a consultant and planning expert to work on a town-wide planning project. He said the town does not have the in-house expertise necessary for a project of this scale.

With the grant due the following day, the board unanimously approved its support for the grant.

Craftsbury Community Care Center Out of Outbreak, But Still Watchful

by Penelope Doherty, CCCC board member

CRAFTSBURY – With no new positives since early January, the Craftsbury Community Care Center is deemed out of December’s COVID-19 outbreak. Residents are doing well, and some restrictions are easing.

The Care Center mourns the loss of two residents to the virus and is grateful for the recovery of other residents and staff who contracted it and that many were able to evade the virus.

Care Center Executive Director Kim Roberge emphasizes that “we’re not out of trying times -- we must stay watchful. We don’t want this virus back, so we continue to err on the side of caution regarding protections and lifting of restrictions when allowed.”

The Care Center has received both doses of vaccinations for those who qualify. Residents who received monoclonal antibodies treatment have a 90-day waiting period and a team will return to administer those at the appropriate time.

Care Center leadership is overwhelmed by the family and community support received during the outbreak. Board President Jane Marlin and member Penelope Doherty served as temporary coordinators for Roberge while she focused with staff on direct resident care. Marlin and Doherty recently compiled a list to recognize those without whom the center could not have navigated this challenge, including caterers and meal runners who stepped up when the center’s kitchen closed. With a half-day notice, the team began providing 25 meals, plus desserts and snacks as required by



courtesy photo

Craftsbury caterers and citizens who stepped up for the care center include: front row, (left to right) Kit Basom, Craftsbury General Store; Lisa and Gary Tatro, Tatro’s; Kristy Lamare, C-Village Store; Chef Nadav; second row: runners Barb Flint, Barb Strong, Heidi Rich, Kris Coville (catering coordinator), and Lori Mathez; back row: runners Suzanne Griffiths, Paul Gruhler and Bob Griffiths. Not pictured is P. Doherty, team organizer.

regulations, three times a day for over two weeks. The Care Center also recognizes families for understanding, despite their anxiety, that the center needed to manage some tasks, communications, and activities differently for the duration. Families, friends and community who rallied round with supplies and donations were also critical to the effort, as were board and family members who were available at a moment’s notice to source items

needed in a hurry - and drive wherever necessary to get it.

The Care Center also recognizes community members who provided holiday cheer, from indoor decor to outdoor wreaths and lighted trees to cards to caroling and other fun on the circle, and the Craftsbury Select Board, which erected a sign thanking staff and volunteers.

The State of Vermont brought guidance and resources, local

news reps worked hard to provide current and accurate information with sensitivity, and many people expressed concern and support. The Care Center staff gave their all when the chips were down.

Doherty observed that “we could never share all the lengths staff went to to care for and protect our residents - but they are exemplary and we are damn lucky to have them in our corner and our community.”

Wohlberg

Continued From Page One

but also being the Hardwick Health Center liaison to NCHC administration, serving as a voice for the advanced practice providers (NPs and PAs) in the organization who now outnumber physicians, working on quality improvement projects, updating various clinical policies and procedures, serving as a clinical mentor, providing performance evaluations for staff, standing in for the medical director when she is unavailable.”

She added it is “atypical for advanced practice providers to be a part of clinical leadership as these roles have historically been filled by physicians,” and is “grateful” that NCHC gave her the

opportunity and its accompanying responsibilities. She said she believes that this unusual role for a nurse practitioner might be one reason the AANP awarded her.

But she said other moments in her 18-year career might have also contributed to the recognition. She became an appointed member of the advanced practice committee to the Vermont State Board of Nursing in 2003 and has been an ad hoc member of the board providing expert testimony since 2019.

She said she has shown a “commitment to medication-assisted treatment for those with substance abuse disorder” including giving presentations to the Hardwick community on the

topic of substance abuse. She also co-wrote a “letter to the editor in a nursing journal addressing benefits of medication assisted treatment.”

Wohlberg said she has written successful grant applications, including a grant from Rise Vermont to provide helmets to HAHC patients.

She said she is committed to education, and has mentored other nurse practitioners, including recently giving an organization-wide presentation on the COVID-19 vaccination.

Wohlberg has been in clinical practice since 2003. She said, “I actually landed at NCHC by accident.” Her husband was a former cheesemaker at Shelburne

Farms and the couple moved to the area when he was hired at Jasper Hill Creamery. Wohlberg found herself with an unexpected opportunity at the same time.

She said, “I was fortunate that the nurse practitioner who had been at HAHC for 35 years was just about to retire. Soon after starting at HAHC, I realized that I had landed in a wonderful place with amazing colleagues.”

The award will officially be presented on June 15, at the now-virtual AANP National Conference. Wohlberg said that the award is an honor. “I love the Hardwick Health Center community,” she said. “I feel lucky to be able to look after such a diverse population of families.”

Craftsbury Third Graders Learn in the Outdoors

by Doug McClure

CRAFTSBURY – Julie Higgins' third-grade class set out on one of its more ambitious outdoor learning experiences in January: building a "quinzhee hut" on the school's woodlot.

"Quinzhee" is a term derived from the Athabaskan language of indigenous people in what is now Canada and refers to a hollowed-out snow mound that provides temporary shelter from the elements.

Prior to the pandemic, Craftsbury Academy (CA), along with all Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) schools, incorporated outdoor education into its curriculum after recognizing the teaching style can be more successful in reaching certain students.

OSSU Superintendent Adam Rosenberg elaborated, "Outdoor education benefits all students by engaging them in authentic, experiential learning opportunities in environments often much more interactive and natural than the classroom."

COVID-19 accelerated CA's outdoor learning initiatives in the interest of improving student and faculty safety. Higgins, who is in her inaugural year as a CA teacher, said the third-grade class has attended writing and science lessons outdoors since the school



courtesy photo

Craftsbury Academy third-grade teacher Julie Higgins' class built a quinzhee hut for an outdoors learning class project.

year began.

Higgins said outdoors-based education is nothing new for her, as much of her career has intertwined education and the outdoors.

She also teaches Spanish at the Mount Mansfield Ski Club and Academy in Stowe and is a track and cross-country coach at Peoples Academy, she said.

"Prior to Craftsbury, I volunteered and worked for many outdoor organizations such as the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Green Mountain Club," she said.

Higgins said the quinzhee hut incorporated many aspects of class learning, from science to outdoor safety and survival skills and fostering teamwork. In a Google Meet session, students Hollis Allen, Jacob Haefs, Poppy Gletsos, Cordelia Marshall, Jonah Wohlberg, Iris Jacobs, and Jose Paré said they enjoyed the project and had learned from it. All said the time outdoors was appreciated and while some did not enjoy wearing an icy mask, no one complained about being outside.

The next project for the class will be an outdoor kitchen, a Farm-to-School project. The students will perform all cooking with adults supervising -- but not hovering, as Higgins wants students to problem solve for themselves. Gletsos said she was eager to begin this project because she cooked at home and enjoyed it.

Higgins said the "science experiment" of the quinzhee hut project exceeded her expectations. "I was really impressed with the class," she said.

Town Entities Seek Good Neighbor Funds

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Good Neighbor Fund (GNF) was established when the Public Service Board granted a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) to Green Mountain Power (GMP) for the development of the Kingdom Community Industrial Wind project on the Lowell Mountains.

The CPG was awarded in 2012 with the caveat that communities within five miles of the project were to receive a stipend for ten years from GMP for the electricity generated from that project.

The first payments were made in 2013, and the GNF has been the funding source for several community initiatives.

The biggest draws from the fund have come from the town's energy committee which used funds to install solar trackers and panels at the town garage site. The energy generated from those projects was used to offset utility costs at the town garage and town hall.

At last year's town meeting, the select board requested \$35,000 to offset expenses from the Halloween storm and \$20,000 for the Village Bridge. The latter request was

amended to \$14,000 to accommodate all entities requesting GNF appropriations.

On Article 38 of this year's warning, the board is seeking \$12,000 to establish a reserve account for town infrastructure and equipment. Board Chair Bruce Urie explained the article's purpose.

Establishing a reserve account for these purposes was putting GNF money away for future activities, Kris Coville pointed out at the Zoom informational meeting last Saturday. She supported keeping the money aside for future activity and noted Article 39 from the conservation commission initiates the same opportunity.

Setting aside money from the fund for future purposes, Coville said, is the Craftsbury Conservation Commission's request in Article 39. The commission is seeking to build the Craftsbury Conservation Fund, which currently has a balance of about \$9,200.

Conservation Commission Chair Stephen Moffatt spoke in support of the request and said a frequent question is "for what will the Craftsbury Conservation Fund be used?" He explained when the town plan was adopted, a majority wanted to keep the rural character of

the town. Moffatt asked how the town goes about maintaining such character. The commission recommended establishing the Craftsbury Conservation Fund, which was adopted by the select board, for the stewardship of the town's natural and cultural resources and conservation related projects. He noted the fund could also be used to obtain matching grants.

An emphasis is placed on agricultural lands, forested areas, water resources, scenic vistas, and historical areas. In response to a question on how the fund may be used, Moffatt said a review of other communities shows it is most often used for conservation easements. No projects have been forthcoming as of now, he said. The fund guidelines and application process are on the town's website.

Article 40 seeks \$6,000 for the Craftsbury Saplings. Melissa Jacobs spoke to the article. The Saplings served 30 children, of whom 55 percent come from Craftsbury. It assisted in helping school-age siblings with remote learning and added Universal Pre-Kindergarten to its programming last fall. Another classroom has been established to serve more children of toddler age which has had the highest demand.

They have received a USDA grant to do a relocation study.

The request for appropriations from other communities did not make it onto the Hardwick ballot but is on the Wolcott and Albany ballots.

Article 41 seeks \$3,000 to be used as the town's matching funds for a larger grant of \$50,000. Planning commission Chair Farley Brown spoke in support of the request. She said the planning commission has made the village infrastructure a priority as it contains residences, a post office, and businesses. The study will focus on parking, wastewater, drinking water, and pedestrian safety. The commission's annual report also focuses on affordable housing, and the effects of the pandemic on the real estate market.

Article 44 is an advisory vote for consideration by the select board. Urie said a petition had been submitted to consider Australian ballot voting for future town meetings. The petition was not certifiable; however, the board placed the article on the ballot as advisory.

Urie noted the concern for young, working people who are not able to attend town meeting and elderly people "who can't get out to participate."

OSSU School Budget Property Tax Estimates May Be Too High

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At the Hazen Union School Board meeting on Monday, public interest was thin, with just twenty total attendees including the school board, some Hazen Union board staff, Principal David Perrigo, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Finance Director Brittany Currie, and OSSU Superintendent Adam Rosenberg.

That stood in stark contrast to a January meeting, where the proposed budget at that time included significant staffing cuts largely in the arts. Currie had more news that, based on information recently received from the state, the OSSU projections on property taxes could be as much as ten cents too high.

Only resident, Orise Ainsworth, had an immediate objection to the proposed \$6,692,354 budget because, based on the state's December estimates, that would mean the school exceeded the state's per-equalized pupil spending by \$92.31 per student for a total of \$29,530. Ainsworth said that "because you're over the threshold I'm hearing from voters that's an automatic no vote... You should be able to come in under the penalty if it's that close. People were upset that it didn't. I believe that there's a penalty that we should be under."

Currie said that the estimated 1.7 cents per \$100 impact might not actually be accurate. She said not just for this budget, but all

school budgets that the OSSU was projecting could be as much as ten cents high as the state keeps amending its calculations, based on more positive trends than anticipated. Currie said the publicly-presented estimates from the OSSU were based on the state's December figures, but in late January more favorable numbers had come in, and the state was also reviewing a key figure in that formula, the yield.

Currie said, "At the end of January the state told us their projection is looking more favorable ... and they're looking at the yield amount. [As things look now] everything we've projected [could be] roughly 10 cents higher [than what it will be]. My opinion is what we have out [for tax rates] is the worst-case scenario. It is looking much better than what they anticipated back in December."

Hazen Union Board Chair Steven Freihofner explained to Ainsworth that the board had two initial goals and one of those was to get the budget below the threshold, but the resulting budget showed that "there was a considerable way to go" and the residents' response to a budget that would get there was overwhelmingly negative as it involved slashing many staff positions. The January meeting where that budget was floated drew more than 150 residents who were very concerned about the proposed cuts, many of those in staffing for the arts.

Freihofner said, "It was the first time in my life here sitting on any board capacity that I had

people say 'go over if you have to' and while I don't think that was a blank check to go thousands or millions over the threshold, it was surprising to me. The remarkable thing to me was people actually expressing a willingness to go over the threshold amount if we could continue to offer the level of staffing. I don't know how other people took it. Even so, to be fiscally responsible you shoot for that threshold."

Ainsworth brought up the \$150k overage that last year's budget had due to an accounting error which has been raised in multiple meetings before. Currie has said previously that the error involved a person no longer working at the district. She has also said several times that all budgets were rebuilt from scratch to avoid a repeat of that error, and on this night repeated that the overage was only discovered after the fact.

Fliegelman wanted some clarification about what staffing cuts had been left in the budget since this proposal removed most of the cuts. Principal Perrigo clarified "The science [half] position we cut is someone who's retiring this year. We think that the education program can absorb four science teachers full-time... The school-based clinician is a third position we had budgeted for a special program we were hoping to put in place. Because of COVID, we haven't actually filled that position. In addition, there's a part-time custodial position - the custodial staff goes from 4.5 to 4. There isn't actually a guidance

counselor being cut — we're re-arranging. We're eliminating the director of guidance position, but will still have two full-time staff in guidance and are creating an assistant principal. It's a restructuring of an administrative team. We think that's a pretty good plan."

While Freihofner said the COVID reality meant postponing a planned-for bond to bring the school up to modern standards, this budget also puts money aside for a building fund. "Hazen [Union] has not had a building fund in many years," he said. "We have a building manager now who's really on the ball and we're lucky to have him. This is a way to defray major anticipated expenses — particularly with the roof. If this is sufficiently funded over the years it is conceivable that we might not have to ask for a bond vote [after the next one]."

He said that the 2020 bond proposal is on hold for now but not dead, and posited that this new building fund could take some pressure off of the bond if major expenses like the roof are handled through moneys set aside. Perhaps, he said, even the heating system that needs attention. "If we can do that, the bond that will come will be more manageable."

Ainsworth has asked that people write her name into the empty field on the ballot for moderator, a position she said she had done for twenty years. Tami Furry agreed to be a write-in for the empty field on the ballot for both district clerk and district treasurer.

Craftsbury School Ballot Raises Few Questions

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The seven-article warning from the Craftsbury School District was discussed at an informational meeting held last Saturday via Zoom. About 20 attendees were present.

Articles 1 and 2, relating to elected positions, were quickly dispatched without comment. Two school director slots are open with candidates running unopposed. Incumbent Jennifer Schoen is seeking a two-year term and Jared Nunery a three-year term.

Schoen said the board works with a thoughtful process to address the best interest of students and stakeholders. Focus is moving away from ACT 46 which dominated her first years on the board. The Craftsbury School District avoided a merge and is a standalone district, pre-K - 12. The board continues looking to the future with individualized learning, building relation-

ships within and outside Craftsbury, and working within the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union.

Nunery said the Craftsbury schools were a draw in moving his family from Hyde Park. Nunery serves as the Orleans County Forester and has worked with the school district in forming the forest management plan for the Academy woodlot on Wylie Hill. Nunery explained he is interested as a parent and community member to serve on the board. His experience has allowed him to be involved with other schools in the county and experiencing first hand linkages to a community.

Article 4 seeks the transfer of \$127,254 to a reserve fund for building maintenance and repairs. The \$127,254 represents one-half of the unobligated year-end fund balance as of June 30, 2020; the remaining projected half of \$127,254 was used to defray FY22 budget expenditures.

Board Chair Harry Miller said the board could spend the entire sum with little problem on repairs – Minden Hall roof, flat roof repairs, and siding. The board wants to anticipate needed maintenance rather than being reactive.

Article 5 seeks \$4,059,066 for the operation of the Craftsbury School for the coming year. It represents a 0.50% increase and a spending of \$18,513 per equalized pupil. The projected tax rate of 1.7653 is a 4-cent jump from FY21 and represents an expenditure of \$1,765.30/per \$100,000 property assessed valuation.

Jeanine Young inquired on the status of the dispute with Hardwick Electric Department (HED) over underbilling for electricity used by the school district for the past ten years. HED is seeking \$143,927.83 in arrears, which the board is contesting. A hearing was held in January before the Public Utilities

Commission.. The board contends the school district should not be penalized for HED's installation of the meters in question. Young asked if the board is looking to the electrical contractor for any compensation as a business would have insurance.

Director of Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division from the Dept. of Public Service Carol Flint, in pre-filed testimony presented at the January hearing, said the department recommended Craftsbury should pay the under-billed amount without interest over nine years.

Article 7 seeks to transfer all property owned by the Craftsbury School District to the Craftsbury Academy Trustee/Corp. The Craftsbury Academy Trustee/Corp. is a nonprofit 501c3 and currently owns the CA building and portions of land which are leased to the school district for 100 years at a \$1/ per year.



photo by Maggie Lee

The Cabot town clerk's office is now receiving ballots for articles and elections on Town Meeting Day.

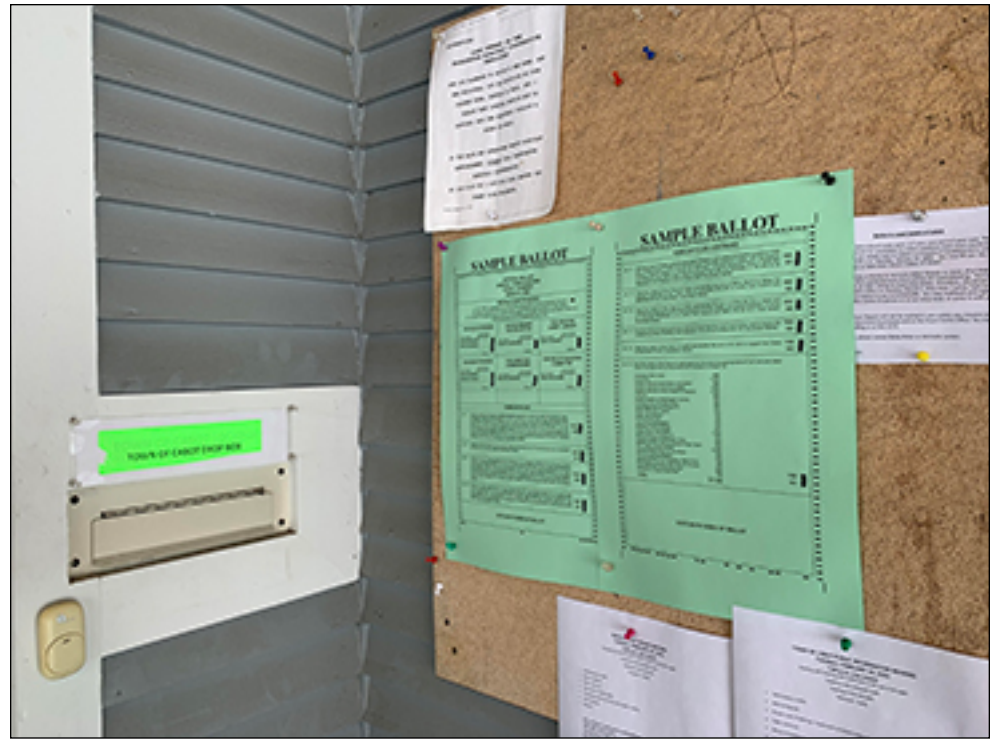


photo by Maggie Lee

Ballots may be deposited in the drop box at Cabot town clerk's office.

Cabot Town Meeting Looks Different This Year

by Maggie Lee

CABOT – Town Meeting will look different this year. No one will file into the Cabot School gym and there won't be any lively floor debates. Instead, voters will connect to Zoom on February 23 for a public hearing. The following week, voters will take to the polls, mail their ballots, or drop them in the box at the town clerk's office for the March 2 Town Meeting Day.

Cabot Select Board Vice Chair Ruth Goodrich is thankful for a safe option for her community. The town considered holding the annual meeting on Zoom, but, Goodrich says, "It would become a nightmare because people would not be able to speak, and it makes it quite lengthy to do it that way ... I'm really thankful

that we're able to have the Australian ballot option."

Cabot is not alone in adopting the Australian Ballot for this year's town meeting. Statewide, municipalities have tried to balance the tradition of town meeting day with the safety of the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Lawmakers in Montpelier, led by Bradford Rep. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas, passed a bill designed to allow more flexibility for towns to adjust their annual meeting to better serve a COVID-19 Vermont.

Cabot Town Clerk Betty Ritter expressed confidence in the process the town adopted. She explained that the town contracted with a local company to get ballots mailed to every resident. "I can't say one way or the other if it's more time consuming

to do it by Australian ballot because you have a lot of pieces," Ritter said. "But then, when you have an actual town meeting... we usually have to move everything over there so it could be a toss-up."

Goodrich said she will miss the usual up-close display of direct democracy that has been a hallmark of Vermont town meetings for generations. But she acknowledged the traditional town meeting may leave out some perspectives. "Back in the day, everything shut down and everybody went to town meeting, but now with everybody having jobs and things it's difficult to get there if you have to work. So, it's been changing in recent years," she said.

While Goodrich said she thinks mailed ballots will boost voter

turnout, she's concerned voters won't be as informed about the issues up for vote. This year, ballot items range from select board positions to the sale of Green Mountain Masonic Lodge. Both Goodrich and Ritter spoke of the importance of everyone in town taking the time to inform themselves on the issues and vote.

Ballots can be dropped off in a drop box outside the town clerk's office. If residents wish to participate in day-of voting, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 2, at the Willey Building. Temperature checks will be required and there will be a one-way flow of traffic through the building, but Ritter said she looks forward to seeing her fellow citizens on Town Meeting Day, no matter how different it looks.

Defibrillator Grant to Improve Town Medical Response

by Tyler Molleur

STANNARD – A recent grant award will help improve access to life-saving interventions in one of the most rural towns in the region.

Warren Nott and Johanna Polsenberg are both residents of the Town of Stannard, which has a population of 247, according to 2019 Census estimates. The duo is responsible for securing a \$2,000 grant from AED Superstore for the purchase of a portable defibrillator and related supplies.

Nott, the town constable, recently became a volunteer for Hardwick Rescue as a driver, while Polsenberg has been an EMT with the primary covering agency for Stannard for just under two years. The typical ambulance response time for Hardwick Rescue into the town of Stannard is 28 minutes, according to five-year data from the EMS agency. In time-sensitive situations, such a major cardiac event, having the necessary equipment in the hands of first responders who

will arrive before an ambulance could mean the difference between life and death.

"I'm pleased that our local first responders have an option to make it to a house before an ambulance does with the device that may save someone's life," said Steve Pickard of the Stannard Select Board. Town residents endorsed the placement of an AED in town at their 2020 Town Meeting.

According to the American Heart Association, over 350,000 people in the United States suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of the hospital setting annually. The mortality rate from this is approximately 90 percent. Proper medical care provided immediately after cardiac arrest can double or triple survivability. Several layers of response are needed to coordinate this intensive effort.

The first is encouraging the public to perform CPR, which has been met with strong participation in recent years. Immediate CPR circulates oxygenated blood through the body to assist in preserving circulation

to vital organs. Education programs have emphasized hands-only CPR as straightforward care that can be delivered on the spot by someone with little or no training until help arrives.

Professional rescuers who do arrive have been trained in the latest EMS protocols for resuscitation, with an emphasis on continuous compressions with minimal interruptions. Members of Hardwick Rescue participated in a resuscitation academy on this topic in October of 2020.

Ultimately, in most cases of cardiac arrest, these actions buy rescuers time to attach an automated external defibrillator, or AED, which can deliver a shock and eliminate abnormal heart rhythms that often put an individual into cardiac arrest. A cardiac arrest patient who can be successfully defibrillated and stabilized can be transported to the hospital.

The success rate with this device, however, is much improved when it is readily accessible. Each

AED costs approximately \$700-\$1,500 and requires additional supplies, such as pads, batteries, and a storage unit, which also require routine maintenance.

Tom Gilbert, owner of Black Dirt Farm, expressed the sense of safety the additional resources gave him as a community member and business operator.

"I'm psyched. It will be great to have the AED machine in striking distance, so I'm glad we have additional emergency resources close at hand," said Gilbert. "We're so thankful for the overall efforts of volunteers in this community to ensure we all have access to emergency services... These are the small and large efforts that keep our community whole and thriving."

As the plan continues deciding which AED model is best for the town, Polsenberg and Nott plan on the defibrillator being stationed out of their house on Tousant Hill Road.

[Editor's note: Molleur is an Advanced EMT and member of the Hardwick Rescue Squad Board.]

Cabot School Board Approves FY22 Budget Proposal

by Anna Kolosky

CABOT – On February 16, the Cabot School Board made a motion to approve budgeted expenditures to provide for students in fiscal year 2022 or FY22. This budget currently includes cuts to math positions and a nine percent education tax increase.

High school math positions at Cabot School will be cut from one to 0.6, resulting in Cabot School only offering Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. However, students who wish to take Calculus and higher will be able to take them through programs like Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative and the Community College of Vermont.

Principal Rebecca Tatisheff stated that she wanted to focus on creating strong instruction in these three areas before adding more. The goal is sustainability and stabilization for students who have had such a varied experience, Tatisheff added.

“I am absolutely on board with getting kids to calculus, physics and engineering,” Tatisheff said. “But, I want to do it mindfully so we’re not sending kids in with gaps.”

Additionally, there is an anticipated nine percent increase in the education tax for property taxpayers, board member Michael Taub stated. The household-income increase is based on an income-sensitive rate of 2.74 percent, which is a rate set by the state, Taub added.

“For homeowners paying taxes based on home value, a \$100,000 home will see about a \$92 increase this year,” Taub said. “Those who pay on household-income, say \$50,000, will be looking at a \$115 increase.”

The board is working to



photo by Anna Kolosky

Some budgeted high school math positions will be cut at the Cabot School.

mitigate the cost of exceeding the penalty threshold, which is a tax penalty applied on every dollar spent above the threshold, which is determined by the state. While the draft budget has been reduced, Taub said that there is still a difference of \$96,515 required to get back under the threshold.

One contributing factor to this issue is that state funding

does not exempt the cost of special needs services, vice chair Rory Thibault wrote in his most recent update. Historically, Cabot has had a disproportionately high number of students that require special services and any extra money spent on accommodating student’s needs puts the board closer to the threshold limit.

“There is no distinction from a penalty standpoint between

schools,” Thibault said. “It adds to my disappointment that we haven’t had any of our legislators meet with us on this.”

The board also made a motion to lease buses rather than buy them. According to Taub, \$10,000 was spent on repairs for Cabot buses in the last eighteen months, which cost more than leasing one bus.

The funds saved from this change could be used in FY22 or be put into a fiscal reserve to be saved for a later time, Taub suggested.

While the motion has been passed for now, Thibault’s update stated that the Board hopes to delay the school budget vote until April so that it can continue to refine and create a budget that is fair to taxpayers and student’s needs.

[Editor’s note: Anna is a senior at UVM majoring in English with concentration in writing and minors in biology and RDS. She is the assistant culture editor at the Vermont Cynic, and enjoys writing about local artists and events. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and hiking throughout Vermont.]

Card Shower

Happy 90th Birthday David Merrill

Please mail cards to:
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CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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<p>Tue, March 9 12-1:30pm</p>  <p>VISIBLE MENDING: CLOTHES & TEXTILES</p>	<p>Wed, March 10 6-7:30pm</p>  <p>SAFER CLEANING: DIY NON-TOXIC CLEANING</p>	<p>Thu, March 11 5:30-7:30pm</p>  <p>RE-COOK CAFÉ: MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR FOOD</p>
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Informational Meeting Draws Amiable Crowd

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Select Board held an informational meeting on the 44-article warning with 41 attendees via Zoom and several in-person participants. The two-hour, Saturday meeting gave article proponents a chance to speak up to support issues.

Board Chair Bruce Urie opened the meeting with congratulatory recognition for resident Jeri Wohlberg, who has been named Nurse Practitioner of the Year.

Accolades were also given to Kris Coville to whom the town report is dedicated. Board member Susie Houston spoke of Coville's work spearheading the Craftsbury Neighbor to Neighbor initiative (CN2N) and her leadership in the Craftsbury Farmers Market. Coville was named manager of the newly established Hardwick Area Food Pantry hubs in Craftsbury and Albany. The food pantry hub extensions grew out of the adoption of Monday soup suppers and pop-up food pantry distributions. The Hardwick Area Food Pantry hubs in Craftsbury are located at the United Church of Craftsbury and Albany Town Hall.

Article 1 covers elections of town officials. Challenger Mike Martin is running against incumbent Houson for the select board's three-year term. Martin, who was raised in Craftsbury graduated from Craftsbury Academy is owner and operator of Mike Martin Auto Repair on Town Line Road and a major sugar operation on Route 14.

Urie began discussion on Article 1, which seeks \$480,658 to be raised by taxes to cover operating expenses for town and road maintenance. While the budget

was up slightly, a year-end balance of \$87,673 reduced the budget impacts. He reported the Good Neighbor Fund (GNF) has one more year before it is dissolved. Current receipts this year were \$29,777.

When questioned about the village bridge's future, Urie said asphalt the town laid on the decking appears to have reduced deterioration of the underpinnings. The state will inspect the bridge each year due to its age but this year its condition has improved.

The board has no plans to proceed with reconstruction bonds. He noted Article 38 seeks \$12,000 of the GNF to be put in a reserve account to be used for town infrastructures and equipment.

He said the town saved money because of a relatively mild winter with no major storms and the collection of delinquent taxes.

"The reduction is not pandemic related," he said, "but a natural variation from one year to another."

In response to blacktopping roads, he said the town expects to spend \$60,000 with the possibility of a two-for-one match by the state next year, garnering an additional \$120,000. Penelope Doherty said reimbursements from the state relative to the emergency plan can be increased from the present level by complying to several of the parameters required.

"We are almost there," Urie said, referring to a 12 percent to 17 percent potential.

The lack of a specific set-aside for funding the equity committee was raised. Urie said no requests were made and it "just slipped past us." He explained two sources of funding are available: a \$1,500 account for committees, and GNF

funds, which can be used at the board's discretion. The status of the equity committee is unclear, notwithstanding the town's commitment to addressing social justice concerns.

To date, the board has presented requests at the town meeting for approval of spending money from the GNF.

Article 3 asked if \$10,000 could buy a useable, replacement chloride truck. Urie said the current truck has been in use since 1987. Road Foreman Steve Marckres said the \$10,000 could get a good truck body for the chloride-spreading apparatus.

On Article 8, Coville said the recreation committee had to curtail Old Home Day and open gym due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee held a trunk-or-treat Halloween gathering. An anniversary celebration is planned for Old Home Day this year.

"We are in dire need for more people to be involved," she said, asking for volunteers to step up.

Carolyn Ryan reported the village improvement society sponsored three concerts on the Common last summer with social distancing. The music and gath-

ering were greatly appreciated, she said.

On Article 12, President of the Craftsbury Community Care Center Trustees Jane Marlin spoke to the appropriation request of \$12,000. She said one-third of the occupancy at CCCC must be low-income residencies; state reimbursements do not cover costs. The center has 24 rooms but under guidelines and restrictions could keep only 18 residencies available, and there is a waiting list. "Contributions from the town is essential to our well-being," she said.

Marlin noted many residents were family members from Craftsbury. A request for support was placed on the Hardwick and Greensboro ballots.

She also spoke in support of Article 15 which seeks a \$2,500 appropriation for the Greensboro Nursing Home. She said it is a wonderful organization and, in some ways, works in partnership with the care center.

She restated an earlier comment by Doherty that the community was fortunate to have two facilities with quality care: the CCCC and Greensboro Nursing Home.



courtesy photo
The Girl Scout Troop 58803 had a cookie booth at Smith's Groceries in Greensboro Bend on February 18. They sold 74 boxes of cookies on Thursday evening. Proceeds of cookies help pay for supplies and trips for the troop and give support to the community. Those participating in the cookie sale were (left to right) Mercedes Keith (Brownie), Ali Foster (Daisy) and Kylie Smith (Brownie).



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Twinfield third graders (from left) Adrian Townsend, Naoto Thronson and Safi Otten, with the help of custodian Heath Farnsworth, raise a Black Lives Matter flag following a ceremony held at the school February 19. For the past six months, members of the Twinfield Student Voice group have been leading an effort to raise the flag at the school.

Local Quilt Celebrates Black History Month

by Brittney H. Heffermehl

CABOT – Ama Peyman is recreating a new community quilt for this year’s Black History Month Project at the Cabot Public Library.

Last year, residents of Cabot shared poetry, music, film and more at the Cabot Public Library and the Den at Harry’s Hardware and Farmhouse in honor of celebrating Black History month.

Due to COVID-19 and in keeping with the CDC guidelines, this year’s celebration cannot gather for readings or public art showings. The celebration this year is a large handmade quilt in the shape of Vermont.

Peyman, a Cabot artist and poet, knew she always wanted to quilt. Soon after moving to Cabot in the early fall of 2019 with her husband, the events of the pandemic completely changed their lives.

With all of her new-found time spent at home, Ama used her quarantine to take on creative hobbies and used this opportunity to reflect. She began sewing prayers for racial unity, a return to decency, for the growth of mutual respect and for future aid and unity in generations to come.

Ama and friends in the Cabot community began the design by reaching out to friends and neighbors to collect family photos and children’s drawings to incorporate into the piece.

The project is an ode to the historic Friendship and Freedom quilts that guided traveling enslaved African Americans as they headed north via the Underground Railroad. Just like in a Freedom Quilt, stitching of prayers and names are essential to the love and friendship that was created in the final quilt.

Cabot’s community quilt show-



photo courtesy Ama Peyman

Ama Peyman with a section of her project, “The Community Quilt.”

cases hand-stitched protection prayers. “Quilts show our common thread of creativity and our love in the stitches,” says Ama about the piece.

The Vermont shaped quilt will be roughly 2-1/2 feet by 2-1/2 feet of floral patterns. The collection is made up of red and pink floral

squares, as well as various shades of blues and greens.

To incorporate the town’s history, the quilt will be adorned with a collage of photos and drawings from the community.

In dedication to the spirit of “Cabot Old Home Week,” the quilt is to be celebrated by everyone in and around Cabot. “I hope to see a

vast revival of that grand tradition and the joy of that homecoming weekend for this town,” said Ama.

If all goes to plan, the Cabot Human Family Quilt Project will be on display sometime in early March at the Cabot Public Library for viewing. Pictures will be posted online as well for those who wish to view the art remotely.



photo courtesy Ama Peyman

Photos will be included in The Community Quilt, alongside the beginning patchwork of the quilt.



photo courtesy Ama Peyman

Squares of the quilt are sewn together by Ama and friends.

OBITUARIES

MIGNONNE (LECOURS) LEBLANC

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – Mignonne (LeCours) LeBlanc died on February 18, in Cape Canaveral, surrounded by family. She was 91 years old.

The oldest of thirteen children, Mignonne was born to Violette and Anselme LeCours on July 3, 1929, in Hardwick. She grew up on the family's dairy farm. As the oldest child in a large family, Mignonne took on great responsibility from a young age, helping to care for her younger siblings. She had a lifelong love of learning, which she credited to the French nuns who ran the schools she attended as a child. As a young woman, her strong sense of faith and service led her to serve as organist at St. Norbert's Catholic Church in Hardwick, as president of the St. Norbert's CYO, and entertainment coordinator for her local Catholic Daughters of the Americas chapter.

Mignonne married Vincent (Bob) LeBlanc on May 21, 1955, at St. Norbert's Church. As newlyweds, Mignonne and Bob settled in Purchase, N.Y., where they raised six children. Upon



Mignonne (LeCours) LeBlanc

retiring, they resided in West Harrison, N.Y.

Throughout her life Mignonne was known for her spiritual strength and love of life. She was devoted to her family, her parish, and her community. Mignonne served many terms as president of the Ave Maria Guild at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in West Harrison, N.Y., where she also served as a lector and extraordinary minister

of Holy Communion. She volunteered countless hours and provided support to her husband's ministry as Deacon at St. Anthony of Padua.

Growing up in a close-knit and musical family, singing together was a way of life. Mignonne passed this tradition down to her own children. Mignonne was an avid reader, a progressive thinker, and loved to travel. Her most cherished trip was her pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2011, where she walked the Way of the Cross. Her pride and joy were her eighteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. All took great delight in a special relationship with "Memere". At her West Harrison home, Mignonne enjoyed watching the abundant wildlife outside her patio window. She appreciated the beauty and blessings of her flower garden. She loved having a friendly chat with a neighbor or sharing a cup of tea with family and friends. In her later years, she took every opportunity to hone her bingo skills, which according to friends were exceptional!

Mignonne is survived by her six children: Daniel LeBlanc, Nicole (Charles) Decker, Claire (David) Kapusta, Michele (Leon) LeBlanc, Monique (Mark) Miculcy, and Elisabeth (Adam) Emerson; as well as eighteen grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and siblings and their spouses: Robert, Lawrence (Anita), Leo (Bonnie), Annette Miller (Donald), Jacqueline Borges (Robert), Diane Fournier (Emile), Paulette Bessette (Richard), Dan, Michael (Leslie O'Neil). She also leaves behind her sister-in-law, Denise Hark, and many nieces and nephews. Mignonne was predeceased by her parents, her brothers Denis, Roger, and Richard, as well as her sisters-in-law Madeleine LeCours, Gail LeCours, and Patricia LeCours.

A private funeral service will be held at the Church of Our Saviour in Cocoa Beach. Mignonne will be buried in Hardwick, under direction of the des Groseilliers Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony of Padua Church, 85 Harrison Street, West Harrison, NY, 10604.

JUNE WOOD QUINN

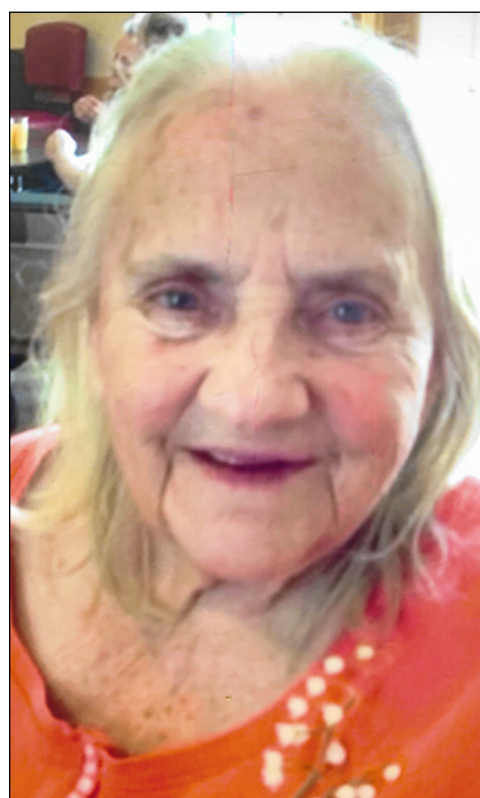
HARDWICK – June Wood Quinn, 88, of Hardwick passed away on Wednesday, February 17, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's at The Manor Nursing Home with her family by her side.

June was born in Hardwick on November 17, 1932, to George and Shirley (Ainsworth) Wood. She attended Maple Corner Elementary School and graduated from Montpelier High School. On May 15, 1954, she married the love of her life, John J. Quinn, at St Augustine's Catholic Church in Montpelier. Together they raised six children.

June worked as a bank teller for many years at the Montpelier National Bank, then at Chittenden Trust Company, working as one of the first drive-up tellers in Montpelier. Later in her career she worked at the Franklin Lamoille Bank in Morrisville and the Mountain Trust Company in Stowe.

June's greatest joy came from children. She operated a home daycare for many years and was known by many as Mama June; her house was always open to neighborhood children and friends of her children. Everyone was always welcome.

June is survived by her



June Wood Quinn

husband, John J. Quinn of Hardwick; her children Donna Ford (Dave) of Riverview Fla., Deanna Turner (John) of Wagener, S.C., William Quinn (Heather) of Craftsbury, Darlene LaCasse (Kenneth) of Hardwick; grandchildren (Donna) Tara Nesselroad, Trey Ford, (John) John Quinn III, Carly Quinn, (Deanna) Jade Clark, Levi Garrow, Codi Garrow, (William) Billy Quinn, Erik Quinn, Dakota Quinn, Stuart Quinn, Patrick

Quinn, (Darlene) Desiree Hodgdon, Becca LaRose, Quinn LaCasse, Kelsey LaCasse and 14 great-grandchildren.

June is predeceased by her parents, her daughter, Debora on June 25, 1993, and her son, John Jr. on October 28, 2006.

A graveside service and Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date by the family. Arrangements made by des Groseilliers Funeral

Home in Hardwick. Her burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in Hardwick

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in June's memory to Lamoille Home Health/Hospice, 54 Farr Ave., Morrisville, VT 05661 or Alzheimer's Association of Vermont, 300 Cornerstone Drive, Williston, VT 05495.

Special thanks to the staff at The Manor Nursing Home for the wonderful care they provided.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

This snowman paddling the Lamoille in a canoe was made by Gail and David O'Brien of East Hardwick. It is one of the entries in the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization Snow Creations Challenge. Entries may be submitted until March 15. For more information email ehneighborhood@gmail.com.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Food Giveaway Continues on Thursdays

EAST CALAIS – The East Calais Community Trust and the Everyone Eats’ program continue the Thursday giveaway from 4 to 6 p.m. on the steps of the E. Calais General Store.

The giveaway has had a large turnout each week and it is increasing the number of meals. Last Thursday, the trust handed out 175 meals from Cornerstone in

Barre. This week, there will be 200 meals available.

Local bakers have also donated homemade cookies, and for the last two weeks the Bohemian Bakery has donated baked goods.

Another local person who makes pottery has donated seconds, and Schoolhouse Farm has donated a case of eggs.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Outpatient Medical Practice for Opioid and Alcohol Addiction Opening

ST. JOHNSBURY – SaVida Health, a leader in outpatient medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder, is opening a new treatment center at 4614 Memorial Dr., St. Johnsbury, on March 2.

SaVida offers comprehensive, evidenced based services designed to meet a person’s unique needs, in addition to prescribing FDA-approved medications like Suboxone and Vivitrol during scheduled weekly, biweekly or monthly visits, SaVida’s licensed professionals also offer psych med management, medical care, counseling, and case management.

Through its case management services, SaVida can help connect patients who might be experiencing food insecurity or homelessness to area resources. This comprehensive and integrated approach to recovery is widely accepted as the most effective form of outpatient treatment for substance use disorder.

“We are excited to be part of the St. Johnsbury community. Our goal is to help people reclaim their lives with effective medical treatment focusing on each person’s individual needs. Our patients meet with our providers at conveniently scheduled appointments, with telehealth being an option. We prescribe buprenorphine-based medicines, which have been proven to increase the chances for recovery.” said Dr. Susan Cary, medical director.

“I am very pleased to bring our services to this wonderful community,” said Sharon Shepard, chief operating officer at SaVida. “Addiction is a chronic disease that has touched most people’s lives. We meet patients where they are at in their recovery and we have a very high success rate in helping our patients achieve and maintain

sobriety.”

SaVida accepts most insurance plans including Medicaid and Medicare and is part of Vermont’s Hub and Spoke Program. SaVida also has medical practices in Bennington, Springfield, Newport, Morrisville, Colchester, St. Albans, and Vergennes. Appointments can be made now for St. Johnsbury by calling (802)357-5549 or for any of SaVida’s locations by calling (833) 356-4080 or by visiting SaVida-Health.com.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
People wait in line to order on February 6 at the Highland Center for the Arts Cafe after touring Vermont artists art along a 1.8-mile open air gallery ski and snowshoe trail.

EDUCATION

Molleur of Woodbury makes Dean’s List

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Carson Molleur of Woodbury was named to the Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 Fall Semester. Molleur is in the mechanical engineering technology program.

Undergraduate students are

eligible for Dean’s List if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.40 for nine credits of traditionally-graded coursework; they do not have any grades of “Incomplete,” NE, D, or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

[NEUROLOGY AT COPLEY]

Jeanmarie Prunty, MD

Offers Clinics at Copley Hospital

Neurologist, Dr. Jeanmarie Prunty joins our team of providers offering clinics at Copley Hospital.

Dr. Prunty offers comprehensive, compassionate care for patients with neurological disorders and diseases, including, but not limited to: Alzheimers, chronic pain, dizziness, headaches/migraine, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, seizures, stroke and more.

Dr. Prunty has been a member of Copley’s medical staff since 1991. She serves as Copley’s Chief of Neurology Services and is Board Certified through the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Call **802-888-8260** to schedule an appointment. Dr. Prunty will see patients at the Multi-Specialty Clinic, 1st floor at Copley Hospital.

COPLEY HOSPITAL
528 Washington Highway
Morrisville, VT
www.copleyvt.org

Indication
Chronic Migraine
BOTOX[®] (onabotulinumtoxinA) for injection is indicated for the prophylaxis of headache

Important limitations
Safety and effectiveness have not been established for the prophylaxis of episodic mi

Spread of Toxin Effect
See Black Box Warning. The following adverse reactions have been reported in clinical studies with BOTOX[®] (onabotulinumtoxinA) for injection: Diplopia, blurred vision, dry eye, ptosis, eyelid drooping, and difficulty swallowing. These symptoms are usually mild and temporary, and resolve within a few days after treatment. If you experience any of these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

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Individuals with pre-existing neuromuscular disorders may be at an increased risk of developing significant effects from BOTOX[®].

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, February 25

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.

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 or 802-472-6857.

Friday, February 26

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.

EVERYONE EATS PROGRAM, free frozen meal, Fridays, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., Wolcott United Methodist Church, 4023 Vt. Rt. 15. No pre-registration needed. Information: ereid@capstonevt.org.

Saturday, February 27

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

Monday, March 1

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.

GRACE presents free, virtual weekly art prompts. Each week GRACE will post a piece of art from their "Outsider Art" collection for people to use as inspiration for their own original creation. These will be available on Mondays at <https://graceart.org/virtual-art-community/virtual-art-prompts/> with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org.

Tuesday, March 2

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.

THE DADS' GROUP, every Tuesday, 8-9 p.m., on Zoom. A great place to connect with other Dads. Information and link to the Zoom meeting: Rob at rcary@LRCVT.org or 802-730-3000.

THE MOMS IN RECOVERY Support Program, tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, every Tuesday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information: crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com, 802-635-0084.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING, 2 - 3:30 p.m., a free webinar in the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Sustainability Series. Register at cvswmd.org/workshop-registration. Participants will be entered to win either a Green Cone, Soil Saver or Compost Pail.

Wednesday, March 3

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

EAST HARDWICK GRANGE SUPPER, 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 or 472-8987.

ZERO-WASTE SHOPPING AND SWAPPING, 3 - 4:30 p.m., a free webinar in the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Sustainability Series. Register at cvswmd.org/workshop-registration. Participants will be entered to win a gift bag of items to help reduce waste in the kitchen.

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.

RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS of Michael Sardina: Reflections on the Northeast Kingdom. The Parker Pie Gallery, West Glover. Feb. 17 to April 17.

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



photo by Ellen Celnik

This barred owl was seen last week in the Greensboro and Greensboro Bend area.

MAR

05






Take Out **CHILI DINNER**
 FUNDRAISER FOR GREENSBORO FREE LIBRARY
 Friday, March 5th

4:30 to 6:00 Drive Thru Dinner Pickup
 At FELLOWSHIP HALL - UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

7pm Online Premiere of Local Youth Talent Show

Suggested Donation benefits the Library
 \$8 ADULTS \$4 CHILDREN

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GREENSBORO ASSOCIATION,
 WILLEY'S STORE, & CABOT CREAMERY

TAKE THE CHILL OUT OF WINTER!

“Son of the South” Film Burrows Deeply

REVIEW

by June Pichel Cook

The film *Son of the South* is based on John Robert (Bob) Zellner’s memoir, “The Wrong Side of Murder Creek: A White Southerner in the Freedom Movement.” Zellner, grandson of a Ku Klux Klan chieftain, was at the forefront of the civil rights movement and fighting for social justice. He was arrested 17 times over five years and became the first white field secretary for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

The film was co-produced by Eve Pomerance, who also served as casting director. Zellner is played by Lucas Till; Zellner’s grandfather and KKK Clansman is played by Brian Dennehy. Joanne (Lex Scott Davis) and Carol Anne (Lucy Hale) are the two women in Zellner’s life. Pomerance is familiar to local audiences through her work with Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency.

The film, set in the early sixties, interweaves historical events chronicling the evolving social justice and civil rights movement with conflicting qualms facing a young man caught between diverging polarities.

Rosa Parks’ refusal to move to the back of a city bus in Montgomery, Ala.; the ensuing bus boycott; SNCC; Freedom Riders and lunch counter sit-ins are events etched in history. The film is riveting and cogently reverberates with current riots, the Black Lives Matter movement, and pushback by white supremacists.

Given contemporary events and social injustice, a cogent line asked in the film is “If not now, When? If not me, Who?”

The story shifts between first person narrations to unfolding events. We watch Zellner’s struggle through a series of vignettes. His environment juxtaposes an ingrained, visceral contempt for people of color in stark contrast to his intrinsic sense of human decency and equality.

He is a young, college-age student whose research on race relations for a college assignment leads to a life-change. The question is why is he so different from those around him who see nothing wrong with lynchings, beating strangers of a different color for “kicks,” or shooting a

black man registering to vote.

Zellner is the one person we see evolving in the film; the others are almost stereotypes in their portrayals, but that may be necessary in delivering the story line. The civil rights and social justice movement is an ongoing struggle that doesn’t allow for fifty shades of gray; there are no subtleties with injustice and racism at the core. “Son of the South” reflects the epitome of that injustice in its stark and ugly reality.

Midway through the film, one small scene heralds a transition. Zellner’s plan to go north with his fiancée to pursue a Master’s degree is put on hold for a summer job. Before heading north to a university, he volunteers for SNCC in Atlanta, Ga.

As he travels to Atlanta, he reads a letter of good-bye from his fiancée, who objects strongly to what he was doing. The letter floats out the window. He stops. At the same time, he picks up a turtle to move it off to the side of the road. The turtle pokes its head out of its shell with the slightest of movement. The scene becomes an allegory for a larger movement taking place throughout the South and racial justice unfolding. Small foreshadowing events help the viewer to understand Zellner’s actions as they unfold, particularly family and childhood interactions.

The Burma Shave signage along the road is nostalgic for those of us who always delighted in reading the highway messages. Equally nostalgic are the young people gathered and doing the Twist at a local bar.

Zellner’s psychological transformations strike at a fundamental quandary though when trying to understand racism and innate “fear” of another person who is outwardly physically different. That unanswered question still lies beneath the surface of the overt and violent scenes so vividly depicted. The film is not for the squeamish, all the more harrowing because it was (and still is) a reality taking place.

Events hit us with full force, but interwoven are timeless threads of universal human themes, love stories, family struggles, young and old people searching for meaning and/or redefining their lives.

After seeing the film, the memoir itself becomes a “must read” and the film, a “must see again.”



photo by Hal Gray

Paula Harmon and Cilla Bonney-Smith awaiting grab ‘n’ go customers in late afternoon during Shrove Tuesday at the GUCC.

Voters Face Interesting Question on Craftsbury School Ballot

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury School District owns some parcels on which the school sits and some portions are owned by the Craftsbury Academy Trustees/Corp. Article 7 of the school warning is asking voters to transfer ownership of “all property owned by the Craftsbury School District to the Craftsbury Academy Trustees/Corp.”

The Craftsbury Academy Corporation and Trustees is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. It was originally established in 1829 by the Vermont legislature to establish an academy in Craftsbury. Trustee President Joe Houston on Front Porch Forum explained that CA ran as a private institution until 1917 before transferring its operation over to the Craftsbury Town School District. The CA Trustees lease the CA building to the town school district on a 99-year lease for \$1/per year. Last year, a new 99-year lease was executed.

Houston explained the CA Academy Corp. and trustees have always owned the CA building and own the land from the driveway south of CA building to the fire lane between the Annex and Minden Hall. The trustees had turned over ownership of the Dustan Field Lot and Hanson Lot, (where Minden Hall now sits) “to take advantage of state construction aid to create the athletic fields and build Minden Hall.”

Article 7 returns ownership to the CA Corp. and trustees of those two parcels.

The CA Academy Corp and Trustees Charter and governing bylaws are specific “to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Academy, and foster educational opportunities for its students,” Houston emphasized.

He explained the CA Trustees/Corp. has an endowment of approximately \$750,000. Annual income generated from the endowment funds maintenance and curriculum

needs of the school, scholarships for graduating seniors.

Principal Merri Greenia on Saturday at an informational Zoom meeting held by the Craftsbury School Board spoke of the trustees’ generosity and her deep appreciation for helping to supplement students’ educational needs and scholarships.

Houston said the trustees are a nine-member board. Trustees are elected annually on staggered terms at an annual May meeting; members may serve two three-year terms before being required to take at least one-year off before serving again. Trustees, in accordance with the charter and bylaws, must be alumni of the Academy.

Properties being addressed in Article 76 include the Academy woodlot on Wylie Hill, Dustan Field athletic complex, Hanson Lot where Minden Hall sits.

The intent of Article 7 is bringing all properties back under the same ownership umbrella which clears up potential issues around shared utilities and leach field location (currently on Dustan fields). Bringing the properties under one umbrella, Houston noted, “ensure(s) the properties continue to be used for educational purposes and the benefit of Craftsbury’s students and residents for years to come.

Jeanine Young on Saturday’s informational Zoom meeting asked if turning the properties over to the CA Academy Corp. and Trustees would affect any state aid the district had received before.

Impetus for the transfer has also been spurred by Act 46, where school districts forced into mergers had to turn all school properties over to newly established regional boards. Some communities responded by transferring their properties over to the town before being forced into a regional district. Craftsbury was allowed to remain as a single school district; however, that status is always in potential flux under Act 46.

Rural Ramblings

Smallpox in Hardwick: A Town Meeting Story

by Elizabeth H. Dow

HARDWICK -- In December, 1802, smallpox appeared in Hardwick.

In 1716, an African man, enslaved to Cotton Mather, the most famous Congregational minister at the time, as a gift from his congregation and renamed Onesimus, introduced Mather to inoculation, which Africans had known about for centuries. Mather preached out the information.

Inoculation involved taking a little bit of pus from a smallpox sore and applying it to a deliberately made scratch or cut on a disease-free person. Inoculation generally produced a less severe infection than the naturally acquired disease, and it induced life-long immunity in the recipients who didn't die. Considered radical in the early 18th century, inoculation had become generally accepted by the late 18th century.

A smallpox epidemic plagued North America between 1775 and 1782, virtually the entire length of the Revolutionary War. Nobody lived in Hardwick before 1791, so most of the adults here in 1802

would have remembered those smallpox epidemics; undoubtedly some had survived the disease.

As soon as they heard about the outbreak of smallpox, the Select Board, following a 1797 law entitled "An Act to Prevent the Spreading of the Small Pox," provided the patient "...a place, as remote from inhabitants as can conveniently be had..." so the disease didn't spread. Then they decided to set up an inoculation program to minimize future outbreaks, but the 1797 law required they get voter approval to go that far. So, on December 27, they held a special town meeting at the home of Israel Sanborn for whom, only a year earlier, the town had cleared an acre of land for a town "burying yard."

After electing a moderator, the voters took up Article 2 asking whether they would "...give liberty to inoculate persons with the [pus] of the small pox...?" The majority voted yes.

Typically, inoculation occurred at an "inoculation house," also known as a "pest house," where inoculated people stayed for their three weeks contagious period. Inoculation houses also served as

hospitals for smallpox patients.

Article 3 asked, "will the voters vote to have two houses licensed as inoculation houses...?" The Select Board suggested two houses, and the voters approved them.

Then someone moved to reconsider the vote on Article 3. They must have questioned whether the town really needed the expense of two houses. While people had to pay for their time at the inoculation house if they could afford it, the town had to pay if they couldn't. The motion for only one house passed.

After that, someone moved to reconsider Article 2, questioning whether the town ought to support inoculations at all. The 1797 law required the town to isolate patients, but it didn't require inoculation, which still had detractors: 5-10% of the people who underwent inoculation died. Further, paupers at the inoculation house could get expensive. Others would have argued that since people didn't have to get inoculated, the town should allow people to get it if they wanted it. Without inoculation, 30% of people with European ancestors – ancestors who had

survived centuries of smallpox epidemics – died. (About 80% of Native Americans died in an epidemic.) The motion to disallow inoculation failed.

The meeting then turned to which house to license. We don't know the various people or houses involved, so we can only guess at what made them attractive or objectionable. Most of all, remoteness. Other factors, like ease of accessibility, size, and quality of the house and the character and abilities of the licensed inoculator would have come into the debate. And his fees. Other issues we, two hundred years later, cannot imagine, may have appeared also. The voters rejected several candidates and eventually voted to license John Holmes.

Finally, the meeting turned to "other business..." While nobody knew what caused smallpox, they knew it spread through direct and indirect contact with the sick, so the voters approved two more motions, just in case. First: "all dogs seen 10 rods [160'] from his owner's home may be killed during the time of small pox." Second: ditto for cats.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield 7-12 after-school program director Matt Hartman helps light the over 200 handmade ice globes set along a trail through the Twinfield woods for the first Family & Friends Winter Ice Globe Walk held February 18. The event was organized by physical education teacher Thom Costello and Hartman with the help of staff and students.

TOWN OF GREENSBORO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Greensboro Planning Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, March 24, 6 to 8 p.m. This hearing will be held for public review of and comment on the proposed changes to Greensboro Zoning Bylaw pursuant to Title 24 VSA, Chapter 117.

This hearing will be devoted to comments regarding the proposed Eligo Resource District, the Shoreland Protection District, and the Extended Village Zone. The proposed changes are available online at greensborovt.org/zoning/planning-commission.

Paper copies of the proposed changes are available at the town clerk's office and the Greensboro Free Library. Town clerk office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To receive a paper copy, call the town clerk's office at 802-533-2911.

Written comment on the proposed changes should be directed to the Planning Commission, via the Zoning Administrator at:

P.O. Box 119, Greensboro, VT 05841
802-533-2640

zoning@greensborovt.org

The virtual link is: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95765022630?pwd=aE5ETk45dWlmSVlnOXROd-0p4d2MzQT09>

Meeting ID: 957 6502 2630

Passcode: 715136

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Passcode: 715136

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/95765022630>

Dated in Greensboro, Vermont, February 12, 2021.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Not Enough Lifeboats

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Do you suppose that anybody boarding the RMS Titanic in 1912 took the trouble to count the lifeboats, calculate their capacity, and measure that against the number of people on board? It's very unlikely, and would have been unnecessary, since the ship was deemed unsinkable. But when, in spite of warnings about icebergs, the ship steamed flat-out at night into the outlet of Iceberg Alley, two facts became ineluctable: The ship wasn't unsinkable as claimed, and there weren't enough lifeboats to accommodate what in those days were still called "SOBs" – souls on board.

It's de rigueur, at the turn of each year, decade, or century, for us pundits to try to characterize the coming period. The 1900s, for example, have been called "The American Century," and the current one, for pretty good reasons, is termed – rather darkly in the West – "The Chinese Century." That may turn out to be true, but I doubt it. In this age of ever-increasing connectedness, I don't think it possible to build and sustain an essentially mercantile empire while repressing by force so many ethnic minorities and smaller states. Without, however, dismissing the possibility – you have but to read articles on the use of many millions of surveillance cameras connected by artificial intelligence algorithms to hear echoes of "1984" – I'd instead predict the eventual collapse of the authoritarian Xi regime, and call the 21st century The Age of Emigration.

Even New Englanders are beginning to feel the restlessness, and sniff the winds of change. My friend Tom Ryan, an author currently fleeing New Hampshire, writes: "We were not prepared for how the little towns we lived in would change, how the COVID migration of the wealthy wanting out of the cities would impact our regions..."

Not Immigration; that was the 19th century. Foreigners, almost universally despised, swarmed into our land of unlimited opportunity. They built our railroads, mined our coal, smelted our iron, staffed the constabulary (in the lines of an old song: "Irish judges and police; begorra, the Irish are keepin' the peace!"), mended our shoes, ironed our laundry, and raised our kids and cattle.

Now, once again, almost two hundred years later, great numbers of people are on the move globally. But they're not so much seeking jobs as fleeing intolerable situations in their homelands. Once again, they're almost universally despised. The leaders of the world, both free and autocratic, have long pretended that the rate of global warming can be checked or reversed by "reasonable" efforts to slow humanity's emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It can't; so the ancient myth of Noah and his naysayers is being played out in our time. Sensing finally – after catastrophic fires in Australia, Siberia, and our West; after Arctic blasts propelled south by a weakening polar vortex; after hurricanes that run out of alphabet to name them – that this thing is out of control, we're beginning to squabble over space in the lifeboats. People are trying to get to places of safety, inaugurating the Age of Emigration: across the Mediterranean in boats overloaded by murderous scoundrels; through the Sonoran Desert, where they find caches of water left by good Samaritans smashed by border guards; or anywhere that, possibly, they and their children might sleep in safety.

Even New Englanders are beginning to feel the restlessness, and sniff the winds of change. My friend Tom Ryan, an author currently fleeing New Hampshire, writes: "We were not prepared for how the little towns we lived in would change, how the COVID migration of the wealthy wanting out of the cities would impact our regions. Soon, peaceful places we loved grew crowded, grocery stores became danger zones, and our little world was rocked by trails being crowded with folks from other parts of New England who complained of dogs being off-leash in places they've always been allowed off-leash. In some instances, particularly the areas we sought out in winter to walk, one of which we pay an annual fee to use since it has groomed trails, changed their rules. Signs began going up, 'Dogs must be leashed.'"

Now that may not seem like much to some, but the bedrock of my relationship with Atticus, Will, Samwise, and Emily has been to treat them as I would want to be treated if our roles were reversed. This means a mostly-off-leash life. Knowing we were staying home, staying safe, keeping others safe, I felt like I was doing my part to fight the pandemic. Then the world came to the White Mountains and every other attractive, quiet outpost around the globe."

Irresistible change is here, whether we like it or not, and could hardly come at a worse time or in a more difficult setting. What we make of it – how we either rise or succumb to its challenges – will determine whether we all still even deserve to be here on this green, but troubled earth.

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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MEETING MEMO

Monday, March 1

• **Walden Select Board**, every other Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Town Websites, Town Clerks
Cabot: cabotvt.us

Calais: calaisvermont.gov

Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com

Greensboro: greensborovt.org

Hardwick: hardwickvt.org

Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us

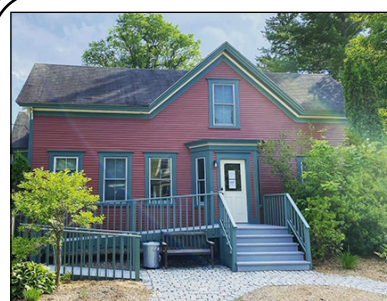
Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us

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



Dental Assistant Wanted

A well-respected dental practice looking for a reliable and professional Dental Assistant to work 4 days per week, competitive pay. The best candidate will be a quick learner and is enthusiastic about their role in maximizing patients' oral health.

The ideal candidate is accountable, thorough, and motivated to succeed. Interested candidates will apply by sending your resume to hdgent@hardwickdentalgroup.com

LETTERS FROM READERS

Craftsbury Select Board Needs Gender Diversity

To the editor,
I wish to join the many women of Craftsbury who feel that gender diversity on the Craftsbury Select Board is essential if that body is to be appropriately representative of our community.

During the years we were attempting to build a broadband network in town, I attended many meetings of the select board. Susie Houston was always attentive and responsive.

She is the leader on the select board in relating to all aspects of community life, and she has consistently demonstrated concern for our residents and creativity in finding sound solutions to problems.

I will vote to re-elect Susie Houston to the Craftsbury Select Board and hope that you are moved to do the same.

Dave Stoner
Craftsbury Common

Asking for Food Pantry Support

To the editor,
Please support the Hardwick Area Food Pantry and Craftsbury/Albany Satellite Sites at your upcoming town meeting!

As Town Meeting Day approaches, the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (including its two new satellite sites in Craftsbury and Albany) acknowledges that voters and community members have offered many forms of generosity that support the work of the pantry. Appropriations from the towns we serve have long been important in making it possible to continue our mission of providing quality food to those in need.

This year, the HAFP is once again seeking support through town appropriations. Our requests to Hardwick, Greensboro, Stannard and Walden remain consistent with years past. In Craftsbury and Albany, where we are now serving an additional 150 households at the new satellite sites, we are requesting increased or new appropriations to help support this impactful expansion of our work.

Reeve Basom, HAFP
Board President
LauraLee Sweeney,
HAFP Director
Kris Coville, HAFP
Satellite Site Coordinator

Martin Announces for Select Board

To the editor,
My name is Michael Martin and I am running for the town select board of Craftsbury. I was born and raised in Craftsbury. I graduated from Craftsbury Academy and spent my teenage years helping out the community by working for the town mowing roadsides when my father gave his time as road commissioner. I currently own and operate two successful businesses in Craftsbury that have given me the opportunity to continue to give back.

Throughout my lifetime, I have created relationships with the current road crew and have worked alongside them on various road maintenance projects. I also have a strong knowledge of vehicle and equipment maintenance that could be helpful when deciding whether to repair or replace various town equipment.

My father, Bruce Martin, spent many years as the road

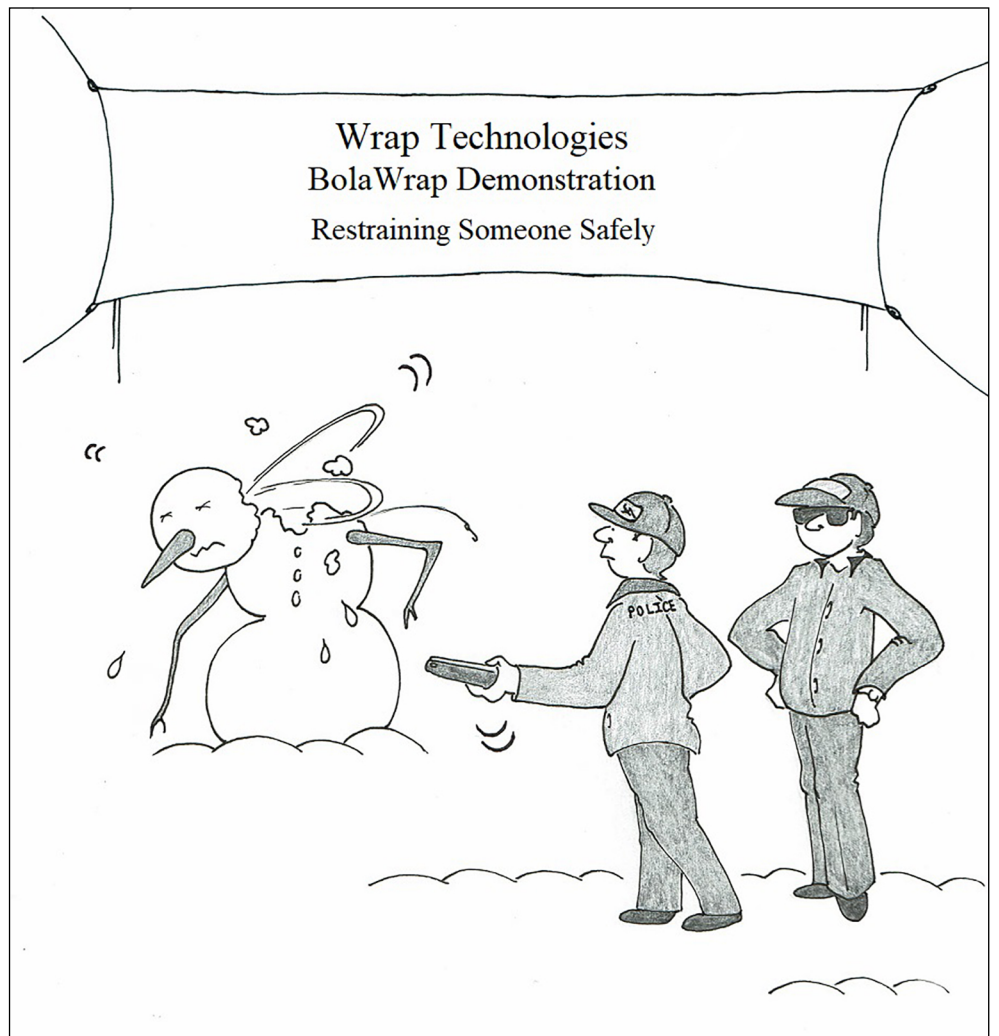
commissioner for the town which allowed me to experience what it is like to manage the town roads. I learned how to maintain the roads and understand what the road crew needs to do their job successfully. My father was also on the select board and school board for the town.

I have volunteered on many town committees as well. These committees include the World War II Memorial Fund, cemetery commissioner, and in the past was a deacon at The Church on the Common.

As a select board member, I will bring new ideas to help our community continue to be an affordable place to grow and thrive. I hope you consider me for this position as I have contributed to the Craftsbury community and will continue to do so as a select board member.

Michael Martin
Craftsbury Common

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“OOPS...”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Vote “Yes” on Articles 3 & 4 on the Greensboro Ballot

GREENSBORO -- Greensboro voters: Every registered voter has a right to vote, even if they don't attend town meeting. Would you like to vote for the people who represent you on town issues? Would you like to weigh in on new proposed bylaws that will affect you forever? If you don't usually go to town meeting this is maybe your only chance to vote and have your voice heard.

This is the year to make changes! If these articles don't pass this year then we will have the usual town meeting where only those in attendance can vote, which excludes 3/4 of our community. Allowing all registered voters an opportunity to vote on these important issues is fair and includes every voice. Vote “Yes” on Articles 3 and 4.

Jennifer Ranz
Greensboro

Salvation Farms Seeks Taxpayer Support

To the editor:

Salvation Farms is asking towns from Greensboro to Cambridge for funds to support their Lamoille Valley Gleaning Program. While Salvation Farms began serving the valley more than fifteen years ago, this is the first time they've sought support from the towns that benefit from their work. Salvation Farms requests are modest, none exceeding \$1,000 per town.

In 2020 Salvation Farms' Lamoille Valley Gleaning program worked with 20 farms and engaged 142 volunteers who contributed a combined 554 hours. They collected more than 150,000 servings of locally grown surplus produce resulting in produce distribution to 39 community-based food programs like the Lamoille Community Food Share, Johnson Food Shelf, Hardwick Area Food Pantry, and Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County. Salvation Farms

is a federally recognized, 501c3 non-profit. They have provided gleaning services to the Lamoille Valley for years at no cost to those who benefit.

In 2020, in addition to gleaning, Salvation Farms helped distribute a total of 1,650 USDA Farmer to Family Food Boxes and 1,415 gallons of Vermont's surplus milk aiding COVID-19 hunger relief efforts in the Lamoille Valley.

Gleaning is the act of reaping after the harvest. In Vermont, this typically involves community-based organizations working closely with farms, organizing and managing volunteers, collecting unharvested or harvested but unsold crops, and coordinating the distribution of gleaned crops to community food programs like food shelves and senior meal programs.

Theresa Snow
Salvation Farms
Executive Director

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

LETTERS FROM READERS

Nominating Library Trustees

To the editor:

As library trustees are typically nominated from the floor at Hardwick Town Meeting, I am taking this opportunity to nominate two current trustees whose terms are expiring and are willing to serve for another three-year term. These are myself as chair and Elizabeth Rossano, who has served two years and is a valuable member of our board. I

am pleased to announce there are no other open seats, as all other current trustees are happy to continue serving.

Thus, if you're wondering what to do with that section of our mail-in ballot, kindly write in Jodi Lew-Smith and Elizabeth Rossano for the two open seats.

Thank you!

**Jodi Lew-Smith
Hardwick**

An Enthusiastic Vote for Houston

To the editor:

I will enthusiastically vote Susie Houston for select board. I appreciate the time and energy she and all our select board members dedicate to serve Craftsbury. Whether it is the day-to-day work that mostly goes unnoticed and keeps the town running or responding to a pandemic by creating the Neighbor to Neighbor task force, our select board is the team we need now.

Susie's leadership and advocacy

to address mental health, energy use, childcare and other emergent needs in Craftsbury are exemplary. As a planning commission member, I always appreciate Susie's role as liaison. My vote for Susie is also a vote for gender balance on our select board, and in hope that future leaders will continue to see Susie modeling leadership, teamwork, advocacy and governance as they grow up in Craftsbury.

**Linda Ramsdell
Craftsbury**

Clarification on Craftsbury Academy Property Transfer

To the editor:

This year, voters in Craftsbury are being asked to transfer all property belonging to the Craftsbury Town School District to the Craftsbury Academy Corporation and its board of trustees.

As president of the trustees, I thought it prudent to give some explanation of who we are and how we operate. The Craftsbury Academy Corporation and Trustees were created in 1829 by the legislature to establish an academy in Craftsbury. The trustees built and ran Craftsbury Academy as a private institution until 1917, then turned operation of the academy over to the Town School District. The trustees have always maintained ownership of the academy property and lease it to the town on a 99-year lease for \$1 per year for the purpose of running the school.

The trustees are now a 501c3 non-profit whose purpose established in the original charter and governing bylaws is to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of the academy and foster educational opportunities for its students. We have an endowment of approximately \$750,000. The endowment generates annual

income that funds maintenance and curriculum needs of the school, as well as scholarships for graduating seniors. The board of trustees has nine members, who, in accordance with the charter and bylaws, must be alumni of the academy and are elected to three-year terms at our annual meeting in May.

As mentioned, the academy building is owned by the trustees. The properties addressed by Article 7 are: the school woodlot on Wylie Hill, the Dustan Field athletic complex, and the "Hanson Lot" where Minden Hall sits. The trustees previously owned the Dustan and Hanson lots, but transferred them to the Town School District in the 1980s to take advantage of state construction aid to create the athletic fields and build Minden Hall. The intent of this article is to bring all properties back under the same ownership umbrella in order to clear up potential issues around shared utilities and leach field location, and to ensure the properties continue to be used for educational purposes and the benefit of Craftsbury's students and residents for years to come.

**Joe Houston
Craftsbury**

ANOTHER OPINION

Civic Participation, Voting Methods, and our Community's Future

by Naomi Ranz-Schleifer

GREENSBORO -- I was born and raised here, am a taxpayer, and a registered voter in the Town of Greensboro. I am in my 30s, I am civically engaged (I volunteer on many committees and boards), I attend town meeting (whenever I am able - though school and work have occasionally prevented me from doing so), and I fully support Articles 3 and 4 and I oppose Articles 1 and 2.

I support Article 3 because I believe in an inclusive Greensboro in which every voice matters, not a town that perpetuates continued voter disenfranchisement. I like knowing ahead of time who is interested in running for office and having the opportunity to ask candidates questions in a setting that is comfortable for me (I do not enjoy public speaking). I would like to be able to vote every year (not just the years I can attend town meeting). I would like the flexibility to vote during a time that fits my work schedule or request an absentee ballot. And I think it is essential that we create ways for everyone to vote for the people that will represent us all throughout their years in office.

This year, for the first time in forever, all registered voters have the opportunity to both engage in discussions (on- and off-line) on this issue and cast their vote. Literally, the first time in forever - women did not even have the right to vote at town meeting during the 1918 pandemic and ever since then if you weren't there in person, you have had no vote. Let us not hold on to tradition so tightly that we forget how to grow as a community that is open to ideas and embraces the diverse voices of the people who choose to call this special place home.

I support Article 4 because I would like the opportunity to vote for or against the laws I am being asked to live by as long as I live in Greensboro - a right we do not currently have - only the select board does. Currently, our planning commission is developing numerous proposals for new and changed bylaws touching on everything from redistricting, affordable housing, short term rentals, water quality, wastewater, temporary signage, or whether or not we have a welcoming and inclusive town. I want the right to ultimately have a vote about the final decision we make as a town.

I oppose Article 1 because I believe that our town treasurer should be an elected official who works on behalf of us and is subject to the budget we vote

in - knowing their taxes are subject to change just as mine are, or their roads will suffer just as mine will if we do not allocate our budget diligently. This elected position is a necessary check and balance for all that we do as a town. We do have qualified candidates living here in Greensboro and before we relinquish our right to vote and outsource the position, we should find out what it would take to get these qualified people to want this elected position.

I oppose Article 2 because I think it is hasty for us to relinquish the right to vote for our constable(s) just because there are uncertainties about our police enforcement situation. At minimum, we still have the Vermont State Police, something many other small towns solely rely on. If we ultimately do want to rely more heavily on our constable(s) for police enforcement services, then I think having it be someone who lives among us could be a good thing.

This year, our select board members voted to use Australian Ballot for all articles. Their decision to use Australian ballot does not prevent discussion about any of the issues being asked of Greensboro voters and also does not prevent in-person, virtual, or real-time discussions, it merely changes the timeline. On February 27, at 3:30 p.m., Greensboro is hosting the equivalent of a town meeting (virtually, due to the pandemic), during which participants can discuss each and every article just as they would at any other town meeting. The difference, however, is that after this discussion we will then have the opportunity to reflect, research, and formulate our opinions on how we want to vote prior to casting our vote via the ballot mailed to us or by voting at town hall (between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on March 2).

I believe town meeting is critically important in ensuring that we have at least one opportunity for a community-wide discussion about issues that matter to us each year. I also believe that creating diverse opportunities for civic engagement and reducing barriers to voting is vital for the future of our town and for ensuring that we evolve as the world does. Voting for elected officials (including keeping our town treasurer an elect position) via Australian ballot will not be the death of town meeting, rather it will instead breathe new life into opportunities for civic engagement and open up even more time for substantive discussion about issues that really matter to us.

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

IN THE GARDEN

Mid-winter Houseplant Care

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Are you suffering from the mid-winter blahs? More importantly, are your houseplants? We can't be in our gardens outside now – except for a few stalwarts who are pruning, I suppose – but we can take good care of our houseplants.

Although I have not the passion for houseplants that I do for plants outdoors, my friends seem to think it is all right to dump tired or depressed houseplants on me. I mean they gift me houseplants that need a little extra care. This winter I ended up with around 50 houseplants, including a banana tree, cacti of various sorts, a gardenia and much, much more. That's fine. I will re-gift some in the spring or summer and move the rest outdoors.

One of the best things you can do for your houseplants is to be judicious in watering. More is not

in a sunny window, your plant may die. And then, no matter how much you water your dead rosemary, it will not come back to life. I know, I've tried. Just harvest the leaves and use them in the kitchen,

I keep a wood stove chugging along day and night, all winter. I keep a kettle on it to add a little moisture to the air, but that is not nearly enough to keep most houseplants happy. The best thing you can do if you have a warm, dry house, is to buy a humidifier. This will make you more comfortable, too.

I have a small humidifier in the bedroom that will deliver a gallon of water to the air in 12 hours, but that is a drop in the bucket for an entire house. So, I also have a cabinet-style humidifier that will deliver five gallons of water to the house in 12 hours. It wicks up water and then blows air over the wick to evaporate it. Since I have an open-plan home, this helps throughout the down-



courtesy photo

Gardenias are fussy and hard to get to bloom indoors.

better! Roots will rot, especially if the soil mix has gotten compacted over the years (as organic matter has been depleted).

That said, as February transitions to March, the sun is stronger than it was in January, and the plants are waking up for spring. Their roots are growing and seeking moisture. Instead of watering once a week, twice a week is better for some. Leaves are growing and need more water.

Rosemary plants, which do well in dry climates like California or the Mediterranean coast, do not survive if their roots become totally dry. Outdoors there, their roots go down deep to a soil layer that is slightly moist all year. But in a pot? It's easy to let them dry out.

If you see the leaves start to wilt, water immediately! Sadly, if you miss a watering and the plant is

stairs. Still, it is a struggle to keep the house at 40 percent relative humidity, my goal. It would be easier to do if I kept it running the fan all day, and mainly run it at night. I fill the humidifier with a watering can from the garden that I fill in the bathtub.

Last fall Cindy asked if I knew a greenhouse that would keep a client's gardenia for the winter. She said she'd been told they were fussy, needed high humidity and were aphid-prone. I asked one greenhouse, and was told \$5,000 would be about right for caring for one for four or five months. Huh. So I decided to do it for free, and for the challenge of it.

The gardenia was loaded with flower buds when it came to the house in October. So far, we have had two flowers blossom, but most



courtesy photo

Rosemary plants need more water now than earlier in the winter.

dried up and fell off. Still ... getting any blossoms is a victory, I think.

So how did I do it? I'd like to say it is aphid-free because I washed the leaves and growing medium carefully before bringing it in the house. That's what I would recommend. But life was busy, and it's a four-foot tall tree in a 50-pound pot, so I just lugged it in – frost was predicted.

I carried it upstairs to our



courtesy photo

My crape myrtle goes dormant in winter in a cold basement.

cool, sunny laundry room. I filled a 12-inch plant saucer with small stones and kept the saucer full of water. The gardenia sat on the stones and breathed in the evaporated moisture. I also sprayed the gardenia with a special plant misting device made by Florasol. This sprays a very fine spray with an easy squeeze and is the best of the sprayers I've tried.

Still, it was not happy. Buds

dried and dropped. I moved it into a bathroom where the shower is used twice a day, morning and evening. Everyone was asked to spray anytime they were in the bathroom. But there was not enough sunshine, and still no blossoms opening up.

Finally, I hauled it back down the spiral staircase (losing buds along the way) and set it next to my desk and computer, the warmest place in the house. I set up that big humidifier nearby and keep the hand sprayer handy. It is in a bright, west-facing window, and is in flower now. And no signs of aphids!

In March I will start to help some dormant plants to wake up. I've had a fig tree and a crape myrtle in pots in our dark basement at 40 degrees all winter. They've dropped all leaves, and I only water them every six weeks or so, and lightly. But I will bring them up into the house and give them a taste of liquid fertilizer – just a light dilution. I like Neptune's Harvest fish and seaweed formula. That worked fine last winter.

So keep an eye on your houseplants, and if they get dusty, you can take one in the shower with you and give it a good spray. And that should give your husband or wife a good giggle, too.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Sterling College outdoor education students Bryan Emery (left) and Anna Dye (right) demonstrate how to build a quinzee during a winter shelter build event held at the Highland Center for the Arts February 20.

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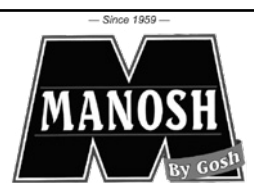
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SPORTS

HU Boys Reflect on the Meaning of Having a Season

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Before their third consecutive winning game of the 2021 season against Peoples Academy, three of the Hazen Union (Hazen) Wildcats boys' team sat down to discuss just what it meant to them to be back on the court after a COVID-delayed season start. Seniors Isaiah Baker and Ethan Shopland and Junior Carter Hill discussed how the shutdown had affected their high school basketball careers, what the game meant, how they had begun playing, and what it felt like coming back to school last fall unsure what a season might look like this year -- if it happened at all.

All three described a shared history of basketball going way back. Hill said, "I'm pretty sure my first basket [ever], I was assisted by Isaiah [Baker]. I think we have definitely been playing for forever. We went to preschool together, the three of us. So, it's fair to say that we've been playing together a lot."

Shopland said "I got into basketball watching my brother. I always wanted to be like him and do the things he was doing. He won the state championship back in 2016 [on the Hazen team]. And that's when I really fell in love with it."

Baker said because his dad was a gym teacher he got into "all sorts of sports pretty early and found a love for basketball and went from there with it."

Hill said he wasn't always inclined toward sports. "I've been playing my whole life, but when I was younger, I actually was kind of more just really a bookworm. Really not athletic whatsoever, super skinny, kind of a tall, lanky kid. And then I started hitting a growth spurt and I started getting stronger and bigger. I actually found myself being better at sports, becoming more coordinated, and that's where I really started to fall for it. I had one game I remember, I think it was fifth grade, where I actually had a good game. And the feeling of having a crowd cheer you on and stuff, I know, we were just in elementary school ... but just that feeling. It's like there's just nothing like it, having a crowd behind you, it's an amazing feeling."

2020

Flashback to the Hazen playdown game of February 25, 2020, just one year ago. The Hazen gym was packed to the rafters with



photo by Doug McClure

The February 25, 2020, game against Leland & Gray that Hazen Union won was one of the last basketball games of 2020.

spectators. Metallica blasted over the PA. The energy-filled room was dripping hot for a chilly February night. Smaller fans, frustrated by the throng that was far taller, resorted to ducking under the bleachers to get to the other end of the gym where friends and family awaited.

On their own in the adjoining hallway, the team did their usual pregame ritual, a chant during which everyone on the team jumped in the air together. Then the lights dimmed and the introductions came over the PA. Each team member got their own spotlight, their own cheering section, their own applause from friends, family, and fans.

The next few hours would see the team, riding high on a string of victories, fight another battle on the court. Hazen won the game against Leland & Gray, 85-48, followed by an 81-53 win over Stowe that propelled the team into the Final Four. A 66-55 semi-final loss to Enosburg at the Aud ended the Wildcat boys' aspirations for the 2020 State Championship. What no one knew then was that would be the last time for nearly a year the Wildcat boys would be on the court.

Baker said after that "the few months leading up to [school re-opening in the fall] were pretty tough, just not knowing if I was going to get a chance at a senior season."

Shopland said that "We went far, into the semifinals, and we all

had expectations to make it to the finals [in 2020]. We all thought we had a good chance to win, and we got upset in the semis. And we were all just looking forward to next season and looking forward to getting back in the gym. And then everything shut down, and we couldn't go into the gym and work as a team. It was just hard to not be able to work to get back, and hopefully we make another run this year. It's been a tough six, eight months for me."

Hill echoed Shopland's comments. "Having the idea that, 'oh, we're just going to get back into the gym [next year].' The summer between my freshman and sophomore year, I played in about one hundred games, me and Isaiah both. We just have these massive layoffs during the summer. And it's really that time that separates Hazen's culture from other schools; we put in so much [playing] time. And to not be able to do that was really hard. It was very difficult to handle. And the fact we might not even have a season was just awful."

Despite COVID proving the biggest hurdle the team had ever faced, Hill said the group met informally over the past summer in a very cautious and much more limited manner than usual to try and maintain their skills. "Randy Lumsden had a court he recently got installed. Well, it's just half a court, but it's really nice. It has lights so you can play at night and a group of us would go there a lot. Just doing basic skills, socially-dis-

tanced, really, because we didn't want to get into each other's faces. And it was just a lot of working around the procedures to try and get as much basketball in as possible."

Fall

The three returned to school with no idea what might happen with sports. "Basketball is a pretty big part of my life, personally," said Baker. "It makes it hard, not knowing if you're going to get a chance to play, it definitely makes it hard to focus on school and staying motivated with a college search all that, it's just a lot of stuff that adds up." Shopland said "definitely with it being my senior year it made it a lot more stressful worrying about if I was going to play again with everything going on, and college applications, scholarships, AP classes. That just made [not playing] another thing to stress about."

But as school re-opened and none of the worst predictions materialized, cautious optimism about the prospects for team sports took hold amongst the students. Babe Ruth baseball got an abbreviated season. Hazen boys' soccer had a brief run.

"Initially," said Hill, "we just had no idea. It was a lot of guessing in the fall. Personally, I had no doubt, I just had this feeling in my gut that we were going to have a season. I felt like maybe I was delusional, but I felt like we were going to have a season."

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SPORTS

Season

Continued from Page 24

Baker said “I felt pretty confident we would have a season, most of the time, up until the last couple of weeks after Thanksgiving. Stuff started looking iffy. I was like, well, if Thanksgiving cases are going like this, and Christmas goes like that, and then New Year’s ... that was kind of stressful. It really set in for me, the worries, after they pushed back the date we all thought we were going to get the go-ahead and play. And then that whole week leading up to the day they did say we were going to play, it was pretty stressful, because I kind of expected it to happen at some point but not knowing how long of a season or anything.”

Shopland said “We had a good soccer season and everything was fine. We were down in the teens every day in terms of cases in Vermont. And then we had Thanksgiving, a big spike, and an even bigger spike for Christmas. And it was really starting to set in, like we might not get a season this year. And they pushed the decision back a week, that was really kind of when the reality set in—we might not get a season. Last year might have been my last basketball season and that might have been it for me.”

The Team Gets The News

The team got the news that the season could start as soon as February 12. Shopland said “It was a lot of relief, like a big weight had been lifted off my shoulders, like finally, we get to do something. It’s not just sitting at home doing nothing and going to school two days a week. I was finally able to go to practice every day. And even if we weren’t going to be having normal games, we just got to play them and at least have eight or nine games for a season.”

Baker said, “For me, I was kind of shocked, to be honest, like that Thursday night before the Friday morning conference I had, I don’t know if it was just me getting prepared for the worst, [but] I was kind of just shocked and thankful and excited we’d actually get a chance.”

Hill said, “I remember really clearly how I found out. I was walking down the hallway to go back into the auditorium and John Sperry, our AD [Athletic Director] just casually mentions to me that we’re going to start having practices and we were probably going to have a season

and stuff. It was a really cool moment for me because I was just alone in the hallway after he walked away. I had a moment where I kind of jumped up and I was like pumping my fist and was just so excited. And I got to go in [the auditorium] and tell I think it was Ethan [Shopland], I don’t remember if [he] knew before, but I remember going into the auditorium and letting [him] know about that, too. And I think we hugged or something.”

Shopland laughed and nodded his head at the memory.

The First Game

Hill said “it’s always a rough first game, no matter the situation, but this year, it was completely different. There’s an emptiness in the gym without the fans there. And you still have the first-game nerves, but it didn’t feel like an actual game for me. The second game, that actually felt like a real game, but, yeah, it was completely different. I had to get used to it.”

For Baker, part of that difference was the limited amount of preparation time the team had. “A lot of [the first game] was just getting the rust off. But then you also have wearing masks, you don’t have fans, you don’t get introductions that kind of get you fired up a little. It just felt really weird actually going out and playing, but after that first couple of minutes, it started to feel more normal, just a little rusty.”

COVID restrictions meant no spectators, which was a big adjustment. Baker said “It’s just kind of awesome and fun to have the fans there cheering you on. Once we get going, it feels pretty normal and I just want to go out there and compete and get the win. But it definitely takes away one very special aspect of that game that you only really get to feel for your high school part of your life for most people. Just kind of a bummer.”

Shopland said “I think basketball in our town, it’s really special to our community, just a really special thing. And a lot of people look forward to our basketball season and to have them not there cheering you on, even if you’re losing by 40 or winning by 40, it’s completely different. It’s hard [when they’re not there] not to know they have your back.”

For Hill, he said “the crowd is the thing that juices me up. It the thing that gives me all that adrenaline. And just one thing that

I noticed, kind of a weird thing I realized that when you get out there is you don’t realize just how hot the gym is when you have a packed crowd. There’s just so much more heat. So you’re just drenched in sweat and [when there’s a crowd] you can just feel this energy and to not have that there... it was just so bizarre.

“But in a way, you still have that feeling because you know that there’s so many people at home watching and having that in the back of your mind is a nice comfort because we have such an awesome community. This community supports basketball and its athletes better than anywhere else I’ve seen. Maybe I’m biased, but I think that we have a really special thing going.”

In a mention of the pre-COVID days, Baker said “One of the things I miss the most is doing our chant out in the hallway [before the game], and to run out [on the court], give all the little kids high-fives. I really miss all that. That’s one of my favorite parts.”

Going Forward

All three are well-aware of how fragile the season could be, depending on the course COVID takes, and say that Hazen Union is doing its best to keep the season on track by following precautions well. “I feel like our team does a really good job,” said Baker, “I think a lot of the guys have really tightened up their [social] circles to try and give us the best chance possible to have a full season without problems. And it is kind of concerning because I’m sure many of the kids that we play might not do the best that they should, but I’ve just got to hope that they are. Since we got the go-ahead, I’ve kind of stopped looking at the [COVID] cases and just tried to focus on the season and do what I can do, because there’s nothing I can do about all the other people. I’ve just got to do what I can to focus on our season and do the best we can.”

Shopland said “It’s just that all it takes is one kid who was exposed to it, and there goes your season. It’s just been a tight focus on staying at home, not worrying about anybody else, do your job to make sure that you and all your teammates and all the kids on the other teams can still have a season.”

“My outlook is a lot similar to Isaiah,” said Hill, “Every single game we’re playing now might

be the last game we get. So we better win every single game we’re playing. It’s all about just trying to focus on what we can control, just giving it our all in every situation and just taking the moments that we can get because there are people out there that are probably going to be selfish and not value the season as much as we do.”

The three said that masks do not interfere with the gameplay much, but do have one side effect. Hill’s father is Coach Aaron Hill and he said “Probably I think our defensive communication and just our communication as a team is actually way better or has to be better this year, mostly because my dad is very much able to hear if we’re communicating out there instead of having this loud crowd to kind of cover it up.”

All three wanted to let the HCTV team know how much their efforts to broadcast the games meant to the team. Baker said the broadcasts started a few years back, and “every year since, it’s gotten better and better. I think especially in a year like this, it’s important for our community to have a solid broadcast there. And I know everyone listening to Lance Hall, he does a great job of entertaining people as well as making sure everyone knows what’s going on.”

Shopland said “Our fans have been a good part of the season so far. Even though we can’t hear them, we know they’re watching. At the first game, there were almost 500 devices turned on, maybe more than one person per device. So that could almost be a thousand people watching our game, and that’s pretty cool.”

Hill said “HCTV has done an amazing job and Lance [Hall] is just phenomenal out there, we can always rely on him to entertain people. But also, just the way the Hazen basketball community is incredible. I could go on for days and days talking about how much love and appreciation I have for every single person. Just the fact that at Hazen we have guys that haven’t played on the team since twenty years ago that are tuning into our games and texting my dad and each other about the game. Everyone cares so much about it, and it’s just so amazing to know that there’s that many people that care. It’s just that, words can’t describe how awesome our community has been, especially during these hard times.”

SPORTS

Saints Edge Chargers in Fourth Quarter

“We have some good young talent coming into the program and the leadership guys like Logan and John are providing is really big for us. We need to continue to work on the fundamentals and tighten some things up, but I like the way these guys fight and compete.”

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – First year head coach Tyler Gillespie and his Craftsbury Academy boys’ basketball team saw a fourth quarter lead evaporate against Christ Covenant last week, denying them their first win of the season.

Freshman Simon Mulligan scored eight of his team-high 14 points in the final period to help the Saints clip the Chargers on the road last Monday, 51-50. Nathan Mulligan also fueled the comeback for Christ Covenant with eight fourth-quarter points, erasing a four-point deficit. John Smith led Craftsbury with 14 points and freshman Dylan Washer chipped in with 10. The Chargers struggles from the line did them in, finishing the game 8 for 20.

“They have some fast, athletic guards who can shoot and I thought we did a nice job defensively on them for three quarters, but they broke free down the stretch. We got out of the style we need to play a little bit at the end and we need to continue to work on our free throws. We are still learning what fits best as a team and I am still learning, as well, and need to be better. The guys are super positive so far and



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Craftsbury sophomore Dalton Gravel tries to save a ball from going out of bounds as Justin Mangen of Christ Covenant defends. At left is referee Michael Desautels. Christ Covenant edged by Craftsbury 51-50.

I’m impressed with their attitude and work ethic,” said Gillespie.

Senior Logan Lanphere added seven points, freshman Mark Guebara also scored seven, and eighth grader Evan LaMare knocked down a pair of three-pointers, the first of his varsity career.

“We have some good young talent coming into the program and the leadership guys like Logan and John are providing is really big for us. We need to continue to work on the fundamentals and tighten some things up, but I like the way these guys fight and compete. It is just great to see these kids able to have some semblance of a season, it takes a lot of hard work from people behind the scenes to make the season happen, including many parents and we thank them,” said Gillespie.

The Chargers head into a challenging part of their schedule as they travel to a pair of Division III opponents in Northfield on Friday and Winooski next Monday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Craftsbury 8th grader Evan LaMare looks for a way around Simon Mulligan of Christ Covenant during play in the World War II Memorial Gymnasium February 15. Christ Covenant got by Craftsbury 51-50.

SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lady Cat Natalie Geoffroy heads for the basket guarded by Emma Courtemanche of Peoples in a home game February 15. Following the play are Hazen's Macy Molleur (left) and PA's Morgan Reeve (#5) and Arianna Keene (#13).



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Harley Papineau of Hazen Union dribbles past PA's Melania Fogg during a home game February 15. Hazen fell to Peoples 43-57.

Lady Cats Struggle with Tough Schedule

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Beggars can't be choosers this season with an abbreviated schedule due to COVID-19, and the Hazen Union girls' basketball team continued to take on the challenge out of their division last week, dropping games to Peoples Academy (PA) and North Country (NC) to fall to 0-3.

Super sophomore Shelby Wells poured in a game-high 27 points to lead PA to a 57-43 road win over Hazen Union last Monday. Wells was deadly off the dribble and from the outside as well, dropping four three's on the night to open up a tight game late in the first half. The

late surge turned a slim one-point lead into a ten-point cushion at the break.

"We knew going in that they were going to be a tough matchup," said head coach Tim Whitney. "The girls did a great job of hanging in there the first twelve minutes, but we had some untimely turnovers right before halftime and Wells took advantage of them. She's a complete player, very tough to mark, and she's just got 'it'. Couple that with their size in the middle and, needless to say, we had our hands full."

Gracie Beck used her 6'3" frame to muscle in 18 points for PA in the win as they improved to

2-0 on the season. Macy Molleur scored a season-high 15 for Hazen and Alleigh Gabaree chipped in with 12 in the loss.

McKenna Mush scored 16 points and Riann Fortin added 14 to lead North Country to a 51-33 home win over the Lady Cats Thursday night. The Lady Falcons took a 28-13 into the break and never looked back, improving to 2-0 and cementing themselves as early contenders in Division II.

Gabaree led Hazen with 12 and Natalie Geoffroy chipped in with nine points in the loss. North Country is a team Hazen Union normally scrimmages to get ready for the regular season but added

the game to the schedule when NC had a last-minute opening.

"They are a quality team with good depth. They don't wow you with their athleticism or size, but as a team we can take a lot away from how patient they are in running their offensive scheme. We don't have the confidence yet to be patient and let our plays develop, but we are working at it tirelessly in practice and it should start coming together once we get more games under our belt," said Whitney.

The Lady Cats were scheduled to host Richford on Monday before hosting BFA-Fairfax on Thursday and will travel to Vergennes next Tuesday.

Lady Trojans Down Danville JV Team

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – The Twinfield/Cabot girls' basketball team ran away from Danville's junior varsity team last week on the road.

Eighth grader Jorga Washburn and freshman Alice McLaine scored nine points apiece to lead the Lady Trojans to a 45-28 road win last Monday. Lone senior Bailey Cushing added eight points and junior Makayla Quintin chipped in with seven in the win. J. Dunbar and S. Young led Danville with 11 points apiece.

"Hats off to the athletic directors for allowing us to do this."

"We are still a very young team and we make a lot of mistakes, but the girls played well and are learning. This group is all-in on playing ball without fear and they are giving their maximum effort. We only have a seven-game schedule, but it is better than no schedule and I get a lot of joy just

seeing the girls get a chance to have a season, especially our upperclassmen Bailey and Makayla," said head coach Jason Cushing.

With such a young team and participation numbers down statewide due to COVID-19, Cushing and athletic director Stacey Fox opted to have the girls' program play a junior varsity schedule this winter. There will be no postseason for the Lady Trojans this year, but the hope is that it will set up the young program for invaluable growth in years to come.

"Hats off to the Vermont

Principals Association and to the athletic directors for allowing us to do this. It made a lot of sense for our program and for what we are trying to build here for the future with so many young players. Bailey and Makayla have been all in to do whatever it takes to help the program and, overall, the girls are just happy to get out there and compete in a season that is anything but normal," said Cushing.

Twinfield/Cabot will host St. Johnsbury on Thursday and will travel to Oxbow next Wednesday.

SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hazen's Tyson Davison heads up the court ahead of Owen Demar of BFA during a home game February 17. Hazen won 76-48.

photo by Vanessa Fournier
Wildcat Tyler Rivard looks to pass around BFA's Lane Stygles during play February 17 at Hazen. In back (left) is Aasha Gould and (center) Jadon Baker.

Wildcats Show Versatility in 3-0 Start

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys' basketball team showed its ability to beat teams in different ways last week in wins over BFA-Fairfax and Peoples Academy, improving their record to 3-0 on the season.

Isaiah Baker scored a game-high 22 points to lead Hazen Union to a dominant 76-48 home win over BFA-Fairfax last Wednesday. The sharp shooting senior did most of his damage in the paint against the Bullets with multiple drives to the basket, tallying 15 first half points to give the Wildcats a thirteen-point lead at the break. Jadon Baker (13 points) and Carter Hill (12) fueled a 21-0 run to start the second half to put the game out of reach. Senior Ethan Shopland added five assists in the win. Owen Demar led the Bullets with 14 as they fell to 0-3.

"Our press really gave them issues and it led to some easy baskets for us. We were able to

"The guys showed their physicality, ran an effective half-court offense, and played a strong defensive game."

play at the pace that we wanted and they guys did a good job of sharing the ball. Ethan does a lot of the intangibles for us throughout a game and he made a lot of plays that gave us some good looks," said head coach Aaron Hill.

The Wildcats have struggled with Peoples Academy's smaller floor and physical play in the past, but they showed their versatility over the weekend with an impressive 54-42 road win. Jadon Baker scored a team-high 13 points and Tyler Rivard pulled down nine rebounds to lead Hazen Union. Isaiah Baker and Carter Hill added 11 points apiece as they took a fourteen-point lead into the fourth and never looked back. Charlie Veit and Chandler

Follensbee led the Wolves with 18 apiece as they suffered their first loss of the season.

"We've always struggled to play our style on that court, but the guys showed their physicality, ran an effective half-court offense, and played a strong defensive game. Jadon had a strong night, Carter was big for us in the second half, and overall it was a nice balanced effort. The guys hard work in the off-season is starting to pay off and it is allowing us to play at different paces, giving us more options to be

successful. We have the toughest part of our schedule coming up and we're excited to see how we match up against some very good basketball teams. This coming week will be a great test and good preparation for the postseason," said Hill.

Hazen hosted a 2-0 Randolph team on Tuesday that features two six-footers. They will then travel to Lamoille (2-0) on Friday and a 3-0 Montpelier team that blitzed St. Johnsbury Academy by 20 points over the weekend.

Community Can Send Congratulations to HU Team Seniors

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys' basketball night was held on Tuesday. The community can celebrate the seniors on the team by sending them a congratulatory message.

To send a message to Ethan Shopland, send a message to tiny.cc/EthanShopland.

To send a message to Isaiah Baker, send a message to tiny.cc/IsaiahBaker.