

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

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Volume 132 Number 13

Hardwick COVID Cases Increase, Hazen Union Sticks with Remote Classes

by Doug McClure

MONTPELIER – The town-by-town data released by the state last Friday showed that the number of new COVID cases reported in Hardwick had increased by 32%, from 71 cases on March 24 to 94 on March 31, the highest week-to-week percentage increase in the 135 days since Hardwick registered more than five cases in state reporting.

The state also reported Friday that the B.1.1.7 COVID variant, first discovered in the United Kingdom, is now in Caledonia County.

By Tuesday, that variant had been found in sixteen tests in Caledonia County and one in Orleans County. Another variant, B.1.429, was also found in an Orleans County test. The P.1, a third variant that is of major concern due to an apparent potential for re-infection, was first found in Brazil and has now been detected in Vermont.

All three variants have higher transmissibility than the original strain of COVID: B.1.1.7 is 43-90% more transmissible, while B.1.429 is estimated to be 20% more transmissible and is

See **INCREASE, 4**



courtesy photo

Upon receiving the first (or in the case of J&J, only) dose of the COVID vaccine, people are given a card detailing the type of vaccine received and the date of their follow-up appointment (if any).

Is Food Still Saving our Towns? The Greater Cabot Working Landscaping Network

by Anna Kolosky, UVM Community News Service

CABOT – Growing up in Cabot, Allison Gulka saw the role local farms played in sustaining the community. After going to college and working in other places throughout the US, she returned to Vermont to go to grad school at UVM and took part in the UVM Farmer Training Program, an intensive six-month program for aspiring farmers. Now a committee co-chair with her husband on The Greater Cabot Working Landscaping Network, Gulka uses her knowledge to help educate others.

“My husband, Matthew Millard, and I have been co-chairing the committee for the last five years,” Gulka said. “Before that, it was actually called the Cabot Agricultural Network. We decided to change the name to include surrounding towns and people who do other endeavors related to landscape, like forestry.”

While the Greater Cabot Working Landscaping Network – Farm to Plate, Strengthening Vermont’s Food Systems – has broadened

its scope to include more enterprises, its focus mostly centers around food, community and agriculture, according to Gulka. A lot of its work lies in educating local citizens about sustainable agriculture and opportunities.

“We’ve held different series to bring speakers into town to talk about different agricultural businesses and business models,” Gulka said. “We want to inspire people to start up their own business or collaborate with others.”

One of their most recent projects was starting a pollinator initiative in Cabot and trying to turn the town into a pollinator-friendly place, Gulka said.

“Our main focus was to promote and support the working landscape by supporting pollinator populations,” Gulka said. “We put on a speaker series again and went on an educational campaign for the public. We also proposed a nonbinding resolution at town meeting to make the town a pollinator-friendly community.”

See **NETWORK, 2**

Interim Town Manager Discussed

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At its April 1 meeting, the select board discussed filling the position of town manager once Shaun Fielder leaves office.

The board was previously told by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) that the organization would have little ability to help in the short term.

The VLCT suggested appointing an interim town manager while the board conducts a search for a long-term hire. Chair Eric Remick said he reached out to former town manager Jon Jewett about bridging the interim role.

“He is interested in doing it, he thinks it would work out well for him,” Remick said of Jewett. Jewett suggested a 24-to-32-hour work week, Remick said. “I think that would

See **MANAGER, 4**



photo by Doug McClure

Myles and Katie Tandy in front of the space they are working on leasing in Hardwick, the future Birdsong Beer and Wine.

Birdsong Beer and Wine Looks to Fill Out Local Options

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – After a favorable response from the select board to an economic development loan request, Myles and Katie Tandy plan to open Birdsong Beer and Wine, hopefully by June 1. The new business would be in the Gohl Block adjacent Front Seat Coffee and provide wider options for craft beer and wine than presently exist in Hardwick.

Myles Tandy stressed that the business plans to complement rather than compete with current

local options, which he described as having a limited selection.

He said, “We have looked at most of the stores in the area within the last few months. We’re trying really hard to not step on too many toes also. Most things in the area are only stocking bigger markets, still craft beers, but bigger market brands, Magic Hat, things like that. We want to really go out of our way to highlight the really small guys in town, especially the newer places, Weird Window [Brewing] comes to mind,


See **BIRDSONG, 3**

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photo by Vanessa Fournier
 Cabot kindergartners Remi Ludwig (left), Alice Churchill (center) and Emma Goodrich (right) work on their haikus, a traditional Japanese form of poetry, during the Red Clover Book celebration. This was one of several special activities provided for the 44 K-3rd grade students.



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

Network

Continued From Page One

However, with the onset of COVID-19, the group has refocused its efforts on connecting people to their local food system, Gulka added.

"I think we're seeing that, in a lot of instances all over the state, people are even more interested in local food than they have been before, especially with the conditions of the pandemic," she said. "We want to be able to support that in the community."

To support this interest in food, the network has launched a two-phase project with another group focused on local economic development. The first phase will involve developing a directory of food businesses and the second will be to launch a food hub, she explained.

"The first phase is developing a directory of town, agricultural, and food businesses. It may expand from there, and we hope to have that launched by June," Gulka said. "The second is to hopefully launch some sort of food hub in town that provides a central location for people to buy from a variety of local vendors."

Modeled after Northwestern Vermont Grown's online Guide to Local Farms and Foods in Grand Isle and Franklin Counties, the Cabot directory will primarily be a website people can visit to look up a product type or a farm name, Gulka explained. In the future, it will connect directly to an online ordering platform that will be used for the food hub.

"We want the directory to be able to be used by local people and by anyone who's visiting in town

or interested in the area," Gulka said. "So, we're mindful of that in the way we design and promote the directory."

The directory will feature local orchards, maple producers, smaller dairy farms and diverse veggie businesses. While the directory will hopefully be released soon, the food hub is still in development.

"We're hoping to have a soft opening for the food hub," Gulka said. "The location is yet to be determined since we're trying to figure out what our logistical needs are when it comes to things like refrigeration and space for sorting. But we recognize that this is kind of a cyclical thing with the seasons and we want to have something available this growing season for the community to use."

For Gulka and the Greater Cabot Landscaping Network, the main goal is to figure out the best ways to best support local farmers and businesses.

"Our goal isn't to reinvent the wheel; we just want to support local agriculture," Gulka said. "There are other directories that exist throughout the state, but we're trying to be intentional about keeping it to a local scale and supporting small businesses."

With the creation of the directory and the food hub, Gulka explains, the group hopes to continue fostering connection and collaboration within the Cabot community.

"We're hoping that as new businesses arise there isn't as much of a competitive nature as collaborative," Gulka said. "For us, it's about supporting the community, agriculture and the economy and figuring out what we can do to bring those all together."

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

March 29: Accident – Injury to Person(s), Vt. Rte. 16/Taylor Rd., Greensboro; Accident – Injury to Person(s), Vt. Rte. 16/Bayley Hazen Rd.; Threats/Harassment, High St.; Suspicious Event, High St.; Animal Problem, E. Church St., E. Hardwick; Traffic Hazard, Craftsbury Rd./Tucker Brook Rd.; Suspicious Event, High St.; Welfare Check, High St.

March 30: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Nichols Pond Rd.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Buffalo Mt. Rd.; Citizen Dispute, High St.; VIN Verification, High St.; Wanted Person, Vt. Rte. 15W.

March 31: Assist – Motorist, High St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15; Accident – LSA, Vt. Rte. 14S; Suspicious Event, Cottage St.; Alarm, Log Yard. Dr.; Suspicious event, Vt. Rte. 15W

April 1: Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16; Assist – Public, Montgomery Rd.; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 16; Wanted Person, Vt. Rte. 16.

April 2: Motor Vehicle Complaint, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Dewey St.; Citizen Dispute, Center Rd.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, High St.

April 3: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Center Rd.; Theft, Dutton Rd.; Citizen Dispute, Mini Mart Dr.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15E; Traffic Stop, Porter Brook Rd.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15W; Traffic Stop, Church St.; Traffic Stop, Main St.; Suspicious Event, Taylor Rd.; DUI, Vt. Rte. 15W.

April 4: Animal Problem, Main St.; Citizen Dispute, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served nine survivors of domestic and sexual violence from March 21 through April 4. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, estab-

lished 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

Hardwick Police

DUI, No License, Vehicle Rollover

On March 16, at 10:56 a.m., police were contacted by a woman who has a temporary restraining order (TRO) on Kyle Farrell, of Hardwick. Farrell contacted the woman through Facebook Messenger, which is in violation of his TRO. Farrell was cited to appear at Caledonia County Court on May 10 at 10 a.m.

On March 28, Logan A. Ballard, of Woodbury, was stopped at 4:25 p.m. on Rt. 14 in Hardwick. Police issued two \$162 tickets, one for Operating an Uninsured Vehicle on a State Highway and one for Operating an Unregistered Vehicle on a State Highway.

On March 29, at 12:25 p.m., Donald Stetson, of 142 High St., was cited to appear on May 17 in St. Johnsbury to answer to the charge of Aggravated Disorderly Conduct.

On March 29, police were dispatched to Vt. Rt. 16 in the area of Taylor Road for a one vehicle roll over on the north side of the road, driven by Sharon Bissell, of E. Montpelier.

On March 30, at 10:05 a.m., Jacob A. Perry, of Hardwick, was stopped on S. Main St. in Hardwick.

Police issued a \$162 ticket for a Cell Phone violation.

On April 2, at 4 p.m., Dawn M. Draper, of Hardwick, was stopped on Granite St. Police issued a \$162 ticket for No License.

On April 3 the Hardwick Police department arrested Justin Gilbert, of Cabot, for DUI. He was cited and released.

Michael Mallo, a transient, was seen outside of 2006 Vt. Rt. 15 in Hardwick. Police confirmed Mallo still had an active warrant out of Lamoille County. Mallo was served a citation to appear in Lamoille Criminal Court on April 14 at 12:30 p.m. and released.

Hardwick Police, Hardwick Rescue and Hardwick Fire responded to a single vehicle rollover on Rte. 16 in the town of Hardwick. Lyle Tilton of Wolcott was treated roadside and released. The vehicle was towed by Hill's Garage.

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.

Birdsong

Continued From Page One

places that have popped up during the pandemic that aren't getting enough shelf space yet."

Tandy added that the selection would not strictly be limited to pricey items. "We're still going to have a little bit of everything. We're not going to exclude people who only want more traditional yellow beer. We're just going to be selective about what we choose to stock in that ballpark."

Katie Tandy will be the one in charge of selecting what the store stocks and described the inventory planned as including "a smattering of other stuff from New England, and then other interesting things from beyond, as well." At the outset, the two envision the offerings as "maybe a few hundred SKUs [Stock-Keeping Units] of beer and wine and mead and cider," according to Myles Tandy. "it's based on what sells right off the gate and we're going to be asking for feedback from the community and the customers."

He said of opening during a pandemic, "the challenges are fairly self-evident in that it's just hard to have people in a

small space and start working on a project when the world is uncertain. But the flip side of that is everyone's scared and loan prices are through the floor. The interest rate is great right now, which gives us the opportunity to try and do this."

Beyond the evolving stock of beer and wine, he said "once the world goes back to some semblance of normalcy" Birdsong plans on offering classes and tastings.

"Once we're allowed to have people in person again, we plan to have free tastings, and then hopefully eventually fermentables-related classes. Kombucha, maybe some home brewing of ciders, and meads, and beers, some cheese-making stuff. Nothing crazy complicated, but we're the town that food saved so they tell us, and we want to just keep in that vein, really continue giving back to the agricultural community around us and trying to get people more used to the idea of eating and drinking local to home. Decentralized agriculture's going to save us all."

He added, "Especially coming into hopefully warm weather and being allowed to be outside with your friends again, it's liter bottle

of Austrian wine weather."

The two said that the pandemic partly propelled them into this direction, with Myles saying "our employment changed, our outlook on life changed and it gave us an opening to work on something new."

Katie Tandy said, "And it feels like we're living in a whole different universe now."

The couple brings a combined 27 years of experience in the beer and wine industry. Previously they managed a "high-end shop" in Cambridge, Mass., and Myles Tandy was a manager for three years at the von Trapp Brewery in Stowe.

A major part of their plan

involves offering educated beer and wine advice currently lacking in town to consumers. Myles Tandy said he had "a culinary degree from the Cordon Bleu with wine education, plus a Wine and Spirits Educational Trust certification, plus the bottom level Cicerone certification."

He said "We felt immediately welcomed by Hardwick and going through the process of telling people about this and working with the select board has been really welcoming. Everyone's really excited and everyone is pulling for us and it makes it a lot easier to go through this process and be a lot less scared about what we're doing."

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Manager

Continued From Page One

doable, it's an interim position," he said. He added Jewett would "just keep things rolling" while the board searches for a permanent town manager.

Remick said some town employees had contacted him to say the plan was "a good fit for them, as well."

Board member Shari Cornish made a motion to hire Jewett for the position. She commented on "the ease of having Jon [Jewett] come in. He knows everybody, he knows a lot about how everything works."

Vice Chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane proposed setting a timeframe. Remick suggested it might be better to work out those details in a contract. Cornish suggested an overlap of Jewett's interim term with the new hire, and Fielder said four hours of overlap were already planned for.

The board approved Jewett for the interim town manager position.

The board also heard updates from Fielder

and roads foreman Tom Fadden about several grants. Speaking in his role as fire chief, Fadden said that the department has a new side-by-side four-wheel ATV with a skid unit. The unit is designed for fire and rescue situations on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), with a 55-gallon water capacity and capability to transport injured persons off the trail.

The most recent announcement for grants included a VTrans small-scale grant for \$41,000 and a \$25,000 Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) grant-in-aid.

Fielder said that thanks to a "yeoman's effort" by community development coordinator Geoff Sewake, the \$200,000 USDA Rural Business Development Grant application for the pedestrian bridge had been submitted. "We are hoping to get notification by the end of May," Fielder said.

He elaborated that the \$41,000 grant is the 2021 VTrans Small-Scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant "to be used for replacement of paved sidewalks on Church Street and Maple

Street to a concrete type."

He also mentioned a \$10,000 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economy grant from the Vermont Community Foundation that will be used "for purchase of up to 10 bike racks to be placed at various locations in town and will also use funding for development of information kiosks for those coming off LVRT and or entering."

Fadden said the \$25,000 grant-in-aid from the NVDA came with a \$5,000 match requirement. While plans have not been confirmed, the grant may be used to repair Bridgman Hill Road.

Hardwick also applied for one of ten grants through Congressman Peter Welch's office. The funds would be used to support "construction contingency funding for the Yellow Barn Business Accelerator." The town should learn the status of that grant sometime this month, he said. The ten grants that make it through the first round will be discussed by the House Appropriations Committee "for consideration as part of FY22 Appropriations."

Increase

Continued From Page One

one of the "West Coast variants." A study also indicated that the B.1.1.7 variant had "a 61% higher hazard of death."

Hazen Union classes have been meeting remotely since March 29, and according to the most recent update "there now seems to be evidence that could suggest some in-school spread of COVID. There will be no in-person classes, meetings, activities, or practices of any sort until at least 8 April 2021."

Young people sixteen years of age and older with specific pre-existing conditions, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students are eligible for vaccination right now. While the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) has neither confirmed nor denied it, multiple students have speculated that the surge of cases at Hazen Union started at a basketball game.

Since the start of March, Hazen Union has had a dozen new cases, Craftsbury Academy three, and Hardwick Elementary two.

Superintendent Adam Rosenberg said "I've asked the VDH [Vermont Department of Health] several times whether or not they've determined whether there has been an outbreak. I've been told they're looking at the data but have made no determination."

Some schools in Vermont are reportedly considering requiring proof of vaccination for students returning to in-person learning once the 16-plus age group becomes eligible for vaccination on April 19.

Superintendent Adam Rosenberg said that because it was still weeks away, that particular step was not being

discussed, but there had been "Some discussion around proof of negative test results in order to return to school in fewer than 14 days of quarantine."

The OSSU, the Hardwick Select Board, and Hardwick Area Health Center last week issued a joint statement which reads in part "Vaccination is working, but we need time to get vaccines into more arms. Starting April 19, Vermonters age 16 and up can register for vaccinations. We need to remain vigilant, avoid unnecessary interactions, and always mask up."

Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine made a similar comment, adding that "When there is this much virus around, any gathering is risky." He said he was optimistic about the future but "very concerned" about the current status. "I know this is difficult. But again, we've been at it for over a year; we just need to hang tough for a few more weeks."

On Monday, the state said that the new eligibility band of age 40-plus had seen over 11,000 Vermonters register in 45 minutes. On Tuesday, the state announced the percentage of people who have received at least one dose crossed the 40% mark statewide, with Caledonia County lagging slightly at 38% and Lamoille County ahead at 45%. People aged 30-plus can register starting next Monday, followed by everyone sixteen and older on April 19.

Pfizer's vaccine can be administered to those sixteen and over, Moderna and J&J to patients eighteen and over.

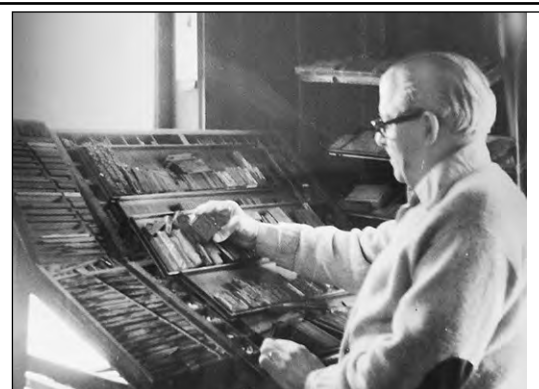
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photo by Vanessa Fournier
A photo taken in Greensboro April 3 pretty much sums up the spring roller coaster weather ride we have been experiencing. Snow, wind, rain, warm and cold temperatures and now muddy roads.

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Fallout from Discontinued Police Contract Continues

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The select board spent a second consecutive meeting dealing with repercussions from Greensboro’s decision to not renew its annual police contract, which will cost Hardwick almost a quarter of the town budget’s entire FY2022 revenues.

At the March 18 meeting, Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Chief Aaron Cochran expressed no short-term concerns because one officer had deployed and another left, but said that after July 1 the force would need to rely on part-time employees or cut services. Beyond that, no clear road map existed except perhaps finding a neighboring town or towns to provide coverage to. At the April 1 meeting, that situation had not changed.

Chief Cochran floated hiring a part-time officer who he said was a former marine and that he was “very impressed with his background.” This officer’s details had not been included in the board’s informational packets or on the agenda.

Chair Eric Remick said, “I don’t have any problem with appointing someone, just I haven’t had time to review it and feel more informed.”

Vice Chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane said that these hires had always been agenda action items. “I’ve got nothing against hiring [them], it’s just the way we’re doing it this time.”

Chief Cochran said he couldn’t explain why the information had not gone into the informational packet and wondered what else the board wanted to know. In past years, his proposed hires have been approved with little discussion.

“I’m at a loss as to why it’s different now,” Chief Cochran said. The board rejected the hire for now in a 2-2 split with Galloway-Kane abstaining, a “nay” from Remick and Gary Bellavance, and Michael Deering and Shari Cornish approving. The board will revisit the matter next week.

Chief Cochran said that this part-time hire was “part of the process” to offset lost revenue from the Greensboro contract. “We’ve got to get some part-time officers in.” He said that “other than what [officers] we have right now, [not doing] anything further would reduce the services to Hardwick [after July 1].” Chief Cochran said that since the last meeting no “solid plan” had been developed to resolve the budget hole.

Bellavance said a Barton selectman had called him about “looking for a little coverage in

Barton” and “said they felt they weren’t received well by the Town of Hardwick.”

Chief Cochran and Fielder said that the characterization was inaccurate. Fielder added “nothing was committed to” in the call and discussions were ongoing. Chief Cochran said that HPD had investigated making an arrangement with Barton but “the biggest primary problem is no radio coverage.” He said HPD’s dispatch contractor “is not going to work” in Barton with no alternatives available via the Vermont State Police or Newport Town and he was not going to put officers in an area without radio coverage. “That would be completely unsafe.”

Barton had contracted with Orleans County Sheriff, but negotiations collapsed early this year when its select board balked at the sheriff’s roughly-\$49,000 police services proposal. According to state data and town reports, even if HPD contracted with adjacent or nearby towns including Albany, Barton, Glover, Elmore, Irasburg, Sheffield/Wheelock, and Woodbury, the amount those towns spend currently on policing either through state police or county sheriffs would still be almost \$100,000 short of the Greensboro contract. The only adjacent town with police spending commensurate to Hardwick is Wolcott, which budgeted \$281,684 for the Lamoille County Sheriff. In recent years, coverage to Wolcott has not been raised at Hardwick select board meetings and only raised once and quickly dropped at a Wolcott meeting.

The closest small-town police force is Brighton/Island Pond’s, which budgeted \$63,017 for part-time policing in 2021 to cover just under half the population of Hardwick. Morristown is almost twice the size of Hardwick and its police budget for FY2022 is \$1,354,240 (compared to Hardwick’s \$981,303).

Chief Cochran said he had been contacted by the family of long-time dispatcher Lisa Fecteau, who passed in early 2019. The family wanted a memorial and proposed a granite bench. Chief Cochran supported “a little area out front of the building, with a flag and flagpole and flowers, done up nice.” He said the family supported that idea and would “purchase what was necessary for that to happen.” Chief Cochran said the town did not have an “adequate flag” right now and this space would afford that opportunity, “someplace where somebody would like to sit, a little bit of a peaceful spot.”



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hardwick 1st class lineman Tyler Kirkpatrick dead ends a replacement wire to a pole on North Main Street in Hardwick last week as part of an upgrade to that section of the system.

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photo by Vanessa Fournier

Bob Duggan (standing) began his workshop on pruning trees inside the community hoop house on Atkins Field Saturday. Eight people attended. Participants (from left, seated) are Leif Goldberg, Heather Davis and Steve Hemenway.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Bob Duggan (right) of East Hardwick, Atkins Field orchard manager, explains how to prune this Seaberry Shrub to Nancy Kellogg (left) of Hardwick, Steve and Iwona Hemenway (center) of Morrisville, and Carol Fairbank (second from right) from Greensboro. Eight participated in the pruning workshop held on Atkins Field April 3.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MY VISIT AT THE HARDWICK VETERINARY CLINIC!

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Twinfield Kindergarten Registration

Twinfield Union School would like to register and welcome kindergarten students for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Registration will be held April 12-16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please come to the main office to pick up and complete registration packets. Your child’s immunization record and a copy of his/her birth certificate are mandatory at the time of registration. No appointment is necessary.

In order to be eligible for kindergarten, your child MUST be five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2021.

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

Cabot School Kindergarten Registration

Cabot School welcomes Kindergarten students to the 2021-2022 school year! Parents of all children who will be five by September 1, 2021, and plan to enroll in Cabot School Kindergarten must register their children during the week of May 3-7, 2021, at Cabot School office.

You may contact Linda Savoca at 563-2289 ext. 0 to set a time to pick up paperwork or email linda.savoca@ccsuvt.net and she will email or mail the forms to you. Please call if you have any questions. Please bring an original birth certificate and vaccination records.

**IMPORTANT DATES: KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
MAY 3 TO MAY 7, 2021**

**NOTICE OF TAX SALE
TOWN OF WALDEN**

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagee of lands and personal property in the Town of Walden in County Caledonia are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 (and/or prior years if unpaid) remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such town, to wit:

REAL ESTATE OF KATHERINE CATES
Being all the same land and premises conveyed to Katherine Cates by Warranty Deed of James R. Patterson and Judith G. Patterson, dated November 1, 1999, and recorded in Book 48, Pages 78-79 of the Walden Land Records, together with a 1992 Redman mobile home and 1974 Mark IV mobile home and an unidentified their mobile home located thereon.

REAL ESTATE OF LAWRENCE AND KATIE SHERMAN
Being a part of all and the same land and premises conveyed to Lawrence Sherman and Katie Sherman by Warranty Deed of Herbert E. Thayer, Jr. and Karen Thayer dated July 10, 2015, and recorded in Book 71, Page 468 of the Town of Walden Land records.

REAL ESTATE OF KIMBERLY MERRIAM F/K/A KIMBERLY KEENE
Being all the same land and premises conveyed to Kimberly C. Keene by Quit Claim Deed of Edward G. Keene, dated December 16, 1999, and recorded in Book 48, Page 285 of the Walden Land Records.

And such lands will be sold at public auction at the Walden Town Clerk’s office, a public place in such Town, on April 22, 2021, at 1 p.m., unless previously paid.

Dated at Walden, Vermont, this 3rd day of March, 2021.
Lina Smith
Delinquent Tax Collector

Upcoming Hardwick Gazette Special Sections

Contact Erica Baker at 472-5019(cell) or bytheponddesign@gmail.com

Please note that we are digital only now and all color ads are FREE!

April

2nd & 3rd week

- **National Car Care Month**
 - Special Rate for the first week of \$6.25/col. Inch
 - Run 2 weeks of ads and get the second for 20%, need to be the same ad.

4th week

- **April is National Gardening Month**
 - special ad rate of \$6.25 a column inch

Coming in May

- Mother’s Day
- Spring Car Care
- Summer Time Fun!
- Summer Camp Week

40 Attend Virtual Town Party

by Helen Beattie

HARDWICK – On March 9, over 40 people from 16 different towns in our area (and one from San Diego!) joined a virtual town party, hosted by Brent McCoy of Vermont Vaudeville, and organized by the Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor group.

The majority of attendees were from Hardwick and Craftsbury and spanned generations in age. The party alternated between full group activities and small breakout groups, with the

technology demands orchestrated by Paul Fixx and Jake Lester.

On a follow-up survey, over 95% of participants noted that the event was either a “total hoot” (65%) or “very engaging (30%). Among the many comments were: “It was so nice to see so many familiar faces and meet new people as well”, and “The format, the fun questions, great MC, and connecting in a joyful space with others.”

The Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor group will host similar events in October, January, and March.

Walden Select Board Accepts Bid for Road Paving

WALDEN – The Walden Select Board met on Monday, March 29, with Brenda Huntoon and Randolph Wilson present in person, and Judy Clifford and Lina Smith via Zoom.

Two bids were received for paving Cabot Road: Pike Industries Inc. for \$185,640 and J. Hutchins Inc. for \$184,800. The board voted to accept the bid from J. Hutchins.

Auditor Judy Clifford noted a letter from the board of auditors setting the select board pay for the coming term year at \$40 per meeting attended. She also asked the board to appoint Daniel Mencucci for a one-year term to the cemetery commission. Randolph Wilson made this motion, which was voted and

passed.

The purchasing policy was reviewed with no changes made and the current budget was reviewed and is on target. Overweight permits, the Green-Up grant request, town plan, and certification of compliance for town roads and bridge standards and network inventory were signed.

Ads will be put in the paper to contract with an excavator with operator to do a Better Roads Project and for roadside mowing. The board discussed additional work on Lower Harrington Hill.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m., at the Firehouse and via Zoom.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK!



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Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley (CHSLV) is excited to announce that we are re-branding as **Lamoille Health Partners**.

While our name is changing, our commitment to providing comprehensive, premier health services to all our neighbors in the Lamoille Valley is stronger than ever.

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(formerly Appleseed Pediatrics)

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Lamoille Health Behavioral Health & Wellness

(formerly Behavioral Health & Wellness Center)

607 Washington Hwy., Morrisville | (802) 888-8320

Lamoille Health Family Dentistry

(formerly Community Dental Clinic)

66 Morrisville Plaza, Morrisville | (802) 888-7585

Lamoille Health Family Medicine, Morrisville

(formerly Morrisville Family Health Care)

609 Washington Hwy., Morrisville | (802) 888-5639

Lamoille Health Family Medicine, Stowe

(formerly Stowe Family Practice)

1878 Mountain Road, Stowe | (802) 253-4853

Learn more at LamoilleHealthPartners.org

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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

ALL EVENTS HELD 9AM-1PM

- APR 24** BARRE TOWN GARAGE
- JUNE 12** TUNBRIDGE TRANSFER STATION
- JULY 10** HARDWICK TOWN GARAGE
- AUG 14** BRADFORD TOWN GARAGE
- SEPT 25** MONTPELIER, DEPT OF LABOR

Payment

- \$20 per car for CVSWMD residents,*
- \$100 for nonresidents

- Pay in exact change or check
- Businesses, towns & schools must register one week ahead; additional fees may apply

* CVSWMD Towns: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, Woodbury.

At drop-off

- Remain in vehicle with mask on
- All haz waste must be in car trunk or truck bed
- Containers will NOT be returned
- No garbage bags
- No batteries, bulbs, propane tanks, mercury devices, or E-waste
- No smoking
- No pets

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Fielder Reflects on His Tenure

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Town Manager Shaun Fielder took time to reflect on his experiences in the nearly-two-and-a-half years on the job.

The select board hired Fielder in December 2018. He announced earlier this month he is not going to renew his employment contract with Hardwick when it is up on May 31. Between now and then, Fielder said he was continuing to work hard, which this week and next includes working with community development coordinator Geoff Sewake to get critical grant applications submitted for the pedestrian bridge.

Fielder said that he knew the position would be very “broad” in terms of what he would be dealing with at the beginning and to always “be prepared for unpredictable things.” Unfortunately, one of those things ended up being a pandemic. But he said that almost “right out of the gate” two very different events proved to be tests of his office.

On February 19, 2019, decades-long police department employee and dispatcher Lisa Fecteau passed away. Fielder was just into his third month as town manager and said “I think it was interesting to me, being new to the role, it was impressive how significant an impact Lisa [Fecteau] had on the community and in the department. And that’s something that wasn’t a surprise, but it re-opens your eyes to how important and respected certain members of the community are for their good work.”

Fielder said this event required a different sort of job for him. “when somebody passes away, you can’t resolve that [like an] issue. You’ve got to do your best to console people around and say ‘Hey, we’re going to work through this, and let’s support each other.’ And the community did that and that was a very rewarding experience to be involved in.”

The second challenge was



photo by Doug McClure

Hardwick Town Manager Shaun Fielder stands on Main Street. He will not be renewing his contract when it is up on May 31. He has been Town Manager since December of 2018.

“In the next one to two years, I’d like to think the pressure cooker of trying to operate in a pandemic will be off. So, it’s going to make it a little bit smoother, but the main point is this: the board’s looking out for the interests of the community. So, it’ll be okay.”

not as bad as he at first expected: the Bridgman Reservoir’s roof collapse. All Fielder said he knew that morning was that for some reason Fire Chief Tom Fadden and another department member were in his office in full turnout gear.

“I immediately went to, ‘oh no, we’ve got something going on involving human life,’ because they’re right here in the office in full turnout gear as it was an emergency response situation. And that’s the first thing I said, actually, is ‘who’s dead?’ And Tom said ‘no, it’s not like that, we’ve just got a cave-in of the reservoir roof.’”

Fielder described dealing with the collapsed roof as “pretty challenging,” but this situation was

different than Fecteau’s passing in terms of his role in response. “Compared to the loss of somebody, the infrastructure issue in the big picture is not a big deal. It’s just, work the problem.” As it would turn out, Fielder’s time in office would deal with several water-related projects, the largest of which, the wastewater treatment plant’s multimillion-dollar upgrades and repairs, is just getting underway.

The pandemic was the big challenge, he said. “We’ve had to put our best foot forward, we’ve had to adjust, had to do for our office operations per the state guidance.” Fielder said. “The way we’ve conducted business has changed, but we’ve still had to do our best to provide town services for the community. Change and the adaptability factors have been exponential these past thirteen

months.”

He credited the town’s “great group of people, dedicated public servants” for their commitment over these months and managing to keep work going despite all the roadblocks, such as the construction stoppage last summer due to lockdown.

When Fielder started the position in 2018, he said “I want people to know I’m vested in seeing continued positives for this town. That’s what I’m excited about.” He now said that the board has continued capital planning and done its work well.

“In the next one to two years, I’d like to think the pressure cooker of trying to operate in a pandemic will be off. So, it’s going to make it a little bit smoother, but the main point is this: the board’s looking out for the interests of the community. So, it’ll be okay.”

Fielder said he had just become eligible and signed up for a COVID vaccination. He encouraged others to do so, as well, and wanted “just to remind folks to keep following the recommended standards. That includes social distancing measures, that includes masking. We’ve got a little ways to go before we’re back to normal.”

EDUCATION

Richards named to Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. – The University of Rhode Island has announced that Bryson Richards of Plainfield has been named to the fall 2020 Dean’s List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

NOTICE TOWN OF HARDWICK HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Town of Hardwick Public Works Department will be conducting hydrant flushing during the week of April 19 - 23. Flushing will begin at North Main Street. All hydrants in the Village will be flushed. If you experience dirty water, please let your faucets run until the water clears. If you have any concerns, please contact the Town Manager’s office at 472-6120.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Library Celebrates Poetry Month

HARDWICK – Jeudevine Library will be having two programs to celebrate National Poetry Month: creating a community crowd-sourced poem and an open-mic poetry share.

The community crowd-sourced poem will be created by everyone who is willing to send a sentence (or two) to the library on the subject of “new beginnings.” Inspired by author Kwame Alexander’s crowd-sourced poems for National Public Radio, the library is going to write a community poem. People of all ages, from children to seniors, are encouraged to contribute.

The crowd-sourced community poem will be published on the library’s website during National Poetry Month in April. Contributions are due by Friday, April 16. Submissions may be emailed to jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.org

org with the subject: Beginning; mailed to the library at PO Box 536; or dropped off into the library book return in an envelope with the word Beginning.

Contributors will be recognized by name unless anonymity is requested.

The open-mic poetry share will be held on William Shakespeare’s birthday Friday, April 23, at 5:15 p.m., at the Atkins Field Pavilion.

For those who wish to read a poem, call or email the library to get on the list. Everyone who wants to read will read.

The share will take place rain or shine and participants should bring a chair. The event is open to all ages.

For information call 472-5948 or email jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.org.

Craftsbury Community Care Center Raffling Gravel Bike

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Community Care Center is holding a fundraiser by offering a chances to win a Marin DSX2 gravel bicycle in collaboration with Chuck’s Bikes in Morrisville.

This is the Care Center’s second raffle, following last summer’s canoe raffle. As a non-profit residential care home providing support to elders from all socioeconomic sectors (including Medicaid-based), fundraising is always critical to closing financial gaps for the Care Center.

The Marin gravel bike is a \$1,300 value and only 250 tickets

will be sold; the drawing will be Saturday, May 1, at 2 p.m. at the Care Center. The winner can choose either a large (fits a person 5’7” - 6’1”) or medium sized bike, and Hank Glowiak of Chuck’s Bikes will adjust it to fit; or the winner can choose a different model with a \$790 trade-in. The winner picks up the bike at Chuck’s Bikes in Morrisville.

Tickets are \$25 each and available online at craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org, from Chuck’s Bikes in Morrisville, or from Craftsbury Community Care Center board members.

Owls and Their Calls on April 23

GREENSBORO/HARDWICK – The Greensboro and Jeudevine libraries will present a one-hour virtual program about owls on Friday, April 23, at 10 a.m., with the Vermont Institute for Natural Science.

This program includes live owls and an audible demonstration of the sounds of local owls. Participants will learn the defining characteristics and adaptations for life

as a nocturnal predator on the wing.

For those who would like to dissect an owl pellet at home before the program, they will be available while supplies last.

Sign up to receive the Zoom link and/or an owl pellet with a local librarian : Diane Grenkow (Jeudevine in Hardwick) jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.org, or Emily Purdy (Greensboro) greensborokids@gmail.com.

PoemTown St. Johnsbury Events Run Through April

ST. JOHNSBURY – Catamount Arts, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, and the St. Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring events for PoemTown St. Johnsbury, a celebration of National Poetry month in April.

PoemTown St. Johnsbury papers shop windows and storefronts with poems, hosts readings and remembrances, and decorates the town with yellow haiku circles.

This year’s programming includes two Zoom events hosted by the Athenaeum: an open mic poetry reading on Friday, April 16, at 6 p.m., and a Robert Frost Remembrance on Sunday, April 25, at 4 p.m. Members of the public are also encouraged to contribute haiku circles throughout the month of April for inclusion in PoemTown St. Johnsbury decorations.

The open mic Zoom event on Friday, April 16, invites readers of all ages to share a poem -- theirs or someone else’s -- or attend as a spectator. Those wishing to read a poem must register online in advance to secure a slot in the program. Readers are not required to read their own work. They may

read an original poem of their own writing, or they may read a selection from a favorite poet.

The Robert Frost Remembrance event, also on Zoom, will celebrate the poetry and legacy of the long-time Vermont resident and poet laureate. This event is organized by the Northeast Storytellers and hosted by the Athenaeum. To participate in this event by presenting or merely attending, please register in advance at the Athenaeum web site.

Selections of poetry to be pasted on shop windows and storefronts have already been collected, but it’s not too late to contribute haikus to decorate downtown. All are welcome through the entire month of April to pick up a yellow paper circle at Cosmic Cup Café on Eastern Avenue or on Railroad Street at Boxcar & Caboose or Moose River Lake & Lodge. Write a haiku in black ink on your circle, and then drop it off anytime this month in the bin on the front steps of Catamount Arts.

For more information on PoemTown St. Johnsbury, visit catamountarts.org and stjathenaeum.org.

EDUCATION

Putvain Nominated for Engineering Recognition

RANDOLPH CENTER – Students in Vermont Tech’s School of Engineering and Computing were nominated by program faculty for demonstrating academic excellence, student leadership, professionalism, and engineering-based analysis and problem solving. Nominated for Student Engineering Technician or Student Engineer of The Year was Malcolm Putvain of Wolcott. Putvain is studying Software Engineering Technology, Bachelor of Science.

Nominees provided a written essay and were invited to participate in an interview

process with the faculty review committee. In their deliberations, the committee acknowledged that each of the nominees demonstrated individual excellence in their respective programs. Despite the high level and quality of the nominations, the committee was unanimous in its decisions.

The award-winning students were recognized at the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers event in February. Their ceremony was part of E-Week, the national celebration of engineering professionals and their work.

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, April 8

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@wonderartsvt.org or 802-472-6857.

PARENT CAFE SERIES, hosted by Healthy Lamoille Valley, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. A monthly gathering designed to highlight a community resource or parenting skill and encourage conversation with other parents/caregivers. Preregistration and information: healthylamoillevalley.org/parent-cafe-series.

Friday, April 9

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.
ets at highlandartsvt.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, April 10

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

Monday, April 12

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 week-

ly 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-artcommunity/virtual-art-prompts/> with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org.

Tuesday, April 13

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.

Wednesday, April 14

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

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.

Exhibits

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

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



Theresa Davis of Center Road in Hardwick made this Snow Bunny on April 1.
photo by Vanessa Fournier

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

I Lay Still for a Few Seconds

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – About a week ago, in literally the blink of an eye, I went from giving Kiki a treat to lying face-down on the tile floor of the kitchen. It was, thankfully, my own damn fault, and not a systemic collapse.

I often dispense treats by holding them between my lips and bending over, holding onto the countertops, left and right, about four feet apart; she dances on her hind legs to reach the treat. But one hand slipped, then both. I must have turned my head instinctively, because I hit the floor with my left eyebrow and bridge of the nose. The tired old pair of reading glasses I was wearing went every which way; the little peanut butter-flavored treat was in pieces; and there was a little blood on the floor. Nose-bleed. I lay still for a few seconds to check my various systems.

Kiki, who had somehow vaporized before I reached the spot where she'd been dancing, came back to collect the scattered pieces of the treat, and then to inquire anxiously how I was doing. I wrestled myself back onto my feet and headed for the paper towel rack about eight feet away, thinking, "By golly, I ain't gonna do that again!" The nosebleed stopped right away. I poured a cup of coffee and headed for the safety of my office chair, but still hanging onto the paper towel.

A couple of days later, when the scabs had formed on my forehead and the bridge of my nose, I posted a selfie on Facebook. Clearly, it resonated: To this moment, it's gathered 572 hits and 265 comments. My Facebook pals seem to be of mature years and, I'd venture, mostly bipedal; many of them have fallen; and almost as many have stories to tell and advice to dispense. Some have stumbled on the top step and fallen down whole flights of stairs; some assume the tile floor is slippery (it isn't); many offer advice for prevention of future incidents; and a few are humorous.

The whole experience has prompted a week of reflection on the hazards of old age and the measures necessary to extend it as far as possible. I noticed during the days following the crash that I was a little wobblier on my feet than usual. Luckily, I'm not playing in the National Football League. I treated that symptom less as one of trauma – there's naught can be done about it – than as a harbinger of

future disability. That in mind, I considered the features of old age.

For simplicity's sake, I've focused on those of us 75 and older – what I call the First Flight of COVID Vaccinees – and what we face as we enjoy a privilege denied many of our contemporaries.

Our five-minute mile, if it ever existed, is gone. Our minds are full of memories, some disastrous and others melodic (like waking up in the morning to an earworm of Glenn Miller's "Pennsylvania 6-5000"); yet we often strain for the word or a name we want, and wonder as we do if it's the start of something more threatening.

It's hard for me to believe that I'll never climb Mount Katahdin again, or that the woman smiling at me from the photo beside my computer isn't ever again going to call from the next room, or that the worst hazard I face in daily life is raised door sills. That it's not possible anymore to just stand up from a chair and start walking without shifting, as it were, from Park to Drive. That the loss of sensation almost imperceptibly creeping up my legs probably isn't going to stop. That at least half a dozen of my old friends no longer recognize me.

It's easy to reflect gloomily on the apparent lack of improvement in human nature over millennia: that we're still just rolling rocks down upon each other. That far too many of us want more than our share and are willing to make others suffer in order to get it. That the hills above Ventura and the hills above Wheeling, though both in the United States, are galaxies apart. That no nation can long accommodate both multiple billionaires and tens of thousands of financially struggling citizens. That the climate is sending us ineluctable signals about our future environment.

On the other hand, there are many exciting things going on that I can hardly imagine being disengaged from: the exploration of Mars, which in my childhood was still thought to be covered in "canals;" the triumph of medical science over cancer, muscular dystrophy, and Alzheimer's; the dawning of a new age of innovation in sustainable energy. Also, as days like today, warming into the 50s and luring the little open roadster from the barn, the dog whining with eagerness as we climb the hill into the park, and finally her pure joy as I trudge my 55-minute miles and she scours the woods for squirrels and pumas– these are pleasures that make me so happy to be still around.

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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MEETING MEMO

Thursday, April 8

•Caledonia Cooperative School District, Full Board of Directors' Informational Meeting, 6 p.m. <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/83248199451?pwd=OC85cUdZWmdjZEpuelRPejJnN2FSUT09>. Meeting ID: 832 4819 9451. Dial 1-646-558-8656.

Monday, April 12

•Caledonia Cooperative School District Full Board of Directors' Regular Meeting, 6 p.m. <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/88616704863?pwd=dG0wUWNtdVdLc3N4Q0ZEOW-hvMyszdz09>. Meeting ID: 886 1670 4863. Passcode: 937501. Dial

1-646-558-8656.

Town Websites, Town Clerks

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



IN THE GARDEN

Vegetables: When Is It Time to Plant?

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I know some gardeners that plant their potatoes or tomatoes in the garden on the same day every year. Not me. I think planting time is best based not only on the last frost date in your garden, but also the soil temperature and up-to-date weather predictions. And of course, late frosts do occur unexpectedly and can wipe out your tomato or pepper seedlings. So, don't jump the gun.

The internet has many guides and suggestions for when you should plant, but I think an experienced next-door neighbor probably has a better sense of when to plant. So, for example, one internet source says the last frost for Cornish Flat, is May 15, while another internet sources says June 11 to 20. That's

programmed not to germinate if the soil is too cold. That makes sense: seedlings are tender and many can be damaged by frost. So, you can plant spinach or pea seeds "as early as you can work the soil", according to the package, but they may not germinate for weeks if the soil is cold, and they may rot.

Seeds can rot in cold, wet soil. Corn seeds are particularly susceptible to rot, and many are treated with fungicides to prevent rotting. But as organic gardeners, we should avoid treated seeds.

If you are in a hurry, you can warm up the soil. First, rake off any fall leaves or other mulch from you garden beds. That will allow the sun to warm the soil, and air to evaporate some of the melted snow and spring rains that make the soil soggy.

Raised beds help with



courtesy photo

Soil thermometers are useful tools for deciding when to plant.

over a month of difference! But perhaps an old timer in your town can advise you, depending on your exact location.

My vegetable garden is in a low spot, with hills on either side. Cold air slides downhill, so I am cautious about planting too early. Often there is a late frost in my garden, but not around my house, which is 15 or 20 feet uphill. Rivers, lakes and the ocean can have a warming effect, too. The closer you are to the Connecticut River or the Atlantic Ocean, the sooner you can plant.

It is often thought that a full moon will cause late frosts. But a friend of mine used the frost data his mother had collected over decades and compared it to the phases of the moon. He observed that the moon does not seem to affect frost dates.

Soil temperature is important, too. Seeds are genetically

drainage. My vegetable garden is near a stream and the water table is high, especially in spring when it is occasionally flooded. Each fall I shape my beds for spring, raking soil into the beds before covering them with leaves. In the spring I rake the leaves into the walkways, but after the soil has warmed up in mid-June, I will put down hay and newspapers around my plants.

If you want to warm the soil and kill any annual weeds that start growing early in the season, you can cover the soil with clear plastic. If you get what is called "4-mil" plastic, you can re-use it. Flimsy stuff sold to painters is not usually reusable. Be sure to pin down the edges or, better yet, put soil or boards over the edges to keep wind from lifting the plastic and cooling the soil.

On a sunny day, the temperature under the plastic can exceed 100 degrees, "solarizing"



courtesy photo

Row cover with hoops helps to keep insects off and keep plants warm.

weeds and killing them. Perennial weeds and grasses will have their tops browned, but it will not kill the roots unless you do this for a long time.

So, what seeds can you plant early? Spinach, peas, lettuce can be planted three to six weeks before last frost. In the fall I let a few lettuce plants flower and go to seed. Those seeds fall on the soil and start up much earlier than I plant any lettuce. But I also start lettuce indoors to get nice sized plants in the ground in May for early eating. Carrots, beets, onion sets, and radishes can go in the ground a week or two before last frost.

Tomato, pepper and squash family seedlings I plant in mid-June, well after last frost, because I want the soil to reach at least 60 degrees before planting. Because I am bothered by a beetle that eats my cukes and squash I start those indoors instead of by seed outdoors. When the vines are about six inches long I plant them outdoors. By then they will survive any beetle munching.

Before planting any seedling

outdoors, be sure to harden off the plants. That means to start putting the seedlings outdoors a few hours a day and increasing their exposure over the period of a week or so. You should do this for store-bought seedlings, too, as they have probably been protected from sunburn and windburn inside a greenhouse. But ask at the nursery if they are hardened off.

You can protect seedlings from light frost by covering them with something called row cover, Reemay, or Agribon. These are spun agricultural fabrics that come in five-foot wide swaths that you can cut to fit your rows. Unlike plastic sheeting, this stuff breathes and allows moisture to pass through it. Buy the wires sold to support it and form hoops over your plants. It will also keep bugs off your plants, but you need to remove it when vine crops start to bloom as they are insect pollinated.

The more you garden, the more you know. But we never know exactly when a late killing frost will come. So, I am always the last on the block to get my garden planted. But my plants catch up.



courtesy photo

These raised beds are draining nicely but are still too cold and wet to plant.

Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



“ALL ARRIVALS MUST QUARANTINE FOR TWO WEEKS!”

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Rural Ramblings

The Emerald Ash Borer: Coming to an Ash Tree Near You

by Jerry Schneider

HARDWICK – Hear ye, hear ye, coming to an ash tree near you! According to the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), has been confirmed recently in a tree in Marshfield. This means that Hardwick is now either within the “high-risk area” (a ten-mile radius from that tree) or in the “confirmed infested area” (within five miles of the beetle).

Since it’s likely introduction in the early- to mid-1990s in Michigan (eggs or larvae hitching rides on cargo ships and airplanes, from its native Asia), the bug has reached far and wide, and now is here in our back yard. The website vtinvasives.org has a map of the infested areas, including confirmed infested area (red blotches) and an outer buffer area that includes high risk areas.

When the beetle eventually reaches Hardwick, any infected tree will die within three to five years. According to the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VUCFP), the EAB

attacks all three species of ash in the state and has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America (bad news for manufacturers of baseball bats).

It would be good to start marking ash trees that pose a hazard, either in town or along roads. Once those trees become infected (there are signs - larval galleries and exit holes), they should be cut down. There are ways to cut and dispose of the wood so that we are not spreading beetle eggs or larvae. The vtinvasives.org site has a link and recommendations to slow the spread of EAB.

The VUCFP is reaching out to all municipalities within the most recently documented infested areas, and sharing resources. Individual landowners should be aware of the EAB and plan for it. The town is aware of it and has asked the Hardwick Conservation Commission to discuss the EAB at its April meeting. The commission will be looking at how to move forward with the issue.

[Editor’s note: Jerry Schneider is a member of the Hardwick Conservation Commission.]



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hardwick Elementary first graders celebrated the 100th day of school and Dr. Seuss’s birthday by creating this spring scene of characters from his books with the help of art teacher Beth LeCours. Their work is displayed on the front lobby windows of the school.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Greensboro Police Services

To the editor:

In anticipation of questions about Greensboro’s current and next year’s police services contracts, the select board has posted multiple documents on the greensborovt.org website. Our purpose is to provide the relevant data regarding recent HPD contract negotiations and our new relationship with Orleans County Sheriff’s department. This inten-

tionally objective assessment is the Greensboro selectboard’s attempt to avert misunderstandings and inaccurate public statements. Everyone is encouraged to review the documents listed under Greensboro Police Services on the town website homepage. If you still have questions, contact a selectboard member in your town.

Peter Romans
Greensboro

In Support of Further Vigilance

To the editor:

We are all tired of COVID and want nothing more than life to return to normal. It seemed that we were very close, but unfortunately cases are on the rise once again. This is likely due to several factors: because Vermont has done so well with controlling infections, most people are still susceptible; variant strains are circulating that are more contagious; the relaxing of social distancing rules; and pandemic fatigue.

With increasing cases, we run the risk of having to tighten the spigot once again. This could mean restricting social gathering even more, closing schools, limiting visitation of the elderly in nursing homes or patients in hospitals, closing restaurants and other businesses, and further limiting travel. More people will also become sick, some will need to be hospitalized,

and some will have long-term health issues or even die as a result.

Vaccination is working, but we need time to get vaccines into more arms. Starting April 19, Vermonters age 16 and up can register for vaccinations. We need to remain vigilant, avoid unnecessary interactions, and always mask up. It is essential that everyone consider what is at stake and make personal sacrifices over the next few months to slow the rate of COVID infections. This will ultimately bring us more freedom and save lives.

We are almost there! We have made it this far. Please try to hang in there for just a little bit longer.

Sarah Morgan, MD
Hardwick Health Center,
Hardwick Select Board
Orleans Southwest
Supervisory Union

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COLLEGE CORNER

Seniors: It's April, the Power is all Yours

by Joyce Slayton Mitchell

Seniors, the month of April is your month. It is when the power to choose your college and send your deposit to reserve your freshman place is all yours. Due May 1.

April is your month. Pandemic year. This year is different. Questions are different. You have to ask: Is the campus planning to be open next September or not? Is the college bringing freshman to their dorms or not? What is the meal plan on campus? Are classes in-person or online? Or both? These are the basic questions for you to ask and results (for the moment) to understand before you deposit.

You've got your acceptances and your waitlists. Tend to those waitlists first! If you like your acceptances, then don't bother staying on a waitlist. Move on to learning more about your acceptances. Remember this, we all like best what we know best.

You have all of April to check out the colleges that you can afford and to decide which is best for you.

You've received your financial packages telling you how much you have to pay, how much your parents have to pay, how much your loans are worth, and how much aid, scholarship or grants you are receiving from the colleges. Often you learn that there's a gap of a few or more thousand dollars with no idea where that money is coming from.

Let's say the college costs \$63,000 a year. The expected contributions from you and your parents, the loans, and work-study all amount to \$40,000. That difference between what the college has figured out for you and what you've got or can borrow is \$23,000 and is called "gapping." The colleges realize from the forms you sent them, that you need more money than is accounted for. They do that because they can't afford to pay 100% of your need. They have also found that sometimes grandparents or others come up with the difference in cost, or there is money available not reported. It doesn't really matter why they gap, the point you should know is that it isn't a mistake in calculations on their part.

What can you do about it? If you have more than one acceptance, you can go to the college that you can afford. Often students tell me that they like best the college with the least amount of money offered to them. That happens.

You and your family have to decide how much indebtedness a particular college is worth to you; others can't decide it for you. Many families have no idea how much indebtedness to manage, because it's such a new thing in the family experience. Parents can't compare your debt with what debt they had for college, or even for older siblings. The cost of higher education takes much more of a family's income than

it used to, regardless of inflation and changing economic times. Just to give you a ballpark figure, \$25,000 to \$50,000 isn't unusual for a four-year indebtedness.

Can you negotiate? Yes, you can, and you have the advantage if you have a better package from another college in order to make your case. And if there has been a major change in the family economics (a parent has lost her job since applying to the college, major medical bills), then by all means, call the director of financial aid and explain the changed circumstances.

Finally, the website sponsored by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators is the best resource for you, other than the college financial aid director. That address is finaid.org. Check it out and don't hesitate to send in your questions to the financial aid website before you get in touch with the college.

Now for all of those pandemic-related questions. Never have there been more unanswered questions for you about the college experience than during these pandemic years. So, whether they can be answered or not, ask! The best information you can get will be to ask what they did this past year with freshman: housing on campus, remote learning from campus or home or both? All freshman on campus at once or half for each semester and at home for the alternate semester? What did they do with

students who tested positive for COVID-19 after they were on campus? Sent them home, or placed them in one dormitory? How was the meal plan organized? Anything you wonder and worry about that is pandemic related - anything at all - don't ask what the policy is, ask what action was taken for the freshman class of 2020-2021.

As bad as it is, and as difficult it is to make decisions this COVID-19 year, at least the colleges have had a year of experience in the pandemic to learn from and tell you about.

You can be sure that the colleges will keep you up to date when they expect you on campus, and keep you informed of their pandemic rules and regulations. As questions occur during this summer, keep up with all of the "pandemic year 2021-2022" news until you are packed and on your way in the fall.

Ask your school counselor who your high school rep is from the college where you send your deposit. Get his or her email and stay in touch with any new pandemic questions that arise.

The more you know about where you are going and changes being made as we all plough through this pandemic season, the better you will be able to handle the situation. After all, you have pandemic experience this high school year and know a thing or two about how to handle it best for you.

[Editor's note: Joyce Slayton Mitchell is a part-time resident of Hardwick and author of "Who Is This Kid? Colleges Want to Know! Writing Exercises for Winning Applications."]



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hardwick Electric linemen Trevar Molleur (left) and Tyler Kirkpatrick (right) pull in new wire with the old wire using the winch on the digger truck. As part of an upgrade, the smaller primary wire is being replaced by a larger one.

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Caledonia Unit Docket No.: 21-PR-00605

In re Estate of: Lexcy Prah

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: Lexcy Prah, late of Hardwick, Vermont.

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

Dated: 3-23-2021

Signature of Fiduciary: Seth Prah
Executor/Administrator: Seth Prah
c/o Stackpole & French Law Offices
P.O. Box 819, Stowe, Vermont 05672
(802) 253-7339

efrench@stackpolefrench.com

Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette
Publication Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021
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ROOF REPLACEMENT-WOODBURY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Town of Woodbury and the Woodbury Library Trustees are requesting bids for the roof replacement at the Woodbury Community Library, 69 Valley Lake Road, Woodbury, Vermont. Paper copies of the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained at the Woodbury Town Offices, 1672 Vermont Route 14, Woodbury, Vermont, Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Phone number: (802) 456-7051. Electronic copies are available on the Woodbury Town Web Site www.woodburyvt.org/records/requests-for-proposals/

Bids are due in the Town Office by 1 p.m., on May 5, 2021. Electronic bid responses will not be accepted.

A mandatory site visit is planned for Friday, April 23, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Technical questions may be directed to: Michael Gray (802) 456-1983 or wsbmgray@gmail.com



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SPORTS

Twinfield Trojans Begin Spring Baseball Practice



Twinfield junior Hunter Clark catches during baseball practice on March 29.

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Twinfield coach Avery Whitcomb (left) watches as freshman Sam Russell (right) practices his pitching. Baseball practice began Monday.



Twinfield coach Brandon Lawrence (left) holds a hitting stick as Phin Gadd (right) takes a swing at it.



Brandon Lawrence (left) and Avery Whitcomb (right) are the new coaches for the Twinfield baseball team this year.

SPORTS

Local Hoopsters Take Home VBCA Honors



Natalie Geoffroy



Alleigh Gabaree



Isaiah Baker



Macy Molleur



Alexa Christensen



Jadon Baker



Gavin Fowler

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – For a second straight year, the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association(VBCA) Senior All-Star Game will not be played due to COVID-19 concerns, but several local star student athletes were still recognized for their outstanding seasons and careers on the hard court over the weekend.

Hazen Union’s Natalie Geoffroy and Alleigh Gabaree were selected to the Division III-IV senior North Team, along with Melaina Fogg and Gracie Beck of Peoples Academy. Autumn Larocque and Carlie Belivieau of Danville were selected to the senior South Team. Gabaree was also an All-Mountain League second team selection, along with fellow senior Macy Molleur. Sophomore Alexis Christensen was an honorable mention and

Geoffroy was given the Peter Hartt Award for demonstrating strong work ethic, compassion, devotion to her team, and respect to coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials.

Fogg and Beck were also All-Mountain League first team selections, along with Danville’s Colleen Flinn. Shelby Wells of Peoples Academy took home Player of the Year honors and her coach Amanda Tingaud was awarded Coach of the Year honors for their outstanding season.

Flinn and Wells were also selected to the Vermont Dream Team by the VBCA for their outstanding play as underclassmen. Former Cabot legend Billy Waller reached the 300-career win milestone as a head coach and earned Coach of the Year honors after guiding the Vergennes girls’ basketball team to the Division III title game last month.

Hazen Union’s Isaiah Baker was a Division III-IV senior North Team selection on the boys’ side after leading the Wildcats in scoring for a third straight season. Baker ended his career with the second most points scored in school history, behind only Tim Shedd. Twinfield’s Gavin Fowler was also a first team selection after leading the Trojans in scoring for a third straight year. Danville’s Ethan Gould and Logan Young, along with PA’s Charlie Veit and Tamirat Tomlinson, were also selected to the first team. Jadon Baker had a breakout sophomore year for the Wildcats and was rewarded with a VBCA Vermont Dream Team selection. Mountain League honors were not given out on the boys’ side this season due to the abbreviated schedules.

photos by Vanessa Flournier