

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

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## Wolcott Voters Torpedo School Budget

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT -- At town meeting on March 2, Wolcott voters declined to accept a fifteen-cent increase in property tax the board previously said was necessary to do right by the town's children.

Voters shot down the board's proposed budget, 138-91. On January 14, Board Chair Gordon Young said he thought "investing in our kids is the best thing there is to do" and "the cost of

not educating our next generation can't be calculated." Students who struggle in school can be set off "on a trajectory that can have life-long impact," Young said. "Any cut from this is not the right thing."

The increase was in part due to issues beyond the board's control. Wolcott's Common Level of Appraisal dropped to 94.21% accounting for almost two cents of the increase.

Also, high schools increased tuition costs due to an unusually

large number of students going to secondary schools, which the town is required to cover under state law. The two previous budgets were missing "good chunks" of actual tuition costs: \$44,500 in preschool tuition and another \$67,000 in secondary education tuition.

"Somehow in prior year's budgets we spent money on preschool, I remember signing those vouchers, and somehow that did not get that figured into those budgets?" Young asked.

Upon getting the results, Wolcott Elementary Principal Matt Foster said "We are looking forward to bringing back another budget to the Wolcott community for passage. We understand that our community has experienced very extreme circumstances during the past year and that can make budget decisions more difficult for everyone."

Chair Young said he was "disappointed, but not shocked"

See WOLCOTT, 3



Maggie Lee



Anna Kolosky



Jenny Grosvenor



Brittnay Heffermehl

## UVM Student Reporters Expand Gazette Coverage

HARDWICK -- Three University of Vermont students are reporting for the Gazette this semester.

The student reporters are members of UVM's Community News Service (CNS), which is a project of the university's Reporting & Documentary Storytelling (RDS) program. According to the UVM website, the Community News Service is "a student powered partnership with local community papers ... which pairs student reporters with professional editors to provide community-scale content at no cost."

The program's primary goals are to train student journalists and

See REPORTERS, 4

## Greensboro Voters Consistent in Voice

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO -- Voters approved all but two articles at the annual town meeting on March 2.

Town Clerk Kim Greaves reported 268 people cast votes by Australian ballot - approximately 100 more voters than typically participate in town meeting.

An electronic tabulating machine enabled votes to be counted by 9 p.m.; polls closed at 7 p.m.

"It went very well," Greaves said. "Everything passed [except] a couple of things brought up by petition. People still want town meeting and all town officials elected at the town meeting."

Incumbent Tracy Collier won a two-year select board term against challenger Mike V. Sardina, with Collier earning 180 votes to Sardina's 40.

See CONSISTENT, 2



photo by Brittnay Heffermehl  
Justice of the Peace Stew Arnold (left) and Greensboro resident Emily Stone right vote on Town Meeting Day.

## Residents Vote on Town Meeting Day

by Brittnay Heffermehl

GREENSBORO -- Greensboro town office opened for voters at 10 a.m., allowing

See VOTE, 2

## Hardwick Select Board Reorganizes

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK -- Town Meeting came and went without any disruptive results. Voters approved the wastewater bond, 428-107, and the Hardwick town budget, 384-107.

The board met for its organizational meeting. The new members are Gary Bellavance, elected with 366 votes, and Michael Deering, elected with 323 votes. Shari Cornish was re-elected with

no opposition and 451 votes. The write-in bid by Lawrence Hamel did not succeed, with 104 votes cast for him. Elizabeth Dow and Lucian Avery retired from the board.

Beyond organizational tasks, the board conducted little business at the meeting. Eric Remick was re-appointed board chair on Cornish's motion, seconded by Bellavance. While the board offered congratulations, Remick laughed, "I'm not sure congratulations are in

See BOARD, 3

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**Consistent**

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Mark Snyder won the second constable position against Robert Young, with Snyder collecting 142 votes to Young's 73.

It was a close contest for two petitions presented in Articles 3 and 4. Article 3 sought to have all open elected positions voted by Australian ballot in future elections, but was narrowly defeated with 140 voting "No" and 120 voting "Yes."

If approved, Article 3 would have required candidates for elected office to obtain approximately seven signatures for their name to appear on an Australian ballot. Candidates would have also needed to campaign prior to the election, as nominations would not have been allowed from the floor.

Article 4, which sought to have changes to bylaws or ordinances voted on by Australian ballot, narrowly failed with 134 voting "No" and 126 voting "Yes."

Voters overwhelmingly approved the municipal budget of \$1,574,491 for the coming fiscal year with 247 voting "Yes" and 17 voting "No." The approved budget represents a 4.3 percent decrease from last year, \$70,143. Despite the decrease, the municipal tax rate is expected to increase 2.1 percent. The town fact sheet circulated prior to the town meeting stated last year \$100,000 in reserves was used to reduce the FY21 municipal tax rate. Taxpayers faced significant increase in the educational tax rate, the fact sheet said.

Voters supported an additional \$78,000 to fund the highway equipment reserve fund (HERF). Transferring money from the 2021 highway fund to HERF was approved in the event of a surplus in the highway fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Setting aside money for future expenses was viewed favorably by voters, who approved \$190,000 for the capital budget fund (CBF), a reserve fund, by a margin of 239 votes for and 25 votes against. The CBF is used for major projects in maintaining the town's buildings and paying off the loan on the fire station.

Newly elected Town Treasurer Greaves, First Constable Rick Walsh, and Second Constable Mark Snyder will serve short terms as voters approved the positions to be appointed, rather than elected, in the future. The select board has 45 days in which to make appointments to these offices with Article 1 and Article 2 approved overwhelmingly.

Article 1, which garnered 230 "Yes" to 28 "No" votes, authorizes the select board to appoint a town treasurer under 17 V.S.A., Sect. 2651f. Article 2 authorizes the board to

appoint a first constable and second constable if needed, in accordance with 17 V.S.A. Sect. 2651a. Article 2 was approved with 224 "Yes" to 40 "No" votes.

Fourth of July fireworks had a win, with 172 voting "Yes" to fireworks and 91 voting "No."

Voters supported both the elderly and the young by approving Articles 13, 14, and 15. Article 13 sought \$22,500 for the Greensboro Nursing Home and prevailed with 243 "Yes" to 24 "No" votes. Article 14 requested \$10,500 for the Craftsby Community Care Center and prevailed with 227 "Yes" to 40 "No" votes.

The 4Seasons of Early Learning childcare center was supported in its \$9,500 request with 244 voting "Yes" and 20 voting "No."

The Hardwick Rescue Squad received solid support for its \$14,947 request, with voters approving by 261 to six. The Hardwick Area Food Pantry's appropriation of \$2,500 was sustained on a 256 "Yes" to 11 "No" vote.

"Overall, it was a unique year doing a lot by Zoom," Greaves said. "It wasn't always easy to do. A lot of information was sent out and placed on the town's website."

The town held three informational meetings via Zoom prior to town meeting to educate voters on the Australian voting process.

"We are looking forward to an in-person meeting next year" Greaves said. "Town meeting is about having lunch there and being together. We're looking forward to COVID going away."

**Vote**

**Continued From Page One**

voters to either vote in person or drop their ballots in a designated box outside. Emily Stone arrived early to drop off her ballot. Bundled from head to toe, she came prepared for the freezing temperatures.

Stone told about her new acquaintances in Greensboro after having just moved from the Boston area and is still shifting to a more localized small town voting style. She was eager to say that she has always felt it important to vote on issues that are crucial to you and for the town. "I have been voting since I was 18" she said.

Arriving soon after polls opened, Justice of the Peace Stew Arnold spoke a few words on the shift to Australian Ballots, "I would like to have more people to have the opportunity to vote. I think it's appropriate to hold this year and the hundreds of towns doing it. But it's something I'd like to see voted on at next year's town meeting day," said Arnold.



**March 10 - March 16**

<b>March Sales Event all of March New Items on Sale Each Week</b>		<b>Corned Beef Point Cut \$4.39 lb. Flat Cut \$5.99 lb.</b>
<b>Eggo Waffles \$1.68 12.3 oz.</b>	<b>Hood 1/2 + 1/2 Creamer 98¢ 16 oz.</b>	<b>Food Club Cranberry Cocktail \$1.99 64 oz.</b>
<b>Folgers Coffee 2/\$5 10.3-11.3 oz.</b>	<b>Betty Crocker Supreme Brownie Mix \$1.99 16.5-18 oz.</b>	<b>Bisquick Baking Mix \$2.99 40 oz.</b>
<b>Knorr Pasta, Rice or Noodle Mix 5/\$5 4.6-5.7 oz.</b>	<b>College Inn Broth 5/\$5 14.5 oz.</b>	<b>Del Monte Canned Fruit \$1.79 15-15.25 oz.</b>
<b>B&amp;M Baked Beans 4/\$5 16 oz.</b>	<b>Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna 3/\$5 5 oz.</b>	<b>Quaker Oats \$2.29 18 oz.</b>
<b>G.M. Cocoa Puffs, Golden Grahams or Trix Cereal 2/\$5 10.4-11.7 oz.</b>	<b>Kellogg's Cocoa Krispies or Froot Loops 2/\$6 14.7-15.5 oz.</b>	<b>Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies 2/\$5 9.5-13 oz.</b>
<b>Nabisco Ritz Crackers 2/\$5 12.9-13.7 oz.</b>	<b>Arm &amp; Hammer Detergent 3/\$10 43.75-50 oz.</b>	<b>Hood Sour Cream 99¢ 8 oz.</b>
<b>Crisp White Cauliflower 2/\$5</b>	<b>Extra Large Artichokes 2/\$3</b>	<b>Green Cabbage 49¢ lb.</b>

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log Summary

March 1: Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Lake Shore Rd., Greensboro; Traffic Stop, Rte. 15 east; Traffic Stop, School St.; Traffic Hazard, Center Rd.; Alarm, Town Farm Rd.

March 2: Traffic Hazard, Center Rd.; Traffic Hazard, Hopkins Hill Rd.; Lost Property, S. Main St.; Traffic Hazard, Sumner St.; Traffic Hazard, N. Main St.; Fire, Spring St.

March 3: Missing Person, Hazen Union Dr.; Citizen Dispute, Molleur Dr.

March 4: Suspicious Event, High St.; Suspicious Event, High

St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, S. Main St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.

March 5: Assist – Motorist, Wolcott St.; 911 Hangup, Main St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Center Rd.

March 6: Assist – Agency, Tousant Hill Rd., Stannard; VIN Verification, High St.; Assist – Agency, E. Hill Rd., Wolcott

March 7: Assist – Other, Bayley-Hazen Rd.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 16/Bayley-Hazen Road; Threats/Harassment, High St.

March 8: Animal Problem, Vt. Rte. 15/Bunker Hill Rd.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15W.

## Board

### Continued From Page One

order.” The vote was unanimously in favor. For vice chair, Bellavance moved to appoint the “young and vibrant” Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, which Cornish seconded. The board’s vote was again unanimously in favor.

Galloway-Kane asked whether appointments to the equity committee not included in the agenda should be added, but the board opted to postpone. The board had a slate of other town appointments, including a few where the person filling the job was not known, including the town energy coordinator. It was believed no one had occupied that position for some years and the role might be obsolete or require a re-imagining of its goals and duties.

Dow was listed as the agent to convey real estate, which the board agreed to, but questioned whether the position needed to be filled by a board member. While the general consensus was it did not, more investigation is underway.

Cornish was previously the town representative to the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA), which the board said was a critical role given the help that organization has provided Hardwick. Cornish said the timing of the NVDA meeting was the main issue for her in deciding whether or not to take the position. The board decided to appoint Cornish, but add an alternate in the future.

The remaining positions were voted in without

discussion. They are: Aaron Cochran, civil defense/emergency management coordinator; Dean Mercier, animal control officer; Shari Cornish, CVSMD representative; Shaun Fielder, CVSMD alternate representative; Lawrence Hamel, town service officer; Shari Cornish, board representative to sign warrants; Shari Cornish, NEKArt’s board representative; Paul Fixx, NEK broadband representative; Doug McClure, alternate NEK broadband representative; Eric Remick, Hardwick Trails committee representative; Eric Remick, Lamoille Valley Rail Trails committee representative; Emily Varvir, new member to the Hardwick recreation committee; Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, select board representative to the Hardwick equity committee; Shaun Fielder, town safety officer; Maya McCoy, town website coordinator; Danny Hale, Hardwick/Woodbury Rail Trail representative; Richard Brochu, town health officer; and Shaun Fielder, deputy health officer.

## Wolcott

### Continued From Page One

was aware “we need to do a lot more outreach.” He said the fact there were “so many moving parts (e.g. state budget factors) right up until meeting day” made it more difficult to get the word out.

The board meets this Thursday, March 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information and the agenda, visit [bit.ly/wolcottES](http://bit.ly/wolcottES).

## Violation of Curfew, Suspended License, Collision with a Horse

On March 1, at 3:20 p.m., police saw Robert C. Chaplin in the passenger seat of a white Mitsubishi Lancer with Vermont registration HCB401. Police conducted a motor vehicle stop and issued Chaplin a citation for May 3 for the charges of Violation of a 24-hour in-residence curfew.

On March 1, at 3:30 p.m., Shamcie L. Cota, of E. Hardwick, was stopped on Vt. Rte. 16 in E. Hardwick. Police issued a \$249 ticket for Operating after Suspension.

On March 3, Robert Chaplin, of E. Hardwick, was cited to appear in court on May 3 on the charges of Violation of Conditions of Release and Simple Assault by Physical Menace. Chaplin will appear in St. Johnsbury.

On March 5, at 8:06 p.m., police responded to a single vehicle crash involving a car and a deer on Center

Rd. in Hardwick. Upon arrival, police spoke to the operator, Elizabeth Brown, of Craftsbury, who was uninjured. The vehicle sustained damage to the front bumper and headlight.

On March 8, at 4:39 a.m., police responded to a single vehicle crash involving a horse on Rt. 15W in Hardwick. The operator, Linda McGraw, of Hardwick, was uninjured however the vehicle was heavily damaged. The horse was injured, and a vet was contacted. At this time, it is unknown who the horse belongs to.

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.

## Vermont State Police

### Unlawful Trespassing, Truck Rollover

On February 25, Vermont State Police received a complaint about a trespassing. Subsequent investigation revealed Mandy Chan had trespassed into the victim’s property without her permission. Mandy Chan was located and issued a citation to appear at the Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on April 8 at 8:30 a.m. hours to answer to the charges of Unlawful Trespassing. Chan was released with a citation.

On March 2, at approximately 2:01 p.m., the Vermont State Police Middlesex Barracks responded to a report of a single vehicle crash on U.S. Route 2 across from Hooker Mountain Farm Distillery in Cabot. Upon investigation, it was

determined that Marcial Rodriguez-Arenal, of Woodbury, driving a 2016 Freight Box Truck, was traveling east on U.S. Route 2 at approximately 50 mph when he encountered snow and ice on the roadway. Arenal lost control of the truck resulting in the truck rolling over onto its side. Arenal was wearing his seat belt and air bags were not deployed. Contributing factors to this crash were wind and snow drifts.

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

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 11 survivors of domestic and sexual violence from February 21 through February 28. 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.

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### Reporters

Continued From Page One

provide content to community newspapers. The program's reporters cover government, the environment, police and crime, elections and political campaigns.

The CNS reporters started writing for the Gazette several weeks ago and will continue to work with the paper until the end of spring semester.

#### Brittnay Heffermehl Reporter

Brittnay is a junior at The University of Vermont majoring in English with a concentration in Writing and a minor in Reporting and Documentary Storytelling. Brittnay is from Middletown Springs, Vermont and now lives in Burlington. As part of the CNS program, Brittnay is a reporter and writer for the Hardwick Gazette. This is her first time officially writing and reporting, so she is excited to learn and finally get her voice on paper. In her free time, Brittnay enjoys reading (just about anything) as well as writing her own poetry. You can find her most often with friends, and outdoors.

#### Anna Kolosky Reporter

Anna is a senior at UVM majoring in English with concentration in writing and minors in biology and Reporting and Documentary Storytelling. 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.

#### Maggie Lee Reporter

Maggie Lee is a senior majoring in Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont. She joined CNS to take a deeper dive into the connection between storytelling and the natural environment of Vermont. Originally from a small town in rural New Hampshire, she is particularly interested in rural issues. In her free time, she enjoys mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and drinking raspberry tea.

#### Jenny Grosvenor Editor/Student Mentor

Jenny Grosvenor is a creative nonfiction writer (MFA Bennington College), UVM's interim student media advisor, and a senior lecturer in the English Department where she teaches core

classes for the Reporting and Documentary Storytelling Program. She has published longform essays in Writing On the Edge: On Writing and the Teaching of Writing and is at work on her own version of Spotlight, an investigative memoir, Tell. Following graduation from Smith College and Columbia University, Jenny worked at TIME-LIFE Books, LIFE and Sports Illustrated magazines as a copyeditor, reporter, and advertising writer/producer/director. Find what she cares and writes about at [jennygrosvenor.com/](http://jennygrosvenor.com/).

## Live Budget Meeting Brings No Public Discussion

by Tyler Molleur

STANNARD – School board members Diane Janukajtis and Julie Swank were joined by Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Superintendent Adam Rosenberg and Director of Finance Brittany Currie for a discussion and presentation of the FY2022 budget, which passed on Town Meeting day by a vote of 23 to 4.

Currie reported the overall cost decreased from \$260,140 to \$257,482, a one percent drop over the previous year. Savings included a reduction of \$38,252 in general instruction expenses, while supervisory union-level and administrative costs increased by \$14,869, the result of a gain in equalized pupils. The Orleans Southwest Union Elementary School District (OSUESD) per-pupil count dropped, lowering the OSUESD portion of the town's assessment.

Currie noted that the town's tuition reserve and prior year surplus funds were depleted in the last year. While she anticipates the funds will return next year, the town lost \$59,504 of revenue, which historically leveled out changes in tax rates.

Stannard projected a total of 13 tuition students for FY2022. Currie said preschool-level students do not count as full-time tuition students.

Katherine Ingram, chair of the OSUESD board, attended the March 4 school district meeting to discuss a new weighting study that could benefit per-pupil spending calculations for OSSU member school districts. The town school

board approved a resolution supporting legislation to move forward with recommendations from the study.

The budget shows an increase in per-pupil spending costs by 1.39 percent, while staying under the \$18,789 excess spending threshold which, if exceeded, would assess further penalties to taxpayers. The projected tax rate is 0.9146, or \$914.58 on property valued at \$100,000; an increase of 0.1491 from the current fiscal year.

The prorated tax rate will be combined with Stannard's assessment of the OSUESD budget, which decreased by 0.0497. Currie said further adjustments may occur due to an overestimated tax yield on the Stannard budget worksheet.

"These are the worse-case scenario tax increase," she said, "Essentially, the Stannard taxes could stay low."

The town school board is reaching out to Stannard listers for consideration of a reappraisal, after the town's common level of appraisal calculation dropped, resulting in an increase of the tax rate.

"The listers agree that it needs to get done," said board member Janukajtis.

Johanna Polsenberg was re-appointed chair at the board's reorganization meeting on March 4, while Swank ran unopposed for the open board seat and was nominated as vice chair. Janukajtis will continue in the role of clerk.

The Stannard School Board meets on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and available to join via phone or video call.



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# Fire Station Funding Extinguished When Put To Vote

by Tyler Molleur

WOODBURY – The tally of votes from last Tuesday’s town meeting showed a split interest in the funding of a new fire station.

The proposed \$1.2 million emergency services and emergency operations center failed 167-139 in the Australian ballot, just days after being the big discussion item at the town’s informational meeting. Voters had questions regarding how funding worked, the likelihood the project estimate would be accurate, whether all aspects of permitting had been considered, and why an appeal hadn’t been sent out to voters of Calais, who contracts with both Woodbury and East Montpelier for fire services.

At the meeting, Chance Payette, assistant chief and president of the organization, fielded these questions along with Chief Paul Cerutti. Payette said that Calais was not asked to vote on the funding as it might create issues around ownership of the property if the organization were to dissolve, noting Calais is billed for only operational costs and equipment replacement requests and the contract with

*Of particular concern, the department currently does not have proper space for decontamination of equipment post-call and currently uses a general-purpose sink that is also used for making coffee. According to the department’s Facebook page, the station is not wide enough to accommodate firefighters getting dressed for calls or being able to fully open the doors when getting into the trucks.*

the town is revisited annually.

The fire department representatives also felt the \$1.2 million opinion of probable cost was recent enough to be a solid figure and some work on obtaining appropriate permits or exemptions was already complete. If approved, \$85,000 of funding would be asked of the voters every year for 20 years, an increase of \$60 for every \$100,000 of property.

Cerutti said in a followup interview that he respects voters who made an informed decision, but has concerns about the lack of information requested outside of the informational meeting.

“I’m just disappointed that so many people voted no, but nobody reached out to get any information,” he said, referencing a letter dated February 1 sent out explaining the upcoming request and encouraging residents to reach out with questions about the project. Information about the proposal was also posted online.

Payette echoed Cerutti’s words and said safety played an important role when bringing the question to voters.

“One of the reasons we are trying to build the new station is the safety and wellness of our first responders. We have no choice but to ask again in order to address these concerns,” he said.

Of particular concern, the department currently does not have proper space for decontamination of equipment post-call and currently uses a general-purpose sink that is also used for making coffee. According to the department’s Facebook page, the station is not wide enough to accommodate firefighters getting dressed for calls or being able to

fully open the doors when getting into the trucks.

“There’s just not enough space,” Cerutti said.

The organization examined the issue previously in 2014, considering a \$2.2 million proposal of a 7,000 square foot station in the southern part of town. The proposal was scrapped due to cost and location. The department felt the recent proposal was more “Woodbury-sized” in scaling back the cost by \$1 million and adding 4,000 square feet of new space to be used on top of 1,400 square feet of existing space.

The question will be put to voters again next year as fundraising efforts continue. More information on fundraising can be found at the organization’s website, wvfdvt.org.

Other articles related to equipment replacement and operations funding for the fire department easily passed, as well as the highway and general fund budgets, and appropriations. Robin Durkee was elected town clerk, and Christopher Koteas was elected to the select board. Two auditor seats will need to be appointed by the select board, after several write-in candidates lacked the eight votes necessary to be elected.

## Wolcott Select Board Organizes With One New Member

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – The day after the 2021 Town Meeting, Wolcott’s select board convened with one new member. Existing members Richard Lee and Kurt Billings ran unopposed, receiving 199 and 171 votes, respectively, from the 232 votes cast. The new addition to the board, Allen Carpenter, ran unopposed and received 168 votes.

*Regarding options for transfer station improvements, Szott said he “solicited input” from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District and budgeting estimates from DuBois & King, Inc., and DSM Environmental Services Inc., but received “wildly divergent estimates for the work.”*

Write-in votes were not a factor. Carpenter and Lee’s

seats saw 14 votes spread among multiple choices, and Billings’ 16. Lee was not present at the initial meeting due to health concerns, nor was Billings, requiring three board members to be in full agreement for work to progress under quorum rules.

Beyond addressing the mandated organizational and administrative details, the board received an update from Roads Foreman Dillon Cafferky as well and a Town Administrator’s Report from Randall Szott. The board also made appointments to the development review board (DRB) and the law enforcement study committee.

The board elected previous vice chair Linda Martin as chair. Kurt Klein was voted in as vice chair. Martin had new guidance from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding rules of procedure, but adoption of the rules was postponed until all members could review them. At Szott’s recommendation, the board will continue operating under existing rules in the meantime.

Cafferky addressed the new road and bridge standards and said, “it looks like noth-

ing’s changed much.” The board adopted the new standards. Cafferky predicted the road crew would need more salt and said it would be available in a few days.

Cafferky said a state inspection of the bridge on Gulf Road showed a need for cosmetic repairs and adjustments to the guardrails. The fascia needs repairs and Blow & Cote of Morristown is preparing a quote. F. R. Lafayette Inc., of Essex Junction, is also scheduled to come by Monday for an inspection and a quote. On another topic, Cafferky said he would meet with Pike Industries to discuss “potential paving projects” for the upcoming construction season and “to figure out where we stand with the money we’ve got and what we can do.”

Cafferky suggested that in light of the upcoming mud season and corresponding downtime for the road crew that crew members should begin hauling sand for next winter season. With \$7,550 left in the budget, Cafferky wanted to “save some time” instead of trying to haul it all in July. The board said that under the Wolcott purchasing policy, the contract needs to go out to bid and Szott

will work with Cafferky on the matter.

Regarding options for transfer station improvements, Szott said he “solicited input” from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District and budgeting estimates from DuBois & King, Inc., and DSM Environmental Services Inc., but received “wildly divergent estimates for the work.” With just seven days left to submit an application for a grant that covers up to 40 percent of costs, Szott suggested the town consider another path to funding.

The board appointed Ryan Ewell to the DRB, and Andy Duff and Rick Harkins to the law enforcement study committee. Szott said it was his understanding the committee had completed information gathering and was ready to start preparing a report. Klein said he viewed the appointments as integral to “understanding our own contract with the sheriff” and “the nuts and bolts” of the contract and its deliverables. “I think it’s important to the town that someone has a finger on the pulse of our relationship with the sheriff,” he said.

# Coming Out to Vote on Cabot's Town Meeting Day

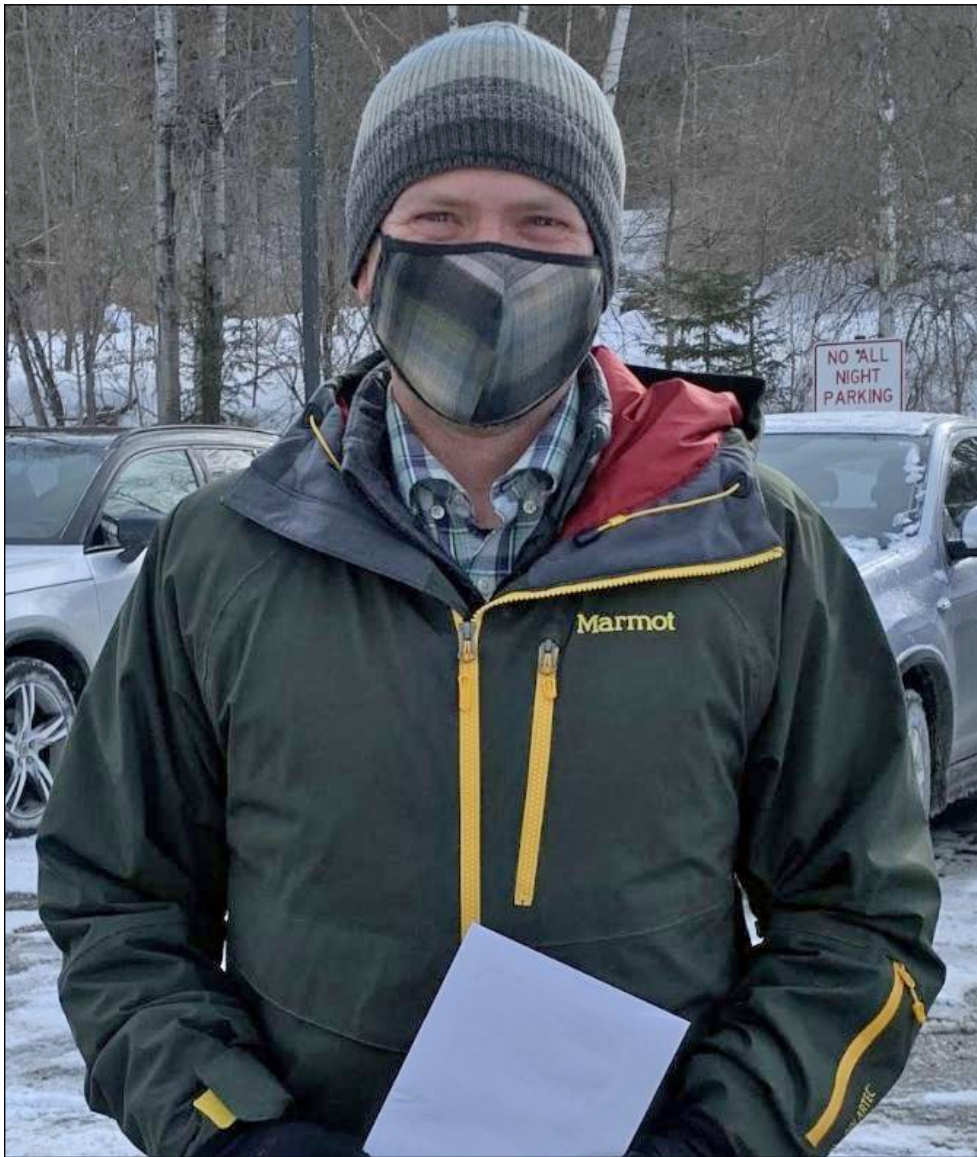


photo by Maggie Lee

Rory Thibault drops off his ballot on Town Meeting Day at the Cabot town clerk's office.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Elizabeth Stratton puts on her skates Sunday at the Woodbury community ice rink.

## by Maggie Lee

CABOT – Rory Thibault was bundled up walking to the town clerk's office on Tuesday morning. The air temperature was hovering around 2°F and the wind whipping down Main Street made it feel much colder.

Several issues got Thibault – the state's attorney for Washington County – out to vote on this very cold morning, chief among them the proposed withdrawal from the Cabot Community Investment Fund. He says he's "emphatically voting no for that."

Thibault says he's excited about the ballot measure that would install electric vehicle charging stations in the town. He sees this as an opportunity to better serve tourists visiting the area.

Ian Ackermann, a young candidate for Cabot's Select Board, also had Thibault excited to vote. "It would be the first time in a while we'd have a select board member with young children and a family," says Thibault.

After speaking with us, Thibault dropped his ballot in the drop box outside the town clerk's office and hurried off to warm up.

[ 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](http://www.copleyvt.org)

# CVSWMD Grant Helps Black Dirt Investigate Curbside Pickup

by Doug McClure

STANNARD – Black Dirt Farm received a \$5,000 grant from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) which owner/operator Tom Gilbert said would “help offset some of the debt burden” associated with possible curbside pickup of composting.

Gilbert said that the Universal Recycling Law (URL) that came into effect last July created a potential new market for Black Dirt’s composting business. The law mandates composting of food scraps for residents.

He said, “While many folks are composting at home (between 50 and 75 percent according to BDF surveys and VT ANR surveys) and folks have access to drop off locations at transfer stations, there has also been a desire for there to be curbside available to the menu of options.”

Black Dirt Farm operates several compost drop-off locations, including its home location on Stannard Mountain Road where residents can drop off compost from 8 to 5, Monday through Saturday. Other locations including All Metals Recycling, the Greensboro Recycling Center, and the Wolcott Transfer Station.

Hardwick formerly had a centrally located box for depositing compost, but it was discontinued leaving residents to transport their compost to one of the other drop-off



photo by Doug McClure

*Composting in action at Black Dirt Farm on Stannard Mountain Road.*

sites. For residents without transportation, the process can be difficult.

While the law requires landlords to “assure arrangements are made for the removal of food scraps from rentals” and “provide durable and water-tight receptacles for food scraps that are stored outside,” there is no enforcement in place.

Gilbert said because of the URL the viability of residential collection has new potential. “Curbside collection in rural areas historically hasn’t been considered

viable,” he said. “Even in places like Burlington, studies undertaken by larger haulers, UVM, and the state have found it to be a hard market.” He said they have since “figured it out” and “we’re willing to have a go and see if we can use our nimbleness to accommodate the situation.”

Curbside services would provide an opportunity for Black Dirt Farm to tap into new markets to make up for markets the company lost due to the relaxing of source separation laws. Gilbert said the grant would “help cover

some of the basic startup costs” including “specialized software” to streamline the customer interface and reduce operating costs, buckets and educational materials. He called the plan a “great use of grant funds.”

He said, “If we are successful in moving things forward, the [Central Vermont Solid Waste Management] District will have helped us mitigate the risk of getting into a new market with questionable economics and helped to have innovated the space.”

## Group Has “Deep Concerns” over Recycling Law Rollout

by Doug McClure

STANNARD – Nearly two dozen individuals and businesses signed a letter to the Vermont House and Senate Natural Resource Committees expressing concern over the Agency of Natural Resources’s (ANR) interpretation of key provisions in the Universal Recycling Law (URL).

Signers included Black Dirt Farm’s Tom Gilbert and the Center for an Agricultural Economy. In the letter, the parties objected to the “shocking disparity” between ANR’s implementation of aspects of the URL and the law’s intent.

Gilbert said the ANR’s allowance of “depackaging” goes against both the EPA and the state’s Food Recovery Hierarchy designed to reduce food waste.

The UN estimated the United States throws away 30 percent of all food produced each year, which also wastes the

water used in making the food. A 2019 study by U.S. Packaging and Wrapping LLC rated Vermont as the worst offender in the country, wasting an average of \$1,374 worth of groceries per person per year.

The Food Recovery Hierarchy ([epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy#](http://epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy#)) is a guideline published by the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the amount of food that ends up in landfills or incinerators. The letter describes the process as “(1) reduction of the amount generated at the source, (2) diversion for food consumption by humans, (3) diversion for agricultural use, including consumption by animals, (4) composting, land application, and digestion, and (5) energy recovery.”

The letter stated the law specifically mandates “compostable material must be separated from non-compostable material at the point of generation.” The group says the ANR is not following that requirement.

To give an example of depackaging, Gilbert said grocery store bakeries formerly disposed of cookies past their sell date by throwing the packaging into a recycling container and the expired cookies into a compost container, as required by law. Now, the ANR is allowing packaging and food to go into one container, Gilbert said.

“They have one container, and they throw the whole thing in there,” Gilbert said. “Then it gets picked up and it goes to a transfer station in Portland [Maine] and then it gets dumped on a floor in a warehouse. Then a whole week’s worth of material from all sorts of different places gets dumped there. And it goes into what’s called the depackaging machine... essentially it separates the packaging from the organic material.”

The process is imperfect, according to the group. “Manufacturers list a contamination rate of at least 0.5%, and in some cases over 2-3%,” Gilbert said. “In the

name of convenience, depackaging systems downgrade previously high-quality organics materials, contaminating them with microplastics.”

Gilbert said much of the packaging is going to be incinerated, not recycled, “and I think most Vermonters thought incineration got stopped in the ’80s.” He said depackaging is “antithetical to the (URL) law.”

Gilbert said aside from needless food waste and shirking recycling obligations to boost a Maine company’s profits, depackaging teaches workers poor habits. “We would still expect them to [recycle] at home, but the employees think of plastic and organic materials as going together,” he said. “When you start taking away the need for sort of literacy around those things... I think you fundamentally start losing. The collective ability to execute on things like values, that’s devastating to a society, especially a democracy.”

# Craftsbury Voters Say “Yes” to Everything

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury residents voted yes on all 44 articles on the warning at Town Meeting 2021 on March 2. Three hundred and sixty-three voters participated by Australian ballot – double the usual number at previous in-person town meetings.

While all articles passed, residents expressed a wide range of opinions on the issues on which they voted.

Of the Australian ballot, select board chair Bruce Urie said, “I thought it went very well and am pleased with the turnout. Twice as many people were able to express their opinion, double the number at a [usual] town meeting.”

Urie said the process of tallying the votes “went better than expected” and they finished before 11pm. “I think people were able to express their opinion on things we normally put into one big appropriation,” Urie said.

Counting the 44-article ballot took four hours and results were tabulated by 11 p.m.; polls closed at 7 p.m.

The downside of Australian ballot, Urie said, was the lack of in-person dialogue. “It doesn’t get a group of people together to talk about things or make changes on the articles,” he said.

Urie said he was pleased with the support the select board and fire department received. The town’s municipal budget of \$804,331, with \$480,658 to be raised by taxes, was broadly supported on a 303 “Yes” to 40 “No” vote. The Craftsbury Volunteer Fire Department also received strong support with a 339 “Yes” to 19 “No” vote on its

budget request for \$56,750.

The select board race between incumbent Susie Houston and challenger Mike Martin was settled with Houston prevailing, winning 199 to Martin’s 159 votes. Houston was re-elected for a three-year term.

Big winners in the town’s support were the Orleans Essex Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice organization (VNA) and the Hardwick Rescue Squad. The VNA received overwhelming support for its \$4,200 request with a 326 “Yes” to 21 “No” vote; the Hardwick Rescue Squad was supported in its \$13,368 appropriation with a 330 “Yes” and 24 “No” vote.

Support for both the elderly and the young was demonstrated through several articles. Article 12, seeking \$12,000 for the Craftsbury Community Care Center, won with 303 “Yes” to 51 “No” votes. Article 15, which sought \$2,500 for the Greensboro Nursing Home, prevailed with less of a margin; 249 “Yes” to 97 “No” votes. The Rural Community Transportation (RCT), which serves seniors, was supported in its \$600 request by a margin of 282 “Yes” to 65 “No” votes.

The Craftsbury Saplings request for \$6,000 succeeded with 233 “Yes” to 112 “No” votes.

While all articles were granted, Old Stone House Museum’s \$700 request and Orleans Country Fair’s \$500 ask each garnered a large number of nay votes. The museum vote was 202 “Yes” and 137 “No” votes; the vote on the Fair’s appropriation was 194 “Yes” and 140 “No” votes.

Support for two animal shelters was tepid. The North Country Animal League sought \$500 and was successful with

231 “Yes” and 114 “No” votes. The Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, also seeking \$500, had 211 “Yes” to 128 “No” votes.

The Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) asked voters to approve \$905, which passed with 189 “Yes” to 142 “No” votes. One third of voters showed their disapproval for the Planning Commission’s \$3,000 request to match a planning grant in connection with a master plan for the Village. The vote passed 193 “Yes” to 144 “No” votes.

The Northwoods Stewardship Center asked for \$500 to foster conservation and education services and received a slim

passing vote, with almost half of voters voting against it. The vote count of 184 “Yes” to 156 “No” was the highest “No” vote received on any article. Article 39 from the conservation commission, seeking \$7,000 from the Good Neighbor Fund for the Craftsbury Conservation Fund, passed with 232 “Yes” to 116 “No” votes.

Article 44 showed support for an Australian ballot possibility at future Town meetings with 260 “Yes” to 77 “No” votes.

“We need to figure out where we are going with the Australian ballot and whether going with an Australian ballot or a hybrid of some sort,” Urie said.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

A driver runs his ATV 4-wheeler on a community trail in Woodbury on Sunday. Trails will take a hit mid-week, with temperatures in the 50s predicted.

## Strong Feelings About Town Meeting Traditions

by Anna Kolosky

CRAFTSBURY – 11:30 a.m., the sun shone brightly in the subzero temperatures as Lise Erickson arrived to drop off her mail ballot.

After living in Craftsbury for almost six years, Erickson feels strongly about upholding the tradition of town meeting.

“I really support town meeting and would like to see it continue,” Erickson said. “I do feel in some ways it is more informative. There were things on here that I don’t remember

choosing in the past, but I would do whatever would be needed to continue town meeting as it is.”

Erickson is also on the board at the library and was most concerned about using her vote to continue supporting the library.

“Our funding is critical, everyone is having trouble since we can’t do fundraisers or very much of anything else right now,” Erickson said. “The pot is almost empty and it’s important to get the funding from the town.”

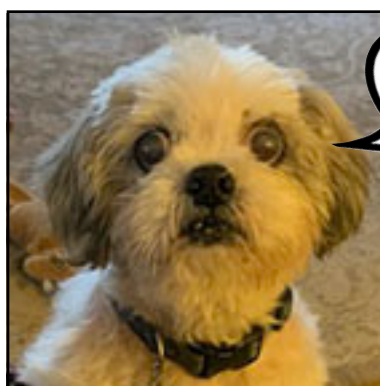


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# Voters Transfer All School Property to CA Trustees

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY -- The Craftsbury School District Town Meeting 2021 warning posed a significant question on the transfer of school district property, as well as seeking approval of its \$4,059,066 budget. Voters said “Yes” to both articles.

The substance of Article 7 was handing over all Craftsbury School District property to the Craftsbury Academy Trustees. Voters agreed to the transfer of property ownership on a 272 “Yes” to 54 “No” vote.

The transfer includes the Academy woodlot on Wylie Hill, Dustan Fields, Minden Hall, the gymnasium, annex, and all property on which the school buildings sit.

In the historic transfer of all property to the CA Trustees, the status of the Craftsbury Elementary School ownership was not certain. Whether or not the town owns the Craftsbury Elementary School or if the Craftsbury School District owns it has been raised. The prevailing opinion appears to be that the town owns the little elementary school based on the town’s acquiring the property and refurbishing it as a school.

School District Chair Harry Miller had explained the transfer of property was sought as a consequence of ACT 46 and “to protect the town’s assets being transferred to entities outside of the town.” Under ACT 46, school districts forced or willingly placed into regional districts had all individual school district properties become the property of the regional district.

Miller explained that two of the parcels in question had originally belonged to the CA Trustees. The property was transferred to the district by the CA Trustees when Minden Hall was built and a leach field was built under Dustan Field. The transfer was necessary to be eligible for state construction funds.

CA Trustee President Joe Houston explained that the Craftsbury Academy Corpo-

ration, originally established in 1829 by the Vermont legislature, now is a 501c3 non-profit. It was established for an academy in Craftsbury and operated as a private institution until 1917. The operation of the academy was then transferred to the public Craftsbury Town School District. The CA Trustees own CA Academy and lease it to the school district for \$1 a year for a term of 99 years. A new, 99-year lease was signed last year.

Houston explained that the CA Academy Corp. and Trustees Charter and governing bylaws were established “to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Academy, and foster educational opportunities for its students.”

On Article 4, the \$4,058,066 budget vote was positive with 244 “Yes” to 101 “No” votes. The budget represented a one-half percent increase over last year.

In their report, the school directors said classes opened this fall with a shortened school day and 80 percent of students choosing to return to the classroom. Students could opt for hybrid models or virtual classrooms, as well.

The report acknowledged the varsity cross country team “bringing home the First Division 3 state title in that sport in the school’s history.”

Building a new elementary school on Dustan Field is on hold with the pandemic, according to the report, but the intent is “to move forward with a bond to accomplish this in the future.”

Yvette Brown was supported with 323 votes to be school district treasurer and school district clerk with 327 votes. She was voted a salary of \$4,997. Incumbent Jennifer Schoen received 298 votes in returning for a two-year term. Newcomer Jared Nunery received 308 votes in his bid for a three-year term on the board. There were no challengers for any races.

Voters agreed to authorize the board to transfer \$127,254 of unexpended funds to a reserve fund for building maintenance and repairs.

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Sam Young Joins Tim Scott Real Estate

ST. JOHNSBURY – Tim Scott Real Estate has added Sam Young as an agent. Young served as a state representative for the towns of Albany, Barton, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Glover, Sheffield and Wheelock in the Vermont Legislature from 2011-2021, serving on both the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and Ways and Means.

“I’m thrilled to be part of this company and part of this profession.” Young says “This feels like a natural transition from my role as a state representative. I look forward to my continued service in the Northeast Kingdom community, while helping people find wonderful homes and get the best price for their real estate.”

Broker-owner Tim Scott adds “With Sam’s extensive knowledge of the Northeast Kingdom, his shared values in supporting local communities and his high level of



Sam Young

professionalism, he is a perfect fit for our company.”

Young can be contacted at sam@tsrevt.com or online at timscottrealestate.com.



(courtesy photo)

Copley’s Cole Pearson, RN, is recognized with the Copley Team Hero Award. Cole (holding his Team Hero plaque) is pictured with Wayne Stockbridge, VP of human resources; Shannen Dando, HR recruiter; and Cheryl Dopp, HR coordinator.

## Copley Hospital’s Pearson Named Team Hero

MORRISVILLE – Copley Hospital recently recognized community and wellness nurse Cole Pearson, RN, of Wolcott, as Copley’s Team Hero.

Cole joined Copley’s quality department in 2015 as a clinical quality specialist/infection preventionist. In 2018, he took the position of community and wellness nurse in the wellness department, where he provides wellness screenings, oversees incidents of exposure to infectious diseases, and tracks vaccinations, etc. for staff.

His community role, during non-pandemic times, would have

him at local businesses providing wellness clinics and organizing classes, including CPR, first aid, birthing classes, AARP driver safety, and more. Due to COVID, Copley is not currently holding community classes nor are we offering employee wellness screenings, leaving Cole focused more on COVID testing and vaccinations, where his calm demeanor is truly welcoming.

Cole resides in Wolcott with his two young children. Cole is a guitar player and enjoys creating his own music. Prior to COVID, Cole was a member in several local bands.

# OBITUARIES

## JOHN AINSWORTH

John Ainsworth, 65, passed away on Friday, March 5, in Springfield, Mass. A spring burial will be held at Fairview

Cemetery in Hardwick. A complete obituary and service details will be available at dgfunerals.com.



photo by Hal Gray

Penny Bretschneider cuts cornbread to serve with the chili dinner.

# Hot Chili and Youth Talent Show Warm a Cold Night

by Hal Gray

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Free Library (GFL) held its annual chili dinner fundraiser on Friday, March 5, with temperatures in the teens.

Adjusted for the pandemic, 137 dinners were handled as a take-out, with a nominal fee for a container of chili, cheese, cornbread and cookies.

More than 25 cooks contributed food, including 16 pots of chili – whether vegetarian, with meat, mild or spicy. Contributions were also received from the Greensboro Association, Willey’s Store, Cabot Creamery and Highland Lodge, and the Greensboro UCC contributed use of its facilities.

The event was organized by GFL trustees and staff, including Rosann Hickey, Virginia Lapierre,

Emily Purdy and Becky Arnold. Volunteers worked in shifts to set up serving tables (John Miller, Hal Gray), package the food (Lise Armstrong, Penny Bretschneider, Rosann Hickey, Jennifer Lucas, John Schweizer), hand out containers and collect funds (Stew Arnold, Peter Davis, Cindy Gordon, John Schweizer) and clean up (Mary and Mike Metcalf and Librarian Paula Davidson).

Dining entertainment was a 30-minute local youth talent show coordinated by Rosann Hickey and Youth Librarian Emily Purdy, video-recorded and produced by Kyle Gray, and introduced by Virginia Lapierre. Performers in the video sang, danced, acted, played music, and read stories. The show can be viewed free at [tinyurl.com/GFLKids](http://tinyurl.com/GFLKids).



photo by Hal Gray

Lise Armstrong, Becky Arnold and Rosann Hickey show some packaged chili dinners.



photo by Hal Gray

John Schweizer, Becky Arnold and Lise Armstrong dish chili at the Greensboro Library fundraiser.



photo by Hal Gray

Mary and Mike Metcalf clean up after the chili dinner fundraiser.



photo by Hal Gray

Cindy Gordon delivers take-out chili dinners to a driver passing through the parking lot.

# OUR COMMUNITIES



photo by M. Billingsley

A community supper support group volunteer sets out meals in Plainfield at the February bagged supper.

## Plainfield's Community Bagged Supper Set for March 23

PLAINFIELD – The bagged community supper will be serving the public on March 23, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church.

Participants may expect a variety of precooked soups and take out items from which to choose, as well as side items such as bread, a choice of baked dessert and an apple. All meals are free, and donations will be accepted.

Participants are asked to wear masks, to choose from the menu outside, and then to pick up at the side door of the church. Six-foot distance requirements will be observed for those waiting outside.

Each one-meal bag serves two people.

Marshfield's Onion River Food Shelf at the Old Schoolhouse Common will provide the balance of the bagged meals to participants in Marshfield the next day (March 24), between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

In addition to two local household sponsors and space provided by Grace Church, bread for the meal is donated by the Red Hen Bakery in Middlesex and the main meal soups are prepared and provided with significant discount by Joe's Kitchen in Montpelier.

For more details, call (802) 454-1203 (before that Tuesday) or if contributing for future meals.

The church door and the Old Schoolhouse entrance are both ADA accessible.

## Free Take-Out Meals on March 11

EAST HARDWICK – Registration is now open for next week's Everyone Eats meal in East Hardwick on March 11. Meals will be provided by Sustainable Kitchen, and the menu is rice, sesame ginger stir-fry beef with mushrooms and veggies.

The Center for an Agricultural Economy is working with the Caledonia Grange to provide these weekly restaurant takeout meals on Thursdays. Unlike the community dinners on Wednesdays

at the Grange, pre-registration is required. Those interested should sign up soon as registrations for meals tend to fill up quickly.

Go to [nourishhardwick.org/easthardwick](http://nourishhardwick.org/easthardwick) for more information and to access the online form that is open for meal registrations until all meals are allocated. The meals are first-come, first served, or call (802) 472-1832, and leave name, phone number, town, number of meals requested and email. Someone will contact you to confirm.

## Plants on Sale for Order

CABOT – The Cabot Conservation Committee has alerted residents to the Marshfield, Plainfield and Cabot plant sale. A wide variety of stream and wildlife-friendly plants and fruit trees are available at reasonable prices.

Order forms available at

Harry's Hardware and the Village Store, as well as a printable electronic version at [cabotvt.us/govtold/cabot-conservation-committee/](http://cabotvt.us/govtold/cabot-conservation-committee/).

The plant sale is held to help improve wildlife habitat and water quality along streams in Cabot.

## Webinar will Answer Vaccine Questions on March 15

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro/Stannard Emergency Response Team is sponsoring a webinar with Dr. G. Richard Olds on March 15, at 7 p.m., to share information about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Dr. Olds is a physician, educator and expert on newly emerging infectious diseases. During his 30-year career in medicine, he was the infectious disease fellow at University Hospitals of Cleveland, the founding director on Brown's International Health Institute, and currently serves on a WHO expert panel. He has been closely involved in the COVID response, both in the US and internationally, and plans to provide an extensive question-and-answer period during the webinar to address specific questions and concerns.

Check the [greensborovt.org](http://greensborovt.org) website for the link. The full invitation and Dr. Olds' bio can be found



courtesy photo

Dr. G. Richard Olds, an expert on infectious diseases, will address questions and concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine during a March 15 webinar at 7 p.m.

on the home page of the Greensboro town website.



courtesy photo

Members of the Joe's Pond Association place a block and flag on the ice at Joe's Pond that will signal the date and time of ice-out on the pond.

## Joe's Pond Ice-Out Contest Deadline April 1

CABOT-WEST DANVILLE – The annual Joe's Pond Ice-Out contest will take place again this spring, and tickets have been printed and are ready for purchase at Hasting's Store in West Danville and Marty's First Stop in Danville. Tickets are also available at outlets in Cabot, St. Johnsbury, Danville, Barre, and Montpelier. Check the Joe's Pond website at [joespondvermont.com](http://joespondvermont.com) for a list of outlets as well as an on-line option to purchase tickets.

Guesses are \$1 each. Tickets must be returned to the Joe's Pond Association or postmarked April 1, 2021, to be considered for the contest.

The people of Joe's Pond and those who follow the Joe's

Pond Ice Out contest worldwide are awaiting the "official start of spring" when the ice goes out on their 299-acre pond in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. The Joes Pond Association will place the block /flag on the ice that will sink and stop the clock to mark the official ice-out date and time. The block will be placed on the ice later in March. Last spring, the ice went out on April 15, at 6:07 a.m.

After expenses, one half of the ticket proceeds will go to the person with the closest guess. The remainder of the proceeds will be used by the Joe's Pond Association to preserve water quality and to help fund association activities such as the July Fourth fireworks.

# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

## Thursday, March 11

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

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

## Friday, March 12

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

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

ets at [highlandartsvt.com](http://highlandartsvt.com).

**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](mailto:ereid@capstonevt.org).

## Saturday, March 13

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

**INTERNATIONAL FIX-IT CLINIC**, 1 - 3 p.m., a free webinar in the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Sustainability Series. Register at [cvswmd.org/workshop-registration](http://cvswmd.org/workshop-registration).

## Monday, March 15

**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-artcommunity/virtual-art-prompts/> with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to [AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org](mailto:AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org).

## Tuesday, March 16

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com), 802-635-0084.

## Wednesday, March 17

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

**EAST HARDWICK GRANGE SUPPER**, a free meal for the community, Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m. Caledonia Grange #9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. A curbside dinner for the whole family to enjoy. Information or delivery: [easthardwickgrange@gmail.com](mailto:easthardwickgrange@gmail.com) or 472-8987.

**GRACE** presents free pre-k art classes, Wednesdays at 11 a.m. <https://meet.jit.si/GRACEFreeFamilyWorkshop>. Free kits available with materials to cover the series. [carol@wonderartsvt.org](mailto:carol@wonderartsvt.org) to arrange pickup.

## Exhibits

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

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

## Florist Finds a Home in Hardwick

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – For proprietor and founder of Amy's Artistic Floral Amy Tallman, the impact of COVID-19 has been a positive one. "People can't go see their loved ones and so they send flowers," she said. And holidays celebrated during the pandemic "have been my biggest holidays ever."

Tallman was fresh out of high school when she landed her first flower shop job after having been a florist's apprentice since age 15. As she continued in the field, she took an interest in the business side of selling flowers. "If you don't give people customer service, they can go to [a chain store] and buy flowers," she said.



Amy Tallman

*"The clientele I've built over these last eight years, they understand that I work from my home and they understand I don't have a retail space," she said. "So, if you want to order flowers, you need to call me ahead. I can get flowers in three days a week, just like any florist in the state of Vermont." To those who suggest she open a shop, Tallman says "I don't want a shop. I like the way I do it now."*

Tallman founded Amy's Artistic Floral eight years ago after she and her husband moved to Hardwick. Originally, she had no plans to stay in the area.

"We were going to leave before we had kids – and then we had kids," she said. "And then we were going to leave before the kids started school, and then the kids started school. And through that process of the kids' education, we met so many amazing people and really felt the sense of community, and we built our dream house."

Tallman said she developed a loyal customer base by setting high standards. She works from home without retail shop overhead to worry about.

"The clientele I've built over these last eight years, they understand that I work from my home and they understand I don't have

a retail space," she said. "So, if you want to order flowers, you need to call me ahead. I can get flowers in three days a week, just like any florist in the state of Vermont." To those who suggest she open a shop, Tallman says "I don't want a shop. I like the way I do it now."

Tallman does not own a cooler, as many florists do, and for her it is a matter of pride. "Flowers are sitting in coolers if they're not selling," she said. "So, when you order from them, you don't know if those sunflowers were sitting in there for three weeks. And they might look fabulous when you pull them out of the cooler, but they're only going to last a day or two." Tallman said when customers order from her, they get flowers "that are not just professionally designed, but also last a long time because I don't bring flowers in unless you call me and order them."

Tallman said she has observed certain holidays fall in and out of fashion from a floral perspective. "When I first got into this industry, Easter was a big deal," she said. "(Now) it's really not. Mother's Day, on the other hand, is insane." Last Mother's Day was the "the most successful I've had in eight years," she said. And while Easter might not be a big holiday for florists "that's also the time of year that you're meeting with brides," she said. Tallman said wedding season is "different" in the age of COVID-19 "but I'm still booking a lot of weddings for this fall. So hopefully these poor brides can actually get married this year."

Tallman said she gets much of her business through her Facebook page ([bit.ly/amysfloral](http://bit.ly/amysfloral)). She is glad she and her husband stayed in Hardwick.

"The community is so amazing, and the people are amazing," she said. "And Hardwick has come so far that I can't imagine living anywhere else."

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## We Seem to be Getting on Better Every Day

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – A dog can initiate and ratify a tradition in one day. What happens this afternoon, good or bad, will be repeated or avoided for the rest of any dog's life. But wait. To be perfectly honest, I must add that this is true of this little dog, right here, at the present time; and that I've projected that trait onto the rest of her species without empirical evidence. But I suspect it's accurate.

I haven't come to this conclusion carelessly. It's the result of more than a year's careful observations, especially during the year just completed, during which we've been more sequestered from the outside world than usual. Deprived of the conversational stimulation of my late wife's presence, but instead accompanied for 24 hours of almost every day by a lively, attentive terrier, I've been trying to establish a bond of mutual understanding between us, even though she doesn't speak my language – and occasionally pretends not to understand it, either.

*We've wintered very quietly. A trip to the supermarket every week or so; a walk in the park in the afternoon, later every day now; hors d'oeuvres and a toot at five; supper at six. Somewhere she's learned to tell time and announces the events she enjoys at least fifteen minutes early.*

Along the way, each of us has come to rely on certain predictable traits of the other. I've read that many cohabiting couples, who once unknowingly depended on their jobs to separate them for most of their waking hours, have had real difficulties being cooped up together full-time. That's definitely not the case here. We seem to be getting on better every day, if that's possible.

But to return to the business of creating traditions. Almost every morning Kiki goes outside a little past six to pee and clear the premises of vicious predators. She gets a treat for coming back in (which is a lot sooner at ten degrees Fahrenheit than fifty) and goes back into the bedroom for forty winks. When finally she smells breakfast, she appears silently (and underfoot) beside the stove. She gets only a snack in the morning, so I go to the wall cabinet and fetch

her a begging strip. Remembering how much better French waiters can make everything taste by the dramatic way they serve it, I transfer it to her eager jaws with balletic panache. She disappears.

And then she's back after two minutes. She knows she'll get a little cube of Swiss when I get done chopping the cheese for my omelet. It's impossible to avoid those eyes looking expectantly upward. She gulps the bit of cheese and disappears again.

Or used to. One morning last week – I don't know why – I said, "You know, you've been such a sweet companion lately, here's a Newman's Own treat for you." I dug one out of the bag on the counter and gave it to her. She chewed, swallowed, and finally left. But the next morning, once she'd had her cheese ration – the usual cue for her to depart – she lingered, still looking up, and even moved toward the counter where the Newmans are kept. So suddenly we have an inviolable new tradition: Every day I get the eyes and the soulful expression.

We've wintered very quietly. A trip to the supermarket every week or so; a walk in the park in the afternoon, later every day now; hors d'oeuvres and a toot at five; supper at six. Somewhere she's learned to tell time and announces the events she enjoys at least fifteen minutes early. Trouble is that, like the rooster who thinks his crowing makes the sun come up, she thinks I'm moving, when I do, because of her prodding. So I try not to stir till the appointed moment. Now, with mud season clearly in the offing and my second COVID shot coming up in a couple of days, we may be freer to fiddle with those times, hobnob outdoors with friends, and even dine out a bit.

I suspect that lots of little things (and new traditions) that we've gotten accustomed to during our hermitage will linger. A shake of her tags announces the need to go out; a little foot on my thigh from the right side of my office chair means she wants to lie across my lap while I try to type. Either end of her touching my elbow at the desk (I've laid a folded fleece at one end for a nap) says that she's contented here with me. If she disappears during the day, I know she's lying in the trough that she's hollowed out behind the cushions atop the back of the couch – the living room on a clear day is warm as a solarium – and is luxuriating in the sun on her fur.

My wife, before she died, regretted that she wouldn't be able to teach the new puppy any tricks. I've taught her nothing. She's learned everything by positive and negative reinforcement. So have I, from her. Our expectations of each other have made both of us better creatures.

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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## MEETING MEMO

**Monday, March 15**

•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@myfair-  
point.net

Walden: Walden town clerk: (802)  
563-2220, open Mon. - Wed., 9  
a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5  
p.m. waldentc@pivot.net

Wolcott: wolcottvt.org

Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

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## For the Record

A story in the February 24 issue of the Hardwick Gazette, "Changes Imminent at Transfer Station," erroneously cited Wolcott's solid waste management partner as the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District. Wolcott is a member of the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District.

# IN THE GARDEN

## It's Time for Some Winter Planning

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I was recently thumbing through my first book, 'Notes from the Garden,' looking for an inspiration for yet another winter article. In it I read that I had planted my Merrill magnolia in 2001. I had forgotten that I planted it just twenty years ago this spring – it feels like it has always been there!

Looking out the window at that handsome tree which blooms each April with a thousand large, lightly fragrant double white blossoms made me think: how many of us plant a tree with a vision of what it will be like in twenty years? I had mainly hoped it would survive to bloom modestly. But it has already been a magnificent tree for a decade or more.

I invite you to draw up a wish-list this winter. Think of big, majestic trees that you wish to have and figure out where you could plant them. Dream of flowering trees. Think of native trees that will feed the baby birds with the thousands of barely noticeable caterpillars that feed on their leaves. Imagine a recliner in the shade of a tree you have planted. Picture grandchildren playing in its shade.

I think it's important to realize that trees get to be of a good size fairly quickly. Most grow two to three feet per year, some even more than that. So what if you are 60 or 70 or 80 years old? Even if you never live to see it bloom or drop nuts on the lawn, you are improving the environment, now and in years to come.

Years ago, I visited author, illustrator, eccentric and well-known recluse Tasha Tudor at her home in southern Vermont. She was in her late eighties at the time, but still was planting trees. She asked me if I could help her find two specific crab apple varieties that she had planted 30 years before but was unable to find anywhere.

One variety I found immediately at E.C. Brown's nursery in Thetford, Vt. The other I could not find, so I asked her where she had purchased it. She told me that she bought it at Weston Nurseries, and I called them. The woman who answered the phone remembered her, and the fact that she traveled with a rooster under her arm. Amazingly, she also remembered the

fellow who waited on her that day, he still worked there, and he was brought to the phone. He explained that the variety was no longer in production. End of story.

Actually, it was not. I saw Wayne Mezitt, the owner of Weston Nurseries, at a trade show, and told him the story of his people remembering Tasha. He grinned and said he would make her some of the trees she wanted by grafting branches onto root stock. And he did. Three years later, Wayne and I met and presented Tasha with the trees she wanted. By then she was past 90 years, but still planting trees. Did she ever get to see them blossom? Unlikely, but I love the idea of someone her age planting trees. I hope to do the same.

If you plant trees over a long period of time it is hard to keep track of when you planted them, and the variety planted. Keeping track takes real discipline. In my experience, tags are fine for a few years, but eventually they get lost or the writing fades until it is unreadable.

If you are linked closely to your phone or tablet, that might be one way to keep track of what you plant – until the phone dies or gets replaced. I don't have a cell phone, so I cannot advise how to keep records on it. But I do take lots of photos and they are in my computer by date, so I should be able to find most anything I plant – so long as I label well -- and the computer



courtesy photo  
Notecards and a file box for storing plant records.

doesn't eat things, which mine does from time to time.

I like writing things down, using a real pen, sometimes even using my trusty fountain pen. Years ago, I bought a 10-year Gardener's Journal from Lee Valley Tool Company. They still sell them, and at about the same price: \$32.90. It is hard-covered and durable. The only thing it lacks is a search function. It has



courtesy photo  
Wayne Mezitt presents Tasha Tudor a 'White Weeper' crab apple.

a page for every day of the year, and 10 sections per page, a few lines for every day. In principle I would write the weather, what I planted or pruned or dug out every day. But life gets in the way of even the best of intentions.

I like old fashioned "three-by-five" cards for making lists like to-do lists and grocery lists. They fit nicely in a pocket and good ones are quite sturdy. My Winter Resolution (that's like a New Year's resolution but made after Ground Hog's Day) is this: I will fill in a note card every time I plant something, whether perennial flower, tree or shrub. I have an old-fashioned wooden box designed for three-by-five cards, and I will use it to keep track of my plantings this year.

So, what will go on the cards? First, I have to decide if I will use common names or scientific names for alphabetizing the plants. I will use the scientific names, as that is how I think of most of my plants. But I

will also include common names. Date planted, source of the plant, where planted, perhaps soil amendments added or any other details that might be useful. If

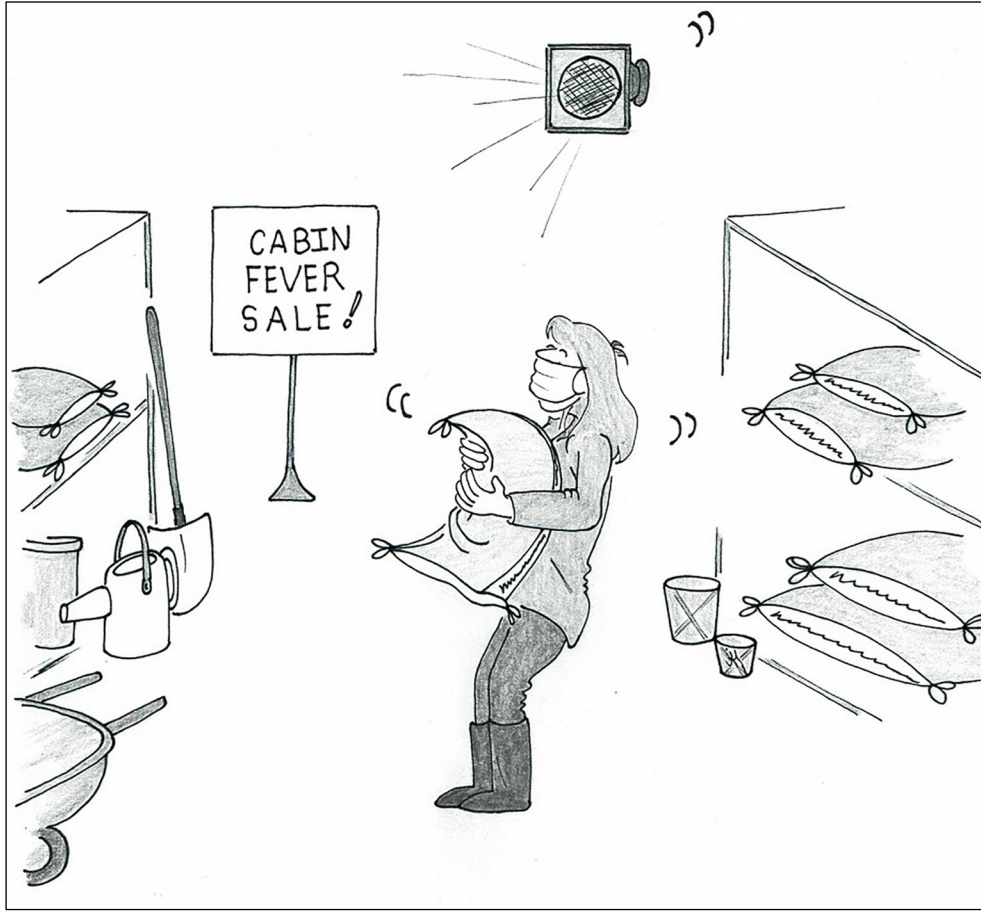


courtesy photo  
This 10-year gardener's journal is a good way to record garden notes.

plants die, I will keep the card, but place a black dot on the upper right corner of the card.

Last fall I wrote up a list of woody plants I have planted here in Cornish Flat since I bought my house in 1970. I listed nearly 80 species or varieties. I think, if I have time this winter, I'll start the project. I'll fill in a card for each tree on the next row, gray, wet day.

# Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



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**ACT 250 NOTICE  
MINOR APPLICATION #7C1091-2  
10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 – 6093**

On January 15, 2021, Tyler Demers, 902 VT Route 16, East Hardwick, VT 05836 and Lori Demers, 46 Dutton Road, Hardwick, VT 05843 filed application number 7C1091-2 for a project generally described as continued operation of the existing gravel pit including (i) permit expiration date extended to October 15, 2041, and (ii) maximum annual extraction rate of 20,000 cubic yards per year (unchanged). The project does not include blasting and is located on Hillary Drive off Vermont Route 16 in Hardwick, Vermont. No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before March 25, 2021, a party notifies the District 7 Commission in writing at the address below of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing to the address below, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. The application and proposed permit may also be viewed on the Natural Resources Board's web site (<http://nrb.vermont.gov>) by clicking "Act 250 Database" and entering project number 7C1091-2. If you have a disability for which you need accommodation in order to participate in this process (including participating in a public hearing, if one is held), please notify us as soon as possible, in order to allow us as much time as possible to accommodate your needs. For more information contact Kirsten Sultan at the address or telephone number below.

Dated at St Johnsbury, Vermont this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

Kirsten Sultan, P.E., Coordinator  
District #7 Environmental Commission  
374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 4  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
802-751-0126  
[kirsten.sultan@vermont.gov](mailto:kirsten.sultan@vermont.gov)

**ACT 250 NOTICE  
MINOR APPLICATION #7C0353-5  
10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 – 6093**

On March 4, 2021, LB2 Properties, LLC, 222 VT Route 15, Hardwick, VT 05843 filed application number 7C0353-5 for a project generally described as construction of a 2 bay automated car wash facility on Lot 5. The project is located at 75 Log Yard Drive in Hardwick, Vermont. No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before March 25, 2021, a party notifies the District 7 Commission in writing at the address below of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing to the address below, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. The application and proposed permit may also be viewed on the Natural Resources Board's web site (<http://nrb.vermont.gov>) by clicking "Act 250 Database" and entering project number 7C0353-5. If you have a disability for which you need accommodation in order to participate in this process (including participating in a public hearing, if one is held), please notify us as soon as possible, in order to allow us as much time as possible to accommodate your needs. For more information contact Kirsten Sultan at the address or telephone number below.

Dated at St Johnsbury, Vermont this 5<sup>th</sup> day March, 2021.

Kirsten Sultan, P.E., Coordinator  
District #7 Environmental Commission  
374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 4  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
802-751-0126  
[kirsten.sultan@vermont.gov](mailto:kirsten.sultan@vermont.gov)



# Northern Counties

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Visit [www.nchevt.org](http://www.nchevt.org) for more information or to apply online.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
 Claudette and Willie McAllister's daughter Kristine made this snowman in front of their home on West Church Street in Hardwick. With temperatures in the 50s predicted for midweek, he probably won't stay around much longer.

**Seeking PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER**

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# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
 Wolcott 5th grader Hayden Greene enjoys his school recess time sledding.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
 Mason Koteas, 6, (left), and Robert Cutler, 6, (right), both of Woodbury, skate at the Woodbury community ice rink Sunday.

## Wildcats Stumble in Tough Road Tests

by Ken Brown

MONTPELIER – The Hazen Union boys’ basketball team suffered its first losses of the season last week, falling to Division II Montpelier and division rival Randolph, putting their record at 5-2 on the season.

Tyler Ricker scored 16 points and Leo Riby-Williams added 11 along with 11 boards to lead the Solons to a 58-49 home win over Hazen last Monday.

Isaiah Baker overcame foul trouble to lead the Wildcats with 17, as they trailed by just three at the break. Montpelier showed why they are the top team in Division II in the third quarter, burying the Wildcats with a 23-8 run. Hazen Union clawed back within six behind Carter Hill (12 points) and Jadon Baker (12), but they had to foul late and wouldn’t get any closer. Nathan LaRosa added 12 points for Montpelier as they improved to 6-0 on the season.

“We were right there with them in the first half, but we turned the ball over and let it get away from us in the third and that was the difference in the game. I’m proud of how the guys fought back against an extremely deep and athletic team. They have a little bit of everything and possess the ability to play different styles and beat you in multiple ways,” said head coach Aaron Hill.

Randolph avenged a loss earlier in the season to the Wildcats behind Wyatt Messier’s 15 points, leading them to a 55-52 win at home Friday night. Carter Hill poured in a season-high 19 (17 in the first half) for Hazen Union as they took a 28-24 lead into the break. The Galloping Ghosts used their size and physicality, holding

*“Isaiah hasn’t really broke out yet from the outside, but it will come and we’ll keep working towards playing our best basketball. Northfield is an underrated basketball team, and they will be a really good test for us this week on the road,”*

Isaiah Baker to a season low 10 points and evening the season series. Hazen beat Randolph 67-48 at the ‘Cat Den’ two and a half weeks ago.

“We’ve been struggling a little bit with ball movement in our half-court offense, as well as securing rebounds, and they did a good job of exposing that. Their size is always a challenge and they handled our press much better this time around. Isaiah hasn’t really broke out yet from the outside, but it will come and we’ll keep working towards playing our best basketball. Northfield is an underrated basketball team, and they will be a really good test for us this week on the road,” said Hill.

Hazen Union traveled to face the Marauders on Monday and will wrap up the regular season at Richford on Friday.

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# SPORTS

## A Reflection on this Season at Craftsbury Outdoor Center

by Maggie Lee

CRAFTSBURY – This ski season at Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) has required a change in priorities, not only for pass holders and recreational skiers, but also for the ski racing community.

The past year was a story of calculated risk for activities at COC. The COVID-19 pandemic has required a balancing act between community health and safety and the mental well-being of those who rely on COC as an outlet for community and recreation.

“Safety is the biggest racer need,” says COC Race Director Ollie Burruss. Where, once, the primary goal was to provide competitive, fun racing for all participants, “Now it’s, ‘what are the medical procedures, safety plans, and health mitigation measures we need to put into effect?’ Then under that, ‘how do we make a competitive race?’”

COC has been hosting races throughout the season, open exclusively to those living in the state of Vermont, but that doesn’t mean Burruss has a clear conscience about it. “It puts me into an intellectual bind sometimes where I’m like, is this really the right thing to do?”

Burruss and the COC have hosted five sizable events, with other, smaller races for high-school teams and younger skiers. Those larger races are what keep Burruss up at night.

Ski racers from clubs across the state of Vermont participated in racing at Craftsbury this year. Sam Holt raced for the Mansfield Nordic Club and described his experience as a safe one, from a pandemic standpoint. But he missed the thrill of large crowds and mass-start races (all races at COC this year were individual interval starts, which allows for more space between racers; mass starts entail all racers starting at the same time together). “People recognize that it was a privilege to be racing during this time,” Holt says. “And I feel that the Nordic ski community is pretty big on like, good faith, if that makes sense.”

It’s this good faith that helped to temper some of Burruss’s stress about hosting but also kept him keenly aware of the impact racing can have on the broader Craftsbury community, “People talk about the beautiful things that racing can do for a resort community.



photo by Maggie Lee

*Trails at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center were uncrowded but beautifully groomed.*

Well, those are all negatives in a pandemic, and it’s bringing people in who wouldn’t otherwise be here, and that level of ambiguous risk is what keeps me up at night.” As such, Burruss is appreciative of the staff and community at COC, expressing that, “I think one of the things that’s been so unique and reassuring about the work that I do here and the people that I work with is that all of us take it terrifyingly seriously.”

This level of commitment has allowed COC to sustain much of its programming beyond racing. The center has also played host to the junior and Bill Koch League (middle school and younger ski league) teams. In a usual year, the kids come to the center to train together with an experienced coaching staff, Burruss among them.

Last spring, the center closed its doors with the rest of the state when the COVID-19 pandemic forced a lockdown. Burruss explained that, while they weren’t able to meet in person, the coaching staff continued to send training plans and strength videos. But “we were watching as the kids were just drifting further and further away from being motivated, being engaged in the sport,

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*“It’s our day  
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or being engaged with anything,” he said. This echoed concerns over mental health and the pandemic happening around the world. Early last summer, Burruss said, “We decided that it was a mini mental health crisis for a lot of these kids to be so isolated. We thought getting them back together outside, skiing, doing something healthy seemed pretty reasonable and pretty safe.”

It’s not just racers and young athletes that rely on the center for their mental well-being in this pandemic. Burruss noted that, “Normally racing is the biggest impact on our numbers in a weekend but, this year, it’s our day skiing numbers that are definitely outpacing our event numbers.”

Recreational skiers have boosted visitation this year. Last weekend, I was one of them. I packed my Prius with skis, snacks, and plenty of warm layers and made

the trek up to the Craftsbury for a day of skiing through the pastoral fields and enchanting forests of the area. It was a bright, sunny day with temperatures in the mid-20s -- an ideal day for a ski.

Before arriving, I had to make a reservation and complete a brief health screening. When I arrived, I checked in at the booth at the entrance to the parking lot set up specifically for COVID-safety check-ins and got ready in my car. I’d paid for my pass before getting there, so I was able to step out of my car and onto the trails. Though the experience was different from past years, the extra effort felt necessary in a global pandemic.

Overall, Burruss says the effort this year was really for the younger skiers. After witnessing “how gnarly the mental health effects of virtual school were,” Burruss felt good about the relative risk and mitigation measures COC took on to make this season happen. But, he says, “feeling good about something doesn’t mean that you can just forget what happens when they drive out of the parking lot,” hinting again at the need for constant vigilance. Burruss says, “I won’t feel at ease about what I did this year until mid-April when we’re done with racing.”

# SPORTS

## Twinfield-Cabot Girls Take Round One Over Lady Chargers

by Ken Brown

OXBOW – After a successful tune up over the Oxbow junior varsity team, the Lady Trojans cruised past Craftsbury Academy on the road last week in their first true varsity game of the season.

Eighth grader Jorga Washburn scored 10 points to lead Twinfield/Cabot to a 31-22 road win over Oxbow last Wednesday. The Lady Trojans sank 9-18 free throws to help build a 19-11 halftime lead and never looked back. Kelsey G. led the Lady Olympians with 12 in the loss.

“The girls did a nice job of executing our press and that got us going early with some easy baskets. We were a little more patient running our plays and showed a little bit of improvement from the foul line, which was nice to see,” said head coach Jason Cushing.

Washburn continued to lead the offense on Saturday, pouring in 12 points to lead the Lady Trojans to a 44-21 road win over Craftsbury Academy on their Senior Night. Alice McLaine added seven and lone senior Bailey Cushing led a trio of Lady Trojans with five. Craftsbury honored their only senior on the team, Heather Meehan, but head coach and A.D. Gabriela Silva also chose to honor Bailey with flowers and gifts.

“It was really classy of them to honor Bailey like that, I know she appreciated it. They travel to us this week on our Senior Night and we will definitely give Heather

*These girls are tight-knit, they practice hard, and have a great attitude.*

the same type of treatment,” said Cushing.

Ella Gillespie led Craftsbury with a game-high 15 points, but any Lady Charger comeback was thwarted when she picked up her fourth foul midway through the third quarter. Washburn and company put the game away with a 16-2 run in the third.

“Craftsbury is young and rebuilding like we are, and the girls were really pumped to play their first varsity matchup of the season. Gabriela has a really good group of kids over there. They hustle from start to finish, and Gillespie is only going to get better. Jorga plays with a confidence that you don’t see all the time from an eighth grader, and she is a going to be a great building block for this program. These girls are tight knit, they practice hard, and have a great attitude. They play the game for the right reasons and they are a pleasure to coach,” said Cushing.

Twinfield/Cabot will host the Lady Chargers in the rematch on Wednesday’s Senior Night before wrapping up the regular season at home against Danville.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury’s only senior, Heather Meehan, aims for the basket guarded by Twinfield’s only senior, Bailey Cushing (#33), during play in the World War II Memorial Gymnasium March 6. At back left is Alice McLane (#5). The Lady Trojans took down the Lady Chargers 44-21.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield’s Cadence Celley (#10) races past Sadie Skorstad (center) and Sage Sweeney (right) of Craftsbury March 6. Twinfield defeated their hosts 44-21.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Jorga Washburn (#23) of Twinfield looks to pass by Craftsbury’s Ida Eames (right) during a game held in Craftsbury Saturday. Twinfield won 44-21.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Ella Gillespie of Craftsbury is blocked by Twinfield’s Carley Mancini (#2) and Cadence Celley (#10).

# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Dylan Washer (right) of Craftsbury heads toward the basket guarded by Twinfield's Dom Hale (#13) Thursday. Twinfield took the victory over Craftsbury 71-24.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Twinfield Junior Mason Cushing (#32) is guarded by Craftsbury's Dylan Washer (right) during a match held Thursday at Twinfield.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Craftsbury senior John Smith (#3) passes around Dom Hale (#13) and Brody Moran during play at Twinfield March 4.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Henry LoRe (#4) of Twinfield races up the court followed by Craftsbury's Evan LaMare (#10) in a game at Twinfield March 4. Following the play (in back) are Gavin Fowler (left) and Dylan Washer (right). Twinfield prevailed 71-24.

## Trojans Battle Through Injuries, Stay Perfect

by Ken Brown

BRADFORD – The Twinfield/Cabot boys' basketball team scratched out a tough road win against Oxbow before racing past Craftsbury Academy last week, running their record to 5-0 on the season.

Gavin Fowler scored 20 points and pulled down 16 boards to lead the Trojans to a hard-fought 59-57 road win over Oxbow last Monday. Fowler was shelved with foul trouble for much of the first half and 'big man' Cutler Gladding was out with an ankle injury, helping the Olympians build an eight-point lead heading into the break. Eighth grader Kerrick Medose (16 points) kept the Trojans within striking distance early, Fowler dominated the second half on both ends of the court, and freshman Meles Gouge sank four huge free throws late to seal the game. Bryce Ilsley led Oxbow with a game-high 33 points, but it wasn't quite enough as they fell to 1-6.

"The first half was challenging to say the least without our 'bigs', but Kerrick stepped up again for us, Gavin took over in the second half, and Meles stepped up to the free throw line like he was a seasoned vet. We were a little banged up, but we were happy to add a game on short notice and the guys gutted out a good road win. They shot the ball really well in their gym and give them credit, they came out with a lot of energy. Fortunately, we made just enough plays down the stretch to win," said head coach Chris Hudson.

Fowler poured in a game-high 16 points and Medose added 10 as Twinfield/Cabot dominated the Chargers at home Thursday night, 71-24. Meles Gouge had another solid game with nine of his own and Brayden Cushing and Sam Russell added seven points apiece in the win. Fowler, Cutler Gladding, Henry LoRe, and Yachfine Aziz were all honored for their outstanding high school careers on Senior Night.

"It was a good win on Senior Night and was great to get everyone some valuable minutes on the court and everyone got into the box score. The guys did some really nice things and we were able to work on some sets that we've been struggling with. We are really struggling with injuries right now and, unfortunately, we have the toughest part of our schedule coming up this week. We have a lot of talent on this team so we are going to hit road with the belief that we can compete and win and show a lot of toughness and heart this week," said Hudson.

The Trojans traveled to archrival Danville on Tuesday and will stay on the road to battle Blue Mountain on Friday.

# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Hazen senior Macy Molleur (#5) whips around Savannah Thomann (#22) of Vergennes during action at home March 2. Following the play is Lady Cat Tessa Luther. Vergennes got by Hazen 50-39.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Hazen Union senior Alleigh Gabaree (#25) aims for a layup followed by teammate Macy Molleur (#5) during action against Vergennes March 2. Second from right is Kate Gosliga (#30) and Jordan Jewell (right) of the Commodores.

## Lady Cats Earn Second Win During Tough Stretch

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls' basketball team sandwiched a home win against Williamstown around two losses to Vergennes and Spaulding as they continued to navigate a challenging out-of-division schedule.

Kate Gosliga was a dominant force inside, pouring in 31 points to lead Vergennes to a 50-39 road win over Hazen last Tuesday. Natalie Geoffroy (11 points) kept the Lady Cats within striking distance through three quarters, but the Commodores senior center answered every Hazen run down the stretch. Alleigh Gabaree added 8 points and Alexis Christensen chipped in with 7 for Hazen in the loss. Cabot legend and now Vergennes head coach Billy Waller has his team at the top of the Division III standings at 6-1.

Alleigh Gabaree scored a game-high 17 points to lead the Lady Cats to their signature win of the season, a 49-44 home win over Division III Williamstown Friday night. Senior Abby Ainsworth had her best game of the year, scoring nine of her 11 points in the first half to give the Lady Cats a 28-17 lead at the break. Natalie Geoffroy had another strong game with 12 points as Hazen built their lead to 14 midway through the third quarter and survived a late run by Lady Blue Devils in the closing minutes.

*"This was one of our better games, we played together, moved the ball, and Abby ran the offense really well the first three quarters."*

Brianna McLaughlin led Williamstown with 13 and Ciera Sweet added 11 as they fell to 3-4.

"This was one of our better games, we played together, moved the ball, and Abby ran the offense really well the first three quarters. We played some really good basketball for stretches against Vergennes and Williamstown, but we just don't have a lot of depth and we get tired and struggle to get to the finish line against these good teams. This was a good win by the girls and good preparation for what we'll see in the postseason," said head coach Tim Whitney.

Natalie Folland scored a game-high 19 points as Spaulding denied the Lady Cats 64-43 Monday at the 'Cat Den' on Senior Night. Sage MacAuley added 13 for the Crimson Tide as the Division II power took a 40-23 lead into the break and never looked back. Macy Molleur paced

Hazen with 12, Natalie Geoffroy added 10, and Alexis Christensen chipped in with six in the loss. Seniors Alleigh Gabaree, Macy Molleur, Natalie Geoffroy, Abby Ainsworth, and Harley Papineau were honored with giant colored posters of the Lady Cat stars pasted high on the wall of the gymnasium, as well as a digital halftime montage put together by Molleur and Hardwick Cable Television. The Crimson Tide is coached by Tanya MacAuley, who skippered the Lady Cats to back-to-back 19-win seasons and a trip to the Barre Auditorium in 2018.

"There were a lot of emotions for the girls going into this game and we definitely showed some nerves early. They're big, athletic, and move the ball really well and definitely the best team we'll see this year. We had some good moments, but we just couldn't sustain anything, made a lot of silly mistakes, and we were chasing the rest of the way. This is a really good group of senior girls to coach, their heart is into basketball, they have a bond, and a desire to win and be successful. This has been a tough stretch against some really good out of division teams, but it should serve as good preparation for the tournament," said Whitney.

Hazen Union sits at 2-5 and wraps up the regular season on the road on Saturday against Blue Mountain in what will be a pivotal matchup in the divisional standings.