

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Volume 132 Number 11

## Police Department, Town React to Greensboro Canceling Contract

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At the March 18 select board meeting, the board discussed Greensboro’s cancellation of the \$245,053 contract for police services. The contract accounts for nearly a quarter of all revenues in Hardwick’s town budget.

At Greensboro’s Town Meeting, voters approved a budget with a \$78,000 decrease for police services with a note that “As of now,

we are unsure what our police services will be starting on 7/1/21.”

At its March 10 meeting, the Greensboro Select Board voted to contract with the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department for police services for \$190,000 for one year, starting on July 1, 2021.

Select board chair Eric Remick said Greensboro signed with Orleans County for “roughly the same amount they would have paid us.”

Remick said that Hardwick “built the police force based on covering two towns.” Town Manager Shaun Fielder and Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Chief Aaron Cochran discussed solutions.

Fielder said, “we didn’t get an official written notice, just a call from one of their select board members,” informing them of the cancellation. He said Hardwick had tried to keep “an open channel and keep the conversation

**See CONTRACT, 4**



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The vacant former senior center building (foreground) is set to be demolished to make room for the Jeudevine Memorial Library (in background) extension.

## Jeudevine Library Expansion Bid Documents Released

HARDWICK – The trustees of the Jeudevine Library have released bid documents for construction of the library expansion.

The documents were sent to five prequalified construction companies, who met criteria around successful completion of similar-sized projects, strong references, experience with historic buildings, experience with the Northeast Kingdom, and ability

to meet the specific requirements associated with federal funding.

The process of developing the bid documents was extensive and required decisions related to the final details of the architectural design, together with decisions around four sets of drawings by consulting engineers.

The firm of KAS, Inc. developed the civil engineering

**See EXPANSION, 2**

## Principal Merri Greenia Honored with School Leadership Award

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury Schools Principal Merri Greenia was awarded the National Association of Elementary School Principals’ “National Distinguished Vermont Principal of the Year” for 2021-2022. She was selected by the executive council of the Vermont Principals Association.

Principal Greenia began her career as an educator in a one-room schoolhouse on Town Hill in Wolcott, where she taught grades one through five.

“The school was a mile from my house, and I walked. We had a wood stove, an attached outhouse, and a large water jug with a communal dipper,” she said.

For the past 11 years, Greenia has been principal of Craftsbury’s pre-K through Grade 12 school system; for 25 years before that, she served as principal of the

**See GREENIA, 2**



photo by June Pichel Cook

Craftsbury Schools Principal Merri Greenia has been named the National Association of Elementary School Principals’ National Distinguished Vermont Principal of the Year. The award was announced by the Vermont Principals’ Association; she will be honored at the VPA Leadership Academy awards banquet on August 3, 2021.



photo courtesy of Kathleen Hoyne

The structure on 3065 Main Street in Cabot will be demolished for the CCA park project.

## Proposed CCA Park Serves as Guiding Symbol in Cabot Community Growth

by Maggie Lee, UVM Community News Service

CABOT – Small towns in Vermont and across New England are no strangers to aging populations and youth moving away. Cabot has not escaped this trend, but the town is doing something about it. Downtown Cabot is

changing to better reflect the lives of current residents as well as draw and retain younger residents. That change is starting with the brown building at 3065 Main Street.

When Fred Ducharme, a

**See PARK, 4**

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**Greenia**

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Wolcott Elementary School. Prior to moving into administration, Greenia taught middle and high school at Peoples Academy.

Greenia holds an M.A. in Education from the University of Vermont and an undergraduate degree from Johnson State College, now part of the Northern Vermont University.

"The greatest rewards are those breakthrough moments for students, those times when a child decides, 'I can do this,' and success follows," she said. "I have experienced many of those. I enjoy building systems that improve service to students and that make the work more efficient for staff. I still love the work."

In her 36 years working as a principal, she has been involved in both Wolcott and Craftsbury school refurbishing projects, floating bond issues, and using physical spaces effectively. Principal Greenia is a strong advocate for "small schools."

She believes in utilizing resources to the fullest and tapping into the natural talents of students and staff.

"I think small schools are beautiful and provide many opportunities," she said. "You may lose something in terms of variety of course offerings but gain a whole lot in keeping students engaged. Small schools, if you use all your resources, provide great opportunities for kids."

She said expanded opportunities can come through dual enrollments, early college admission, and online Advanced Placement courses. Fifty to 80 percent of Craftsbury Academy graduates continue their education at two- and four-year institutions, she said, with graduates accepted at prestigious universities such as Yale University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Greenia said that the past year has been a challenge for students, parents, and educators.

"Peer interactions have been reduced in many ways, and kids need kids to learn how to successfully navigate the social world, the social world that exists beyond a screen," she said.

Educators were required to learn new approaches to teaching in a "very short period of time," she said. "They have taught classes in fully remote mode, and they have also simultaneously taught some students in the room and some students on Google Meet. Engaging the remote students and the in-person students at the same time is challenging."

Greenia said finding the key to motivate students who are not engaged in learning is challenging but possible, provided that the right systems are in place.

Greenia's accomplishments as principal include implementing the Response to Instruction initiative at Wolcott Elementary School, which began as a pilot program and became a model for other school systems. It has now morphed into MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports).

Wolcott has been an official teacher training site, with student teachers from Johnson State College, (now NVTU). In Craftsbury, under Greenia's leadership, the school directors set a goal of 25 additional tuition students over five years, to reach a 180- student enrollment. Today, enrollment stands at 200 students, with more students wanting to opt in than transfer out in the student exchange program.

Greenia attributes her success to "listening, really listening" to teachers, principals, superintendents, custodians, para-educators.

"One of my favorite quotes about leadership is 'Where did they go? I am their leader and I must follow them,'" she said. "Everything I know about leadership I have learned from great people I have worked with over the past 41 years."

Principal Greenia will be honored on August 3 at the Vermont Principals' Association Leadership Academy awards banquet at the Stoweflake Resort.

**Expansion**


**Continued From Page One**

plan and assisted in the associated permitting. The structural engineering plan was developed by Dubois & King, Inc., while the mechanical and electrical plans were developed by Engineering Services of Vermont. A committee of trustees, staff, and the owner's representative for the project, Steve Pitkin of Albany, all consulted on these decisions to balance cost consciousness with high-quality work.

The documents then underwent an extensive review by the USDA Rural Development, which is contributing significant funding to the expansion. The USDA RD gave a stamp of approval as of March 12. The relevant permits have either been awarded or are underway. Next, the prequalified construction companies will visit the site for a walk-through to assist in the estimating process. Bids are expected in the first week of April, after which a decision will be made and construction will begin.

The tentative best estimate for construction would be a start date in May, dependent on the weather, and a completion date in the autumn.

The library expects to continue fundraising throughout the construction period. The hope is to raise a sufficient amount to fully complete the building by the official opening next winter.



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<b>Yoplait Yogurt</b> 10/\$5 6 oz.	<b>Van De Kamp Fish Sticks or Fillets</b> \$4.49 19.45-24.6 oz.	<b>American Flatbread Pizza</b> \$6.99 13.8-16.8 oz.	
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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police

### Media Log Summary

March 15: Suspicious Event, Lower Cherry St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rt. 14, Calais; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16; Suspicious Event, Suspicious Event, Lower Cherry St.

March 16: Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15W; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, The Bend Road, Greensboro; TRO/FRO Violation, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, W. Church St.; Found Property; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15.

March 17: Assist – Agency, Richard Xing, Walden; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15;

March 18: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 14/Tucker Brook Rd.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St. Suspicious Event, Cottage St./Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15W; Intoxication, Spruce Dr.

March 19: Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Union St.; TRO/FRO Service, High St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 14; Welfare Check, Maple St.; Found Property, Vt. Rte. 14; Lost Property, Cedar St.; Welfare Check, Lower Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15; Missing Person, Mackville Rd.;

March 20: Suspicious Event, Woodbury St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Marsh Rd.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Citizen Dispute, Mackville Rd.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 14S; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 15W; Alarm, Simpson Ln.; Suspicious Event, Hazen Union Dr.;

March 21: Theft; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Main St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 14S; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

## Hardwick Police

### Passing, Cell Phone and Wrong Plates Violation

Roberto Gines-Reyes, of St. Johnsbury, was stopped on March 19, at 7:40 a.m. on Wolcott St. in Hardwick. Police issued a \$220 ticket for a Passing violation.

Daniel S. Broome, of Concord, was stopped on March 16, at 2:45 p.m. on Wolcott St. Police issued a \$162 ticket for a Cell Phone violation.

Jadyn D. Newland, of Sheffield, was stopped on March 16, at 5:25 p.m. on Wolcott St. in Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for a Cell Phone violation.

Nancy Kellogg, of Hardwick, was stopped on March 16, at 3:25

p.m. on W. Church St. in Hardwick. Police issued a \$220 ticket for Limitations on Passing and Plates on Wrong Vehicle violations.

Kelsey D. Willette, of Lowell, was stopped on March 19, at 9:40 a.m. on Vt. Rte. 14. Police issued a \$162 ticket for a Cell Phone violation.

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

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 13 survivors of domestic and sexual violence from March 14 through March 21. AWARE is a nonprofit organization,

established in 1984, dedicated to resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

## Vermont State Police

### Fatal Crash, Attempted Murder, Lewd Conduct

On March 8, the Washington County Unit for Special Investigations received a report of a sex offense. This report was investigated by detectives assigned to the Vermont State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Subsequent investigation revealed that Samuel Russell of Greensboro had committed the crime of Lewd and Lascivious Conduct. Russell was ordered to appear in the Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on April 29 at 0830 hours to answer to the charge.

On March 17, at approximately 10:56 a.m., Vermont State Police in St. Johnsbury were notified of a single vehicle collision at 831 Richard Crossing Road in Walden. Preliminary investigation showed that Kenneth Phillips Sr., of Cabot, was traveling northbound at a high rate of speed for the road conditions present, traveled off the western portion of the roadway, and collided with a tree head-on. As a result of the collision, Phillips collided with the windshield of the vehicle and died at the scene due to his injuries. Kyle Hartman, of Plainfield and Amanda Belville, of Waitsfield, were passengers in the vehicle. They received non-life-threatening injuries. This collision is still under investigation and anyone with information is

asked to contact Corporal Darryl Cremo at (802) 748-3111.

On March 18, at approximately 11:52 p.m., troopers from the St. Johnsbury Barracks were notified of an alleged shooting incident that occurred on Cobb Road in Walden. The incident occurred between two parties who knew each other and is believed to be the result of a dispute between the accused and the victim that arose from a burglary in the town of Barton earlier in the day, Case #21A500835. The investigation determined that Chip Schneider, of Walden, fired a handgun multiple times into a vehicle occupied by Dylan Cady, of Barton. No one was injured. As a result of the investigation, Schneider was taken into custody on charges of attempted murder, reckless endangerment, and burglary. Schneider was jailed at the Northeast Regional Correctional Center, held without bail and was arraigned in the Criminal Division of Vermont Superior Court in St. Johnsbury on March 22.

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.

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## Park

Continued From Page One

member of the Cabot Select Board and lifelong Cabot resident, was growing up, the brown building at 3065 Main Street housed a small store. The property has changed hands several times since and, as Ducharme remembers it, has housed several apartments since the 1960s. More recently, the building had a negative reputation. The residents' dogs were threatening to the point that children on their way to school would cross the road to pass the building.

The Cabot Community Association (CCA) purchased the building and property in 2018 after voters approved a \$60,000 loan from the Cabot Community Investment Fund (CCIF). The CCA, according to its website, is a group of community members ranging from business owners to writers to waitresses making an effort to better the town of Cabot for all residents.

The stated plan for purchasing the property at the time of the vote was to support downtown revitalization efforts. The purchase is part of a larger downtown revitalization project partially funded by a \$20,000 grant from Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development.

Since the purchase, Ducharme says, "It's

made a whole difference to the community down there." Pedestrians should feel safer.

The building has sat vacant for several years but the vision for the property is finally taking shape. At the Cabot Select Board meeting on March 16, Lori Augustyaniak presented the CCA's initial plans to tear down the existing structure and use the land—which abuts the Winooski River—to create a small park. According to Augustyaniak, the structure on the property requires costly repairs. Removing the structure would allow more access to the property as well, considering the driveways on either side of the structure are not on the property purchased by the CCA.

Though nothing has been finalized as yet, there was discussion in the meeting last Tuesday by Augustyaniak, members of the select board, and community members of a small pavilion, an area for performing arts or outdoor concerts, handicap accessible paths, an educational nature trail, and the possibility that the site could be used for a farmer's market.

Ducharme supports this plan and sees it as an opportunity to draw more families and young people to the town. "The proposed park is going to provide a place for families, and I believe that we

as a community need to be more family oriented." The park and the opportunity to draw more families to the area symbolizes the life blood of the community for Ducharme, "if there's no kids, there's a problem, the future is not going to be long."

The park would also serve as a bright spot as the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ducharme looks forward to "Having a focal point where we can come together as a community and hang out – have some pizza, listen to music." He also sees economic opportunity: "I believe that we [the select board] should be helping and fostering new business – just something to give as more of a tax base." Ducharme hopes that the park, along with other recent changes in the downtown, will draw more business to Main Street.

This development, according to the Ducharme, is an opportunity for a reinforcing feedback loop. Changes like this will hopefully draw younger families to the town and, "when you have new people come into a community, they look at things differently," hinting here that newcomers to the town would be an asset to future change.

To learn more about the proposed project, visit the Cabot Community Association [cabot-vermont.org/town-directory/](http://cabot-vermont.org/town-directory/)



## Filling the Bleachers

Hazen Union principal David Perrigo is surrounded by 98 head shot pictures of family and friends of the Hazen varsity boys' team for their quarter-final game against Enosburg March 20. Spectators were not allowed to attend because of COVID-19 but were certainly there in spirit. The principal attended all of the boys' and girls' varsity home games.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Contract

Continued From Page One

going" and did their best to explain costs to Greensboro. "We were at a significant disadvantage because we weren't invited to the table to offer more," he said.

Fielder said a "line of commentary" had emerged that Greensboro thought it had been taken advantage of in past years and asked to pay more than their share. "We respectfully disagree with that," he said.

The contract specified 24% of HPD's costs as its cost-basis for budgeted services.

"If you look at our evaluation over the last eight to ten-year period, there's some years where [the actual cost] may be a little more than 24% and some years where it may be under," Fielder

said. "In no way, shape, or form were we trying to take advantage of the taxpayers and the community being served."

He added, "We looked at this as a negotiation. The other side at no point considered this a negotiation."

Chief Cochran mentioned one officer from the town's department had moved to another agency and another officer deployed, thus reducing current payroll costs. Remick said not having to pay those two officers got the town within roughly \$40,000 of the lost revenue. The department is currently in a hiring freeze and will not seek to fill the position vacated by the officer who left, nor can they fill the deployed officer's position, which must by law be held open for that person when

they return from deployment.

Chief Cochran said he agreed that HPD did everything in its power to work with Greensboro and "sometimes bent over backwards," including preparing an evolving set of Greensboro-specific reports at the town's request and sending an HPD representative to Greensboro select board meetings.

Remick said he was not aware of any complaints about the service HPD provided.

Chief Cochran said he and Fielder were evaluating options, including eliminating a shift or immediately reducing on-call personnel. Chief Cochran said the "worst-case scenario" would be reducing coverage to less than 24-hours, but "I don't see that [happening]," he said. Fielder said additional personnel cuts were

not an option as it would be "bad for morale."

Also discussed was the possibility of HPD providing policing services for another town or towns to fill the revenue gap left by Greensboro's decision. Fielder said he was "upset" by the cancellation.

"We've had a long-standing working relationship with Greensboro," he said. "They've decided to go a different direction [and] we honor that, [but] we're prepared to be there as a future service provider if the opportunity comes up." Fielder said the contract with Greensboro will remain in effect until the end of June. "We have an obligation to do this service through June 30 and we damn sure will be doing it," he said. "That's our obligation."

# Is Food Still Saving our Town? The Food Pantry's Role in Sustaining Hardwick

by Anna Kolosky, UVM Community News Service

HARDWICK – Nestled next to a church, the Hardwick Area Food Pantry sits tucked away in the heart of Hardwick. Serving about 300 people a month, the pantry is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides services to seven local towns: Hardwick, Wolcott, Greensboro, Craftsbury, Walden, Albany and Stannard.

LauraLee Sweeney, the pantry's director, recently took on the role after working in numerous other positions.

"I went to college for human service and psychology, so it's been a passion of mine for quite a while now," Sweeney said. "I came to the food pantry after working in several different roles in social services, and I now have about ten years of experience."

Sweeney had just started to settle into her role as director when the pandemic hit and forced the pantry to make some major system redesigns.

"Normally, people would come in, get a cart, and have the freedom to choose from a variety of items," Sweeney said. "Now, we serve outside and still try to keep as many choices as possible, but it has taken people's autonomy away."

Winter weather posed a serious challenge to serving people outside, Sweeney added.

"The church that we're attached to allows us to use the entryway to put our table, so our volunteers have some place to take shelter," she explained. "The people outside can wait in their car if they have one, otherwise they're in the elements, so we try to make it quick."

Along with adapting to outside service and cold weather, the food pantry started a delivery program to reach more remote households under COVID-19 guidelines.

"We were talking about implementing a delivery system pre-pandemic because the need was there," Sweeney said. "But the dramatic situations we were seeing, paired with other factors,



LauraLee Sweeney

really helped push the program forward."

The delivery program also runs in the pantry's two other locations in Albany and Craftsbury, serving over a hundred households between the three of them, Sweeney said. Not only does the delivery program provide food, it provides social interaction for quarantining citizens.

"I've had people on the delivery program say that their delivery driver has been the only interaction they've had with someone in a while," Sweeney said. "It's really important to them. Just to have that quick interaction with a person has been really meaningful."

Before and throughout the pandemic, the pantry was buying and receiving some of their food products from local farms. The pantry always has local eggs, milk, bread and meat Sweeney said.

"Black Dirt Farm gave us donations of eggs, greens, and plant starts at the start of the pandemic," Sweeney said. "Patty LeBlanc's farm also gives us eggs, and we get our milk from Sweet Rowen Farm in Albany."

If the pantry had unlimited funds, they would love to buy everything locally, Sweeney added.

"We want to support the local economy because it's just going to benefit the local community."

She called the strategy "a preventative approach so that, hopefully, people don't have to come to the food pantry. They can have the satisfaction of growing their own food or earning money to buy their own food."

In addition to providing food and plant starts, the pantry hosts educational workshops about growing your own food, Sweeney said.

"On April 3, we're running a pruning workshop at Atkins Field and on April 23, there's a mushroom growing workshop," she said. "Those will be held in-person, outdoors while wearing

masks and anyone is welcome to come."

While the food pantry has managed to keep providing for the community throughout the pandemic, Sweeney is excited about the future.

"We've adapted, expanded and made it through," Sweeney said. "But I am really looking forward to going back to people coming in, making their own choices and just getting to know us more."

For more information about the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, visit [nourishhardwick.org/pantry](http://nourishhardwick.org/pantry) or view their wishlist at [nourishhardwick.org/wishlist](http://nourishhardwick.org/wishlist).

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### HARDWICK DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

7 p.m. -- Amendment to Conditional Use Decision (2020-033 - Conversion to a Multi-Family Dwelling) – Request to exceed Central Business district standard of height due to Roof repair and replacement.  
- 7 p.m. – Application #2021-011 (Bair, LLC) at 39 North Main Street, Hardwick, Vermont.

7:15 p.m.-- Conditional Use and Flood Plain Review regarding the renovation of an existing Accessory Structure (Garage) in the Central Business zoning district. Renovation is in the Floodway – 7:15 p.m.  
– Application #2021-010 (Godob, LLC – O'Brien) at 35 Main Street, East Hardwick, Vermont.

To join the Zoom hearing, sign up for a free Zoom account anytime ([zoom.us](http://zoom.us)), then at 7 p.m., or 7:15 p.m., on Wednesday, April 7, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 932 5657 5615. The passcode is 595264. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 301-715-8592 (this is not a toll free number).

To join this Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93256575615?pwd=ZnczVlhOS1RGbnJCMWRFTldEQzJBZz09>

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

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

Kristen Leahy  
Hardwick Zoning Administrator

## BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Heart of Vermont® Chamber of Commerce is seeking individuals interested in promoting their local business community.

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Please contact the Heart of Vermont® Chamber of Commerce by March 29, at (802) 624-3930 or email [chamber@heartofvt.com](mailto:chamber@heartofvt.com)

# Town Manager Fielder Will Not Renew Employment Contract



photo by Doug McClure

Town Manager Shaun Fielder announced officially at the March 18 select board meeting that he is not renewing his employment contract, which expires on May 31. Here is Fielder in December 2018 as he began his job. He said at the meeting that "We got a lot accomplished in these past two years."

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Town Manager Shaun Fielder formally told the Hardwick Select Board on March 18 that he will not be renewing his employment contract, which ends on May 31.

Citing "personal reasons," Fielder said, "I have made a decision to go a different direction. I am really proud of my 2-plus years here in Hardwick." He said he appreciated the support he has received from the community and the select board. He intends to fulfil the remaining days on his contract, he said.

Fielder later said "We've accomplished a lot these past two years, including various projects to improve town infrastructure across the board. This last year in particular the town was focused on keeping various town services functioning for the good of all community members. This was not easy but has been accomplished due to a very dedicated set of employees who are committed public servants, I will miss working with them."

Select board chair Eric Remick said he reached out to Abby Friedman of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and she "pretty strongly recommends" the board consider an interim town manager "to buy ourselves a little more time to do a search." He noted the two previous times the town conducted a town manager search the VLCT had been "very helpful, they handle a lot of the administrative work, they keep us on the straight and narrow as far as following HR guidelines and all that."

This time around he said she told him getting assistance through the organization could be more challenging. "I asked her, 'what could they do? And what would the pricing look like?' And

she emailed me late this afternoon saying that she's still not sure that they have the bandwidth to help us right now," he said. "They actually are busy helping other towns. It depends some on our time frame and she'll get back to me if they can't help us." Remick said a similar organization existed in New Hampshire, according to Friedman.

Remick said, "The last two times we've done a [town manager] search we cast a fairly wide net. Last time [we] reviewed a lot of applications, interviewed quite a lot of people. Personally, I'm not sure it's worth casting a super wide net. I think focusing on New England might be a little more efficient for us."

He said Friedman reminded him there is no statute mandating the board to conduct a town manager search and they could instead simply hire someone.

"If we had a candidate that we knew was qualified and wanting to do the job, we could interview that person and hire them," he said. "But I don't think we have that person." Friedman told him she knew of a retired person in southern Vermont with relevant experience who might be a possibility. Board member Shari Cornish said she was inquiring whether former Town Manager Jon Jewett might be willing to serve as an interim town manager "to get us through the pandemic."

With time constraints on the meeting and an executive session still to go, the board discussed holding a special meeting prior to the next scheduled meeting to decide the matter. Remick said "If we are wanting to hire an interim [town manager], let's move in that direction. If not need, then we really need to get on the stick and start a search."



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Easter Bunny and the Hazen Union Wildcat teamed up on March 18, with the help of many volunteers, to fill 4,000 eggs with candy for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held at Hazen Union on April 3 at 10 a.m. Ages will be separated in four groups with each group in different pods, 5 and under, 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12. The event is sponsored by the Hardwick Recreation Committee.

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## COVID Vaccination Clinics

101-year-old Richard Abare of Morrisville receives his first dose at Copley's COVID vaccine clinic.

**Copley Hospital will be holding COVID vaccination clinics at the Morrisville VFW Post 9653 - 28 VFW Street (behind River Arts)**

**Clinics are by appointment only**

Wednesday, March 31st,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	
Thursday, April 1st,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Wednesday, April 7,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Thursday, April 8,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Wednesday, April 14,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Thursday, April 15,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose

Please arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before your scheduled time

**How to Make an Appointment:**  
To register for a vaccine appointment, visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) (preferred method) or call **855-722-7878**. Please have your name, date of birth, address, email, phone number, and health insurance information available. The website also provides helpful tips on registering including videos.

**COPLEY HOSPITAL**

For a full schedule of clinics visit [www.copleyvt.org](http://www.copleyvt.org)

# Greensboro Selects the Village for Wastewater Treatment System Study

by Dan Predpall

GREENSBORO – The Town of Greensboro won a grant in 2020 to study the feasibility of installing a wastewater treatment system. The engineering firm Hoyle and Tanner was selected to conduct the study. Work on the first phase of the work began in early December and an interim report was submitted to the town last week.

The first phase of work involved evaluating three town districts to determine which area was most suitable for a wastewater treatment system. The districts studied were the village (adjacent to Caspian Lake), Caspian Lake (residents located near the lakes shore), and The Bend village.

Each district was evaluated against several criteria: health and safety, aging infrastructure, life cycle cost, potential for future grant funding, wastewater survey results, soil suitability, and reasonable growth prospects. Hoyle and Tanner collected available data with regard to

these criteria.

The firm rated the village higher on every criterion considered. These results were presented to the Town of Greensboro wastewater team. After review, the team agreed with the findings, and decided to select the village for further study.

Over the next several months, the engineer will search for suitable sites for the wastewater facility in the village and surroundings. One or more sites will be studied in detail. A conceptual design will be developed for the best site. Construction and operating costs will be estimated for this design. A report summarizing the results will be submitted to the Town in early fall.

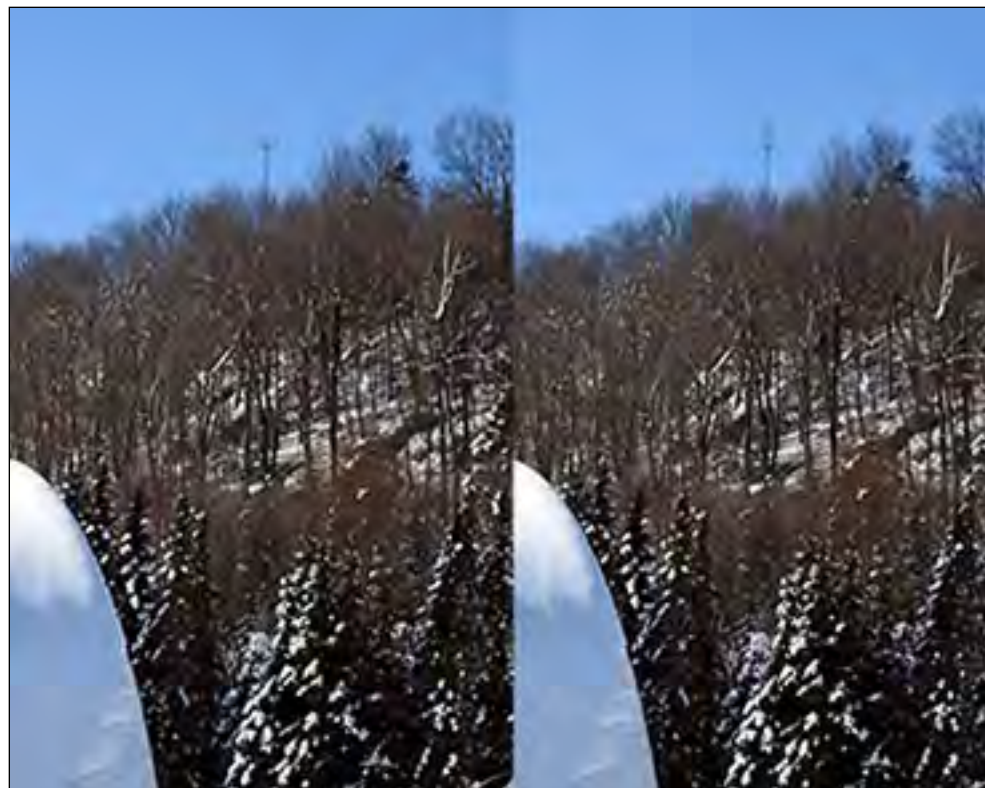
Residents who have any questions at this time can call Kim Greaves at the town offices to have a wastewater team member answer questions or concerns.

[Editor's note: Dan Predpall is a member of the Town of Greensboro wastewater team.]



photo by Vanessa Fournier

This photo of ice that came down the Lamoille and collected by the Cottage Street bridge in Hardwick was taken on March 18. The ice out caused no damage.



courtesy photo

AT&T is proposing a 10' extension a tower on Hopkins Hill Road and released this "viewshed" analysis showing the visual impact of the height of the tower from Hopkins Hill road 1 mile away. The current tower is on the left, the simulation with the extension is on the right.

# AT&T Proposes 10-foot Height Increase to Existing Tower

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – AT&T-day filed a 60-day advance notification for a tower extension with the Vermont Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on March 15.

The company is proposing adding 10 feet onto the 130-foot tower on Hopkins Hill Road. That tower is owned by Stowe-based Cloud Alliance, which informed the PUC that they authorized submitting the permit applications.

The proposed work includes a new generator and yet-to-be-determined antennae on the ten-foot extension. In a provided viewshed analysis, AT&T believed it has demonstrated that the tower's additional height would have minimal visual impact.

The case number is 21-1078-AN. For details, visit [epuc.vermont.gov](http://epuc.vermont.gov) and search for that case number. Documents are also available from [bit.ly/newcellhardwick](http://bit.ly/newcellhardwick).

## Our Doctors are our Heroes

Please join Copley Hospital in thanking our compassionate and dedicated physicians on National Doctors' Day, March 30. We thank our physicians who serve our communities, go above and beyond to keep us healthy and safe and work tirelessly to improve the lives of their patients.

*We are proud of the work you do and the difference you make.*



- Daniel Albert, MD, Rheumatology
- Nicholas Antell, MD, Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Catherine Antley, MD, Pathology
- Brian Aros, MD, Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Graham Atkins, MD, Pulmonology
- Richard Bennum, MD, Radiology
- David Bisbee, MD, Family Practice
- Kim Bruno, MD, Family Practice
- Brendan Buckley, MD, Internal Medicine
- Allison Christie, MD, MPH, Family Practice
- Armando Ciampa, MD, Pathology
- David Coddaira, MD, Family Practice
- Roslinde Collins-Gibbard, MD, Sleep Medicine
- Brian Doyle, MD, Ophthalmology
- Donald Dupuis, MD, General Surgery
- William Ellis, MD, OB/GYN
- Andrew Erickson, MD, General Surgery
- Laura Felsted, DO, Family Practice
- Liam Gannon, MD, Emergency Medicine
- Patrick Heaghney, MD, Emergency Medicine
- Nathan Hemmer, MD, Emergency Medicine
- Ciara Hollister, DPM, Podiatry
- Clea James, MD, Family Practice
- Richard James, MD, Sports Medicine
- Philip Kiely, MD, Family Practice
- Adam Kunin, MD, Cardiology
- Alison Landrey, MD, Internal Medicine
- Megan Lea, MD, Emergency Medicine
- Mckalayn Leclerc, MD, Family Medicine

- Steven Levine, MD, Hospitalist
- J. Martin Linseisen, MD, Emergency Medicine
- John C. Macy, MD, Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Robert Marsan, Jr., MD, Emergency Medicine
- Katherine Marvin, MD, Family Practice
- Joseph S. McLaughlin, MD, Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Bryan Monier, MD, Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Sarah Morgan, MD, Family Practice
- Neil Nigro, MD, Emergency Medicine
- Howard Novick, MD, Radiology
- Courtney Olmsted, MD, General Surgery
- Candice Ortiz, MD, Radiology
- David Ospina, MD, Oncology
- Betsy Perez, MD, Urology
- Jennifer Peters, MD, Hospitalist
- Francis Pinard, OD, Optometry
- Jeanmarie Prunty, MD, Neurology
- Adam Putnam, MD, Emergency Medicine
- Robert Quinn, MD, Family Practice
- David Roy, MD, Family Practice
- Peter Sher, MD, Family Practice
- Joel Silverstein, MD, Gastroenterology
- Robert Smith, MD, Radiology
- Steven Soriano, DO, Pediatrics
- Chloe Tartaglia, MD, Family Medicine
- Anne Vitaletti-Coughlin, MD, Pain Management
- Melissa Volansky, MD, Family Practice
- Kelvey Wilson, MD, Emergency Medicine
- Daniel Wolfson, MD, Emergency Medicine



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# Wolcott Gets Garden Grant, Junk Ordinance Resurrected

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – At the March 17 meeting, Town Administrator Randall Szott announced that work on a Healthy Lamoille Valley (HLV) mini-grant application he worked on with Deb Klein had borne fruit.

HLV awarded \$500 for a community garden and vegetable pantry behind the depot/library. HLV required a formal acceptance by April 1, which the board approved.

Chair Linda Martin said, “I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Deb [Klein] and... Randall [Szott]... for obtaining that grant. I think that will be quite a nice addition to our School Street complex and the library area, so we’re looking forward to that.”

Building off of that project, Szott said he is seeking a grant from the AARP “which could actually be much more substantial.” He said that the HLV grant could be a “kick start” for future grant opportunities.

“The more community partners and support we have we can always leverage that into further support. Granting agencies like to see other folks with skin in the game.” He said that if successful the grant could mean as much as \$10,000, based on the average award, if Wolcott needed it.

Szott said he had also put in the previously discussed Materials Management Infrastructure Grant application involving the transfer station, but had no status update at present. The transfer station is running high on some expenses. Town Clerk Belinda Clegg noted that the recycling costs exceeded expectations, and fees went up in January. The board decided that Wolcott as a member of the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District should follow its rates and acted accordingly. Part of the reason for the increase was under-billing from Casella Waste Systems for three years.

Addressing the cosmetic issues

with the fascia and guardrails on the Gulf Road bridge is now in the quote-gathering stage, according to Road Foreman Dillon Cafferky. He re-iterated that these repairs are required by the state but are not structural in nature. The guardrails are too low.

As the weather warms, plans for finally fixing Brook Road’s damage from Halloween 2019 are starting to take shape. Cafferky reminded the board of the rental agreement for the temporary bridge, which serves as a transition to a permanent solution and was installed last July. The quote was \$4,800 for one year and \$400 per month thereafter. Beyond the bridge, another necessary aspect was clarifying land ownership and impact in the area. An engineer is putting together a mylar map that the town will share with landowners for review in advance of preparing deeds.

Vice chair Kurt Klein noted that Wolcott’s voters had spoken on Town Meeting Day and overridden a petition opposing the Junk Ordinance. He motioned to bring that ordinance out of suspension and into effect immediately, which all board members agreed with.

The town uses New England Municipal Resource Center’s, Ltd. (NEMRC)’s software for numerous town functions but is not using all the models being paid for. The board will revisit this topic at its April 7 meeting.

Town meeting was discussed for another reason: 233 residents voted, which beat the previous record of 180 in 2020. Of the 233, 130 were absentee votes. The board felt it was time to take the voters’ pulse about voting at town meeting via Australian ballot compared to normal in-person floor voting. The particulars of what form this questionnaire or discussion will take is slated for further exploration at the April 7 meeting.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Nils Koons of Albany enjoys the sport of kite skiing. He said he likes to go to Caspian in Greensboro because it’s always so windy there.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Woodbury firefighter Tristan Joy (right) practices rescuing Woodbury firefighter James Dailey (left) with a horse collar rescue device during a mock ice water rescue training held at Woodbury Lake on March 20. In the back is Greensboro Lt. Andrew Casavant. Twenty-seven firefighters from Greensboro, Berlin and Woodbury attended the training hosted by the Woodbury Fire Department.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Berlin Fire Chief Keith Van Iderstine (left) and Woodbury Fire Chief Paul Cerutti (right) visit during a break in the ice water rescue training held at Woodbury Lake March 20.

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# Appointments and Hiring Transparency Questioned

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO -- The select board reorganized at its March meeting, with Peter Romans returning as board chair. Gary Circosta will serve as vice chair.

The traditional reorganization meeting includes appointments to town committees, naming board members to serve as liaisons with other town entities, and establishing meeting time, date, and place.

Several residents raised questions about a lack of diversity in committee reappointments and a lack of transparency in posting town job opportunities.

Concerns were raised about the same people serving repeat reappointments to committees each year and its effect on diversity of representation, particularly at the development review board (DRB). According to March select board minutes, Board Chair Romans explained volunteers were reappointed to serve on committees because the board respected the planning commission's and DRB's internal candidate vetting process and accepted their recommendations.

Current development review board members whose terms have expired are Nat Smith, Linda Romans, and MacNeil. All three were reappointed unanimously to three-year posts.

The board unanimously voted Zoning Administrator Brett Stanciu to the position of town treasurer. The town voted in the annual meeting to change the position from an elected to an appointed post. The board placed the article on the warning to attract a broader pool of applicants. As an elected post, eligibility for the position is limited to registered residents only.

Stanciu, a resident of Hardwick, has served as assistant treasurer since November of last year, when former town treasurer Barbara Brooke stepped down. Although Stanciu does not have municipal accounting training, she worked with Brooke. Stanciu was offered the post in November in part because of constraints related to COVID-19; Stanciu had spent time in the office as zoning administrator and would not be a new person "coming and going" in the office. Both Town Clerk Kim Greaves and Vice Chair Circosta said Stanciu was doing a great job as assistant treasurer.

Residents at the meeting questioned the lack of transparency in filling the position and noted the job should have been posted in November before the appointment of a new treasurer was made at the March meeting. The board was requested to establish a transparent hiring policy to allow everyone to participate in the process.

The town also voted at the annual meeting to appoint rather than

elect its town constable. The proposed change was necessary because of unsettled police contract negotiations at the time, the board said.

Since the annual meeting, the board has contracted with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department for policing services for one year, beginning July 1, 2021. The Hardwick Police Department's current contract with the town expires June 30, 2021.

Resident Mark Snyder indicated he was interested in serving as the first constable. The board tabled appointments to the first and second constable positions and an appointment to the planning commission until its April meeting.

Whether there is a lack of volunteers willing to serve or a lack of information as to what opportunities to serve exists was discussed. It was suggested the town website list job openings and positions on committees, allowing interested parties to register their interest.

The board made the following appointments unanimously:

road foreman, Thomas Camarra; conservation commission, Jane Hoffman; health officer, Karl Stein; deputy health officer, Christine Armstrong; animal control officer, Kevin Rich. Cilla Bonney-Smith was appointed tree warden and Patricia Mercier town forest fire warden.

Four members of the recreation committee were appointed: Erika Karp, John Schweitzer, Devin Burgess, and Naomi Rancz-Schleifer. Appointments to the Caspian Lake beach committee are Ila Hunt, chair; Linda Shatney; and John Schweitzer, treasurer.

Dave Brochu Jr. was named as emergency management chair. Named to the emergency planning committee are Anne Stevens, chair; Wayne Young, Tim Nisbet, Eric Pilbin, Andy Dales, and Michael Lapierre. The following were appointed to the hazard mitigation committee: Valdine Hall, Kim Greaves, Lorelei Wheeler, Melissa Moffatt, George Young, and Tim Nisbet.

The board discussed naming an official newspaper as The Hardwick Gazette, which has a digital edition online. The Hardwick Gazette and The News & Citizen were voted as the newspapers of record.

The board established its regular monthly meeting to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Collier Room in the town hall and/or via Zoom or other digital platform.

Resident Naomi Rancz-Schleifer asked the board to continue community participation access via Zoom when in-person meetings resume.

The board is scheduled to meet April 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Collier Room of the town hall.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen students are dismissed from school March 18. On this date one year ago all schools were closed due to COVID-19 and moved to remote learning. Hazen reopened on September 8, 2020 with a hybrid schedule.

## State Sets Vaccine Rollout for All Ages

by Doug McClure

MONTPELIER – The State of Vermont announced a timeline for all age groups to register for their first COVID vaccination by April 19.

Beginning this Thursday, those 60 and over can register online, and on Monday, those 50 and over can register. The 40-49 group will be able to register on April 5, the 30-39 group the following week on April 12, and everyone over 16 on April 19.

In making the announcement, Governor Scott was careful to clarify these are the first dates when people can register and the actual appointment availability could be a couple of weeks out from that date. He also said that the dates are contingent on the state receiving the expected vaccine supply from the federal government.

While Orleans County had until now been near the bottom of counties in terms of percentage vaccinated, that trend has changed. Caledonia County now is the third-least-vaccinated county in the state, at 29.6% vaccinated, and Orleans ranks in the middle at 31.9%, just under the statewide average of 32.7%. In both counties, though, well over half of the residents 60 years of age and up have been vaccinated. The highest-priority age groups in terms of risk for serious consequences from COVID are over three-quarters vaccinated in both counties, with 82% of those 75 and up vaccinated in Caledonia County and 80% in Orleans County.

In announcing the anticipated

schedule, Governor Scott said, "everyone in the final age band could be finished in June, which is why I've used the 4th of July as a marker for when things will feel somewhat normal again. And by the way, normal to me isn't a small cookout in your back yard with a couple of friends. It's when things will feel similar to pre-pandemic."

Scott added that, effective today, VFWs, bars, and clubs would be able to open under restaurant guidance such as capacity limits and distancing. Towns may choose to restrict those businesses, however.

Scott also spoke about the impact of COVID on students' lives and well-being and said, "for our high school seniors this timeline means that in June, if we have the vaccination uptake we need, you should be able to have a more traditional graduation and celebrate what you've accomplished with your friends and family. After seeing the second half of your junior year and now senior year turned upside down, you deserve it, and we're going to do everything we can to make it happen."

Hazen Union Principal David Perrigo reacted to Gov. Scott's words. He said, "We await with great anticipation the guidelines that will let us know what the permissible possibilities are for acknowledging and celebrating Hazen's class of 2021."

The state is encouraging people to register online when their age band is eligible at [healthvermont.gov/myvaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/myvaccine). People can also call 855-722-7878.

## Board Talks Grants, New Opportunities

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Town Manager Shaun Fielder told the board that the just-passed American Rescue Plan includes funding specifically targeted to local governments. He said the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) told him local governments would be eligible for some funding and, according to a VLCT spreadsheet, Hardwick might be eligible for up to \$280,000. Additional details are pending.

Fielder said each congressman is eligible for up to 10 projects in their district. He suggested the public highway garage, the wastewater plant, and the pedestrian bridge as potential projects. Fielder said the “initial indication is this is truly a grant-support program.”

Chair Eric Remick said that because most of the projects in progress are already developed in terms of funding, “I don’t know if we can put together a compelling application in the time frame, by the end of the month.” Fielder said he is evaluating information as he receives it.

A procedural step was taken toward replacing the swinging pedestrian bridge. The board authorized Fielder, or a subsequent town manager, to administer the USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RDBG) and, if awarded, to sign the related documentation.

Remick broke down costs and funding for the pedestrian bridge project. “We anticipate replacement is going to be on the order of a half-million dollars,” he said. “The funding strategy is we’re applying for this \$250,000 from the USDA RDBG.” He said they are inquiring if \$175,000 from a USDA grant intended for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail can be redirected to the

swinging bridge. “Furthermore, the select board previously authorized using \$100,000 out of the town fund balance to provide the local match for both those grants,” Remick said.

Board member Gary Bellavance said, “I think the swinging bridge is the most iconic part of Hardwick, and we have to do it. I grew up on that thing. What about the \$280,000 possible money, can that get toward that?” Fielder and Remick said that was a possibility. Board member Shari Cornish said “other grant opportunities” are being investigated, including the Downtown Designation Transportation Fund which depends on the town successfully seeking a Downtown Designation from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Cornish called the idea a “complicated cake to bake, but there are other ways we can add to this as needed.” She said that another grant possibility is the AARP’s Community Challenge grant. The deadline is April 14, Cornish said. Bellavance said he looked it over and thought it was “a fantastic idea.” Cornish said a few grants were awarded in Vermont. Fielder said he and Community Development Coordinator Geoff Sewake were already very busy. “We’ve got 22 grants that we’re managing right now, we’ve got four or five in the pipeline, we’ve got to fine-tune on the RDBG grant that’s due at the end of the month, and we’ve got the Recovery Grant coming at us,” he said. “Just bear in mind the community development coordinator is a part-time role. His time is really booked out.”

In completely different news, Ceilidh Galloway-Kane said the Hardwick Recreation Committee is holding an outside safe Easter Egg hunt event at 10 a.m. on April 3. “Masks will be required and physical distancing will be required.”

## Walden Select Board Reorganizes

WALDEN – The Walden Select Board met on Monday, March 15, with Brenda Huntoon and Randolph Wilson present in person, and Martha Bissell, Roger Fox, Victoria Foster, Whitney Richardson, Liz Wilkel and Lina Smith attending via Zoom.

The following appointments were made: pound keeper, Cheryl McQueeney; E911/emergency management coordinator, Butch Greaves; inspector of lumber, Ralph Bissell; representative to NVDA, Steve Gorelick; weigher of coal, James Teuscher; representative to CVSWD, Elizabeth Wilkel; and town agent, Caro Thompson. The Hardwick Gazette was designated as the town newspaper.

The select board meeting schedule will stay the same at every other Monday.

Victoria Foster was elected to both the four-year and two-year library trustee position

by write-in votes at town meeting. She stated that she would accept the four-year term.

The board appointed Whitney Richardson to the board for one year until the next election.

The board discussed and approved the development of a website for the town. The town clerk will move forward on this.

The board went into executive session to discuss a personnel issue, and came out of executive session with no action taken.

The board reorganized for the coming year. Randolph Wilson was elected chair and Brenda Huntoon elected as clerk.

The town clerk’s office will be open Saturday, March 27, from 8 a.m. to noon for dog registration.

The tax sales, scheduled for April 15, have been moved a week to April 22, at 1 p.m., at the town clerk’s office.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Green Mountain Technology & Career Center forestry student Derrek Stratton fills the arch as instructor Meghan Luther checks the density of the syrup March 12 during their first boil of the season. They made 30 gallons.

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## Upcoming Hardwick Gazette Special Sections

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

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

### April

#### 1st week

- National Public Health Week

#### 2nd & 3rd week

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

#### 4th week

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

### Coming in May

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

# OBITUARIES

## GAIL L. TWINE

PLAINFIELD – Gail Lamberton Twine, the true meaning of love and kindness, 78, of Upper Road passed away on Sunday, March 14, at the Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin. The love for her family and friends shone brightly in every choice she made right to the very end.

Born January 10, 1943, in Barre City, she was the daughter of John and Hazel (Hatch) Lamberton. She attended local elementary schools and graduated from Marshfield High School.

On December 20, 1963, she married George H. Twine Jr. in Walden. Following their marriage, they made their home in Marshfield, before moving to Jefferson City, Tenn., where they made their home for 23 years until recently moving back to Vermont.

Gail brought her kindness and friendship to the workplace. She briefly worked at National Life Insurance Company after high school and then at the State of Vermont for 34 years from where she retired before moving to Tennessee. She brought that same kindness and friendship to Tennessee, where she worked for the Jefferson City Housing Authority and held a



*Gail L. Twine*

position on the Jefferson City Housing Authority board of directors.

Gail was devoted to her churches. She became a commissioned lay pastor in Vermont so she could support families and local churches with events such as church services, weddings, and funerals. Prior to moving to Tennessee, she was long time member of the Marshfield United Church and then the East Montpelier Old Brick Church upon her return to Vermont. In Tennessee she created her church home at the First

Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City. She served as a Sunday school teacher and a longtime choir member in both locations and cherished knitting for and being involved in the prayer shawl ministry.

Gail was also a long-time member of the Kingsbury Chapter #77, Order of Eastern Star in Plainfield, and a Weight Watchers lecturer in Vermont for several years and then a lifetime member in Tennessee. She really enjoyed being the president of the Morristown Doll Club in Tennessee.

In her spare time, she valued most visiting with family and friends over a nice meal cooked by others! She loved knitting name blankies for babies and mittens for all ages! Doll collecting, sewing, crafting for craft fairs, puzzles and watching Perry Mason, Columbo, and Murder She Wrote were just a few of her pastimes.

In every role and location, Gail touched lives with her kind heart, special smile and unconditional love for people and God. Known by many as 'Grammie Gail', her love for family and friends is to be a role model for all to treasure and pay forward. We all have memories that make us smile and a special place in our heart.

Survivors include her husband George H. Twine Jr.; her daughter Dawn Twine-Johnson (Duanne); her grandson Corey Dean Johnson (Madyson); her siblings Ann Cochran (Ronald); Ginny Cochran; Brian Lamberton (Linda); Michael Lamberton (Sherri); and Denise Lamberton (Mike); as well as nine nephews, four nieces, many loving cousins, and extended family.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her son Daren George; her granddaughter Seleste Victoria; her niece Tammy Sue; and her nephew Terrance Ray, as well as many other beloved family members.

The graveside service to honor and celebrate her life will be held on Sunday, May 30, at 1 p.m. in the Eaton Cemetery in Marshfield. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Old Brick Church, 60 Church Street, PO Box 38, East Montpelier, VT 05651, [oldbrickchurch.com/contact.html](http://oldbrickchurch.com/contact.html).

Arrangements are by Hooker Whitcomb Funeral Home, 7 Academy Street, Barre. For a memorial guestbook, please visit [hookerwhitcomb.com](http://hookerwhitcomb.com).

## AARON W. BENJAMIN

SOUTH WOODBURY – Aaron Wade Benjamin, age 35, died unexpectedly, March 15, at UVM Medical Center in Burlington.

He was born November 7, 1985, in Newport News, Va., the son of Kevin Benjamin and Debra (Blanchard) Benjamin. Two years later, Aaron and his father moved back to South Woodbury. Aaron attended Hardwick Elementary, Laraway School in Johnson and graduated from Hazen Union High School in Hardwick.

He worked multiple positions over the years, most recently at Vermont Tire and Sheldon Trucks. He celebrated his joy of cooking by attending and graduating from Barre Community Kitchen Academy. He loved spending time with his four-year-old daughter who he adored dearly, driving his convertible, and playing virtual games.

Aaron had an amazing sense of humor. Although he was a little rough around the edges, he had a caring heart and soul with strong protective instincts for those he loved.

Aaron lived much of his life between beloved Aunt Margie (Benjamin) Preman and Uncle Patrick Preman and his father, Kevin Benjamin. Aaron will be dearly missed by all who knew him, especially his young daughter.

Survivors include his daughter Everleigh Taylor Muriel Benjamin and her mother



*Aaron W. Benjamin*

Sabrina Nutter of Arlington; his father Kevin Benjamin and Aunt Margie and Uncle Pat Preman of Woodbury; his brother, Tanner Benjamin of Jacksonville, N.C., and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Graveside services will be held in early summer with location, date and time to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Aaron's memory may be made to the Laraway School, P.O. Box 621, Johnson, VT 05656. Arrangements are in the care of Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. Online condolences may be sent to: [northern-vermontfuneralservice.com/](http://northern-vermontfuneralservice.com/).

### TOWN OF HARDWICK INVITATION TO BID ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECTS:

1. Public Safety Building – 56 High Street
2. Hardwick Historical Depot – 47 Depot Street

Project 1: The Town of Hardwick is seeking bids for replacement of the asphalt shingle roof of the Public Safety Building to include disposal of existing shingles and underlayment, inspection of existing roofing plywood sheets replace as needed, bidders are to provide cost for material and labor for sheathing replacement on a unit basis; provide cost to include labor and material per 4'x8' sheet. Install new layer of ice and barrier shield underlayment for entire roof area, install new drip edge for entire perimeter (similar to what is currently installed), and installation of asphalt shingles with 30-year minimum life span and a similar style and color to those currently in place. Ensure weather tight seals for three stack vents and two chimneys. The roof covers approximately 5,750 square feet. Please include in your bid, recommendations, with applicable costs to control water run-off just above the South entrance of the building.

Project 2: The Town of Hardwick is seeking bids for replacement of the asphalt shingle roof of the Historical Depot to include disposal of existing shingles and underlayment, inspection of existing roofing sheathing and replace as needed. Bidders are to provide cost for material and labor for sheathing replacement on a unit basis; provide cost to include labor and material per 4'x8' sheet. Install new layer of ice and barrier shield underlayment for entire roof area, install new drip edge for entire perimeter (similar to what is currently installed), and installation of asphalt shingles with 30-year minimum life span and a similar style and color to those currently in place. Ensure weather tight seals for two chimneys at roof ridge area. The roof covers approximately 5,600 square feet.

Please indicate in your bid which project you are bidding on: Project 1, Project 2, or both. Town requires the work to be completed by September 15, 2021. Contractors interested in providing a bid are welcome to inspect the locations at their convenience. Bids should address all the scope requested and include detailed costs for materials, labor costs and then total not to exceed price. Please submit a written bid for the project by 3:00 PM Thursday, April 8, 2021 to:

Town of Hardwick Attn: Roof Bids  
P.O. Box 523 Hardwick, VT 05843

Email bids are preferred and can be emailed to [casey.rowell@hardwickvt.org](mailto:casey.rowell@hardwickvt.org). The Contractor selection will occur on or about April 15, and the Contractor will need to enter a Standard Contract for Services with the Town and will have appropriate insurance coverage and agree to other Standard Contract provisions. The Town of Hardwick reserves the right to waive informalities in, to reject any or all bids, or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. If you have questions, call (802) 472-6120. Deadline for questions is April 2. Responses to all questions will be posted on our website [www.hardwickvt.org](http://www.hardwickvt.org) on April 6.

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Conservation Camp Sponsorships Available

WOODBURY – The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Federation Fund for Conservation and Training, plus the Operation Game Thief have conservation camp sponsorships available for this summer.

Boys and girls who are 12-14 years of age may apply from all over Vermont to attend the Green Mountain Conservation Camp, located at Buck Lake in Woodbury

or at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton.

The camp application is at [vtfishandwildlife.com/gmcc.html](http://vtfishandwildlife.com/gmcc.html).

Any camp-specific questions can be directed to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. at (802) 522-2925 or by email [FWGMCC@vermont.gov](mailto:FWGMCC@vermont.gov).

Contact Roy and Marcia Marble for a financial sponsorship application. Call (802) 888-3418 or email [marblerealty@comcast.net](mailto:marblerealty@comcast.net).

### Polar Non-Splash Extended

MORRISVILLE – The Morrisville Rotary Club is extending the Polar Non-Splash to benefit the United Way of Lamoille County’s barn renovation project to the end of March.

Due to COVID, the event is virtual and the “Shiver and Share” challenge has resulted in creative displays of chilly activities. Donors have biked, snowshoed, made snow angels, gone fishing, and snowboarded in summer attire to raise funds. To date, 150 individuals, businesses, organizations, and the faith community have raised \$15,260.

The goal is \$40,000, with half

the proceeds benefiting United Way of Lamoille County to complete the barn renovation, the new home of the Salvation Farms’ Lamoille Gleaning Program.

The Rotary will use the other half of the funds to continue its community service.

The Rotary and United Way of Lamoille County invite individuals and businesses to participate and help raise funds to finish the barn renovations.

Visit [uwlamoille.org/shiver](http://uwlamoille.org/shiver) or call United Way of Lamoille County at 802-888-3252.

### Panel, Book Group to Offer Awareness

HARDWICK – Community Allies is collaborating with AWARE and the Galaxy Bookshop to offer several events for Sexual Violence Awareness week.

On April 8, at 10 a.m., Community Allies will host a panel of experts on sexual violence which will include Mark Wynn, who is a national consultant specializing in domestic and sexual violence training. All community members and professionals may join virtually and be a part of the conversation or just listen. To attend, find the link on Facebook on the Hardwick Community Allies For Safety, Trust and Respect page or email Amy Rosenthal at [amyrosenthal573@gmail.com](mailto:amyrosenthal573@gmail.com).

Community Allies will host two book groups to discuss and explore the book, “Know My Name: A Memoir” by Chanel Miller. Chanel Miller also known as Emily Doe, was the victim in the Brock Turner sexual assault case at Stanford University. There will be two separate book groups; one for women and one for men. Both will be held virtually on April 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. The groups will offer space to discuss the book and the impact on group participants. Those interested in attending may email Amy Rosenthal at [amyrosenthal573@gmail.com](mailto:amyrosenthal573@gmail.com). The book may be purchased locally from the Galaxy Bookshop in Hardwick, or AWARE can lend or purchase a copy for you. Call 802-472-6463 or email [aware@vtlink.net](mailto:aware@vtlink.net) for info.

### Course Introduces Children to Herpetology

BURLINGTON – Children of all ages are invited to sign up for “Croak, Slither and Slide,” a six-week exploration of frogs, snakes, salamanders, turtles and other reptiles and amphibians.

The free herpetology course, offered by University of Vermont Extension 4-H, will delve into the life cycles, habitats and food sources of a number of species found in New England and beyond. Participants also will learn about the cultural connections and body dynamics, among other topics.

Sessions will be held via Zoom from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on six consecutive Thursday afternoons. The dates are April 15, 22 and 29 and May 6, 13 and 20.

Weekly sessions will include do-at-home crafts. These include making homemade slime, fingerprint casts, a paper chameleon and an origami frog that hops. Participants also will create an amphibian or reptile life cycle on paper or with clay and become a citizen scientist by searching for vernal pools, making a sound map and signing up to be a salamander crossing guard.

Registration is required. To register, go to [go.uvm.edu/4h-herpetology](http://go.uvm.edu/4h-herpetology).

Closed captioning will be provided for this program. To request an additional disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact Liz Kenton at [liz.kenton@uvm.edu](mailto:liz.kenton@uvm.edu) or (802) 257-7967, ext. 308.

## OBITUARIES

### JULIE A. MCCOY

EAST HARDWICK – Julie Ann McCoy, 61, of East Hardwick died March 17, at the Barre Gardens Nursing Home in Barre.

She was born March 27, 1959, in Newport, the daughter of Dale C. and Loretta (Perry) McCoy. Julie attended Orleans Graded School and graduated from Lake Region Union School in the Class of 1977, where she had been part of the school’s Forestry Program.

She worked all of her working years as a dairy farmer, first as an employee of the Henry Cleveland Dairy Farm in Brownington and later as a co-owner, with Gary Brown, of the Brown Farm in East Hardwick. They operated this farm from the late ‘70s until 2011 when her health failed.

She loved the farm animals, driving the tractors, snow machining and her favorite furry friend and companion, Daisy, the family dog. Julie was a loving mother and grandmother to Jacob, who was her pride and joy. She was always kind to everyone and welcomed everyone into her home. She enjoyed the phone calls and visits from her favorite aunt, Clemence LeBlond of Jay.

Survivors include her father, Dale McCoy of Coventry; her longtime companion, Gary Brown; two daughters, Jennifer Brown and Betsy Brown; a grandson, Jacob Brown, all of East Hardwick; six siblings:



Julie A. McCoy

Harold McCoy of Hardwick, David McCoy of Walden, Timothy McCoy of Brownington, Steven McCoy of Tennessee, Amy Morley of Newport, and Laurie Rice of Brownington; as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her mother, Loretta McCoy, a sister, Cynthia McCoy and an infant grandson, Tyler Brown-Hall.

To honor her request, there will be no funeral services. All gatherings will be private at the convenience of her family.

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

Arrangements are in the care of Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. On-line condolences are welcomed at [NorthVermontFuneralService.com](http://NorthVermontFuneralService.com).

## Northern Vermont Funeral Service

60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843

**802-472-6861**

**Dian R. Holcomb**  
Funeral Director

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Open M/W/F 9am-4pm

# Open Air Gallery Invites New Level of Enjoyment

## REVIEW

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) Open Air Gallery Ski and Snowshoe Trail traverses about a mile and a half with outdoor sculptures, some whimsical, others kinetic, and some thought provoking. The trail is easy to cover, with multiple loops allowing one to circle back to the main parking lot without covering the entire distance.

Twelve artists are represented, including the HCA Scene Shop crew, which created a colorful festival of flags to brighten the winter landscape. The trail loops through the HCA's open fields, creating a magical

natural backdrop with its undulations of snow-covered ground and sculptural minimalism of bare trees under blue skies.

Harlan Mack's "Giraffe," "Granilla" and "Bear Suit" are ingenious creations of repurposed metal, bicycle parts and chains. The gracefulness of the giraffe is caught with a life-like sense of being; it is uncanny to think of this tropical animal pictured against a skyscape of blue and snow-covered ground.

A fun piece is his amazing "Bear Suit" with its free-flowing form and suitcase of bicycle gears. The bear's ears are bicycle pedals, and the sculpture is an intricately woven mesh of handlebars, chains, and gears.

The "Wonderland Wickets" by the HCA Scene Shop crew, is a light,

airy looping of yellow and red arched hoops through which one walks with a sense of fun. The contrast between Brian Gluck's "Cedar Arch" and "Wonderland Wickets" is interesting in the different feeling each emanates. "Cedar Arch" gives one a sense of awe at the natural beauty of the bent cedar trees forming a functioning archway. One is reminded of the ancient art of Japanese wood bending.

Thomas Douglas' "Aloft" is a graceful piece, with its bright silver sheen heightened under the winter sun. The streamlined form appears to have momentarily alighted on its pedestal but at any moment could steal away quietly up into the sky. Equally intriguing is Christopher Curtis's "Where Do We Come From? Why Are We Here? Where Are We Going?" The sculpture has a tombstone sense in its starkness of metal and granite.

His "Gnomon II" is a gold flame within a wooden pedestal. Gnomon means literally, "one that knows or examines," and refers to that part of a sundial which gives one a sense of orientation. It feels as if it were an extension of his earlier piece on the trail.

Kinetic sculptures are always mesmerizing as they are caught in the vagaries of wind currents and by themselves invite a sense of whimsicalness and chance.

Judith Wrend's "Cloud Hands" drifts with the slightest of wind and her "Say Something Nice" could be a Joan Miró painting replicated in three dimensions. The lightest of wind propels the red and blue extended laterals with their ball-like endings ever so slightly. It is the unpredictability of kinetic art that makes it engrossing.

The HCA's orange "Clothesline"

ripples in the wind with a familiarity in the same vein as the "Blue Bonfire" of painted sticks. Both the clothesline and bonfire are easily relatable and reassuring to the viewer because of their immediate connection and understanding. They are as they are named and pretend to be nothing other.

Trying to explicate Bread & Puppet Peter Schumann's Lamentation Road and Domestic Resurrection Services "Bedsheets" is quite different. His works become visible representations of a creative mind jettisoning a thousand sparks to light up one's imagination. Schumann's interpretations run the gamut from death, darkness, and despair to the hopefulness of brighter, collective potentialities. His black and white domestic resurrection bed sheets reveal a thousand different dramas in a conglomerate of images. One's eye moves around each bedsheet rippling in the wind with its ink-stained images telling a story and allowing the viewer to explore each image in myriad ways.

"Thinking means sinking to your knees in front of the task at hand," Schumann tells us. His bordered wall of barbed wire, fire, women in a row, yet trees and flowers growing, always hold that sense of hope despite the inhumanities we project. Not unlike Pablo Picasso's "Guernica," despite the mayhem and death, a tiny flower is sprouting up somewhere.

One must keep a careful eye to enjoy The Red Ossier Farm Art Collective's Flying Farm "Folk Figures" and Cindy Blakeslee's "#182."

Look carefully when making the trek because the delight of the little woodland sculptures are as intricate as the larger prominent pieces along the trail.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### Thursday, March 25

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](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 26

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

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](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 27

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

### Monday, March 29

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

**GRACE** presents free, virtual week-

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

### Tuesday, March 30

**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 31

**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.



photo by June Pichel Cook  
A metal giraffe created by sculptor Harlan Mack is one of the 20-some sculptures along the Highland Center for the Arts Open Air Gallery Ski and Snowshoe Trail.

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## We Betray a Childish Indifference

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – “Call this a govment! why, just look at it and see what it’s like....The law takes a man worth six thousand dollars and up’ards, and jams him into an old trap of a cabin like this, and lets him go round in clothes that ain’t fitten for a hog. They call that govment!...I’ll never vote ag’in as long as I live.” – Pap Finn

“Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.” – Ronald Reagan

Those two comments on the United States government are separated by about 125 years, but express a skepticism – a cynicism, even – that’s dogged our republican experiment ever since the revolution that started it.

Even our organizing document, written and ratified by a convention split almost evenly between slave-owners and non-owners, contains provisions and compromises that give the lie to the notion that “all men are created equal.” We’ve been tinkering with it ever since – through the Fugitive Slave Act, Sedition Act, Prohibition (and repeal), Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act, and Defense of Marriage Act (is there a discernible pattern here?) – and we’ll continue to tinker. But when dissatisfaction leads to laying the axe to the root of the tree, as in President Reagan’s first inaugural address, we betray a childish indifference to the possible results.

*The task of governing a vast and varied nation, in which a large percentage of the population has been conditioned to hate you, must be daunting.*

The recent attack by a mob upon the United States Capitol (incorrectly called an insurrection – there was no plan beyond destruction) in order to prevent the formal certification of the 2020 election results is a perfect example of that. Clearly inspired and incited by the pathological, and even surreal, rhetoric of the disgruntled loser of the election, the riot exposed the fragility of an institution

we’ve long thought to be founded on a rock and unbreakable.

It reminds me of nothing else so much as a lovely 1965 Mustang that one of my carpenters bought from one of our customers. The carpenter’s interest was less in automotive beauty than in speed, and within two weeks the poor Mustang was essentially a heap of rubble beside his house. We’ll never know for sure how close the mob actually came to having to back up its murderous threats against Speaker Pelosi, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, or Vice-President Pence. In spite of the suspiciously delayed arrival of reinforcements, and because none of the rioters seemed to know what to do next, enough branches of the institution held firm to ensure the succession, which spared us finding out.

Now it appears that the Justice Department, a branch until recently in thrall to the Executive, appears ready to begin prosecutions and plea-dealing with those identified in the hundreds of video clips of the action.

Government is designed by leaders during their best, most thoughtful moments, and equipped with checks and balances to protect us from impulses that drive us in our worst moments. Ours is about as good as it gets – at least conceptually. Yet, as Shakespeare notes, “Ships are but boards, sailors but men.”

The task of governing a vast and varied nation, in which a large percentage of the population has been conditioned to hate you, must be daunting. According to the “Montana Post,” the Canyon Ferry Road Baptist Church of East Helena (presumably a tax-exempt religious institution) “is encouraging the formation of militias to take down the evil cabal that has led us to ...” – you’ve got to Google the complaint (it includes the little-known fact that many Americans are being held incommunicado in concentration camps) to begin to appreciate how far into the dark woods many aggrieved people’s imaginations have wandered.

The COVID vaccines have been infused somehow with tracking chips so the government can keep tabs on us. As one whose dealings with the government have been almost always positive, I find this idea too unhinged even to contemplate. Besides, my daughter-in-law in Arkansas has discovered a tracking system worthy of even the Chinese. She ordered some groceries for curbside pickup at Walmart, and on her way in, called to tell them she was coming. “Oh, yes,” the clerk on the phone answered. “We see you’re currently thirteen minutes away. We’ll be waiting for you.”

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

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## MEETING MEMO

**Monday, March 29**

•**Cabot School District Board of Directors’ Informational Meeting**, 6 - 8 p.m. <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/84352964571?pwd=SDh0UGFGRDNXWHNYOT-NtVkEzQi9JUT09>. Meeting ID: 843 5296 4571. Passcode: 035888. Dial 1-646-558-8656.

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

**Wednesday, March 31**

•**Twinfield Union School Informational Meeting**, 6 - 8 p.m. <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/86504982230?pwd=b-2VTeGtDUUNjNm05TUIQTn->

REc3NxQT09. Meeting ID: 865 0498 2230. Passcode: 549699. Dial 1-646-558-8656.

**Town Websites, Town Clerks**  
Cabot: cabotvt.us

Calais: calaisvermont.gov

Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com

Greensboro: greensborovt.org

Hardwick: hardwickvt.org

Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us

Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us

Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net

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



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# IN THE GARDEN

## It's Time to Prune Fruit Trees

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – When I was a boy, I loved to climb trees. I had no fear of heights and loved the unique perspective I got looking down from the top of a tall pine or maple tree. Now that I'm all grown up, I no longer climb trees unless I have the excuse of pruning, which I also love. On a recent warm, sunny day I got out my pruning tools and ladders to give my fruit trees haircuts.

A word about timing: conventional wisdom has it that you must prune apples and other fruit trees in March. Hogwash. You can prune them any time. I generally stop pruning when flower buds start to open but prune again in August and in late fall after leaf drop.

Good tools are important for doing a good job. You need sharp by-pass pruners (not the anvil pruners that crush the stems), a pair of good loppers and a small handsaw: folding saws with sharp teeth are good. I have bigger saws for large branches and even a small electric chain saw, but rarely use them.

Start by walking around the tree a few times and really looking at the structure of the tree. I want my trees to have enough open space

sprouts turn into big branches going straight up through the middle of the tree. You can often reduce the height of a tree by shortening big branches.

Water sprouts grow every year on most fruit trees. The first year they are pencil-thin and 12- to 36-inches long. Cut them off as they will just clutter up your tree. Trees grow them in response to a need for more food for the roots and they are most common in shady parts of the tree where leaves are not getting enough sunshine. Some varieties are more prone to growing water sprouts than others, and a hard pruning may stimulate them to grow in large numbers.

Dead wood should always be removed. In winter there are no leaves on the tree, and it can be tougher to determine what is dead. Look for dry, flaking bark. But the sure test is to take your thumb nail and scratch off a layer of bark. If you see green, it is alive. If not? It's dead.

Look for rubbing branches, or branches so close that they will grow together. Choose one and cut it off. Some trees, like maples, often send up branches that originate at the same point and are growing in the same direction. Remove one before they grow together and fuse (which



*courtesy photo*

*These thin water sprouts clutter up the interior of the tree and should be removed each year.*

stubs. Cut back each branch to its point of origin: the trunk, or a bigger branch. This will promote healing.

Fruit spurs on apples and pears produce flowers and leaves, and are indicators where you will have fruit later this year. They are easy to identify: they are short gnarly branches (three to six inches) that have fruit buds. Fruit buds are bigger and fatter than leaf buds. They do not generally appear on young fruit trees. Learn to recognize them: when deciding which of two branches to remove, keep the one with more fruit spurs.

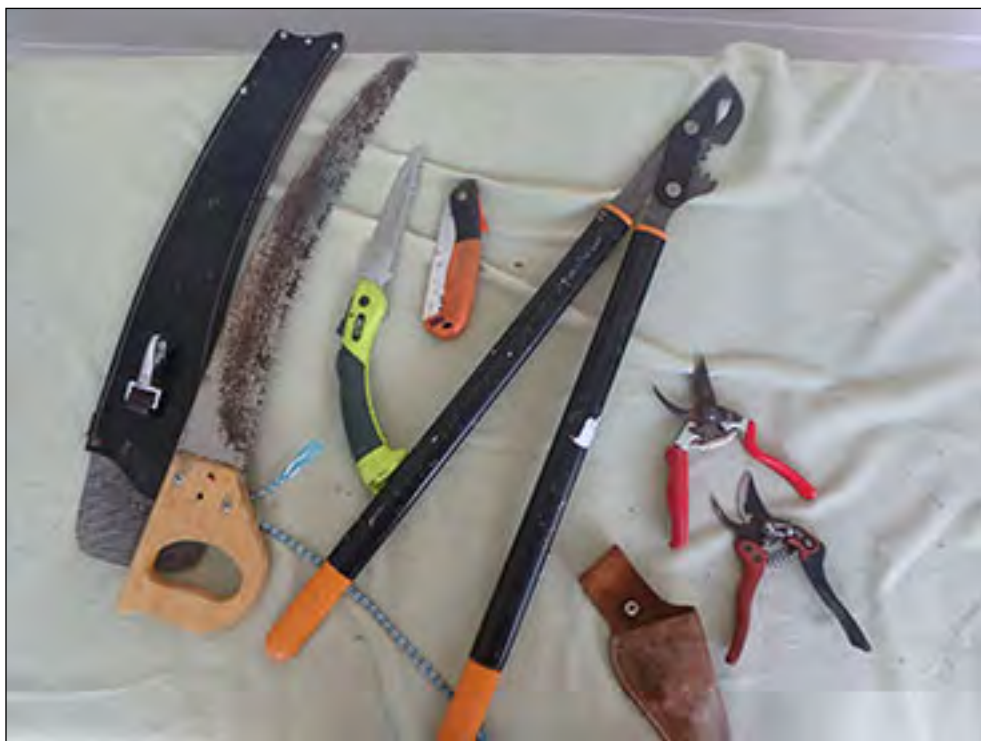
Fruit most often develops on what are called scaffold branches – sturdy branches that leave the trunk on an angle that is almost parallel to the ground or aiming up slightly. Branches that go more straight up, older water sprouts for example, produce little or no fruit.

You can change the angle of growth of a branch that is only an

inch or less thick. Once winter is over, attach string or rope to a branch and tie it to a peg in the ground or to a weight to bend it down. A half-gallon milk jug works well. Just add water until you have the correct angle on the branch. Forty-five to sixty degrees off vertical is fine. You can remove the weights in June.

When pruning, don't overdo it. Trees need their leaves to feed the roots and fruit. In any given year, don't take more than 25% of the leaves (woody stems don't count when calculating how much you have taken off).

One last fact: a well pruned tree will produce fruit that is bigger, sweeter and tastier than a tree that has been neglected. I don't want lots of little fruit and try to remove some each year in June to encourage fruits to grow to full size. Leaves that get plenty of sunshine will produce more sugars for the fruit, so it will taste better. So - get to work!



*courtesy photo*

*Pruning saws come in various sizes. Loppers are a quick way to cut branches too big for your pruners.*

that sunlight can get to every leaf. Sunshine feeds the tree and dries out leaves, helping to minimize fungal diseases. A robin should be able to fly right through a mature apple tree without getting hurt.

My first cuts are usually the biggest branches that need to be removed. It's easier to remove one three-inch thick branch than snip away 50 small branches on it. If you prune every year, you may not have a big branch to remove, but it's surprising how quickly water

results in a weak spot subject to breakage). Maples and birches, by the way, should not be pruned now when the sap is flowing fast. Do them in the fall, or even midsummer.

Branches often grow away from the center of the tree, as they should, but compete with another branch directly above or below it. Decide which is the better branch and remove the other. I also look for branches that are headed into the interior of the tree and remove them.

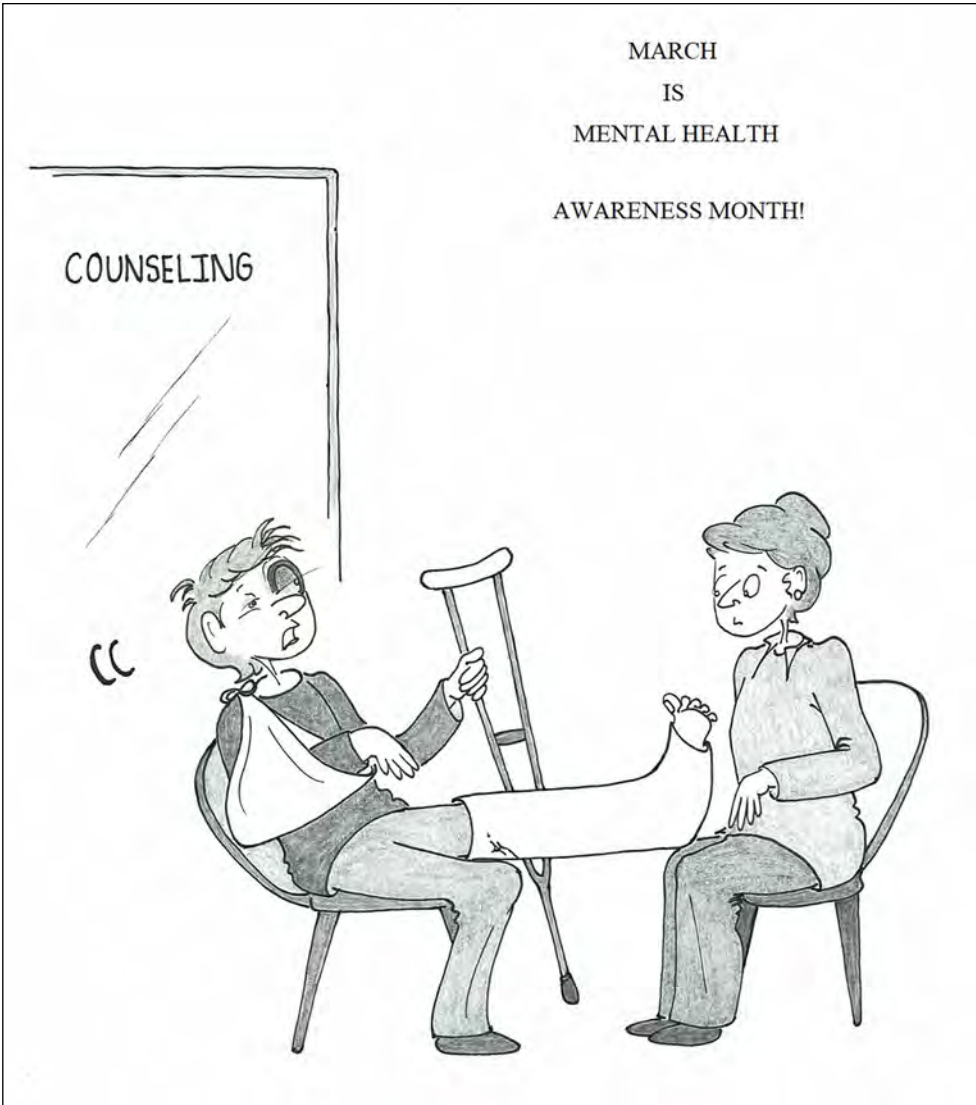
When pruning, don't leave



*courtesy photo*

*These two branches will grow together and create a weak spot, so remove one or both.*

# Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



MARCH  
IS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS MONTH!

**"I WAS BEATEN FOR WEARING A MASK, THE COLOR OF MY SKIN AND FOR MY POLITICAL AFFILIATION!"**

## THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

### COMPETITIVE WAGES Construction LABORERS Wanted at AD Rossi

We are a bridge waterproofing company covering areas throughout Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. Applications are being accepted for full-time seasonal work in the construction field. Need a valid driver's license and to pass a DOT driver physical. Some weekend work and overnight stays. Complete application at:

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(802) 751-8420 or online

at: [nicomcoatings.com/employment-application](http://nicomcoatings.com/employment-application)  
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### Vermont Agency of Transportation Public Notice Herbicide Spraying

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has requested from the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ULTRA, Garlon 3A, Oust Extra, Escort, Krenite S, Polaris and Rodeo to control unwanted vegetation along all State highways and at State airports. Operations are authorized to start approximately April 26, 2021, but will not begin until the appropriate notification requirements are completed. The application will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand-controlled methods. The methods employed are intended to avoid or eliminate drift. Residents along the rights-of-way (ROW) are encouraged to protect sensitive environments or water supplies within 100 feet of the ROW limits.

Residents should notify VTrans of the existence of any water supplies within 100 feet of the State's ROW. Citizens wishing to inform VTrans are urged to contact the nearest District Transportation Administrator as follows: District 1, Bennington - (802) 447-2790; District 2, Dummerston - (802) 254- 5011; District 3, Mendon - (802) 786-5826; District 4, White River Junction - (802) 295-8888; District 5, Colchester - (802) 655-1580; District 7, St. Johnsbury - (802) 748-6670; District 8, St. Albans - (802) 524- 5926; District 9, Derby - (802) 334-7934. The contact person at the State Highway Department Headquarters is Dexter Puls, Stormwater Technician, 2178 Airport Road Unit A, Barre, VT 05641, (802) 461-9822 or [dexter.puls@vermont.gov](mailto:dexter.puls@vermont.gov). Contact can also be made using the VTrans Internet Web page at [vtrans.vermont.gov/operations](http://vtrans.vermont.gov/operations).

The appropriate place to contact with comments other than VTrans is the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Agriculture Resource Management and Environmental Stewardship, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-2431. The link to their web page that would describe the VTrans herbicide application permit request can be found at [www.VermontAgriculture.com](http://www.VermontAgriculture.com).

### OUR E-MAILS

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

### CEMETERY MOWING

The Town of Walden is seeking bids to provide mowing at eight of its town cemeteries and the town clerk's office. Typically a 19 week season averaging 13 hours per week. The town can supply needed equipment and fuel. Will require reliable transportation with trailer and travel on some Class IV roads.

Please contact Town Clerk Lina Smith with questions at 802-563-2220 or via email at [waldentc@pivot.net](mailto:waldentc@pivot.net).

Send or drop off bid proposals to Town of Walden, Attention: Cemetery Commission, 12 VT RTE 215, West Danville, VT 05873 by noon no later than Thursday, April 1.

The Walden Cemetery Commission reserves the right to accept/reject any bids. Notification will be made after the April 6 Cemetery Commission meeting.

### TOWN OF WOODBURY, VERMONT WARNING

#### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Woodbury, Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to cast ballots by mail or hand delivery, or come to the Woodbury Town Hall on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., to vote by Australian Ballot on two articles. This special vote is necessary because of a typographical error on the Town Meeting Ballot. There is no change in the amount being requested for the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department operations budget, the only change is the date at the end of the article.

Article 1: To rescind "Article 5" on the Town Meeting ballot, which stated "Shall the Town appropriate \$105,296.89 to fund the operations of the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, including the Capital Replacement Fund, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022?" The date "2022" in this article was in error.

Article 2: To approve the following replacement "Shall the Town appropriate \$105,296.89 to fund the operations of the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, including the Capital Replacement Fund, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021?"

Absentee ballots may be requested by calling the Town Office at 456-7051.

Dated at Woodbury, Vermont this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Select Board: Michael Gray, Chair,  
Paul Cerutti, Chris Koteas

### VERMONT RAIL SYSTEM

Vermont Railway • Green Mountain Railroad • Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad  
Washington County Railroad & WACR Conn River Division

#### Weed Control Program Newspaper Advertisement

The Vermont Rail System has applied to the Secretary of Agriculture for a permit to apply herbicides to its tracks for control of weed growth in the ballast.

- Vermont Railway operates between Bennington and Burlington. (In the towns of Burlington, S. Burlington, Shelburne, Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, Vergennes, New Haven, Middlebury, Salisbury, Leicester, Brandon, Pittsford, Rutland Town, Rutland City, Clarendon, Wallingford, Danby, Mt. Tabor, Dorset, Manchester, Sunderland, Arlington, Shaftsbury, Bennington)

- Green Mountain Railroad operates between Bellows Falls and Rutland City. (In the towns of Rockingham/Bellows Falls, Chester, Cavendish, Ludlow, Mt. Holly, East Wallingford, Shrewsbury, Rutland Town, Rutland City)

- Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad operates between Rutland and Whitehall N.Y., and Pittsford Town. (In the towns of Pittsford, Rutland Town, West Rutland, Ira, Castleton, Fair Haven)

- Washington County Railroad operates between Montpelier and Barre. (In the towns of Montpelier, Barre City, Barre Town, S. Barre, Berlin)

- WACR Conn River Division operates between White River Junction to Newport, Vermont. (In the towns of White River, Hartford, Wilder, Norwich, Thetford, Fairlee, Bradford, Newbury, Wells River, Newport, Coventry, Orleans, Barton, Sutton, West Burke, Lyndonville, St. Johnsbury, Passumpsic, Barre, Ryegate.)

The tracks in these locations will be treated utilizing "hi-rail" equipped trucks with nozzles aimed downward from fixed booms 18 inches above the rails which spray the roadbed beneath the tracks. Beginning on or near May 1, 2021, our applicator will be using a mix of Aquaneat (Glyphosate), Esplanade 200 SC (Indaziflam), Opensight or Milestone (Aminopyralid, Metsulfuron Methyl, Aminopyralid), and Oust XP (Sulfometuron Methyl) with an anti-drift additive in water for control of weeds and grass. Beginning on or about July 1, 2021, areas close to streams and standing water which were not sprayed on the first application, will be spot treated with Aquaneat (Glyphosate) with an anti-drift additive in water.

Residents abutting Vermont Rail System right-of-way should protect private water supplies or other sensitive areas. It is the responsibility of the resident to notify us of the existence of a private water supply located near our property.

Notification from residents along the Vermont Railway, Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad, Green Mountain Railroad, Washington County Conn River Division and the Washington County Railroad Barre to Montpelier, should be made before April 26, 2021, to: Rick T. Boucher, Chief Engineer M.O.W., Vermont Railway, Inc., 118 Post Street, Rutland, VT 05701, or by telephone at (802) 775-4356, Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Questions or comments should be addressed to: Vermont Department of Agriculture, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602-2901, or by telephone at (802) 828-2431.

# Legislative Report

## Bills That Will Be Coming to the Floor for Consideration

**by Katherine Sims, State Representative, Orleans-Caledonia**

Dear Neighbors:

I'm excited to share that we are making significant progress toward an equitable COVID recovery plan that rebuilds the economies of all 14 counties.

We've just passed "cross over," the deadline when bills have to be passed out of committee if they are going to become law this year. Many of these bills will come to the floor in the next week or two before they head over to the Senate for their consideration.

These bills have passed by the House so far:

H. 315 COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Aid brings nearly \$80 million in additional COVID-19 relief and recovery aid for Vermonters. The bill provides critical assistance to working families and businesses struggling due to the pandemic. The COVID-19 relief package includes funding for small businesses that received no federal assistance, housing and community supports for Vermonters struggling with mental health issues, one-time stimulus checks for the poorest Vermonters on Reach Up, added investment in Vermont Farmers to Families Food Box program, improving the indoor air quality of school buildings for student safety, new housing creation for homeless Vermonters, increased data collection to track disparities and improve health equity, and additional investment in the pension systems for state employees and teachers.

H. 89: This bill, which limits liability for agritourism, provides farms that qualify reasonable expectation of what their liability will be when engaging in agritourism activities or events. If this bill passes, agritourism hosts will not be liable for injury or death resulting from the inherent risks of the agritourism activity. This bill helps Vermont's agricultural community and Vermont's rural economy by increasing opportunities for tourism. Over 30 other states have similar laws.

H. 81: This bill, which mandates statewide public school employee health benefits, restores the rights of school staff and teachers to bargain for different contribution rates for their healthcare. We know that school staff are often the lowest paid members of their school communities and we want to ensure that they can negotiate a package that meets their specific needs.

H. 128: The Panic Defense Bill prohibits the legal tactic of allowing a defendant to claim that a victim's sexual orientation or gender identify

is to blame for the defendant's violent reaction, including murder.

H.106: The Community Schools Pilot Program provides wrap around services to students and their families within the school community.

S. 110: This bill permits individuals to continue receiving Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits if the individual is otherwise eligible to establish a new unemployment insurance benefit year but doing so would result in a reduction of at least \$25.00 in the amount of weekly benefits the individual is eligible for.

A few House bills that are likely to come to a vote in the coming weeks:

H. 360 Broadband Bill brings \$200 million of new capital to support the construction of broadband assets in the most underserved parts of the state.

H. 433: The Transportation Bill funds transportation projects for the fiscal year, including an increase in Town Highway Aid funding. The bill also sets out policies and projects for inclusion in the State's 2022 Transportation Program that reduce carbon emissions, make strategic infrastructure investments, and give all Vermonters greater access to lower-cost transportation options.

H.171 Childcare Bill takes critical steps to make childcare more affordable, remove barriers to access, ensure fair wages for providers, establish workforce development programs, and creates a study to identify future revenue sources.

H. 159 Better Places Bill is an omnibus economic recovery development bill including a one-time appropriation to the Dept. of Tourism and Marketing to boost marketing as Vermont emerges from pandemic restrictions, extending the current Downtown and Village Tax Credit program to designated Neighborhood Development Areas, the Better Places Program to provide grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to create or revitalize public spaces, funding to launch and support a BIPOC business network, and other workforce development initiatives.

J.R.H.2 Eugenics Apology is a joint resolution that formally apologizes for the role of the Vermont General Assembly in supporting Vermont's eugenics program.

H. 196 Director of Racial Equity Bill expands the Office of the Director of Racial Equity.

H. 426 School Facilities Bill: Many of Vermont's school buildings are aging and in dire need of repair. This bill would conduct a statewide needs assessment for all school buildings and produce a report on funding options.

What I've heard from you about:

H. 200 Short Term Rental Bill: This bill would require registration for all short-term rentals, that all renters comply with lodging establishments guidelines, and impose a residency requirement for the owner of a short-term rental property. As an Airbnb host myself, I understand the important role short-term rentals play in providing a little extra income and supporting our tourism economy. I do not support the bill as it is currently written. I don't expect that this bill will be taken up by the Housing, General, and Military Affairs Committee, but if it does there will be opportunity for extensive testimony and if you would like to participate in that process please let me know.

State College System: Earlier this week, Speaker Jill Krowinski announced an \$84 million proposal to help "stabilize" the state's higher education system. The legislation includes \$66.5 million in one-time funding for the beleaguered Vermont State Colleges System, around \$8 million to fund Vermont Student Assistance Corporation grants, \$7.2 million for the University of Vermont, and \$2-3 million for primary care physician and nursing scholarship programs. We need to commit to policies and initiatives that work toward the long-term recovery of Vermont, and this package is one way we can help working families and our business community come back stronger than ever. The House and Senate will take up this proposal in the coming weeks.

American Rescue Plan Act: With over \$1.35 billion coming into our state from the federal American Rescue Plan Act, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to invest strategically in our communities. Vermont's

allocation includes: \$1.05 billion to the State, \$121 million for County government (Caledonia County: \$5.82 million, Essex County: \$1.2 million, and Orleans County: \$5.24 million), \$76 million to be distributed directly to individual towns and cities based on population, and \$100 million for water, sewer, and broadband.

Towns will likely receive their funding this summer and will have until Dec 31, 2024, to fully spend down the funds. We expect more details around how the funds will be distributed and the rules regarding their use in the coming weeks.

The State has an incredible opportunity to spend one-time money on smart investments that will truly transform the future and set us on a path that supports all Vermonters in every corner of our state. In the coming weeks, the legislature will be looking at ways to use this funding to create equal opportunities in our schools, build more affordable housing, bring broadband to all Vermonters, grow our workforce, upgrade our infrastructure, address our pension problem and so much more.

I want you to know what I'm working on, how I'm voting, and why. For those who like to keep of track of things in real time, visit the General Assembly website at [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov) to watch the House of Representatives live (or recorded) daily deliberations, for bills I've co-sponsored and roll call votes, and to watch committee testimony.

If you need assistance or want to discuss your priorities or needs, please reach out anytime. I look forward to connecting with you.

### NOTICE OF TAX SALE TOWN OF WALDEN

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

REAL ESTATE OF KATHERINE CATES

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

REAL ESTATE OF LAWRENCE AND KATIE SHERMAN

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

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

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

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



**Joe Mulligan**  
 15-plus years industry experience in the central Vermont area, fully insured.  
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 (802) 477-3899

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**Greensboro Nursing Home**

*Do you love Country Living? Are you interested in working in a wonderful, home-like, country setting?*  
 Consider applying for a position at Greensboro Nursing Home, in Greensboro Vermont. We currently have several open positions in Nursing, including Full-Time or Part-Time RN (any shift), Full-Time or Part-Time LPN (any shift) and Part-Time LNA (Evenings/Nights).  
 We offer a generous benefits package to our Full-Time and Part-Time employees, which includes Earned Time Off (ETO), Health Insurance, Dental, Vision, 401K, AFLAC and paid mealtimes (and we provide our employees with one meal per shift!)  
 So, if you like a skilled nursing facility with a very home-like environment, co-workers who treat you like family, and a great staff to resident ratio, you will love Greensboro Nursing Home!  
**Give us a call at (802)533-7051 and ask to speak with Beth Daniels (Director of Nursing) or Brian Labelle (Administrator).**

**BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED**

The Heart of Vermont® Chamber of Commerce is seeking individuals interested in promoting their local business community.

Must have good communication skills, an understanding of the local area and be comfortable interacting with others as they fill board positions with the local Chamber of Commerce. Time compensation/stipend allocated for certain positions.

Please contact the Heart of Vermont® Chamber of Commerce by March 29, at (802) 624-3930 or email chamber@heartofvt.com

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# SPORTS

## Lady Chargers Fall to Rivendell in First Round

by Ken Brown

ORFORD, N.H. – Fifth-seeded Rivendell Academy brought the Craftsbury Academy girls' basketball team's season to an end last week in the first round of the Division IV playoffs.

Adele Tilden led a balanced attack with 14 points to lead the Lady Raptors to a 63-32 home win over Craftsbury last Wednesday. Alex McFate (12 points), Cora Day (11), and Kylie Taylor (10) also had strong games for Rivendell, which advanced to the quarterfinals.

"This was one of the best games the girls played all season. We lost

*"Our girls worked so hard this season to get in shape and revive this program and they challenged themselves in so many different ways."*

two starters after quarantining for a week, so we had to readjust our lineup and a lot of our plays, but the girls did an amazing job and they should be very proud," said head coach Gabriela Silva.

Eighth grader Ella Gillespie continued to shine for the Lady Chargers, pouring in a game-high

22 points. Gillespie led Craftsbury in scoring this season and with a young team returning with experience next season around her, the future looks bright for Lady Charger basketball. This was the first time Craftsbury Academy fielded a varsity girls' basketball team since their Division IV final four appearance in 2017.

"Our girls worked so hard this season to get in shape and revive this program and they challenged themselves in so many different ways. We couldn't be more proud of these student athletes and what they've accomplished this season. We look forward to coming out and having even more fun with this group of girls next season," said Silva.

Rivendell fell to fourth seeded Danville in the quarterfinals on Saturday, ending their season at 6-4. Danville travelled to top seed West Rutland on Tuesday with a chance to play in the Division IV title game at the Barre Auditorium on Saturday.

## MSJ Ends Lady Cats' Season in First Playoff Round

by Ken Brown

RUTLAND – An ice-cold second half prevented the Hazen Union girls' basketball team from pulling the upset last week as they fell to Mount. St. Joseph's Academy in the first round of the Division IV playoffs.

Tiana Gallipo scored a game-high 14 points to lead the Lady Mounties to a 36-31 home win over Hazen Union last Tuesday. Alleigh Gabaree scored 12 to lead Hazen Union to a 22-21 halftime lead, but the well dried up in the second half

and the turnovers piled up.

"Our game plan wasn't much different in the second half, we just executed better in the first half and protected the basketball better," said head coach Tim Whitney. "The girls' effort was there as it was all season, it just didn't come together for us in the end,"

Despite going the last seven minutes of the game without a field goal, the Lady Cats' defense and rebounding kept them within four with two minutes remaining, but they just couldn't buy a basket. Ella Paquin and Brooke Bishop combined for 16 more points for MSJ as they improved

*"We hope to get our numbers up next year when everything gets back to normal and start building again with a younger group."*

to 5-6. They fell to top-seeded West Rutland on Friday in the quarterfinals. Senior Natalie Geoffroy chipped in with 8 points for the Lady Cats and will graduate in the spring along with Gabaree, Macy Molleur, Harley Papineau, and Abby Ainsworth.

"It's always tough to replace that many seniors for a program, especially a good group of girls who

have played together since middle school. Our numbers were down this season and without a junior varsity team it's hard to gauge what we'll have for younger players coming up next season. We hope to get our numbers up next year when everything gets back to normal and start building again with a younger group," said Whitney.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Hazen varsity senior Isaiah Baker (right) examines a "Great to be a Wildcat" poster held by Keira Gann (left) and her son Jayce, 5, while family and friends cheered for the team members as they arrived for their game. In the back is Jason Bahner. Twenty-five people lined the sidewalk to attend the pep rally and show their support to the team.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Leslie Michaud, Hadley Michaud, Claire Michaud and Hutson Michaud joined 20 other family and friends of the Hazen Union boys' varsity team to cheer them on as team members arrived for their quarterfinal game against Enosburg Saturday.

# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Jadon Baker of Hazen heads toward the basket guarded by Shea Hourigan of Enosburg during quarterfinal action in the Wildcat Den Saturday. Hazen senior Ethan Shopland (#11) follows the play. The Wildcats lost 48-50.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Wildcat senior Isaiah Baker rushes up the court past Enosburg's Owen McKinstry Saturday during quarterfinal action. Baker scored 26 points. Enosburg won 50-48.

## March Madness Strikes Again as Wildcats Fall at Buzzer

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Devyn Gleason ended the Hazen Union boys' basketball team's season last week with a desperation three-pointer as time expired, sending Enosburg into the semifinals of the Division III tournament.

Gleason scored 13 points on the night, but none more important than the bank shot three as he was falling out of bounds to give Enosburg an improbable 50-48 road win on Saturday. Shea Howrigan led the Hornets with 15 in the win as they improved to 5-4 on the season. Hazen Union clawed back from a fourteen-point third quarter deficit to take a one point lead with thirty seconds remaining in the game, setting up Gleason's heroics with one second remaining on the clock.

"It was a roller coaster of emotions because I was so proud of how the guys fought back against a good team like that and you think you've won the ball game. Then a shot like that goes in and it just guts you. We knew going in that they were a very difficult match-up for us and we struggled early, but we played much better in the second half. They made all of the big shots they needed to throughout the game including the last one," said head coach Aaron Hill.

Senior star Isaiah Baker will go down as one of the best players to ever come through Hazen Union,

but the Hornets shut him down in the first half, holding him to four points as they went on a 19-0 run that stretched into the beginning of the third quarter to take a 34-20 lead. Like all great players, Baker took over, hitting his first three-pointer of the game late in the third quarter to cut the lead to six at 39-33. He scored 14 straight for the Wildcats, finishing a drive with three minutes left in regulation to give Hazen their first lead since early in the second quarter at 42-41.

After trading baskets, Howrigan rattled in a three with forty-five seconds left to give the Hornets back the lead, but Baker would answer with two free throws fifteen seconds later, giving him 22 second-half points and 26 on the night. Baker would steal the ball in the waning seconds falling to the floor in a scrum, but a jump ball would be called, giving Enosburg one last chance with 1.1 seconds remaining. Gleason, a lefty, took the in-bounds pass, took two steps toward the left sideline and heaved a back-breaking bank shot that could only be rivaled by March Madness highlights.

Baker finished his stellar career at Hazen Union as the second all-time leading scorer behind Tim Shedd and his 224 3-pointers is third all-time in Vermont high school basketball history. Fellow senior Ethan Shopland had another strong game

for the Wildcats with solid defense and eight points on the night.

"Losing two seniors like that is definitely tough for the program, but they are fantastic players and people and two of the fiercest competitors and leaders I've ever coached. They did everything they possibly could to put us in position to win that game, but some things you just can't control at the end. It will be nice to get a full off-season

so we can continue to develop this young core that we have and we are looking forward to competing in the Capital Division next season, where the competition will be very stiff," said Hill.

Enosburg will travel to Williamstown on Wednesday in a semi-final matchup for a chance to play in the Division III championship on Sunday at the Barre Auditorium.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union varsity coach Aaron Hill (center) talks to his team during a time out Saturday against Enosburg. Standing (left to right) are Gabe Michaud, Carter Hill, assistant coach Adam Gann, Tyson Davison, Xavier Hill, Ryker Willett, assistant coach Travis Hill, Lincoln Michaud, J.V. coach Mike Baker. Seated (left to right) are Jadon Baker, Ethan Shopland, Aasha Gould, Isaiah Baker and Tyler Rivard.

# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lucas Roberts (#23) drives to the basket guarded by Twin Valley's Aidin Joyce and followed by Colin McHale (#10) during quarterfinal action at Twinfield March 20. At left is coach Chris Hudson..



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield senior Henry LoRe looks to pass around Izaak Park of Twin Valley March 20 at Twinfield. The Trojans won the quarterfinal game 51-50.

## Trojans Advance to Semis, Title Game Sunday

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – The Twinfield/Cabot boys' basketball team keeps finding ways to win without their star center as they outlasted a determined Twin Valley team over the weekend to advance to the Division IV semifinals.

Kerrick Medose scored a game-high 16 points, including four 3-pointers, to lead the Trojans to an exciting 51-50 home win over fifth-seeded Twin Valley on Saturday afternoon. The eighth grade point guard gave Twinfield/Cabot an eight-point lead midway through the final period with his fourth triple of the game. Cutler Gladding (15 points, 10 rebounds) and Mason Cushing (11 and 8) bruised the Wildcats inside to extend the Trojan lead to 51-39 with less than three minutes to go, but playing their third straight game without Gavin Fowler in the lineup, the lead was far from safe.

"They have three experienced kids who played in the finals last season, so we knew it was going to be a tough test, especially not being at full strength. We don't have that experience yet, so I was so impressed with how the guys stepped up and took that game when it was in the balance. We had some bad turnovers down the stretch that young teams make and Twin Valley made some contested threes and made it very tight in the end, but I'm so proud of how the guys gutted this one out," said head coach Chris Hudson.

Aaron Soskin hit a pair of threes to cut the lead to six, Colin McHale banked in another triple, and Soskin had a steal and a finish to make it 51-50 with thirty seconds left. Twin Valley missed the front end of a one

and one with eight seconds left and Cushing and Gladding controlled the boards once again in the final seconds to secure the win. Soskin finished with 16 and McHale chipped in with 12 as the Wildcats' season ended at 5-3. Freshman Meles Gouge came off the bench to score seven big points and play solid defense for the Trojans. Fowler unfortunately will likely be lost for the season with a leg injury. The start center is a two-time Vermont Dream Dozen selection and would have likely reached the 1,000 career points mark had there been a full season.

"We all wish Gavin could be out there, but what I love about this team is that they don't make excuses. We are an old school team that pounds the ball inside and Cutler and Mason continue to dominate the

paint. Kerrick showed again why he is going to be so special for this program and also reminds you that he is only an eighth grader with some of the mistakes he makes. He wants the ball in his hands and he's playing beyond his years already. Cutler has done everything asked of him since he came here and now he's doing even more with Gavin out. Mason has only two years of organized ball under his belt and is getting better and better every game. We have another tough test ahead of us this week and we're excited to be back on our home court," said Hudson.

The Trojans will host seventh-seeded West Rutland on Wednesday at 6 p.m., for a chance to play in the Division IV title game on Sunday at the Barre Auditorium.



The Twinfield coaches and team stand for the National Anthem before their quarterfinal game against Twin Valley Saturday. Pictured (from left) are assistant coach John Medose, coach Chris Hudson, Sam Russell, Brayden Cushing, Neil Alexander, Dom Hale, Meles Gouge, Kerrick Medose, Cutler Gladding, Lucas Roberts, Mason Cushing, Henry LoRe, Gavin Fowler and Brody Moran.

photo by Vanessa Fournier