

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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## Select Board Gets Look at Master Plan

by Cheryl Luther Michaels

EAST HARDWICK – A report of the master plan for East Hardwick's future was presented to the Hardwick Select Board by Tracy Martin, Hardwick's community development coordinator, April 17,

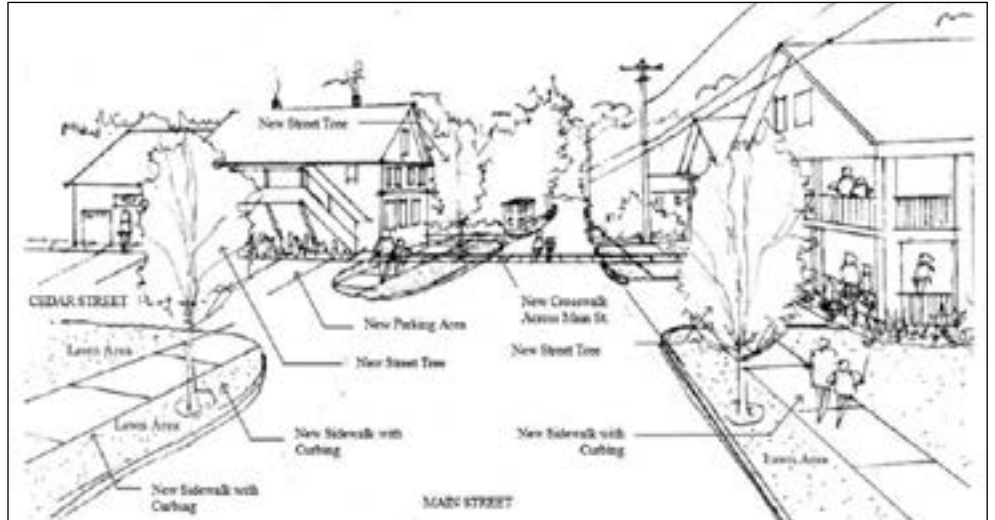
According to Martin, "The presentation that was made to the select board on April 17 was purely informational. We wanted to have our consultant Peter Fairweather give an overview of the Better Connections process and present the main priorities that appear in the draft report while he was still under contract with the town. At

the time of his presentation, our state partners were reviewing the draft and we knew that some revisions were likely."

At the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization's annual meeting in October 2023, the community got their first look at the process to create a master plan for the Village of East Hardwick.

Martin shared plans to use two Better Connections Program grants totaling \$97,500. She explained that the year-long project would bring the community together to create a vision and master plan for East Hardwick's future,

See PLAN, 4



A conceptual drawing for an East Hardwick Main Street sidewalk replacement project shows a new sidewalk on the west side with parking along Cedar Street and streetscaping to add curbs, a crosswalk, planting strips, lawn areas and street trees. courtesydrawing

## Town Hall Sale to Rural Edge Voted Down Resoundingly

by Paul Fixx



After a long day of voting that began at 10 a.m., (from left) Greensboro Town Clerk Kim Greaves and Justices of the Peace Stewart Arnold, Tim Nisbet and Maya McCoy begin to count ballots at 7 p.m., April 29. The vote to authorize the select board to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with Rural Edge for the town hall failed 227 to 147.

photo by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – Three hundred and seventy-four Greensboro voters weighed in today, April 29, with the majority voting against allowing the select board to sign a purchase and sale agreement with Rural Edge for a project to convert the town hall into 16 to 20 apartments. Two hundred-twenty seven of the ballots, or 60.7%, were marked no. One hundred forty-seven ballots were marked yes, just 39.3%, with one spoiled ballot marked both yes and no.

Today's vote ends a chapter for town officials, including past and current members of the select board and housing committee, who have been looking for ways to expand the housing options in Greensboro.

The counting process took 40 minutes as Town Clerk Kim Greaves was joined by Justices

See SALE, 4

## Next Steps for Housing, Deteriorating Town Hall Contemplated

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – As the Rural Edge vote has concluded, many community members are wondering what the next steps are, for both the board and the building.

Executive Director Patrick Shattuck of Rural Edge issued a statement, "While the vote outcome is disappointing after investing so much time and energy into the community over an extended period, this does provide closure as to our involvement

See HALL, 4

## Wolcott Voters Reject School Budget, Again

by Paul Fixx

WOLCOTT – The second school budget vote, Tuesday, April 28, failed with 150 no votes and 140, just 10 fewer, voting yes on the \$6.14 million budget. Three ballots were recorded as spoiled.

Just 293 of Wolcott's 1294 registered voters cast a ballot, meaning the winning no votes represented less than 12% of voters.

This second budget would have lowered the tax rate 4.5 cents to 25.5 cents.

OSSU Superintendent of Schools, David Baker said he was disappointed that the budget failed to pass by just 10 votes. "Certainly

there are no other places to cut without making serious cuts to staff, which will affect student outcomes. The board has been adamant about not cutting staff."

School Board Chair Elliott told the News and Citizen he "is hoping to have the next vote sometime in June before the next fiscal year begins, when the district would be forced to operate at reduced funding levels. State law says districts can borrow to keep the school running, but at 87 percent of current operating expenses." It was also reported, "the budget is very tight, and he does not want to cut personnel."

The Wolcott Town School Board governs

See REJECT, 4



Twenty-five people joined a May Day protest, May 1, International Workers Day, on the sidewalk along South Main Street in Hardwick in front of the block with Front Seat Coffee and Positive Pie. A variety of signs called for "Respect" and "Make America Think Again." photo by Paul Fixx

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conversation  
with Greensboro

May 18, 3-5 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts

Featuring Jasper Hill Cheese, Hill Farmstead Brewery samples, Wilson Farm ice cream, and a chance to express ideas on Hardwick Gazette coverage of Greensboro..

FREE

Hardwick Gazette

This is the first in a series of community conversations The Hardwick Gazette will hold in its 11-town coverage area.

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**WEATHER WATCH**



A brilliant evening sky appears from Montgomery Road, East Hardwick, Monday, May 4. photo by Dawn Gustafson

**Rainy, Cool Pattern Breaks Up by Weekend**

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Persistent rain the past several days didn't cause a washout, as intervals of sunshine peeked through broken cloud cover intermittently this weekend. Highs have generally been in the 50s to 60s, which is normal for this time of year. A healthy three quarters of an inch to an inch of rain fell in the last week, with three-to-four-inch amounts about 100 miles south. This is thanks in part to a cutoff upper-level low, which has caused a surface low-pressure system to stall over the lower Ohio River Valley, with a stationary front draped over southern Vermont and New Hampshire.

The upper low is part of an omega block, which is where upper-level features line up west-to-east in a low-high-low fashion. It causes systems to get stuck for a while. As you can imagine, that has implications on the forecast for the upcoming period: no crazy heat waves and no likelihood of wall-to-wall sunshine. The forecast looks largely rainy and cool.

It's not all bad news, though. There will be some breaks of sun, especially Friday and Mother's Day, and flow will become more progressive as we wrap up the weekend, so there is some hope of improving weather by early next week, with long-term predictions offering a generally warmer and drier outlook. In the meantime,

one feature we're watching closely is the positioning of the upper-level low by Friday evening and Saturday morning, as it appears a coastal system may develop east of the upper-level feature.

Model guidance is having a bit of trouble resolving this feature currently, but it appears we will at least see a moderate rain through Saturday afternoon, with lingering rain showers into Sunday as a cold front crosses from west to east and gives us our first hint of true clearing by sunset Sunday. Here's the best guess as to how this will all pan out:

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy, with additional breaks of sunshine in the afternoon. Scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High: 65. Low: 43. South wind 5-10 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers. High: 50. Low: 37. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy, becoming partly sunny by afternoon. Scattered showers, turning to periods of rain by evening. High: 53. Low: 42. Light and variable winds.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. Rain. High: 59. Low: 43. Variable winds around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy, with a chance of rain showers. High: 58. Low: 37. South winds around 5 mph, becoming northwest, and increasing to 10 to 15 mph.



**May 7 - May 13**

<p><b>Happening Now through Mother's Day. 20% Off all Women's Clothing &amp; Footwear</b></p>		<p><b>Let us help you find the perfect gift for the Moms in your life</b></p>	
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<p><b>Ben's Ready Rice</b> <b>2/\$5</b> 8.5-8.8 oz.</p>	<p><b>Minute Rice</b> <b>\$2.79</b> 12-14 oz.</p>	<p><b>Go Go Squeeze Applesauce</b> <b>\$2.99</b> 12.8 oz.</p>	
<p><b>Spam Luncheon Meat</b> <b>\$3.99</b> 12 oz.</p>	<p><b>Wishbone Salad Dressing</b> <b>2/\$5</b> 15 oz.</p>	<p><b>Teddie Old Fashion Peanut Butter</b> <b>\$3.49</b> 16 oz.</p>	
<p><b>Loacker Quadratini</b> <b>\$3.49</b> 7.76-8.82 oz.</p>	<p><b>Crav'n Flavor Fudge Cookies</b> <b>2/\$4</b> 8.5-12.5 oz.</p>	<p><b>Simply Done 6=12 Paper Towels</b> <b>\$5.99</b> 302.4 s.f.</p>	
<p><b>Chobani Greek Yogurt</b> <b>4/\$5</b> 5.3 oz.</p>	<p><b>Stonyfield Yogurt</b> <b>\$4.49</b> 32 oz.</p>	<p><b>Stonyfield Smoothie</b> <b>\$1.79</b> 10 oz.</p>	
<p><b>Almond Breeze Milk Alternative</b> <b>\$2.99</b> 64 oz.</p>	<p><b>TGIF Appetizers</b> <b>\$4.49</b> 8-11 oz.</p>	<p><b>Hood Ice Cream</b> <b>\$3.49</b> 48 oz.</p>	
<p><b>Sunset English Cucumbers</b> <b>99¢</b> ea.</p>	<p><b>Naturipe Georgia Blueberries</b> <b>2/\$4</b> pt.</p>	<p><b>Sunset Cluster Tomatoes</b> <b>\$1.09</b> lb.</p>	

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log

April 27: Alarm, Industrial Park Road; Assist – Public, Keene Road; Wanted Person, Cabot Road; Transport, High St.; DUI, Wolcott St./Granite St.

April 28: School Event, Hazen Union Drive; School Event, Church St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Medical, Maple St.; Animal Problem, Hazen Union Drive; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Hazard, Morin Lane.

April 29: Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15/Town Hill Road; VIN Verification, High St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Agency, High St.; Assist – Public, Pleasant St.; ATV Incident, Spring St.; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15; Medical, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Maple St.

April 30: Missing Person, Bunker Hill Road; Lost Property, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist – Motorist, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.;

Welfare Check, Houston Hill Road.

May 1: Traffic Stop, Pumpkin Lane; Intoxication, Mill St.; Traffic Hazard, Highland Ave./Church St.; Traffic Stop, Center Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; 911 Hangup, Molleur Drive; Noise Disturbance, Hardwick Farms Road; Suspicious Event, High St.; Safety Hazard, Slapp Hill; Juvenile Problem, Houston Hill Road.

May 2: Suspicious Event, Slapp Hill; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Medical, Slapp Hill; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Hardwick Farms Road; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.

May 3: Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; 911 Hangup, Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

May 4: Citizen Dispute, Montgomery Road; Traffic Hazard, Kellogg St.; Medical, Maple St.; Theft, Buffalo St.

## Hardwick Police DUI, Theft

HARDWICK – On April 27, at 11:08 p.m., the Hardwick Police stopped a vehicle on Wolcott Street near Granite Street for a stop sign violation. Investigation revealed the operator, identified as Kyler Collins of Hyde Park, was under the influence of alcohol. Collins was processed for DUI and issued a citation to appear in the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division, Caledonia Unit, May 12, to be arraigned for DUI.

On May 4, at approximately 6:18 p.m., Hardwick Police

responded to Vt. Rte. 14 S for a theft from a residence. Upon searching the area and talking to other witnesses it was learned that the person in question was Joel Sargent, 33, Hardwick. Upon locating Sargent, he took off into the wooded area just south of the Dollar General. With the help of Lamoille County Deputies Sargent was taken into custody on three outstanding warrants. Sargent was assessed by Hardwick Rescue and then lodged at the Northeast Regional Correction Facility in St. Johnsbury.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Eight people used AWARE services between April 27 and May 4. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE

provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit [awarevt.org](http://awarevt.org).

## Vermont State Police

### Body Found, Runaway Juvenile

WESTMORE – Update: During Search and Rescue Team training on Wednesday afternoon, April 30, near Lake Willoughby in Westmore, members of the Vermont State Police located a body believed to be that of missing hiker Sue Mi Ko, of Craftsbury. Crews recovered her body several hundred yards from the Mount Pisgah trailhead.

An autopsy will be conducted at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington to determine the cause and manner of death. There continue to be no indications that this incident is suspicious.

No further details are available at this time.

anonymously reported at [vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit)

CABOT – On May 2, at 10:29 p.m., troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to a residence in Cabot for a domestic disturbance. Subsequent investigation revealed that Calvin Lamphere, of Woodbury, committed the offenses of Burglary, Violation of a Relief from Abuse Order, Aggravated Stalking, Second Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault and Criminal DLS. Lamphere was later located in Calais and taken into custody for the above-mentioned charges. Lamphere was issued a citation to appear at Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on May 5, 12:30 p.m., and held on \$5,000 bail.

WALDEN – On May 2 at approximately 5:57 p.m., troopers from the Vermont State Police, St. Johnsbury Barracks, were notified of a two-vehicle crash in the area of 3762 Vt. Rte. 15 in the town of Walden. Malik Newman-Shadley, of East Hardwick, was traveling east on Vt. Rte. 15 when he failed to negotiate a turn. The vehicle crossed the center line and into the oncoming lane. Brian Carpenter, of Wheelock, was traveling north on Vt. Rte. 15 when it observed Newman-Shadley traveling into the lane. In an attempt to avoid a collision, he took a right hand turn onto Noyestar Road. Newman-Shadley's driver side bumper collided with Carpenter's driver side rear bumper. Newman-Shadley came to a position of uncontrolled rest in a marsh to the left of the northbound lane of Vt. Rte. 15. Carpenter was able to complete the turn on Noyestar Road and park on the side of the intersection. Both operators refused medical treatment and the vehicles were towed by their respective tow companies.

Troopers were assisted on scene by Walden Fire Department, Calex Ambulance Service, Roland's Towing and Caledonia Wrecker Service. Newman-Shadley was issued VCVCs (Vermont Civil Violation Complaint, a warning) for Persons Required to Register and Driving Lanes for Travel.



Kiara Cookson

CALAIS – On April 29, at approximately 8 p.m., the Vermont State Police received a report of a runaway juvenile. It was reported that Kiara Cookson left her residence located in Calais on April 29 at approximately 8 p.m. Kiara told family members that she would return later that evening. As of 4:30 a.m., April 30, Kiara has not returned home and contact with Kiara has been unsuccessful.

Kiara is described as a 16-year-old female, 5'9" with shoulder length brown hair, approximately 200 pounds and hazel eyes. Kiara was last seen wearing black shorts, black t-shirt, Berkenstock sandals and white Nike socks. Kiara is reportedly with a male juvenile and operating a black 2015 Mitsubishi Outlander with unknown Vermont temporary registration.

Vermont State Police would like to remind the public it is a criminal violation to knowingly harbor a runaway juvenile.

The State Police is asking for any assistance in locating Kiara. Anyone with information as to Kiara's whereabouts is asked to call the State Police Berlin Barracks at (802) 229-9191. Tips can be

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## Sale

### Continued From Page One

of the Peace Tim Nisbet, Stewart Arnold and Maya McCoy. Four members of the public and two reporters were in the room witnessing the count, which was done twice, arriving at the same total each time.

The 375 votes recorded today is 15 more than those entered for Vermont Governor in the November 2024 election, but over 150 less than the votes tallied for president and vice-president during that same election.

Over the last several decades, Greensboro businesses, including Jasper Hill Farm and Hill Farmstead Brewery, have added significant numbers of employees, as the number of dairy farms and children in the town's Lakeview

Elementary School have dwindled. Estimates that over 100 more people are now employed in Greensboro than several decades ago were shared during a contentious process leading up to the vote.

During the year leading up to today's vote, a vocal group of town residents questioned the select board's process, accusing it of not soliciting appropriate citizen input and not being transparent.

Had the vote been approved, it would have cleared one hurdle, bringing Rural Edge closer to investing funds to evaluate options for the project, which would have converted the town's former high school into 16 to 20 one to three bedroom apartments. Further studies by Rural Edge would likely have included developing

architectural plans for the building and an addition; developing site plans, to include parking options; conducting engineering studies on potential wastewater systems and beginning the permitting process, according to statements by Patrick Shattuck, the organization's executive director.

The vote comes on the heels of a failed project to develop a town wastewater treatment system that came to an end at the December 11, 2024, select board meeting when it was revealed the wastewater project had run out of viable options and would return grant funds. Plans were made at that meeting to begin again by forming a new wastewater committee in 2025.

What comes next is yet to be determined according to Town Clerk Kim Greaves.

## Hall

### Continued From Page One

in redevelopment efforts at the town hall building. No matter the outcome, community process is a positive thing and if anything, hopefully this mobilizes more folks to become involved in the future of their community. RuralEdge remains active in Greensboro, partnering on the construction of a duplex in Greensboro Bend with Habitat for Humanity and just this morning I signed a VHIP check funding an accessory dwelling unit in Greensboro. The need for housing is great and RuralEdge remains committed to working across the Northeast Kingdom to improve the housing situation."

Select board Vice Chair Tim Brennan said "The town has voted and rejected the proposal for Rural Edge to redevelop the town hall as housing. We, of course, will follow the guidance of the town voters. That's our job. But we are left

with the same two problems that we had before, that is, a lack of affordable housing and a deteriorating building. . . We don't know the answer to those problems, but that's going to be our agenda, and not just the select board, but the select board and the community need to look carefully and diligently at those two problems and come up with solutions."

Area resident Chris Steel said, "I hope the significant energy that was brought to stopping the Rural Edge project is sustained in determining an alternative way forward for the town hall, especially from those involved in leading that campaign."

On April 30, the day after Greensboro voters rejected authorizing the select board to sign a proposed purchase and sale agreement of the town hall to Rural Edge, Rosann Hickey said, "I am relieved." Hickey resides directly across Laurendon Avenue, she's effectively the town hall's next-door neighbor. While she believes

Greensboro needs more housing, she said, "the process was very concerning."

"When I first heard about the project and thought it was maybe 6 or 8 apartments, I thought it sounded worth looking into." When it grew to be as many as 20 apartments, she thought it seemed out of scale with the town and the site across from the end of her driveway. "Even Laurendon apartments have only 10 apartments." Those apartments are next to the Historical Society building, to the right of Willey's.

Other residents felt similarly. Gary Circosta, quoted in the Newport Daily Express, said "When the results came in, the residents that were present were pleased with the results. Every time, they say it's a small group of people that are speaking out against it. This shows that when a small group speaks out, there's often more people behind them," said Circosta.

Town clerk Kim Greaves said this will likely be a subject for the May 12 select board meeting.

## Plan

### Continued From Page One

covering everything from stormwater management and sidewalk upgrades to parking, traffic calming, parks and more. She also noted the program is designed to move projects forward quickly and make it easier to apply for more funding to finish the work.

The Better Connections grant, obtained by the Town of Hardwick, is sponsored by the Vermont Agencies of Transportation and Commerce and Community Development in collaboration with the Agency of Natural Resources. Those agencies, along with a Regional Planner and Economic Recovery Specialist from the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, teamed up with a local steering committee to find ways to boost development and revitalize East Hardwick Village.

The steering committee was led by David Upson and Tracy Martin from the Town of Hardwick. It included David O'Brien representing East Hardwick Fire District No. 1 (EHFD), Meredith Holch from Caledonia Grange No. 9 (The Grange) and Irene Nagle and Kathleen Hemmens from the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO).

The first meeting of the Better

Connections Steering Committee was held at the Hardwick Community Center, December 11, 2023, with subsequent meetings held monthly. The committee was advised by Fairweather from Fairweather Consulting and Andrea Day a professional engineer from the Dufresne Group.

The committee initially reached out to the greater population of East Hardwick at the 2024 Children's Parade, and later by hosting a pizza supper at the Grange Hall in July, 2024.

In March, 2025, a soup supper at the Memorial Building was accompanied by a presentation and discussion of the draft report.

The 69-page report outlines a master plan for East Hardwick Village and recommends actions. The top priorities are replacing the sidewalks on Main Street, improving the streetscape there, replacing sidewalks on Brick House Road, reworking the Main Street and Brick House Road intersections, and studying safety improvements at the Vt. Rte. 16 and Main Street intersection. Each action lists a responsible party, with the select board and VTrans taking the lead on the top projects.

Assigned to the Town of Hardwick are improvements to

stormwater collection on Main Street, East Church Street, Brickhouse Road and at the School Street intersection with Vt. Rte. 16.

High priority tasks assigned to other entities include evaluating the village water system (EHFD), continuing to improve Overlook Park (EHNO), removing the former library/firehouse building to create a small green space (EHFD) and adopting a Village Center District (Hardwick Planning Commission).

Other priority items, identified as either intermediate or long-term, include paved or striped pedestrian lanes on School and Pleasant Streets, reconfiguring the Cedar

Street intersection with Vt. Rte. 16, developing the LVRT trailhead on Stevens Lane, along with creating way-finding systems to the trailhead, pursuing opportunities to access the Lamoille River and considering potential new solutions to community waste water treatment.

The final report will be brought to the Hardwick Planning Commission. If they approve it, it will then be brought back to the select board for further attention.

The Better Connections Master Plan, as presented to the select board, can be found on the Resources page of the EHNO website at ehno5.wordpress.com.

## Reject

### Continued From Page One

a PreK-12 school district, which includes Wolcott Elementary School as well as the tuition of Wolcott students in grades 7-12. As a result, the town is in the difficult position of being dependent on tuitioning middle and high school students wherever parents choose to send them.

The board has an option to designate up to three high schools and then negotiate tuition with them, said Baker. "They have certainly

talked about it seriously." At this point, it's a problem with timing, he said. Voters would have to approve that and a budget before June 30.

Wolcott has faced several years of difficult issues, following two years of flooding and the recent decision to proceed with a town wastewater treatment system.

The next scheduled school board meeting is May 21, but an earlier special meeting is likely "because they have to have a warned budget by the end of this month," said Baker.

# Copley Employees Speak Out on Critical Birthing Center

by **Raymonda Parchment**

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM** – Copley Birthing Center employees are speaking out, following the revelation that the hospital board is considering closing the center in an effort to save money.

Registered Nurse Sarah Chouinard returned to Copley in 2011, after several years as a traveling nurse. She was first employed by the hospital in 1998. Mary Lou Kopas is a midwife at the Women's Center and Birthing Center. Kopas moved to Vermont from Washington state, where she was the chief of midwifery at the University of Washington medical center. Kopas grew her own practice before relocating to Vermont.

Both Kopas and Chouinard agree employees were kept in the dark throughout this process, and patients will be left at a disadvantage should the center close.

"We found out back in December that the discussion to close the birthing center was brought to the board of trustees of the hospital. We had not heard anything officially up until December, and even then the information was kind of leaked," said Chouinard.

Chouinard says they were all shocked, because they had not even been approached by the administration at all regarding the subject. "We were just kind of in the dark. So then, of course, we tried to get information directly at that point, but it was not, it was not given up at all easily. Pretty much, we were still left in the dark."

Having been ignored, Chouinard says they were forced to bring it to the community. "Now that we knew this was a possibility, and that no one knew what was happening or these discussions were happening, we thought the community should know and have a say in it since this is our community hospital."

As president of the Nurses Union, Chouinard attempted to reach out to Copley Health Systems *President & CEO, Joseph Woodin* directly several times via email and got no response. "Even the manager of our unit was not clear as to what was going on, and I know that the midwives tried to get information. There were some meetings set up. I think that Joe did not show up to one of the meetings. Really we were just put off, as far as getting any information on that matter at all."

"We had assumed that, had that been in discussions at all, that maybe we would've known in advance. They would've come to us and said 'hey we are thinking about closing this birthing center.'"

Chouinard continued, revealing a little discussed second option. "Also based on that Wyman report, there were two recommendations that were made. They said either for the financial sustainability of Copley they need to either close the birthing center or expand it and grow it. Now I know that there has been no discussion about expanding and growing, only closing it." Chouinard says in 2022, midwives presented a proposal for a satellite location in Waterbury that was not even considered or accepted.

Kopas was also in favor of the second option, "I think there is the capacity. If you do more births, you need more staff. We could manage somewhat more births with the staff we're at, and that would be a savings for the hospital. I think that's possible."

"In terms of room for expansion, yes the Oliver Wyman Report says in the short term [the hospital] should do nothing different, in the longer term, three to four years down the road, they recommend either the expansion of births or the closing of the center."

Neither the board nor Woodin have given employees a timeline of the potential closing. Ultimately, there was a total lack of transparency from the start, says Chouinard. Commenting on when this process and discussions began, "only Joe Woodin and the board members know that," she said.

Years of delays and denials for improvements has left her suspicious of the timeline. Chouinard says the center has had no advertising, upgrades or money put into trying to increase numbers in 13 years. "It's been a couple years where we were put in for new items and denied, or the plan was there but then all of a sudden it just never happened. It's because they knew this for a couple years, that the focus was not growing us or improving us, rather, just closing us so they kind of have been really tight with everything finance wise."

Chouinard said much of this controversy mimics the Springfield birthing center closing. Springfield Hospital, located in Chester, closed their birthing center doors as a cost saving effort in 2019. "They gave their nurses a timeline of June, I don't know when they started their conversations, but they were planning on closing their doors in June, and I believe they ended up closing their doors a month early. We have a contract, the union and the hospital. The hospital only has to give us five days' notice before closing the unit," Chouinard said. The status of their contract leads Chouinard to speculate the decision



*The board of Copley Hospital in Morrisville is contemplating closure of the birthing center. Nurses have expressed concern for the health of future mothers and their babies.*  
courtesy photo

could come sooner, with little to no warning for employees.

Kopas says, "This is something that other hospitals have done, because of the cost savings. It's a shame, because it's necessary care. One would argue that care related to female bodies is not expendable."

Chouinard believes the birthing center is also the scapegoat for Copley's real estate problems. "There's another aspect of this again. It's kind of transpired, you go to some of Joe's all-staff meetings and you see he's got big plans for the campus. Copley has a real estate issue. There's not enough space, and they're always trying to acquire more real estate. I believe in my heart of hearts that it's not even the money that they're losing, cause you know Copley is projected to make \$10 million next year even with the birthing center in the budget. So it's real estate, they want our space."

Kopas agreed, "What makes money here is Mansfield Orthopedics. It's an excellent service, it has a great reputation, people come from outside the area to come and do joint replacements here. They're building a new operating room and they have opened a new clinic in Waterbury."

Kopas also revealed that Copley is a critical access hospital, meaning they cannot exceed 25 inpatient beds. She elaborated, "a critical access hospital, it's a federal incentive program to keep small rural communities from losing their hospitals. Because they exist on such a small margin and they have a hard time making ends meet, for years there's been this critical access hospital designation which is that your hospital has emergency services and there is no other hospital in that area that's a reasonable distance."

A critical access hospital does not need to provide birthing services, except in the emergency room. Kopas, and other women

disagree that birth is not a critical service. "I think it's just inherent sexism, because one, birth isn't reimbursed at the cost of care, and two, it's not considered essential care."

Both Chouinard and Kopas agree that projections of an aging population aren't justification enough in closing the center. Chouinard said the Northern New England Perinatal Quality Improvement network, a Dartmouth Public Health program, issued the center a letter of support, asserting the low volume of birth will in no way affect the quality or consistency of care. "They said, there is no magic number. We have so many years of experience, a little bit of low volume every once in a while is not going to affect our quality of care, or competency, for that matter."

"They put out a number of 200 or less, saying that's a concern. We're hovering just below 200, so it's easy for them to kind of use it against us," she said.

Kopas agreed, "The volume of births at Copley is not huge, but it's running in the 150 to 200 range. In the last several years, the birth rate has been steady. There's been no drop in births in the last seven years. There's been a drop in births probably in the last 20 years."

Kopas said the hospital has been putting out the word that volume is dropping, alleging it's not safe if the volume is low. "All of that is just not true. It's a financial decision," she said.

Kopas said, while the population of Vermont is aging, Lamoille county has been growing in recent years. Statistics from the state department of health affirm Kopas statement. She also pointed out that one thing young families and people look for are places to give birth. "It's shortsighted, because yeah we need services for elderly people because the population is aging, but who's going to care for

**See BIRTHING, next page**

# VEC Annual Meeting, Community Programs Benefit Community

by Paul Fixx

JOHNSON – Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) holds its annual meeting at Jay Peak Resort, May 10, beginning with a free breakfast at 8 a.m.

A VEC Community Fund awards grants to organizations serving community members.

It has recently partnered with the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) to provide free community solar memberships in Orleans County, through a grant from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

VEC is Vermont's second largest electric utility, providing service to the most rural portions of northern Vermont, including the northwest area of Craftsbury and a smaller section

in northwest Greensboro.

The annual meeting's business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m., where members will hear from VEC leaders about how the co-op procures the power it supplies to members and results of the board election will be announced. A presentation at 10:30 a.m. by Dan Potter, VEC Senior Power Resources Planner and Rebecca Towne, VEC Chief Executive Officer is titled "Navigating a Clean Power Supply." The meeting will end with a drawing for door prizes. Details are at: [vermontelectric.coop/annual-meeting](http://vermontelectric.coop/annual-meeting).

Underscoring one of the seven cooperative principles, "concern for community" the board of directors established the VEC Community Fund a decade ago. The fund is supported by voluntary donations from VEC members who choose to round up their monthly electric bills to the next highest dollar

## Birthing

Continued From Previous Page

the older people if we're not making it a livable place for young families."

The birthing center uses the midwifery model of care, setting them apart from other providers in the state. This unique model is what first drew Kopas to the area. "Not only is this an important service, it's really high quality. I moved across the country, and was looking all over New England and chose this place to come and work because of the model of care here, and the outcomes. The nursing staff, the midwifery staff, the OB's, it's a good team."

Both Chouinard and Kopas have major concerns for patients in the area.

"It's not a good idea to have people travel an hour, half an hour, two hours, for birth. You can travel that far to get a knee replacement, but in labor that's difficult. For prenatal care when you're having weekly visits at the end of pregnancy, that's a hardship for people," said Kopas.

She continued, "We know that there are people who won't make it or won't be able to get to another hospital and they'll just come into the emergency room at Copley and deliver there. It'll just be worse care for low income people, which is a shitty way to run a healthcare service."

"There's definitely evidence that when a rural area loses its birth services at the hospital, women and babies have worse outcomes. Fewer women get sufficient prenatal care, there's more complications, there's more ICU admissions," she concluded.

Kopas elaborated further on the state of women's healthcare, "Nationally, the United States is under performing in maternal and newborn outcomes compared to the rest of the developing world, we do a horrible job. And we're not in any hurry to get better. There's also a huge disparity between people of color and white people in maternal and newborn outcomes. You are more likely to die giving birth in the United States than you are anywhere in Europe. National public health experts who looked at maternity care and are trying to address this problem, what they recommend is avoiding unnecessary interventions, lowering the C-section rate, and the midwifery model of care. Those are all things that are recommended for improving maternal and newborn outcomes, and that's what we have at Copley."

"We actually have this amazing thing going on in this shabby little unit that hasn't been renovated in years, but the quality of care is extremely good. Vermont is unique, the March of Dimes has given Vermont an A in ratings on maternal outcomes. There's one or two states that have that. Again, we're looking at shutting down a program that is really successful, providing the kind of care that women need and sadly women don't get around the country, and outcomes will be worse," said Kopas.

Employees, patients, and community members will continue to show their support at the upcoming Mother's day rally, Sunday, May 11. The rally will be held on the corner of Main and Congress, in Morrisville, from 1 to 3 p.m., with face painting, a plant swap, a bake sale, and more.



A VEC Community Solar Project in Hinesburg is available to Orleans County customers.  
photo by Encore Renewable Energy

with a maximum annual contribution of \$11.98, donating their member capital, or making one-time donations.

The VEC Community fund is intended to strengthen the community by awarding grants to organizations that serve VEC members. The first grant was awarded in 2015. Since then, more than 200 separate grants have been awarded to non-profits in our region, totaling over \$160,000. Grants will range from \$100 to a cap of \$1,000, with exceptions possible on a case-by-case basis.

Focus areas of the fund are: economic security, emergency and disaster relief, community support and development, and food security.

Recent fund awards have been to Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA), Hardwick Farmers Market, The North Craftsbury Cemetery Association and Craftsbury Community Meals.

This year's award of \$500 to CVCOA provides funds for hosting Age Outdoors: A Fun Run, Bicycle Ride and Walk for Healthy Aging on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail in Morrisville. The event raises funds for CVCOA, supporting innovative programs for healthy aging and individualized support for older adults and caregivers in Central Vermont.

The Hardwick Farmers Market received \$500 in 2024 to support an additional picnic table to increase the availability of seating during the Atkins Field Farmers Market.

The North Craftsbury Cemetery Association was awarded \$500 to help in a community-wide effort to restore and preserve the historic 122-year-old decorative iron fence that surrounds the North Craftsbury Cemetery, which serves as the gateway to the Craftsbury Common Historic District.

In 2023 Craftsbury Community Meals was given \$1,000 to support food purchases. The program

served an average of 100 meals each month, with each monthly meal costing approximately \$200, so these funds covered approximately five months of meals.

The Community Fund Allocation Committee, made up of an equal number of VEC staff and board participants, accepts applications on a rolling basis and makes awards quarterly. Each member of the committee individually reviews and scores every application against criteria and the group then meets to discuss the applications and make the awards.

Carol Maroni, a member of the VEC Board of Directors and member of the Community Fund Allocation Committee, shared her pride in VEC's capacity to facilitate generous contributions from members to nonprofits that benefit local communities. "Each quarter, as we gather to award these grants, I am reminded of the generosity of our members. It is truly an honor to transform their goodwill and kindness into impactful initiatives that touch and benefit our larger VEC community."

Maroni represents VEC's District 3 which includes Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, Greensboro, Irasburg, Jay, Lowell, Newport Town, Troy and Westfield.

To apply for funding, organizations can complete and submit an online application available here at [vermontelectric.coop/forms/community-fund-application](http://vermontelectric.coop/forms/community-fund-application). Applicants must be nonprofit tax-exempt organizations and/or public schools. Individuals are not eligible, but funds may pass through eligible organizations to support individual needs.

The free community solar memberships in Orleans County are available through funding secured by NVDA from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

The grant covers the  
**See MEETING, next page**

# Civic Standard Tour, Presentation Held to Consider Building Options

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – The Civic Standard hosted a tour of its building at 42 South Main Street in Hardwick and a public conversation in the Hardwick Memorial Building about options for the little building with big questions, as the invitation explained. The Monday, April 28, gathering began at 5:30 p.m., with a tour of the building, which several dozen people from Hardwick and nearby towns attended.

Rose Friedman welcomed visitors and offered a quick overview of the building that she says will require paint and a new roof if it is to continue being insurable. The foundation has been undercut on the downstream corner in the last two years' flooding. While much work has been done on the interior to clear out decades of accumulation, the building is in need of interior maintenance as well, she said.

The tour was unguided, as visitors were invited to have a look at all four floors of the building. Friedman and other Civic staff were available to answer questions. Most negotiated steps into the poorly lighted basement, which hosted several defunct heating systems, an ancient electric paper cutter and a pile of old coal, used as heat as recently as a decade ago, when the building was sold by former editor and publisher Ross Connelly to Ray and Kim Small, who donated the building to The Civic Standard at the end of 2023. Friedman said the basement received little water during recent flooding events.

The upstairs features a kitchen, where The Civic now prepares its Wednesday meals. A third floor attic served as storage and an apartment's bedroom for a portion of the

Small's tenure. A covered exterior stairway leads to the kitchen.

After the interior tour, Friedman led the assembly to the Peace Park next door to view the rear of the building, where the recent floods have rearranged stones and gravel, removing some of the streambed that once protected the foundation.

A little before 6:30 p.m., Friedman began the Memorial Building portion of the program, introducing a panel who she'd gathered to share their knowledge of the building, local conditions and to answer questions for the roughly 30 people there. The building is likely the oldest to remain standing in Hardwick's downtown according to Wiz Dow, Hardwick Historical Society president, she said.

President of the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV), Den Doyle, said PTV has a mission to build community through the preservation of historic downtowns and has been appreciating The Civic's stewardship of the building. The ongoing conversation about the building shows the dedication of The Civic and the community.

Jackson Evans, a PTV field representative, spoke next, sharing the history of the building, which is an important Hardwick building for the history and broad pattern of development it evidences.

PTV started working with The Civic in July of 2022, not long after they took up residency in the building that spring, providing technical assistance. An assessment before 2023 flooding in Hardwick noted that the building was in generally good condition, he said. The 2023 flood scoured the bank and water rose to within a foot of the first floor, but did not harm the building. Evans said he's now working with a structural

territories, local governments, and Tribes awarded a portion of over \$430 million in clean energy funding via the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

VEC's community solar projects are located in Alburgh, Grand Isle, and Hinesburg, Vermont. Orleans County grant participants will sponsor panels in Hinesburg. Together they total about 7.1 megawatts and produce about 9 million kilowatt-hours annually, the equivalent of about 1,200 homes' annual electricity usage. All VEC members are invited to enroll in Co-op community solar and can learn more online or by contacting VEC Member Services (800) 832-2667, [communitysolar@vermontelectric.coop](mailto:communitysolar@vermontelectric.coop).

To see the full list of VEC Community Fund donations, see [vermontelectric.coop/community-fund](http://vermontelectric.coop/community-fund)



Presenters at a Civic Standard meeting in the Hardwick Memorial Building, April 28, to learn about options for the building at 42 South Main Street, included Rose Friedman with The Civic Standard, Jackson Evans, a Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) field service representative, Ben Doyle, PTV president, and Kristen Leahy, Hardwick zoning and flood plain administrator.

photo by Paul Fixx

engineer to identify necessary foundation and basement work.

Hardwick Floodplain Administrator Kristen Leahy talked about the building's location along the river, where it is the only downtown building in the floodway, making it more susceptible to future flooding events. Buildings in the floodway are held to higher standards and require Development Review Board approvals and state review for any work done to them, she said.

After reviewing the buyout program, of which the Civic's building was the last of 20 to be accepted in Hardwick, she said, there's doubt about the future of the program and the state continuing its 25% match of federal funds.

A decision on whether to accept a buyout can be deferred up until a closing date, which is likely to be roughly two years away, if the program continues. A buyout would be priced at the appraised value, perhaps as much as twice the current \$140,000 assessed value, based on Leahy's guesstimate.

In wrapping up the presentation, Friedman suggested The Civic does not have the resources to manage a large building project because their priorities lie in carrying out their mission of holding events and connecting the community. While they are hoping to move elsewhere, she said, "we agree with the fact that the building is a big part of our organization and important to us and the town."

She and the PTV representatives laid out several possibilities for the building, sharing that PTV has secured private, philanthropic funding toward the repair and preservation of the building. Those funds could be put toward the painting, roof and foundation repair, but no one wants to see those funds wasted

if the long-term best course is to decide the property has reached the end of its life and the buyout program is the appropriate option.

A wide range of questions were asked and answered, along with speculation that consideration might be given to moving the building.

Friedman had no specific plan for the next steps to be taken in deciding a future course for the building, though, "we continue to invite feedback on this process and want to hear the feelings, questions, and ideas of the town."

In the immediate future, work on the foundation is likely important, to protect the foundation, for which Evans said the available funds would cover a project manager, said Evans. That project might be done using the same contractor, and in conjunction with work planned by the town on the pedestrian bridge and Main Street wall between The Civic Building and the Village Restaurant, which is planned for this summer, but has yet to receive a green light from FEMA.

Doyle said, in closing, that PTV offers its support for the project, in whatever form it ends up taking.



A rusted electric paper cutter in the basement of 42 South Main Street in Hardwick, April 28, is a reminder of the building's former occupant for many years, The Hardwick Gazette, which moved out during the Covid-19 pandemic. photo by Paul Fixx

## Meeting

Continued From Previous Page

cost-in-full for 20 income-qualified households in Orleans County to sponsor panels in VEC's Community Solar Program, leading to nearly \$45 in monthly savings on their electricity bills. Over the 10-year program term, each household will save over \$5,200. All program slots have been filled.

"This program will provide significant savings to Orleans County residents who could benefit from it the most," said Allie Webster, energy planning consultant for NVDA. "We are grateful to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for making this funding possible and to VEC for their leadership in affordable renewable energy."

Orleans County was one of more than 2,700 eligible states,

# Final Reading: Big Swing at Big Bill

by Olivia Gieger, VTDigger

MONTPELIER – As the Senate passed its “Big Bill” on the state’s 2026 budget today, Senate Republicans took a big swing on a suite of environmental rollbacks.

Minority leader Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia proposed two amendments to H.493: one would have repealed both the clean heat standard and a clause in the Global Warming Solutions Act that opens the state up to lawsuits for failing to meet mandated emissions reductions. Beck’s second amendment proposed pushing back the timeline for adopting California’s electric vehicle standards, which would phase in widespread EV adoption starting next year.

Neither amendment got an up or down vote. Republican Lt. Gov. John Rodgers, who presides over the chamber, deemed each one “not germane” to the budget bill, in response to concerns raised by Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central.

Both times, Beck called for suspending the Senate’s rules so the amendments could be taken up, regardless of their germaneness to the budget. But senators rejected those motions on mostly party-line, roll-call votes.

“I think he wanted to be able to have a roll call vote on it to have a political statement made,” said Sen. Becca White, D-Windsor, who sits on the Transportation Committee.

The time for looking at pushing back adoption of the California standards would have been when the Senate approved its transportation bill, White said. “I think he essentially missed his opportunity and was trying at a second bite of the apple to bring it onto the budget.”

Sen. Anne Watson, D/P-Washington, who chairs the Natural Resources & Energy Committee, disagreed with the floor amendment tactic too. “I think that trying to circumvent the committee process where you can properly vet ideas, where you can hear multiple perspectives, where you can tune language to be the best product is bad governance,” she said in an interview.

Repealing the clean heat standard became a rallying point for Republicans last fall, though current

law required the Public Utility Commission to report to the Legislature on how to put the framework in place, which happened in January.

No further action has been proposed, but the lingering uncertainty surrounding whether lawmakers would implement the policy is an undue stress on Vermonters, Beck said in an interview. “Vermonters out there (are asking) ‘are you gonna put a 58 cent tax on me or not?’”

As for the Global Warming Solutions Act and California vehicle standards, Beck said the state is not on track to meet the deadlines on either mandate.

“There’s a whole lot of good that comes from shifting away from carbon, but we can only do that as fast as the technology and the affordability of the technology is,” he said. “We need to be more realistic about what that glide slope really looks like. Then, in three to five years, maybe there’s new technology, and maybe we have more resources, but we can’t bankrupt businesses and families to do this.”

Senate Democrats agree that the state is not on track to meet the mandates of the Global Warming Solutions Act.

“By 2030, Governor Scott will have had a decade to have gotten on track, and he has not,” Watson said. “What I am most interested in is not letting up. If you change the deadline, if you take away the teeth of any of the aspects of it, that reduces the sense of urgency that I think this issue deserves.”

In a well-timed vote that coincided with International Workers’ Day, the Vermont House of Representatives on Thursday passed Proposal 3, an amendment to the Vermont Constitution that would affirm the right of employees to organize unions and collectively bargain. The Senate approved the amendment in March. Both chambers had previously approved the measure in 2024.

The amendment states that “no law shall be adopted that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to collectively bargain.”

The proposal also includes a constitutional protection for workplace agreements that require workers to join a union as a condition for employment. That means



Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, listens during a meeting of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Wednesday, February 26.  
photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

the measure would prohibit a future legislature from passing so-called “right to work” laws, which have been enacted in 26 states and which functionally outlaw such agreements.

Thursday’s vote was just the

latest in a long series of steps in the state’s ratification process. The next hurdle will be the 2026 November election, when Vermont voters will weigh in. The amendment succeeds if the ballot question receives a majority vote.

## Federal Judge Approves Burke Mountain Sale

by Habib Sabet, VTDigger

BURKE – A federal judge has signed off on the sale of Burke Mountain Resort for \$11.5 million, releasing the Northeast Kingdom ski mountain from nearly a decade of federal receivership.

Judge Darrin P. Gayles issued an order Thursday in U.S. District Court in Miami formally approving the sale of Burke Mountain to Bear Den Partners LLC, a consortium of entities with longstanding ties to the ski resort.

“A private sale to the Buyer is the only current viable alternative for preserving and capturing the value of the Assets for the benefit of the receivership estate,” Gayles wrote in the court order.

The ski area’s buyer is a group that includes Burke Mountain Academy, a world-class ski racing school located in Burke, and the Graham family, who briefly owned the resort in the early 2000s. The group has pledged to put around \$30 million into the resort to fund significant upgrades to its lift infrastructure and the hotel at the base of the mountain.

Melissa Gullotti, a spokesperson for Bear Den Partners, said that pending a few administrative details being resolved, the group expects to formally close

the deal in early May.

The decision comes just days after Michael Goldberg, the lawyer overseeing the resort’s receivership, asked Gayles to approve the deal, writing at the time that the agreement was “in the best interest of the investors, the employees and the Burke ski community.”

Gayles appointed Goldberg receiver of Burke Mountain Resort and Jay Peak, another Northeast Kingdom ski area, in 2016, when the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission brought a civil suit against Ariel Quiros, the former owner of both properties, and Bill Stenger, former CEO of Jay Peak. The two men were accused of defrauding investors participating in the federal EB-5 visa program in what has since become the largest fraud case in Vermont history.

In 2022, Goldberg sold Jay Peak to Pacific Group Resorts Inc., a Utah-based management company, for \$76 million. About \$60 million of that went to defrauded investors, though it only covered an average of 22% of their losses.

In court filings, Goldberg has suggested that much of the proceeds from the sale of Burke Mountain Resort would similarly go toward making the investors whole, although it’s unclear how much they would receive.

### OUR E-MAILS

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# LETTERS FROM READERS

## My Health as a Chicken

Dear Editor (and other humans):

I've heard that the price of my eggs in the US has risen about 20% in 2025, so I'm writing to let you know that there are alternatives, and in terms of my health as a chicken and the environment we share, they're better than my eggs.

Just Eggs, for example, is an "egg" made from mung beans. It scrambles, it fluffs and it tastes delicious, all without forcing me and my sisters to work overtime during the so-called egg shortage. Just Eggs have about the same amount of protein and fat as my own eggs, but no cholesterol! And, they take a lot less energy and emissions to produce.

The same goes true for

## What Happens Next?

To the editor:

Although I understood the concerns of both sides on the recent Rural Edge controversy, I was in favor of this nonprofit organization's proposal. It seemed to address the needs for affordable housing in Greensboro and provided a way to fund the extensive repairs that the Town Hall will require for future use.

That said, I am still pleased to live in a democracy here in Greensboro, so I accept the outcome of the recent vote: 147 yes and 227 no. I do wonder, however, how the 318 registered Greensboro voters who did not return the ballots mailed to them (at the cost to the town of \$232.14) feel on this issue. To me, 227 votes out of 692 (32%) does not represent a mandate.

Of more concern, though, is what happens next. I will be attending the select board meeting on May 14. I sincerely hope that many of the 227 voters who said no to the Rural Edge proposal will also attend that meeting, or at least

AcreMade Plant-Based Eggs, made from the protein in good old peas, which I also like to eat, but hey, simple physics says that if you eat the peas and leave me out of the picture, there's a huge energy savings there.

You have choices these days, and there really are better ways to do the same old things. You may even save a few dollars, but it's a lot more important than chicken feed. It's about the way we all treat each other and the planet we share.

Sincerely,  
**Gallus Domesticus (aka the Domestic Chicken)**  
 as related to  
**Aaron Kromash**  
**Greensboro**

one of the planning commission meetings, so their voices can be heard as our town explores other solutions. Just saying no will not solve our problems.

The last figure I heard for the cost of the repairs and renovations the town hall needs was \$1,000,000. Given the new tariffs and the decrease in funding for nonprofits (which I believe includes funds for historic preservation), this number will most likely be higher. Currently, there is no heat on the third floor and no elevator. Public buildings need to be accessible to everyone. Who is going to pay for these repairs and renovations? Greensboro taxpayers?

I encourage everyone to take part in the work before us, or the town hall will crumble before all of our eyes.

**Stefanie Ayers Cravedi**  
**Greensboro**  
**Chair, NEK Public**  
**Journalism dba, The**  
**Hardwick Gazette**

# EDITORIAL

## It is no Longer the Country I Grew up in

Though I'm not an avid fan of horse racing, I've visited a few racetracks over the years and do pay a bit of attention to the Kentucky Derby. Last weekend I was oblivious to the allegorical significance of the race until the stretch run, when it was announced, "Journalism and Sovereignty, nose to nose." That seemed as it should be, with neither journalism nor sovereignty having the upper hand. But one of them seemed likely to win and I was pulling for Journalism, for obvious reasons.

In my life, we witnessed the resignation of President Richard Nixon, due to media reporting on the Watergate break-in and subsequent cover-up. In that instance, journalism trumped sovereignty, despite then Vice-President Agnew's evident disdain of and confrontations with the media.

The call at the wire, "Sovereignty has taken the Kentucky Derby, Journalism is on the outside," says it all to many of us in the media at a time when we see so many presidential indiscretions and seemingly obvious conflicts with the U.S. Constitution. Add to that a handful of felony convictions involving the current president. How President Trump continues to serve when lesser indiscretions have taken down so many presidential wannabes before him is a mystery to many of us in the media. We can report the news, but nothing happens unless others act on it.

On World Press Freedom Day, May 3, media support organizations as different as Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the New England Newspaper and Press Association (NENPA) turned their attention to the challenges facing media. In a press release, RSF said its press freedom index "revealed the dire state of the news economy and how it severely threatens newsrooms' editorial independence and media pluralism."

"Journalists worldwide continue to face threats, censorship, and violence. According to UNESCO, promoting the safety of journalists and combating impunity for those who attack them are central actions within its support for press freedom," wrote NENPA in a press release.

In that environment, we received a story from Kelly McBride with the Poynter Institute titled, "People who fear the Trump administration are asking editors to remove their names from old news stories," that we've republished as Another Opinion in this edition of The Gazette. Normally that wouldn't be news for our hyper-local, 11-town coverage, but these are strange times.

Just minutes after reading that story, we received a message, and I had a subsequent conversation with an individual who requested we remove their name from our website. During our conversation it was revealed they feared for their personal safety. Without going into too much detail, the individual requesting the change is in the U.S. on a work visa and had made comments we reported on that might easily raise suspicion among certain government officials and agencies. Of course we agreed to remove the references.

Though we will take each such case individually and set the bar relatively high to erase what we see as the first draft of history, it should not be necessary to fear for one's safety when making comments that threaten no one.

I hope you see how that request makes McBride's article relevant to us and our community.

As we continue to cover the local activities of schools, governments, civic organizations and individuals as appropriate, we are now faced with the added impacts of capricious and immediate federal government effects on the lives of those in our communities.

It is no longer the country I grew up in when a person with legitimate and documented permission to be in this country fears for their safety. It seems we've lost the lessons learned from the WWII internment of Japanese-Americans.

**Paul Fixx, editor**

# THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. We might rarely withhold the writer's name with good cause. Letters are limited to 400 words and must be addressed to the Gazette's readers, not to individuals public figures or organizations. Opinions longer than 400 words on topics of current and local interest to readers in our 11-town coverage area may be considered for publication. Thank you notes are not considered to be opinions and will not be printed as letters from readers.

Letters to the editor require the writer's name, town of residence and phone number. Letters and opinions may be mailed, e-mailed or brought to our office. Letters and opinions are the opinion of the author. Editorials are the opinion of the editor and not the staff or publisher.

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# ANOTHER OPINION

## People Ask Editors to Remove Names from Old Stories

by Kelly McBride

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – Government workers, teachers and green card holders across the country are asking editors to remove their names and the record of their support for causes now targeted by the Trump administration from old stories.

Journalists from around the country routinely ask me for ethics help. In the last month, I've heard from the editor of a gay newspaper, several alternative publications, a newsroom that covers immigrant issues, student newspapers and several mainstream commercial newsrooms.

Kevin Naff, the editor of the Washington Blade, the nation's oldest gay newspaper, reached out to me for advice in March. Government employees were asking that their names be scrubbed from his archives. They feared that an open record of their sexual orientation, or their views on issues that run contrary to President Donald Trump's, could make them targets for job cuts.

Taking down stories or removing sources "is not something I've ever done before with the exception of foreign sources who are facing life and death situations," Naff said.

The rise of these requests speaks to the level of fear under the Trump administration. "These are unprecedented times in many ways," Naff said.

After Tufts University student Rümeyza Öztürk was snatched off the street of Somerville, Mass., by plainclothes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and shipped to a detention facility in Louisiana, several student newspapers reported a surge of requests for name removals. The editor of a start-up that serves a community with a high number of immigrants close to a U.S. border reached out for advice on how to handle the influx.

This is not a simple or easy decision to make, as the consequences of removing names can affect both the individuals involved and the integrity of the newsroom. Here's the process I've used to help these editors make these difficult decisions quickly, given the high stakes.

What is your mission or your promise to your audience? How does that inform your obligation to minimize harm to people in your audience?

Do you take down or alter old content for other reasons? Many newsrooms have policies that

permit the removal of names from articles or entire articles when the information is no longer accurate and serves no larger public value. This doesn't necessarily indicate that you should also remove names from old stories, but it does provide a parallel case to compare.

Do you have the capacity to consider requests on a case-by-case basis?

Is the individual making the request part of a group that has been targeted? Is there clear evidence, for instance, that gay government workers are being targeted for DOGE firings?

What harm could this person suffer? Could it put their life at risk? Being shipped off to a mega-prison in El Salvador is much more likely to put someone's life at risk than being fired from their job.

For each request, what does your audience gain by keeping the name in the story and how does that compare with the risk of harm to the individual?

How can you be transparent about your decisions?

If you are going to consider one person's request, how can you be transparent and fair to others who may not even know they can ask?

Almost every professional editor I've talked to has said they will consider name removal requests on a case-by-case basis. However, knowing that government officials are cross-referencing student publications, some student editors told me they were considering proactively removing names of people who hold student visas and green cards from stories about protests against the Israeli military.

Even with these precautions, the protections might be futile. Revising the current version of information on the web does not remove it from the internet's cache, which government authorities could still access.

As I walked through these questions with Naff, he told me, "Our mission has always been to write the first draft of history, because when we leave it up to the mainstream media, it usually gets screwed up."

For years, the Washington Blade documented government hostility against gay workers. Now, the paper is once again documenting fear and persecution. To better protect those who share their stories, Naff said his paper is granting more anonymity.

"We're going backwards," he

said. "The fear is really intense. People are scared. They're scared to lose their pensions and, you know, all of that."

As he considers altering past stories, Naff assesses the risk of harm, the individual's media savvy at the time they were quoted, and the public value of keeping the story intact. While he's open to considering such requests, he said he's setting the bar pretty high.

"We're all going to have to make new and uncomfortable choices about how we comply or don't with what's happening," he said. "But, you know, we have to be mindful of the truth and stay true to our mission of reporting facts."

*Kelly McBride is a journalist, consultant and one of the country's leading voices on media ethics and democracy. She is senior vice president and chair of Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership Poynter Institute, where she guides professional news organizations in the best practices for serving citizens, building trust and elevating democracy. The above article may be found at*

*<https://www.poynter.org/ethics-trust/2025/how-handle-source-removal-requests-journalism/>*

## HAZ- WASTE EVENTS

Saturday  
9am-1pm

May 31st - Tunbridge Town Garage  
Aug 2nd - Hardwick Town Garage  
Sept 6th - Bradford Town Garage

**District Residents Only:** Barre, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, Woodbury.

**Rules:** proof of residence required, \$20/car, cash/check ONLY, stay in vehicle, material in trunk/truck bed, 5-gal max container size, no smoking, no containers returned, no garbage bags, no pets, businesses & organizations must register at least 3 weeks ahead.



## HAZ- WASTE FACILITY

Opens in  
August

Eco Depot: 300 Granger Rd, Berlin  
Will Operate Year-Round

**Vermonters:** Households and VSQG businesses/organizations.

**Rules:** By appointment only, volume-based fees, more details and scheduling on website.

Details at [CVSWMD.org](https://www.cvswwmd.org) or (802)229-9383



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Reviewing the Spring Session Wrap-Up

by Rep. Saudia LaMont

MONTPELIER – As we approach the finish line of this year’s legislative session, I’m feeling hopeful, energized and proud of the progress we’ve made together. From labor rights to healthcare, housing and environmental protections, it’s been a season of meaningful work, and we’re not done yet. Here’s a peek at what’s been happening under the Golden Dome.

Between caucus meetings, select boards, school visits and local Democratic gatherings, I’ve been connecting with Vermonters across the state. It’s been inspiring to listen, learn and share space with community members passionate about building a better Vermont. Your stories and perspectives are shaping the work we’re doing.

From the Labor and Housing Committee Room, we’ve been laser-focused on labor rights.

Testimony continues on bills that protect the right to organize, demand fair wages, ensure safe working conditions and preserve the right to strike. On Housing, we’re working on policies that support development, improve infrastructure, expand access and strengthen tenant protections. S.127 is looking like our vehicle for a housing omnibus bill this session.

On the House Floor, Proposal 3: Collective Bargaining Rights Enshrined in the Constitution, made history on May Day, International Workers Day. The House passed Proposal 3, a constitutional amendment to protect the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. Thank you to everyone who showed up and testified. Your voices mattered. Next stop: your ballot in November, 2026.

S.18, Licensure for Free-standing Birth Centers, would create a clear, safe path to license

community-based birth centers in Vermont, an important step for reproductive freedom and maternal health care access. This legislation helps ensure Vermonters have more choices for safe, cost-effective maternity care, especially in rural areas. It’s currently back in the Senate for review of House amendments.

The House passed S.27, Tackling Medical Debt, which forgives qualifying medical debt, keeps medical debt off credit reports, strengthens consumer protections and supports economic equity and healthcare affordability. This bill offers much-needed financial relief and dignity for Vermonters facing medical hardship.

H.91, Emergency Housing Reform, reimagines emergency shelter programs in Vermont by creating a new, more responsive system to better serve our unhoused neighbors. It passed the House and is now in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

H.130, Expands the Advisory Council on Harassment.

We’ve been hearing powerful testimony from students on school safety, equity, and reform in relation to H.454, a comprehensive education reform bill.

S.36, Support for Substance Use Treatment, passed by the House on April 29, strengthens Medicaid support for residential substance use disorder treatment. This is a vital step for individuals navigating both addiction

and mental health challenges.

H.15, Room and Board Assistance for Foster Youth, is still in committee. It would provide vital support to students from foster or kinship care attending Vermont colleges. It’s about opportunity, equity and care beyond childhood.

Our Environment Committee has been hard at work on legislation that promotes accountability, resiliency and long-term sustainability. H.230 updates wildlife conservation rules and streamlines hunting and fishing regulations; H.86 launches a Chloride Contamination Reduction Program to reduce road salt pollution in water systems and DR 25-0991 modernizes our bottle redemption program, aiming to raise recovery rates from 71% to over 90%. We’re also monitoring federal overreach into state environmental law, particularly recent actions challenging Vermont’s climate efforts. We remain committed to bold local leadership on climate.

Whether you testified at a hearing, sent an email, or simply stayed informed, thank you for being engaged. Democracy is a team sport and I’m honored to be on this team with you.

*Saudia LaMont represents the Lamoille-Washington District (Morrisville, Elmore, Woodbury, Worcester and northern Stowe) in the Vermont House of Representatives.*

### S (AGE) ADVICE

Age (or years you lived) is just a number, when focused on, warps the mind.

And after much use, memories fade, recede, or let go, so please be kind.

While young, use your time wisely to run, play, learn— be forever a child.

Enjoy your surroundings, keep busy, help others, let your imagination run wild.

When your workday, that I hope you like, is over, garden, walk, relax, do less,

Explore new hobbies, expand your horizons, read, bake, anything to de-stress,

Ignore influences like booze, smoking, drugs that could take you in your prime,

Keep active in body and mind, taking healthy meds to expand precious time.

When you feel your age (and it’s old) and you have been busy all day,

Just relax in your chair, reminisce, knit, read, take a nap, and pray.

Give thanks for the wonderful life you had and do still with friends and offspring,

For vacation memories, for a warm home, food, clothes, family and many things.

We elder folks are slow and need more time getting places and doing daily tasks

We appreciate help with chores, as we sit with a book and in the sun bask.

Or volunteer, phone friends, adjust to change, cover the pain of age with grace

While waiting to bid goodbye to earthly loved ones, moving on to a better place.

**Janet Slayton  
Woodbury**

*This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.*



Alexa Newton (right), a direct support professional of the Northeast Kingdom Human Services Community Skills Program helps Tiffany McCulluck (left) plant various seeds, April 22, in the Center for an Agricultural Economy hoop house. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## What Paul's "Present Crisis" Means for Us Today

by Jeff Pierpont

WALDEN – First Corinthians, chapter seven, contains a puzzling passage where Paul writes about marriage and virginity saying: "Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is." (1 Cor 7:26)

At first glance, the chapter focuses heavily on personal choices: marriage, virginity, singleness and devotion. Underneath that, Paul's overriding emphasis is on how we live faithfully in the midst of a societal crisis.

Scholars have long debated what Paul meant by "the present crisis." Some believe he was referring to a period of famine caused by grain shortages, which created widespread hardship. Others suggest Paul was anticipating Jesus' imminent return, which gave his words a sense of urgency; why focus on marriage if the world was about to change forever? Another interpretation is that Paul was addressing the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire, a situation that made marriage and family life more difficult and dangerous.

Whatever Paul meant by "the present crisis," his advice was clear: focus on serving God and living a life of devotion rather than becoming overly concerned with earthly matters, including marriage and

family.

Just as Paul addressed a time of uncertainty, many today feel we are facing a present crisis of our own: political instability, economic uncertainty and cultural shifts. Concerns over wealth inequality, leadership and the future of democratic values, weigh heavily on people's minds.

This kind of uncertainty can be unsettling, especially when trust in institutions is weakening and the future feels unpredictable. Yet Paul's message in 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 offers a powerful reminder for times like these: "What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away."

Paul's words remind us of an important truth: the world is temporary.

No government, nation or political system lasts forever. While we are called to be responsible citizens, our ultimate hope should not rest in political outcomes.

Paul encourages believers to engage in life without becoming

overly dependent on worldly structures. This echoes a modern piece of wisdom from the band 38 Special: "Hold on Loosely". In other words, we should care about our responsibilities and society, but not cling so tightly to stability, finances or personal freedoms that we lose sight of a greater perspective.

One crucial clarification is that Paul is not advocating for irresponsibility or carelessness in personal relationships. In times of crisis, it's easy to let stress and uncertainty excuse thoughtless words or neglectful actions, even toward those closest to us.

Paul's point is not to disregard our commitments but to remind us that no earthly attachment should consume us more than our devotion to God. Rather than letting a crisis strain our relationships, we should be even more intentional in how we speak and act toward others.

So how should we respond? Remain engaged, but not overwhelmed. Vote, advocate and speak truth, but don't let fear or anger consume you. Be strengthened by God and your faith community. Stay connected to others for encouragement and support. Stay hopeful, even in uncertainty. When things feel chaotic or corrupt, it's easy to fall into frustration or despair. But Paul's words remind us that hope isn't tied to

politics, the economy or a particular leader, it's something deeper and more resilient.

History shows that people, communities and even nations can endure and overcome incredible challenges. The U.S. has faced deep crises before: wars, depressions, political corruption. Yet, people found ways to rebuild and move forward. If past generations could rise above turmoil, so can we.

No crisis lasts forever. Paul reminds us that "this world in its present form is passing away." While this is often read spiritually, it's also true politically and culturally; leaders change, movements rise and fall and systems evolve. The current crisis won't last forever. New opportunities will emerge.

Major change often starts at a grassroots level. Instead of waiting for politicians to fix things, people can take action within their families, workplaces, churches and communities. A small group of committed individuals can shift culture in meaningful ways.

Paul's message reminds us that no crisis: political, economic or personal, has the final word.

While challenges come and go, hope remains.

*Jeff Pierpont is the interim minister at the Greensboro United Church of Christ while Ed Sunday-Winters is away on sabbatical.*



A daffodil on Brush Street in Hardwick, April 24, is a harbinger of Spring despite enough snow falling Sunday, April 27 to cover the ground, just three days later.

photo by Paul Fixx

## THE BOOKSHELF

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, Old Schoolhouse Common, Marshfield, (802) 426-3581, [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org), Tues. - Fri., 9 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. to noon, closed Sundays. Winter Storytime and Playgroup, Friday 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for the weather.

**WOODBURY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, Woodbury School (802) 472-5710, [woodburyvermontlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:woodburyvermontlibrary@gmail.com), Wed. 1 to 5 p.m.; Thurs., 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**BROWN LIBRARY**, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-7711), [sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library](http://sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library), Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

**CRAFTSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 149 Common Loop, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-9683, [craftsburypubliclibrary.org](http://craftsburypubliclibrary.org), Mon. and Thurs. 2 to 6 p.m., Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., storytime: Fri. 10 a.m.

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**MORRISTOWN CENTENNIAL LIBRARY** (802) 888-3853), [centennial-library.org](http://centennial-library.org), Tues. and Wed., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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**ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 530 Main St., Albany, (802) 755-6107, [albanypubliclibraryvt.org](http://albanypubliclibraryvt.org), Mon. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wed. 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 1 - 5 p.m. Storytime for all ages: Mon. 10 a.m. and Sat. 4 p.m.

# OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## Sims Fosters Community Communication and Collaboration

by Sarah Tutt

CRAFTSBURY - Katherine Sims founded Green Mountain Farm-to-School, worked as a Vermont House Representative for four years and is currently working as a consultant for nonprofits. She communicates with both the local community and the scientific community to be informed on topics around legislation and nonprofit work. She gave some interesting insight into how government works in Vermont, and how she brings the community together. Her work has created new ways for communities to discuss and solve problems they face.

“The citizen legislature structure that we have right now definitely inhibits neutral, unbiased,

fact based decision making, and it’s a shame because we make really big decisions that

affect people’s lives and we spend our resources on things that may or may not have the

intended outcomes that we want,” said Sims

As a citizen legislature, Vermont has representatives who have jobs outside of the state house, which can help make them more relatable and easy to talk to, but also means that any opinions they get on a bill come from people who are testifying with a motivation for or against it. This makes it difficult to gain objective information about the topic, and makes it difficult to make evidence based decisions. In order to get other perspectives, Sims needed to seek it out herself, which can be difficult to consistently do in such a short session period.

Sims reiterated the importance of hearing the perspectives of multiple people. “Especially in a small state like Vermont, where our districts are pretty small and the number of constituents that we have is really small, I’d say it always made a difference when I heard from, you know, 10 people on an issue. That really captured my attention. So I hope Vermonters know that your voice, whether it’s an email, or a phone call, or a letter, really does make a difference in our small state with our local representatives.”

Her goal is to meet people where they are at and make sure that everyone has a comfortable and accessible way to express their views. Part of Sims’ job was

to have a list of experts in different fields that she could turn to when she had a question. In her time as a representative, it was important to know experts who didn’t have a connection to proposed bills and could better inform her on their topics.

Sims said, “I pretty quickly discovered that this place, which has so many incredible farms producing so much food, is still, for so many people who live here, a food desert, where they have a lack of access to that healthy food.”

Green Mountain Farm to School started small, with the realization that children in Vermont did not have easy access to fresh local food despite living close to so many small farms. Sims talked to kitchen staff at Vermont schools to get produce from local farmers, but she soon discovered barriers to collaboration such as changes to systems, transportation and lack of communication between groups. Her solution was to take matters into her own hands. She would go to schools to help them order food from local farms, pick up food to transport in her little Subaru. After working with others it grew bigger organically until it became a statewide program,” she said.

“It’s not like I started that work, which people look at now and say, ‘it is very successful,’ with an awesome idea that worked perfectly. It took a ton of persistence and trying and iterating over and over until it worked. It’s often a bumpier and longer journey than it might seem from the outside.”

In rural communities it can be difficult to get an internet connection when internet providers are motivated by profit and don’t have an incentive to build a line out to those who need it. This issue especially became apparent during the 2020 pandemic, when people needed to have an online connection to make a living. Craftsbury was unique at that time because it had formed a nonprofit to help fund getting high-speed internet to people. Later, towns joined together to pay for and build internet infrastructure in what are called Communications Union Districts, one of which became NEK Broadband.

“When I was at the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative, we held a series of listening sessions



Katherine Sims

photo by Karen Gowen

across the region and asked people, ‘what’s working, what are the gaps and what do we need?’ . . . It was a lot of identifying what was a problem, hearing from people, and trying to pull together different expertise and perspectives, creating a plan and then figuring out how to move that plan to action.”

Sarah Tutt contributed this story written for the Sterling College Science Communication course. She is a second-year student majoring in Ecology and minoring in Environmental Humanities. She enjoys fiber arts and rock climbing, and hopes to work in freshwater ecology and conservation in the future.



At least 50 people lined up on both sides of Route 15 in Wolcott on International Workers Day, May 1, in support of workers and the rule of law. That day, the Vermont House passed Proposition 3, which will now be voted on by the people of Vermont in November 2026 to amend the Vermont Constitution to provide that citizens have a right to collectively bargain.

photo by Ross Connelly

**THANKS**  
FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## If Anything but Friendly, Butt Out

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Of all the numskull, hammer-headed, misguided, ham-handed, tin-eared ideas floated by our current president (and there have been many, by my count), the one about annexing Canada as a fifty-first state has got to rank in the top 10 world-wide. His supporters claim he was just joking. If that’s so, it’s the first joke I’ve ever heard him crack. Plus, the Canadians ain’t laughing. Pretty much in response and against heavy odds, they elected another Liberal, a former banker whose response to Mr. Trump’s casual condescension has been the classic gesture often seen in heavy traffic.

The two million Gazans whom the president has dismissively claimed would be transported somewhere to make way for glittering resorts on the Mediterranean; the 57,000 Greenlanders who have echoed Prime Minister Carney’s response; and the four and a half million Panamanians whose sovereignty has been so carelessly weighed against Mr. Trump’s megalomania, all beg to differ with his ambitions for them. But the Canadians aren’t begging. Their response reminds me of a billboard I saw once facing the sea on the north shore of Cuba. A man in overalls, armed with a pitchfork, shakes his fist and shouts in Spanish, “Come and get it, Yanqui!”

Former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, now 91, but ever ready for a verbal scrap, posted on-line a lengthy response to our president, which began in part, “To Donald Trump, from one old guy to another, give your head a shake! . . . What could make you think that Canadians would ever give up the best country in the world, and make no mistake that is what we are, to join the United States?”

Personal slurs flow easily from our president, making fun of people who oppose him. There’s Sleepy Joe (who managed to stay awake through the Pope’s long funeral, which the president did not). And Little Marco. The list is long. But, while claiming that the Canadians, with whom we have had a long and productive trade relationship, “have been ripping us off for years,” we appear to have (the rules change so unpredictably, it’s difficult to be sure) started a tariff war with our closest ally. Closest in every way.

It’s likely that very few, if any, of the geniuses advising the president have any appreciation of the true size of Canada. It’s the second-largest country on the planet; only Russia is larger. To them, it

may be the big cities along the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, with maybe the oil fields of Alberta and the Athabaska tar sands added on. Their vision is urban and financial, and given the entirety of the country, sadly myopic.

Canada’s boreal forest is vast and, as my friends and I have found over the years, all but impenetrable to anyone on foot in the summertime. Any New Englander bedeviled by mosquitoes and black flies in season discovers, when they venture into the Canadian bush an entirely new dimension. For a typical Canadian take on the subject, Google Wade Hemsworth’s “Black Fly Song.” That humorous approach to a reality so maddening helps a lot in understanding one main reason Canada will never entertain the president’s fantasy.

I’ve had the privilege over the years of flying from Trudeau airport in Montreal, across the vast stretches of prairie from Manitoba to Alberta, and then out over dark green taiga to almost-treeless tundra and the pristine north-flowing rivers of Nunavut. I’ve enjoyed the warm hospitality of friends in Kugluktuk, beside the ocean on the north shore of Canada, where Washington, DC, and even Ottawa seem otherworldly. The notion that these folks would give up the curse of universal health care for the benefits of profit-driven insurance and the privilege of wrangling in Mike Johnson’s House of Representatives is laughable. Imagine what the addition of the State of Canada’s at least dozens of representatives to the United States House (including the fractious Parti Québécois!) would do to the balance of political power in the Lower Forty-Eight. The whole idea is less a grand scheme than a fever dream gestated in a clearly addled mind.

In case there’s any doubt on our parts, the Canadian national anthem should give us some clues about our neighbors’ reaction to the notion of subsuming the nation as a state: “O Canada! Our home and native land...With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free! . . . God keep our land glorious and free! O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!” There’s, naturally, a French version, in case you’re so inclined. But the message is clear: If you’re anything but friendly, butt out.

If we need any further evidence of friendship, the Canadians have noted the Trump Administration’s defunding of our suicide hotline, and are offering a toll-free number connecting to the Canadian version. Hell, I’d call just to hear the accent, eh?

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“YOU KNOW THINGS ARE BAD WHEN HER TORCH IS OUT!”

## MEETING MEMO

Wednesday, May 7  
Wolcott Select Board, first  
Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.

Monday, May 12  
Calais Select Board, second  
Monday of month, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13  
Hardwick Energy Committee, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st Floor. Information: Bill at (802) 249-6004 or Energy.Coordinator@HardwickVT.org.

Wednesday, May 14  
Greensboro Select Board, second  
Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 15  
Hardwick Select Board, third  
Thursday of month, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 20  
Cabot Select Board, third  
Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Craftsbury Select Board, third  
Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.  
Marshfield Select Board, third

Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.  
Hardwick Electric Department Board of Commissioners, third  
Tuesday of month, 6 p.m. unless otherwise warned.

Plainfield Select Board, third  
Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21  
Wolcott Select Board, third  
Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.

Town Clerks  
Cabot: [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us)  
Calais: [calaisvermont.gov](http://calaisvermont.gov)  
Craftsbury: [townofcraftsbury.com](http://townofcraftsbury.com)  
Greensboro: [greensborovt.gov](http://greensborovt.gov)  
Hardwick: [hardwickvt.org](http://hardwickvt.org)  
Marshfield: [town.marshfield.vt.us](http://town.marshfield.vt.us)  
Plainfield: [plainfieldvt.us](http://plainfieldvt.us)  
Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, [townofstannard@myfairpoint.net](mailto:townofstannard@myfairpoint.net)  
Walden: [waldenvt.gov](http://waldenvt.gov)  
Wolcott: [wolcottvt.org](http://wolcottvt.org)  
Woodbury: [woodburyvt.org](http://woodburyvt.org)

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# IN THE GARDEN



One of the bleeding heart's most distinctive features is its delicate, heart-shaped flowers that dangle beneath its arching stems.

photo by Deborah J. Benoit



A shade garden favorite, bleeding hearts come in a variety of colors, grow two to three feet tall and wide and bloom for four to six weeks each spring, attracting butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.

photo by Deborah J. Benoit

## Bleeding Heart is Fleeting Pleasure of Spring

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – The lady in the bath flower is just one of the common names for bleeding hearts (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, formerly *Dicentra spectabilis*). The name comes from looking at the flower upside down.

Other common names include heart flower, lyre flower or Asian bleeding heart.

There is a bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) native to the eastern United States that's commonly referred to as the fringed bleeding heart. It has grayish-green colored foliage and pink to purple-red flowers and, at about 18 inches in height, is somewhat smaller

than *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*.

While *Dicentra spectabilis* appears related to our native bleeding heart, genetic testing revealed it is not. This led to it being reclassified as *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, many cultivars of which are available to home gardeners.

Bleeding hearts are one of the fleeting pleasures of spring in the garden. Each year, this perennial emerges from the ground, its stems reaching upward and outward. Heart-shaped flowers in combinations of red, white or pink dangle beneath the arching stems.

Native to Asia, *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* was introduced to European gardens in the mid-1800s and has been a shade garden favorite

since that time. It is a charming, old-fashioned flower equally at home in a cottage garden with dappled sunlight or in a woodland shade garden. Bleeding hearts are hardy in United States Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 3 to 9. The flowers attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds and offer a mild, sweet fragrance.

Mature plants can be dug up when dormant and the root clumps divided using a clean shovel or blade.

Plant in early spring as soon as soil can be worked, or plant during the fall when temperatures are mild to give the roots a chance to establish before the ground freezes. Mark the planting location to avoid accidentally digging up the roots during its dormant period.

For best results, plant in partial shade or filtered sunlight in rich soil that drains well. Amend soil with compost if needed. Heavy soil that retains water may cause root rot. Add a layer of mulch to help keep moisture levels consistent. Mulch will also help keep soil cooler during the heat of summer

and protect the roots from freezing and thawing in winter.

Feed, if needed, in early spring according to package directions to encourage flower and root development.

After it's finished flowering, the foliage will yellow and die back. The plant will go dormant until the following spring.

Bleeding hearts spread by underground stems called rhizomes or through self-seeding. They're not considered aggressive in the garden. They are a low-maintenance plant, but root rot may occur due to standing water or excessive moisture in heavy soil. They're also a good option if deer or rabbits tend to browse in your garden as both tend to avoid nibbling on them.

Although bleeding hearts appear delicate and harmless, all parts of the plant are toxic to pets and humans if eaten. Touching them may cause skin irritation, so wear gloves as a precaution.

*Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., and is part of the Bennington County Chapter.*



Anna Morris, Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) director of Wildlife Ambassador programs, holds Bloomfield, a 3 lb. 29 year-old Red-tailed Hawk. The VINS program held at the Highland Center for the Arts, April 19, was sponsored by the Vermont Department for Children and Families in celebration of May is National Foster Care Month.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Mating Rituals of Muskrats are Sensational

by Colby Galliher

NEW ENGLAND – Muskrat mating is so sensational that songs have been written about it. Fans of 1970s pop music might be familiar with a certain ballad, written by Willis Alan Ramsey and popularized by bands like America and Captain & Tennille, about two anthropomorphic muskrats falling in love. Though you probably won't find breeding muskrats "nibblin' on bacon" or "chewin' on cheese" this spring, you might nevertheless come upon them looking for "Muskrat Love" in aquatic habitats.

Muskrats (*Ondatra zibethica*) are large, furry rodents that inhabit wetlands, ponds and waterways. They live in burrows dug into the banks of these areas or in lodges constructed of plant material. In harsh winters, muskrats may den communally to conserve heat. They remain active year-round, feeding mostly nocturnally on plants like cattails and lilies, among many others, and the occasional snail or crayfish. A key to differentiating muskrats from beavers is their tails: Muskrat tails are thin and scaly, whereas beaver tails are wide and flat.

In northern New England, the muskrat breeding season begins in early spring when the ice on ponds and rivers thaws. At this point,

any bonhomie between muskrats that huddled up for the winter disappears, as adults turn aggressive in securing their own territory and in the subsequent search for mates. Older males tend to out-compete younger ones for the choicest real estate, forcing the latter to roam further afield in search of unclaimed territories, which can render them more vulnerable to predators like bobcat, great horned owl and mink.

Once paired up, typically by early April, monogamous muskrat couples establish territories that can range from 100 to 120 feet in diameter. They will rarely venture more than 50 feet beyond these areas unless forced abroad by a food shortage. They delineate their domains by marking them with scent produced by glands located at the base of their tails. These glands swell to produce an oily liquid called "musk," the substance for which this species is named. Muskrat musk was once widely used in the production of perfumes and colognes for its earthy aroma but was eventually replaced by artificial alternatives in the 1960s.

If these scent barriers fail, muskrats will defend their territory from intruders with their claws and teeth. Brehan Furfey, wildlife biologist and furbearer project leader at Vermont Fish and Wildlife, said that muskrat pelts



Muskrats

sometimes show deep scrapes and furrows, grisly evidence of these showdowns.

Pairs tend to mate partially underwater or just above the surface on floating materials like driftwood. Paired muskrats will "kiss" and nuzzle each other as a show of affection. One dimension of "Muskrat Love" that has some basis in reality.

The gestation period is just under a month, meaning the season's first litter is generally born in late April or early May in northern New England. A litter can include between four and eight kits, which will be reared chiefly by the mother. Female muskrats can mate again almost immediately after giving birth, which allows them to produce up to three litters per year. Pairs will often breed again while the female is still nursing the previous litter.

Kits are born blind and nearly furless, relying on the mother for about 30 days before taking their first swim outside the den. From there, their coming-of-age progresses quickly. Young muskrats strike out on their own at roughly six weeks from birth, at which point they will begin the search for suitable mates, though females do not reach sexual maturity until

they are about a year old.

This quick maturation period, combined with their prolific breeding, can lead to population densities of up to 25 muskrats per acre in aquatic environments. When densities climb, muskrats may become polygamous, and adult males may kill newborn and young muskrats to eliminate competition for food and mates. High populations may also greatly reduce aquatic vegetation in the surrounding environment, which will eventually force local populations back down.

It turns out that the ballad "Muskrat Love" isn't a particularly reliable guide to these rodents' breeding habits. The author cannot report to have seen, nor found record of, courting muskrats "singin'," "jinglin'," or "floatin' like the heavens above." Still, if you have a resident muskrat pair in your local wetland or pond, you can watch their breeding season unfold this spring and check to see if they really "do the jitterbug out in muskrat land."

Colby Galliher is a writer who calls the woods, meadows, and rivers of New England home. To learn more about his work, visit [colbygalliher.com](http://colbygalliher.com). Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.



Narcissus and hyacinths are in bloom recently in a yard on Dewey Street in Hardwick. photo by Vanessa Fournier

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# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Menopause Cafe, May 13

ST. JOHNSBURY – A Menopause Cafe, shining the light on menopause, will be held Tuesday, May 13, 6 p.m., at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. For those dealing with peri-menopause or menopause or just curious, join a café-style discussion about the physical and emotional ups and downs of this transitional time, talk with others

who are going through it, will go through it or have gone through it. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Adele West-Fisher at (802) 748-8291 or email [awestfisher@stjathenaeum.org](mailto:awestfisher@stjathenaeum.org). Sponsored by NVRH and the Athenaeum, this event is free, ADA accessible, and open to the public.

## Von Humboldt Explored, May 14

ST. JOHNSBURY – As part of the Vermont Humanities Snapshot Series: Alexander von Humboldt and American Democracy will be presented at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum on Wednesday, May 14, 6 p.m. Alexander von Humboldt was a Prussian polymath, geographer, naturalist, and explorer who visited the United States in

1804 to meet President Thomas Jefferson. Humboldt used his voice to urge the United States to live up to its democratic ideals. Eleanor Jones Harvey, senior curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, explores Humboldt's influence on America's cultural values. This event is free, ADA accessible, and open to the public.

## Spring Dance, May 17

HARDWICK – Sen. Bernie Sanders sponsors a Spring dance on Saturday, May 17, 7:30 p.m., at Hazen Union School. Hailing Rochester, the Peavine Boys will play rock

and country originals and covers. After their performance, there will be more music and dancing.

RSVT at [sanders.senate.gov/events](https://sanders.senate.gov/events). Doors open at 7 p.m.

## Barn Dance Benefit, May 17

EAST CRAFTSBURY – On Saturday, May 17, from 6 to 10 p.m., Dave Rowell is opening his yellow barn on Brassknocker Farm in East Craftsbury for a barn dance and silent auction to benefit the Craftsbury Public Library, the Craftsbury Chamber Players, and the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library.

more. Craftsbury School's PTO and The Farmer and the Spud food truck will have meals to buy. Blackbird Bistro is returning to provide the cash bar. Due to licensing and insurance restrictions BYOB is not allowed.

Tickets are by donation (children under 12 are free), and can be bought at the door. To purchase tickets in advance go to this link [eventbrite.com/e/old-fashioned-barn-dance-tickets-1286571302399?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/old-fashioned-barn-dance-tickets-1286571302399?aff=oddtcreator). To learn more, check out the event page on Facebook, or contact any of the benefitting nonprofit organizations.

This year's dance features The WDEV Radio Rangers and friends for dance music, and a silent auction of over 60 items to bid on. This year's auction has a tandem bicycle, a Concept II rower, quilt, wood hand crafted items, gift certificates and



On May Day, May 1, close to 60 people protested on both sides of Route 15 in Wolcott with signs calling for "Power to the People" and "Justice for All, on International Workers Day." Lots of drivers honked in support, including a tractor trailer truck with Texas plates, with few offering a negative response, according to the photographer.

photo by Ross Connelly

## Mending Monday, May 19

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Public Library hosts free mending Mondays on the first and third Mondays of the month, with the next event on May 19, 3 to 6 p.m. This initiative is led by Lisa Santamore, who will bring in sewing machines and supplies

each session and be available to help anyone learn to make sewn repairs, or work on a new project. Sewers can also bring their own machines if they need guidance on how to use them.

For more information email [lsantamore77@gmail.com](mailto:lsantamore77@gmail.com).

## Greensboro Initiative Seeks Volunteers, Tools

GREENSBORO BEND – The Greensboro Initiative of Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity broke ground for the duplex home at 1119 Main Street in Greensboro Bend on Monday, April 28, after site supervisor, Bill Hardy, and members of the Steering Committee cleaned up the lot on Sunday.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this building project should register in advance on the online system Volunteer Up, [volunteerup.com/Login](https://volunteerup.com/Login).

This site lists all Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity projects, work days, hours, number of volunteers needed, and the type of work underway. All volunteer opportunities at the Greensboro Bend site will be listed. Tool donations are still being accepted at John Mackin's shop in Greensboro village at 45 Cemetery Ridge Road, or for pickup by contacting Kent Hansen at (802) 533-2300. For questions, contact Jenny Bayles at [jenniferbayles@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferbayles@gmail.com)

### Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a hybrid hearing on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at the Greensboro Free Library and via Zoom. The Board will consider a conditional use request by the Daudon Family Trust for a conditional use for a Shoreland Restoration Project at 76-78 Huckleberry Lane. The application will be considered under the following bylaws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District and 5.4 Conditional Use. An in-person site visit for the proposal will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m. The site visit and hybrid hearing are open to the public.

Meeting ID: 824 558 6005

There is no password.

You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at (646) 931-3860.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8245586005?omn=81248929268>

The materials under review are available at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, [www.greensborovt.gov](http://www.greensborovt.gov). For further info, please contact Jane Woodruff, Interim Zoning Administrator, at (802) 533-2640, or [zoning@greensborovt.gov](mailto:zoning@greensborovt.gov).

Greensboro Development Review Board



## Caspian Lake Swim Lessons

Youth, Guard Start, Adult Programs

**July 21-25**

**July 28-August 1**

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**TeachAmericaToSwim.com**

# EDUCATION

## Hardwick Head Start Spring Open House and Safety Fair



Student Juniper Knapp, sits in a Hardwick Police Department cruiser, during the Hardwick Head Start/Early Head Start Spring Open House and Safety Fair, April 28. A tooth tutor also visited that day to visit with students.

photo by Lee Ann Lee



Autumn Knapp (left), a Hardwick Head Start student plays yoga Jeopardy with Lisa Mersincavage, Vermont Department of Health, Women Infants and Children Nutritionist at the center's fair, April 28.

photo by Kim Hartling-Welles



NEKCA Director of Operations Elizabeth Emmett (left) visits the Hardwick Head Start program to meet with parents and children along with James McNerney (center), on Senator Peter Welch's staff. They came to meet with and answer questions from visitors to the program's Spring Open House and are joined by Center Manager Lee Ann Lee (right), Monday, April 28. courtesy photo



Josie Jones sits in the driver's seat of a Hardwick Fire Department truck on Monday, April 28 at the Hardwick Head Start Spring Open House and Safety Fair. A Hardwick Rescue ambulance was also on hand that day for students to visit.

photo by Lee Ann Lee

## OBITUARIES

### BERNARD (JOHN) BENWAY

HARDWICK – A graveside interment for Bernard “John” Benway, who passed away on December 13, 2024, will be held on Friday, May 16, at 1 p.m., in Main Street Cemetery, Hardwick. Bernard’s full obituary may be viewed at dgfunerals.com.

### BRIEN DUCHARME JR.

MARSHFIELD – A funeral and celebration of life for Brien Ducharme Jr., who passed away on February 11, will be held on May 17, at Christ Covenant Church at 10 a.m., 167 Creamery Street, Marshfield. The burial will follow in Durant Cemetery, Lower Cabot. The full obituary may be viewed at dgfunerals.com.

### SHARON R. FRADETTE

HARDWICK – Sharon Ring Fradette, 72, of Hardwick, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on April 30. A devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, Sharon lived a life rooted in service and deep spiritual connection.

Sharon was born on November 10, 1952, and grew up in Hyde Park. She attended Lamoille Central Academy and graduated from Lamoille Union High School. She went on to earn her nursing degree from the University of Vermont and later a Master’s in Education from Johnson State College. Her lifelong commitment to the well-being of others was evident in her work as an obstetric and pediatric nurse, as well as a beloved school nurse in the Cabot and Newport school systems. She also served as a driver’s education instructor, sharing both skill and encouragement with generations of students.

Sharon had a vibrant spiritual life and was known in her community as a dowser with a deep love for metaphysical exploration and healing. She shared her gifts generously and touched the lives of many with her intuitive wisdom and kindness.

Sharon found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She had a deep appreciation for the natural world and could often be found bird watching, observing beavers in Vermont ponds, or soaking in the quiet beauty of the outdoors. She filled her home with thriving plants and vibrant flowers. Sharon loved spending time in Maine, cooking hearty meals for her family and exploring the rich worlds of books and folklore. She never missed a chance for a good Sunday drive, especially the kind that ended up lost with her beloved Rene, discovering beauty off the beaten path with a stop for a quick creemee. Sharon also cherished gathering with family and friends



Sharon R. Fradette

to play games and make memories.

For 51 years, Sharon was the cherished wife of Rene V. Fradette. Together, they built a life filled with love and laughter, raising three daughters Amy Whitney, Jensa (Jason) Bushey, and Sddita (Kevin) Blackburn and is also survived by her brother David Ring. Sharon loved her five grandchildren Henry, Olivia, Lila, Rylee, and Addilyn. Sharon is predeceased by her parents, Allie and Aline Ring and brother Dennis Ring. Her family was the center of her universe.

Sharon’s family is grateful for the care provided by the many hard working nurses, doctors, and LNAs at the Central Vermont Medical Center. Thank you for taking great care of our mom.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Sharon’s memory may be made to the Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main Street, Hardwick, VT 05843, a place that reflects her love of books, learning, and community. A remembrance celebration luncheon will be held on June 15, 12:30 p.m., at the Fradette family camp, Arsene Road, East Hardwick.

Online condolences are welcomed at northernvermontfuneralservice.com

## EDUCATION



The Hardwick American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 7 designated the Northeast Kingdom Community Action Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Group as the April recipient of its monthly Bingo profit donation. Presenting the grant is (from left) Hardwick American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 7 Treasurer Laurie Randall and receiving it are NEKCA Hardwick Head Start Parents and children Natasha Herbert, Miranda Knapp holding Autumn Knapp and Lisa Devenger holding Ethan Devenger. *courtesy photo*

### American Legion Grants Bingo Profits to Local Head Start

HARDWICK – The Hardwick American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 7 has designated the Hardwick Head Start Parent Group as the April recipient of its monthly bingo profit donation, in the amount of \$427. The chapter voted almost two years ago to give 25% of income before expenses to an area non-profit that benefits children or veterans each month. President Ishanna Smith suggested the parent group for April 2025.

Each Head Start center has a parent group, which is like a parent-teacher organization or association. The local group is made up of parents and guardians of children who attend the Early Head Start/Head Start Hardwick Center.

The group promotes the program by having a float in the Spring Festival Parade, and helps plan family dinners. The group plans events and activities, as well as training opportunities for local parents such as CPR and first aid training, as well as a wellness workshop.

The parent group does fundraising to be able to pay for their end-of-year celebrations like a preschool graduation, field trips and activities for the children, either for events or for them to take home. Last year, they purchased a bounce house to have at their event. The group has also done literacy-based activities, food-science activities and beach visits to promote physical activity.

### Zschau to Deliver Sterling College’s Commencement Address, May 17 by Sterling College

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – Tracy Zschau will deliver Sterling College’s commencement address, Saturday, May 17. The ceremony begins at 1:00 p.m. in the Houston House Garden, or, if there’s rain, in the Craftsbury Academy Gymnasium.

Zschau is a Sterling College alumna with an Associate of Arts in Resource Management. She has served over 25 years as

a conservation leader at the Vermont Land Trust, becoming the first female president and CEO in 2023. She serves on the St. Johnsbury select board and on the Board of Passumpsic Savings Bank. In addition to being a graduate of the Vermont Leadership Institute and the Snelling Center for Government, she holds a Bachelors of Arts from Colby College and a Master’s Degree in Forestry from the University of Maine, Orono.

## Poet Laureate Celebrates Catamount Arts 50th Birthday



Bianca Stone

ST. JOHNSBURY – Catamount Arts will begin a full weekend of free, all-ages arts programming, in celebration of the arts organization’s 50th anniversary, Friday, May 9, with a reading by Vermont poet laureate Bianca Stone. Stone will read at the Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern

Avenue, 5 p.m.

Stone is the author of many books, including the poetry collections “What is Otherwise Infinite,” which received the 2022 Vermont Book Award, and “The Near and Distant World,” scheduled for release from Tin House in January 2026.

Her poetry and writings have appeared widely in such magazines as The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Poets and Writers, The Nation and the Best American Poetry series. In 2013 she co-founded the poetry-based nonprofit, Ruth Stone House, where she organizes events and retreats, teaches classes on poetry and poetic study, and hosts the Ode & Psyche Podcast. Stone’s reading on Friday, May 9, kicks off a full weekend of entertainment at the Catamount Arts Center and creative campus, including a gallery reception with painter Elly Barksdale, workshops, film screenings with Jay Craven, a block party, and an outdoor concert featuring Twisted Pine. For a full listing of Catamount Arts 50th Anniversary weekend programming, visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).

## Auditions Set for “Shrew”

PLAINFIELD – Open auditions for Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew” to be presented by the newly-formed Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, will be held Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Haybarn Theatre on The Creative Campus at Goddard. Auditioners should prepare a short monologue. The production is scheduled to be performed August 21 to August 30. For more information, contact Tom Blachly, artistic director, at [blachly@together.net](mailto:blachly@together.net)

## Tarot Project Displayed through May 18



Tarot Wheel by Delia Robinson

GREENSBORO – Delia Robinson’s Tarot Project, a series of paintings focused on the Tarot, is on display at the Highland Center for the Arts through May 18. A Tarot and Tea will be featured on May 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for lunch with Robinson and Sarah Young, a reader and teacher of Tarot. Register for lunch at [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org)



Hazen Union School held its spring concert, April 17. Chorus members include (from left) front, Adriana Leonard and Katelyn Langmaid; middle, Kassidy Gann, River Nelson and Lotus Farrand; back, Sadie Gann, Juniper Book, Ursa Goldenrose and Diamond Kassim. The chorus director is Mavis MacNeil.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Performing in the Hazen Union band at the school’s Spring Concert on April 17 are (from left) front row: Will Helms, Quinn Molleur, Juniper Book, Daniel Pougner. Back row: Lewis LaPierre, Andy Gagnon and Andrew Koehler. The band is directed by Leah Gagnon.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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# Robinson's Tarot Parade is Exploration in Paint, Clay

## REVIEW

by Cynthia Ross

GREENSBORO – At the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro is a magical mystery tour of the Major Arcana of the Tarot in painting and clay, according to artist Delia Robinson. There are two series of paintings: first, the 22 Major Arcana in their quasi-universal symbolism; second, a highly personal application of the Tarot to Robinson's own life history.

Both series are small paintings presented sequentially with each arcanum conceived as a tableau set upon a carriage pulled along in a parade. The parade features a wild set of characters, accompanying the traditional Tarot figures: skeletons, tigers, bears, lobsters, wolves, angels and chickens. In one painting, a tiny hooded hermit on a motorcycle pulls a float bearing a mountain topped by The Hermit with a lamp and followed by a procession of little hooded monks.

The through line for the parade is the road, which winds its way across and links each painting. The exhibition includes intriguing small clay sculptures in three dimensions adding to the stories embedded in the symbolism of each arcanum. These little sculptures are



*Cards Fly by Delia Robinson*

also whistles, with several different pitches available to call in the spirit of the archetype.

There is so much to discover. Robinson is a consummate storyteller in image. Whimsy, humor and a lightness of spirit show up in all these works. While maintaining something of a link with the well-known Waite-Rider Tarot deck painted by Pamela Coleman-Smith, Robinson's Tarot is imbued with her own quirky wit and imagination.

The Tarot Parade begins at Zero 0, The Fool, the Everyman, and continues to the last arcanum, The World, which "celebrates the culmination of life's journey and the

fulfillment within the eternal and infinite cycle of renewal." The vehicles that carry each tableau are startling and delightful, such as a pomegranate shaped boat carrying The High Priestess, ushered by elephants; and The Chariot made of a plank set across two bicycle wheels, drawn by a labradoodle and a tiger with a screaming white-haired woman holding the reins as they race across an intersection of oncoming traffic.

In divining the Tarot, much depends on the placement of the cards, which can offer affirmation or caution. Here we see The Emperor running naked, crown on head, trying to catch up with his float as his empty throne, serenaded by a banjo trio, rolls on. In the text accompanying the image, Robinson comments, "Traditionally, the Emperor represents that father figure who cares for the physical needs of his people. At best, he's a strong and wise leader, embodying structure, stability, protection, and steadfast guidance. Yet, when unbalanced, he becomes something else entirely: an ambitious, rigid authoritarian, the

crushing boss, or the overbearing head of a household, the enforcer of the status quo and materialism."

In Robinson's second series, the arcana become a framework for autobiography. The Magician pictures a white-haired woman, accompanied by a white dog, brandishing a paintbrush as her magic wand, as she evokes the images surrounding her conception. She names this arcanum "Making the Invisible Visible," and comments, "At some point, many of us realize we're the magicians in our own lives, waving our magic wands over our choices. For me, that wand happens to be a paintbrush." In the following sequence of paintings, we see how these archetypes take on the particular meaning of a particular life.

Of the closing image, The World, Robinson writes, "The Fool and his faithful dog appear in my depiction, having traversed the time-space continuum. They began their expedition when we did, and in many ways, the Fool is us. He is a constant reminder that life is a journey, one we each travel and revisit with every shuffle of the deck. The World is both an ending and a beginning, inviting us to live fully." Indeed, this exhibition invites viewers to contemplate the magic and meaning in life stories and how all share in a collective human adventure.

Robinson's Tarot Project is on view at the Highland Center in Greensboro, through May 18. The center is open Thursday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. On May 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., join Tarot reader Sarah Young and artist Delia Robinson, for a buffet and Tarot exploration. See [highlandartsvt.org/](http://highlandartsvt.org/)

*Cynthia Ross is an artist, writer, and teacher living in central Vermont, coming to know it first through painting in nature.*



*Scilla Cristiano debuts as Violetta in "La Traviata," May 24, at the Barre Opera House. courtesy photo*

## Opera Returns to the Barre Opera House with La Traviata

BARRE – On May 24, at 7 p.m., The Barre Opera House presents Opera Vermont's production of Verdi's "La Traviata," featuring the Italian soprano Scilla Cristiano in her American debut as Violetta Valéry.

Cristiano brings her voice and artistry to the role of Violetta, a Parisian courtesan who falls in love with the noble Alfredo Germont.

Verdi's melodies and arias are

performed by a cast and orchestra under the baton of conductor, and Opera Vermont's music director, Cailin Marcel Manson.

Tickets may be ordered online at [barreoperahouse.org](http://barreoperahouse.org) or call the Barre Opera House at (802) 476-8188. The BOH, at 6 North Main Street in Barre, is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.



*Seven circus artists from the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) perform in the Circus Springboard Show: "Thank You For Waiting," at the Highland Center for the Arts, April 24. Esther van de Lagemaat (center) lassoes the rest of the group (from left) Harper Hayes, Avery Ucker, Emma Maines, Eliana Perlmutter and Camille Echeverri. Sitting on the stage is Paxton Asher. The artists are soon to be graduates of NECCA in Brattleboro. They will perform six shows throughout New England. photo by Vanessa Fournier*

# EVENTS

## Thursday, May 8

**THE LITTLE MERMAID**, performed by the Cabot Community Theater, 7 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: [tinyurl.com/cctmermaid](http://tinyurl.com/cctmermaid)

## Friday, May 9

**AUCTION ITEM DROP OFF** for the Shadow Lake Dam auction, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Glover Town Hall. Mail Gift Certificates to Town of Glover, 51 Bean Hill Road, Glover, VT 05839, att: Shadow Lake Dam. Information: (802) 525-7199 or email [theresa@townofglover.com](mailto:theresa@townofglover.com).

**CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE**, with caller Erin Smith, Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall), 3084 Main St., 7 to 9:30 p.m. All dances taught, no partner need-

ed. Families and beginners welcome. Information: [cabotdance@aroundvt.org](mailto:cabotdance@aroundvt.org).

**DROP IN CRAFTING CIRCLE**, 10 to 11 a.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Information: [greensboroassistant@gmail.com](mailto:greensboroassistant@gmail.com) or call the library at (802) 533-2531.

**THE LITTLE MERMAID**, performed by the Cabot Community Theater, 7 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: [tinyurl.com/cctmermaid](http://tinyurl.com/cctmermaid)

**MOTHER'S DAY BAKE SALE**, 8 a.m., Art Gallery, Copley Hospital. Hosted by the Hospital Auxiliary. Information: Lois at (802) 888-3701.

**TAROT AND TEA**, a part of the Tarot Project, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch with Delia Robinson and Sarah Young, Highland Center for

the Arts, Greensboro. Register for lunch at [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org). **POET LAUREATE** Bianca Stone reads at the Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave., St. Johnsbury, 5 p.m. Part of Catamount Arts 50th Anniversary. Information: [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).

## Saturday, May 10

**THE LITTLE MERMAID**, performed by the Cabot Community Theater, 2 and 7 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: [tinyurl.com/cctmermaid](http://tinyurl.com/cctmermaid)

**OPEN AUDITIONS FOR** Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," presented by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Haybarn Theatre on the Creative Campus at Goddard. Information: Tom Blach-

ly at [blachly@together.net](mailto:blachly@together.net).

## Sunday, May 11

**THE LITTLE MERMAID**, performed by the Cabot Community Theater, 2 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: [tinyurl.com/cctmermaid](http://tinyurl.com/cctmermaid)

## Tuesday, May 13

**COPLEY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY** annual Spring meeting and luncheon, 10 a.m., Charlmont Restaurant banquet room, Morrisville. Information and registration: Sarah at (802) 851-8012.

**MENOPAUSE CAFE**, shining the light on menopause, 6 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. Refreshments served. Information: Adele at (802) 748-8291 or email [awestfisher@stjathenaeum.org](mailto:awestfisher@stjathenaeum.org).

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

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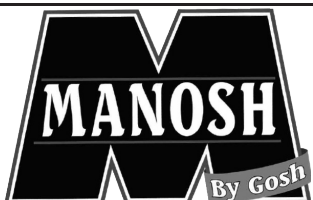
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# EVENTS

Sponsored by NVRH and the Athenaeum. Open to all.

## Wednesday, May 14

**DEATH CAFE**, 6 p.m., facilitated by Kelsey Crelin, Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

**VON HUMBOLT EXPLORED**, part of the Vermont Humanities Snapshot series, 6 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, with Eleanor Jones Harvey. Open to the public.

## Ongoing Events

**MONTPELIER CONTRA DANCE**, 8 - 11 p.m., Capital City Grange. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. First, third and fifth Saturdays. Information: (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com

**MOVEMENT, MEDITATION, QI-GONG**, with Ellie Hayes, the first Saturday of each month through May, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Library community room, 69 Valley Lake Road. All are welcome and children can join the story time from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited. Call (802) 472-5710.

**OLD-TIME JAM SESSION**, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities encouraged to attend. Jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

**COMMUNITY DINNER**, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call Sharyn Salls at (802) 472-6566 to reserve a meal. Take-Out or Eat-In. Donations appreciated.

**DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS** for Young Adventurers, first and third Mondays, Craftsbury Public Library, for children ages 8-13. Reserve a spot to play by contacting director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.

**EARLY LITERACY STORYTIME**, Craftsbury Public Library - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, Atkins Field, Granite St., Hardwick, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

**CRAFTING GROUP** on Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of each month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

**MAGIC ON TUESDAY**. A group of young people get together at The

Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. Games gin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

**PARENTING GROUP**, on Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. Geared for babies 0-18 months. Siblings invited. 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER**, every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick.

**COMMUNITY DINNER**, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, every Friday, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free and open to anyone in the greater Craftsbury area and neighboring towns. Hosted by students in the Food Harvest and Conservation class. Students will give brief presentations at 5:30 covering a couple components of the menu they create.

**STORYTIME, PLAYGROUP ON FRIDAYS**, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

**MENDING CIRCLE MEETS**, every third Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m., the Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick. Bring clothes in need of fixing. Materials, instruction and snacks will be supplied.

**BOOK CLUB** meets the second Thursday of each month, 1:30 p.m., the Flower Basket, Main St. Hardwick. Hosted by the Galaxy Bookshop. Call the Galaxy or stop in to reserve a copy of each month's book at 20% off for book club members. Tea and other drinks and small treats for sale.

**HARDWICK HAIKU CLUB**, every first Thursday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick. A time to read published haiku, brainstorm some Vermont kigo, or season words, and write your own haiku. No previous writing experience needed. Hosted by Mark Scott.

**TRIVIA NIGHT**, at the Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, Thursdays, 6 - 8 p.m., unless there is a home basketball game. A limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First come, first serve event, with room for roughly 10 teams.

**MEDITATION** at Craftsbury Community Care Center, the second and fourth Fridays, 3. to 3:45 p.m., 1784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Offered by Nancy Milholland. Open to all and sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsbury.

**HANG OUT ON THURSDAYS**, at the Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick, 2:45 p.m. - 6. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, or just spend time with friends. Facilitated by Hazen Union's Community School Coordinator Vaiva Velzis, with support from The Civic's staff. Snacks provided. Information: Vvelzis@ossu.org.

**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**, Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 5. Cabot Public

Library. Ages 9 - 13. Mysteries and magic, tails and talons, puzzles and prophecies.

**OUTDOOR STORY & ACTIVITY TIME**, with the Cabot Public Library, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30, Cabot Rec Field Pavilion. Join Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**, Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - 5; Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytime; Friday, 10:30 a.m. Homeschool Program. Greensboro Free Library. Information: (802) 533-2531.

## Exhibits

**LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBIT**, the Third Floor Gallery. Hardwick Inn. A building-wide show on all three floors. Open during regular business

hours. Show will be up through May. **ORAH MOORE AND MARIE LALPRE GRABON** on Exhibit, River Arts, 74 Pleasant St, Morrisville, through June 17. Galleries are open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information; (802) 888-1261 or info@riverartsvt.org.

**PHILLIP ROBERTSON EXHIBIT**, Meditations On The Landscape, T.W. Wood Gallery, Montpelier. Exhibit runs through June 20 with a closing reception 5 - 6 p.m.

**GERRY TREVITS**: New landscape paintings of Shadow Lake and surroundings, through June 17, Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, Glover, VT 05875.

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



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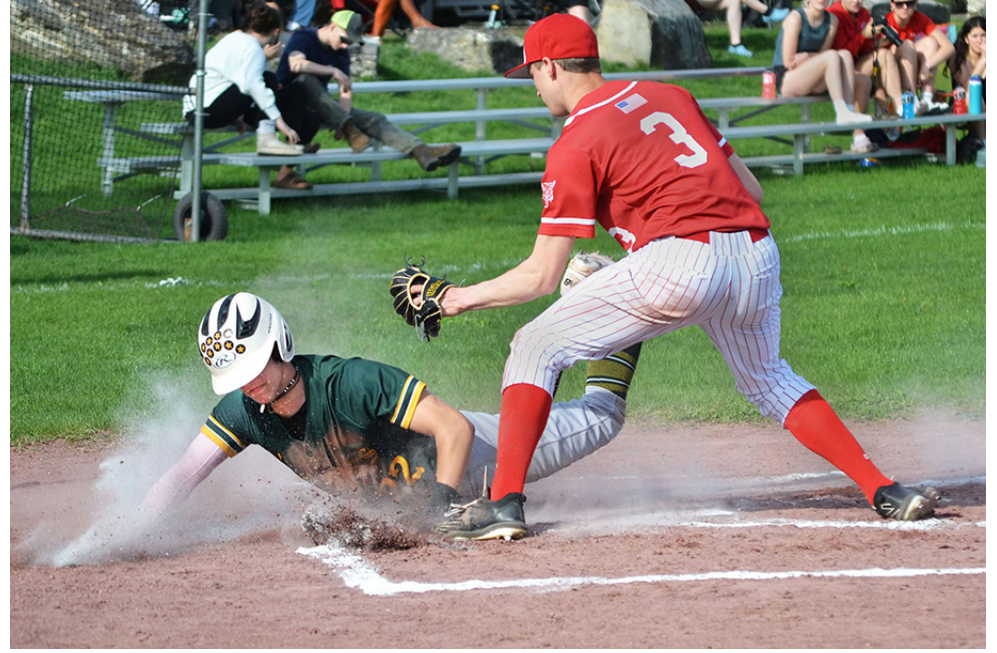
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Hazen Union players (from left) Justin Montgomery, Owen Skorstad, Zachary LeMare, Will Halperin, Chayse Newell, Dakari English, Jacob Hayden, Ezekiel Guebara, Landon Miller and Avery Loomis head for the dugout at Peoples Academy April 29. Hazen took the victory 15-11.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Garnet Matson of Peoples Academy safely slides onto home plate before Hazen Union pitcher Grayson McNaughton (No. 3) can tag him during action at Peoples April 29. The Wildcats defeated the Wolves 15-11.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Wildcats Surprise Wolves to Split Week

by Ken Brown

MORRISVILLE – The offense came alive last week for the Hazen Union baseball team as they out-slugged Peoples Academy (PA) for a quality win before going cold against Oxbow, dropping them to 2-4 on the season.

A pair of freshmen led the way on the mound and at the plate last Tuesday, April 29, as the Wildcats clawed back late to clip PA on the road 15-11.

Kiah Cloutier drove in three runs with a clutch double in the sixth inning and freshman teammate Jon Sicard struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh to close the door on a Wolves team that has claimed state titles in three of the last four years.

Hazen jumped out to a 2-0 lead off a monster base clearing double by Justin Montgomery in the top of the first. PA answered back with five runs in the bottom half of the inning, continuing the first inning woes that have plagued the Wildcats all season. Hazen responded in the second with RBI singles from Owen Skorstad, Grayson McNaughten, Sicard, and a sacrifice fly off the bat of Montgomery to make it 5-5.

Down a pair of runs in the top of the sixth with two outs, Cloutier belted a clutch opposite field double to score a pair and Skorstad slapped another RBI single to give Hazen an 11-8 lead. PA tied it in the bottom of

*“For Kiah to lock in and produce a two-out double in a situation like that as a freshman was a hero moment right there. Evan LaMare did a great job settling down after a rough start in what was his first start behind the plate.”*

the sixth before the Wildcats took advantage of a slew of walks and errors with hits from Will Halperin and Skorstad to give Hazen the lead for good in the top of the seventh. McNaughten went 3-5 on the day with three RBI, Skorstad went 3-6, Cloutier added a trio of walks to his monster day, and Jake Hayden drew four free passes of his own in the win. The loss dropped PA to 3-2 on the season.

“TJ Davison and I are so proud of the way these athletes hung in there and made mental adjustments during the game. We have beaten ourselves on multiple occasions this season and the bottom of the first inning looked like much of the same of how we’ve started games the last couple of weeks. This team chose to learn from their mistakes and battle

back to earn a big win. For Kiah to lock in and produce a two-out double in a situation like that as a freshman was a hero moment right there. Evan LaMare did a great job settling down after a rough start in what was his first start behind the plate. If we can continue to work on putting the first inning nonsense behind us, we can have a great season,” said head coach Shaun Allen.

The Wildcats couldn’t keep the momentum going on Thursday as Oxbow earned their first win of the season at home 4-1. Sicard took the loss despite striking out eight and allowing just a pair of walks on the day. The freshman helped his own cause with a single and a double

at the plate and McNaughten kept a hot bat with a single and double of his own. Landon Miller added a single in the loss for Hazen.

“It was a well fought game against Oxbow, but a tough loss with our bats going quiet with 13 strikeouts. We were much better defensively, and the game was right there for us to take, but we just couldn’t quite reach it,” said Allen.

Hazen was scheduled to travel to Montpelier on Tuesday and will return to Hudson Fields to host Thetford Academy on Thursday. They wrap up a busy week with a trip to Spaulding on Saturday. All home games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

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## KEN BROWN'S TRACK & FIELD ROUNDUP

NEK – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) and Hazen Union high school track and field teams were back in action last week, posting several personal bests with their young teams.

The Chargers kicked off a busy week at U-32 with sophomore Natalie Hill leading the way on Wednesday with a pair of top-ten finishes in the field events. Hill finished fifth in the discus with her best throw of the season measuring 18.93m. Christin Haynes of U-32 took first place honors, also posting a ninth-place finish in the shot put, with a personal record toss that traveled 6.56m. North Country's Morgan Shaffer bested the field.

Sophomore teammate Theo Alexander finished sixth in the javelin, improving his personal best distance by over three meters. Oxbow's Oden Schlager was the event winner.

Alexander also cut over six seconds off his personal best time in the 800m event.

Freshman Nora Van Gulden beat her personal record in the 1500m by an eye-popping 16 seconds, finishing behind event winner Isobel Koger of U-32.

Junior Soren Stelma-Leonard was six seconds faster than his personal best in the 800m, with U-32's Cole Page besting the field. Sophomore Arwen Alexander wrapped up the

Charger highlights with a personal best in the 1500m by over 5 seconds.

At the South Burlington Twilight Invitational on Saturday, Stelma-Leonard led the way with a personal record time in the 1500m. The junior bested more than two-thirds of a field of more than 70 competitors.

St. Johnsbury Academy's (SJA) Emmett Johnson took home the hardware on the heels of his Division I cross-country title this past fall.

Sophomore Raz Mille beat his personal best by more than three feet in the shot put, with Alex Johnson of Essex besting all competitors in the event.

Van Gulden capped off her strong week for CA by breaking the three-minute barrier in the 800m with a time of 2:54.18. Thetford Academy's Ava Hayden took home first place honors. Theo Alexander (1500m) and Arwen Alexander (800m) wrapped up the weekend with personal best times.

"It was an amazing week. Everyone continues to improve and set high expectations for themselves. They're all working hard to chase down times and distances to qualify for States, and it's clearly paying off. Everyone is excited to see how far they can push themselves in our upcoming weeks and it was a great week

for Craftsbury Academy against stacked fields from all divisions," said head coach Kyle Anderson.

Hazen Union traveled to Lyndon Institute on Wednesday and junior Alex Bowley led the Wildcats with a top ten finish and personal best in the 100m. Lake Region's Jericho Thatcher bested the field. Fellow junior Lewis LaPierre ran his best time of the season in the 1500m, finishing behind event winner Zachary Taylor of Lyndon. Junior Chloe Dyer also posted personal bests in both the 100m and javelin for the Wildcats.

Former Craftsbury Academy state champion Charlie Kehler posted a top five finish for SJA in the 1500m at South Burlington on Saturday. Sophomore teammate and former Hazen Union standout Manny Fliegelman posted a top twenty finish in the 800m. The Hilltoppers decimated the field with a team score of 124 and look poised to capture their fifth straight Division I state title in June.

CA was scheduled to travel to North Country on Tuesday, and the Wildcats will head back to Lyndon Institute on Wednesday. The Middle School programs are scheduled to open up their season at Lyndon on Wednesday and Colchester on Friday.

## KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS

### Hazen Hoop Camp Numbers Grow

HARDWICK – Varsity boys head basketball coach Aaron Hill and his Hazen Hoop Camp will tip-off their 24th season this summer with record numbers.

The statewide renowned camp is not just open to local kids, but current and future hoopers from all around the state. The camp is run by six-time state champion Hill, his coaching, staff and current and former Wildcat players. Grade levels 3 to 9 will get some of the best basketball tutelage in the state at Hazen gymnasium from July 14-18.

Hill urges interested campers to get their registration in early as the camp has grown to the point where he may have to put a cap on the rising numbers. For more information, contact Hill at [ahill@ossu.org](mailto:ahill@ossu.org) or visit the Hazen Union Wildcat Sports Fan page on Facebook.

### Lady Cadet Run Ends in Semis

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – East Calais native and former U-32 star Caitlyn Fielder and her Norwich University women's lacrosse team's

storybook season came to an end in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Final Four last week.

Johnson & Wales University (JWU) stymied the high-flying Lady Cadet offense to advance to the GNAC title game with an 11-4 home win last Wednesday. After missing their quarterfinal win over Dean College, Fielder returned to the lineup but was held scoreless for the first time in over two months. The super sophomore led Norwich with 47 goals on the season, leading them to a program record 15 wins.

Fielder has now scored 85 career goals for Norwich in just 33 games, tacking on 28 assists.

Former Stowe senior Ellie Moriarty recorded an assist in her final game and will graduate as the program's all-time assist leader with 96.

JWU's bid for a third consecutive GNAC championship came up short over the weekend as they fell to Emmanuel College 15-12. The Saints advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 11 years and will square off against Endicott College on Saturday in the first round at tournament host, Colby-Sawyer.



Craftsbury second baseman Ada Allen (center) throws the ball to third after MaKenna Houston (left) of Oxbow safely lands on the base during play Thursday on Dustan Field. Short stop Eva Small (right) backs up the play. Oxbow prevailed. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# SPORT CALENDAR

## Thursday, April 10

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Craftsbury.

Friday, April 11

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Fairfax at Hazen Union

## Tuesday, April 15

3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at BFA-St.Albans.

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at BFA-St. Albans.

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Montpelier at Hazen Union

## Thursday, April 17

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Paine Mountain, at Hazen Union

## Tuesday, April 22

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Randolph, at Danville

## Wednesday, April 23

9:30 a.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at Essex.

## Thursday, April 24

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Blue Mountain

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Paine Mountain.

## Monday, April 28

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Paine Mountain, at Danville

## Tuesday, April 29

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Peoples Academy.

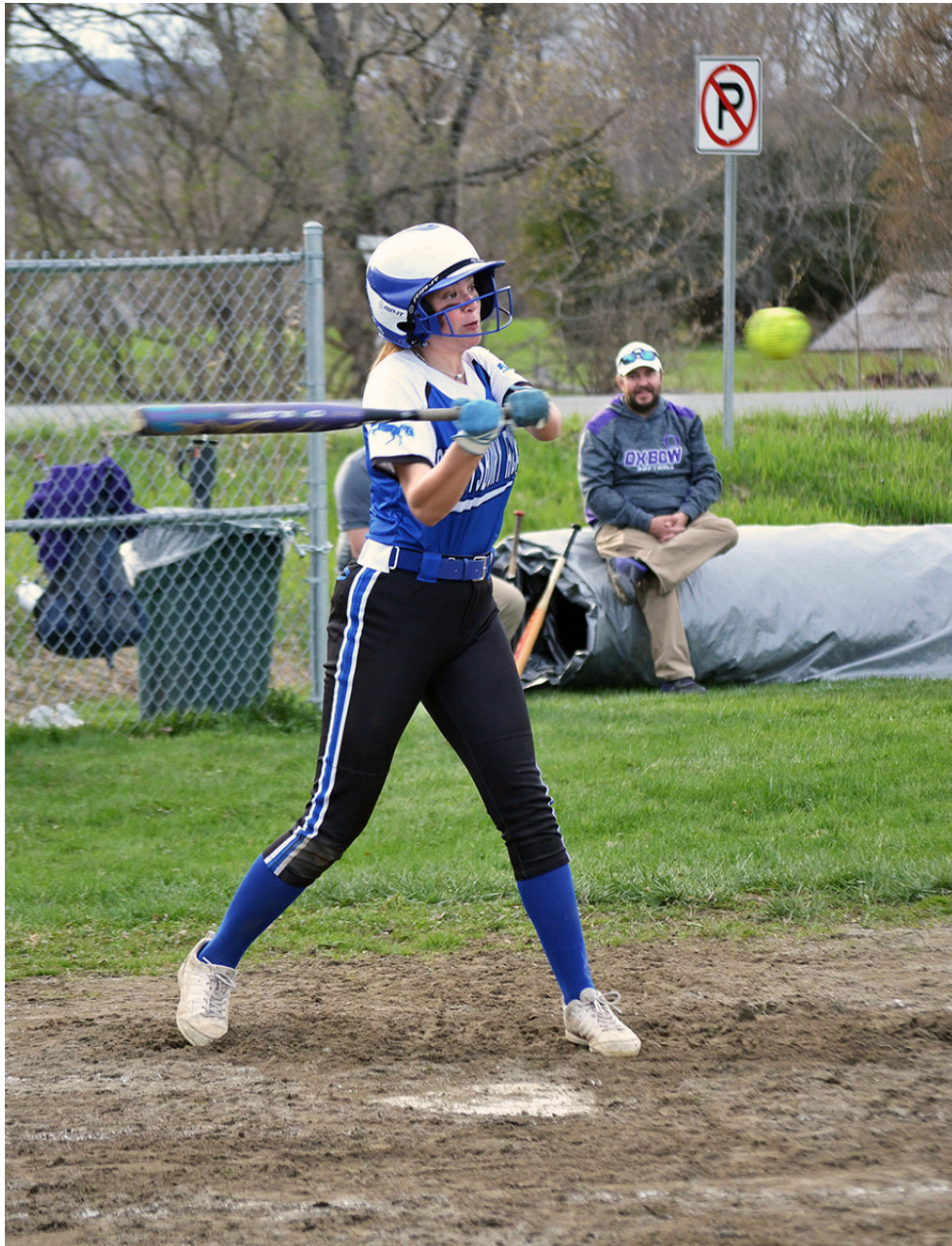
## Wednesday, April 30

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at Lyndon

3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at U-32

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Paine Mountain., at Hazen Union

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Paine Mountain, at Danville



Craftsbury Charger Adelina Augsberger gets set to hit the ball during a game against Oxbow, May 1. Oxbow won. Photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Saturday, May 3

11 a.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Richford

## Tuesday, May 6

3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at North Country

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Montpelier

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at North Country

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Vergennes

## Thursday, May 8

4:30, Hazen Union Baseball at Thetford

## Friday, May 9

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity

Softball vs. Craftsbury, at Danville

## Saturday, May 10

11 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Spaulding

## Tuesday, May 13

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. U-32, at Hazen Union

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. BFA-Fairfax, at Danville

3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at St. Johnsbury

## Wednesday, May 14

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at Lyndon

## Thursday, May 15

4:30, Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Paine Mountain

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Oxbow

## Friday, May 16

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Richford, at Danville

## Saturday, May 17

11 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs Lamoille, at Hazen Union

## Tuesday, May 20

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Randolph

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Winooski

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at U32

3:30 p.m, Craftsbury Track and Field at South Burlington

## Thursday, May 22

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Lyndon

## Saturday, May 24

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. North Country, at Hazen Union

## Tuesday, May 27

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Harwood

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Blue Mountain, at Danville

## Thursday, May 29

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Craftsbury

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Lake Region, at Hazen Union

## Saturday, May 31

Hazen Union Track and Field at Essex Invitational, time to be determined

Craftsbury Track and Field at Essex Invitational, time to be determined

Division 3 Track and Field State Championships, date and time TBA



### The Hardwick Gazette is free to read, not free to create.

The Gazette brought you updates during and after the July 10 flooding, just as we did during the July 10, 2023, floods and for 135 years before that.

Click here to [DONATE](#) now so we continue to be here with fair and accurate community news and information when you need it.

All welcome!  
**Gazette**  
conversation  
with Greensboro

May 18, 3-5 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts  
Featuring Jasper Hill Cheese, Hill Farmstead Brewery samples,  
Wilson Farm ice cream, and a chance to express ideas on  
Hardwick Gazette coverage of Greensboro..

**FREE**

Hardwick Gazette

This is the first in a series of community conversations The Hardwick Gazette will hold in its 11-town coverage area.