

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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## First day of school looms, Civic offers cupcakes

by **Raymonda Parchment**

AREA TOWNS – The first day of school is just around the corner for area students, with some significant changes likely to alter family routines. This year, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) pre-K students will be hosted at a new Lakeview Early Education Center in Greensboro, beginning

September 2. Transportation will be offered to students from the Hardwick Elementary building. Greensboro students from kindergarten through grade-six have a choice between Hardwick Elementary and Woodbury Elementary.

The Hardwick Elementary lobby has undergone both involuntary and voluntary construction in recent months. The repairs are set to

be completed before the school year gets fully into swing, however. OSSU Director of Facilities Joe Houston said, “Overall the project is going well. The nine classrooms are still on target for completion during the week of September 8. which is pretty much where we thought they would be. We will have three of the nine up and running for school to start. There will still be contractors on site for the

first few weeks of school, but they have been working with us to develop a plan to safely continue their work while allowing school to continue.”

He continued, “The gym lobby was jacked up and new support posts were installed last Saturday. The engineers were on site Tuesday, and although I don’t have their final report yet, the initial

See **SCHOOL, 4**



The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union food service team (from left) Val Hussey, Dave Jourdan, Wendy Cross, Annette Meservey, Angela Geoffroy, and Deb Devoe served 14,877 meals to the community at four pickup locations and to the Hazen Connections extended school year (ESY) program and WonderKids Summer Enrichment Camp at Hazen Union School. photo by Lisa Stinson

## Grab-and-Go summer meals feed area students

by **Paul Fixx**

HARDWICK – The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) food service team served 14,877 Grab-and-Go meals to the community this summer. Most meals were delivered to children 18 and under at no charge and with no registration required. Adults had the opportunity to purchase meals at \$6 each.

“We know our families appreciated the delicious, nutritious and consistent meals our food service team expertly prepared and provided!” said OSSU staff, offering “huge gratitude to Val Hussey, Dave Jourdan, Wendy Cross, Annette Meservey, Angela Geoffroy and Deb Devoe.” Breakfast and lunch could be picked up Monday through Friday, from July 7 to August 8, at four sites, including Hardwick Elementary

See **MEALS, 4**

## Resident remembers Tina Daigle, tax rate set

by **Paul Fixx**

WOODBURY – Tom Peltz took the opportunity during public comment at the Monday, August 11, select board meeting, to remind the select board about Tina Daigle, who was found dead by the side of Vt. Rt. 14 by his mother, Cacky Peltz. A lack of information and speculation about who did it has led to a harrowing few months for the family and others, he said.

Peltz said he wanted to bring the event, which seems to be fading from public attention, back into the public eye. The event has left members of the community grieving and suffering. The silver lining may be that he’s gotten to know her family a bit better

“It’s sad, scary and unfortunate, but there’s not much that can be done,” said Peltz. He’s been in touch with the investigator, learning there are two detectives on the case. There’s a lot of speculation, which seems strange to sort of know what’s going on and not be able to do anything about it.

See **TAX, 4**



A Sunfish regatta brings five races to Caspian Lake for the first time in many years, visible from camps around the lake, Saturday.

photo by Susan Edell Jenkins



Sue Holmes, Kimball House B&B in Hardwick, has experienced a loss of Canadian business this year. photo by TripAdvisor.com

## Canadian tourism decline hits summer business

by **Alex Strand and Raymonda Parchment**

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – In recent months, business in the area has reportedly taken a hit due to the loss of Canadian summer tourists. In Burlington, city council members even voted to rename Church Street to Canada Street for the summer’s duration.

Businesses like Hill Farmstead have lost significant Quebecois business in the post-tariff negotiations era between Canada and President Trump, with many Canadians citing his rhetoric about their country. As quoted in VTDigger, Hill Farmstead’s director of brand quality Bob Montgomery said Canadians have accounted for 25 to 30 percent less traffic on the brewery’s website than they usually do. “Given the current circumstances, they’ve been choosing not to visit the United States and to spend their money at home instead.”

Sue Holmes, owner of Kimball House B&B in Hardwick, said they’ve experienced a steep decline in reservations since the election in January, with only one Canadian, who was actually a former U.S. resident, booking a stay.

See **TOURISM, 4**

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Department Criminally Suspended License, Unlawful Mischief

HARDWICK -- Hardwick Police conducted a traffic stop on Zachary Goodell on Vt. Rte. 15 W for a civil traffic violation. Upon running Goodell's license through DMV it was learned that Goodell's license to operate a motor vehicle was suspended criminally. Goodell was arrested, processed at the Hardwick Police department and released on a citation to appear in Caledonia District Court on September 15.

HARDWICK – On July 9, the Hardwick Police Department responded to 64 North Main Street for the report of vandalism

of a motor vehicle. Investigation revealed that Louis Ferland of East Hardwick, had slashed three of four tires on a vehicle in the parking lot there. Ferland was issued a citation to appear on September 9th, in the Caledonia Unit of the Superior Court of Vermont to be arraigned on this charge.

The Hardwick Police Report is based on information provided by the police and is not a comprehensive list of police activity. Individuals named in the police report are presumed to be innocent until they plead or are found guilty in court.

## Hardwick Police Department Media Log

August 10: Alarm, Route 15 West; Medical, Bunker Hill Road; Medical, Maple St.; Assist - Agency, Winding Lane; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15, Traffic Stop, Granite Street; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14.

August 11: Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Hazard, Highland Ave.; Finger Prints, High St.; Dead Body, Mill St.; Assist - Pubic, Mill St.; Suspicious Event, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Center Road.

August 12: Trespassing, Mill St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Hazard, Center Road.

August 13: Assist - Agency, Woodbury St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Medical, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 14; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Spring St.; Traffic Stop; Wolcott St.

August 14: Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Church St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Ten people used AWARE services between August 10 and August 17. 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).

## Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Media Log

by Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD)

WOLCOTT – August 1: Noise Disturbance, Elmore Pond Road; Assist a Motorist, School Street.

August 2: Directed Patrol, Town Hill; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15.

August 4: Medical, 1219 E. Elmore Road.

August 5: Mental Health Incident, 636 Richard Woolcutt Road.

August 6: Trespassing, 4205 Vt. Rte. 15; Assist - Public, 1574 Elmore Pond Road; Welfare Check, 636 Richard Woolcutt Road.

August 7: Traffic Hazard, 1036 Town Hill Road.

## Hardwick Electric Department

WOODBURY – Hardwick Electric Department crews restored service to customers at 6 a.m., August 19, due to a major motor vehicle accident on Route 14 in Woodbury involving a utility pole

and wires down. Two customers remained impacted, awaiting a service and still needing repairs. Due to the accident, initially 500 customers were experiencing an outage.

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# WEATHER WATCH

## Some precipitation to begin, end forecast

by Tyler Molleur

**EAST HARDWICK** – After another brief period of warmth during the middle of last week, the onion is starting to peel a bit to give us a preview of the fall-like conditions that will be more consistent in our future.

The first frontal passage on Thursday led to a drop in the humidity while temperatures largely remained seasonable, before another front sagging south from Canada on Sunday dropped overnight lows into the upper 30s and low 40s. The low temperature by Monday morning was 41 degrees in Plainfield, and the same was reported in Greensboro at the time of their 7 a.m. report. Island Pond was the coldest location for a low with 36 degrees reported. Rainfall during the week was generally less than an inch, which did little to put a dent in our abnormally dry conditions.

A high-pressure system over Hudson Bay is responsible for keeping the clouds away, allowing for strong radiational cooling overnight and a northwest flow, allowing highs to reach into the upper 60s



Sunset over Caspian Lake Sunday was at 7:53 p.m.

photo by Paul Fixx

and low 70s. That will slide eastward by Wednesday, squeezing itself between the likes of Major Hurricane Erin, which will avoid a U.S. landfall; and a weak frontal system over the Ohio Valley. The chance of

showers will exist on Wednesday before the high anchors itself again for a few days with clearing skies and moderating temperatures.

Saturday looks to be the better of the two weekend days, as cold front approaches from the west by late in the day, with showers and thunderstorms a possibility overnight into Sunday. Things look to cool again as we start next week, although there will be some lingering clouds. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers. High: 69. Low: 51. South wind around 5 mph.

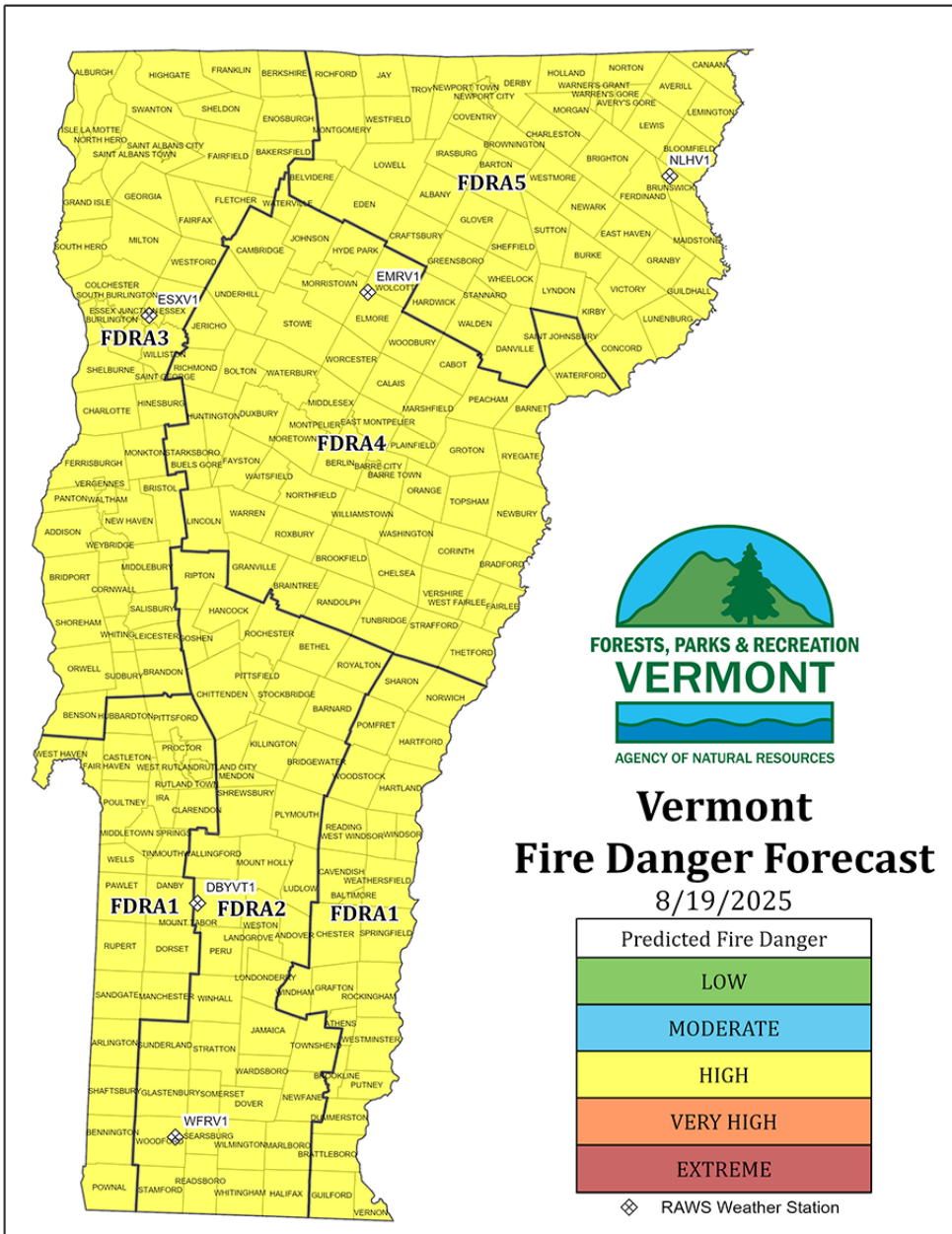
**Thursday:** Mostly sunny. High: 76. Low: 46. Calm wind.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny. High: 79. Low: 53. Calm wind.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny. Increasing clouds by sunset with a chance of showers. High: 82. Low: 57. South wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy. Showers likely with a chance of thunderstorms. High: 75. Low: 52. South wind around 5 mph, becoming west by late in the day.

*Tyler Molleur, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, CPEN, NRP, is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing, and Lecturer; Initiative for Rural Emergency Medical Services. He has been reporting on local weather conditions since he was in eighth grade at Craftsbury School.*



### Fire danger high in north

by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

**VERMONT** – Even though Vermont received some rain over

the weekend, fire danger is still high to very high across the state. A permit from the town forest fire warden is always required to burn brush or debris.



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## Tax

Continued From Page One

Discussion of plans for Daigle's burial followed between Peltz and the select board. Peltz said Tina Daigle will be buried in Hardwick. They discussed what support might be available for people affected by that and similar events.

Peltz then asked about the outdoor classroom at Woodbury Elementary School, for which ARPA funds were donated, but not yet spent, leaving Michael Gray and the select board unclear on whether work might be done, or the funds returned.

Near the end of the meeting, the select board evaluated a number of options for reducing the tax rate. "The education tax is up 11 percent more for homesteads, with a total increase of 18 percent," said Diana Peduzzi.

The municipal tax rate for FY26 was set at .786.

During the meeting that lasted over two and a half hours, Town Clerk Robin Durkee gave her report, followed by the treasurer. Michael Gray then reported on a USDA/NRCS Emergency



Tom Peltz (foreground, facing away) shares his thoughts on the death of Hardwick's Tina Daigle, with Woodbury select board members (to the right of Peltz) Chris Casey, Lizzy Higgins and Diana Peduzzi. Daigle was found dead on the side of Vt. Rte. 14 in Woodbury, July 22 by Peltz's mother, leading to the reason for his ongoing concern about unanswered questions and care for those affected by the event and its aftermath. HCTV screenshot

Watershed Protection Program for Cabot Road bank stabilization, shared information about a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) on the regional future land use map it is developing.

Recovery Officer Skip Lindsay received approval on an RFP for basement waterproofing.

On Friday, the town posted a request for bids to recommend and implement waterproofing in the basement of the town clerk's office where July 2023 flooding left significant damage. Office supplies, computing and internet components and mechanical systems are located there now.

A mandatory site inspection and walkthrough is scheduled for 10 a.m., August 27, at the

Woodbury Town Clerk's office with bids due by September 25.

In addition to answering several questions throughout the meeting, Alfred Larrabee offered his report as road commissioner.

Adjournment was set for 8:15 p.m., on the agenda, but at 8:50 p.m. the board entered an executive session with John Reid under a provision of the open meeting law that allows for private discussion of hiring or evaluating public officers and employees. Exiting at 9:25, they reported having taken no action.

After signing bills and payroll orders, the meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

The Hardwick Community Television recording ended as the board entered its executive session, and no audio recording or draft minutes of the meeting were posted on the town's new website as of Monday evening, August 18. That is several days past the required five calendar days for such information to be posted following meetings of elected town officials under the Vermont Open Meeting Law. A copy of the draft minutes was provided Tuesday morning.

## Tourism

Continued From Page One

Stone City Treehouse and Glamping Retreat owner Heather Davis, on Mackville Road in Hardwick, said, "I have seen a dip in visitors overall a bit, and I don't think I've had anyone from Canada this year. We don't generally have a lot of Canadians, but definitely see them regularly. Most of our guests are from the Boston area, and also New York, New Hampshire, and Vermont. I did have

someone from Canada cancel earlier this year, and I asked if it was because of the current administration and he said it doesn't help."

Located near the Quebec border, Executive Director Abby Long of Kingdom Trails, in East Burke, said, "We have seen that 50 percent decline in our Canadian members."

Canadian tourist Julie Morris provided some perspective from across the border, in a July PBS news report; "This threat of annexation by this very powerful militarized ally, we took it very, very seriously. And, honestly, it's frightening. We don't have a lot of tools. And, well, tourism is one of the tools that we have."

Harold White, another tourist, felt similarly, stating "I feel that I have been slapped across the face by this president. And I have many U.S. friends, American friends that I will not be seeing in person for a while because of this. But that's c'est la vie, as we say here in Quebec."

"We would see dozens and dozens of bikes outside the store on the bike racks or just leaning up against the building, and normally hearing them speaking French, and that is just not happening," said

Rick Woodward to Vermont Public. Woodward, who owns Green Mountain Natural Foods in Newport, said revenues at his store are down 20% this summer.

This boycott is reflected in recent data from the U.S. Department of Transportation, which shows border crossings from Canada into Vermont have plummeted in recent months. In March and April, roughly 30 percent fewer people crossed over into the U.S. by car than did at the same time last year.

Canadian reservations at hotels and inns across the state have

decreased by up to 45% since February, said Kim Donahue, president of the Vermont Lodging Association.

According to a PBS report, in June car crossings to America dropped by 33 percent, the sixth consecutive month of decline. As reported by the Canadian Automobile Association of Quebec, only 4 percent of Quebec residents intend to travel to the USA this summer, many electing to remain in Canadian provinces on their holidays. This is a significant decrease compared to the 12 percent who decided to come to the US last summer.

## Meals

Continued From Page One

School, Atkins Field on Granite Street in Hardwick, the old McFeeters store on Cedar Street in East Hardwick and Caspian Lake Beach in Greensboro.

Meals were also delivered to Hazen Union School for the Hazen Connections extended school year (ESY) program and WonderKids Summer Enrichment Camp.

On Friday, two-day meal kits included breakfast, lunch and milk for each child for the weekend.

## School

Continued From Page One

word is that there is no further structural damage that will need to be addressed. There are a few cracked mortar joints on the stonework outside that we will have to deal with along with the fascia board, but otherwise it is looking like we got lucky. Overall this has set the lobby portion of the project back about four weeks, and it will be late September before it is finished."

Craftsbury Academy and

Hardwick Elementary School students will return Monday, August 25, while the first day for Cabot School and Walden Elementary is Wednesday, August 27. OSSU preschool students are set to return on September 2.

Moreover, in an effort to sweeten the first of 175 days of the school year, the Civic Standard will be handing out free cupcakes August 25, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., at 42 S Main St. Contact thecivicstandard@gmail.com to bake and donate cupcakes.



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## HARDWICK GAZETTE

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# Ruins of 200-year-old Cabot dam to be cleared

by Elise Coyle

CABOT – Between houses and greenery in the heart of Cabot, the Winooski River now runs unrestricted. Rubble along the banks serves as the sole reminder of what once was: a dam that powered industry in the town for decades.

The Clark Sawmill Dam, the most common name for the dam about five miles downstream from the source of the river, collapsed suddenly during the catastrophic flooding that hit Vermont in 2023, punctuating years of back-and-forths about its future.

Now the town hopes to clean up the area, removing the rubble and restoring the riverbank to create an undeveloped natural area.

“There’s debris from the components of the dam and the sawmill that are still there after many, many years, and we basically want it to be turned into a green space,” said Michael Hogan, town select board chair. “We just want it to be cleaned out and returned to its former condition.”

The debris lodged in the banks of the river will be removed from the area over 200 years after it was initially built into the dam. After receiving grant approval this summer and partnering with the town, the Friends of the Winooski River nonprofit wants to begin the design process with an engineering firm in the coming months.

For some, like Hogan, whose property downstream saw erosion from the dam’s diverting water, the dam was an inconvenience. For others, a potent reminder of the town’s past.

Local historian and writer Jane Brown, who at 93, has been in Cabot for nearly half the structure’s existence, sees dams like Clark’s as integral infrastructure to the success of earlier Vermonters.

“Water was a renewable resource,” Brown said. “You could have a dam up the river, and as long as you didn’t stop the flow for the guy down the river, you could have two or three mill ponds that would survive in a dry spell and so forth and still give power.”

In Lower Cabot, the village district in which the structure stood, the power produced by the dam fueled several mills and factories throughout its operation. It was built in 1797.

Moses Stone originally owned the structure and ran a sawmill there until 1825. After bouncing between a few short-term owners, the property in 1849 was acquired by the Haines family, who for many years had maintained an ownership stake. They used the dam to power a woolen mill, where workers probably produced practical fabrics for blue-collar goods, like flannel.

“Eventually they had a woolen mill, a large woolen mill, there, and that employed a lot of people,” said Brown. “And at one time, because of the dam and the woolen mill, Lower Cabot was probably the center of the town business.”



In the summer of 2025, the remains of the old dam cling to the banks of the Winooski River in Cabot.

photo by Elise Coyle

The Haineses revamped the factory, updating machinery in the mill to improve the efficiency of power from the dam. The family owned the land until around the turn of the 20th century.

From there, the historical record becomes murky. The property cycled through several owners in just two decades, at one point housing a facility for meat and bone cutting and later a tennis racket manufacturer.

In 1920 the mill was purchased by Harry Clark, the dam’s current namesake. The factory had been converted into a sawmill by that point, and Clark kept it going, producing butter boxes lined with transparent paper for Cabot Creamery.

Not long after Clark took ownership, the complex caught fire. The fire, which occurred overnight in 1925, turned the sawmill to dust. Clark rebuilt on the same land before selling the property to his son, Clifton “Chub” Clark, in 1946.

The sawmill continued to function as usual under the ownership of the younger Clark. The building was described as small and economical, with Chub inside working on his own schedule, not in a rush.

“He got what he got done when he got done, and that was it, and he didn’t have to have all this fancy equipment and stuff to run a sawmill,” said Carlton Domey, quoted in that same history book. “He made do with what his father had before him and kept it tinkered up.”

In 1976, just three years after a devastating flood wiped out the back part of the mill, Daniel Davis purchased the property and renamed the building Headwater Mill. The factory turned logs into wooden planks for use in local construction and produced cheese boxes and other woodwork.

The mill was proclaimed the “only remaining water-powered commercial sawmill in Vermont” in a 1977 story in the Burlington Free Press.

“There’s an air of pleasing ramshackle permanence in the way the building angles up the streambank,” wrote Judith Raven in the article.

Davis upgraded production in the 1980s, purchasing an automatic sawmill rig from Lane Manufacturing Co. in Montpelier, a new machine that the company boasted could produce enough wood for two houses every day, according to a 1981 issue of the Free Press.

The mill halted production in 1997, and by 1999 it had been acquired by Edward Larson. By 2001 everything had stopped, according to regional planning commission documents and Hogan, the select board chair.

Larson remained the owner of the land as disputes began mounting about the future of the dam. The building on the property had collapsed. The dam and sawmill were inoperable.

As documented in 2023 meeting notes from a local work group, concerns centered primarily on what would happen if the dam breached in heavy flooding. The uncontrolled rush of water and sediment was unpredictable, and folks worried about a disaster downstream waiting to happen.

But removing a dam is not as simple as it may seem. The town ran into issues almost immediately.

Following Tropical Storm Irene, the town pursued a Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout that ultimately fell through. Later, leaders hoped the town could buy the property and clear out the dam, but a problem arose.

“Part of that process was having this site evaluated for contamination in the soil,” said Michele Braun, executive director of Friends of the



The mill in Lower Cabot in an earlier time, powered by what would be called the Clark Sawmill Dam.

photo courtesy Penobscot Marine Museum, ID number LB2007.1.10231

Winooski River. “One of the contaminants came back with a crazy high number.”

There was a catch: The high number was a typo. But even when a corrected report came back, it was too late. Locals and town officials had grown wary about the optics and potential liabilities that may fall on the town if they followed through with the purchase. Progress stagnated until 2019.

That’s when an effort led by the Vermont River Conservancy moved to demolish the dam.

“They weren’t able to reach an agreement with the landowner. The landowner overvalued the property, thought it was worth more than it was worth,” said Braun.

Ultimately, the dam remained standing when July 10, 2023 came. Floodwaters rushed down the Winooski River, and the dam burst spewing over two centuries of debris and sediment build-up downstream.

All that remained of the old structure were two chunks of masonry on either side of the riverbank.

It was only then, after the destruction, that property ownership was successfully transferred to the town this March. The town enrolled the property in a state program that’s meant to protect Cabot from contamination-related liabilities, too.

Now, the town and Friends of the Winooski River are ready to remove the retaining walls of the dam that still cling to the riverbank.

“We work to naturalize the river for the benefit of the river,” Braun said.

The team is paying attention to unstable ground near homes above the river, she said.

The project has received grant approval from Watersheds United Vermont, a network of water quality and restoration groups in the state. The plan now is to enlist an engineering firm to come out to design the project, Braun said.

“We probably will put down some historical signage down there, maybe some markers, historical markers, for what the dam was and its impact to the community,” Hogan said.

For historians like Brown, safeguarding Cabot’s cultural memory is of great importance.

“You have to preserve what generations before you did and appreciate what they did to make a better life, which is what we have now,” Brown said.

“In making progress, we’ve lost a lot too,” she said later on. “We’ve lost a lot of the community, the feeling of working hard for our living, our dependence on one another.”

Elise Coyle writes for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship, on assignment for the North Star Monthly

# EHNO awarded grant for radar sign

by East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization

EAST HARDWICK - The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Pleasants Fund of the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC). The grant will launch a local fundraising campaign to reach a total goal of \$3,750, enough to purchase and install a new radar speed sign on Main Street in East Hardwick.

The Pleasants Fund of the GUCC supports projects beyond the church's usual activities, with a focus on helping nonprofit organizations explore new and innovative ideas.

Thanks to support from the Town of Hardwick and Police Chief Michael Henry, a new radar speed sign was installed on Church Street at the Hardwick Street entrance and the village's crosswalks were improved this summer. The EHNO would like to install an additional speed sign at the entrance from Vt. Rte. 16 onto Main Street and is doing additional fundraising toward the goal.

Traffic calming and pedestrian/bicycle safety have been

priorities for the EHNO since the group's first neighborhood meeting in 2018. Finding ways to manage vehicle speed has been an ongoing challenge. The EHNO board believes that an additional radar speed sign will be a simple, effective step toward slowing traffic and making the village a safer place.

The small village center is in the intersection of four traffic corridors connecting to Vt. Rte. 16, Greensboro, and surrounding farms. The 2024 Better Connections report included recommendations for safer streets but these projects will take time to implement. The report, now part of the Hardwick Town Plan, proposes improvements such as new sidewalks, pedestrian lanes, additional crosswalks, redesigned intersections and a traffic study on Vt. Rte. 16.

While the above recommendations are long term objectives, the need for immediate action has grown this summer, as increased use of the rail trail has brought more bicycle traffic through Main and Church Streets, often by bicyclists seeking to bypass Greensboro Bend.



Junior Cisneros and his crew from JR Quality Construction work to repair and replace sheet metal roofing on Hardwick's Atkins Field granite shed.

photo by Paul Fixx

## Spark Connecting Community Program Awards Local Grants

AREA TOWNS — The Vermont Community Foundation announced that its Spark Connecting Community grant program has awarded \$122,361 to 28 organizations across Vermont. Recipients, including schools, nonprofits and community groups, will host local projects that connect people to place and strengthen community bonds. Vermonters will be brought together around art, youth programming, gardening, and food.

Area organizations receiving grants include the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, Rural ARTS Collaborative and The Civic Standard.

Rural ARTS Collaborative received \$5,000 for a project called "Voices Sustained: Writing Through Winter." In this multi-generational arts series in Hardwick, writers will work with author Peter Gould and potters will craft bowls with Heather Stearns, culminating in a shared meal and performance.

The Civic Standard received \$5,000 for a new project, "The Civic Café." It will foster cooperative entrepreneurship and serve as a community-building space for Hardwick area teenagers

and young adults. The program will provide job training in culinary arts, customer service and creative community organizing, while offering youth opportunities for mentorship, collaboration and future planning.

Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce in Caledonia County received \$5,000 for Leadership NEK. This 10-month leadership incubator will help empower emerging leaders to take an active role in advancing their skills while strengthening the Northeast Kingdom.

Spark Connecting Community is a competitive grant program at the Foundation that prioritizes building and nurturing community. The Community Foundation aims to support grassroots work throughout the state that builds social capital. These grants are a spark—inspiring community vitality and promoting health and happiness for Vermonters while showing that even small amounts can make a big difference.

Visit [vermontcf.org/spark](https://vermontcf.org/spark) for updates and more information on the Spark Connecting Community grant program.



Adaptive Sports Partners leads trail rides Monday afternoons starting at the Creamery Road Trailhead across from the Historical Society in the railroad depot. courtesy photo

**Town of Woodbury  
Request for Proposals  
Basement Waterproofing at the Town Clerk's Office**

The Town of Woodbury, Vermont, is seeking a qualified vendor to assess and provide preventive measures to mitigate current and future water intrusion in the basement of the Town Clerk's Office located at 1672 Vermont Route 14, Woodbury, Vermont 05681. The basement of this building is primarily used for storing office supplies, computing and internet components, and mechanical systems. The basement sustained severe water damage as a result of the July 2023 flooding and has routinely been susceptible to water seepage. Waterproofing, as well as the control and management of water entering the basement, is required for this bid.

The bid document is available in digital format here: <https://woodburyvt.org/2025/08/12/request-for-proposals-town-office-basements>

A contractor site visit is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, at 10 a.m., at the Town Clerk's Office located at 1672 Vermont Route 14, Woodbury, Vermont. Bid packages must be received by the Town of Woodbury by Thursday, September 25, no later than 1:00 PM, and be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope to the Woodbury Town Clerk, 1672 Vermont Route 14, PO Box 10, Woodbury, Vermont 05681. They must be marked on the outside as BID FOR BASEMENT WATERPROOFING. Each bid will be publicly opened at the September 29, 2025, Select Board meeting.

Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted. Emailed bids will not be accepted

# Vermont employers honored for wellness efforts

by Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

MONTPELIER — A record 132 employers in Vermont will receive awards for their efforts to promote wellness initiatives within the workplace. The Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, will present the awards to business owners, company presidents, chief officers, human resources professionals, and wellness committee members on October 31, 2025, at the Killington Grand Resort.

Recipients of the 2025 Governor's Excellence in Worksite Wellness Silver Awards engaged in this area include NorthCountry Federal Credit Union, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. Area Gold Award recipients include Central Vermont Council on Aging, Community National Bank, Co-operative Insurance Companies, Lamoille County Mental Health Services, Northern Counties Health Care, ReArch Construction, Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and Washington County Mental Health Services.

The annual Governor's Award for Excellence in Worksite Wellness Awards recognize Vermont employers for their programs and policies which bolster a culture of wellness and improve the lives of their employees. This year's recipients include schools, banks, utilities, retailers, food co-ops, bakeries, municipalities, nonprofit agencies, health care organizations, retailers, manufacturers, insurance companies, and ski resorts. The awards provide an opportunity for the governor and State of Vermont to thank businesses and organizations for their efforts to support a healthy Vermont workforce. These efforts help keep health care costs down, improve productivity, and make Vermont a great place to live and work.

"Employers play a key role

in creating environments where workers and their families can live healthy lifestyles and feel invested in their careers and their employers," said Janet Franz, Chair of the Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. The employers tell us they use the Vermont Worksite Wellness Award application as a tool to benchmark their accomplishments and determine where more work needs to be done."

The awards ceremony takes place in conjunction with the Vermont Safety and Health Council annual Expo, where participants learn about and share best practices for worksite health, safety and overall well-being. Workshop presenters and exhibitors will demonstrate strategies to inspire and support employees in making healthy choices. Keynote speaker Porter Knight, an expert on goal-setting and stress reduction, will present strategies for mental focus in the workplace. Breakout sessions will cover mental fitness for safety, supporting employees in grief, working in tandem with employees who are returning to work after an injury, wellness beyond the workday, embedding wellness into workplace culture, and more.

Registration for the conference is open now on the event website at [vshc.net/events/vermont-safety-and-health-council-29th-annual-expo](http://vshc.net/events/vermont-safety-and-health-council-29th-annual-expo). Early bird registration for the conference and awards ceremony ends on September 19. Registration closes October 11.

Learn more about the Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, which promotes health and wellness through physical activity for people of all fitness and ability levels at [vermontfitness.org](http://vermontfitness.org).

Learn more about the Worksite Wellness Awards and Conference and find resources to support worksite wellness at [www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/worksites-wellness](http://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/worksites-wellness).



John and Connie Robb celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at their Caspian Lake cottage in Greensboro, Saturday, Aug. 16, with family, friends and neighbors. The couple married on August 20, 1960, in Hardwick. The Robb's three children, Patrick, Kelly and Michael, organized the celebration. The spouses and children of the three Robb children were in attendance Saturday as well as extended Robb family members from Ohio and South Carolina. Also attending were members of the Cowell family from Vermont, New York and Washington D.C. Many longtime friends from the Swanton area, where the couple spent the majority of their working lives, were on hand, as were neighbors from the Winnimere section of Caspian Lake, where the Robbs spend their summers. John Robb was a school superintendent and Connie Shattuck Robb was a school librarian during their time in Swanton. The couple reside in Venice, Fla., during the winter months.

courtesy photo

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# Greensboro Art Festival, Saturday, August 16



Jane Mercaldi (left) and Janet Newman at the Greensboro Free Library offered gift wrapped books for *Blind Date with a Book* in return for donations at an art walk on the Town Hall Green Saturday. They also told visitors about an exhibit at the library displaying photographs by community members through August 31. photo by Paul Fixx



Abby Darisse visited the Greensboro Art Fest Saturday and completed her Community Garden Bingo card, winning vegetables for the garden as a prize. Garden volunteer Jenny Bayles painted stones with different vegetables and hid them in the garden for children to find. photo by Liz Steel



Liz Steel (center), of the Greensboro Energy & Climate Action Committee, talks with visitors at the Greensboro Art Fest Saturday about Vermont's Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) which benefit homeowners complying with the code during construction projects. photo by Paul Fixx



The Greensboro Fire Department offered visitors the chance to learn about its various features and sit inside at Greensboro's Art Walk Saturday. photo by Paul Fixx



The Wisteria Creek duo of Steve McHenry and Kathleen Wheatley from Glover, entertain visitors to Greensboro's Art Walk on the Town Hall Green Saturday. photo by Paul Fixx

# Moving on from Plainfield's Heartbreak Hotel

by Nina Sablan, Inside Climate News

PLAINFIELD – A year after a devastating flood, Plainfield is working to rebuild.

Eli Barlow loved his home in the Heartbreak Hotel.

His back porch sat above the water and held memories of dinners and parties, talking with friends under the golden haze of Christmas lights that hung year round. At night he would fall asleep lulled by the sound of the Great Brook flowing underneath his open bedroom windows and in the morning, he'd eat breakfast on the front porch. It was from there that he would keep an eye on his neighbor's kids or watch dog owners walking past on their way to the nearby recreation fields.

Because of the way Plainfield has been built, perched on the banks between the Winooski River and the Great Brook, it is no stranger to floods. Water has been both a source of wealth and a force of destruction ever since the town was founded in 1797. Many of the quiet buildings that form its downtown sit along the river, even though the mills they were built around are long gone.

The Heartbreak Hotel was one of these buildings. Dating back to the late 1800s, it became housing for mill workers in 1912. The down-on-their-luck nature of these early "Heartbreakers" lent the apartment building its nickname, but in the following century it grew into an iconic fixture of the community, where people were known to pass through before buying houses in town. The historic structure has been added to and redesigned throughout the years, and despite having "heartbreak" in its name, residents who lived in its vintage apartments knew it as a loving place.

It was a rare find in Vermont:

eight affordable rental housing units that came with a lively community and access to nature.

Now, it is gone, washed away by the remnants of Hurricane Beryl in July 2024. Vermont is reeling from three consecutive floods in three years that have left the state searching for infrastructure solutions. The loss of the Heartbreak Hotel in Plainfield is just one example of how river towns are finding themselves at the forefront of the climate crisis, as new weather patterns make homes unlivable and further erode stability during a statewide housing crisis.

Despite these challenges, communities are turning to creative solutions by organizing volunteer efforts to create a more sustainable future for those who can't imagine living anywhere else.

Before the storm, Barlow remembered how neighbors' cats would cross the Great Brook under the old mill housing complex, keeping their paws dry by jumping from stone to stone. Eastern phoebes would fly low in search of bugs over the shallows, and Barlow would wade in after work, cooling off in the privacy of tree-lined banks.

When winter came, a Christmas tree tucked in the corner of the Heartbreak's front porch accompanied the year-round lights, their glow reflected in icicles that hung in thick sheets from the snow-covered roof. In those days if anyone needed help clearing snow off their car, they could count on their neighbors.

An artist who makes jewelry, Barlow loved the retrofitted feel of the apartments. "Ours was awesome; it had a weird pantry and a weird kitchen sink," he said. "It was gorgeous."

Something about the apartment felt stable, and he had a sense that he and his neighbors in the building were planning to live there for a while, Barlow said,



The Heartbreak Hotel in Plainfield was destroyed when Hurricane Beryl reached Vermont as a post-tropical storm in July 2024.

photo by Nina Sablan, Inside Climate News

until it turned to chaos.

## A bloated, angry river

On July 10, 2024, Hurricane Beryl, which hit Matagorda, Texas, two days earlier as a Category 1 hurricane, made its way as a post-tropical storm over Vermont and dumped up to 7 inches of rain across the northern half of the state. After the storm had passed through Plainfield, it left behind around \$10 million in damages, which the town with a budget of \$1.3 million is struggling to contend with a year later.

"The water came around and into the house, and then all hell broke loose," said Jim Clark, sitting on a white chair in front of his brick house that overlooks the barren yard where the Heartbreak Hotel used to be. In 60 years he had never seen the river flood as it did last July.

A green plaque on the side of his house announces it was built decades before the Heartbreak, in 1840, and thanks to the hill it's on, has never flooded. This was the yard that residents evacuated to, the night that the power of the water tore down the Heartbreak Hotel and washed it away.

Barlow saw the bloated, angry river washing up against the side of the building that day and started to feel panicked. After moving skis and gear out of the basement in case water came in, he grabbed his computer and some clothes, not thinking to take his passport. Worst case, he thought, he would have to find a place to crash for the week.

It wasn't until later that night that Barlow realized that he would never see his home or any of his belongings again.

Gathered on the hill with the rest of the Heartbreakers in the dark, it was hard to make out exactly what happened through the downpour. Water was rushing down the street at the bottom

of the neighbor's yard, and at one point Barlow remembers someone waded across it to get back into the Heartbreak.

An older resident had forgotten her meds inside, and another neighbor went back in for her. Barlow thought, "If he falls down he's gonna die, and there's nothing I can do about it." While he made it out safe and no lives were lost that night, 42 people in town lost their homes.

## A hard reality

Over the next months, property owners worked with local and state officials to apply for the FEMA buyout program. Submitted in October, they hope the program will compensate owners for their property, and turn the empty lots into floodplains.

The buyouts are the last resort for those who lost everything, and are only considered if there is proof that rebuilding the houses would lose money because they would keep flooding in the future. It's a hard reality for the town to face as the value of these houses would be permanently erased from the tax base.

This is the plan for the Heartbreak Hotel and 26 other buildings in Plainfield, but progress is running behind schedule, according to the town's buyout coordinator and owner of the Heartbreak Hotel, Arion Thiboumery.

In April, the Office of Management and Budget, which advises the president, made two changes for determining cost effectiveness for buyouts that made it so the majority of Plainfield's applications had to be re-packaged and re-submitted. This comes alongside major cuts to FEMA. In May, Reuters reported a third of the staff had been terminated or resigned.

As of August 1, Vermont has received awards for 149 buyouts out of 264 applications submitted

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Phil and Jim Clark stand in front of their house neighboring Plainfield's Heartbreak Hotel.

photo by Nina Sablan, Inside Climate News

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in 2023 and 2024.

The buyouts would hurt the town's real estate tax base, a problem the nearby city of Barre decided it couldn't afford and prevented by refusing to sign off on some applications. The attitude now in Plainfield is that there isn't much of a choice.

These past two years made it clear that either the town gives the river the space it needs to overflow, or the river will take this land by force. The only thing that remains uncertain is when it might flood next.

Along with houses, the flood washed out roads and bridges that the town has yet to rebuild a year later. This includes the concrete bridge that crossed the Great Brook directly in front of the Heartbreak Hotel; built in 1928, it had weathered a century of storms, until the river tore it from the ground.

The force needed to do this came from hundreds of uprooted trees, along with debris from landslides upstream, that slammed into the bridge that night, building pressure.

When the structure finally burst, concrete, wood and boulders smashed downstream into the basement wall of the Heartbreak, taking the foundation out from underneath the building and tearing the apartments off with it.

"We heard this sound," Clark, on his porch, clapped his hands to demonstrate the crashing noise, "... the collapse of that building, and a guy goes: 'I just lost my two cats.'"

Standing there in Clark's yard, Barlow saw the light coming from his neighbor's house on the other side of the river that was once obscured by his apartment and knew everything was gone.

His home with all his belongings inside resurfaced farther down the river, mostly in piles of

rubble that cleanup crews in the following days dragged out of the water and into dumpsters, never to be seen again.

In the early weeks after the storm, Barlow would scavenge with friends and one day they came across the first wooden chair he had ever made, buried in the mud but in one piece.

Also a woodworker, Barlow noticed the unique bright yellow front doors of the Heartbreak Hotel when he stepped through them for the first time in 2021.

Four years later and the doors are in storage. Their empty frames are all that remain on the face of the building, along with proud bay windows that still overlook the river and a temporary bridge out front. They're a ghost of this landmark that had stood watch over the town for more than a century, and a warning to passersby of a changing climate.

### First in disasters

The abandoned sights in Plainfield are the state's starkest example of the challenges it is facing in how to adapt to its rivers in a new era of flooding. Vermont is hilly, with rivers cutting channels through mountains; the towns along the rivers—gritty, tight-knit communities—have lined these waterways with houses and roads in valleys that act like bowls, filling with water after intense storms.

A 2023 study from Dartmouth found that extreme weather events in the northeast are forecasted to increase 52 percent by the end of the century. These are rainfalls that towns across the state are painfully aware of and concerned about how to become better equipped to handle.

The forecast already has proof of being true, as Vermont is now one of the top 10 states in declaring federal disasters from extreme weather, despite being one of the smallest and least populated. A February study from Rebuild by Design shows that Washington



Plainfield's Eli Barlow with the chair he recovered from the Great Brook following the July 2024 flood. photo by Nina Sablan, Inside Climate News

County, Vermont, which includes Plainfield, Barre and the state's capital, Montpelier, has the highest number of disasters of any county nationwide.

When Thiboumery bought the Heartbreak Hotel in 2021, he expected floods and was ready to shovel sediment every so often. In 2023, he thought, "OK, you know, climate change is happening. The 100-year flood is now the 10-year flood," clearing out the basement to prepare.

The building was inundated that year, during a 100-year flood that caused a state emergency declaration and a billion dollars worth of damage. Down the road in Montpelier, several feet of water filled the downtown area and people were seen canoeing in the streets. It was the worst flood Vermont residents expected to see in a lifetime.

On July 10, 2024, when a weather alert popped up and the Great Brook started to rise again, Thiboumery was cynical that other people were overreacting because of the uncanny timing. "Like, oh boy, everybody's saying it's gonna be a big deal on the exact same day," Thiboumery said. "But lo and behold, it was much worse."

"That was really more of an alarm call for me," he said. "That was like. excuse me, but holy s\*\*\*, the world is a fundamentally different world."

Looking at the eyesore of what's left of his investment, Thiboumery now hopes that the last third of the building behind what's left of its facade can be destroyed too, so that the land can be turned into a park. But while the buyout application is underway, he's unable to clean up the site.

There's a gaping hole near where the building used to connect to the rear stretch of apartments and porches. Through this hole, those who drive past on the temporary bridge can see directly into the cross section of ruined kitchens that are frozen in time from last year.

On the first floor, a child's Bulbasaur Pokémon sticker clings to an agape cabinet door. Peeling slightly, it has somehow withstood a full year exposed to the elements of harsh New England seasons. Underneath it, jars of organic spices are strewn across the wide, original floorboards, and a blue paw printed bowl peeks out from under a chunk of fallen ceiling.

Across the dust-filled hall, a colorful piece of paper is still taped up to the door of the neighbor's apartment. It shows a child holding bright popsicles, advertising "\$3 a pop!" written in red pen. Now, the only visitor wandering through the building's empty back door frame is a large raccoon who's

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Arion Thiboumery walks to the site of a new housing project in Plainfield.

Credit: Nina Sablan/Inside Climate News

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made a living out of the destroyed, but stocked kitchens within.

### Still recovering

The Heartbreak wasn't the only apartment building that was ruined. One road over, a white clapboard building's windows are dark, and its porch sags on ground. Lauren Geiger lives in the brick house next to it with her husband, who built their house in 2003 while living with his three sons across the river at the Heartbreak.

"It's depressing to live in the village and be looking out at buildings that you know are empty, or where your friends used to live and you know that they're not going to be inhabitable again," she said, looking across her yard at the old apartments.

Gieger was on the third floor of her house last July when she heard the crash of their basement window shattering. When she ran down to see what happened, she realized that had she been in the room at the time, she would be dead.

A pool table was thrown across the room into a wall as the brook rushed in, and when the water finally receded, it left behind thick mud and plants stuck to her ceiling. She found one of her propane tanks floating in the river.

She worries what will happen the next time the river floods. "I'm

not replacing my sofas. Let's put it that way," she said. Her perennials out front this year are clippings she's pieced together from neighbors, to avoid buying new plants for a garden that will wash away again.

While her home still hasn't been fully renovated, she worries for the rest of the town. "It's bad enough to have the houses sitting there empty, but to also have the debris sitting around? It's just demoralizing," she said. Driving through, it seems that most streets are marked by buyout sites.

These are valuable properties in the midst of a severe statewide housing crisis. Homelessness in Vermont has increased 312 percent from 2020 to 2024, and the houses that were lost to storms compound the state's need to build more than 24,000 new units in the next five years to meet the demand of the market.

A two-minute drive from Gieger's house, just the outline of a concrete pit remains where 270 Brook Road used to be—its red roof once a shock of color among tall pines. The woman living there the night of the storm was pulled out of a window by rescuers at the last minute before the house was swept away.

"That was probably the closest that we came to loss of life in the village," Geiger recalled.

Today, all that's left of the house are stairs to a second floor that only exists in memory and a



A memorial for the flood is seen in front of the Heartbreak Hotel's remains in Plainfield, July 11. photo by Nina Sablan, Inside Climate News

pit where the foundation was. A painted board blocks off the steps. With sunflowers and a peace sign peeking through unkempt grass, it announces: "Welcome to the staircase to nowhere now; please turn around and go home..."

### "Unintended Community"

Finding a home this past year has been a complicated process for Barlow and others whose homes disappeared overnight. There would have never been a better time to move to another state but the community in central Vermont kept Barlow rooted to Plainfield, despite the absence of a house.

He's grateful for the "unintended community" of the Heartbreak Hotel, which has held strong in the past year. The tenants helped each other navigate the FEMA renter's paperwork—a process in which Barlow was reimbursed \$1,500 for necessities out of the \$30,000 of belongings he lost.

"It was weird and bureaucratic and also disorganized. And, awkward—real awkward," he said of the federal application, which took months to process.

Local support stepped in when FEMA fell short. Friends were quick to set up GoFundMe pages for those in town who were flooded, which brought in notes of encouragement and donations that exceeded their goals.

For Barlow and his housemates, this was enough for them to buy new furniture and find another apartment to rent after living week to week between friends' houses. "We tried to make a list of people to thank directly, and it was in the

low hundreds," he said.

The town's recovery efforts were supported by outside groups, too. Geiger recalls among them a Mennonite Disaster Service, the Rainbow Brigade of Barre and CrossFitters who towed the 400-pound wood stove out of her basement.

"In these moments, you just help out your neighbor," Barlow said, referencing how he and his housemates had joined the efforts after the 2023 floods, when the local attitude was to help neighbors despite prejudices and political differences. "Regardless," he said, "I'm still gonna come help clean up your shit if it's in the river."

"You have to help out in a way that's sustainable year to year, not just week to week or day to day" (Eli Barlow).

He's lived his whole life in Vermont and it's the combination of people who look out for each other and the sense of closeness that runs in the state's river valleys that make them feel like home.

"When I'm driving through Kansas, or even into Colorado or New Mexico, I get a sense of agoraphobia. I definitely get like, 'Oh, this is too much space.' I need there to be trees and valleys and hills," he said.

But despite these trees and valleys proving to be a recipe for disaster in a warmer, wetter climate, Barlow feels a duty to stay and give back to the town after it took care of him.

Last summer, the scale of the long-term climate adaptation that

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The staircase to nowhere beside Plainfield's Great Brook.

photo by Nina Sablan, Inside Climate News

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central Vermont needed sunk in. “I had this really deep moment of exhaustion and realization that this is the long haul,” he said. “You have to help out in a way that’s sustainable year to year, not just week to week or day to day.”

This was Thiboumery’s goal when he spearheaded efforts for a new town committee to look into developing a 24-acre field on higher ground to turn into affordable and climate resilient housing plots last year.

The idea gained support a month after the flood, and in March, 11 volunteer members were appointed by the town’s Select Board to make the project a reality. Geiger oversees communications, while Barlow has been working on gauging interest with town-wide surveys.

The East Village Expansion Advisory Committee hopes to create new housing opportunities for those displaced by floods, and others who might want to live in Plainfield but can’t because of the difficult housing market. If they succeed, their efforts would be an example of how towns across the state might be able to relocate to safer ground, at a time when homes in historically settled floodplains have become unsustainable, and in some cases, unlivable.

“The world has changed, whether we like it or not, and we have to acknowledge that there are things that are far more powerful than we are,” Thiboumery said. “The only thing we can do in the face of this, other than simply being victims and giving up, is to adapt.”

### “Lost in Time”

On July 11, Renée Cohen

and her husband, Adam, passed through Plainfield after coming to town for a concert on the campus of Goddard College, which closed its doors last year. They slowed to a stop in front of the remains of the Heartbreak Hotel.

“It’s like it’s lost in time,” said Adam, reflecting on the town as he peered at the Heartbreak’s dark windows and empty doorways. A thick layer of river silt filled the entryway and beyond the windows, a living room was littered with toys and board games, all coated in dust and tracks of raccoon paws.

The Heartbreak was one of many destroyed structures, decorated with piles of silt and abandoned daylilies, that cast an eerie presence in the otherwise vibrant town. Overflowing gardens, hearts in people’s windows and signs spelling “love” or announcing the weekly farmers’ market hinted at the usual livelihood of the small village.

Farther down the road, broken bridges stitched together the banks of the brook, and in between them, the erosion of the valley was dramatic, with entire hillsides carved out by landslides in places where the forests, rocks and dirt had surrendered to the will of the water a year ago.

“We’re looking at the result of some sort of climate change,” said Adam, who’s lived in Vermont since 1989. “The rivers are far more volatile than they’ve ever been.”

The couple didn’t know the exact science behind the flood, and they had never met the renters who had once lived in the Heartbreak’s apartments. Even so, it was clear there was a story behind the ruins.

“Where are these people?” he asked, looking out the passenger window of his Subaru Outback. “These people have lives. They



Plainfield’s Arion Thiboumery stands in front of the Heartbreak Hotel on July 9. photo by Nina Sablan, Inside Climate News

have livelihoods, and we owe it to them to not let them just hang.”

“If we just let them fend for themselves in unimaginable circumstances, we have failed,” he said.

Then he started up the engine and a few minutes later the car was gone, stirring dust up from the gravel road as it disappeared around the corner.

This article originally appeared August 11, on Inside Climate News ([insideclimatenews.org/news/11082025/rural-vermont-rebuilds-after-devastating-flood/](https://insideclimatenews.org/news/11082025/rural-vermont-rebuilds-after-devastating-flood/)), a

nonprofit, non-partisan news organization that covers climate, energy and the environment. Sign up for their newsletter here.

Nina Sablan is a junior at Swarthmore College, majoring in Philosophy and minoring in Peace and Conflict Studies in the Honors Program. Living in Vermont, she is interested in the intersection of policy and environmental justice, and the impact of local news. Prior to ICN she was an intern for Seven Days, and her work has appeared in Daybreak Upper Valley and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Injured Circus Smirkus trouper attends performance, tour’s final shows sold out

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – An email message from Circus Smirkus to members of the community shared that a trouper injured in a rigging incident July 22 was in the audience at a recent show.

At the show, in Wrentham Mass., a trouper performing aerial maneuvers on silks fell from a height described by various sources at between 10 and 20 feet. After being stabilized by a nurse in the audience, the trouper was transported to receive emergency medical care in Rhode Island.

“Immediately following the incident, Circus Smirkus leadership engaged an outside rigging consultant to inspect all rigging systems under the big top to assess the cause of the accident,” said the message. “While conducting this initial evaluation, we canceled remaining shows in Wrentham on July 23, and the 11 a.m. show in Waltham, Mass., on July 25.” The message continued, “The report recommended next steps for future rigging safety documentation and

inspections, and we have incorporated those recommendations to our inspections and process.”

The organization confirmed it “made the decision to proceed with ground acts only for the remainder of the Big Top Tour,” and to reduce tour’s length “by cancelling two sites, Hanover, N.H., and Milton, Vt., to bring performers and staff back to our headquarters for time to regroup without the added pressures of being on the road.”

The two previously scheduled finale shows on August 17 were to “include three simplified aerial acts,” said the message. “In the meantime, we continue working directly and internally to support the troupers, their families, our staff and our immediate partners.”

The tour’s last two shows in Greensboro, Sunday, August 17, on the theme, “Game On!,” were sold out.

Circus Smirkus said, “We are committed to transparency as we navigate this process and we ask for your patience and grace. We welcome your concerns, questions and support. Inquiries should please be directed to [board@smirkus.org](mailto:board@smirkus.org).”



Aerialists perform on trapeze in a press photo for the Circus Smirkus 2025 Big Top Tour titled “Game On!” Circus Smirkus courtesy photo

# Internships enhance organizational capacity, develop connections

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY – This summer’s UVM/NEK Community Resilience Internship program wrapped up last Wednesday with student presentations at Sterling College’s Simpson Hall in Craftsbury.

Students from the program have been living on the Sterling College Campus and involved in projects with area nonprofit organizations doing work in Craftsbury, Hardwick, Greensboro, Glover, Barton, Stannard, Wheelock, Orleans and others.

Along with their lodging, the students shared a CSA, providing fresh vegetables from the Sterling College Farm during their 10-week stay in return for contributing at least two and a half hours of labor during their stay.

Interns shared stories of their experiences and universally seemed to find a sense of connection in the rural NEK, hoping to bring that back to their UVM experience in Burlington in the coming academic year.

Ethan Brodie, UVM ‘26, a history major with a minor in psychology, from Alexandria, Va., worked with The Chronicle in Barton, a weekly newspaper. It was “a totally different experience,” giving him “new writing opportunities,” and “a big change of pace,” he said. His experience in a more rural setting allowed him to write stories about an equine expo, Canadian relationships with the NEK, an after-school program’s raffle of a shed, and to take photos.

Asked if he’d thought about living here, Brodie said, “I’ve thought about it, but maybe.”

Alex Strand, UVM ‘27, a psychology and english major, with minors in biology and reporting, from Roslindale, Mass., worked with The Hardwick Gazette. She said she’d “met people I wouldn’t have otherwise met,” and experienced a place that seemed anything but small, where rolling hills go on and on, seemingly forever. Working with The Gazette, Strand reviewed graphic novelist Allison Bechdel’s Hardwick talk, the opening of the Jeudevine Library’s new addition, and documented community activities

through her photography.

Caelah Kennedy, UVM ‘26, an environmental studies and studio art double major, with a minor in agroecology, from Wilton, Conn., worked with The People’s Agroecology School of Vermont and the Glover Equity Committee, where she made use of her many skills in designing a T-shirt and helping to organize and run an Agroecology Short Course for 40 international students.

Working with the Glover Equity Committee she helped create a community garden and support the Barton community meals program.

Intern Maya Bakowski, UVM ‘28 UVM, a neuroscience and psychology major from St. Johnsbury, has been working with the Center for an Agricultural Economy. Bakowski has been instrumental in Monday meals and the Friday Farmers markets, along with making herself useful in many other ways as well.

Bakowski said her “summer in the NEK started with kindness, generosity and community.” She said she tried to talk with as many people as possible, get to know their names and experiment with recipes. She appreciated being in a place where food is seen as a human right, and she had a chance to experience quietly swimming around Caspian Lake’s Bathtub Rocks.

Sherif Alao, a UVM graduate student served as an RA, mentoring and supporting the interns living at Sterling College’s South House, where he served as a link between interns, the college community and program leadership, also assessing and evaluating the program.

Alao, from rural Nigeria, became a camp counselor at the Rural Arts Collaborative’s Wonderkid Summer Camp at Hazen Union High School, where he led activities for middle-grade campers, developed an intracultural curriculum for the organization’s after school program, modeling leadership, collaboration and inclusive practices.

Alao even had the opportunity to try his hand at woodworking at GRACE in Hardwick.

The UVM/NEK program Community Resilience



Caelah Kennedy shares her experiences as a UVM/NEK Community Resilience intern working with The People’s Agroecology School of Vermont and the Glover Equity Committee last Wednesday at Simpson Hall on the Sterling College campus in Craftsbury. Her design was selected for T-shirts given to the 40 students attending an agroecology short course last week. She said the whole experience, “has meant so much to me. . . It’s been groundbreaking. . . I got to drive a front loader.”

courtesy photo

Internship Program began last year as a pilot program, with funding from the Leahy Institute. It continued this year, organized by the local sponsoring organizations with assistance from Kristen Andrews in the UVM Career Center, financial support again from the Leahy Institute for lodging, management and other expenses, and local oversight by Glover’s Travis Reynolds, UVM Associate Professor of Community Development and Applied Economics working as a

volunteer.

An unplanned open discussion following the presentations between interns, their hosts, program leadership and Leahy Institute staff confirmed this second year of the program had continued to establish the value of extending UVM’s reach, the importance of interns to increasing area organization’s capacity and supported continuing the program next year, while identifying some opportunities for future improvement.



Hula hoopers in the Circus Smirkus Road Show “Order Up!” include (from left) Tovah Berkowitz, Rasika Budnitz, Nora Clement, Riva Roy-Ehri and Scar Nimock. Watching at right are Kai Ferraro, Kai Healey and Liam Goley.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



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# HARDWICK GAZETTE

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# EDITORIAL

## The time to make a gift is now

Dear Friends of The Hardwick Gazette,

Your opportunity to double a gift to The Gazette in our summer fund drive begins now.

Community members have offered a total of \$5,000 in matching funds for the last days of the drive. Which means that your gift will be doubled if you make a donation right now. This offer will expire at the end of the drive, on Sunday, September 7, or when we've received contributions totaling at least \$5,000.

You depend on The Gazette to bring you the news; we depend on you to make this effort possible. It's a two-way street.

Help us end the drive on the high note that is crucial for our ability to deliver the news you expect. Give now to let us enjoy the Labor Day holiday knowing readers like you value The Gazette.

The Gazette, registered under the name Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, so your contributions are tax deductible.

If you've already responded during the drive, thank you very much for your support. If you've been waiting, this is the moment you've been waiting for. Take advantage of this opportunity to double the power of your support! Give to The Gazette today!

If you're a monthly supporter, consider adding an additional \$5 a month to your gift.

Call us at (802) 472-6521, mail your donation to PO Box 9, Hardwick, VT 05843 or visit [hardwickgazette.org/donate](http://hardwickgazette.org/donate) to send your gift and help us take advantage of these generous matching gifts.

**With gratitude,  
John Walters, for the Northeast  
Kingdom Public Journalism Board**

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## Sacramental Space

by Rev. Anthony E. Acheson

Up here north, in verdant friend Vermont,  
as today's dawn seeped in,  
I walked our grassy, backyard labyrinth,  
as mowed upon our mound.  
Deep thanks rose up—and now recur—  
for her who fashioned such a sacramental space,  
and shares this brickless, green cathedral  
(and that of her life) each day with me.

When the labyrinth path led me to center, I first faced  
South,  
then West and North. But when I came to East  
I was brought to peace with unexpected speed  
(with the help, to be sure, of the warmth and light  
of that early, upping sun.)

And I was brought as well to prayer.  
I knew it first—and most—  
as a sense and feeling within my body.  
And then it translated itself from that enfleshed energy  
into the realm of words and intent,  
which my inner ear thought it heard to say:

“To You who birthed this All, I give thanks for all these  
gifts.  
And more and more, I ask: Let me know Your realness.  
Let me trust Your goodness. Let me sense Your purpose.  
And let me join in Your creating by my partnered  
molding  
of the clay of these raw materials You've placed at  
hand;  
and thereby share in the shaping of these next steps  
and stages  
of our further human growth and becoming.

And, most, let me learn love, even as I take You at  
Your word  
that Love is what I already am, and always have been,  
because Love is—You are—the 'I AM' Itself,”  
the All in all, in Whose image I was made.

And still remain.  
And will sustain.”

*Rev. Acheson, is the retired former Pastor of the Greensboro United Church of Christ. He welcomes comment and conversation at [acheson.anthony@gmail.com](mailto:acheson.anthony@gmail.com). Samples of his writing can be read at <https://www.anthonyeacheson.com>.*

# THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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**Letters to the Editor, Opinions and Editorials:** We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to discuss and debate issues of the day and welcome letters from all political points of view as the free expression of reader's opinions. Letters with claims of fact that are false or potentially damaging may be rejected.

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.

**Submissions of Content and Deadlines:** The Hardwick Gazette is published late on Tuesday each week with Wednesday's date. Submit community event information, announcements, opinions, press releases, paid ads and business news the Friday before publication by 5 p.m. Local news and sports items, letters to the editor and church submissions are due Monday by noon. Deadlines may be earlier for holidays. Obituaries may be submitted at any time. We make every attempt to confirm receipt of obituaries. Call to confirm receipt of any obituary submitted Tuesday if it is important it appears in that week's edition. Photos capturing news and community events are welcome with details with the full name of each identifiable person, what is happening, when and where the photo was taken and why it is newsworthy. When sending photos, send unedited files in the largest size available to ensure the best page and web presentation.

We make every effort to include all submissions with timely content in the earliest possible edition. Call with requests to include submitted content in specific issues. Submissions may be edited for style and length. We cannot guarantee publication dates.

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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Act 73 - OSSU next steps?

by Laura Cannon

Have you been wondering what will come of our local schools and Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) administration under the new education law? Me too! I encourage you to read my op-ed last month in The Gazette and other papers statewide, which lays out the basics of what may happen to our supervisory union and what kind of actions we can take right now to help influence the outcome.

hardwickgazette.org/2025/07/28/preserve-ossu-school-boards-preserve

I believe local schools/boards are a cornerstone of rural democracy and community strength and well-being, and should be kept. This is why I advocate for OSSU to remain in a supervisory union structure. Whether or not you agree, now is the time to get informed, get involved and have a say in the outcome of the redistricting committee's proposals which will be completed by December 1st. Our school boards need our input so they can voice the community's wishes to the OSSU board and to the redistricting committee before it's too late! I urge you to write your school board members, show up to a meeting, and/or attend any forums they may be hosting for community input. All school board meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend. The Wolcott Town School Board meets the third Wednesday of the

month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Wolcott Elementary School Library. Its next meeting is Wednesday, August 20. Contact wesboard@ossu.org.

The OSSU Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the OSSU Central Office in Hardwick. Its next meeting is September 2. Contact info@ossu.org.

The Stannard Town School Board meets the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stannard Town Hall. Its next meeting is September 3. Contact stnboard@ossu.org.

The Craftsbury Town School Board meets the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Commons Room at Craftsbury Academy. Its next meeting is September 10. Contact caboard@ossu.org.

The Mountain View Union Elementary School District Board meets the second Thursday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m., alternating among its three campuses. Its next meeting is September 11. Contact mountainviewboard@ossu.org.

The Hazen Union School Board meets the third Tuesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Hazen Union School Library. Its next meeting is September 16. Contact husboard@ossu.org.

This commentary is by Laura Cannon, of Hardwick. Laura is a parent of two preschoolers, a speech-language pathologist and a member of the Rural School Community Alliance.

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Always the best shots

To the editor:

Vanessa is one on-the-job photographer, always the best shots, knowing what and how to get the most from photography, wherever you are and whatever the event. Her name will go down in Hardwick history for giving us and future generations and historians, the scene, at the exact time and date. What a photographer!! What an eye!

Tell her, "You go, Vanessa!"

Thank you, Vanessa. Lucky us Hardwickians.

P.S. I've been writing letters to the editor since May 1, 1943, when I reported the first trout caught of the season in the brook above Church Street on Bridgman Hill. Exactly six inches. I had measured it out on my fish pole, just to be sure.

Joyce Slayton Mitchell  
Hardwick

## Resist the silence of small surrenders

To the editor:

Creeping normality is one of those quiet forces that reshapes our lives while we're not looking. It rarely shouts. It whispers. It nudges. And by the time we notice, the landscape has changed beneath our feet.

We know this in our personal lives. The extra pound or two that shows up on the bathroom scale each year. The clutter in the basement that grows box by box until it feels overwhelming. The way we call a friend less often, until silence becomes the new normal. None of these shifts begin as crises. But over time, those small changes accumulate into something weighty.

The same phenomenon plays out in politics and society.

Democracies do not collapse in a day, they are eroded by degrees. Freedoms trimmed in the name of security. Cruel policies explained away as necessary. Lies repeated until they no longer shock us. And because each shift is incremental, we adjust. What once would have been intolerable begins to feel ordinary.

Václav Havel, the playwright who became president of a free Czechoslovakia, understood this all too well. Living under a communist regime built on propaganda, he wrote that the greatest danger was not simply the lie itself, but the way citizens learned to live within it. When people repeat slogans they don't believe, or look the other way when truth is twisted, they become complicit.

Normalizing lies, treating

them as part of everyday life, is how authoritarianism survives.

We should take Havel's warning seriously. In the United States today, lying has become a political strategy. We've watched leaders deny the results of an election they lost, call an attack on the Capitol "legitimate protest," and repeat falsehoods so brazenly and so often that citizens grow numb. The danger is not only that leaders lie, but that we, the people, stop noticing. When we sigh and say, "That's just politics," we are already adjusting to the new normal.

History offers its warnings. The Roman Republic slid into dictatorship step by step. The Weimar Republic tolerated lies and extremism until they consumed the nation. In each case, creeping normality lulled citizens into acceptance. By the time the truth mattered most, it was too late.

But creeping normality works in both directions. Just as we can adapt downward, we can also adapt upward. We can insist on truth, however inconvenient. We can refuse to excuse cruelty or corruption, however loudly it's justified. We can practice what Havel called "living in truth" - an act of resistance as powerful today as it was in his time.

The question before us, both personally and politically, is simple: will we notice the drift?

Because once we accept lies as the background noise of public life, democracy itself slips quietly away.

Jeff Pierpont  
Walden

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Process is politically corrupt

To the editor:

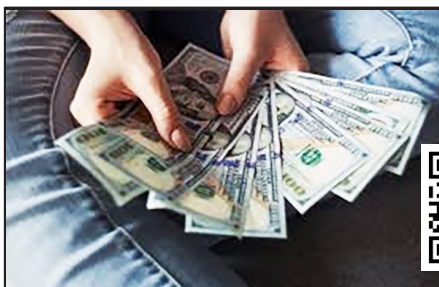
Texas is now in the process of redistricting its U.S. Congressional Districts. Vermont and six other states have one at large representative in the United States House. The pros and cons of electing each representative based on the population number in each state rather than creating geographic Congressional Districts should become a national discussion. Some individuals feel that having at large representatives, in those states where the population requires more than one representative, will skew the elec-

toral process toward the more populated regions of that state, disenfranchising those in more rural areas. On the other hand, and in my opinion, the redistricting process has become so politically corrupt that at large representation will provide the equity required because each representative will serve their state at large. We already have two Senators for each state. They serve at large. Why shouldn't our Representatives do the same?

Richard Scheiber  
Cabot

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# HARDWICK GAZETTE

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# I HEARD IT THROUGH THE JEDEVINE

## Summer of our dreams

by **Brendan Buckley**

HARDWICK – As school administrators and faculty begin preparations this week for the upcoming school year, I hear echoes of my teachers from long ago as they prompted my classmates and me to write a composition on “How I Spent My Summer Vacation”. Year after year I struggled to inject excitement and drama into the weeks I had spent biking along my daily paper route, fishing, playing whiffle ball, listening to baseball games on my transistor radio, and what else? Perhaps more interesting content would have come from a different assignment - “The Summer Vacation of My Dreams”.

That is exactly the summer that the Jeudevine Library has lived. As our exceedingly wet and cold spring gave way to beautiful summer days, the last items on the construction punch list were checked, various inspectors approved their respective systems, and the pass-through between the original Jeudevine and the addition was opened to traffic.

Even before the completion of the pass-through, volunteers had navigated their way around the old stacks and through the drapes of plastic sheets to pile dozens of boxes of books into the new addition. The original Jeudevine stacks were dismantled so that the red oak flooring could be refinished. The floor of our enormous new children’s section was covered in

boxes, such that it was difficult to walk a straight line for more than two steps.

Any thought of maintaining order among the boxes as this task unfolded was abandoned as available floor space diminished.

And then, the volunteers hit “Reverse” and moved many of those boxes back into the original library, or unpacked them and gradually slotted them onto shelves in the new addition. Two dozen volunteers worked to achieve this goal during the week the library was closed.

The result? Please come and see for yourselves. There is an expansive children’s section, bathed in natural light through large windows along the south wall, with inviting individual chairs and diner-inspired booths for small gatherings. There is a magnificently-refurbished original Jeudevine that glows on a sunny day, as light streams in through the stained glass onto the red oak floors, now freed from the imprisonment of mid-twentieth century linoleum and the narrow lanes and shadows that were products of the original stacks.

The West Church Street entryway leads into a wide area for easy navigation, with the new circulation desk on the right, allowing Diane, Kevin and Rachel a vastly improved workspace.

The downstairs affords the library staff more office space, and our townspeople meeting space, including a spacious community room, providing us

with the largest room in town outside of our schools. A small kitchen is to one side, along with two rest rooms. A large pull-down screen is available for video presentations. Please speak with Diane or Kevin if you are interested in reserving the space for a public meeting.

Since the library has reopened, traffic has approximately doubled from previous use. However,

the expansive space has easily absorbed the increase in usage such that our Jeudevine remains a tranquil and welcoming retreat.

As another school year begins, our children’s librarian, Rachel Funk, has a slate of youth activities lined up for September. Story Time continues on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., for those aged 5 and under. A kids’ chorus for ages 8 to 12 who love to sing, will meet on Thursdays at 3 p.m. The Jeudevine Players will meet on three Tuesdays in September (Sept. 2, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30) at 3 p.m., for ages 6 and older, in preparation for presenting an original show.

On Tuesday September 9, at 3 p.m., there will be a presentation

on foraging for mushrooms with Malaky. Lastly on Wednesday, September 10t, at 3 p.m., Rachel will hold a workshop on making bookmarks, ages 12 to 18.

In light of our area’s recent history of devastating floods, the town of Hardwick has organized a series of seminars on watershed management, beginning September 3, on four Wednesday evenings through early October, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. In order, the topics will be: “Dredging Rivers”, “Beavers and Natural Infrastructure”, “Dam Removal” and “Climatology and the Future of Vermont’s Watersheds”. These presentations will provide us with an opportunity to learn about how water shapes our world, and how our choices around water management shape our future. The knowledge we gain from this series should prove valuable.

As hints of autumn chill creep into the evening air, as children and parents prepare for the new school year, our library emerges from a summer well spent, hoping that more townspeople will visit and discover for themselves the wonderful resource in our midst.

## ANOTHER OPINION

### Hanzas vows to protect Vermont voter data

by **Sarah Copeland Hanzas**

MONTPELIER – As the chief elections officer of the State of Vermont, I am proud of the work my office does to keep Vermont elections free, fair, accessible and accurate. Vermonters may have heard of recent outreach from the federal government to states asking for voter information, including state voter lists. The policy of my office is very clear: our office has no plans to share Vermont voter data with the federal government.

The reasons for this are twofold. First, Vermont law specifically prohibits sharing of this data, and second, the U.S. Constitution gives states the authority to conduct elections, not federal agencies.

Vermont State law explicitly protects voters’ private information from the federal government or any foreign entity. Our office is committed to upholding state law, protecting Vermonters’ private information, and supporting Vermont’s town and city clerks to do the same. Vermont

State statutes clearly state, in 17 V.S.A. § 2154(b)(2), that Vermont city, town, and state governments are prohibited from sharing the statewide voter checklist or any municipal voter checklist with any federal agency or commission.

Furthermore, the U.S. Constitution gives the states control over elections and gives only Congress the power to pass laws regulating elections; it does not empower the president or executive branch to do so (U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 4). This means that, in the absence of a law passed by Congress, state law dictates all matters around elections, including the release of any voter data.

To the extent that the federal government seeks to overstep its authority, I will continue to work with Attorney General Clark to protect Vermonters’ data in court. The attorney general and I will also continue to coordinate with other states that are committed to protecting citizens’ private data and preserving the constitutional balance of power.



A JR Quality Construction Crew replace missing roofing and fasten loose panels on the Atkins Field granite shed in Hardwick owned by the Center for an Agricultural Economy. photo by Paul Fixx

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Re-enacting the first lap of the Gran Prix

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – It’s hard for me to believe that I ever drove the width of New York State in vehicles of obviously uncertain (but certainly brief) futures without thinking twice about it. Thanksgiving holiday? No problem, even on an ancient Indian motorcycle with no windshield. Date in Buffalo? Here we go! No interstates then, either.

After this past week, I can attest that those days are gone forever. My dear friend Bea has for many years been traveling annually to her in-laws’ summer place in Mayville, N.Y., on a gentle hill above Lake Chautauqua. She and her late husband made the trip all the way from their home near Boston, a nine-hour drive even with the help of Interstate 90, which comprises the Massachusetts Pike and the Dewey Thruway. They usually broke the trip in mid-New York state to avoid fatigue.

Last year Bea did the trip herself in one day, which seemed to me a bit much for a lady of her mature years. So this year I invited Kiki and me and Batty, my hybrid, along for the run. We’d break the trip up as usual, a bit past halfway across New York, and focus more on the passing scene, rather than the slowly passing miles.

Fat chance. The Massachusetts Pike was crammed with cars re-enacting the first lap of a Grand Prix race. It was survivable, I determined, but hour after hour on high alert takes a steep toll on the nerves. I looked forward to the relaxing ambience of the New York Thruway I remembered from my youth.

Unfortunately, that ambience, like my youth, is long gone. The only difference I noted was that, while the Massachusetts drivers were madmen, they at least seemed to know what they were doing. The New Yorkers appeared both mad and motiveless. At one point my car’s GPS announced a 55-minute traffic jam with no discernible cause: accident, construction, or breakdown. Just too many vehicles. By the time we halted for the night in Weedsport, I was ready to retreat; except that, like Macbeth halfway through his murders, returning were as tedious as go o’er. The exit for the state road to Mayville next morning was a very welcome sight.

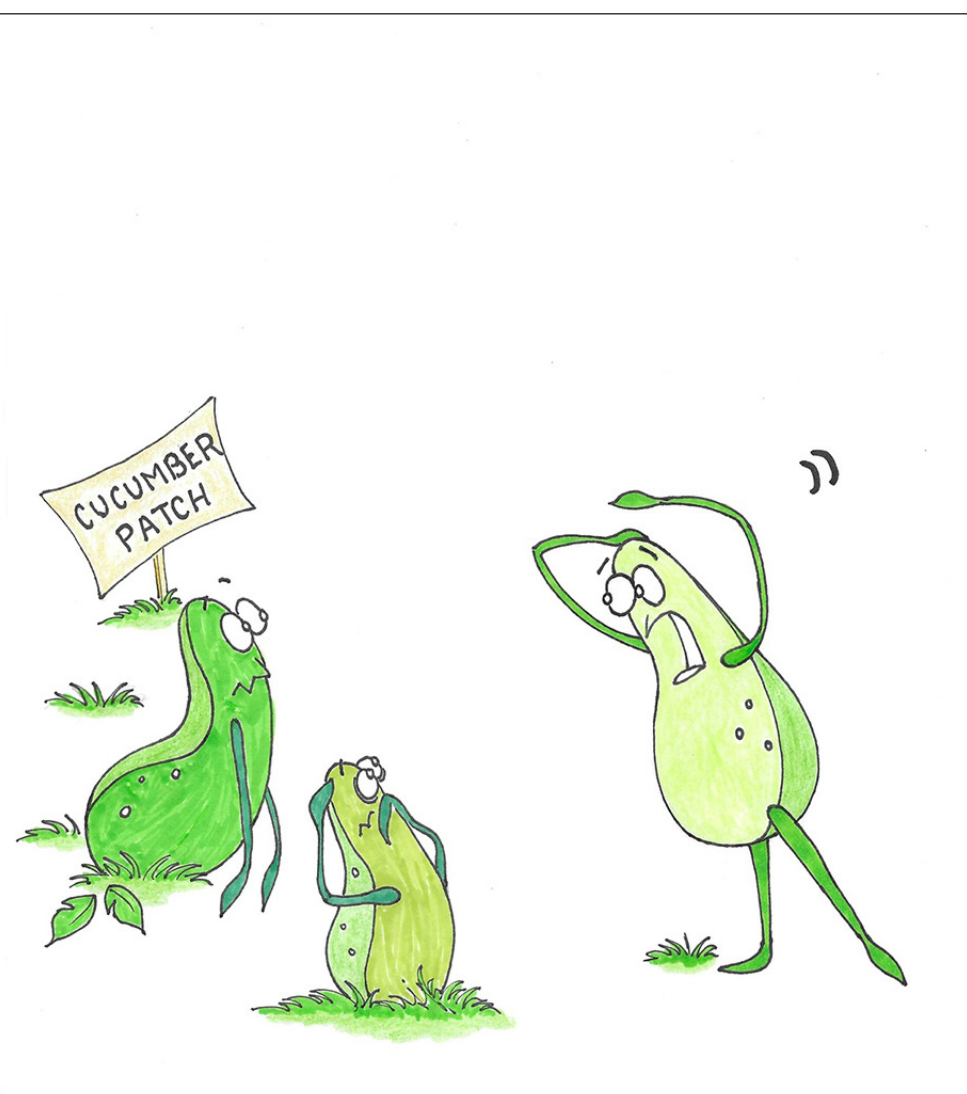
People who think of New York as a piddling little state of honking traffic jams, apartment houses, and stifling regulations have no idea of its reality. Western New York, as we cruised slowly south toward Mayville, at the northern end of Lake Chautauqua, is a green-carpeted, thickly forested paradise of oaks, locusts, peach orchards and vineyards with a beautiful lake at its center.

We passed a peaceful week in the summer house above a meadow where the deer emerged at dusk to feed on fruit beneath an old apple tree. I lounged by the fire pond each afternoon as Bea paddled around, occasionally tossing a floating acorn up onto the bank. Kiki, ecstatic to be loose after two days in the car or on a leash, zoomed around sniffing for chipmunks. She also was allowed, as a service dog without credentials, into the Chautauqua Institution amphitheater to listen to a lecture about the Middle East (this year’s Chautauqua theme) by Thomas Friedman. Our hosts, year-long subscribers, also went most nights to concerts or dance performances.

Since the near-fatal stabbing of Salman Rushdie on the amphitheater stage three years ago, security has tightened somewhat. Any purse or pack larger than a few inches must be transparent, and I’m pretty sure that when we bought our tickets, the computer, which asked many more questions than the usual, was vetting us loosely. Still, the overall atmosphere among the audience members was friendly: rather like coffee hour after a Presbyterian church service. I good morninged most of the people I passed, and even met a couple from Waterbury, Vermont.

At the end of the week we drove home by the southern route, which swings down toward Binghamton and even into Pennsylvania for a few miles. What a difference! Rounded green hills south of the glacial advance, clear little rivers with native American names winding through the valleys, and much less of the feeling of being in a crowd of running elephants nose-to-tail. We dove into the Mass. Pike just east of Albany knowing that when the next four hours were over, we’d be at Bea’s home. We’d unload the car and carry in the boxes we’d brought from the land of peaches and wine grapes. If we had time, we’d sit on the open porch, sip something cool, listen to the waves on the beach below the house, and reflect that, just two days away, there’s a world that’s in its own way just as beautiful as this.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



**“THE RUMOR IS TRUE.  
THE GARDENER IS A SERIAL CANNER. RUN!”**

## MEETING MEMO

- Wednesday, August 20** first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.,  
Wolcott Select Board, third Stannard Town Hall.  
Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.  
Wolcott Town School Board,  
third Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Wolcott Elementary School.
- Thursday, August 21**  
Hardwick Select Board, third  
Thursday of month, 6 p.m.
- Monday, August 25**  
Calais Select Board, fourth  
Monday of month, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 2**  
OSSU Board, first Tuesday of  
the month, 6 to 8 p.m., OSSU central Office, Hardwick.
- Wednesday, September 3**  
Stannard Town School Board,
- Town Clerks**  
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Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, [townofstannard@myfairpoint.net](mailto:townofstannard@myfairpoint.net)  
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# IN THE GARDEN

## Hot days perfect time for shady gardening



Hostas are available in a variety of sizes and shades of green, including some with variegated foliage, making them the perfect addition to any shade garden.

photo Deborah J. Benoit

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – It's the height of summer, and the weather is hot, hot, hot! That doesn't mean work in the garden is done. Instead, venture outdoors in the early morning or late in the afternoon. Avoid working in the sun during the hottest part of the day.

If putting off addressing a shady challenge in a yard, this could be the perfect time to get the job done. To save repeated trips carrying supplies, gather everything needed before starting. That includes tools, plants, mulch, a source of water for the plants and water to keep hydrated. Don't forget insect repellent and sunscreen.

Take a moment to look at that shady spot. Is it under a tree or in the shadow of a structure?

All shade is not created equal. It could range from light, dappled shade to deep shade. When

selecting plants, take into consideration that plants that can do well in partly-shaded areas may not be happy in full shade.

When selecting perennial plants, be sure to check the tag for light requirements and their United States Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone.

For maximum impact, choose a selection of plants in different sizes, with contrasting leaf size, shape, texture, color and variegation. Alternatively, choose one plant in a variety of cultivars to make a bold statement (Hosta and heuchera offer an abundance of choices.).

Be sure to take into consideration the mature size of the plants you select. If concerned about empty space between plants, add in some shade-loving annuals such as impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*) or coleus (*Coleus*) for a pop of color until the perennials mature.

Hosta (*Hosta*) tops the list of



Coral bells with its colorful foliage, scalloped leaves and delicate flowers, is a stunning perennial that nicely compliments other shade-loving plants in the garden.

photo Deborah J. Benoit

shade-loving plants in many gardens. They're so popular they may seem commonplace, but they're reliable and come in a variety of sizes and shades of green, some with variegated foliage.

Coral bells (*Heuchera*) offer colorful foliage, scalloped leaves and delicate flowers. They're low growing, well behaved and make a good companion for other shade-loving plants. Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum*) emerges in spring with bell-like flowers hanging from graceful arching stems.

Ferns offer feathery fronds in shades of green. Consider the Japanese painted fern (*Athyrium niponicum*) for variegated foliage. The ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) is native to Vermont. Astilbe (*Astilbe*) offers similar foliage plus feathery flowers.

If the shady spot is under a tree and roots are a concern, consider using containers instead of

planting in the ground. Group together several containers of similar size, shape or color for maximum effect. It's a good opportunity to use annuals or tender perennials that can be replaced in the spring for a new look.

On a shady hillside where the grass won't grow or mowing is difficult, plant a mass or a drift of a shade-loving groundcover to add interest and save labor.

Adding a focal point such as a bird bath or garden art can draw the eye into a shady spot. A seating area will provide a place to relax and enjoy the shade on sunny days. Those details can make all the difference.

Finally, don't forget to mulch and water well. Then step back and admire a beautiful, new shade garden.

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

## Lilacs losing leaves to blight

by Ann Hazelrigg

BURLINGTON – Lilacs are currently losing their leaves due to a disease called lilac leaf blight, caused by the fungus *Pseudocercospora* spp. Common throughout Vermont and the Northeast region, this disease also occurred in 2024 because of the wet weather in the spring and early summer.

The fungus overwinters on the fallen leaves and infects the emerging leaves in the spring during wet weather. As wet weather continues, more leaves become infected. Lilac leaf blight symptoms start as brown spots on the foliage that begin at the leaf edges.

As the infection progresses, the spots grow together and cause

leaves to curl and eventually drop. The fungus is favored by rainy or humid weather, and I suspect the recent hot dry weather is accelerating the defoliation.

Although it may look like lilacs are dying, scratch just under the bark near the end of a twig and still see green, and if the terminal buds for next year are obvious, the plant will be fine in the spring. Over several years of defoliation, however, the plant may be weakened.

Anything that can be done to remove further stress in the bush this season will be helpful, such as watering at the base of the plant during hot dry weather and mulching plants to conserve water.

Rake and destroy the infected fallen leaves this autumn, and

thin the plant during the winter to improve air circulation and light penetration. Be sure plants are not crowded.

Fertilizing lightly in early spring may help improve vigor, especially if the plant has been defoliated from the disease over the past two years. Fungicides can be used as the leaves are emerging and expanding in the spring and early summer but are not typically warranted or necessary. Fungicides at this point in the season would have no effect on the disease.

If questions about this or other disease and insect pest problems, contact me, Ann Hazelrigg, director of the University of Vermont Plant Diagnostic Clinic at [ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu](mailto:ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu).

Dr. Ann Hazelrigg is the



Lilac leaf blight symptoms start as brown spots on the foliage that begin at the leaf edges with the spots growing together as the infection progresses, causing the leaves to curl and eventually drop off the plant.

photo by Ann Hazelrigg

University of Vermont Extension plant pathologist and director of the UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic.

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Syrphid Flies Puzzle and Pollinate

by Colby Galliher

NEW ENGLAND – Survey the insects orbiting a globe of milkweed blossoms or the delicate blooms of a chokeberry, and you might spy an apparent chimera. It looks a bit like a bee, perhaps a tad like a wasp, and it darts and pauses mid-flight like a hummingbird. These diminutive helicopters are syrphid flies, so-called because they are members of the insect family Syrphidae. Other common names for this family, which has an estimated 300 to 400 species in the Northeast, include hover flies and flower flies. They emerge in April or May and remain active through early October, foraging from early morning to early afternoon.

Even a keen-eyed observer might mistake a syrphid fly for a member of another insect family. Like bees and some wasps, adult syrphids can be found sipping nectar from the flowers of wild and cultivated plants. Syrphid coloring, generally a combination of yellow, black, and brown shades in a pattern of stripes or dots, also mirrors these species, as do the tiny hairs some syrphids bear on their abdomens. Their characteristic hovering only enhances the masquerade. Charlene Donahue, a retired entomologist with the Maine Forest Service, said that this behavior may serve several functions: as a component of male territorial displays, as a way for females to closely inspect suitable egg-laying sites, and as a foraging technique by both sexes to locate

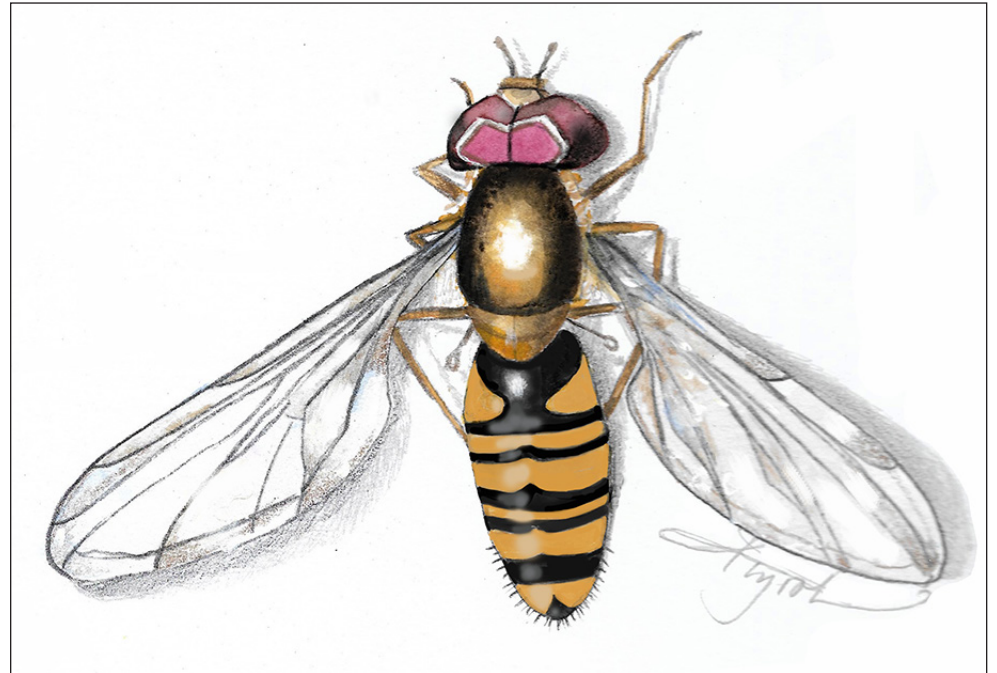
preferred flowers.

It's no mere coincidence that syrphids look so much like these other buzzing insects. Syrphids benefit from an evolutionary strategy called Batesian mimicry, whereby species that would otherwise be tasty snacks resemble their less appetizing or potentially dangerous counterparts. For syrphids, the likeness to bees and wasps deters would-be predators that avoid those species to steer clear of stings. The rub? Not a single species of syrphid fly in northern New England – nor any of the more than 6,000 around the globe can sting.

The Pollinator Partnership, an international non-profit organization that advocates for the protection of pollinators, highlights a few distinctions that can help you tell syrphid flies apart. Syrphids have much larger eyes than bumblebees and wasps. They also have shorter antennae and skinnier legs. If you spot a syrphid fly at rest, their wings also offer a clue: like other “true flies” of the order Diptera, syrphids have just one set of wings (two wings total) compared to bees’ two sets (four wings total).

The distinctions extend beyond just looks. By some measures, syrphid flies outdo bees as pollinators. According to Margaret Skinner, an entomologist at University of Vermont Extension, syrphids “are considered particularly efficient at pollinating because they do not provision a nest like bees do and can range over a larger area of the landscape than other pollinators.”

Syrphids also fill critical



Hover Fly

ecosystem roles in other stages of their life cycle. The larvae of some species decompose plant matter. Others prey on soft-bodied insects, such as aphids. Adult female syrphids lay their eggs on leaf undersides near colonies of prey species. Once hatched, a larva will feed for up to a month, molting three times before forming a puparium, a covering of hardened skin, from its exoskeleton. One to two weeks later, an adult syrphid fly emerges. In northern New England, syrphids can cycle through three to four generations per year. The last generation in the fall will overwinter either in puparia or as adults.

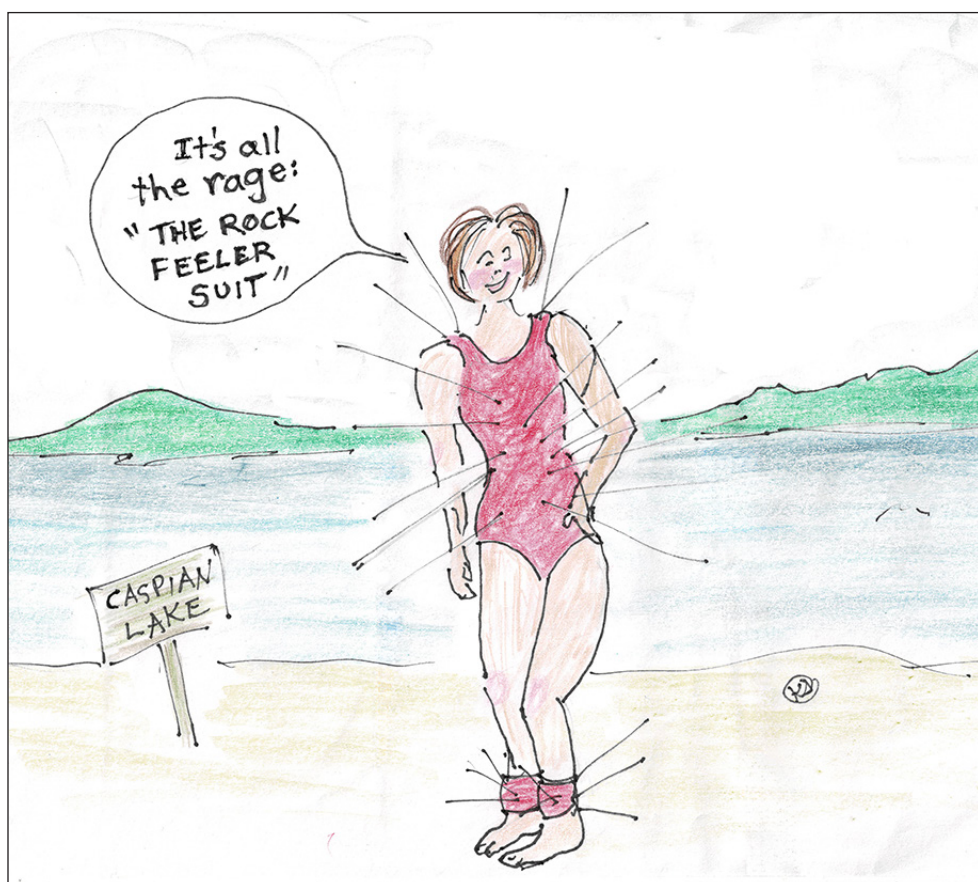
Thanks to this dimension of their ecology, syrphids are an ally to any gardener or farmer. Skinner noted that one syrphid fly larva “can feed on as many as 400 aphids over its lifetime.” Some syrphid species are even reared commercially as biological control agents for pest management. Research from the

University of New Hampshire, published in 2023 in the journal *Environmental Entomology*, indicates that bringing native plants, especially those in the Apiaceae family, such as golden alexander, and other native shrubs, like blueberry and blackberry, into your garden encourages greater populations of syrphids, which can reduce the need for pesticides.

Syrphids may not receive the same attention that bees do in our growing recognition of the importance of pollinators to our lives and ecosystems, but they certainly deserve it. You can show your appreciation for these fascinating mimics by avoiding pesticides and rewilding your property with an abundance of native plants.

Colby Galliher writes about conservation, ecology, and environmental policy. To learn more about his work, visit [colbygalliher.com](http://colbygalliher.com). Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

## Home Fries by Kay Spaulding





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# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Summer celebration benefits Rural Arts, Aug. 23

by Rural Arts Collaborative

GREENSBORO – Rural Arts Collaborative holds at summer celebration at Highland Center for the Arts, Saturday, Aug. 23, 3 to 6 p.m., with ice cream

making, children’s art activities, a silent auction and games, to benefit Rural Arts Collaborative. Adults, children and grandchildren are welcome. Click the link at [ruralartsvt.org/eve](http://ruralartsvt.org/eve) Make a calendar item for this event

## Blessing of the Backpacks, Aug. 24

GREENSBORO – On Sunday, August 24, beginning at 10 a.m., children of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks, lunch bags or briefcases to worship at the Greensboro United Church of Christ, for a special Blessing of the Backpacks.

Sunday will also mark the launch of the new weekly Children’s Program. Children from Greensboro and all neighboring communities are welcome. Each week, children begin in the sanctuary and then head upstairs for play, art, fun, and hands-on activities.

## Fundraising film for library shown Aug. 27

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Public Library will show the movie, “Eephus,” Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m., as a fundraiser. Produced by Music Box Films, “Eephus” tells the story of two New England recreational baseball teams that face off one last time as a construction project looms over their baseball field. Named for

a rare pitch, this poignant comedy is an ode to sports, community, and the passage of time. The film features Bill “Spaceman” Lee who has orchestrated this fundraiser and will be at the showing. Attendance to the event is by donation. For more information, contact the library at (802) 586-9683.nts/summer-celebration to RSVP.

## Trees for Streams tour held, Aug. 28

CRAFTSBURY – A Trees for Streams Site Tour will be held at the Craftsbury Village Cemetery, Cemetery Road, on Thursday, Thursday, Aug. 28, 3:30 to 6 p.m.

The tour will demonstrate the impact of Trees for Streams riparian restoration projects on stream health and describe program opportunities and requirements, the conservation planning process, and lessons gleaned from riparian restoration projects.

The tour will go to three sites in the Upper Black River Watershed in Craftsbury to hear the owners’

goals, share the conservation planning process and work that was done, lessons learned and planting plans. Tour locations include the Jones farm farmstead planting on a tributary to Cass Brook, the Town of Craftsbury planting along the Black River and the Downing Site planting on Whitney Brook.

The program is sponsored by the Craftsbury Conservation Commission and the Genny to highlight projects in the upper Black River Watershed.

RSVP requested. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/TFSTour2025](http://tinyurl.com/TFSTour2025)



Adaptive loaner bikes are available for use on Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.

courtesy photo

## Adaptive biking Mondays on Rail Trail

by Adaptive Sports Partners

HARDWICK – Bike rides on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, with adaptive loaner bikes, are held every Monday from 2 to 3 p.m., and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road.

Adaptive Sports Partners (ASP) visits Hardwick each Monday with a trailer full of trikes, adaptive mountain bikes, hand cycles, tandems, recumbents, bikes with two-wheels, and others. The program is for people of all

ages and all disabilities, physical, emotional, behavioral, intellectual and developmental.

ASP provides year-round adaptive sports programming to the NEK, including in Hardwick and surrounding communities, in conjunction with Hardwick Recreation, ensuring there’s no cost to participate.

To reserve a spot, or ask questions, contact Program Manager Kerry Hussey via email at [kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org](mailto:kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org), or by phone at (802) 427-4116.

## LVRT partially closed, walking group still meets

by Paul Fixx

EAST HARDWICK – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) recently announced a Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) closure for all users between Brickhouse Road, at milepost 30.63 and Pumpkin Lane at milepost 32, located in East Hardwick.

The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization last week said, “the East Hardwick walking group will continue to meet on the trail at Stephens Lane, Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

A formal detour was not announced, nor was an expected length of the closure. Travel west-bound from Brickhouse Road, to avoid the closed section and Vt. Rte. 16, is possible by going uphill

on Brickhouse Road, which turns into Hardwick Farms Road, then turning left at Hardwick Farms onto Porter Brook Road and left again onto Pumpkin Lane to reconnect with the trail before it intersects Vt. Rte. 16.

VTrans said, “Flood damage repairs to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) will continue during the 2025 construction season” and “temporary closures for repairs are anticipated through 2026.”

The LVRT is also closed for less than a mile in West Danville and roughly five and a half miles in St. Johnsbury. Work on the St. Johnsbury section has recently begun. Trail information is available at [railtrails.vermont.gov/trails/lamoille-valley-rail-trail](http://railtrails.vermont.gov/trails/lamoille-valley-rail-trail).



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# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Ballet registration open for fall semester

WOLCOTT – Registration is open for the fall-winter semester at Ballet Wolcott, which begins September 2, and runs through December. A range of classes are available for students ages three to adults, including ballet, jazz and tap, and contemporary dance.

Registration is open on a rolling basis throughout the fall, and new students are invited to try one class for free before registering.

Registration and more information can be found at [balletwolcott.com](http://balletwolcott.com).

## Nudell leads black light trails walk

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Trails hosts a nighttime blacklight walk at 8 p.m., Saturday, August 23, under the new moon. Joe Nudell will lead the walk to see the woods in ultraviolet light. Ultraviolet light causes certain materials to emit a glow, called fluorescence. There are many things in nature that fluoresce, such as caterpillars, millipedes, spiders, mosses, lichens, mushrooms and more.

All are welcome. Some UV flashlights are available to share, but attendees are encouraged to provide their own if they have one. Bring a normal headlamp or flashlight for safety, and dress warmly.

The event will begin at the Hardwick Trails trailhead behind Hazen Union School. This free event is sponsored by the Hardwick Trails Committee. Call Norma Wiesen, (802) 472-6517 with questions.

## Stridsberg Fall Scholastic Chess Tournament held September 14

CRAFTSBURY – Sunday, September 14, Craftsbury Academy will host a scholastic chess tournament for students in K to 12th grade. Chess boards, pieces and clocks will be provided, no prior tournament experience is necessary. Participants must be Vt. residents or be enrolled in a Vt. public or private school, home school students are eligible. High School and 8th Grade sections will be USCF rated, K-7th Grade sections will be unrated. Individual and team prizes will be awarded.

over 20 years to keeping scholastic chess alive in Vermont. When other tournaments disappeared as organizers moved on, Mike stepped up, first creating the Central Vermont Scholastic Open in 2003, then taking over the Vermont State Scholastic Championship when no one else would. For two decades, he has served as the backbone of Vermont scholastic chess, organizing countless tournaments and ensuring that generations of Vermont students have had opportunities to learn, compete, and grow through chess. His tireless commitment and welcoming spirit has inspired hundreds of young players across the state. When he's not playing chess, Mike is the bassist for Heartless, a New England Tribute to Ann Wilson of Heart and a member of the Professional Disc Golf Association. Craftsbury Academy is located at 1422 N Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury Common, 05827.

Registration closes on March 23, although registration may close prior to March 23 due to space limitations. Online registration only; no entries will be accepted via mail or email and no walk-ins allowed. Complete rules and registration information can be found at [vermontchess.org/](http://vermontchess.org/). The tournament is named in honor of Mike Stridsberg, who has dedicated



Fall 2019 Cooperator Training at the Education Center at Kehoe GMCC, Castleton. *courtesy photo*

## Fall Coverts cooperator training, coming Sept. 12 to 14

by Coverts

CASTLETON -- Coverts is offering cooperator training, Friday, September 12 through Sunday, September 14, at Kehoe Conservation Camp, Castleton.

This program is for those who love woodlands, enjoy wildlife and want to learn how a healthy forest can enhance wildlife habitat and provide recreational and timber

benefits. Training will help learn about forest ecology, wildlife history, managing woodlands and reaching out to others in the community. The program provides connections to resource professionals, landowners and others.

To learn more, apply online, see a sample agenda or download an application visit [vtcoverts.org](http://vtcoverts.org) or contact Lisa Sausville at [lisa@vtcoverts.org](mailto:lisa@vtcoverts.org).

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# OBITUARIES

## Howard Francis Abare

GREENSBORO BEND – Howard Francis Abare, born October 1, 1941, passed away peacefully on August 13, 2025. He will be missed by his family, loved ones, and his many, many friends and acquaintances. A memorial gathering will be held at St. Michael's Fellowship Hall in Greensboro Bend on Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 3 to 6 p.m. A private interment will follow in Berlin at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Hardwick Rescue Squad or the Lamoille Area Cancer Network.



Howard Francis Abare

## David Creighton

CABOT – David Creighton, 79, of Cabot, passed away early Sunday morning, August 10, at his home. He was in the arms of his loving family, on a beautiful Vermont summer night, under a full moon. It was his favorite type of night.

David was born March 29, 1946, in Waterbury, Conn. He was the third child of Eunice and Erwin Creighton, of Woodbury, Conn.

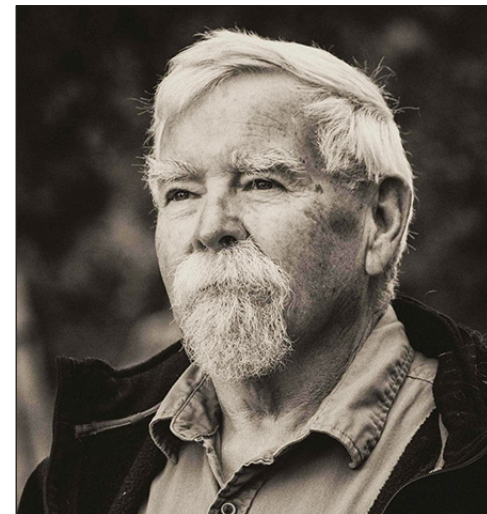
In 1964, he graduated from Woodbury High School and joined the United States Marine Corps (USMC), where he honorably served for four years. Some of his fondest memories of the USMC were those he made while stationed in Hawaii. There, he was a sergeant of the Pearl Harbor Honor Guard and was in charge of the honor guard for the Battleship Arizona memorial. Upon his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Dave earned his license as a journeyman electrician.

He married his late wife Denise in 1968; they were inseparable for 34 years until her passing in 2003. They had four daughters together and built a life to be proud of.

In 1983, Dave and his family moved to Cabot. He worked in Vermont State Parks for over 25 years, where he met his wife, Michelle, and they married in 2008.

Dave coached basketball, soccer and softball for Cabot School. When he wasn't coaching, he could be found on the sidelines of his five daughters' sporting events, cheering them on. He was an avid fisherman, and an even better storyteller.

Dave was a teacher of life, always willing to stop and teach about life, nature, fishing and how to be an amazing friend. He could stop you in your tracks with a point of view you hadn't thought of. Challenge you to be open and



David Creighton

kind to those of all walks of life. A master of kindness and conversation. Dave had a wonderful sense of humor and a knack for pranks.

He is survived by his wife Michelle Delaney, 17 years; five daughters, Nicole (Jay) Creighton Strong, Danville; Victoria (Aaron) Hill, Hardwick; Sarah Creighton, Wakefield, Mass.; Emily (Adam) Boynton, Derry, N.H.; and Mia Preston of Cabot; nine grandchildren, Lillian, Abigail, Ava, Letitia, Carter, Liam, Layla, Benjamin, Aelin; his great-grandchild, Alana, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Dave was preceded in death by his wife Denise, his parents Eunice and Erwin Creighton, his brother Donald Creighton and his sister Carolyn Fox.

Dave was happiest being found on a river casting a dry fly with his lifelong best friend, Phil Maxwell, standing just upstream. He loved the peace he found in nature. He loved a good cup of coffee. And most of all, he loved the family he built.

Friends and loved ones are welcome to join his family for a memorial services to be held on Saturday, Sept. 6, at noon at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 W. Church St, Hardwick. A celebration Of David's Life will follow at the Willey Hall, 3084 Main St, Cabot. This will be a time to gather for food, family, and friends, to share stories, memories, and speeches. Dave's eulogy will be given at 3:30 p.m., during this event, after that time, we will be asking anyone who would like to share a story or remembrance to speak.

Arrangements are with the des Groseilliers Funeral Home in Hardwick. Condolences and memories of Dave may be shared with his family at dgfunerals.com. In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Dave can be made to Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice, 600 Granger Road, Barre, VT 05641-5369.

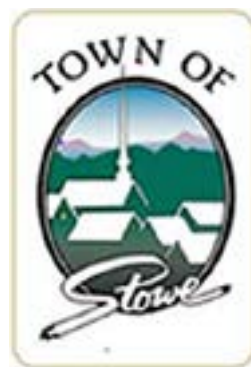
## OUR COMMUNITIES

### NVDA 2026 Regional Plan Input Wanted, Sept. 19

by NVDA

HARDWICK – The Northeast Vermont Development Association (NVDA) will have a table at the Hardwick Farmers Market, September 19, from 3 to 6 p.m., at Atkins Field, Granite St., for community members to talk with NVDA staff about the 2026 regional plan, provide feedback, share priorities and concerns, and sign up to win raffle

prizes. The Northeast Vermont Development Association (NVDA) is updating the Regional Plan, which takes place every eight years. The content is informed by changing local needs, state requirements and input from the people who live and work in the Northeast Kingdom. An NVDA Survey is available at [tinyurl.com/NVDA-Survey](http://tinyurl.com/NVDA-Survey). Contact NVDA with questions anytime at [Clord@nvda.net](mailto:Clord@nvda.net).



### Town of Stowe Be a Road Hero Join the Stowe Highway Crew

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# Chamber Players offer wide spectrum of repertoire

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The last concert in the Summer Music from Greensboro series, Tuesday evening, August 5, in the United Church of Christ, featured the Manhattan Chamber Players with works by Mozart, Beethoven, Gliere, Devienne, four of which highlighted the flute. The New York City based group works as a collective with a variety of different musicians in flexible combinations that make it possible to cover a wide spectrum of the chamber music repertoire. Their credentials as individuals and as an ensemble are particularly impressive, encompassing both national and international performances.

Tuesday, Luke Fleming, the founding artistic director of the Manhattan Chamber Players in 2015, was on the viola, Grace Park was on violin, Abigail Monroe on cello and Melissa Baker on flute. Their program notes were extensive and Fleming's talks before each piece gave significant insights.

Flute quartets by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) began and ended the program. The first was the Flute Quartet No. 4 in A Major, K.298 for Flute, Violin, Viola and Cello written in 1786. Mozart was said to have an aversion to the flute, but it must be understood that the 18th century flute was very different than the modern flute. In his time, the transverse (horizontal) flute was usually made of wood and did not have great volume of sound, thus difficult to score in a balanced way with other instruments. In the 1830s and 40s Theobald Boehm improved the design of flutes, making it of metal with levers, keys and padded covers, hence easier to play, and with competitive dynamics. Mozart certainly composed some of his most beautiful and memorable melodies with these two quartets.

The 4th began with an Andante (con variationi) with the fine theme stated right away by the flute and then taken through four variations by the flute, violin, viola and cello, all participating with complete graciousness. The Menuetto that followed had elegant dance rhythms with an enchanting interplay of the instruments, while the Rondo, allegro gragioso had another entirely engaging melody. Baker's flute playing was exacting and with feeling,

and the supporting musicians were very well integrated into the flow.

The Serenade for Flute, Violin and Viola in D Major, Op. 25 by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was composed rather early in his career (1801) and consists of six movements. The Entrata Allegro began with a cheery melody shared among the three instruments, then a second theme was introduced and treated similarly. The viola in this piece takes on the role of the cello when it comes to the lower ranges, but the D Major key gives the whole work an upbeat mood. The tempo ordinario d'un minuetto-Trio I-Trio II proceeded in a stately dance manner with the flute prominent. The Molto allegro-Coda had a high energy fast rhythm, while the Andante con variazioni showed Beethoven's skill in writing imaginative improvisations. The Allegro, Scherzando e vivace picked up the tempo again, contrasting with the previous movements, ending with the Adagio-Allegro, vivace e disinvolto-Presto, which had a particularly elegant melody. Again, Baker's musicianship on the flute was superb and the three string players created a consistent unity.

Reinhold Gliere's life (1875-1956) bridged tumultuous times for Russia. Unlike Prokofiev and Shostakovich he never suffered the hostile criticism of the dangerous Soviet period under Stalin. Four selections from his Eight Pieces for Viola and Cello, Op.39 of 909 were given. The Prelude, in a minor mode stayed in the lower registers as the two instruments closely overlap. The Etude had a medium tempo, giving the viola the opportunity to explore its rich tone and warm feeling. Of the two other pieces, in No. 4 the two instruments embraced each other like lovers, while in the Gavotte (No. 2) the rhythms were very danceable with their resonant chords blending.

Francois Devienne (1759-1803) also lived through revolutionary events in his native France. His Duo for Flute and Viola in C minor, Op. 5, No. 3 of 1786 had two movements beginning with an Allegro moto con espressione, which gave the two instruments a real conversation, juxtaposing the higher/lower ranges in melded lyrical lines. The Rondo had a light, singing quality with good momentum in an almost skipping rhythm, to which the flutist and violist did justice.

Mozart wrote four flute quartets in all, and the No. 1 in D Major, K.285 of 1777 for Flute, Violin, Viola and Cello had delightful

melodies in its three movements. The Allegro didn't hesitate to please our ears with a thoroughly engaging tune from the first notes, then went off on another tangent, all played in precise coordination. The Adagio that followed was totally exquisite, with beautiful contrasts in the scoring of the four instruments, especially in the scoring, passages for the flute. The

Rondo concluded the piece in a joyous ambiance of shared variations to full ensemble effect by the players, earning them a well deserved standing ovation.

Summer Music from Greensboro's four concerts this season were well chosen for the excellence of their musicians and attracted enthusiastic audiences. We look forward to the next summer!

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## Summer theater camp presents four comedies

### REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

CABOT – The Cabot Community Theater demonstrated the fruits of its week-long summer theater camp by presenting four comedies Friday, Aug. 15, at 5 p.m., in the Cabot School Performing Arts Center. The plays were short and designed for children’s performances, giving everyone a limited number of lines to memorize and deliver.

The first piece was “Belle and That Beast Guy,” written by Jacob Dorn and directed by Jessica Della Pepa-Clayton. A parody of the traditional “Beauty and the Beast” tale, there were two Belles, Ella Lacelle and Ariella Heldorf, appropriately good looking, and one Beast, Mary Rogerson, who was easily identified by horns on her head and later a full-length beard. The Beast takes Belle away to temporary danger. After various shenanigans she is rescued and everything returns to normal.

Lucas Vitale was TickTock, with

a clock hung around his neck. Liam Waugh was the Candle Guy, with a candle hat and Henry Everhart was an Old Woman; Jessica Della Pepa-Clayton was Mama; Simone Kulsick was Gastoff; Ariabella Clayton was Snively; Moriah Usinowicz was Goofus; Norah Rader was Topsy; Edy Auerbach was Flushing and Enid Hammond was Chip.

The second comedy was “Simply Cinderella,” also written by Jacob Dorn, and directed by Karen Mueller-Harden, a take on the classic rags-to-riches story of a young girl much abused by her stepmother and stepsisters but who eventually marries a prince. Judzia Bubrowski was well cast as Cinderella, subject to amusing outbursts, while Eve Gordon was her cruel stepmother. Lily Dunbar as Helga and Karen Mueller-Harden as Olga, were her two obnoxious stepsisters. Fortunately Cinderella had a Fairy Godmother, played by Reagan Rich, who enabled her to go to the ball at the castle where Emmett Gordon as Prince Sherbet falls in love with her. Later, the shoes she dropped, when hurriedly departing from the ball, fit her

foot perfectly, and Cinderella and the Prince live happily ever after. Other supporting actors in the play were Ruthie Podolin as Gunter, Fern Hammond as Jim, Elfi Goldenrose as Queen Hobnail and Sharon Kulsick as Heely.

The “Big Picture” was conceived by Mark Harvery Levine and directed by Cabot High School student Spencer Vitale. Each character in this play had a different feature color in their costume; Ariella Hefland was Peach, Lily Dunbar was Olive Green, Nora Rader was Sky Blue, Spencer Vitale was Burnt Umber, Elfi Goldenrose was Copper and Ella Lacelle was Lemon Yellow. With this palette, they talked about painting a picture of nature, including a lot of sky, and they said without them the world would just be black and white.

The last play, “Twelve Hangry Jurors” by Steven Hayet, and again directed by Karen Mueller-Harden, was something of a satire on a play and film, “Twelve Angry Men,” a courtroom drama. But instead of arguing the legal case before them, the jurors get bogged down trying

to decide what they should have for lunch. Unable to come to a unanimous verdict; in the initial vote, 11 wanted hamburgers, but one held out for a pineapple pizza. Going to a local steak house was suggested, but then determined to be too expensive. A cheaper steakhouse was mentioned, as well as mac and cheese, spaghetti or even cake. One person spoke forcibly about ordering something big and bold, to make you feel you’re in another country, or something really American like an oven stuffed burrito. Perhaps a salad? Finally, everyone just walked about, finding better things to do. Spencer Vitale was the Bailiff, and the jurors were Mary Rogerson, Ariabella Clayton, Judzia Bubrowski, Karen Mueller-Harden, Liam Waugh, Orion Vitale, Lucas Vitale, Elizabeth Vitale, Eve Gordon and Emmett Gordon. There were a lot of laughs in the dialogue over this ridiculous situation.

It is great to offer such a summer theater camp to local children, allowing them to explore their talent and charm, discovering the fun of live performance. May it grow into a life-long love of acting.

## Chekhov play focuses on complex characters

### REVIEW

by David Rodgers

EAST CALAIS – The Unadilla Theater has produced the well-known plays of Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904) many times over its four decades. Currently, it is performing the first play he ever wrote, in 1888, entitled “Ivanov.” The play focuses on a depressed middle aged man, who like many of the Russian aristocracy, is land rich but cash poor, unable to repay his substantial debts.

Chekhov was almost as complex as the fictional characters he created. As he wrote to his publisher, “I feel more confident and satisfied when I reflect that I have two professions and not one. Medicine is my lawful wife and literature is my mistress. When I get tired of one, I spend the night with the other. Though it’s disorderly, it’s not so dull and besides, neither really loses anything through my infidelity” (September 11, 1888). There you get a condensed sample of his wonderful wit, as well as his insight into human nature.

He acquired his medical degree in 1884, but he had been writing short stories to support himself since he was a teenager, many showing him to be an “acute observer of life’s obvious moments and of being deeply responsive to its tragedies,” (Ernest J. Simmons) He did not marry until 1901, and he died at the height of his career in 1904 of tuberculosis, all

of which is curiously relevant to his play “Ivanov.”

While Chekhov is justly considered one of the supreme writers of the short story medium, his dramas also place him among the greatest theatre writers, particularly “The Seagull” (1896), “Uncle Vanya” (1897), “Three Sisters” (1901) and “The Cherry Orchard” (1904), all noted for their vivid personalities, psychological depth and empathetic situations, but like Shakespeare, leavening tragedy with gentle humor.

Sam Underwood plays Nikolai Ivanov with consummate skill, always keeping entirely in character as someone who cannot get out of a chronic depression. A regional councilor, a large landowner who was successful in business, formerly cheery in demeanor, now sunken in debt and his wife is dying of tuberculosis.

What is fascinating about the way Chekhov goes about portraying him is mainly through what those around him say, as well as his own admission. But the remarks are quite contradictory and we are puzzled as to who to believe.

Right in the first scene, the steward of Ivanov’s estate, Mikhail Borkin, acted effusive high energy by Tommy Vance, comes in and jokingly points a pistol at Ivanov’s head, asking him for a few rubles to pay some workers, to which Ivanov replies he has no money. This sets up one of the underlying conflicts that drives the drama. The estate manager has all kinds of schemes in raising money, but Ivanov isn’t interested.

Ivanov’s uncle, Count Matveyi Shabyelski, then enters, given a lively interpretation by Clarke Jordan, who is very cynical about everything in a comically blustery manner. He complains about the two professions, lawyers and doctors, but warns that though lawyers may rob you, doctors can kill you. The country doctor attending Ivanov’s wife, Yevgeni Lvov, very convincingly acted by Jesse Cooper, tells Ivanov that he must take her to Crimea right away for a cure, but Ivanov says she won’t go.

Lvov accuses Ivanov that it’s his own behavior that is killing her. His wife, Anna Petrovna, given a fine performance by Sorcha Anderson, appears and asks her husband to stay home this evening with her, but he insists on going to the neighbors, the Lebedevs. He bluntly tells her that when he is in this miserable state, he cannot love her. After he leaves, Doctor Lvov questions Anna why she stays with her husband. She defends him, saying that he was a remarkable man before he fell into his depression.

The scene shifts to the living room of Pavel Lebedev, chairman of the local council and his wife Zinaida Savishna, both well evoked by Chris Hennesy and Cynthia Seckler respectively. Zinaida complains angrily about Ivanov because he owes her 9,000 rubles and can’t pay her back, while Pavel tries to help Ivanov, even offering him money, but fails to solve his problems.

Their daughter, Sacha, ably acted by Amelia Mason, falls in love

with Ivanov after his wife dies and has nothing but praise for him, even seeking marriage.

Elements are periodically interjected into this increasingly complicated plot by other figures such as Marfusha Babkina, a widow and rich heiress played well by Jessica Goodlin, who wants to marry Count Matveyi Shabyelski in order to have a title; Kosykh, an excise officer David Klein makes believable, who is constantly boring people talking about his latest card game; and Avotyia Nazavovna, described as a woman of no known profession, who Evie Barenberg brings to life. In addition to all their spectrum of opinions on Ivanov’s character coming together, we have his own less than flattering admission of shame at his failures and present condition as a broken man.

Without further following the convoluted interpersonal relationships in this drama, we can stop and see what Chekhov is trying to tell us, namely that we really don’t know our relatives, our close friends, or even ourselves, that we are more alienated than we like to believe. Perhaps Ivanov’s character can be best described by Winston Churchill’s famous statement about Russia as a whole: “It is a riddle wrapped up in a mystery inside an enigma.” (October, 1939)

Come and see Ivanov at the Unadilla Theatre and decide for yourself. Next weekend are the final performances, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

# EVENTS

## Thursday, August 21

**STORY TIME**, 10:30 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, 92 Main St., Hardwick. Books, songs, art activities and more, for ages five and under. Information: jeudevineyouth-librarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

**TAMING OF THE SHREW** presented by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, 7 p.m., Haybarn Theatre on the Creative Campus, Goddard, 123 Pitkin Road, Plainfield. August 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 7 p.m. and August 24 at 2 p.m. Tickets: theaterengine.com/companies/626.

## Saturday, August 23

**KIDS MOVE**, last session with Sarah Hingston Prentiss, 10 to 10:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library. Information: librarydirector@wood-

buryvt.org.

**BOOK SALE**, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Woodbury Community Library. Information: librarydirector@woodburyvt.org.

**HARDWICK TRAILS EVENT**, Searching the Night Woods with Black Light with Joe Nudell, 8 p.m. Information: hardwicktrails.com or find them on Facebook. All are welcome.

## Tuesday, August 26

**TWO-TOWN HONK & WAVE**, with Indivisible Hardwick and Indivisible Calais, 10 a.m., Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main St., Hardwick. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

**CABOT ARTS** presents Marsh Lights, a folk and bluegrass group, 6 p.m., Cabot Village Common, 148 Main St. Food truck is Cabot Village Store. Information: cabotarts.org/

summer-music-series.

## Thursday, August 28

**TREES FOR STREAMS SITE TOUR**, 6 p.m., Craftsbury Village Cemetery, Cemetery Road. Tour will go to three sites in the Upper Black River Watershed. RSVP requested. Sign up at tinyurl.com/TF-STour2025

**BOOKMAKING** with Tule Fogg, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

## Ongoing Events

**PLAINFIELD FARMERS MARKET**, 4 to 7 p.m., Fridays, 13 Mill St. Food and craft vendors, baked goods, fruits and veggies and more.

**HARDWICK PEACE (& Ceasefire) VIGIL**, Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.,

Hardwick Peace Park, S. Main St., Hardwick. (beside the river).

**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

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** practice group, every Thursday, 2 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

**FRIENDS OF THE JEDEVINE LIBRARY**, meets the third Tuesday of every month, 5:15 p.m., at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.

**OLD-TIME JAM SESSION**, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

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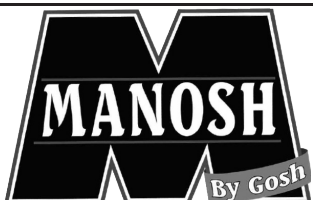
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# EVENTS

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](mailto:director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org).

**EARLY LITERACY STORY-TIME**, Craftsbury Public Library - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: [childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nspauld@gmail.com) and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, [pfixx@pfixx.net](mailto: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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581 or visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://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 begin 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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581 or visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581 or visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://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](mailto: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.

**PILATES**, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common. Mondays (level 1), 9 a.m., Wednesdays (Mat Level 2), 9 a.m.; Fridays (level 3), 9 a.m.

**MENDING MONDAYS**, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

**DANCE**, Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

**COMMFIT**, 6 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

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**CRAFTFIT**, Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

**ALL LEVELS TAIJI**, Tuesdays, 6

p.m. Fridays, Intermediate Taiji, 10:15 a.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

**CHAIR YOGA**, Wednesdays, 9 a.m., Traditional Yoga, 5 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

**CRAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, open 10 a.m. - noon.

**FOOD SHARE**, noon to 2 p.m., United Church of Craftsbury.

**CRAFTSBURY FARMERS MARKET**, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Common.

**LEGOS & LISTENING**, 3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

**TAMING KNOTWEED**, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Offered by the Craftsbury Conservation Commission. Bring water, bug spray, gloves and assorted clippers and shovels.

## Exhibits

**LULU WOOTTON** exhibits her art at the Hardwick Town House, during Thursday evening concerts.

**BEN BARNES**, NEK landscape artist, at the Hardwick Inn, 4 S. Main St. on the third floor, through September.

**PERENNIAL INSPIRATION: Floral Art from a Mother and Daughter**, artwork from Natalya Zahn and Anci Slovak, Woodbury Community Gallery. Exhibit up until the end of August.

**PAINTINGS OF THE LANDSCAPE** and creatures of the Northeast Kingdom by James Hudson, July 22 to September 2, Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

**ART AT THE KENT**, "Mementos Kept, Memories Kindled", curated creations of 22 Vermont artists. Runs every Friday September 12 through Sunday, October 12. A program of Historic Kents' Corner, 7 Old West Church Road, Calais. Information: [kentscorner.org](http://kentscorner.org).

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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The Lamoille Family Center seeks an energetic, organized, and flexible individual to provide full-time case management and crisis intervention services to 12- to 24-year-old youth and young adults. This position works as part of the Youth & Young Adult team, has significant contact with schools, social service partners and the Dept. of Children and Families. An understanding of Positive Youth Development approaches is desired.

This is a rare opportunity to be part of a dynamic, supportive, and team-oriented agency which is committed to collectively integrating its core values of Integrity, Respect, Compassion, Inclusivity, Collaboration and Positivity into its work. Compensation starts at \$43500 plus \$14000 in benefits including vacation time, sick time, and single person health insurance.

**Qualifications:** A bachelor's degree and 1 year work experience with vulnerable youth and their parents/guardians is required. Qualified candidates will have a solid understanding of positive youth development, social work, ability to organize & manage documentation, strong communication skills, and an ability to collaborate with multiple community partners. Candidates should have a knowledge of various youth focused systems of care. Travel throughout the Lamoille Valley, occasional crisis / after hours response, and some evening work required. Since travel throughout the Lamoille Valley is required, a valid Driver's License and reliable, insured transportation are necessary.

Please send cover letter and resume to:  
Lamoille Family Center  
480 Cady's Falls Road Morrisville, VT 05661  
[jhunsberger@lamoillefamilycenter.org](mailto:jhunsberger@lamoillefamilycenter.org)



Some of the Twenty two boats starting in the first race Saturday look for an advantage in very light air. photo by Carolyn King



Sunfish race downwind toward the Lodge Beach buoy Sunday at the first regatta to be held on Caspian Lake in many years. photo by Burr Gray

# Caspian Lake's Sunfish Regatta Drew 25 Boats

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – The first Sunfish regatta in many years drew 25 boats for a five race series over two days last weekend. The Greensboro Association sponsored the Northeast Kingdom Sunfish Regatta, bringing a competitive multi-day series of races back to Caspian Lake for the first time since the now defunct Greensboro Yacht Club held them, likely as late as 1984, under its last Commodore Andy Dales.

Paul Brierre recalls, “I don’t remember any regattas, or much Sunfish racing, from then [1986] on. I think interest in Sunfish racing was declining at that time, partly because Windsurfers had become popular.”

The regatta was conceived by long-time Caspian Lake sailors John Jacobs, Paul Brier, Paul Landon, Peter Osterhout and others who have returned regular Wednesday and Saturday races to the lake over the last several years.

Entrants had the opportunity to join a virtual skippers’ meeting Friday evening, or attend one at the Caspian Lake beach Saturday at 9 a.m., where slightly more than a handful of eager sailors, cups of coffee in hand, mused over the nonexistent wind and a forecast for it to remain light at best..

The first race was rescheduled from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., which still brought light wind and 22 boats to the starting line. John Stone III and Burr Gray served as the race committee, getting the day’s only race off to

a fine start. Mark Daudon led the field into the finish, followed by Scott Slater, Marc Brierre, Paul Brierre and Finn Osterhout.

Sunday brought better wind, allowing the race committee to put on four races. Three of the four races were won by mere feet, with one by just inches. Finishes were close regardless of wind speed, which was moderate in the morning and heavy in the afternoon, highlighting the level of competition on Caspian Lake.

Eleven skippers returned for Sunday’s races and were joined by another two, for a field of 13 starting the regatta’s second race. Marc Brierre finished first, closely followed by Paul Brierre, Slater, Daudon and Jacobs.

In race three, Daudon repeated his race one performance, taking first by just inches over Paul Brierre in a photo finish. Slater, Jacobs and Bart Newhouse led the rest of the 12 boat fleet before the lunch break.

With four races required to score in the regatta, and the wind increasing, just 11 boats started the fourth race. Paul Brierre bested his previous efforts, crossing the finish line ahead of Daudon, Jacobs, Doug McDonald and Slater.

As the wind continued to pick up and rain threatened, just seven boats finished the fifth and final race, with Daudon leading for his third win; Brierre following in second, for his third time; McDonald continuing to better his previous efforts; Slater in fourth and Marc Brierre in fifth.

When all was said and done, Daudon

took the regatta win, Paul Brierre landed in second with the two of them well ahead of Slater in third. All three received engraved cocktail glasses for their efforts and a commemorative shirt that went to each registered racer.

Marc Brierre finished the regatta in fourth and Jacobs in fifth. McDonald, Rusty Newhouse and Bart Newhouse filled out the eight skippers who met the four race minimum to be scored.

Among the 17 skippers who completed less than four racers, Finn Osterhout was the only one to place in the top five of any race. Other racers were Blake Auchincloss, with a 6th place finish in race 2; Chris Phillips, finishing 7th in race 4; Patrick Hewes, 7th in race 1; Paul Landon 8th in race 1; the King family, 9th in race 1 and Chace Newhouse, 9th in race 3. Other competitors were Peter Osterhout, a racer identified only as Liam, Mimi Carter, Cam Dales, Andrew Johnstn, Brittany Peats, Annie and Jenny Paumgarten, a racer identified on the score sheet only as Regatta Cheese and another identified as Two People.

The Caspian Lake Sailing August Race Series finishes this week, Wednesdays and Saturday, with starts at 2 p.m. off Aspenhurst Point, just north of the sunken island. All ages, skill levels and classes of boats are welcome. For up to date announcements relating to weather and race schedule follow the Caspian summer sailing series on Instagram, or call (617) 504 9203.



Sunfish race to windward Sunday afternoon when the wind picked up on Caspian Lake. photo by Burr Gray



Light wind delayed the start of Saturday’s Regatta with only one race held in the afternoon, leading to a close finish. photo by John Jacobs

# Division, league changes on horizon for Hazen

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Divisional and league changes will take effect this coming fall for the Hazen Union girls soccer team and carry right through into the spring for the Wildcat baseball team, brought down by the Vermont Principals Association (VPA) earlier this summer.

The Lady Cat soccer program was a Division IV contender last fall, winning nine games under head coach Jay Terrien, before joining a long list of favorites knocked off by Cinderella champion Richford, who raised the trophy as an unprecedented No. 11 seed. Hazen returns an ultra-athletic and talented group this season under first year head coach Megan Mercier but will move up a weight class under the decision of VPA Assistant Executive Director Lauren Thomas and the sweeping divisional changes brought down by the VPA.

Hazen moves up to Division III this fall and

will battle the likes of powerhouse programs like Windsor, BFA-Fairfax, Fair Haven, and defending champion Stowe. The Lady Cats will continue to play their Mountain League schedule on the pitch this season but will enter the rigors of the Division II-heavy Capital League this winter on the hardwood.

Hazen captured their first Division III basketball state title in over three decades under head coach Randy Lumsden two seasons ago and will remain in the same division this coming winter. Lumsden is off to a historic start to his coaching career at Hazen, logging three straight 20-win seasons, making three trips to the Barre Auditorium, and breaking the school record consecutive win streak set by the legendary Jan Howard and Penny Libercent. After dominating the Mountain League the last three seasons, Lumsden's talented team will get plenty of push back this winter in the highly competitive Capital League.

The Hazen baseball program has been in

full rebuild mode since head coach Spencer Howard stepped away from the program two years ago. The former Wildcat standout led the program to its first Division III title game in nearly two decades in 2022 and developed a star-studded roster led by Tyler Rivard, Lyle Rooney, Jadon Baker and James Montgomery, who secured the first two back-to-back top seeds in the division in program history, winning over 40 games in three seasons. Former Craftsbury Academy standout Shaun Allen has struggled to replicate that magic with Hazen in his first two seasons at the helm but is poised to return a talented roster next spring led by Grayson McNaughten and Owen Skorstad who earned Capital League honors this past spring. Allen's Wildcat program will drop down to Division IV next season for the first time, joining a dwindling division that saw just eight other teams battle Blue Mountain, who went on to win their third straight state title in June.

# Roberts, Rueda split runaway wins

BARRE – A quick night greeted the faithful fans and teams of Thunder Road Speedbowl Thursday night. Even Mother Nature did her fair share to make the mood a little more comfortable after several weeks of dry, heated days.

Following the annual Kids' Poster Contest, the Flying Tigers kicked off feature racing. Mike Billado and Eric Messier made for a spirited race for the lead in the opening laps before the lone caution on lap 13 for Mike MacAskill's front stretch spin into the infield grass. Back under green, Brendan Moodie launched into the lead with another fantastic battle brewing behind him. Throughout the final fifteen laps, Cameron Ouellette, Mike Billado and Cooper French ran side-by-side and all around each other before coming under the twin checkered flags. Brendan Moodie took down Flying Tiger win No. 22 over Ouellette and French with point leader Sam Caron taking sixth.

The Street Stocks went off without a single caution in their 25-lap trophy dash. Connor Rueda shot off from outside polesitter Walker Fitch and never took his size six shoe off the gas pedal

to take the win over the pair of eights in Jaiden Del Toro and Paul Rocheleau. While there was no drama on the track, post-race technical inspection changed the narrative. Both Rocheleau and Del Toro were disqualified for illegal suspension, similar to Nate Brien's DQ at the Street Stock Special, giving Tommy Smith the runner-up spot and Derek Farnham third.

The Late Models were similarly devoid of any on track drama in their own green-to-checkered, 14-minute 50 lap main event! Washington's Chris Roberts flew from the pole starting spot to take his first win of the year, after reportedly selling his ride in the pits earlier in the afternoon, but all eyes were on the battle for second. Arguably called by officials for the Race-of-the-Year candidate, Darrell Morin and Justin Prescott fought tooth and nail for fifty grueling laps back and forth across the start/finish line, swapping second-place again and again. In the final laps, a slippery affair allowed Brandon Lanphear to slide by the battle and take second away as Morin settled for a back-to-back third-place run.



After losing by three one-thousandths of a second just one week ago, Barre-boy Connor Rueda made right on himself to take the Street Stock win.

photo by Mark A. Cote

The Metals Road Warriors rounded out the flash-bang evening as polesitter Sierra Wilds brought out just the second, and final, caution in feature racing with her lap one spin to the infield and mechanical woes that followed under yellow flag conditions. Back under green, Bert Duffy showed the early way before Eddie Thompson motored around to lead lap five and never looked back to take down his first career Road Warrior win over Mike Slingerland and Taylor Sayers.

## UNOFFICIAL RESULTS (local competitors)

### Late Models – (50 Laps)

4. 01VT, Stephen Martin.

Craftsbury Common

17. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott

### Flying Tigers – (40 Laps)

1. 15NH. Brendan Moodie, Wolcott

24. 22VT. Travis Patnoe, Wolcott

### Street Stocks – (25 Laps)

5. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

12. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield

17. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield

### Road Warriors – (20 Laps)

DNS 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield



In Late Model Victory Lane were (from left) Darrell Morin (3rd), winner Chris Roberts and Brandon Lanphear (2nd).

photo by Mark A. Cote



First-time Thunder Road winner, Eddie Thompson, celebrates in victory lane on Thursday.

photo by Mark A. Cote

# Caledonia United Soccer back in familiar position

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – After two years of going up a division for the varsity girls program and one season for the boys, the Vermont Principals' Association have slated Caledonia United back into Division IV for the upcoming soccer season.

Head coach Spencer Morse will take on his third season leading the girls program this fall for Cal United, a three-school cooperative made up Twinfield, Cabot, and Danville student-athletes. In their inaugural season, Morse led the program to its first ever Division III playoff win, upsetting Lake Region on the road. They had more success last fall, posting a winning record in the rugged Mtn. League at 7-6-1, while securing their first home playoff match in the Division III state tournament. Cal United fell to Woodstock in penalty kick shootout thriller. The timing of returning to

Division IV for Morse and his program couldn't be better. His team will be challenged to fill the holes left by a talented senior class, led by two-time Vermont All-State selection Sloane Morse. Cal United enters a wide-open division that saw eleventh seeded Richford knock off two of the top three seeds to cap off an improbable championship run last November.

On the boys side, head coach Peter Stratman welcomes a return to Division IV for his talented Cal United team after another double-digit win season in 2024. Stratman's program earned their first ever Division III playoff win last fall in their inaugural season, earning the #4 seed in the state tournament. Fair Haven ended their playoff run in the quarterfinals. Cal United will exit a powerhouse division dominated by Stowe, Peoples Academy, and defending champion Green Mountain in recent years. Division

IV has plenty of soccer pedigree with the likes of Twin Valley and defending champion Winooski, but Stratman returns a treasure trove of talent on the pitch this fall and will likely be a title contender. Stratman has won nearly 60 matches since taking over the reins at Twinfield-Cabot six years ago, including a pair of trips to the Final Four. He lost only two seniors to graduation from a team that tied a program record with 11 wins, while navigating the rigors of a highly competitive Mtn. League. Eli Russell and Omar Miksic-Knibb earned First Team All-Mtn. League honors for their outstanding seasons, with Russell also nabbing a VT All-State selection. Miksic-Knibb tallied a team leading 18 goals as a freshman.

Practices around the state are already underway, with the high school soccer season set to start in less than two weeks.

# Woodard makes it three-for-three to claim Triple Crown

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – Saturday night brought another stellar racing program to White Mountain Motorsports Park with the first champion of 2025 crowned on the highbanks alongside the annual Pro-4 Modified visit for a 30-lap sprint.

The Kids Division kicked off the night's program with young Cameron Beattie launching from the pole position. Behind him, Colton Williams and Joshua Aldrich battled side-by-side throughout the 15-lap feature event as Beattie was within car lengths of the final car under the checkered flags. In the final moments, a three-wide dash to the start-finish line saw Owen Dupuis just barely edge Williams for second in a photo finish.

The Strictly Minis saw a pair of Jason's in J.J. Goodbout and Jason Ball lead the field to green for their 25-lap trophy dash. Goodbout set the

early pace but a bang mid-race slide from low to high insured Donnie Baumgardner the fast lane and the win with McKenna Merchant also sneaking by Goodbout to finish second.

The return of the New England Pro-4 Modifieds saw fifteen of these scaled down, four-cylinder open wheelers drive up from Southern New England to compete on the White Mountain quarter-mile. Randy Clark in the white and black No. 93 was quick to lead the fray but a couple quick-spin cautions and the exploding power-plant under the Brandon LaVoie machine quickly brought Rob Richardi Jr to the front. Richardi kept his Navy Blue No. 0 car at the front to the very end to claim his 60th Pro-4 Modified victory over Clark and Doug Meservey Sr.

Just two quick-spin cautions slowed the pace of the Late Model 50-lap showdown on Saturday



The view for much of Saturday's Central Asphalt Paving Championship 75 was the side-by-side battle between Milton, Vermont's Sam Caron (07VT) and Wolcott, Vermont's Brendan Moodie (beside Caron).

Johnny Racer photo

night. Last week's winner Keegan Lamson was back in the limelight out front even while under heavy pressure from Reilly Lanphear, Mike Jurkowski and Beetle Bailey. As the cream rose to the top, Lamson had a rearview mirror full of Kyle Goodbout and Jamie Swallow Jr. as the three battled hard around the North Woodstock bullring. In the end, Lamson ended up sandwiched between the two across the stripe with Goodbout claiming the win and Swallow rounding out the podium.

Dustin Jackson won the first 15-lap segment for the Ammonoosuc Late Models but it was segment two that got things cooking. Jackson followed Tim Paquette and Nick Miller across the line with all three earning four points and the tie broken by finishing order in the final segment with Paquette earning his first win of the year.

The Flying Tigers rounded out the evening with the final leg of the Triple Crown. Luke Peters and Brendan Moodie shared the

front row on the initial green flag start but it was all Sam Caron and Moodie from then on out. The two raced side-by-side for the first half of the 75-lap affair as Triple Crown point leader Jason Woodard made his way from a seventh-place start. Woodard began battling with Caron with twenty-five laps remaining and had the lead with fifteen to go. A pair of flat right front tires for Peters and Mike Martin were the lone caution flags and weren't enough to slow Jason Woodard from the clean sweep and the championship over Caron and Moodie.

### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

#### Flying Tigers – (75 Laps)

- 3. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott, Vt.
- 11. 23VT, Matt Potter, Marshfield, Vt.
- 16. 01VT, Michael Martin, Craftsbury Common, Vt.

#### Late Models – (50 Laps)

- 7. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick, Vt.

#### Kids Division – (15 Laps)

- 6. 23, Madison Potter, Marshfield, Vt.



Waterbury's Jason Woodard prevailed to take the win and a clean sweep of all three Central Asphalt Paving extra-distance affairs, seen here celebrating with crew and family in White Mountain Motorsports Park victory lane.

Johnny Racer photo



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