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Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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## Civic Standard plans to move across street



The Civic Standard completed the purchase of its new home last Thursday, in the building to the near left on S. Main St. that recently housed the Flower Basket and before that Buffalo Mountain Co-op. To the near right is the former Hardwick Gazette building that has been the home of The Civic Standard since 2022.

courtesy photo

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Last Thursday, The Civic Standard announced, “we closed on our new home at 39 S. Main St.! The purchase came after months of deliberation amongst Civic staff and our board of directors, and importantly, the generous contributions of early donors to our fundraising campaign.”

The Civic Standard has occupied its present address, directly across the street from its new home, since 2022, when it was helped to begin operation when it received an ARPA grant from the Hardwick Select Board.

The Civic Standard has been creating events since its inception, offering live theater created for the Hardwick community and performed by local amateurs and free weekly meals. It has facilitated teenage collective organizing, held karaoke nights, mending circles and town-wide dances as it works to build a common culture.

Upcoming events on its calendar this week included a Death Cafe, Monday morning, Dungeons and Dragons that afternoon, its usual Wednesday supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by an old-time junket jam session, skateboarding at the fire station’s mini-ramp after school Friday and a Shut Up and Write group coming this Sunday morning at 10.

“Over the coming weeks and months, we’ll begin turning this new space into a home,” wrote The Civic Standard in the notice announcing its purchase of the building

“We’ll start with some cleaning, then take on the exciting challenge of renovating the kitchen and painting both the interior and exterior of the building. There’s also plenty of landscaping to be done at the back of the building, so stay tuned for details on a workday coming soon!”

Before the purchase, another message to area residents noted, “This milestone comes

See STANDARD, 5



Streamers burst from the 26-foot red giraffe puppets, from the production of “Les Girafes,” created by Compagnie OFF of France held at Hazen Union School, September 5.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## NEKCV moves closer to universal service

by Paul Fixx

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – The NEKCV Communication Union District (CUD), formed by the merger of NEK Broadband and CV Fiber has used ARPA funds to connect users in almost half its 72 member towns, Last week it moved closer to its goal of bringing universal broadband internet service to its member towns with the state broadband board’s provisional approval of a \$93 million BEAD grant that’s now pending federal approval as part of the state’s overall \$180 million proposal.

The NEK Broadband map shows service now available in Hardwick on West Hill Road and Bridgeman Hill Road, extending into Greensboro around Caspian Lake and toward Craftsbury, as well as in the southeast corner of Hardwick, along Vt. Rte. 15, Brown Farm Road and Hopkins Hill Road. Service is anticipated in 2026 along Center Road and Hardwick Street, extending into Greensboro, pending the federal approval of BEAD funding.

A section of Greensboro from Young Road along Vt. Rte. 16 to the area around Gebbie Corner will be covered by that same BEAD funding, with the map showing service anticipated in 2026.

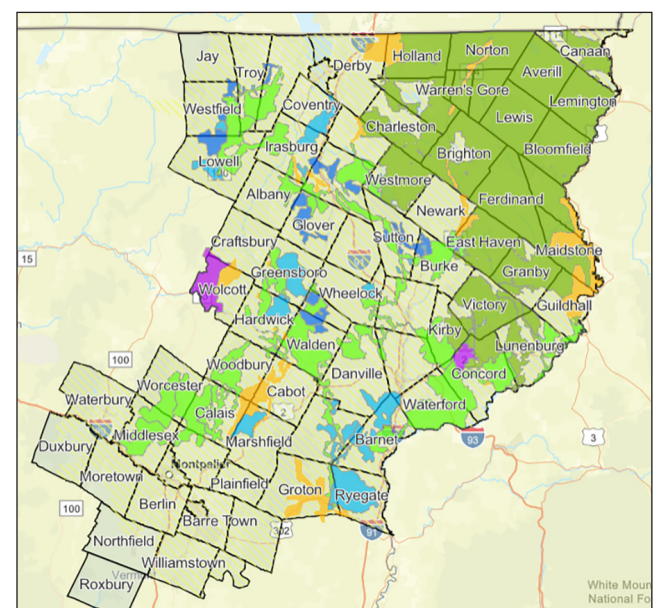
Some northwestern areas of Stannard have service now, according to the map, which shows other areas in that section of town anticipated to have service before the end of this year, along with a neighboring section of northern Walden. Much of Walden along VT. Rte. 15, and

### Vermont broadband board outlines major investment in NEK

by Theo Wells-Spackman, VTDigger

VERMONT – Vermont is moving closer to universal broadband internet access, officials say, as the state’s Community

See INVESTMENT, 5



Internet service, indicated by green shading, is now available in more than 30 of the 72 member NEKCV towns, with areas in light, dark blue and olive green anticipated later this year and into 2026. Purple areas have been funded, but not yet scheduled and funding is being sought for other areas.

map courtesy NEKCV website

## Board holds first Sept. meeting

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – Only three board members were present at the September 4 regular select board meeting, being Shari Cornish, Ceilidh Galloway-Kane and Danny Hale. Town Manager David Upson and Business Manager Casey Rowell were also present. To begin the meeting Upson’s report contained a few updates about a number of projects.

All the groups associated with American Legion Post 7 including The Sons of the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution will be partnering to take on

See BOARD, 5

See SERVICE, 5

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# POLICE REPORT

## Vermont State Police Impaired driver

CALAIS – On September 5, at approximately 8:14 a.m., troopers of the Berlin barracks received a report of an impaired driver in Calais. The operator was identified as Sheila Rowell. While speaking with troopers, Rowell displayed signs of impairment. Rowell was

taken into custody for suspicion of DUI and was transported to Vermont State Police Berlin Barracks for processing. Rowell was issued a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court to answer the above charge and released.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Thirteen people used AWARE services between August 31 and September 7. 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).

## Hardwick Rescue Monthly Statistics

AREA TOWNS – From 6 a.m., August 1, to 6 a.m., September 1, Hardwick Rescue Squad received a total of 88 requests for service. The primary dispatch reasons were for general illness and motor vehicle or traffic collisions.

The breakdown by town includes Hardwick – 52; Craftsbury – 14; Greensboro – 9; Woodbury – 6; Wolcott – 3; Walden – 2; Stannard – 1; Elmore – 1; Wheelock – 0.

Hardwick Rescue provided mutual aid to Morristown EMS once during the month. There were seven separate incidents during the month when two ambulance crews were needed for simultaneous calls in the area. Four of those incidents were covered by a second ambulance from Hardwick, while three other incidents were supported

by a mutual aid agency. Sixty-seven percent of all calls required transport to the hospital.

Hardwick Rescue's call volume in 2015 was 498. There have been over 700 incidents so far this year, with four months remaining in the year.

Hardwick Rescue is a private, non-profit EMS agency that provides primary ambulance coverage for parts of eight towns. Rotating crews are covered by three full-time EMS members, four per diem employees, and a contingent of 20 regularly scheduled volunteers. Additional volunteer members support crew needs and first response in outlying communities. More information on the agency and how to volunteer can be found at [hardwickrescue.org](http://hardwickrescue.org).



September 10 - September 16

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\$9.99 365 s.f.

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Pillsbury Ref. Pie Crust  
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Green Mtn. Greek Yogurt  
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Pictsweet Steam Vegetables  
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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Department Disorderly conduct, Theft, Motor Vehicle Crash



An accident in East Hardwick on August 31, involved the vehicle seen on the lawn that didn't stop for the stop sign on Main St. and the vehicle seen here crosswise on Vt. Rte. 16 with a crumpled front. Several neighbors reported hearing the crash and expressed concern for an intersection they see as dangerous. *courtesy photo*

**HARDWICK** – On August 22, at approximately 2:31 p.m., Hardwick Police Department (HPD) received a report of a retail theft at Poulin Lumber. They reported a male had taken \$500 of wire and left in a black Honda. The

investigation revealed the suspect was Travis Daigle. Daigle admitted to the theft and turned the wire over to Hardwick Police. Daigle was cited to appear in Caledonia County court on October 6.

On August 24, at

### Hardwick Police Department Media Log

August 31: Accident - Property Damage Only, Main St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist - Public, Vt. Rte. 16.; Citizens Dispute, Evergreen Manor Dr.; Citizens Dispute, Spruce Dr.

September 1: Suspicious Event, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Theft - Automobile, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15.

September 2: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Theft - Automobile; Trespassing, Mill St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Intoxication, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Sex Offender Registry, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist - Public, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

September 3: Directed Patrol, S. Main St., Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16.; Assist - Public, Chapin Lane; Fingerprints, High St.; Welfare Check, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Citizen Dispute, Maple St.; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Assist - Agency, Vt. Rte. 14.

September 4: Alarm, Vt. Rte. 15; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; School

Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Drugs, Wolcott St.; Assist - Agency, Main St.; VIN verification, Craftsbury Rd.; Found Property, High St.; Accident - TCNR, S. Main St.; Medical, Maple St.; Found Property, Vt. Rte. 15 W.

September 5: Citizen Dispute, Maple St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fraud, Woodbury St.; VIN Verification, Craftsbury Rd.; Fingerprints, High St.; Medical, S. Main St.; Medical, Maple St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Foot Patrol, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15, Traffic Stop, W. Church St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Evergreen Manor Dr.; Animal Problem, Vt. Rte. 15; Wanted Person, Craftsbury Rd.

September 6: Transport, High St.; Assist - Agency, Vt. Rte. 14 S.; Citizen Dispute, Hays Dr.; Assist - Public, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Marshall St.; Trespassing, Dale St.; Medical, Lower Cherry St.; School Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

September 7: Mental Health Incident, Elm St.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Welfare Check, Depot St.; TRO/FRO Service, Hays Dr.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Dead Body, High St.; Citizens Dispute, Dale St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Brown Farm Rd.; Suspicious Event, High St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 14 S.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

approximately 2:06 p.m., Todd R. Luce, of Hardwick, was taken into custody for intoxication and disorderly conduct at Jiffy Mart convenience store. Luce was non-compliant and actively resisted arrest. Luce was ultimately taken into physical custody by HPD and transported to Northeast Regional Correctional Complex for detoxification. On September 2, Luce was issued criminal citations by HPD for the offenses of Disorderly Conduct, Lewd and Indecent Conduct, Resisting Arrest, Criminal Threatening, and Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer with Bodily Fluids. Luce was cited to appear before Caledonia County Superior Court; Criminal Division for the above listed offenses on Monday, Oct. 27.

August 31, at 10:56 a.m., Hardwick Rescue, Hardwick Fire and HPD responded to Vt. Route 16 at Main Street in East Hardwick for a motor vehicle crash with possible injuries.

Investigations determined that a 1986 Camaro IROC Z-28 being operated by 69 year old Howard Hill of East Hardwick had collided with a 2013 Toyota Venza being operated by 68 year old Kevin Kelly of Exeter, R.I. Kelly had been traveling south east on Main Street and had entered Vt. Route 16 where Howard Hill had been traveling southwest on Vt. Route 16 and had the right of way. All operators declined transport to and treatment at the hospital, and any injuries were not life threatening. Neither operator was impaired and speed was not a factor in this crash.

September 1, at approximately 5:59 p.m., HPD received a report of a stolen vehicle from Jiffy

Mart at 107 Mill Street in Hardwick. Erick Sepulveda reported that his 2015 Kia Soul was taken by a female while he was in the store. Sepulveda advised that the vehicle was heading east when it left the parking lot. A search of the area was conducted, and the vehicle was located at the D&L store in East Hardwick. The female operator was with the vehicle and was identified as Shyann MacNeal of Craftsbury. MacNeal was taken into custody without incident and was given a citation to appear in Caledonia County Court on October 10.

On September 5, at 8:59 p.m., at 2259 Craftsbury Road, Hardwick, Allison Lane, (homeless), was taken into custody for an active Arrest on Warrant for Unlawful Trespass. The warrant was issued by Bennington County Superior Court; Criminal Division. Lane was transported to Northeast Regional Correctional Complex without incident, and cited to appear in the above named court in Bennington on Monday, Sept. 8, at 12:30 p.m.

On September 8, Christina Gifford reported her red GMC truck was struck by another vehicle while it was parked in the Tops Friendly Market parking lot. This occurred between 9 to 9:20 a.m., on the same date. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Hardwick Police Department.

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.



Emergency vehicles and first-responders gather at the scene of a two-vehicle crash where Main St. in East Hardwick intersects Vt. Rte. 16. Since the accident a new stop ahead sign has been placed on Main St. well before the stop sign; a white line has been placed across the eastbound lane there, before Rte. 16; and brush has been trimmed on the west side of Rte. 16 north and south of Main St. *courtesy photo*



Burdock Acres, on Hopkins Hill Road in Hardwick, teamed up with Willey's Store and Highland Lodge in Greensboro to host a fundraiser, Saturday, Aug. 23. Fifty percent of proceeds from the sale of sunflowers and food, that included smoked chicken, pork or sausage, coleslaw and chips, along with donations, went to help Alyssa Pickett and her family photo by Paul Fixx

## WEATHER WATCH

### Cool, dry conditions persist for another week

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Some rain appeared in our neck of the woods over the weekend, thanks to an upper-level disturbance that brought a round of showers and thunderstorms midday Saturday and followed through with some sporadic showers on Sunday afternoon. Total rainfall in East Hardwick amounted to 1.11", with nearby reporting stations within a couple tenths of an inch of that figure. This rainfall comes just as some areas south and east of Caledonia and Lamoille Counties escalated into the severe drought stage.

In the wake of the disturbance, clearing is evident over the northeast, with radiational cooling on Monday night dropping low temperatures into the upper 30s. Plainfield reported a low of 37 degrees. Our low in East Hardwick was 40. These conditions are a reminder of how close we are getting to the end of the growing season. Our median date of the first fall freeze is September 21, according to the National Weather Service.

Dry and cool conditions remain the rule for the rest of the week, as a dome of high pressure persists over the northeast. A dry cold front crosses the northern counties on Thursday afternoon with a drop in temperatures again starting Thursday night as clear skies persist. Moving into the weekend, an upper-level low moving through central Quebec may bring a few more clouds and just the off chance of a few showers Saturday night into Sunday morning. Otherwise, the weekend looks cool and dry. No substantial rainfall is in sight, unfortunately, so drought conditions will not improve much. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny. High: 74. Low: 45. Calm wind.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny. High: 73. Low: 38. Wind northwest 5 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny. High: 68. Low: 42. Calm wind.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with increasing clouds late. High: 71. Low: 48. Wind south 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny. Isolated morning showers. High: 68. Low: 46. Calm wind.

# Calderwood

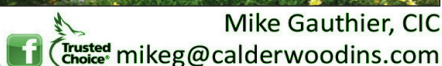
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Register at: [bikereg.com](http://bikereg.com)

Event name: Copley Gravel Moxie



## Investment

### Continued From Page One

Broadband Board released a proposal last week to allocate nearly \$180 million in federal, state and private funds for broadband infrastructure projects.

The bulk of the funds have been made available to Vermont through the federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment, or BEAD, program. If the proposal is accepted by the federal government, rates of access to broadband internet will rise to 99% statewide through these grants, according to Community Broadband Board Executive Director Christine Hallquist.

The board, which was formed in 2021 to advance broadband access in the state, has faced a number of challenges in crafting the proposal, including bureaucratic delays and the high inherent costs of rural broadband construction. But local leaders say the infrastructure this funding will provide, if approved by the federal government, will have far-reaching benefits for rural communities across the state, and particularly in the Northeast Kingdom.

The timeline for greenlighting BEAD funding has been complicated.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration under President Donald Trump changed its requirements for state proposals in June, giving states just 90 days to submit revised materials. Vermont's broadband board made its proposal available for public comment starting last week, and the federal deadline for submission is Thursday.

The board's plan seeks to use about \$119 million in federal BEAD funding to deploy infrastructure, just over half what the state was originally allocated by the program in 2023. There has been no guidance from the Trump administration about how or if the state will be allowed to use the remaining funds.

In the wake of that policy change, Elon Musk's company SpaceX applied for its Starlink service to be the provider for essentially every Vermont address that the federal grants were intended to cover, according to Hallquist.

But Hallquist said the technology simply doesn't work very well for many places in Vermont when accounting for factors like foliage cover and the state's irregular, mountainous landscape.

Fiber-optic internet is the

clear focus of the board's proposal, accounting for roughly 90% of the nearly 15,000 BEAD locations covered by the grant. Satellites will cover less than 7% of locations.

In an ideal world, Hallquist said, broadband internet would be guaranteed to all residents, regardless of price, but that she saw the logic of cost-cutting by transferring a small number of marginal, expensive sites in rural areas to satellite coverage.

The Community Broadband Board has made NEK Broadband the largest provisional grant recipient in the proposal by far, with an allocation of over \$93 million. The Northeast Kingdom provider, which is run as a communications union district (a municipal body formed to advance local internet infrastructure), serves 72 towns in the region.

Christa Shute, executive director of NEK Broadband, said her organization's service area includes more than half of the state's eligible households underserved by internet. The funding would

help build over a thousand miles of fiber optic infrastructure, reaching nearly 10,000 addresses, she said.

NEK Broadband offers reduced rates and free installation for qualifying low-income customers, which Alger has seen make a "tremendous impact" for her clients.

Ellie de Villiers, president of the Vermont Communications Union District Association and executive director of Maple Broadband, another provisional BEAD recipient, said she was glad the majority of the contracts had gone to district companies laying terrestrial technology.

The cost-driven language of the new telecommunications administration rules had made de Villiers worried that smaller or publicly-owned companies wouldn't be able to compete with larger for-profit corporations, she said. De Villiers called the level of resourcing that will potentially be gained by Vermont communications union districts "very good news."

## Board

### Continued From Page One

pointing and the planting for the new flower garden at Memorial Park.

Beverly Shepard, on behalf of the Catholic Daughters, has announced plans to give the town a new sign for Fairview Cemetery as a gift. This sign would be placed on the brick towers at the beginning of the drive. Both projects are still in the planning stages, so more details will come.

All pedestrian bridge documents signed by the town and the contractor, CCS Construction, have been sent to the USDA. The next step is a review of the documents so a notice to proceed can be issued. The hope is to have a pre-construction meeting in the near future.

Road Foreman Tom Fadden said they've been holding off on grading, as the ground is not moist enough. The crew is working on a hazard mitigation project on Tucker Hill Road. The crew completed ditch work and laid extra brick up there as well. Gravel crushing in the town pit will begin this week.

Police Chief Mike Henry informed the board that level-two Officer Joe Donna will begin working full time. Ariana Morris will be attending the police academy this week, so another level-two officer will be brought on full-time in the near future for her field training. Morris will attend the level three academy in February. Ending the discussion, the board unanimously approved the appointment of

Morris as a part-time officer to the department.

Library Trustee Chair Daphne Kalmar was present to request the select board authorize \$20,000 of library capital funds to spend towards the balance of the project. Kalmar said, "The numbers at the library are double and the visitors to the library, and the meeting [room] is very popular and the summers are steadier, it's very exciting." Additionally, an application has been submitted to the Vermont Community Foundation, who will then distribute the information to potential donors and possible grantees. Shari Cornish made a motion, which ultimately passed after some discussion.

In other business, the board approved the change of job title from business manager to finance director.

The board discussed town meeting 2026 and how to encourage more attendance. Providing childcare, adjusting the meeting time, or possibly the day, was suggested. A meeting on Saturday and polling on a different day was discussed too.

The board heard from Danny Hale representing Hale Transport LLC about a new economic development loan request. Hale presented his application for a shop, to provide maintenance and repairs for his equipment, as well as hopefully to find an apprentice later on. The economic development fund is a rotating loan, the goal being to create jobs and businesses in Hardwick. The current loan balance is around \$300,000.

## Service

### Continued From Page One

extending to Dow's Crossing and North Walden, shows service available now.

Service is now available in Woodbury along Vt. Rte. 14 into much of Calais and extending into the northern section of East Montpelier, according to the map. Construction is underway in western sections of Woodbury and Calais, and bordering eastern sections of Cabot and Marshfield, extending to U.S. Rte. 2 and Cabot Road, with service anticipated later this year.

The map shows construction

underway in one portion of Wolcott and funded in another, both areas extend into southern areas of Craftsbury not yet covered by Kingdom Fiber there.

Portions of some towns in the area are already served by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) with fiber and/or cable, thus not a priority for NEKCV service until all unserved areas are covered.

The NEK Broadband service area map is at [nekbroadband.org/map](http://nekbroadband.org/map).

Paul Fixx serves on the NEKCV Governing Board and Executive Committee.

realize our goal of blossoming into this new home, creating bolder and more expansive programming for years to come, and continuing to serve the citizens of Hardwick and our neighboring communities."

The organization said it has created a New Home Fund, with a goal of raising \$400,000, to cover costs that come with its move, including costs to prepare the space and monthly payments toward a Vermont Community Loan Fund mortgage.

They said they are already more than halfway to the goal.

Learn more about the new project and how to donate to the New Home Fund at [thecivicstandard.org/a-new-home](http://thecivicstandard.org/a-new-home).

## Standard

### Continued From Page One

after countless conversations with all kinds of neighbors and local experts, from appraisers, to river scientists, to the kids who regularly stop by for popsicles. Every thoughtful idea shared over coffee or a community supper helped inform our decision to move.

"In this new building, we imagine family-style meals at long dining tables, more accessible live music performances, an upstairs café run by local teenagers after school, a year-round costume library, ample studio space for the creation of new shows, and on goes the list of dreams.

With your support we can fully

# Circus Smirkus, Wonder Arts receive VEC grants

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – The latest round of Vermont Electric Co-op’s Community Fund grants benefited two Greensboro organizations, with \$500 going to help support the Circus Smirkus Camp Road Show program and \$936 going to support the Rural Arts Collaborative (RAC) program “Across the Page: A Summer Art Exchange Between Generations”

“Road show provides a free, outdoor community circus experience to kids, families and seniors across the NEK and Central Vermont,” said Rachel Schiffer, Circus Smirkus executive and artistic director. “The VEC grant allowed us to expand our summer time community access to offer 25 free summer performances.

“One of my favorite things about Road Show is that it brings circus to the community and shares moments of smiles, joy and circus fun with audiences who might not get to see a circus otherwise.

Across the Page is a five-week intergenerational art exchange program between children attending the RAC WonderKids Outdoor Adventure Camp and seniors and people with disabilities living in the Vermont Electric Coop service territory. “They are brought together through the joyful exchange of handmade artwork and personal messages,” said RAC Executive

Director Sarah Mutrux.

“Though the two groups never meet in person, they connect through thoughtful, art-based correspondence, facilitated by a RAC courier, who hand-delivers the artwork between the facilities and our summer camp in Hardwick.”

The program began with RAC delivering an Art Box to the Union House in Glover and Northeast Kingdom Home Care and the Meeting Place in Newport. Inside the box were materials for creating artwork, and a prompt for the seniors. Instructions invited the seniors and Meeting Place participants to create artwork that included their first name or nickname, a question for a child and a request for a camper to draw a specific object, animal or scene.

When they were done, the RAC courier retrieved the box and delivered it to the camp. Campers read the Art Mail and selected someone to correspond with. To respond they could create a drawing of the requested item, or something else if they were unsure how to draw it, write an answer to the senior’s question, then share their own nickname and an optional question.

Responses were put back into the box and, now full of the replies, it was delivered back to the seniors/participants, and the cycle continued.

The exchange cycle repeated



Participants in the Blue Group at WonderKids Summer Enrichment Program select Art Mail from seniors to reply to with letters or artwork.

courtesy photo

for five weeks, with a new group of campers participating each week. Seniors were welcome to participate in one week or all five, continuing their creative conversation with new young artists.

“Each exchange is an invitation to wonder, reflect, and share, fostering connection across generations through creativity, play and kindness. With RAC’s support and hand delivery, Across the Page helps strengthen community ties while nurturing the expressive voices of youth and elders alike,” said Mutrux

Morgan Mercier who

facilitated this program said, “The connections that were made felt really meaningful, and I’d love to see the program grow next year.”

Since it made its first donation in 2015, the VEC Community Fund has made over 220 separate grants to non-profit organizations in the VEC region totaling \$170,000. The fund is supported by about 2,500 co-op members who voluntarily round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, donate their member capital, or make one-time donations. The funds are entirely separate from money collected by VEC for electricity sales.

# Newport bank executives work on duplex home

by Jennifer Bayles

GREENSBORO BEND – Progress continues on the Greensboro Bend duplex housing project of the Greensboro Initiative Central Vermont Habitat

for Humanity (CVHfH). On Friday, Sept. 5, eight members of Community National Bank’s executive team visited from Newport, where they spent the entire day volunteering on the building site. They worked under



The Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity Greensboro Initiative construction crew in Greensboro Bend, Sept. 5, included area residents and Community National Bank (CNB) executives from Newport, (from left), front row, Chris Caldwell (CNB), Rick Ely, Kent Hansen, Billy Hardy and Justin Bourgeois (CNB), back row from CNB, Tracy Roberts, Louise Bonvechio, Kayla Wright, Regan Howard, Kimico Perry and Kelly Paul. photo by Karen Gowen



Site Supervisor Billy Hardy (left) oversees Community National Bank executives from Newport working on the Habitat for Humanity duplex home being constructed in Greensboro Bend, Sept. 5. photo by Karen Gowen

the supervision of Site Supervisor Bill Hardy and were joined by several Greensboro Initiative steering committee members.

“We are very grateful to Chris Caldwell and his leadership team,” commented Kent Hansen, Chairman of the Greensboro Initiative and a member of CVHfH’s Board of

Directors. “We could not have been more impressed by their hard work and effectiveness as they constructed outside decking, progressed the completion of interior stud work, dug trenches and moved rocks. We always welcome volunteers, but this really was a first-class effort all the way around!”



MacWorthy trots ahead winning the opening harness race with Finnick close behind in second place, at the Orleans County Fair, September 4, photo by Raymonda Parchment



MacWorthy takes the win with Finnick close behind, careening around the dirt track during the opening harness race at the Orleans County Fair last Thursday. photo by Raymonda Parchment

## Fair opening day features harness, pig races

by Raymonda Parchment

BARTON – Opening day brought harness and pig races to the 158th edition of the Orleans County Fair, along with a wide variety of family friendly

fun and ample opportunity to see the county's best livestock and agriculture on display, Thursday, September 4.

The opening Curtis Sargent Memorial harness race saw a lightning fast victory for

MacWorthy, with Finnick coming in just hoofbeats away in second place. Horses Rose Goldstein and Millie Maguire took a respective third and fourth place, with the race finishing in 2 minutes and 12 seconds. The only fair in the State of Vermont that offers harness racing, Orleans had a record 29 entries this year.

Family friendly fun included carnival rides once again brought by Smokey's Greater Show's. Hypnotist Catherine Hinkley and Cooks Racing Pigs performed throughout the day as well.

The 2 p.m. dairy goat show began the daily livestock competitions, as seasonal calves and the county's chosen cattle were meticulously washed and clipped in preparation for the open dairy show Friday at 9

a.m., the Saturday youth dairy at show 10 a.m., as well as the open horse show, Sunday 8 a.m., followed by the youth cow costume parade class at 10 a.m. The 4H youth sheep show will complete the weekend's livestock competitions.

The noon pig race saw unbelievably fast pot-bellied pigs careening around a sawdust track, to the delight of many onlookers. Screaming Yellow Oinker took a quick victory, with Speed Racer Red running behind for a close second. Go Go Green and Blue-By-You came in third and fourth, respectively.

Evening entertainment included the Black Cat Hell Drivers, putting on an automotive stunt thrill show before the working steers at 6 p.m., and the ATV and dirt bike rodeo at 7 p.m.



Screaming Yellow Oinker of Cooks Racing Pigs presses forward to maintain their lead in the noon pot-bellied pig race on opening day of the Orleans County Fair, with Speed Racer Red overtaking Blue-By-You for a second place finish. photo by Raymonda Parchment



Members of the Hardwick Trails Committee, (from left) Ron Wiesen, Wayne Renaud, Nancy Shepard, Sean McCarthy, Al Cockrell, David Shepard and Dave Mitchell, dedicated the Billings Road trailhead and parking area recently to Joe and Joanne McCarthy.

photo by Norma Spaulding

## Burns appointed Caledonia County state's attorney

MONTPELIER – Governor Phil Scott has announced the appointment of Claire Burns as Caledonia County State's Attorney.

She has served as interim state's attorney since August 1, following former State's Attorney Jessica Zaleski's departure. Vermont governors appoint state's attorney vacancies based on the recommendations of county political parties. Burns was recommended to the governor by the Caledonia County Republican Committee.

Burns joined the Caledonia County State's Attorney's office as a deputy state's attorney in

August, 2021, after three years working as a recovery services clinician at the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital. Burns has worked in public defenders' offices in Colorado and California, representing individuals at all stages of criminal proceedings, including those facing deportation at the Aurora ICE Processing Center, as well as at a juvenile detention center in Colorado, providing group and individual therapy. Burns received a J.D. from the University of Colorado Law School and an M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University.

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# Livestock farmers hurting as drought persists

by Austyn Gaffney, VTDigger

VERMONT – George Foster, a third-generation farmer in Middlebury, cut corn on a neighbor's farm on Tuesday to help feed his 950 cows after this summer's drought shrunk his own crop.

The 2,000 tons of additional feed cost roughly \$100,000, Foster said, not including the labor of harvesting the corn and trucking it home to his dairy farm. The last time the 2,300-acre farm had to buy extra feed was in 1965, Foster said.

The U.S. Drought Monitor, a national drought mapping project out of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, shows that all of Vermont is in a moderate or severe drought, as of Sept. 2. For farmers, that's making a difficult dairy business even more challenging as they're forced to haul water and buy feed to keep the cows producing milk through the heat.

Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, the state climatologist, said there are two types of drought in the state right now: a long-term drought that began last fall and a flash drought that began around June 4. Some streamwater gauges and groundwater wells are at the lowest levels ever seen in Vermont since record keeping began up to 109 years ago, according to Dupigny-Giroux.

While this particular drought has not yet been directly linked to climate change, a warming planet, caused largely by the burning of fossil fuels, increases extreme weather events and patterns like heat waves, floods and drought.

Dupigny-Giroux encouraged Vermonters to record what they're observing with the drought at the University of Nebraska's Drought Condition

Monitoring Observations and Reports; so far, she said, there were only two observations recorded across the entire state.

Jon Lucas, of Lucas Dairy, has been hauling up to 5,000 gallons of water per day from a creek to his farm in Orwell since his three wells started drying up in June. Lucas said a typical milk cow needs to drink about 50 gallons of water to produce 100-150 pounds of milk a day. Some farmers said they've lost about ten pounds a day of milk per cow because of the heat, and the lack of feed could worsen the conditions, Lucas said.

"The first thing I think about when I wake up and the last thing I think about before I go to bed is making sure the cows have water," Lucas said, adding that along with being a huge time commitment, hauling the water was mentally draining.

The dry spell comes from a shortfall in precipitation that's affecting the entire state, but particularly the Northeast Kingdom, Dupigny-Giroux said. Rainfall could hit Vermont through the weekend, she said, but it won't cure the various types and stages of drought impacting the state.

"It took us a while to get into this drought," Dupigny-Giroux said. "It'll take us a while to get out, barring tremendous amounts of rain."

Depending on the region of the state, it would require roughly six to eight inches of rain throughout a month to pull the state out of the drought, according to Dupigny-Giroux. That much rain would have to make it down through the soil and into the groundwater without being taken up by thirsty plants along the way.

Lindsey Brand, the marketing and communications director

of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, a farmer-led organization advocating for sustainable agriculture, said the state's drought particularly impacted livestock farmers.

"We're seeing a lot of folks who have not been able to do a third cut of hay," Brand said, referring to a harvesting practice that increases grass yields by cutting the crop throughout the season. "That's a pretty serious blow on the farm."

That means farmers like Lucas and Foster, who normally can grow enough to feed their herds, have to buy additional feed, creeping into their already slim margins in the dairy industry, where there are fixed prices for fluid milk that don't oscillate to meet the needs of the milk producers.

A consolidating dairy industry means there's a very small number of buyers, and they're able to set a low milk price, Brand said.

"The choice for dairy farmers is, do they want to sell or not sell their milk?" Brand said. "The price is set for them. They can't negotiate based on an increased cost of production, so a year like this serious drought situation and buying more feed because cows can't graze means their already-small margins have shrunk significantly."

Graham Unanst-Rufenacht, the policy director at Rural Vermont, a small-farmer advocacy organization, said most small-scale vegetable farmers are less vulnerable because they can rely on irrigation. Larger animal operations, however, have struggled to rotate their grazing lands, provide enough feed and access enough water since wetter weather ended in June.

Unanst-Rufenacht manages his own animals to encourage

ecological resilience on his Marshfield farm, frequently moving animals in tight groups across his 15 acres. But a drought like this summer's slows pasture regeneration and can impact how much pasture is available for feed.

Lucas said he's spending \$50,000-\$100,000 on feed products like corn, hay and wet brew, a byproduct from making beer, to feed his 300 cows and supplement what he normally harvests from his 900 acres of cropland along Lake Champlain.

Lucas is a first-generation farmer, and he said this is the worst dry spell he's experienced on his farm since he purchased the acreage in 2012.

State funds could help alleviate the crunch through a proposed Farm Security Fund, said Unanst-Rufenacht.

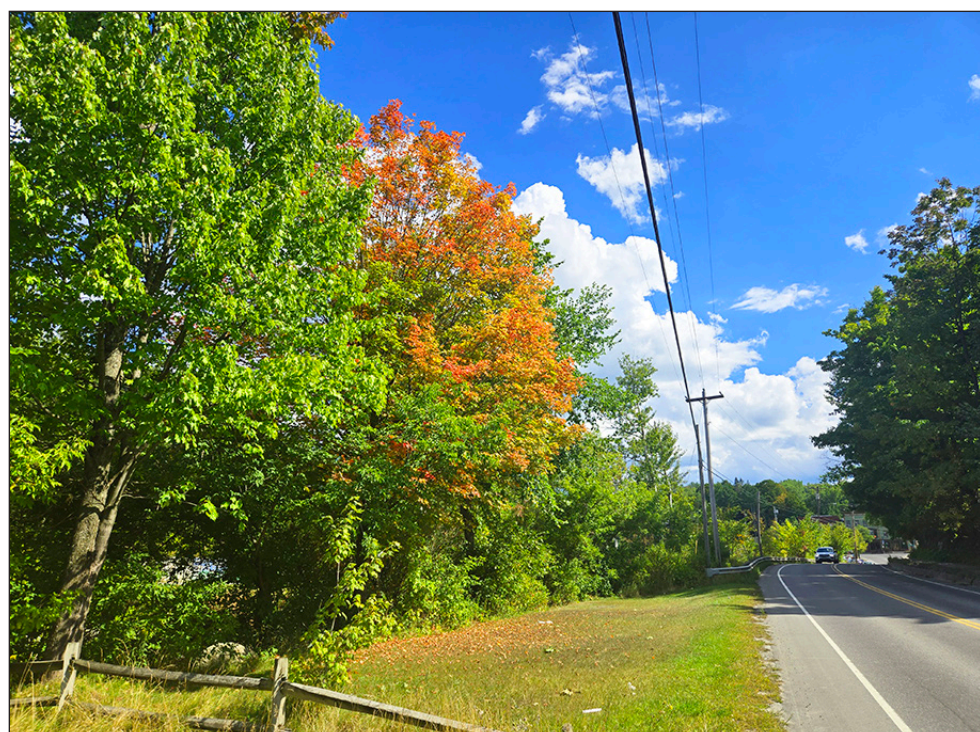
Originally, the measure requested \$20 million annually to support farmers impacted by extreme weather conditions increasing under climate change, but that request was whittled down to \$1 million during the last legislative session before lawmakers tabled the bill entirely.

"The exact purpose is that, if there's an extreme weather event, rather than a business being rocked to the ground, it can receive flexible, quick funding and recover," Brand said. She said the fund was more important than ever to meet the new paradigm of a changing climate that has swung between two years of horrible floods to a summer largely impacted by drought, along with a smaller spate of floods in July.

"Farmers are on the front line of climate change," Brand said. "We don't want to see our agricultural system collapse in the face of this new normal."



A gibbous moon shines brightly over Hardwick, early in the evening of Sept. 4. photo by Paul Fixx



An early maple tree changes color on Wolcott St. in Hardwick, next to the Lamoille River, Saturday, Sept. 4. photo by Paul Fixx

# Thousands convene for Labor Day solidarity events

by Paul Fixx

VERMONT – This Labor Day, labor unions, activist organizations, workers and others across Vermont joined with over 1,000 other gatherings across the United States to build solidarity among workers and oppressed groups and advocate for workers' rights.

In Wolcott, organizers counted 95 people lining both sides of Vt. Rte. 15 through the village who gathered to advocate for workers over billionaires.

An estimated 2,500 Vermonters convened in Burlington where a picnic was held in Battery Park, with performances from local musical acts and both catered and food truck offerings.

A march through downtown followed with speeches from activists and labor leaders representing Vermont's major employment sectors. They called attention to local workplace and labor issues, including staffing cuts at the Howard Center, the persecution of immigrants working in Vermont, and threats posed by cuts to Medicaid and social programs.

"We are here because we understand that a strong, unified and well-organized labor movement is not only a powerful inoculant against fascism, but the best way to build a democratic society of working-class people that puts community and planet over profit," said Howard Center worker Andy Blanchet, President of AFSCME Local 1674.

This event marks the continued development of a coalition of labor unions and activist groups in Vermont working to push back against the Trump administration and its policies. Like the No Kings and May Day events before it, this protest occurred amidst escalating attacks on immigrants and student activists, funding cuts to government programs, and the rollback of hard-fought worker protections. Coalition organizers see this rally as part of a larger series of demonstrations across Vermont and the country, such as those led by the May Day Strong



*Protesters in Wolcott lined both sides of Vt. Rte. 15, advocating for workers over billionaires on Labor Day, Sept. 1. The photographer said, "... we had 95 people show up with enthusiasm, signs, flags and hope. Support was felt by all from those driving by who waved, honked and gave us thumbs up..*

*photo by Sheila Halpin*

network, and they hope to carry this momentum forward in future events. Organizers are planning to hold a conference on October 25 at Winooski High School. The event is open to any who are interested in building a strong movement of working people to stand up to the billionaire class, ensure a political system that serves everyone and not just the rich, and defend the rights of workers and the oppressed.

This event was endorsed by: AFSCME Local 1674 Soteria House Workers' Union Chapter, AFSCME Local 1674 Howard Center Worker's Union Chapter, AFSCME Local 1674 Rights and Democracy Workers' Union Chapter, AFSCME Local 1674 Spectrum Basic Needs Union Chapter, AFSCME Local 1674 St. Michael's Custodians' Union Chapter, AFT Vermont, Black Cap Union, Burlington Education Association, Cooperation Vermont, Education Justice Coalition of Vermont, Free Her Vermont, Gakru United, Green Mountain Democratic Socialists of America, Green Mountain IWW, Green Mountain Labor Council, Ishtar Collective, Jewish Voice for Peace VT/NH, MetroRock Staff United, Migrant Justice, Party for Socialism and Liberation,

Peace and Justice Center, People's Kitchen, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England United, Porter Federation of

Nurses and Health Professionals, Rights and Democracy, Scoopers United, Standing Trees, Teamsters Local 597 Chittenden County Transportation Authority Chapter, Teamsters Local 597 Essex Junction Chapter, Teamsters Local 597 UPS Chapter, Tempest, Third Act VT, Trans+ VT, UFCW Local 1459, United Electrical Local 203, UVM Graduate Students United, UVM Medical Center Support Staff United, UVM Progressives, UVM Staff United, UVM Student Workers' Union, UVM Students for Justice in Palestine, UVM United Academics, UVM United Electrical Local 267, UVM Young Democratic Socialists of America, Vermont Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals, Vermonters for People Oriented Places, VT AFL-CIO, VT Coalition for Palestinian Liberation, VT Labor for Palestine, VT National Education Association, VT School Workers United, VT State Employees Association, VT Workers Center/ Nonviolent Medicaid Army, Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Burlington, 50501, and 350 VT.



*Hardwick's Will Fritsch is on the left of the banner, in a red shirt, carrying a bucket for donations, at a Labor Day solidarity event in Burlington, as coalition members march on Pearl St. Sept. 1.*

*drone photo by K.C. Carpenter. The organization 50501 estimates 2,500 Vermonters convened to build solidarity among workers and oppressed groups and advocate for workers' rights.*



*On a day of national protests, with people at over a thousand sites advocating for workers over billionaires Labor Day, just under 100 people gathered in Wolcott, with this group in front of a former Buck's Furniture building on Vt. Rte. 15, covered with peace signs and flowers.*

*photo by Sheila Halpin*



*On Labor Day, labor unions, activist organizations with an estimated 2,500 Vermonters convened in Burlington's Battery Park, with performances from local musical acts and both catered and food truck offerings. Speeches called attention to local workplace and labor issues, including staffing cuts at the Howard Center, the persecution of immigrants working in Vermont, and threats posed by cuts to Medicaid and social programs.*

*photo by Terry J. Allen*

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# EDITORIAL

## Your contributions support local news, people

Today we are all thankful for the generosity of contributors to our summer fund raising effort that ended Sunday.

We're still rounding up details, thanking people and waiting for mailed donations, but even with a full accounting yet to be, we are grateful for the roughly 100 people who helped match the \$5,000 in gifts that helped to double each individual contribution.

And, we're especially grateful for those who have chosen to become monthly donors. While those gifts don't help our immediate needs, they build a foundation upon which we can look to the future and budget accordingly.

Our final appeal last Sunday, motivated at least 30 of you to join the hundreds of other Gazette supporters in making your donation to what we know is a most important endeavor for our communities.

Running The Hardwick Gazette as a bare-bones operation, with staff and volunteers who go well beyond what might be expected of them, to create what you see on your screen each edition, is a minor miracle.

It costs us roughly \$10,000 a month to keep The Gazette going. Most of that, about \$7,000, goes to four staff members: two long-time production people, the half-time reporter who came on board in January and a part-time bookkeeper who joined us during the summer. Some goes to our independent contractors who share photographs, columns and sometimes write news stories. That's another \$2,000 each month. The remaining \$1,000 goes mostly for the technology and software that lets us put together the weekly Gazette, host it on the web and keep track of who is supposed to get it.

So, know that the bulk of your contributions combine with income from our advertisers to support members of our local community for their groceries, car payments, tax bills, winter fuel and firewood, student loans, car repairs, medical bills and helps them provide help to family members.

Then, a not insignificant monthly amount goes to pay for printer supplies: ink and paper, for the few copies

we print that go to libraries in Hardwick, Greensboro, Cabot, Craftsbury, Walden, Woodbury and Wolcott; and to a few businesses where people are likely to sit and read it: Front Seat Coffee, The Village Restaurant, The Civic Standard, Nikki the Barber and Clip Joint, Vittles, Buffalo Mountain Market and the Hardwick Town Office that shares their copy with the senior center.

With all that said, know that your funding multiplies itself by helping us document the past, present and future of our 11 communities, then returns to help people live here and support the local economy.

**Paul Fixx, editor**

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Despair is not an option

To the editor:

Teach-in on citizen activism,  
Sept. 27

The daily onslaught of terrible news, both domestic and international, is overwhelming, crushing even: An economy that is not affordable for all, the dismantling of our democratic republic, the continued erosion of our constitutional rights, death and destruction in Ukraine and genocide in Palestine. How does one deal with such an onslaught?

Despair is not an option; it is a shirking of responsibility as a citizen! Together, we the people can stop the take over of our country by the libertarian, billionaire class that wants to rewrite the U.S. Constitution to enshrine their power, and protect their billionaire wealth.

Learn how you can be part of the growing opposition to the dismantling of our Constitution, our rights, and the destruction of the separation of powers that has governed this country for

250 years. Learn how vital, grass roots work in swing states at the state election level is so fundamental to reversing the tidal wave that is washing our rights away.

Please join us on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., in Hardwick at the Jeudevine Library community room for a teach-in with Lean Left Vermont's organizers, Janet Savage and Eve Jacobs-Carnahan. Eve, an assistant attorney general for the State of Vermont from 1990-2018, will share a slide show on empowering citizen activism, and why working at the state level in swing states is so important. Janet, a public health professional in government and academia for 30 years, will show us the tools Lean Left Vermont uses to support local activism at the state level.

For more information and to RSVP that you will join us, contact bob.hawk350@gmail.com

**Bob Hawk  
Walden**

### For the record

The full name of the school in last week's article, "Head start moved to early education center," is the Lakeview Early Education Center, not Mountain View Early Education Center.

## 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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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Not old enough to remember

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – For millions of Americans these days, the mantra du jour is, and has been for a while, “MAGA, Make America Great Again.” Putting aside for at least the moment many of the problems of the “good old days” that this slogan refers to, like racial segregation, disempowerment of women, anti-Semitism, old-age poverty and a thousand other features of the past, it occurs to me that very, very few of the millions for whom this slogan is tantamount to Scripture are old enough to remember (to have experienced) the days during which America was great.

Consider what our country went through in the first half of the last century. The most salient features of that history were the Reform movement calculated to break the power of the unregulated rich; the War to End All Wars that ended in 1918 with an armistice followed by a peace treaty that almost guaranteed a repeat of the first war; strikes and labor disputes leading to government-sanctioned murder; Prohibition and the rise of organized crime; the catastrophic Dust Bowl, mass bankruptcy and displacement; the Great Depression; the birth of the New Deal; the rise of the American Nazi party. It’s no wonder the nation wanted nothing to do with the rise of fascism in Europe or the spread of Japanese imperial influence in the Far East.

But Japan committed the unthinkable in December of 1941. Just four days later Hitler, no doubt emboldened by his successes in Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Poland, as well as by his non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union and his belief that Japan would make short work of our soft, decadent nation, declared war on us. The fat, as we used to say, was in the fire, along with, among others, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. Newsreels showed a jubilant Hitler skipping with joy near the Eiffel Tower. The photo soon became a prime recruiting poster.

This is about where my chums and I came in. The attack on Pearl Harbor was announced while the Langes were at Sunday dinner at Grandma’s. According to family legend, my Uncle Alvin was first in line at the Albany induction center next morning. Alvin’s enthusiasm wasn’t atypical; almost everybody wanted in, or didn’t dare hang back in the middle of an impossible two-front war across two oceans.

What’s triggered all this is a link to a video my kid sent me a couple of days ago, a documentary about German prisoner-of-war reactions to the reality of the United States, once they arrived here. They recorded their impressions in journals (which they were forbidden to keep under the Nazis) and in letters home. Watching it, I found myself scribbling notes, as if I were in class long ago. It was fascinating.

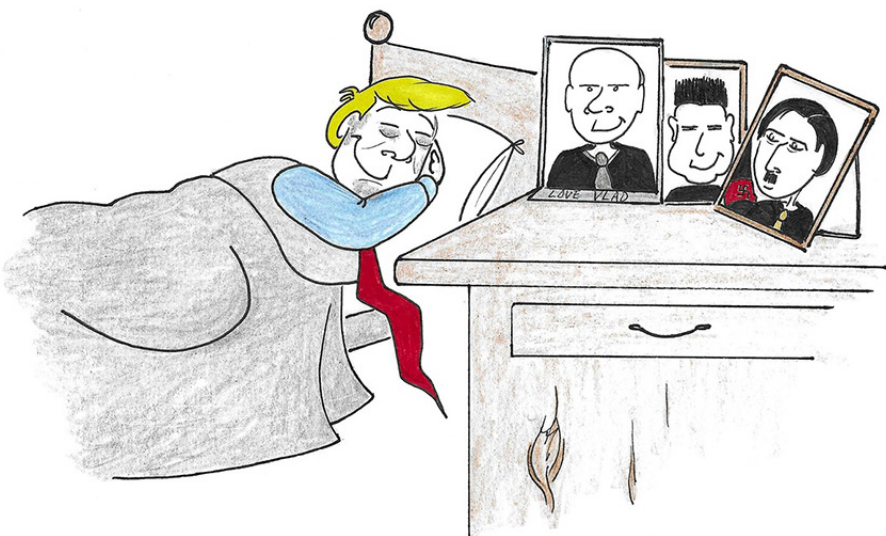
At its peak, the Axis prisoner of war population in the States reached 425,000. Their reactions that were recorded express mostly incredulity. They had been conditioned to believe that we were a failing nation of indolent dumbbells leading hardscrabble existences and pushovers in a fight. But the prisoners, on a train, for example, from the east coast to Texas, were carried in Pullman cars instead of the cattle cars they’d been accustomed to, and given food far superior to what their German officers ate. They passed a former auto manufacturing plant that was producing a new B-24 bomber every 63 minutes; shipyards with new Liberty ships side by side and days from launch; parking lots full of workers’ cars, unheard of at home; and combines working vast fields of wheat “like ships plowing the sea.” They passed steel mills whose blast furnaces ran in three shifts around the clock with women working them.

They’d been told we were “a mongrel nation” (the Nazis exterminated “mongrel” populations), but came to believe that diversity was our greatest human asset. Raised in and accustomed to near-penury, they were appalled by the amount of food that was thrown away by Americans with apparent “consciousness of infinite resources.” Torn by cognitive dissonance between what they’d been conditioned to expect and what they experienced, they suffered from “Ideological Collapse Syndrome.”

Most of all, they found it hard to believe how well they were treated. “Our war is with Hitler, not the German people,” many of their guards assured them. Local churches sent thousands of boxed Christmas gifts and cookies. There seemed to be nothing unspoken because of fear. The friendliness, one prisoner wrote, came from the “unshakable confidence of true power. They were strong enough to show mercy.”

If you’re devoted to making America great again, take another look at World War II.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



## MEETING MEMO

### Wednesday, September 10

Craftsbury Town School Board, second Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Commons Room, Craftsbury Academy.

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

### Thursday, September 11

Mountain View Union Elementary School Board, second Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m., alternating among the three campuses.

### Monday, September 15

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Full Board of Directors’ Regular Meeting, 6 p.m., Danville School and remote access is available.

### Tuesday, September 16

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

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

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

Hazen Union School Board, third Tuesday, 6 - 8 p.m., Hazen Union School Library.

Marshfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.

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

### Wednesday, September 17

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

Wolcott Town School Board, third Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Wolcott Elementary School.

### Town Clerks

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

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Rep. Leanne Harple - State Representative, Orleans-4 House District

MONTPELIER – Some community members have reached out to me for updates on the new redistricting task force that is responsible for creating the maps that will be presented to the legislature in the upcoming legislative session, and it seems like a good time to make that information available to everyone:

The task force is currently meeting twice a month, and now has the first two meetings under their belt. They met for their second meeting on August 19, and their next meeting is scheduled for September 10. At that meeting, the task force reviewed the fact that since the first meeting, the AOE has not been able to provide meaningful data to inform decision-making. The task force discussed that it would be difficult to redistrict and evaluate the impact without data, and the group was clear that at the very least, they need to be doing no harm and be able to explain the

rationale for recommendations to districts and to the public.

Senator Scott Beck explained that from his perspective on the conference committee, the purpose of redistricting is that we need bigger districts to facilitate a shift to a new funding formula. He has previously emphasized the need to just “draw lines.” It is agreed that there is clarity needed around the problem that they are trying to solve, as well as the goals they seek to achieve and the criteria needed to evaluate any proposals. Equity, quality, affordability, stability and feasibility remain key to that conversation.

The task force worked through a test template for proposing plans, using Hawaii (a single statewide public school district) as an example. The purpose was also to understand the kinds of trade-offs and questions that will likely need to be addressed in any proposed redistricting.

They discussed public engagement with Jay Nichols, the interim chair of the Commission on Public Education, who has

offered to deploy the resources of the commission to support the public input process for the task force. There was conversation about the short timeline and real limits on the extent to which meaningful public engagement could take place given the timeline and lack of data.

They also discussed the process of the meeting, which is still very inaccessible to the public and which still has very poor audio quality. The secretary of administration again said she would work to improve audio quality. They discussed the importance of bringing the meeting to other regions, about which the secretary of administration expressed concern, due to the challenge of supporting tech and the short timeline. They have received numerous complaints about tech challenges and sound, including during the meeting.

They brainstormed work tasks to complete before the next meeting which include selection of a firm to support the operations of the task force (Edye Graning and Martine Gulick), revision of

the problem and goals statements (Jay Badams and Beth Quimby), revision of the template to include evaluation criteria (Jen Botzjorns and Rebecca Holcombe), and initial mapping of two possible plans: redistricting around CTE districts (Scott Beck) and redistricting around counties (David Wolk).

Recurrent themes were lack of data and the need to be able to explain to the public how any plan could lead to improvement in quality, equity, affordability, feasibility or stability.

Future meetings, all of which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will be held Wednesday, Sept. 10, Monday, Sept. 29, Friday, Oct. 10, Tuesday, Oct. 28, Monday, Nov. 10 and Thursday, Nov. 20.

Messages to the task force can be sent directly to [ADM.Redistricting@vermont.gov](mailto:ADM.Redistricting@vermont.gov) and you can follow its work at the AOA website at [aoa.vermont.gov/school-district-redistricting-task-force](http://aoa.vermont.gov/school-district-redistricting-task-force). Leanne Harple is a state representative for Orleans-4 House District, Albany, Craftsbury, Glover and Greensboro.

## WEEKS GONE BY

The Hardwick Gazette, September 10, 1925

### Immigration Largely Reduced

Immigration Statistics are always of more or less interest, and according to figures given out for the year ending June 30th, last, the net number of immigrants admitted to the county was 69 per cent. Less than for the same period last year.

The total number of aliens who arrived during 1924-1925, according to the statistics, was 294,314, which was reduced by 92,726 nationals returning to their own countries. During the preceding year 706,890 aliens arrived and only 76,789 left.

The quotas of several countries, the report stated, were unfilled, among them being Czecho-Slovakia by 17 per cent.; Germany by 11 per cent.; Great Britain by 12 ½ per cent.; Irish Free State by 5 per cent.; Italy by 10 per cent.; and Sweden by 6 per cent.

Further the report stated, the number of nationals who departed for their native lands offset in several instances the number of immigrants, notably in the case of Italy. Only 6203 Italians arrived here during the year, and during the same period, 27,151 Italians returned

to Italy. Other countries to which emigration from the United States was greater were Greece Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Yugo Slavia, China, Portugal, and Rumania, which it was said, caused a loss of 15,106 unskilled laborers, against a gain of 70,742 during the preceding year.

The net gain in skilled labor, the report continued, was 42,422, compared with 143,616 in 1923-1924. Farm labor gains exceeded departures by 14,764, compared with 27,233 during the previous year.

The proportion of foreign born white aliens to the total population was given as less than 14 per cent. In 1860, it was 12.9 per cent.; in 1890, 13.1 per cent.; in 1900, 13.4 per cent., and in 1920, 13 per cent.

The net number of newcomers in the country during the past year – the number by which the total of aliens who arrived exceeded the aliens who departed – was 201, 586, against 630, 107 in 1923-1924. According to the national industrial conference, where these statistics were given out, the figures show that the quota immigration law has not only effectively stemmed the influx of aliens, but also that

**New Idle Hour Theatre**  
HARDWICK, VT.

**THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, SEPT. 10-11**  
“THE TEN COMMANDMENTS”  
Cecil B. DeMille's masterpiece. A Paramount Picture. Special heralds on this picture.  
**Matinee each day at 3:00 o'clock; Evening, one show, beginning at 8:00 o'clock.**  
**Admission at both Matinee and Evening: Children, 25c; Adults, 50c.**

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**SATURDAY, SEPT. 12**  
“STEEL, OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED”  
By James Oliver Curwood, with Bert Lytell and Stuart Holmes as leads in the cast.  
—Also—  
**SEMON COMEDY**  
“ROUGH TOUGHS AND ROOF TOPS”

it has done so to a greater degree than was expected during the first year of its operation.

### Craftsbury Academy Notes

The Academy opened with an unusually large attendance, the enrollment being over one hundred. There are clothes to enter in the next two or three weeks.

“The Merchant of Venice”, which was given by the East Hill Players on Friday evening, netted proceeds of about \$130.00. The play as also the others of

Shakespeare, which have been previously given by this group, was under the able leadership of Miss Jean W. Simpson, and the proceeds complete the John W. Simpson Memorial Prize Fund. These plays are very much enjoyed by the school and community.

The Senior Class has organized and the class rings are already ordered. Clayton Orton of Plainfield, a nephew of Charles Cton, of the class of 1888, has entered the Junior Class.

# FAUX GNUS

## Even more malodorous executive odors (sic) by President-for-life Trump

by David K. Rodgers

#201,795 - Sculptors will immediately begin carving my face on Mount Rushmore.

#759,361 - American citizens returning from abroad with any items critical of President-for-Life Trump on their cell phones or computers will be denied entry at the border.

#937,205 - There will be strict monthly quotas for arresting immigrants (legal or illegal) by ICE officers to meet, and those that fail to meet them will be deported.

#531,917 - There will be a Loyalty Oath, which all Americans must sign pledging never to question the absolute authority of President-for-Life Trump, and anyone who refuses to sign will be deported to prisons in South Sudan.

#387,258 - South Sudan will become the 56th state, after Israel (51), El Salvador (52), North Korea (53), Russia (54) and Qatar (55).

#764,867 - Repeal all government regulation of corporations, at both the federal and state level.

#73,081 - Since Musk has betrayed me and failed to be completely loyal to the Supreme Leader Trump, I will reverse our first name exchange (see Executive Order (sic) #7,891) and have him deported to South Africa.

#2,318,795 - Move the United States capitol to Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

#309,752 - President-for-Life Trump will write a new U.S. Constitution eliminating the legislative and judicial branches of government, giving all power to the executive branch.

#835,961 - Steven Miller will become head of a new cabinet position entitled the Department of Evil Ideas.

#193,057 - Anyone who says publicly or privately that I am the anti-Christ will be burned at the stake.

#283,915 - The "White House" will be renamed the "Whites Only House."

#471,290 - Future demonstrations against President-for-Life Trump will be banned and all participants will be deported to Russian prisons in Siberia.

#530,793 - The United States will be supplying Russia with drones, cruise missiles and other weapons to use in their "Special Military Operation" against Ukraine.

#726,305 - The United States will import Russian oil and gas tariff free.

#218,057 - The words "climate change," "global warming" etc. will be banned from all newspapers, magazines, radio, television and internet media.

#290, 531 - Children will be taught in school how to spy on their parents and report any disloyalty to the Supreme Leader and to the Supreme Violence Police for substantial financial rewards

#59,207 - Negative thoughts and even dreams at night about Demagogue-for-Life Trump are considered felony crimes and offenders will be arrested by the Thought Police of the Surveillance State and deported without trial.

#301,915 - My new book, "The Art of the Steal," shows how to destroy democracies and create ever-friendly dictatorships around the

world and will become compulsory reading for all Americans. Periodic testing will uncover those who have met, read and memorized the lessons of this invaluable guide. Those who fail will be deported to one of the new states.

#376,729 - Any references to the Emperor's Nude Clothes will be punished to the full extent of secret laws.

#193,071 - The Big Beautiful Bill signed into law on July 4, 2025, demonstrated what the great German philosopher Goebbels said, which is that you can use democracy to destroy democracy. July 4 will become a double national holiday of celebration.

#261-735 - My inspiring autobiography, "Mein Life" (translated from German) will come out soon and be required to be purchased and read by all American citizens.

#702,481 - Anyone who asserts that I am running the federal government the way I ran my own businesses, i.e. into multiple bankruptcies, will be arrested and imprisoned for life.

#109,683 - Anyone who votes to impeach me will be summarily executed along with their families.

#793,105 - All the money collected by tariffs will go into my personal businesses.

#582,619 - Anyone who says I am in the terminal stage of syphilis will be deported to the moon, which will become the 58th state.

#157,092 - Make pedophilia a misdemeanor.

#902,673 - The Trump School of Business-As-Usual will soon publish my new book, "The Art of Multiple Bankruptcies," and it will become the Bible for corporate practices.

#137,501 - The United States will withdraw from the United Nations and force it to leave New York City.

#536,003 - Trump University

will take over Harvard University.

#279,158 - The 32nd of January will become National Mafia Manners day to celebrate my New York City mentors.

#530,961 - There will be a Presidential Pardon for all pedophiles, including myself.

#209,731 - All laws against hate speech will be annulled.

#973,018 - Everyone living in the United States, except myself, both legal and illegal residents as well as foreigners, will have a bar code tattoo on their foreheads to ensure ready identification by the Surveillance Police.

#231,705 - The United States Postal Service will be privatized and all stamps will feature a portrait of President-for-Life Trump. Payments must be made using Trump Family crypto-currency.

#710,932 - It is forbidden for Whites to get tanned lest they be mistaken for one of those other races by the Surveillance Police.

#291,603 - Victor Orban of Hungary will receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for showing the Republican Party how to systematically destroy democracy and establish a dictatorship.

Sponsored by Political Cowards-for-Trump, Phony Christians-for-Trump, Conservative Stink Tanks, Fascists-for-Father Figures, Sycophants for Trump, Thugs for Theocracy, The Supreme Psychopaths Third Term Campaign, Robots-for-Trump, The National Fleabites Foundation, Proud Bigots-for-Trump, Lets-Put-The-Fun-Back-In-Fundamentalism, Eunuchs-to-Power, Used-Casket-Salesmen-for-Trump, Endless-Evil, Old-Sadists-for-Trump, Spineless-Politicians-for-Trump, God-Is-On-Our-Sides-for-Trump and Demagogues-for-Trump.

And remember: Satire is fighting insanity with absurdity.



The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union hosted a community outdoor celebration, September 5, at Hazen Union sponsored by the Flynn Theatre. The outdoor street show, "Les Girafes," was created by Compagnie Off of France. The show featured 26-foot red giraffe puppets constructed of nylon-like material over an aluminum and steel structure with puppeteers coordinating their movement. Playing Fields is a free annual Flynn-sponsored program in its fourth year of performing live shows throughout Vermont. This year nine shows were performed, from September 2 to September 12, across nine Vermont communities.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



"NEVER FORGET"

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## Reflecting on Loss and Grief

by Reverend Sarah Lammert

GREENSBORO – Grief is a funny thing. You just never know when it will pop up, taking over your day and your mood. It can be broody and sad; it can be violent and enraging. Honestly, there is also some relief in there.

Mostly it is just, for me, an emptiness.

I lost my dad in June after a long decline due to a heart disease. I was lucky to have my dad around for so long. He was 91 when he died. He and my mom would have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in July.

Losing my dad has been hard in and of itself. As one friend noted, no one loves you the same way as a parent.

It has also made me reflective about other losses. The other day I found myself making a list of all the people I've loved and lost, and the list is getting long. Writing their names was both healing and hard. Thinking about all this now, I have a hollow feeling in the pit of my stomach, even as I feel this cloud of ancestors swirling through me.

In 2017 my spouse and I went to Switzerland where I had lived as an exchange student my senior year in high school. My host family there consisted of Kurt and Rosemary Täschler (“mami” and “papi”) and my three sisters, Barbara, Susu and Kathi. I've kept in touch with my Swiss family, but I had already lost Rosemary, then Kurt, and then Kathi. Now

Barbara was fighting cancer, and she too would die just a few years later. At this point it is just Susu and me, an honorary sister.

In Switzerland you can rent a grave for 25 years, then your time is up and any remains go to an ossuary. The grave marker is returned to the family. I'm not sure what people do with those when they receive them. This is a strange notion for many of us in the U.S. who are accustomed to the idea of an eternal resting place, but in this season of grief I'm feeling like it is a helpful time-frame. When Rosemary's time was up, I was at first a bit unsettled but then it felt somehow freeing, like she became part of everything. Since none of us can see beyond death's horizon, I can

only imagine there is some way in which we return to the All.

My niece Sylvie who has an intractable form of epilepsy and has developmental limitations that make her both childlike and the most loving person I know, said to me “I'm sorry you lost your father. He is in your heart.” She tapped on my heart to show me where my dad is now. Thanks Sylvie, that is so true of all those we love and lose.

May our hearts be strong even as they are broken and stitched back together in loss and in love.

*Reverend Sarah Lammert is the founder of Shared Vision Consulting in Vermont and works as the Federal Chaplaincies Endorser for the Unitarian Universalist Association.*

## MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

### Blessings In Backpacks

SHELBURNE – The Sunday before school started, the Greensboro United Church of Christ service was longer than usual as pre-K through grad school students were invited to come forward with their backpacks. Ed, our pastor, placed his hand over his heart and then put his hand with love and blessings into each backpack. The backpacks were passed around the congregation and choir, as everyone did the same. When the ritual was complete, Ed checked in with the students. Their backpacks were full of love and blessings even though they didn't weigh more.

What are the blessings in your backpack?

I added a few to my metaphoric backpack this month. Bonnie, one of my husband's caregivers, brought him to visit me for lunch. Bill burst into tears when they arrived and managed a big hug and a kiss. He apologized profusely. He thinks he is not supposed to cry. I told him they were welcome tears of joy. Now every time we talk on the phone, he cries. “The more we are apart, the more I love you,” he assures me.

Pastor Ed and his wife Patti returned from a three-month sabbatical on August 10. My friends Jeff and Chris ferried me from Shelburne to Greensboro and back for the celebration and to surprise Ed. Gloria, Bill's caregiver that day, brought him to church to join us. Everyone hugged, and Bill cried. Gloria's

daughters grew up at Wonder & Wisdom, the heart-centered after-school and summer enrichment program I founded in Greensboro 27 years ago. Grace sat with us. Kindness and joy are friends of Grace.

I was recently surprised to find a package in my mailbox. It felt like a book. Julia Skonicki sent me her new and first book, “Awakened: a journey in poetry and photos.” It was my turn to cry. Julia is the director of development and communications for the Lamoille Family Center in Morrisville. She attended one of WholeHeart's Intergenerational Leadership Exchanges several years ago. She spends her days helping children and families. Her book is a collection of her poetry and photos written and taken while she was recovering from breast cancer. She includes a blessing on the back cover: “May the poems and photos bring peace and healing to all who are enduring rough seasons.”

I savored Julia's words of wisdom and the ways she captures nature's beauty. I took the book to Wake Robin's Wellness Center. They will order copies for residents in the Health Center.

My copy of “Awakened” is inscribed: “For Trish, Thank you for being a source of love, light, and connection in this world! With Gratitude, Julia.”

Replace my name with yours and put the blessing and her love in your backpack. We are all students in the school of life.

*Trish Passmore Alley holds an MBA in Organizational Development and Behavior. A published author and poet, her career has included teaching at the collegiate level, owning several small businesses in manufacturing, engineering and retail, and founding*

*and operating three social profits in Greensboro. A published author and poet, she posts brief, monthly blogs at [gracefulmischief.com/](http://gracefulmischief.com/). When her column refers to Grace, it is a presence in her life, and it is capitalized. She now lives in Shelburne.*



*Cabot Yellow Barn store workers (from left) Karina Willey, Amanda Gangell, Ann Cheever and Karen Batchelder man the store, greeting visitors and sharing cheese samples at the store's first anniversary celebration, Saturday, Sept. 6, ahead of Vermont Cheese Week, Sept. 10 to 14. photo by Paul Fixx*

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Exploring Shrub Swamps

by Susan Shea

RANDOLPH – A yellowthroat warbler sang, “witchety, witchety, witch,” as I carefully made my way through the tangle of an alder swamp one afternoon not long ago. I looked about, hoping to catch a glimpse of its yellow breast and black mask. I could hear the twangs of green frogs calling in the distance. A dragonfly zoomed past me, then flew back and landed on my shoulder. This small swamp formed around a stream meandering through a basin between hills. It is part of a larger wetland complex that includes open fens and forested swamps.

Alder swamps, like this one, are the most common shrub swamps in northern New England. They can be found in poorly drained basins, along the edges of lakes and ponds, in beaver-created wetlands, and on the floodplains of streams and rivers. In these areas, the soil is saturated and periodically flooded, making it too wet for trees to grow but too dry for a marsh to develop.

These swamps are dominated by speckled alder, a woody shrub usually less than 20 feet high, with speckled bark and oval, wavy-edged leaves with pointed tips. In swamps with frequent standing water, alder grows on drier hummocks, where it can form almost impenetrable thickets. Bacteria in the alder’s root nodules absorb nitrogen from the atmosphere and convert it to a usable form, creating a rich organic soil that helps fertilize other plants.

On my exploration, I noticed other plants growing in association with alders: shrub willows such as pussy willow, silky dogwood bushes with panicles of pale blue fruit; the tall, lavender flowerheads of Joe-Pye weed; and marsh fern scattered among grasses and sedges that formed a moist, squishy mat.

Alder swamps provide food and cover for many species of wildlife. In addition to the common yellowthroat I heard, many other migratory songbirds breed here, such as yellow warblers, alder

flycatchers and northern waterthrush. The abundance of insects and dense cover provide ideal nesting habitat.

Alders develop tiny cones from the catkins that flower in early spring. In fall, the cones open and release nutlets. Goldfinches, redpolls and ruffed grouse seek these out as food, and grouse also feed on alder buds and catkins. Woodcocks probe for worms in the damp soil beneath the shrubs. Deer, moose and beavers browse on alder twigs and foliage. Beavers use alders to build their dams and lodges, while deer and moose will bed down right in the swamp.

Buttonbush swamps, a different kind of shrub swamp, occur adjacent to lakes and large, slow-moving rivers, often in the backwater depressions of floodplains or near a river’s mouth. Flooded by rising river and lake levels in spring, they remain inundated much of the time. Buttonbush can be identified by its large, shiny leaves, spherical clusters of tiny white flowers, and greenish balls of fruit. This shrub is very tolerant of flooding and is often the only woody plant present. Buttonbush swamps provide good habitat for several species of frogs, which in turn draw in herons and mink hoping to catch one to eat. The seeds are an important food source for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Sweet gale dominates another kind of shrub swamp, growing on peaty floating mats along the edges of small ponds and slow-flowing streams in cooler places. Sweet gale shrubs have narrow, dark green leaves that are pale beneath. Like alder, they are nitrogen-fixing. Their spongy fruits float and are dispersed by water. Meadowsweet, leatherleaf, sedges and small white cedars are common in sweet gale swamps. Loons and black ducks sometimes nest in the protective cover found there.

Shrub swamps generally persist in place unless the hydrology changes due to humans, beavers, climate or the movement of river channels. Like other wetlands,



Shrub swamp

they make a significant contribution to flood control by absorbing floodwaters and slowly releasing them. Shrubs reduce streambank erosion and siltation by anchoring shores with their roots, improving water quality and providing cover and shade for fish and other aquatic animals.

Many shrub swamps have been lost to development and agriculture, but today most northeastern states have wetlands protection laws. Invasive species such as purple loosestrife, reed canary grass and European buckthorn

can crowd out native species, and threaten the diversity of these unique habitats.

When viewed from afar, shrub swamps may appear to be an unattractive monoculture of brush. However, if one spends time here and looks closely, the important role they play in flood mitigation, erosion control and providing habitat for an abundance of species becomes apparent.

*Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer and conservationist based in Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.*

### Proposals to Amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont

The Vermont General Assembly is proposing voters amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont. Proposal 3 has passed two successive legislative sessions and will appear on the November 2026 ballot for voter approval. Proposal 4 is pending legislative approval in the second year of the biennium. If approved, Proposal 4 will also appear on the November 2026 ballot.

See proposals below:

Proposal 3: This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that the citizens of the State have a right to collectively bargain.

Article 2\* of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 2\*. [Right to collectively bargain]

That employees have a right to organize or join a labor organization for the purpose of collectively bargaining with their employer through an exclusive representative of their choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety in the workplace. Therefore, no law shall be adopted that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to collectively bargain with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety, or that prohibits the application or execution of an agreement between an employer and a labor organization representing the employer’s employees that requires membership in the labor organization as a condition of employment.

Proposal 4: This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specify that the government must not deny equal treatment and respect under the law on account of a person’s race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin.

Article 2\* of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 2\*. [Equality of rights]

That the people are guaranteed equal protection under the law. The State shall not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person’s race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted or applied to prevent the adoption or implementation of measures intended to provide equality of treatment and opportunity for members of groups that have historically been subject to discrimination.

### OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org

ads@hardwickgazette.org

# IN THE GARDEN

## Prepare fall gardens now

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I’ve seen the big yellow buses meandering down the road, lines of impatient drivers behind them, noisy kids inside. That tells me, temperatures notwithstanding, that fall has arrived, or will soon.

The most common question I am fielding is about lilacs: why have so many had their leaves turn brown and fall off early? We had a wet spring, ideal conditions for fungal diseases to thrive, and many are affected. The ultra-dry conditions of August stressed the lilacs, making them even more susceptible. But fear not: they should recover next year.

I recently spoke to Kitty Werner, curator of lilacs at the UVM Horticulture Farm. She agreed that the problem is a blight and suggested that you rake up the dead leaves so spores don’t overwinter near your lilacs.

Give your lilacs a slow, deep watering now, and again every week until we get some serious rain. Bring your hose to the plant, and set the rate at very slow. Let it slowly sink in over a period of five minutes or more. If you have planted any new trees or shrubs this year, also give them a deep watering on a regular basis. This will allow roots to grow. Scientists have determined that fall is when most root extension occurs.

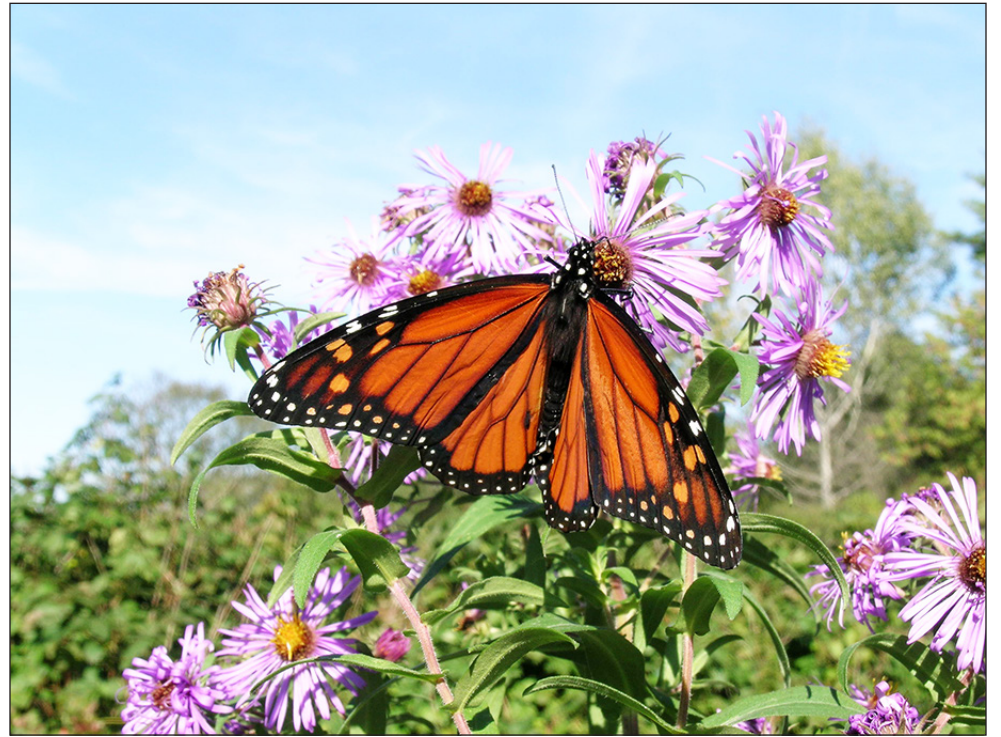
Mulch can be useful for minimizing weeds, but it is also a liability. Even two inches of ground bark mulch on a flower bed can soak up all the water from a quick watering with your hose, or a nice 20 minute shower from the sky. If you are not sure if the water is getting to your soil, water, pull back the mulch

and poke around in the soil with your finger.

My vegetables did well this summer, as they loved all the sunshine. My soil is very high in organic matter, so it holds water well. My spring-planted lettuces were cut-and-come again varieties, so I ate good lettuce all summer. By cutting off heads instead of pulling them, the roots started up new plants which produced well. Now everything has bolted and I will leave a few to set and drop seeds. Those will start new plants in April, even when the soil is too wet for me to work it.

Visiting a friend the other day, she pulled off a leaf from a lettuce plant that had bolted and ate it. Huh? I always worked on the idea that bolted lettuce is too bitter to eat. But I tried one, and it was good. So I have been tasting my lettuce that has bolted, and lettuce from other gardens. Most tasted fine to me, a few were worth making a face. Of course, I know that as we age our taste buds change, so to you younger folk, maybe all bolted lettuce is inedible. But it’s worth sampling your lettuce before pulling it out.

It is not too late to plant more lettuce. In late August I planted some Black Seeded Simpson. It is heat tolerant, frost tolerant, and matures in 21 to 40 days after it germinates. It’s a workhorse, and I should be able to start picking a few leaves later this month. Even if you plant in mid-September you will get some in October and maybe into November. Because of the dryness, I did not seed the lettuce in the ground, but used potting soil and cells that I could monitor for moisture levels. When it is well established, I will transplant it into the ground.



Monarch on New England Aster.

courtesy photo

Over the years I have created flower gardens that have something in bloom all three seasons. Right now Monarch butterflies and migrating birds need lots of energy for their long journeys. Birds need seeds, which are high in calories, so I am not cutting back summer bloomers even if they have gone by.

We all know that Monarchs need milkweed, but that is so their larvae will feed on the leaves and become toxic to birds. Adult monarchs do not feed on milkweed leaves, but right now they are enjoying feeding on nectar from goldenrod, Joe Pye weed and fall asters, among others.

As the vegetable garden winds down, it is important to pick vegetables at peak ripeness if you intend to freeze, can or dehydrate them. Woody green beans picked huge will never get eaten even if you freeze them.

You know better than to let

your zucchinis get too big, but did you know you can freeze them? Cut them into bite-sized pieces and blanch them very briefly in boiling water. Thirty seconds or so will kill the aging enzymes to keep them nice once frozen. Dump the blanched squash in a sink of cold water, let cool, drain and pat dry. Freeze in zipper bags and eat within six months.

If you haven’t got your seed garlic yet, buy some. We should plant garlic in October, but by then most seed garlic is gone. And harvest your potatoes soon, even if they haven’t blossomed (which is usually when we dig them). I got a great crop, due to all the sunshine.

Every year has its own challenges, but I try not to focus on the difficulties like lack of water. And who knows? Maybe next year it will rain some every week.

Reach Homeyer at [henry.homeyer@comcast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comcast.net).



Joe Pye weed, a fall bloomer, provides nectar to Monarch butterflies.

courtesy photo



Lettuce bolts when it gets tall and produces seeds.

courtesy photo

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Third annual fiber faire, Sept. 20

BROWNINGTON – On Saturday, September 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be a village-wide celebration of heritage fiber arts and contemporary crafts at the Old Stone House Museum. Demonstrations and hands-on activities include embroidery, weaving, quilting, knitting, crochet, lace tatting, basketry, rug hooking and more, plus a stuffed animal repair hospital, food vendors and artisan booths.

A museum first-floor open house will feature “Under the Seams and Behind the Scenes of the Museum Collections,” a fiber-themed display that highlights the skill and dedication required to preserve its textile holdings. The exhibit includes a showcase of master rug hookers demonstrating their craft.

In the Twilight House parlor, visitors can explore the “Vermont Schoolgirl Sampler Driving Tour,” which presents samplers from across the state alongside pieces from the museum’s own collection, including one stitched in 1818 by Mercy Ladd Twilight, created at just 13 years old before she became the wife of Alexander Twilight.

The day will feature a keynote

address by Mary Ann Stewart at 11:30 a.m., in the Brownington Congregational Church. Stewart, an artist and environmental advocate, returns for a second year to address the global issue of textile waste and sustainable practices in the fashion and fiber industries. Following her talk, she will share a display and interactive showcase of her upcycled creations on the Grammar School grounds.

There will be hands-on opportunities, and artisan interaction throughout the Historic Village. Children should bring their favorite “stuffies” needing mending repair. Garment mending services and advice from volunteers will be available. Attendees can bring a garment needing repair from home.

A full program and artist lineup will be available at the museum’s gift shop two weeks prior to the event and at the Church, Twilight House and Grammar School registration tables on the day of the event. Request a program by email at outreach@oldstonehousemuseum.org. Admission by donation for adults, children under 16 are free. The museum is located at 109 Old Stone House Road.



The renovated train station in Danville on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail will be featured at an open house on September 18. *courtesy photo*

### Renovated train station featured at open house, Sept. 18

DANVILLE – The Town of Danville and the train station committee will host an open house of the newly renovated station on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the train station at 347 Peacham Road. Tours, speakers and food for purchase will mark the event.

The historical train station is one of only a handful of stations still in place along the former St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad. The railroad line was converted to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) in phases over the last 12 years; the first phase included the 17 miles from St. Johnsbury to West Danville. This section is predicted to have the most users and the highest percentage of non-local users.

The train station as a trailhead, will have parking, ADA bathrooms, water refill station and informational kiosks. The passenger-side of the train station will

house exhibit space maintained by the Danville Historical Society. The freight-side will have bike rentals, food and eventually a gear shop.

“The Danville Select Board members are excited for the opening of the newly refurbished train station,” said Janice Ouillette, chair of the Danville Select Board. “The road from reimagining the historic depot to completion has been long and not without a few bumps. It would not have been possible without the dedicated volunteers who have logged countless hours to make the project a reality.”

Michael Hogue, train station coordinator agrees. “The completed renovation is the result of a lot of hard work by a handful of dedicated people. The open house is a chance to thank the many donors, grantors, contractors, and volunteers for their work, and invite the community to celebrate the official opening.”

### Thompson art opening at library, Sept. 12

WOODBURY – An art opening reception for Woodbury painter Leonora H. Thompson (1935-2023) will be held at the Woodbury Community Library, Friday, Sept.

12, at 6 p.m. Thompson took up painting at age 62, and painted landscapes, water mills, light-houses, birds and many outdoor scenes on canvas and slate.

## OBITUARIES

### George Hall

YARMOUTH, Me. – Our beloved father, George Hall, passed away peacefully August 16, at the age of 89. He resided in Yarmouth, Me., during the last months of his life. His beloved wife, Charlotte, passed away in 2016. His four children survive George: Peter Hall (Cumberland, Me.), Tim Hall (Des Moines, Iowa), Yvette Hall-Swain (Brockton, Mass.), and Steve Hall (Westford, Mass.). George leaves behind 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

George was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather as well as an inspiration to his family throughout his life. He will be greatly missed. George was born 1935 and grew up in Massachusetts in his early years before living in Tallahassee, Fla. He graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering and later earned a Master’s Degree from Northeastern University.

He spent his entire career at Raytheon, working in Massachusetts and across the world. George was an accomplished sailor, and for decades George took his family on adventures along the coast of Maine. He contributed to many community activities, enriching the lives of many as a leader, mentor, coach and friend.



George Hall

George was a Master’s Nordic ski champion, skied for most of his life, and lived on Craftsbury Common, Vt., from 1994 to 2024. Prior to Vermont, George lived in Bolton, Mass., from 1971 to 1994.

Those who were fortunate to know him, especially his family, will carry his memory in their hearts. George made life brighter and better for everyone who knew him, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. At George’s request, there will be no services.

### TOWN OF GREENSBORO ROAD CLOSURE SHADOW LAKE ROAD

Shadow Lake Road in Greensboro will be closed September 2, for approximately six weeks for bridge replacement. Please follow detour signs. As progress is made, updates will be available.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## MVU holds redistricting forum, Sept. 11

GREENSBORO – The Mountain View Union (MVU) Elementary School District Board will meet September 11, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Lakeview Early Education Center. The first hour of the meeting will be dedicated to a public forum on the future of MVU given the changes facing school districts with Act 73. The forum will focus on two key questions: should MVU remain

within a supervisory union (SU), or would it be better to join a single-district model with one school board overseeing all schools in that district? If MVU remains in an SU and that SU is required to expand, which neighboring supervisory unions might be the best fit to partner with? Options include Lamoille North, Lamoille South, Caledonia North, Caledonia Central and others.

## BYO apples to community cider pressing, Sept. 13

EAST HARDWICK – Caledonia Grange No. 9 will provide the press and labor for community members who bring apples and containers for a community cider

pressing, Saturday Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop by early and pick up a map of local spots to find apples. The hall is located at 88 East Church Street.

## Learn to can food at workshop, Sept. 14

EAST HARDWICK – The Second Sunday Agricultural Series of the Caledonia Grange No. 9 will present canning with Carol Fairbank of Broadfork Farm, September 14, at 4 p.m. This workshop is a hands-on learning experience where participants learn safe and effective methods

for preserving food at home, and covers both hot water bath and pressure canning as well as the science behind these processes. Fairbank preserves a range of products for sale at the farm and at local farmers' markets. The hall is located at 88 East Church Street.

## Share ideas at Plainfield Forward forum, Sept. 17

PLAINFIELD – September 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Haybarn Theatre will host a community forum session to build on ideas, challenges and opportunities shared at the July meetings. Attendees will review action items,

discuss what's most important, and vote for community priorities. Pizza, lemonade, and desserts will be served. Childcare will be provided. Those who can't join in person may watch the livestream at [bit.ly/PlainfieldForward](https://bit.ly/PlainfieldForward).

## Living Systems series explores connection, beginning Sept. 23

PLAINFIELD — Living Systems, a three-part author series hosted by Cutler Memorial Library, begins September 13.

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m., author Zoë Schlanger will host a live remote Q&A. Schlange, a journalist for The Atlantic and author of "The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth," will explore the ways plants perceive and respond to the world. Participants can ask questions and engage in a conversation.

On Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 6 p.m., author Ethan Tapper will lead an in-person discussion about "How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World." Tapper will share insights into the relationships between humans and forests, highlighting the chal-

lenges and rewards of caring for these ecosystems.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 6 p.m., naturalist Bryan Pfeiffer, known for his Vermont radio program "For the Birds," will present his 21-year search for the elusive Elfin Bog Butterfly, the first confirmed sighting in the state. Blending natural history, personal narrative and reflections on the human condition, Pfeiffer's talk celebrates curiosity and the connection to the living world.

This series is free and open to all. Events are hosted at the Plainfield Town Hall and Opera House, presented in collaboration with the Plainfield Conservation Commission and made possible by a grant from the Echo Center. For more information, contact: Angela Ogle, director, Cutler Memorial Library at (802) 454-8504, or email [angela.m.ogle@cutlerlibrary.org](mailto:angela.m.ogle@cutlerlibrary.org)



The annual AWARE Kayak Fundraiser was won by Nathaniel Cunningham (center) of Greensboro. The kayak was presented by AWARE staff, Miranda Elkins and Tonda Bryant, along with Board Chair Anne McPherson and Board Member Paulette Brochu. The raffle raised \$1,234 to support AWARE's domestic and sexual violence services in the community. *courtesy photo*

## Cribbage tournament offers prizes, Sept. 20

EAST MONTPELIER – Saturday, Sep. 20, at 10 a.m., the Twin Valley Senior Center will host a cribbage tournament. After the qualifying rounds the top six players go on to compete for prize money. Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m., at \$35 per player. Cash prizes are set as follows, assuming 40 players; champion \$250, 2nd place \$200, 3rd place at \$150, 4th at \$100, 5th at \$70 and 6th at \$30. Prizes will be determined by the number

of players. Coffee, morning refreshments and lunch included. Reserve a seat by calling (802) 223-3322. A consolation tournament will be held for those not qualifying in the main tournament, requiring a \$10 fee, with the payout to be determined. For more information contact Tom McGibney, (802) 379-7706, (802) 223-3081 or email [ltmcgibney@yahoo.com](mailto:ltmcgibney@yahoo.com). Twin Valley Senior Center is located at 4583 Rte. 2, East Montpelier.

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### ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Hardwick Gazette is seeking qualified interns and experienced sales representatives to join our team selling ads and sponsorships for our digital publication and website.

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We offer generous commissions paid bi-weekly with mileage reimbursement. The position may be full or part-time depending on the candidate's experience and ability to commit time to the position.

The Gazette sales territory is primarily in Hardwick and extends across the eleven towns we cover, then west to Morrisville, Johnson and Stowe; north to Newport and Derby; south to Barre and Montpelier, and east to the Interstate 91 corridor north and south of St. Johnsbury. One or more sales reps may be offered all or part of the territory.

This is an exciting opportunity to use your communication skills getting to know the businesses and civic organizations in our communities while helping to build a solid financial foundation for the community-owned, nonprofit Hardwick Gazette.

Some sales experience preferred. Must have own vehicle.

Send letter of interest to [ads@hardwickgazette.org](mailto:ads@hardwickgazette.org)

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### AWARE walk on Sept. 13

HARDWICK – Saturday, September 13, starting at 9:00 a.m., AWARE's annual walk will take place at the Pavilion at Atkins Field on Granite St. The event invites walkers and bikers to join in support of survivors of domestic and sexual violence and to raise funds that keep AWARE's services free and available to anyone in need.

Participants will receive a T-shirt and a water bottle. The walk will follow a route through town and along the rail trail to Summersweet Gardens at Perennial Pleasures in East Hardwick.

To encourage fundraising, walkers will be entered into a prize drawing for every \$100 raised. Prizes include a \$100 gift card to

Cork and Fork, a \$50 gift card to Buffalo Mountain Market and a \$25 gift card and tote bag from Front Seat Coffee. Community members are encouraged to walk, sponsor a walker or make a donation. Please email [jschneider@vtlink.net](mailto:jschneider@vtlink.net) or call 472-6463 for more information.

AWARE provides a 24-hour hotline, emergency assistance, legal and medical advocacy and ongoing support for survivors — all free of charge. These services are sustained through a combination of federal and state grants, as well as community support. With federal funding increasingly uncertain, it's local commitment that makes sure survivors can continue to count on these critical services.

### AWARE community vigil, Sept. 18

HARDWICK – AWARE will host a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m., Thursday, September 18, at the Hardwick Peace Park (located between The Civic Standard and Mike's Service Center on S. Main St.) to honor survivors and remember victims of domestic and sexual violence.

This year's vigil comes at a time when the Hardwick area has been deeply shaken by a series of domestic violence incidents. In recent months, the body of Hardwick woman Tina Lynn Daigle, was found in Woodbury, and Michael A. Williams, who had a history of domestic violence, was charged with her murder.

In Hardwick, Angela Torres was charged with involuntary manslaughter in connection with another domestic case, and more recently, Zane Davison was arrested after threatening family members and damaging their home, one of several violent episodes linked to his history of abuse.

These tragedies underscore the prevalence of domestic violence in the Northeast Kingdom and the urgent need for prevention, support and community involvement.

"Domestic violence is not just a private matter, it affects families, children and the safety of the entire community," said AWARE's Interim Executive Director, Miranda Elkins. "We need to work together to break the cycle of violence and ensure survivors know they are not alone."

The September 18 vigil will include readings of personal stories and poetry, community sharing and a display of AWARE's

Silent Witnesses, life-sized silhouettes bearing the names and stories of individuals whose lives were lost to violence. Among them will be a Silent Witness representing Tina Lynn Daigle, the most recent local victim.

"Neighbors and friends play an important role in prevention," said Elkins. "Checking in on loved ones, listening without judgment, and encouraging people to connect with local resources can truly save lives."

Statewide, the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence reports that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 10 men in Vermont will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes, and nearly half of all homicides in Vermont are related to domestic violence.

AWARE, based in Hardwick, provides free and confidential services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, including a 24-hour hotline, emergency assistance, legal and medical advocacy, and support. These services are sustained through federal and state grants, as well as community support. With federal funding increasingly uncertain, community support is essential to keeping these critical services available here at home. Our neighbors depend on it.

If you or someone you know needs help, please contact AWARE at (802) 472-6463 or email [aware@vtlink.net](mailto:aware@vtlink.net). Website: [awareVT.org](http://awareVT.org)

Candles will be provided for the vigil and all community members are encouraged to attend and stand together to support and remember survivors, victims and their families.



Pam Kennedy (center) coordinator for the community seed exchange at the Barton Public Library and the Barton Giving Garden ran a Grow Your Own Seed Saving Workshop at Atkins Field, September 6. Attending (from left) are Peggy Newfield of Craftsbury, Katharine Arnold of Hardwick and Chad Wohlers of Woodbury. photo by Vanessa Fournier

### Benefit Dinner, Sept. 11

WALDEN – Thursday, Sept. 11, beginning at 5 p.m., the Walden Methodist Church will host a spaghetti benefit supper for the new Walden school Principal Jessica Kenyon, who lost her home to fire on August 22. Come for spaghetti,

a variety of fresh locally made breads, Cabot cheese, a large salad bar, and a wide variety of desserts. Supper is by donation. Please join in support of Jessica Kenyon and her family. Call 802-563-2220 for more information.

### Barton hub housing presentation

BARTON – Monday, September 22, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Center for an Agricultural Economy will host a presentation, discussion and potluck dinner at

the Barton Memorial Hall to learn about community led approaches to providing housing in the NEK region. Potluck dinner contributions are welcome but not required.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Comcast's Xfinity, business services now available

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – After years of residential internet service available only from the telephone company as DSL or wirelessly, residents in parts of Greensboro now have a choice of two broadband internet service providers (ISPs) with the addition of Comcast to NEK Broadband.

On September 4, Comcast announced the completion of construction to extend its network to nearly 400 new homes and businesses in Greensboro, "delivering reliable, high-speed, symmetrical Internet from America's smartest and most reliable converged network. With this milestone, residents and businesses in Greensboro now have access to Comcast's full suite of Xfinity and Comcast Business services, giving customers more speed, savings, and control over their connected lives," said the company.

Greensboro joins the more

than 64 million homes and businesses nationwide with access to the Xfinity network.

"Comcast is proud to deepen our investment in Vermont by expanding our full suite of Xfinity and Comcast Business services to Greensboro," said Carlyne Hannan, Senior Vice President of Comcast's New England Region. "This milestone brings fast, reliable Internet and mobile services, along with cutting-edge entertainment, home automation, and cybersecurity solutions, to more homes and businesses. By expanding access to these essential technologies, we're helping the Greensboro community thrive in today's digital world."

Residents can visit [Xfinity.com/mytown](http://Xfinity.com/mytown) and enter their address to learn more and sign up for services.

Visit [comcastcorporation.com](http://comcastcorporation.com) for more information.

Paul Fixx serves on the board and executive committee of NEK Broadband.

# OBITUARIES

## Sharyn A. Salls



Sharyn A. Salls

two grandchildren and two great grandchildren, her daycare kids and her knitting. Her hands were rarely still, always creating something beautiful or offering comfort through a gentle touch or kind word. She lived a life centered around love, compassion, and the simple, meaningful moments that make up a full and well-lived life.

After facing an unexpected loss in her life, Sharyn joined a group, Vermont Victim Impact. They would go to different organizations and groups and share their stories, hoping to inform people about destructive decisions and the impact tragedy has on families.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 59 years, Raymond G. Salls Jr.; her two daughters, Shelley (David "Bum") Hale of East Hardwick, and Sherri (Mike) Wiswell of Woodbury; two beloved grandchildren, Kassity (Andrew) Marckres of Craftsbury and Dr. Mykala Wiswell (Kolin Barclay) of Walden; and two cherished great-grandchildren Wyatt Marckres and Bennett Barclay.

Sharyn was predeceased by her parents, Charlie and Peggy Smith, and her daughter, Lori Ann Salls.

Her warmth, kindness and gentle spirit will be missed by all who knew her.

Visiting hours will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Northern Vermont Funeral Home, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick.

A private service will be held by the family at a date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Sharyn's memory may be made to Lamoille Area Cancer Network, 198 Farr Avenue, Morrisville, VT 05661.

Online condolences are welcomed at: [northernvermontfuneralservice.com](http://northernvermontfuneralservice.com)

HARDWICK – Sharyn Salls passed away peacefully at home on September 4, surrounded by the love and presence of her family. Born on June 3, 1947, in Hardwick, she was the daughter of the late Charlie and Peggy (Hovey) Smith.

A proud graduate of Hardwick Academy Class of 1965, Sharyn went on to work at National Life Group in Montpelier. Following her career there, she dedicated many years to providing day care in her home, a calling that brought joy, purpose and many lifelong friendships. She became a second mother to many, creating a warm and welcoming space where children were cherished and nurtured.

On April 2, 1966, Sharyn married Raymond G. Salls Jr. in Hardwick. Together, they built a home that was filled with love, laughter and strong family values. Whether it was through her quiet support, her handmade knitted gifts or her endless care for those around her, Sharyn made sure everyone who entered her home felt like family.

She was an active member of the United Church of Hardwick, women's circle and financial group of that church. Sharyn's greatest joys were her children,

## Richard "Dick" Alan Barnes



Richard "Dick" Alan Barnes

were tied and his presence a steady anchor for the whole family.

Richard served in both the U.S. Army and National Guard for 16 years, taking great pride in his service to the country he so deeply cherished. He went on to earn high accolades in sales, traveling throughout the Northeast, yet always finding his way back home to family, neighbors and friends.

He was generous with his time and talents, volunteering to help countless people earn diplomas, certifications and confidence in themselves. He was a firm believer in self-betterment and lifted up those around him, often in ways they never forgot. A visit with him, whether on a neighbor's porch or over a puzzle, always came with a quick wit, an unexpected quip, and perhaps a sharp tongue softened by humor.

HARDWICK – Richard "Dick" Alan Barnes passed away peacefully at his home of 61 years, surrounded by the love and legacy he built over a remarkable lifetime.

Born in Island Pond to James and Pearl (Langmaid) Barnes, Richard grew up alongside his three brothers and sister. He was a son of the Northeast Kingdom who carried it's values of hard work, loyalty and grit with him all his days.

A blind date arranged by dear friends Dick and Charlotte Webster turned into the love story of his life. Richard and his wife, Lorraine, shared 53 years of marriage, countless adventures and a family that became his proudest achievement. Together they raised three children; Vincent (Edna), Kelly (Richard) and Gregory (Kelly).

He was grandfather to Renee, Christopher (Emily), Heather, Chad (Danielle), Jamie (Shawn), Andrew, Morgan (Drew) and Ethan and great-grandfather to Ava Grace, Haile, Cali, Ivy, Christopher, MaKenzie, Frankie, Charlie and Blakely. His wheelbarrow was a beloved "chariot" for many of them, his lap a classroom where shoes

A voracious reader, a lover of brain teasers and a life-long learner, Richard never stopped feeding his curiosity about the world. He was proud of his nation, steadfast in his devotion to his family and expressive in his own way, making sure people knew he cared even if he didn't put it into words. Richard's story is one of service, love, humor and steadfastness. He will be remembered not only for what he achieved but for how he lived: with pride, with purpose and with a spark that brightened the lives around him.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no formal services. In lieu of flowers or gifts the family asks that you honor Richard by taking a few extra moments with someone else, offering your time or guidance in a way that helps them improve their life, just as he so often did.

Condolences and memories of Richard may be shared with his family at [dgfunerals.com](http://dgfunerals.com).

## Susan Eastman Slayton

HARDWICK – A Celebration of Life will be held for Susan Eastman Slayton on Sunday, Sept. 21, from 1 to 4 p.m., at American Legion Post No. 7, 51 North Main St.

### Cabot

Enjoy upstairs bedroom-half bath in rural home surrounded by rolling fields. Host seeking guest with some daytime availability to accompany her outdoors as safety presence, lift-carry items, run occasional errands, provide occasional transportation. Rent-free with utility share. No smoking, no pets. Nut-free household. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

### Hardwick

Enjoy furnished third-floor bedroom in spacious in-town home shared with welcoming family. Shared bath, no smoking, hypoallergenic dog considered, no other pets. \$600 plus utilities. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

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PLANNING

# Final seasonal concert features thirty-piece orchestra

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The final concert of this summer’s Caspian Music season was held on Sunday evening, August 24, at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro.

The thirty-piece Caspian Chamber Orchestra was skillfully conducted by Paul McShee, and two works featured soprano Andrea Nalywajko, an early Mendelssohn violin concerto was performed by Solomiya Ivakhiv, and the Italian symphony by the same composer completed the program.

Dmytro Bortianskyi (1751-1825) was born in Ukraine and was educated in St. Petersburg and Italy, eventually settling in the Russian capital at the tsar’s court chapel. Besides being a conductor, singer and educator, he was a prolific composer of numerous secular and sacred works that place him among the most significant early elites of classical music in Eastern Europe. The “Overture and Aria D’Avetea” from his opera “Alcide”, written in 1778, was presented here for the first time in North America. With an exciting beginning at a fast tempo, the Overture developed a nice melody that

suggested the ambience of the action that would follow. The aria “Tu vendrai che virtu non paventa”, subtitled “Echoes from the Enlightenment” was sung in Italian by Andrea Nalywajko with a fine, fine voice. The text evoked the hope that virtue will prevail over all adversaries.

In the second selection, she sang a short aria from the oratorio “Joshua,” by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759), HWV 64, written in 1747, based on the Old Testament narrative of the battle of Jericho. “Oh! Had I Jubal’s Lyre” was an appeal by musicians and singers to be able to rejoice through music.

The “Concerto for Violin and Strings in D Minor,” MWV03, by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) illustrated the remarkable ability of a precocious development possible from a very young age to write music, compared to any other art. He composed this work when he was barely twelve to fourteen years old, albeit he (and his talented sister Fanny) grew up in an unusually encouraging family. Just a few years later, Mendelssohn wrote the initial, utterly delightful incident musical to Shakespeare’s “Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The manuscript for this concerto was only rediscovered in the 1950s. The orchestra consisted solely of fourteen string players, without brass,

woodwinds or percussion, and the piece contained three movements. The allegro developed the melody with an increasing temp and had some challenging sections of rapid bowing. The andante took a slower pace and showed Solomiya Ivakhiv’s sensitive musicality in the feeling of the playing. The allegro was a lively tune that was explored in the orchestra and in solo violin parts, with an almost folk dance quality to it. Her sympathetic performance of this piece won her prolonged applause from the grateful audience.

Following intermission, the full orchestra returned and gave a very dramatic interpretation of the “Symphony No. 4 in A Major, Op. 90” of Felix Mendelssohn, entitled the “Italian.” As conductor Paul McShee explained in comments before they commenced, this work, written in 1833 after a visit to Italy, had pragmatic elements underlying the music embodying a feeling for the country. Then it begins with the excitement of a young man discovering the beautiful landscape and ancient culture of Italy, then moved specifically to Naples with a funeral procession that transitions to a lighter mood, next to a military band with two dances, and lastly to

a glorious finale.

The allegro vivace started with great enthusiasm so full of life, with all sections of the orchestra scored in a rich interplay of texture, with exquisite melodies having unstoppable momentum and particularly lovely passages for the oboes and flutes. The andante con moto had a more solemn tempo appropriate to a funeral cortege in another colorful melody, morphing into a brighter second theme that reaffirmed in the inescapable optimism of this symphony. The third movement had a melody of overwhelming beauty, continuously unfolding, used for many years by WQXR, the New York Times radio station, as a transitional theme between programs. The harmonic orchestration here among all the instruments was brilliant. The last part, scored Saltarello: Presto, continued the utterly engaging sweep of the music with complex rhythms and lyrical drama right through to the triumphant ending.

Paul McShee’s conducting was superb and the musicians played with penultimate coordination. The audience expressed its deep appreciation with an immediate standing ovation.



An exhibition of work by Northeast Kingdom artist Randee Lightcap is on display in the Athenaeum Hall Gallery through September. The exhibition is free, ADA accessible, and open to the public. The gallery is located in the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St.. Call (802) 748-8291 for more information. *courtesy photo*

# HIGHLAND

## Center for the Arts

- SEP 27 | DAVE STAMEY
- OCT 18 | VERMONT PHILHARMONIC
- NOV 7 | THE WELL TREE
- DEC 6 | WINTERMARKET
- DEC 12 | THE TALLIS SCHOLARS
- DEC 31 | ZACH NUGENT'S DEAD SET
- FEB 7 | CURDS & CURLING
- FEB 13 & 14 | LA BOHÈME
- MAR 14 | PETER ANTONIOU
- MAR 26 | BREAD & PUPPET
- APR 9 | JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER:  
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# Exhibition of birds of Africa through Sept. 21

GREENSBORO – “A Critical Balance: the Endangered birds of Amboseli Park, Kenya, Africa” is an exhibition of art through September 21, at the gallery at the Highland Center for the Arts.

“A Critical Balance” explores a selection of birds found in Amboseli National Park and provides six featured artists an opportunity to share their observations and use their art to convey both the beauty of their chosen endangered species and the need to protect them. Artists included in the exhibit are Heidi Broner, Susan Bull Riley, Linda Mirabile, Adelaide Murphy



Hooded Vulture by Linda Mirabile, 21x28, acrylic on paper



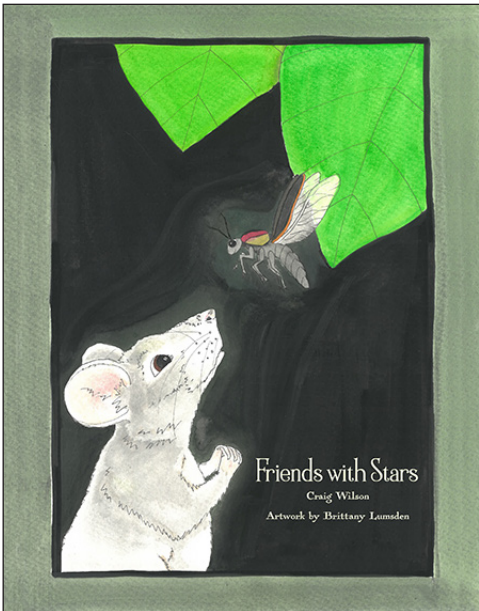
Pallid Harrier by Susan Bull Riley, 33 x 32, oil on paper

Tyrol, Susan Parmenter and Gabriel Tempesta. Each artist has chosen one or more birds that reside in or are seasonal visitors to Amboseli. All species of birds showcased in the exhibit are listed on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List

as endangered or threatened. The gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.



White Headed Vulture by Gabriel Tempesta



## New children’s book explores magic of caring

MARSHFIELD – “Friends with Stars”, a new book by Marshfield author Craig Wilson with artwork by Brittany Lumsden of Wolcott, is about a chance encounter that reminds readers of the magic that arises with care for one another. The narrative invites children and adults to believe in the power of kindness.

Craig Wilson lives with his two children, Evelyn and Solomon, enjoying stargazing, reading and writing. With a twenty-year career in education across a variety of grade levels, he says he has always “cherished the magic of storytime and the joy of sharing meaningful tales.”

Brittany Lumsden is an artist and mother who works from her home studio. She finds inspiration in her environment and enjoys working across multiple artistic mediums.

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# Current 2025 Schedule

as of June 2025

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<b>12 AM</b>	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	<b>12 AM</b>
<b>1 AM</b>		BantuNauts RAYdio		Latin Explosion	Baroque and Beyond	Adagio	Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	<b>1 AM</b>
<b>2 AM</b>	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine					<b>2 AM</b>
<b>3 AM</b>	WGDR New Music Mix Music Directors							<b>3 AM</b>
<b>4 AM</b>	WGDR New Music Mix Music Directors							<b>4 AM</b>
<b>5 AM</b>	Counterspin Grassroots	Thom Hartmann Program					What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	<b>5 AM</b>
<b>6 AM</b>	Big Picture Science Show	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Prison Pipeline Food Sleuth	<b>6 AM</b>
<b>7 AM</b>	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage & Steven Farnham	Magpie in the Morning Delia Gillen	Eastern Dawn Luke Lampugnale	First Voices Radio	Writer's Voice	Economic Update Rumble Strip	The Children's Hour	<b>7 AM</b>
<b>8 AM</b>	Democracy Now!						Bike Talk	<b>8 AM</b>
<b>9 AM</b>	Trance-Formational Listening Dennis Darrah	Eggs on Toast Kelly	ROTATING SLOT #6 (see below)	The Quilting Hour Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer	Relocalizing Vermont Carl Etnier	The Magical Mystery Tour Tonio Epstein	ROTATING SLOT #9 (see below)	<b>9 AM</b>
<b>10 AM</b>	ROTATING SLOT #1 (see below)	Peace Talk Radio Sprouts	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #10 (see below)	<b>10 AM</b>
<b>11 AM</b>		ROTATING SLOT #4 (see below)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	Night Train Cocktail	¿Where Do We Go From Here? Caleb		<b>11 AM</b>
<b>12 PM</b>	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat		Unshelved J Kramer		The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	<b>12 PM</b>
<b>1 PM</b>				The Rubber Room Dan Towner		Techtonic		<b>1 PM</b>
<b>2 PM</b>	Spanning the Chasm Peter Goreau	The Monday Drive at 2 Corey Flynn	Straight Up Soul		UpFront Soul	Modern Jet Set	Boxful of Blues John Foster	<b>2 PM</b>
<b>3 PM</b>			Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Adiogo		Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		<b>3 PM</b>
<b>4 PM</b>	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see below)	Trailing Edge David Ferland		Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder		Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	<b>4 PM</b>
<b>5 PM</b>	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Letters and Politics				Geezer Rock Jeff Lindholm		<b>5 PM</b>
<b>6 PM</b>	Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)		Stranger & Deinger	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see below)			<b>6 PM</b>
<b>7 PM</b>	The Revel Level DJ EhMmAh	ROTATING SLOT #5 (see below)	ROTATING SLOT #7 (see below)	Woodwarbler's JazzGrass Brian Aust	Xav Wax Xav Jimenez	Spiral Galaxy Tom McMurdo	Jagler Katz Worm Hole Jason Hagler	<b>7 PM</b>
<b>8 PM</b>								<b>8 PM</b>
<b>9 PM</b>	ROTATING SLOT #3 (see below)	Deep Blues Les Mawson	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	Music as Art Uku Meri	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic DJ Eben Flow	The Meltdown KingTone	First Wave	<b>9 PM</b>
<b>10 PM</b>		Blues Edge Les Mawson			Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow		The Beatdown Z-Point	<b>10 PM</b>
<b>11 PM</b>	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw		And You Don't Stop		<b>11 PM</b>

**Rotating Slots**

**#1: Sun 10 am-12 pm**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Audio Ergo Sum  
 Darien & Ruby McElwain  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: The Immanent Grove  
 Conni Mags

**#2: Sun 4-5 pm**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Afrosonic Taxi  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: Discoverances  
 DJ Savannah

**#3: Sun 9-11 pm**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Walkin' Will: Show of Live  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: All Mixed Up

**#4: Mon 11 am-12 pm**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mon: Blluminations  
 Stefanie Lingenfelter  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Cuneiform Radio  
 Kyle Schlesinger  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: Project Censored

**#5: Mon 7-9 pm**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mon: Future Reflections  
 DJ Syd  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon: In Common Sounds  
 Brother B  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: Gilded Splinters  
 Kevin Titterton  
 4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Borderlands  
 DJ Tenderman

**#6: Tue 9-10 am**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue: Alternative Radio  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue: Structurally Unsound  
 Yardain Amron

**#7: Tue 7-9 pm**  
 Biweekly rotation:  
 Still Life with Club Soda  
 Serena Matt  
 Still Life with Orange Peel  
 Ada Bowman

**#8: Thu 6-7 pm**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Thu: The Broken Bois  
 Collective Presents...  
 Steve Pappas  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thu: Into the Issues  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu: Radio RoundUp  
 CVCR hosts

**#9: Sat 9-10 am**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Gathering Peace  
 Joseph Gainza  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Civic Radio Project  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Pollinator Report  
 Emily Lanxner  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Kitchen Permaculture  
 Rebecca Beidler

**#10: Sat 10-11 am**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Sex Fly Bengé  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Pitter Patter Radio  
 Pat Kantner  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Under the Covers  
 DJ Rhizosphere  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Indigenous Music

Support, stream live or listen to archives at [WGDR.org](http://WGDR.org)

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Listeners at the Greensboro United Church of Christ hear Birdhouse Band members (from left) Icarus Tyree on violin, Mavis MacNeil with saxophone, Alice Perron on guitar and Andrew Koehler (far right) on piano at a benefit performance for the Greensboro Nursing Home, Friday, August 29.

photo by Andrew Brown



Birdhouse Band members (from left) Icarus Tyree, Roy MacNeil, Mavis MacNeil, Andrew Koehler and Alice Perron accept a standing ovation following their benefit performance for the Greensboro Nursing Home, August 29.

photo by Katherine Sims

## Multi-talented musicians give uplifting benefit concert

### REVIEWS

by David Rodgers

GREENSBORO – A very upbeat concert to benefit the Greensboro Nursing Home (GNH) was held Friday evening, August 29, at the United Church of Christ. It featured Roy MacNeil on violin and guitar; Mavis MacNeil on saxophone, flute and vocals; Alice Perron on guitar and vocals; Andrew Koehler on piano and percussion and Icarus Tyree on viola, guitar, trombone and vocals.

They started off with some traditional fiddle tunes by James Allen and Harvest Home, with Roy leading on his violin, accelerating

the reels with faster and faster bowing that would challenge any dancer to kick up their heels. A classic song, “All of Me” was sung by Mavis with her lovely, expressive voice, accompanied by Koehler on piano and Roy on violin.

Duke Ellington’s beautiful melody “Take the A Train” continued Mavis’s vocals and gave Koehler the opportunity to do some skillful improvisation on the piano. Next was “Mr. Tamborine Man” by Bob Dylan, a great tune with many delightful lyrics, with Roy on violin, Tyree on guitar, Koehler on washboard with Mavis singing.

“Barlow Knife” had bouncy rhythms in a pretty quick tempo with the same combination of musicians except for Mavis on flute. “These Boots Are Made for Walkin’” by Nancy Sinatra was a song that

Perron, who works at the GNH, got as a request from a resident there. Despite its rather aggressive verses, it would make good music for dancing, and the whole group joined in playing it. Another request, “Jambalaya,” was a big hit in 1952, here performed by Perron on guitar and singing, Mavis on saxophone, Tyree on mouth harp, Roy on violin and Koehler on washboard.

“Let’s Do it, Let’s Fall in Love” was a very amusing song with double entendres and a not so hidden agenda, with endless clever lyrics and a catchy melody, which Mavis sang with Koehler at the piano, again during imaginative variations on the theme. They continued with another favorite love song, “Misty,” Roy on violin and Tyree on viola teamed up for the third movement Rondo of Mozart’s “Duo, K. 423,” with its engaging tune of intertwining instrumental lines in an empathetic interpretation.

“Bonhomme Bonhomme”, a French-Canadian folk song, was sung by Perron in a lively manner, with Roy on violin, Tyree on trombone, Mavis on flute and Koehler on piano, all in a kind of call-and-response, made with a compelling beat.

One of Perron’s GNH projects was to ask residents about their favorite memories of summer and put them together into an original song, which evoked a lot of beautiful imagery in her singing while

playing the guitar.

Following an intermission, The entire line-up performed the Vermont State Anthem, “These Green Mountains” which had fine poetic lines.

Roy on guitar and Tyree on vocals got together for “One More Night”, a song of regret for the passing of a relationship, which had a lot of feeling in the verse. Mavis, Koehler and Roy gave a very nice rendition of “It’s a Wonderful World”, with its well needed optimism in meaningful lyrics, which Stevie Wonder popularized. “Four Strong Winds” effectively combined Perron on guitar, with Tyree’s vocals, about someone moving on.

A true oldie was “By the Light of the Silver Moon,” from 1909, sung by a trio of Mavis, Tyree, and Perron supported by guitar, violin and viola. Two very playful reels, one entitled an “Irish Washer Woman” had Roy on viola, Tyree on guitar, Mavis on saxophone and Koehler on washboard. They got the audience clapping to the complex rhythms. The last number on the program was “When You’re Smiling, the Whole World Smiles With You”, a fitting finale to a concert that had so many selections full of positive energy, played by multi-talented musicians who were genuinely having a lot of fun. The audience agreed by standing up for an enthusiastic ovation.



The Uku Ladies (from left) Anna Adler, Rachel Funk, Pat Schweidenback and Janet Gibbons, hailing from various places in Lamoille County, perform at the Hardwick Farmers Market, September 5 under the Atkins Field pavilion..

photo by Paul Fixx

## THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

# EVENTS

## Wednesday, Sept. 10

**RIPPLE EFFECTS:** Watershed Forum - Conversations on Water, Wildlife & Climate Change. Beavers & Natural Infrastructure, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All are welcome. Information: (802) 472-1686 or zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov.

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

**DIY BOOKMARKS** for Teens, 3 p.m. Craft your own bookmark in honor of Library Card Sign-Up Month. For ages 12-18. Jeudevine Memorial Library, 95 N. Main St. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-5948.

## Thursday, Sept. 11

**DECLAN MCCABE**, aquatic ecologist and professor of biology at Saint Michael's College, at Fellowship Hall, Greensboro United Church of Christ, 5:30 p.m., to discuss and share photographs of organisms found in Vermont's waterways.

**REDISTRICTING FORUM**, with Mountain View Union Elementary School District Board, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Lakeview Early Education Center.

## Friday, Sept. 12

**ART OPENING RECEPTION** for Woodbury painter Leonora H. Thompson (1935-2023), 6 p.m., Woodbury Community Library.

## Saturday, Sept. 13

**FARMERS MARKET**, Marshfield, Jaquith Public Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., canning skills, music by Vecchio Stile, jams, jellies, preserves resource swap.

**COMMUNITY CIDER PRESSING**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Caledonia Grange No. 9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. Bring your apples and containers.

## Sunday, Sept. 14

**WORDS OUT LOUD**, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by Gary Clark and Helen Whybrow. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

**CANNING WITH CAROL FAIRBANK** of Broadfork Farm, 4 p.m., Caledonia Grange No. 9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. Hands-on learning experience.

## Monday, Sept. 15

**BENEFIT BINGO**, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to a nonprofit organization.

## Wednesday, Sept. 17

**COMMUNITY FORUM**, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Haybarn Theatre, Plainfield. Childcare provided.

## Saturday, Sept. 20

**FARMERS MARKET**, Marshfield, Jaquith Public Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., gifts from the garden, music by Leland Swift, drawing and painting supplies resource swap.

**"ABBEY ROAD" CONCERT**, Plainfield Opera House, Plainfield, 7 p.m., by Birdhouse Band.

**ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP**, 2 - 4 p.m., with Krista Mayer. Teens and adults both welcome. Writing prompts provided. Information: Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

## Sunday, Sept. 21

**WORDS OUT LOUD**, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by Diana Whitney and L.N. Bethea. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

## Monday, Sept. 22

**BENEFIT BINGO**, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to a nonprofit organization.

## Sunday, Sept. 28

**WORDS OUT LOUD**, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by Harmony Belle Devoe and Carlene Kucharczyk. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

## Monday, Sept. 29

**BENEFIT BINGO**, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to a nonprofit organization.

## 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 (& Cease-fire) VIGIL**, Thursdays, 2 - 3 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 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

See EVENTS, Next Page

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# EVENTS

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).

**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 other 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).

**ALL HANDS TOGETHER**, Community Crafting Group, Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581, or [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.

**QIGONG**, Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m., at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

**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.

**STORY TIME**, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Books, songs, art activities and more for ages 5 and under, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St. Information: [jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov), (802) 472-5948.

**CHAPTERS IN HISTORY BOOK GROUP**, second Saturday of the month, 2 p.m., Sept. 13 through Dec. 13, 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).

**ADAPTIVE BIKING MONDAYS** on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., beginning at the trailhead parking lot on

Creamery Rd. in Hardwick. Sponsored by Adaptive Sports Partners. Reservations or information: [kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org](mailto:kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org) or call (802) 427-4116.

## Exhibits

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

**VASILIOS GLETSOS**: New Work. Using common materials: cardboard, paper, staples and wire, the art of Vasiliios Gletsos references objects of rural culture and playful expressions, Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover, through October 7.

**RANDEE LEIGHTCAP EXHIBITION**, Athenaeum Hall Gallery, 1171 Main St. Through September. Information: (802) 748-8291.

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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## TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY IS HIRING FULL-TIME ROAD FOREMAN OR ROAD CREW

Visit [www.townofcraftsbury.com/jobs](http://www.townofcraftsbury.com/jobs) for an application.  
Job opening will start in the fall.  
Competitive Salary \$25-\$35/hour & Benefits - EOE.  
Contact (802) 586-2823 or [craftsbury@gmail.com](mailto:craftsbury@gmail.com) for more information.

**Town of Woodbury  
Hiring Road Commissioner**

The Town of Woodbury is seeking a highly skilled and experienced road commissioner to manage the daily operations of our highway dept. and to assist in the daily tasks that the road crew is responsible for.

Duties will include: daily work scheduling, purchasing of equipment and supplies, project planning, administration of grants, general road work, plowing and sanding, equipment operation and equipment maintenance. Other duties include communicating with the select board, the public and with state agencies.

Necessary skills and qualifications include: a Class A CDL, substantial knowledge of road construction and maintenance, the ability to manage highway department staff, mechanical knowledge, the ability to operate heavy equipment and knowledge of state environmental rules as well as best practices. This is a full-time, 40-hour week position with overtime required as needed to keep roads passable. The expected pay range is \$30-\$40 per hour with benefits. Pay will be determined based upon experience and qualifications. Applications and a job description can be found on the town website at [woodburyvt.org](http://woodburyvt.org) or by calling the town office at (802) 456-7051.

# Wildcats cap off impressive week on homecoming

by Ken Brown

LAMOILLE – Head coach Harry Besett’s rebuild of the Hazen Union boys soccer program is off to a promising start in his second season after a hard-fought draw with Division II Lamoille and a resounding Homecoming Weekend win over Blue Mountain last week.

Jeter Demers scored the lone goal for the Wildcats and Grayson McNaughten was spectacular in net as Hazen earned a 1-1 road draw with the Lancers last Tuesday. Demers put the visitors up 1-0 off a well-placed ball from Kobe Smith late in the first half and the defense made it hold up heading into the break.

Less than five minutes into the second half, the game was suspended due to lightning and both teams endured a weather delay of nearly an hour. Midway through the second half, Lamoille earned a penalty kick, where the initial shot was stone-walled by McNaughten before Lucas Mercenilo cleaned up the rebound for the final score of the afternoon. McNaughten finished the match with six saves.

Ben Turner turned away five shots for the Lancers as they improved to 0-2-1.

The Wildcats waited out the weather again on Saturday and came out firing on all cylinders as their offense enjoyed one of their

biggest outputs in years, blitzing Blue Mountain 8-0 on Homecoming Weekend.

Levi Higgins led the way with a pair of goals and Justin Montgomery controlled the middle of the field all day, recording a goal and two assists. Jeter Demers continued his strong start to the season with a goal, and a pair of helpers and Ari Jurkiewicz tallied a goal and an assist in the win. Lucian Jurkiewicz and Nate Hayden found the back of the net for the first time this season and Sully Laflam assisted on two scores.

McNaughten made three saves and recorded a clean sheet before taking to the field in the second half to score a goal of his own and assist on another. Chayse Newell helped preserve the shutout with a pair of stops for Hazen.

Scott Brody made 14 saves for the Bucks as they fell to 0-2.

After playing some of their best soccer late last season, Besett is optimistic with the improvements he’s seen his young team make early on this fall as they ready for the rigors of Capital League play.

“There is definitely a higher level of maturity and coachability this season. This team is starting to understand the potential that they have to play good soccer and are working very hard in practice to execute a positive style of play. We have big tests ahead for our defense

this week, which will help us see how far we’ve come. Continuing to work at possessing the ball throughout matches has been the key to making things easier for ourselves defensively so far,” said Besett.

The Wildcats tackled a tough

road test against North Country on Monday and are scheduled to host Lyndon Institute on Wednesday. All home games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Second year Hazen Union varsity boys head coach Harry Besett was soaked Saturday during the team’s homecoming soccer game against Blue Mountain. Photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Wildcat Chayse Newell (No. 25) readies to pass the ball to midfield as Kasey Ingerson (back left) of Blue Mountain and Hazen’s Hunter Martin (back right) follow the play during pouring down rain Saturday. Hazen won 8 - 0. Photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union’s Sully Laflam (center) is winning the ball against Grady Souliere (left) of Blue Mountain during a downpour on Hudson Field, September 6. At right is Nate Hayden of Hazen. The Wildcats beat the Bucks 8 - 0. Photo by Vanessa Fournier

# First victory is sweet for Mercier and Lady Cats

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls soccer team evened their record at 1-1 last week in spectacular fashion, edging crosstown rival Peoples Academy (PA) in the closing seconds of the second overtime at Hudson Fields.

Isabelle Gouin took a feed from Kelsie Rivard and outraced the Lady Wolves' defense to score the game-winner with just under a minute left in overtime, powering Hazen to a 2-1 home win last Wednesday. Marina Smith fed Gouin ten minutes into the match to give the Lady Cats a 1-0 lead that they would take into the break.

Ellia Speers found the equalizer five minutes into the second half when Rivard got caught in no man's land, when she came off her line and Speers poked it into an empty net. It was the only mistake of the game for the talented junior, who ended the day with 23 saves before switching gears to offense in overtime to provide the game-winning assist. The victory proved to be extra sweet for first year head coach Megan Mercier, who won a pair of Division III state title for the Lady Wolves over a decade ago under legendary head coach Jim Eisenhardt.

"It's always great to get your first win as a team and to do it against a program you played for did add a bit of extra satisfaction. It took a couple days to get my voice

back and for my blood pressure to go down for sure. The girls played really hard all match, and it was a great team win. Fellow first year head coach Patt Bliss is going to do a great job with that program and I kind of hope we do, and don't get to see them again in the playoffs!" said Mercier.

Gouin has picked up right where she left off last fall, finding the back of the net four times in Hazen's first two matches. The senior Vermont All-State selection is on pace to lead the Lady Cats in scoring for a third straight season and break the all-time record for goals scored at Hazen.

PA pressured Rivard and the Lady Cat defense all day long, winning the shot battle 6 to 1. Senior Ella Renaud was equally as impressive for Hazen in overtime, turning away 10 more shots to secure the win. Sophia LaRock made 6 saves for PA as they fell to 1-2 on the season.

Mother Nature took center stage over the weekend, suspending the Lady Cats Homecoming match-up against Missisquoi Valley Union. Hazen had taken an early 1-0 lead off an early score from Taylor Thompson before thunder and lightning canceled the match. The two teams will replay the match in its entirety at a later date.

Hazen was scheduled to travel to BFA-Fairfax on Tuesday and will stay on the road for a match-up against Winooski on Friday.



Hazen Union senior Julia des Groseilliers (left) cuts off Peoples senior Ellia Speers (No. 13) during play in Hardwick September 3. At back in middle is wildcat Marina Smith. Hazen won 2-1 in overtime.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union freshman Ella Luther (No. 9) looks to move the ball around senior Ella Bliss (left) of Peoples during action, September 3, on Hudson field. The Wildcats prevailed 2-1 in overtime.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Fifty-nine people rode in the Cabot Ride The Ridges 30k (18 mile) ride held last year.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Ride the Ridges event, Sept. 14

CABOT – Sunday, September 14, the annual Cabot Ride the Ridges bicycling event will take place. The race will feature four different gravel rides on the back roads of Cabot and adjacent towns to satisfy most ability levels. All proceeds benefit the Cabot Mentoring program, a community organization dedicated to the development of Cabot youth.

Events begin at 7:30 a.m., with a 100K-ride and continue through noon. For children, there is a 10K loop that can be biked, walked or run. Beginning at 11 a.m., it goes up Houston Hill Road where there is a gourmet snack and refreshment stand. It then follows Churchill Road to Bothfeld Hill Road down

to Elm Street and back to the Cabot Green, where there are more refreshments and wood-fired pizza. The ride is a family activity and has been ridden by children as young as 6 and even some on unicycles. The event is free for children 12 and under and there is a family rate.

For younger children this year there is a new event, the Ride Around Cabot Green that will begin at 11:15 a.m. Bring little ones with bikes, trikes, scooters and any non-motorized thing that rolls. There will be snacks and refreshments on the Cabot Town Green. For more information and to register visit [ridetheridges.com](http://ridetheridges.com) or register the day of the event.

# Seniors lead way on the pitch for Cal United boys

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – Seniors Sam McLane and Eli Russell looked to be in midseason form last week as they powered Caledonia United past Burke Mountain Academy (BMA), improving to 2-0.

Russell recorded a hat trick for Cal United and McLane found the back of the net twice as they turned away BMA at home last Thursday 6-1. Jola Otten buried a feed from Russell for his second goal of the season just three minutes into the match to put the home team up 1-0. McLane and Russell each broke free for a score to give Cal United a three-goal cushion before BMA's Charles Lemerond converted a penalty kick just after the break to make it 3-1.

"The first 15 minutes of the match were just beautiful. Sharp passing, great ball movement and decisive defense. We fell off a bit after going up 2-0, but all in all a solid win," said head coach Peter Stratman.

Russell flashed the skills that made him a Vermont All-State selection last year in the second half, beating the BMA defense two more times to complete the hat-trick. McLane ended the scoring on the day with his fourth goal in two matches. The talented senior hasn't missed a beat since returning to the pitch from a leg injury that ended his season late last fall. Josh Petersen made one stop in the win for the Cal United defense.

"I was pleased the way the boys started fast and controlled the tempo from the outset. Jola

*"I was especially proud of the boys for denying BMA quality scoring opportunities. BMA is fast, athletic, and never gave up. It was a good team win."*

and Eli created and finished a great chance for us early and we never looked back. I was especially proud of the boys for denying BMA quality scoring opportunities. BMA is fast, athletic, and never gave up. It was a good team win," said Stratman.

It was a nice rebound for Stratman's club after falling to BMA 4-0 last season in what has become an annual fall match-up between the two schools. The Bears are a powerhouse in both cross-country and Nordic skiing and play a limited soccer schedule in Division II.

Cal United has outscored its opponents 11-2 early in the season, as they head into their first road test of the year.

Cal United traveled to BFA-Fairfax on Monday in a clash of undefeated teams atop the Mountain League. They stay on the road for a matchup against Richford on Thursday and will travel to Burke next Tuesday for a rematch with the Bears.



Caledonia United Twinfield senior Eli Russell (No. 3) shields the ball from Jan Hecht (No. 19) of Burke Mountain Academy during play Sept. 4 in Danville. Russell scored three goals. Caledonia United took the victory 6-1.

Photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Defense remains perfect for Cal United girls

by Ken Brown

RICHFORD – The Caledonia United girls soccer team's defense posted its third straight shutout of the season last week, improving to 3-0 with a pair of wins over Richford and Blue Mountain.

Jaidyn Carson rocketed a feed from Birtu Lindert-Boye in the 59th minute for the game winner as Cal United edged defending Division IV champion Richford on the road last Wednesday 1-0. Lindert-Boye found Carson well outside of the box near the left side of the field, where she ripped it into the top right corner out of the reach of Richford goalkeeper Mollie Smith. Smith ended the day with 10 saves in the loss as the Lady Rockets fell to 1-1 on the season. Eliska Siebenbrunner made 11 stops for Cal United to preserve their second straight 1-0 victory.

"Birtu made a timely square pass to Jaidyn, who took two quality touches before scoring the game-winner. Eliska came up big again with some key stops down the stretch, including a breakaway where she left her line to come out and shut it down," said head coach Spencer Morse.

The offense matched the defense on Friday, exploding for a 6-0 road win at Blue Mountain. Carson and Peyton Winn led the way for Cal United, tallying a pair of goals and an assist apiece. Chloe North buried

a feed from Winn 10 minutes into the match to make it 1-0 visitors before Winn slammed home a pass from Cora Abetti five minutes later for her first ever varsity goal. Carson set up Winn seven minutes later to make it 3-0 and the rout was on. Carson and Abetti closed out a fast and furious first half, combining for three more unassisted goals for Cal United, including an Olympico by Carson off a perfect corner kick in her first tally.

Ava Kingsbury stopped five shots for Blue Mountain in the loss.

Siebenbrunner recorded eight saves to preserve the third straight shutout for the Cal United defense. It would be hard to find a better start to a high school goalkeeping career than what the Junior captain has posted for Coach Morse's club early on this season.

"Eliska has really done a fantastic job for us to start the season! After we built a good lead in the first half, Cora moved to sweeper in the second half and did great job shutting down Blue Mountain's attack," said Morse.

The competition stiffens this week for Cal United as they play their first match of the season at home against an Enosburg team that won nine games in Division II last fall. They'll stay in Danville for a match-up against Burke Mountain Academy the following Monday.



Twinfield senior Sean Lehoe (No. 16) of Caledonia United goes for the steal against Burke Mountain Academy's Bo Curtis (left) in Danville, September 4. Caledonia United outscored BMA 6-1.

Photo by Vanessa Fournier

# KEN BROWN'S HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

## Chargers shine in first meet

LYNDON CENTER – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) cross-country team showed some promise for the future last week with some stellar performances from underclassmen at their first meet of the season at Lyndon Institute.

Second-year head coach Maxfield English had three freshmen and a sophomore post top-ten finishes last Wednesday in the Chargers season opener against some tough competition that included Lyndon, North Country, Lake Region, Oxbow, and Danville. Freshman Aemilia Terrone led the way for the CA, posting a third-place finish in the girl's 5,000m with a time of 24:34. Fellow sophomore teammate Nora Van Gulden wasn't far behind, finishing fourth with a time of 27:31. Oxbow senior Casey Wiedrick bested the field with a time of 24:04.

In the boy's varsity 5,000m freshman Oakley Crawford paced the Chargers with a seventh-place finish, crossing the finish line at

21:43. Freshman teammate James Reynolds also posted an impressive top-ten finish with a time of 24:09. Senior Owen McKibben (13th) and junior Theodore Alexander (16th) rounded out the Charger finishers. Lyndon senior Zachary Taylor led the field with a time of 19:25. Danville freshman Landon Garrand also posted an impressive fourth place finish with a time of 20:30.

English had reason to be excited for his young team as he looks to rebuild a storied program that won four consecutive Division III state titles under legendary coach Mike LeVangie.

"As a coach, the first competition of the season can be a mystery, and this one turned out to be on the majik [sic] side. I was truly impressed with the performance the runners produced. On course, I really saw them making gains on the climbs. In cross-country, the ascents make big differences, and the CA athletes undoubtedly showed their fortitude in Lyndon. I am looking forward to seeing them grow as the season unfolds; lots of

racing to come!" said English.

CA will be back in action next Tuesday at North Country.

## Wildcats tee-off the high school golf season

ORLEANS – The high school golf season officially got underway last week with the Hazen Union golf program sending an abbreviated team to Orleans Country Club before hosting their first match of the season at Mountain View Country Club in Greensboro.

Junior captain Braydon Stratton was the only Wildcat to make the trip to Orleans Country Club last Wednesday, carding a 57. Head coach Andy Hunt held back the rest of his freshman and middle school team, opting for them to open their season on home turf later in the week.

On Friday the Wildcats welcomed Montpelier, Peoples Academy (PA), and Twinfield to Mountain View CC for their home opener. Hazen eighth grader Harvest Barsalow was stellar in

his first high school match, firing a 41, just missing out on medalist honors after incurring a two-stroke penalty on the finishing hole. Barsalow's round was unofficial as he is still a year away from being eligible for varsity competition. Montpelier's Max Bevins and Austin Graves earned co-medalist honors with low rounds of 40. Stratton carded a 47 for the Wildcats, with a trio of freshman rounding out Hazen's finishers in Ronin Quinn (63), Kolten Lumsden (67), and Max Royan (69). Montpelier edged PA 279-280 to win the team competition.

"We can be proud of the freshmen debut performances for Hazen. This year will be one for gaining experience. Next year we will be able to field a full slate with another year of varsity experience under our belt and four more incoming talented freshmen," said Hunt.

The Wildcats were back in action at Copley Country Club in Morrisville on Monday before traveling to neighboring Ryder Brook Golf Club on Thursday.

# Forest Service Approves 72 Miles of Velomont Bike Trail

by Paul Fixx

MANCHESTER – Vermont Huts and Trails (VHT) and the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA) have announced the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS's) approval to designate approximately 72 miles of National Forest System roads and trails in the Manchester Ranger District within the Green Mountain National Forest as part of the Velmont Trail, a future, state-wide, hut-supported mountain bike and multi-use trail corridor running from Massachusetts to Canada.

The planned trail will connect with the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail in Morrisville, traveling through Wolcott, Hardwick, Greensboro Bend and Walden on its way to St. Johnsbury.

The Velomont Vision Plan lays out what will become New England's first long distance, hut supported mountain bike trail. Planned to connect 33 town centers through 485 miles of trail, the project will be supported by a network of backcountry huts to create an unprecedented recreational opportunity that directly supports rural town economies across the state of Vermont, according to the SE Group website.

In August 2024, the Hardwick Select Board's accepted a \$45,000 bid from the Vermont Huts Association (VHA) for the vacant lot at the intersection of Perry Hill Lane and Mill Street. That sale has been delayed following a fuel oil spill at the neighboring 9 Main St. property housing the Clip Joint and apartments.

Remediation of the spill has been completed by management company Rural Edge and testing is now underway to clear

*"A significant portion of the approved 72-mile section of the Velomont Trail will be co-located with the Catamount Trail, an existing backcountry ski trail that spans the length of Vermont."*

the way for purchase of the property and planning for the hostel.

The newly designated trail section includes a mix of new trail construction, upgrades to existing routes and targeted relocations to improve sustainability and user experience. Once complete, it will expand mountain bike access to areas where limited or no opportunities currently exist, increase connectivity between rural towns and open new points of entry to the outdoors, with a plan to be adaptive-friendly wherever possible.

"This decision is a huge leap toward connecting Vermont's communities and trail networks through the Velomont. It represents years of planning, extensive specialist review, and thoughtful engagement with partners and the public to ensure the trail benefits both people and the environment," said R.J. Thompson, executive director of VHT.

"A significant portion of the approved 72-mile section of the Velomont Trail will be co-located with the Catamount Trail, an existing backcountry ski trail that spans the length of Vermont," said Velomont trail director at VHT, Angus McCusker.

"A majority of the Catamount Trail is winter use only and not suitable for year-



Plans for the 485 mile Velomont trail from Massachusetts to the Canadian border took another step forward with U.S. Forest Service approval of a 72 mile section in the Green Mountain National Forest. The trail will use the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail from Morrisville to St. Johnsbury.

map courtesy SE Group

round use. However, with this approved mileage, several sections of it can be made suitable for year-round use with key trail tread improvements and minor reroutes to avoid sensitive areas such as wetlands.

McCusker said, "Working with partners like the Catamount Trail Association and the USFS along with various local trail network partners has been a great way to not only link existing trails and networks across the state but also help meet local community needs and goals."

Construction on the trail can begin immediately, with phased openings as sections are completed.

To learn more about Vermont Huts & Trails and the Velomont, visit [vermonthuts.org](http://vermonthuts.org)

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