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Wednesday, October 29, 2025

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Volume 136 Number 44

## Walden Town Report wins state award contest

by Paul Fixx

WALDEN – The town report of Walden, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, earned an award in the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) annual Town Report Contest.

Walden's report was among nine finalist award winners in three population categories selected from 62 entries by a panel of judges from VLCT, the Vermont Institute for Government, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Vermont Secretary of State's Office.

VLCT members then chose their favorite report from among the nine awardees leading up to the annual VLCT Town Fair on October 8, where the Guilford Town Report won the Members Choice Award.

Walden Town Clerk, Debbie Messier, said she submitted the report and knew it had qualified for towns under 1,000, but didn't attend the VLCT Town Fair where awards were announced and only learned of it later in an email message.

"We were very excited. We put a lot of time into it, and it takes a lot of time and coordination to put an annual report together."

She and Assistant Town Clerks Diane Banister and Dia Michaud collaborate with the various town departments to collect and lay out the pages, said Messier. "Michaud then checks everything to make sure it is perfect."

"The annual report can be one of the most comprehensive and effective ways to keep residents informed of what's going on in their community and local government," wrote the VLCT.

"While the annual audit report is the only legally required component, most Vermont municipalities use their annual report to provide valuable community information for residents. Reports provide a snapshot of the community, in many cases containing municipal departmental updates, budget information, marriage licenses issued, births and deaths, local organizations, awards, and more.

Walden's 48-page report does most of those things for the town with just over 920 residents. Its cover features the Walden Community **See CONTEST, 2**



Walden's 2024 Town Report, featuring Tara Go-reau's mural, earned an award for towns with a population under 1,000 in the Vermont League of Cities and Towns annual Town Report Contest.



F.C. Hammond & Son of Orange, N.H takes down the home at 41 Brush St. in Hardwick after it qualified for a FEMA buyout following after the bank of the Lamoille River eroded, undermining its foundation. Hardwick has hired an engineering firm to evaluate the riverbank's condition and recommend measures to shore it up. *photo by Paul Fixx*

## Elementary School repairs concern board representatives

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – A request for a monthly community pot luck, needed elementary school repairs and future financial planning were considered at the Woodbury Select Board's October 13 meeting.

Woodbury's representatives to the Mountain View Union Elementary School District (MVUESD) Darren Usinowicz and Heather Meacham were at the meeting to bring up an issue with school expenses required for the elevator in the Woodbury School and replacement of the fire escape.

Estimates for the elevator work total \$123,000 to deal with rust on the carriage and a control panel upgrade.

**See REPAIRS, 6**

## HPD hopes to improve officer retention

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Select Board held a mostly routine meeting October 16, with discussions ranging from police needs, Lamoille River flood modeling, road brine and deficiencies in the town's trash ordinance.

Hardwick Police Chief Mike Henry hopes to retain employees for a period of at least a year or two, based on previous discussions with the board. New contracts for Hardwick Police Department (HPD) trainees, developed with in mind, are being reviewed by legal counsel, he said.

Chief Henry said he's received mixed messages concerning motor vehicle complaints. Some feel HPD patrols too frequently, whereas others say it's not enough. Some like the radar signs and some don't, with Chief Henry reporting that he's trying to balance it all.

He has been working with Hardwick Business Manager Casey Rowell to purchase new equipment such as new shields and handguns. Current HPD firearms are 12 to 13 years old.

Chief Henry also reported that the Children's Advocacy Center in St. Johnsbury is looking for a new director.

David Upson began the town manager's report by thanking staff for their hard work during the annual town audit. He updated the board on ongoing projects, noting a recent sanitary survey that flagged the wooden roof at the Hideaway Reservoir as a potential problem. A short term fix has been put in place, with a longer term solution in the works, tied to grant funding via a Vermont Bond Bank grant program.

Upson reported that progress is being made with FEMA on a project to relocate the fire

station. There are no updates on the wastewater treatment facility yet.

Upson said he met with SLR Consulting regarding flood modeling and how floods impact the Lamoille River from Hardwick to the Greensboro town line. A preview of the report shows the potential effects on riverbanks and surrounding areas within the next 5-, 10-, and 15-year flood events. The report, which includes predicted changes to local topography, will be released to the public soon.

Upson had two announcements. First, there will be a presentation on the Mill Street/Main St. scoping and feasibility study at 6:30 p.m., November 5, on the third floor of the Memorial Building, at which Vanasse Hangen Brustlin consultants will present three sets of concepts to improve sidewalks, crosswalks and traffic flow in that area.

**See RETENTION, 5**



Scarecrows have been seen in yards throughout East Hardwick as Halloween approaches. This one stands at River House, where Main St. crosses the Lamoille River and townspeople begin to gather across the river to the right, for the unveiling of a new state historic marker, Sunday afternoon, Oct. 26.

*photo by Paul Fixx*

**Contest**

Continued From Page One

Library mural conceived by Tara Goreau and painted by her and community members during the summer of 2024.

Reports are judged for the cover's visual appeal and how well it represents the town, the quality and appropriateness of the report's dedication and its ease of reading and use. The report's overall clarity, organization and accessibility as key factors in the judging process.

VLCT said, "There were so many great submissions, and we thank all the nominees. Voting was tight! Judges were struck by the quality and character of all reports

they received." In addition to the finalists, the VLCT, highlighted to "a few other standouts we wanted to highlight." They are the reports from Brandon, Brattleboro, Calais, Craftsbury, Manchester, Montgomery and Strafford.

You can view those and other town reports on the Vermont Secretary of State's website/

The contest is sponsored by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. Developed in collaboration with the Vermont League of Cities & Towns, the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, the Vermont Secretary of State's office, and the Vermont Institute for Government.

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# POLICE REPORT

## *Caledonia County Sheriff's Department* Operating under criminal suspension

WALDEN – On October 22, at approximately 10:18 a.m., Deputy Landon Labounty and Deputy Doug Morrill were on motor vehicle patrol in the Town of Walden. During this time, Deputy Labounty observed a motor vehicle violation and initiated a traffic stop on a 2009 Dodge Journey operated by Denise Fradette.

Subsequent to investigation, Fradette was arrested for operating a motor vehicle on a public highway while her license was under criminal suspension. Fradette was processed at the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department and released on citation to appear in Caledonia Court on December 8, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

## *Vermont State Police* Leaving scene of an accident

PLAINFIELD – On October 15 at 11:57 p.m., the Vermont State Police were notified of a crash that occurred the previous week at the entrance to the Hollister Hill Apartments in Plainfield. Someone had backed a vehicle into a metal fence, causing significant damage, and failed to report the crash. Investigation indicated

Lauren Santamore of Plainfield backed a truck into the fence and left the area without reporting it. Santamore was operating with a criminal-ly suspended license. She was issued a citation to appear in the Washington County Superior Court, Criminal Division on November 6, at 8:30 a.m.

## Woodbury canoeist safe after capsized on Lake Champlain

NORTH HERO — The Vermont State Police is investigating the death of a 71-year-old canoeist after the boat he was using capsized Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, on Lake Champlain in North Hero.

VSP's initial investigation has determined the incident began at about 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, when two men who were related set out in the canoe from North Hero near the Hero's Welcome store. While near Knight Island State Park, the canoe reportedly overturned. Both occupants were wearing personal flotation devices.

The men became separated in the water. One of them, later identified as Paul Council, 67, of Woodbury, was able to swim to Knight Island after about an hour in the water. By then darkness had fallen, and Mr. Council sought shelter by gaining access to the caretaker's residence. There was no means of communication. Wednesday morning, Oct. 22, Mr. Council located a canoe on the island and rowed back to North Hero, where he reported the incident and summoned help.

Multiple emergency crews began responding to the area, including VSP, the Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department, numerous local fire departments, and the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife. At about noon, a resident of Holiday Point Road called the authorities to report seeing

an apparent body floating in the water. The location was roughly 2 miles north of where the canoe overturned. First responders recovered the body of an adult man from the water.

The body is presumed to be that of the missing canoeist, a 71-year-old from Montpelier. The body will be brought to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington for an autopsy to confirm identity and determine the cause and manner of death. VSP is working with the office of Grand Isle County State's Attorney Doug DiSabito, who also responded to the scene. Preliminary investigation by the state police does not indicate this incident is suspicious.

VSP is not identifying the victim at this time pending notification of relatives.

UPDATE – Vermont State Police reported Monday, Oct. 27 that the Chief Medical Examiner's Office has completed the autopsy following the discovery of a body in Lake Champlain after a canoe capsized last week in North Hero.

The victim is identified as Michael Bagiackas, 71, of Montpelier. The medical examiner determined the cause of death was drowning, and the manner of death was an accident.

No additional information is available regarding this case.



Walden Firefighter Chief Jason Larrabee and Firefighters Alec, Owen, Jonathan, Matt, Butch and Rodney were toned out at 1:34 p.m., October 25, to a car fully engulfed on fire on Nicholson Road. There were no trapped occupants. Cabot Engine 1 with firefighters was canceled enroute. The cause of the fire was a battery charger connected to a car in a field. The fire was knocked down and all firefighters and apparatus were back in service at 2:20 p.m.

photo by Jonathan Austin-Shortt.

## *Hardwick Fire Department* Vehicle roll-over

HARDWICK – On October 24 at 10:13 p.m., Hardwick Fire Department (HFD) was toned along with Hardwick Police Department and Hardwick Rescue Squad to a vehicle rollover near the intersection of Vt. Route 14 and Vt. Route 15 in Hardwick. HFD's Engine 2

responded with a full crew, and upon arrival found a vehicle that had left the roadway coming to rest on its roof. There were no serious injuries and the vehicle sustained major damage. The vehicle was recovered and HFD returned to quarters at 11:31 p.m..

## *Hardwick Police Department* Media Log

HARDWICK – October 19: VIN verification, High St.; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Riverside Terrace; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

October 20: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Juvenile Problem, N. Main St.; Information, Cathy Road; Threats/Harassment, N. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Riverside Terrace.

October 21: School Event, Hazen Union Drive; Suspicious Event, Hillside Ave.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Slapp Hill Road; Property Damage, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Spring St.; Traffic Stop, Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Assist-Public, Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Crafts-bury Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic stop, Junction Road; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

October 22: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Trespassing, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic

Stop, S. Main St.

October 23: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN verification, E. Church St.; Property Damage, Vt. Route 16; Fingerprints, High St.; Fraud, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 West.

October 24: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist-Public, Elm St.; Property Damage, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Spring St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Bunker Hill Road; Traffic Stop, Williams Lane; Citizens Dispute, Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Farr St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14.; Accident - Injury to Persons, Vt. Route 15.

October 25: Citizen Dispute, Elm St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 16, Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

October 26: Suspicious Event, Elm St.; Trespassing, Vt. Route 14 S.; Accident - TCNR, Vt. Route 14; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15; Suspicious Event, Wolcott St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Wolcott St.; Citizens Dispute, Spring St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15.

# WEATHER WATCH

## Rain-maker takes most of forecast, snowflakes to start weekend

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Tuesday morning was another chilly wake-up to frost and low temperatures around freezing here at the observing station. The weather in general has trended cloudier and cooler. Much of the weekend dodged large breaks of sun, as overcast conditions and scattered showers occupied the skies. For our highest elevation observing stations nearby, the first snowflakes of the season were seen during the morning hours over the weekend, with no significant accumulations to mention.

Meanwhile, on the rain side, a widespread three quarters of an inch to an inch of rain fell, which means we're still in need of more soaking rains to get us out of our persistent drought state, although the statewide restriction on issuing burn permits has been rescinded. Check with your local forest fire

warden regarding whether they are issuing burn permits at this time.

The persistent conditions are the result of upper-level low pressure influence over the northeast, which includes lingering chances for showers daily and occasional waves of low pressure at the surface bringing heavier bursts of rain as they pass. Highs have generally been in the upper 40s and low 50s, with lows around 30.

Expect more of the same over the next several days. Wednesday, however, will feature the best chance of seeing more sunshine, as temperatures moderate into the mid-50s. Our next substantial storm system approaches from south-to-north Thursday morning: a surface low moving through the Appalachians. This low will transfer energy to the New England coast and set up the mountains of Vermont for some steady rain, possibly heavy, from Thursday evening into Friday.



A rainbow appears in the East on Friday after a much-needed rain in Cabot. Burke Mountain can be seen in the distance. photo by Sandy Atkins

## POLICE REPORT

Vermont State Police

### Unprofessional relationship, Crash



John A. Boyd

EAST MONTPELIER – At about 12:30 p.m., October 10, the Vermont State Police received a report of an unprofessional relationship between a teacher and student at U-32 Middle and High School, located on Gallison Hill Road in the Town of East Montpelier, Washington County.

Troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to the school and began an investigation, which determined that 56-year-old John A. Boyd, a teacher at U32, dispensed marijuana to a juvenile student on school grounds. On Friday, Oct. 24, Boyd turned himself in at the Berlin Barracks and was arrested on charges of dispensing drugs to a minor on school grounds, contributing to

juvenile delinquency, and recklessly endangering a person.

Boyd was processed at the Berlin Barracks before being released with a criminal citation. He is scheduled to appear for arraignment on the charges at 8:30 a.m., November 6, in the Criminal Division of Vermont Superior Court in Barre.

No further information is available at this time. The affidavit of probable cause will be filed with the court and made public following Boyd's arraignment.

DANVILLE – On October 26 at 7:29 p.m., the Vermont State Police responded to the report of a crash at 1513 U.S. Route 2 West in the town of Danville. Upon arrival Brooke Gurley of Cambridge and Taylor Dimond of Cabot were identified as the operators. Investigation revealed Gurley and Dimond were traveling west on U.S. Route 2 West. Investigation revealed Gurley passed on the left, resulting in her vehicle crashing into the front end of Dimond's vehicle. As a result of the crash, Gurley sustained minor injuries and was transported to Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital. Vermont State Police was assisted on scene by Danville Fire Department, Peacham Fire Department, CALEX EMS and Greniers Towing.

Rainfall amounts could exceed an inch, with up to two inches in the heaviest of the rain. Some of the moisture will be sourced from Hurricane Melissa, which is currently making landfall in Jamaica as a Category 5 hurricane. Melissa will pass well off the eastern seaboard and exit into the North Atlantic, but will be close enough to interact a bit with the low stationed over the northeast.

As the low exits later Friday, lingering showers will persist through Friday night and much of Saturday, although light and scattered in nature. It will still be a bit unpleasant for trick-or-treaters Friday evening. Expect Saturday morning to feature a couple of snowflakes mixing in over the highest hills of Greensboro and Walden, with a better chance of a couple of snow showers reaching lower levels (to 1,500 feet) by later Saturday night. No significant accumulations are expected, although a dusting is

possible here and there.

A weak area of high pressure builds in for Sunday, with partly-to-mostly cloudy conditions. A stray flurry or sprinkle is possible. We continue to cool as the weekend wraps up. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny. High: 54. Low: 30. Calm wind.

**Thursday:** Cloudy. Rain, possibly heavy at times. High: 51. Low: 41. Northeast wind 5-10 mph, becoming southeast. Gusts up to 25 mph.

**Friday:** Cloudy. Scattered rain showers, possibly mixing with snow showers above 2,000 feet. High: 54. Low: 34. Southeast wind 5-10 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain and snow showers. High: 43. Low: 32. West wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy. High: 44. Low: 30. West wind around 5 mph.

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## Retention

Continued From Page One

Secondly, he announced that Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor will be meeting on November 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Jeudevine Memorial Library in the Parker Ladd Community Room, to review and celebrate their efforts, brainstorm next steps and share volunteer opportunities.

Road Foreman Tom Fadden reported that grading is complete on Porter Brook Road, Montgomery Road, Cobb Road and Hardwick Farms Road.

Ditching work on Marsh Road is almost completed, with hazard mitigation work on Tucker Brook Road now completed.

Fadden said he's looking into the cost of using brine for road maintenance this upcoming winter. Four yards for salt

cost about \$500. For roughly \$568 Fadden said he could produce about 3,500 gallons of brine, which is enough to brine the roads throughout the village about 7 times. Fadden says it would cost about \$34,000 for equipment that fits his truck and the Toolcat, and would require 10 tanker fill-ups to brine the roads. The board discussed the potential savings versus the inconvenience of filling up frequently.

Fadden mentioned that Johnson and Hyde Park both are using brine and he would like to get more information from them, such as whether Hyde Park would sell brine in order to try it out. That raised concerns about adding significant travel time. Discussion continued, with Fadden explaining the goal is to use the brine before each snowfall

in order to reduce the amount of salt used on the roads.

Chair Eric Remick asked for the item to be placed on the next agenda for more discussion. Upson will talk to Greensboro in the meantime to see if they would like to use brine as well.

In other business, the board approved a number of motions.

A second class liquor license, a tobacco license and a tobacco substitute endorsement was approved for M&M beverage.

Assessor Matt Krajeski presented an Errors and Omissions Request to add the \$220,000 value of Vermont Transco (VELCO) communications equipment that had been omitted from the final grand list filed on June 2. The revision happened on June 26 and the select board approved adding it to the Grand List.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, the select board voted to authorize the town manager to apply for a Small Systems Capacity and Resiliency Program Tier 2 grant through the Vermont Bond Bank in order to replace the tank at the Hideaway Acres reservoir.

Shari Cornish reported the Hardwick Downtown Partnership has hired Heidi Krantz as their new director.

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane was approved as the town's alternate for Conveyor of Real Estate for the Town of Hardwick.

Danny Hale asked about moving a shed that is currently blocking the snowmobile trail along the Hardwick/Woodbury rail trail near Carey Road. The trail had been previously rerouted due to a change in ownership, but it should now be

restored to its original path, as outlined in the agreed right-of-way, he said.

Upson said that he spoke with the owner of the shed, showed him the signed agreement, and informed him the shed needs to be moved.

Currently, the trail is closed due to the obstruction. Remick said he will visit the site before the next meeting to assess the situation, and Upson stated that he will also follow up to discuss a specific date for the shed to be moved.

Hale also expressed concerns about the trash ordinance, saying he has noticed abandoned cars in the right-of-way.

Upson stated that he has received two complaints this week regarding trash. Hale says that the town can't enforce the ordinance, and it shouldn't be Upson's responsibility to handle these complaints. Galloway-Kane suggested that, since the town has the money for the Public Works Director position, and hasn't hired anyone yet, they could use some of that money to place dumpsters once a month to help eliminate the trash problem.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District came to a Select Board meeting on September 18, and the Town discussed this ongoing issue, but didn't move forward with revising the ordinance. Hale volunteered to revise the ordinance and bring a draft to the next meeting for discussion.

Following an executive session at the end of the September 4 meeting, Danny Hale was approved for a loan request from Hale Transport LLC in the amount of \$50,000.



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## Repairs

Continued From Page One

The estimate for the fire escape replacement came to \$360,000. That cost would also cover creating exits from the school's basement rooms with a window well, as there is no sprinkler system there and no means of exit.

The total of \$483,000 in school investments would be covered by the union district, said Usinowicz and Meacham.

They suggested difficulty within the MVUESD in discussing repairs to the Woodbury School in light of the fact that the school district does not own the school.

The town retained ownership of the building when the district mergers became mandatory and established a lease arrangement with the school district for use of the school.

There was discussion of funding options but no town capital funds are set aside and it is unknown whether MVUESD voters who recently voted for a bond for work on the Hardwick Elementary School would do the same to fund the work on Woodbury's school, or even whether the administration would be in favor of it.

Town Clerk Robin Durkee asked the select board about accepting a request from Cindy Gordon to have a monthly community pot luck dinner in the town hall, starting sometime this fall. The board thought it a nice idea but expressed concern about whether the heating system could handle winter use of the hall, with the water usually shut off during the coldest months. If those issues can be dealt with, the board said they would support the idea and informally agreed to the idea.

Durkee said requests for appropriation are starting to come in for town meeting, with some of the organizations asking for increased amounts, which requires

a petition from 5% of the town's registered voters.

Durkee received copies of the newly updated town highway map, one of which will be posted at the town office and another on the town website.

In her treasurer's report, Lilly Baron said the budget is tracking as expected, though RB Tech remains over budget. She suggested it may be worth reviewing alternatives to them, which was discussed briefly with no action taken.

Baron has started working on a capital equipment plan for replacement of highway equipment. She asked Alfie to review it and hopes to have a draft to share with the WSB at their next meeting.

She attended a Vermont League of Cities and Towns session on capital planning, which can help envision a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The plan would look at a 10 to 20 year interval for infrastructure projects and have the benefit of stabilizing

tax rates, she said. Developing a full CIP would be a longer term project that could warrant its own town committee. The board decided to explore and discuss this idea at future meetings.

Baron made an inquiry to the Village Trust Initiative program sponsored through the Vermont Council on Rural Development. The program funds community revitalization and infrastructure projects for small towns. Durkee and Baron plan to meet with the director soon to learn more and explore potential opportunities.

John Reid reported on the town website, where a form for users to ask questions of town officials has caused confusion over who gets the inquiry and who is responsible for responding.

The select board approved a one-year extension to the Emergency Watershed Protection Program grant for Buck Lake Brook/Cabot Road bank stabilization project that had a final completion date of December 31 this

year. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has been unable to complete design work due to federal shakeups, layoffs and confusion, said Select Board Assistant Michae Gray .

Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee said the crew has completed hauling 3,000 yards of winter sand and the new truck was expected to be ready for pickup October 25. Work on the other trucks to prepare for winter plowing is ongoing.

He said the road crew is hoping to get to an East Hill project before winter sets in to fill a deep ditch on a bad curve that was carved out from flooding. The board approved work within the town highway right-of-way for the Walker property on Sand Hill Road after Larrabee wished to recuse himself from signing the permit as road commissioner. He will be the contractor for the construction and wanted to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.



# OPEN HOUSE

## Thursday, November 6



We can't wait to see you here!

We're at the @stjacademy open house  
stjacademy.org #SJA #Hilltoppers

## Enjoy an evening exploring SJA's campus, programs, and activities.

5:45 pm Registration and check-in, Colby Hall  
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At a gathering in the Greensboro Free Library, Board Chair Fan Watkinson (back to camera), presents Beth Meachem (center, facing), of the Greensboro Energy & Climate Action Committee, with flowers and energy bars in appreciation for her work managing the Municipal Energy Resilience Program grant that added energy efficiency upgrades at the library as community members (from left) Galen Fisher, the NVDA's Carter Finegan, and from right) Jennifer Lucas and Mary Metcalf look on. photo by Liz Steel



Bill Chidsey (center rear) of the Greensboro Energy & Climate Action Committee, demonstrates how the new whole building air-to-water heat pump system will work to provide energy efficient heat in the winter and cool air in the summer throughout the building. photo by Liz Steel

## Library open house highlights energy efficiency measures

by Greensboro Energy Efficiency Action Committee

GREENSBORO – An open house at the Greensboro Free Library, Saturday, Oct. 18, allowed community members to learn about recent energy efficiency improvements made there and learn about applying similar measures to single-family homes.

Representatives from Northeast Vermont Development Association (NVDA), Vermont Building and General Services and Efficiency Vermont were joined by contractors Bill Chidsey of SolarHarvester, also a member of ECAC, and mason Ryan Kneeland, who

worked on the library project to reduce fossil fuel use and improve comfort for library patrons.

Chidsey and Kneeland led tours to show insulation and moisture prevention added in both basements, a ventilation system that has been installed throughout the building, a new ducted air-to-water heat pump system and new double-glazed windows.

The event, organized by Beth Meachem of the Greensboro Energy & Climate Action Committee

(ECAC) as part of Efficiency Vermont's Button Up program, allowed attendees to meet people who were instrumental in carrying out the project, showcasing the

building upgrades and new energy efficient investments.

Several people joined local artist Joanne George at the event for an all ages art program, "Envisioning Our Energy Future" through paint and collage.

Initially, town and library funds were used to remove mold that had built up in the basement of the old building, creating a health hazard.

New gutters were installed around the building to lead moisture away from the foundation, and a commercial dehumidifier was purchased.

With help from Beth Meachem and the ECAC, the town applied for a Municipal Energy Resilience

Program (MERP) grant to fund the required energy efficiency improvements.

A \$4,000 capacity building grant was awarded to promote sharing weatherization information and educating the community on steps homeowners can take to save energy and reduce their fuel bills.

Working with neighboring towns, several events were held that drew people from the area.

The town was subsequently awarded a \$122,000 MERP implementation grant to carry out the energy efficiency work.

More information is available on the ECAC webpage at [greensborovt.gov/energy-committee/](https://greensborovt.gov/energy-committee/)

## NEK Fund awards grants to support local nonprofits

by Vermont Community Foundation

MIDDLEBURY – The Northeast Kingdom (NEK) Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation has awarded \$111,950 in grants to 25 local organizations through its 2025 competitive grant round, supporting nonprofits and municipalities in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties. These grants bolster support for organizations working with youth, substance abuse prevention, education and the arts, and outdoor recreation and programming.

"This year's grantees are representative of the heart of the NEK, from youth-based programming and outdoor exploration to gatherings that strengthen community bonds," says Chelsea Lord, VCF senior philanthropic advisor. "It's inspiring to see local partners and fundholders come together to invest in the people and places that make this region so special."

Grant recipients in this area are: AWARE, Hardwick, \$5,000; Hazen Union School, Hardwick, \$4,600; Headwaters Community Trust, Craftsbury, \$5,000; Bend Revitalization Initiative, Greensboro Bend, \$5,000; Northeast Kingdom Community Action, (Headstart and Early Headstart in Greensboro), St. Johnsbury and Newport \$5,000.

Other grant recipients working in the Northeast Kingdom are: Brainerd Memorial Library, N. Danville \$3,000; Catamount Film & Arts, St. Johnsbury, \$5,000; Danville School, \$5,000; Friends of Dog Mountain, St. Johnsbury \$5,000; Green Mountain Farm to School, Newport \$5,000; Journey to Recovery Community Center, Newport, \$5,000; Kingdom Animal Shelter, St. Johnsbury, \$2,500; Lyndon Institute, Lyndon Center, \$2,500; Northeast Kingdom Collaborative, St. Johnsbury, \$4,350; Northeast

Kingdom Organizing, Newport, \$5,000; Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, St. Johnsbury, \$5,000; Orleans County Natural Resource Conservation District, Newport, \$3,000; Rev George L. Fox Memorial Chapel, Gilman, \$5,000; Sheffield Food Pantry, \$5,000; The DREAM Program, Winooski, \$5,000; Town of Lunenburg, \$5,000; Umbrella of St. Johnsbury, \$5,000; Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP), Montpelier, \$4,000; Vermont River Conservancy, Montpelier, \$5,000; Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, Colchester, \$3,000

The Northeast Kingdom Fund

was established in 2011 by the Vermont Community Foundation and local partners as a permanent philanthropic resource to support the people and communities in the region. The fund prioritizes applications from projects and/or organizations that are based in the Northeast Kingdom and provide services directly to the community. A committee of residents living and working in the Northeast Kingdom reviews all proposals and chooses the grant recipients.

The next Northeast Kingdom Fund grant round will open in June 2026. To learn more visit [vermontcf.org/nekfund](https://vermontcf.org/nekfund).

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Ken Leslie (left) and Larry Fliegelman work to stock the new Emergency Supply and Support Center trailer with fans, Sunday. Both have taken lead roles in overseeing emergency readiness efforts, after assuming key roles assisting with prior flood response in Hardwick.

photo by Helen Beattie



Ken Leslie (left) and Larry Fliegelman assemble a wheelbarrow to be stocked in the new Emergency Supply and Support Center trailer, where it will be available in future emergencies, along with dehumidifiers, sump pumps, fans, shovels, muck-out kits and other necessary supplies.

photo by Helen Beattie

## Emergency Supply and Support Center readied for future disasters

by Helen Beattie

This past week Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor (HNtN) passed a milestone in its work helping the town respond to emergencies. A portable trailer has been purchased, outfitted and stocked, making it ready to be moved where it's needed in response to future disasters.

When the 2023 flood hit, the town manager and staff set up an Emergency Supply and Support Center (ESSC). At that time, there was no template for how that would happen.

In the intervening two years, the Town of Hardwick has been partnering with HNtN to close gaps in the town's readiness to respond to future emergencies. That effort includes detailed plans for effective communication, volunteer mobilization, the ESSC and an emergency shelter.

In close partnership with the town, Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor has assumed responsibility for setting up and managing an Emergency Supply and Support Center during any future disaster. It is a familiar role for HNtN, with the organization having managed the Center during the last two floods. The Civic Standard will be taking responsibility for an Emergency Shelter, as it has in the past.

In July 2025, the town purchased a portable trailer to house the inventory needed to stock the ESSC from day one.

In the past two floods, the town had minimal stored inventory when the disasters were declared.

Setting up the center, located at the Community Center in the former Hardwick Health Center building, where the Hardwick Police Department is now, meant chaotic scrambling to secure essential inventory.

A wide variety of regional sources were contacted to help supply the ESSC, and urgent requests for donations were initiated. That created delays in being able to meet the immediate supply and support needs of residents.

In contrast, in the event of the next declared disaster, dehumidifiers, sump pumps, fans, shovels, wheelbarrows, muck-out kits and other necessary supplies, will be immediately available at the ESSC. Volunteer muck-out teams will convene at the ESSC from day one, and be outfitted with the equipment and supplies needed to jumpstart their efforts.

Inventory in the trailer can now easily be transported to another site in the town should that expedite the disaster response.

Local resident Shawn Messier volunteered his carpentry skills to build the necessary shelving for the trailer using materials paid for by HNtN. Amanda Fecteau, Hardwick Payroll & Benefits Administrator, has been overseeing the purchase of new items to add to inventory that was left in the ESSC after the last flood. A team of HNtN

volunteers and town employees are now working together to efficiently organize supplies.

In the first and second weeks after disaster strikes, there are all too few outside organizations available to help address the most demanding phase of a disaster response. Strong town leadership relies on the ability of neighbors helping neighbors to effectively meet the needs of residents.

Hardwick has become an exemplar in the region for its commitment to readiness and collaboration, as it develops the capacity to best care for community needs in times of greatest need.

Hardwick's updated Emergency Plan has already drawn attention from other Vermont towns beginning similar work. Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning and Floodplain Administrator and Helen Beattie, HNtN member, recently presented the model at both VCRD and VEM regional conferences.

As a result, Hardwick is now part of a growing network of regional emergency resources. This emerging collaboration connects local coordinators, volunteer groups and municipal leaders across neighboring towns who are developing similar community-based response systems.

The network's goal is to share templates, tools and lessons learned so that communities can strengthen their own readiness without starting from scratch.

The network provides a mechanism for mutual support, for example, loaning equipment, sharing trained volunteers or coordinating recovery outreach, when a disaster affects one town more severely than another.

Leahy has continued to share Hardwick's framework in conversations with nearby municipalities and state partners, helping to build consistency and capacity across the region so that local response can be faster, more effective and more connected when it's most needed.

"We're not just preparing Hardwick, we're helping to shape a shared regional approach. The more we connect towns and local groups before the next disaster, the stronger everyone becomes when an emergency happens," said Leahy.

"Hardwick's work demonstrates what can happen when a community takes the initiative to prepare, plan, and partner," said Cynthia Stuart, project consultant. "By combining the strengths of the Town, Hardwick, Neighbor to Neighbor, and local volunteers, Hardwick has created a model that not only strengthens the local response capacity but also inspires other Vermont towns to take similar proactive steps toward resilience."

(Cynthia was the Project Consultant for developing our Local Emergency Management Plan addendums).

# NEWS NOTES

## School St. bridge work continues

by Vermont Agency of Transportation

WOLCOTT – The School Street/Town Highway 3 bridge replacement project continues as crews place stone fill to armor the

riverbank along Vt. Rte. 15. From 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., motorists should expect alternating one-way traffic on Rte. 15 near School Street/Town Highway 3. Flaggers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone during working hours.

## Vermonters affected by shutdown should contact financial institutions

MONTPELIER – With thousands of Vermont residents affected by the ongoing government shutdown, the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation advises individuals who are having trouble managing loan, mortgage, or insurance payments to proactively communicate with their lenders or insurers.

“Companies are equipped to work through these challenges with individuals. However, they cannot offer options or assistance if they do not know your situation. Do not wait for cancellation, default, late fees, or penalties to accrue. If you are experiencing or

anticipating financial hardship as a result of the federal government shutdown, reach out to the company to explore what flexibility and options they can offer,” Commissioner Kaj Samsom said.

The Department of Financial Regulation has urged companies to use all available options and alternatives to assist individuals who are temporarily unable to make payments or meet their obligations due to the federal government shutdown.

Vermonters can report any concerns about their bank, credit union, lender, or insurer to the Department.

## Vermont 911 connects callers to mental health support

WATERBURY – Nine-one-one call-takers have begun connecting Vermonters directly to trained mental health counselors. The new statewide 911-to-988 protocol makes it possible for 911 call-takers to transfer appropriate calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the national three-digit number for mental health and suicide crises.

The Vermont Department of Mental Health, the Vermont Department of Public Safety, the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board and stakeholders from the first responder community developed the 911 to 988 transfer protocol collaboratively.

Now, 911 call-takers can quickly connect people experiencing a mental health crisis to 988. The call-taker stays on the line until a 988 counselor joins. Once connected, 988 counselors provide crisis support. They also develop safety plans and link callers to local resources or emergency services if needed. Before this change, all 911 calls involving mental health needs were handled by EMS and/or police.

The initiative began as a pilot at the Hartford and Westminster 911 call centers and has since expanded statewide. The first transfers under the new protocol happened in September.

## Statewide burn ban lifted

by Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

MONTPELIER – The statewide order banning outdoor burning was lifted on October 24 by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR). Town Forest Fire Wardens may once again issue burn permits throughout Vermont.

Recent rainfall has helped reduce wildfire danger across Vermont. The U.S. Drought Monitor reports that much of the state remains in extreme or severe drought; however, the wildland fire danger forecast has dropped to *Moderate* statewide following more than two inches of precipitation in recent days.

“The recent rainfall has provided much-needed relief, saturating small, easy-to-burn fuels and thereby reducing the risk of

wildfire,” said FPR Forest Fire Supervisor Dan Dillner. “This welcome precipitation follows nearly two months of dry weather, drought conditions, and higher than normal wildland fire activity throughout the state, primarily caused by escaped debris burns or unattended campfires.”

With the statewide debris burn ban lifted, Town Forest Fire Wardens once again have the authority to issue fire kindling permits. However, wardens may still restrict permit issuance based on local and daily conditions.

“Although the debris burn ban has been lifted, we continue to urge Vermonters to use great caution when burning debris or enjoying campfires,” said FPR Commissioner Danielle Fitzko.

The current fire danger forecast is available at [fpr.vermont.gov/forest/wildland-fire/monitoring-fire-danger](http://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/wildland-fire/monitoring-fire-danger)

# EDUCATION

## Interim school principal hired

by Paul Fixx

CABOT – Superintendent Matt Foster recommended Steve Owens be hired as interim principal for this school year at a special meeting of the Cabot School District Board of Directors, October 20.

Board members then authorized Foster to hire Owens at .6 full time equivalent.

Cabot School Board Vice-Chair Ellen Cairns said she appreciated both candidates that interviewed and noted Owens was chosen due to his knowledge and experience in the school system.

The search was opened in late September after Dr. Jennifer Blake resigned effective September 30, citing personal and professional reasons.

At that October 20 meeting, Foster noted he is still working to hire a school counselor.

The agenda for the regular board meeting Monday, Oct. 27,

included an item for discussion and possible approval: to approve an update to existing policy C28 - Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students.

It was written that the policy “ensures a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students, protecting them from discrimination based on gender identity or expression. It affirms students’ rights to privacy, the use of their preferred name and pronouns, and access to facilities and activities consistent with their gender. Schools must maintain confidentiality of transgender status, comply with legal requirements for student records, and provide reasonable accommodations for privacy when requested.”

Another special meeting has been called for Thursday, Oct 30, at 6:30 p.m., with a proposed executive session noted for “Appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee.”

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# Mural unveiled at Harry's Hardware features Vermont scenes

by Paul Fixx

CABOT – Cabot School sophomores Molly Paire and Freya Van Deusen unveiled a mural featuring Vermont scenes they painted on a wall outside Harry's Hardware on Main Street. Class members were on hand for the occasion in a light drizzle Friday afternoon and Kyla Kerrigan brought her class of kindergarteners to see the mural.

"Johanna Thibault, the owner of Harry's Hardware in Cabot recognized the talented young artists we have in our community," said Cabot School Art teacher Amy Richardson.

"She commissioned two high school students to paint a mural outside the hardware store, on the back patio."

Molly and Freya said they sketched out the main parts of their mural, but just "went with it and did lots of freehand painting."

Thibault recalled a long list of paint colors the girls asked for when they were ready to start painting.

They started work in the spring, taking time off in the

heat of the summer, then working more hours to have the mural finished before the end of September so it could be sealed before colder weather set in.

"The art program at Cabot School encourages students to give back to their community and to explore art outside the classroom by engaging in artistic opportunities within the community," said Richardson.

The center of the mural shows a map of the state marked with prominent towns. Scenes of the four seasons feature to the left and below Lake Champlain, a flower-filled Spring meadow with kayakers headed into the Summer with a barn near a field of cows and a windmill.

To the right of the Connecticut River are the Barre granite quarries with a quarry train headed toward a snowy Winter ski area. Above that, Fall features a covered bridge and sugarhouse.

The two artists included lots of small details to capture the attention of viewers, including people in most of the scenes. Their goal was to make the people look right, said Molly. The ski area



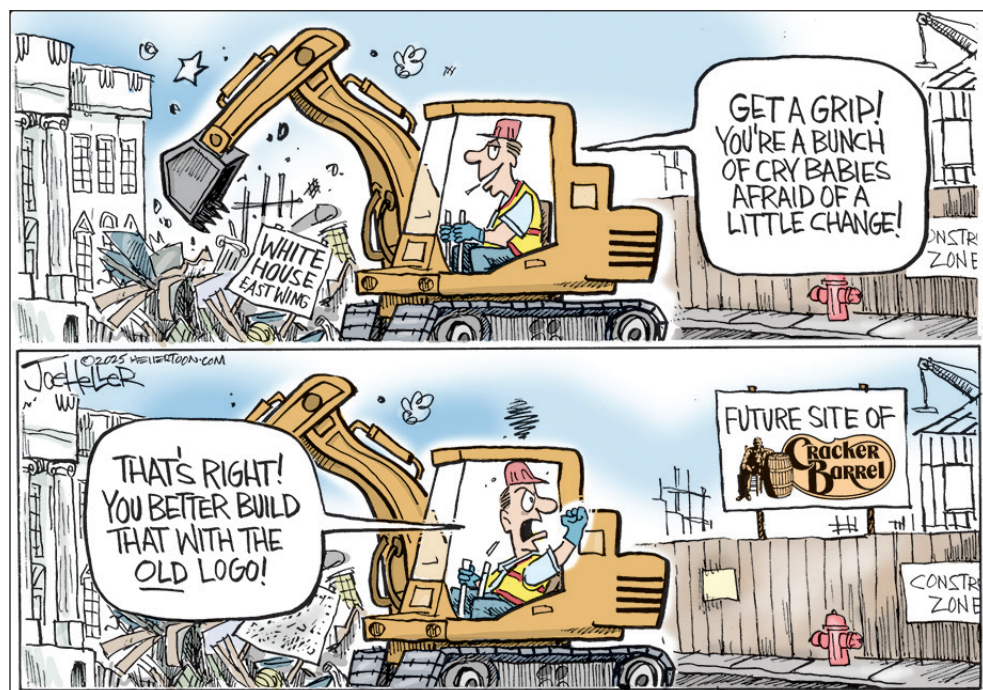
A sugarhouse in the upper right of the new mural at Harry's Hardware in Cabot is just one of the many scenes painted by Freya van Deusen and Molly PaiRe, who worked through the summer to create Vermont scenes of all four seasons on the screen wall in a back corner of the store's deck. Those with sharp eyes may spot a flying witch in this fall scene. photo by Paul Fixx



Standing in front of the newly unveiled mural on the deck at Harry's Hardware in Cabot, Friday, Oct. 24, are its painters, Cabot School students (from left) Freya van Deusen and Molly PaiRe. They began work in the spring, slowing down during the heat of the summer and finishing before September ended so a protective clear coat could be applied before winter set in.

photo by Paul Fixx

# Heller's World by Joe Heller



shows skiers and a snowboarder resting against the base of a tree.

Cows in the meadow are serenaded with music wafting from the saxophone of a Jazz player. Bees and birds hover in various scenes, boats dot the water of Lake Champlain and a witch appears in the appropriate season.

The girls said they'd worked on other murals, but none this big and none as a project on their own, outside of a school project. Molly said it was a big project that taught her "to stick with something to get through it."

Freya agreed with her mother who said she learned a lot,

including time management, working with paints and dealing with the elements. Molly said it got so hot during the summer that the board got too hot to touch. They were "lucky with weather at the end" when there was a time crunch and they worked as many as six or eight hours after school.

"In a small, rural community like Cabot the school and community are more like an extended family," said Richardson.

While Molly and Freya said they did the work mostly for the fun of it, they earned community hours, some treats and said Thibault bought them pizza.



On a drizzly Sunday, Oct. 25, State Historic Preservation Officer Laura V. Treischmann unveiled a Vermont State Historic Site Marker at East Hardwick's Overlook Park for a gathering of village and town residents. She and the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization's David Gross worked to free the new sign's covering, which released as the sun briefly peeked out to lighten the area. Gross recounted a history of the village's effort to receive the marker, dating back to a get together in May 2018, which led to qualifying and beginning the process of research with the state in April 2021. Application for the marker was made in February 2022, finalized in March and the location approved in December 2024. photo by Paul Fixx

# REPORTER'S OPINION

We all need to get comfortable not knowing things about each other

by **Raymonda Parchment**

What happened to private citizens truly being private citizens? Lately, it seems that every facet of our personal lives is up for debate, to later be regulated.

As a young woman, the debates on reproductive healthcare have been lifelong phenomena. What should be a personal choice or discussion between myself and my healthcare provider, is more often than not used as a political talking point come election season.

For reasons beyond me, we set a precedent for old white men to be the decision-making authority on experiences they can not and will never endure. We quite literally legislated the uterus and eggs, but not their necessary male counterparts. I digress.

Since the Dobbs decision, women in many states around the country have been facing murky legal waters in an effort to get reproductive healthcare. Some states are attempting to punish women for receiving reproductive care from out-of-state providers, even going so far as to restrict travel.

At what point is it too much? At what point does policy infringe on our physical autonomy, and moreover, our privacy?

This sentiment can be applied to a multitude of issues. The rhetoric surrounding the transgender community has only become more volatile and inflammatory. To my knowledge, however, transgender individuals make up less than one percent of our whole country's population. Less than one percent. There are possibly 11 transgender athletes in the NCAA, the (National Collegiate Association of Athletics).

Even if there was a sudden statistically anomalous increase of transgender people in this country, guess what? I really wouldn't care. It's not any of my business, and I would wish them well in their transition.

Personal choices, whether that be about sex, relationships, identity and love, are becoming increasingly debated on the political stage, which

is a slippery slope in my view.

Perhaps we are all distracted by our ongoing descent into neofascism. Here's a fun tidbit for us all: our sitting president has denied disaster relief for three blue states including our own, Illinois and Maryland, while approving relief for the red states of Alaska, Nebraska and North Dakota. If our democracy still functioned, he'd have been impeached for this by now.

Again, I digress. More importantly, the U.S. Supreme Court will revisit same sex marriage on November 7.

Again, in my view the government should not be allowed to legislate against the personal choices of private citizens.

No one is asking or has ever asked to implement same-sex marriage exclusively, so why should we subject queer individuals to the same sweeping regulation of their personal lives?

I'm sure many questions like these will arise within the next three and a half years, and I am grateful to be in a position to ask such questions.

However, it is important to remember the true credit lies with both the historical pioneers of civil rights, like Marsha P. Johnson or Rosa Parks and those who are continuing that fight every day, such as Vermont 50501's Geri Peterson, Mari Copeny of Flint, Mich., or international activists Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg.

**Raymonda Parchment, reporter**

## For the record

Nathan Meunier is the author of last week's Weeks Gone by story from 20 years ago, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2005, who wrote "Rail-trail hike offers stunning vistas and misuse."

Following Tuesday evening's publication of last week's story "Sen. Douglass announces plans to resign after release of private group chat," Press Secretary Amanda Wheeler in the Office of Vermont Governor Phil Scott wrote Wednesday to say, "our office has not confirmed his resignation nor have we received the official resignation from him." A spokesperson from Senate President Phil Baruth's office told NBC5 that a formal notice was submitted to their office Wednesday night.

## THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Hope and wishful thinking

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – I’m not much of a hand for praying anymore. More and more over the years it has come to seem too much like an implicit abdication of responsibility for desired outcomes. Still, thanks to many decades of indoctrination, I do occasionally slip into prayer-ful attitudes toward coming events. They can range from the outcome of a Superbowl game to the results of a biopsy. It’s less prayer in the popular sense than hope and wishful thinking.

Thus during the last couple of weeks I’ve kind of had my fingers crossed that none of the celebrants and marchers in the much-advertised “No Kings Day” would get too pushy with the understandably nervous members of the various constabularies assigned to police them. The last thing we needed was to trigger a pepper ball or teargas response by the cops and an excuse for the would-be king himself to muster a military presence in previously undisturbed cities and towns.

*We are truly in uncharted waters during this administration’s tenure. Its modus operandi, as one commentator points out, is to see how much it can get away with.*

The nearest demonstration to Bea and me last weekend was in Swampscott, along the beach road between Lynn and Marblehead. I didn’t really want to spend an hour or two standing beside the road (which the cops would keep open; it’s a main route), and I didn’t fancy lugging a folding lawn chair or making a catchy sign. But we signed up, anyway. I planned to drive through the crowd at its peak, honking and sticking my fist out through the moon roof in solidarity.

Luckily, the weather was perfect, the crowd was substantial and cheerful, the signs were really creative, and even the cops along the way were smiling. The traffic, for obscure reasons, was intense. Confused dogs peeped out here and there from between their owners’ knees. On the ocean side, a heavy surf broke over the beach. It may have been an “Antifa crowd” or the “Marxist left wing” or the “Hate America Faction,” as the president and vice-president claimed, but it was a damned sight more fun than the right-wing gang, and clearly where we belonged.

I’ve been delighted ever since that morning to see the drone photos

of the crowds that assembled in other, larger venues from Minneapolis to Atlanta. Predictably, the governors of some red states threatened to mobilize the National Guard against the violence they claimed to fear. Apparently, none occurred.

There’s an undercurrent of hostility, however, that’s caused these massive responses. Many American citizens are afraid to venture outdoors where and when the masked agents of ICE are deployed. I know one person, a card-carrying American citizen of Mexican descent with a Hispanic name, is fearful of flying because of the cruel and random nature of arrests (kidnappings in many cases) and transportation to far-off holding facilities where he may or may not receive a hearing before being disappeared. I call him “card-carrying” because for the first time in his life he feels he has to carry his passport everywhere he goes, though he fears it will help him very little if the masked goons decide he’s a threat to the United States.

We are truly in uncharted waters during this administration’s tenure. Its modus operandi, as one commentator points out, is to see how much it can get away with. Normally, Congress would check its extra-legal attempts to govern its way (I can recall Congress, in a panic over the possibility of Harry Truman gaining another term, like his predecessor, passing term limit legislation). But this Congress, in a preemptive master stroke planned and executed by someone far sharper than the president, has been rendered utterly supine, hugging their jobs like fluffy toys and more terrified of the president’s wrath than that of their constituents, whose power is in turn being diminished by high-speed gerrymandering. And the Roberts Supreme Court, whose name will live on in the same ignominy as that of the Taney Court, can no longer be relied upon for even its vaunted originalism.

To me, the most shocking event of the weekend (I had quite expected the president to demean the protestors as “leftist lunatics,” which he did) was the AI-generated video he posted on the internet. In it, wearing a crown, he climbs into a jet fighter labeled “King Trump” and flies over crowds of demonstrators below, dropping gobs of liquid sewage upon them. It’s not only as gross as anyone can get; it also demonstrates how far we’ve fallen since the days of, say, Franklin Roosevelt or John Kennedy. Our beautiful democratic system is recalling Ben Franklin’s warning: “A republic, if you can keep it.” Still, along with the protestors, I am prayerfully hopeful.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



## MEETING MEMO

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Tuesday, November 4</b>  | Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.   |
| Cabot Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.                                  |  |
| Craftsbury Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.                             | <b>Town Clerks</b>   |
| Marshfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.                          | Cabot: <a href="http://cabotvt.us">cabotvt.us</a>  |
| OSSU Board, first Tuesday of the month, 6 to 8 p.m., OSSU Central Office, Hardwick. | Calais: <a href="http://calaisvermont.gov">calaisvermont.gov</a>                                 |
| <b>Wednesday, November 5</b>  | Craftsbury: <a href="http://townofcraftsbury.com">townofcraftsbury.com</a>                       |
| Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall.  | Greensboro: <a href="http://greensborovt.gov">greensborovt.gov</a>                               |
| Wolcott Select Board, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.                              | Hardwick: <a href="http://hardwickvt.org">hardwickvt.org</a>                                     |
| <b>Thursday, November 6</b>   | Marshfield: <a href="http://town.marshfield.vt.us">town.marshfield.vt.us</a>                     |
|   | Plainfield: <a href="http://plainfieldvt.us">plainfieldvt.us</a>                                 |
|   | Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net |
|   | Walden: <a href="http://waldenvt.gov">waldenvt.gov</a>   |
|   | Wolcott: <a href="http://wolcottvt.org">wolcottvt.org</a>  |
|   | Woodbury: <a href="http://woodburyvt.org">woodburyvt.org</a>                                     |

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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Health insurance changes explained

by **Becca Balint**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – I want to keep you up to date on major changes that will impact you if you get your health insurance through a Medicare Advantage plan.

As you may have already heard, there will be a dramatic reduction in Medicare Advantage plans available to Vermonters starting in 2026. If you are a Medicare Advantage member, you will need to make decisions about your insurance to avoid penalties and ensure you don't have a lapse in coverage. This can be overwhelming news, so I want to make sure Vermonters have all they need to navigate this change. Keep reading to learn more.

Two private insurers, UnitedHealthcare and Blue Cross Blue Shield (Vermont Blue Advantage), recently announced they will not offer their individual Medicare Advantage plans in Vermont as of January 1, 2026. A third insurance company, Humana, will continue to offer Medicare Advantage coverage but only in Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Windham, and Windsor counties. Vermonters who

live outside those counties will need to enroll in traditional Medicare, and could do so starting October 15, when the open enrollment period began.

UnitedHealthcare and Vermont Blue Advantage currently cover the majority of Vermonters enrolled in Medicare Advantage. I understand that these changes are disruptive and will leave tens of thousands of Vermonters with very few options when navigating Vermont's Medicare Advantage market. As your congresswoman, I want to make sure you are aware of what your options are moving forward and what resources are available to navigate through these changes:

Coverage on all current plans will continue through December 31.

If you lose coverage under your current Medicare Advantage plan, you have the option to enroll in an alternative Medicare Advantage plan during the Medicare Advantage Annual Enrollment Period which is happening right now: October 15 through December 7.

If your Advantage plan is

discontinued in your area, you will need to enroll in traditional Medicare as well as a Part D plan for drug coverage. CMS requires drug coverage to avoid penalties.

You will also have a Special Enrollment Period to get a secondary insurance plan, called a Medicare Supplement plan or Medigap. Medigap coverage is optional and there are several Medigap plans available with varying degrees of coverage. Should you choose not to get a Medigap plan, you will be responsible for the cost sharing amounts that Medicare A and B do not cover—this includes hospital deductibles, medical deductibles, and typically a 20% coinsurance for services.

The Special Enrollment Period for Medigap plans is also called “guaranteed issue open enrollment” and waives any underwriting. The period lasts for 63 days after your current coverage ends. This means you can enroll in Medigap until March 4, 2026.

**You must provide the discontinuation letter sent by your current insurer** as proof you are eligible for guaranteed

issue rights and the extended enrollment period. **Please do not throw this letter away!**

### Who can help?

To accommodate the need for assistance, the Vermont Area Agencies on Aging have increased staffing of the Vermont State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and HelpLine at (800) 642-5119. Counselors are available to answer questions, discuss individual needs, and provide information about Medicare options. Appointments with SHIP counselors are booking quickly. If you aren't able to meet with them before the end of open enrollment, you can also get information online at medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE which is staffed 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

Don't forget to ask about Part D (prescription drugs) and Medigap plans if you are switching to original Medicare.

If you need assistance with a Federal Agency, please call my Vermont District Office at (802) 652-2450.

*Becca Balint is Vermont's representative to the U.S. House of Representatives.*

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### What brought me out?

To the editor:

As the crowd of nearly 300 people gathered in Hardwick, Saturday, Oct. 18, I donned my old crossing guard vest and took my aging, somewhat creaky, body out of its cozy downtown nook (where my husband and I are living, as I care for him, and he, in turn, tries to care for me) with the intent to do my part to help change things for the better.

My role at the “No Kings II” rally, for the most part, ended up being that of greeter/crossing guard and info sharer.

While the crosswalk post I found myself tending to was a little removed from the park, where the singers/speakers and presenters were, I was able to catch wisps of those presentations and found them inspiring. Also moving and engaging were the signs, costumes and behaviors of the wide array of passersby with whom I found myself interacting.

More than once I was asked what it was that brought me out to the rally (charmingly nicknamed a ‘protestival’). Only after the fact did I realize how many differing answers I had given, and how many others I hadn't

even had enough time to get to in each moment the question was put to me. I mean, it is difficult to condense more than 50 years of growing concern for our country, and the planet of which it is a part, into a soundbite-sized answer.

Now, in a quiet moment of reflection, I can summarize that I, the daughter of peace/justice-labor- and environmental-activist parents, had learned early on, and had taken very much to heart, their teachings to me and my siblings that it was up to us to “take care of each other” to “never sh\*t where you eat” and to try to follow that time-honored Golden Rule; that we could do that through solidarity with strength in numbers and by using nonviolent modes of de-escalation and boycotting: always choosing peaceful and compassionate means when possible, and gratefully celebrating every step forward.

With that as the framework for my life, I stand pretty much in direct opposition to all that this current administration projects out to the world.

**Mary C. Gagnon**  
Hardwick

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Member-owner deals valid 11/01 - 11/30

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 <b>\$2.00</b> Rice Ramen Varieties <small>Lotus Foods, 2.8 oz</small>	 <b>2/\$5</b> Swiss Miss Cocoa <small>All varieties, 5.84 - 11.04 oz</small>	 <b>\$3.29</b> Pad Thai Rice Noodles <small>Lotus Foods, 8 oz</small>	 <b>\$3.99</b> VT Cultured Butter <small>Varieties, 8oz</small>
 <b>\$2 off</b> Gluten Free Rolls <small>Against the grain, 4 rolls</small>	 <b>\$10 off</b> BULK Whole Thyme Leaf <small>Frontier Natural, per lb</small>	 <b>5/\$5</b> Swanson Broths <small>All varieties, 14.5 oz</small>	 <b>\$6.49</b> Shampoo/Conditioner <small>Desert Essence, 8oz</small>
 <b>2/\$6</b> Vanilla Rice Crispy Squares, Nut Free <small>Made Good, 6 pk</small>	 <b>\$4.99</b> Smoked ground paprika <small>Frontier Natural, Organic, 1.87 oz</small>	 <b>\$11.99</b> Shelled Hemp Seeds <small>Organic, 12 oz</small>	 <b>\$4.99</b> Organic Ginger Aid <small>Promotes Healthy Digestion</small> Herbal Tea Selection <small>Traditional Medicine, varieties, 16 ct</small>

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# WEEKS GONE BY

## Library grew, serving community for 130 years

by Sandy Scott

WALDEN – Small and unassuming, the Walden Community Library is tucked away behind the town's school. In a town that does not have a general store or town green, and just under 1,000 residents, the library is a focal point for the community.

Since its beginnings in 1895, the rural library has been tended by dedicated volunteers who desire to provide access to books and create a welcoming space for all.

Through grant funding and the work of the board and other volunteers, the library regularly hosts community events, including a solar eclipse viewing party in spring 2024. There are summer barbecues, ice cream and pie socials, story times and craft nights.

Patrons can use the library's Wi-fi and computers, check out park and museum passes and borrow equipment to use on the Frisbee golf course located on the school grounds.

And, of course, there are books, lots of books.

In 1895, the State of Vermont set aside money to be allocated to towns wishing to set up a public library. At that year's town meeting, Walden residents voted to appropriate \$25 for a town library and to elect a board of library trustees that would apply for additional funding from the state.

In those days, the Walden Library had no building to house the books purchased by the trustees; the collection was kept in the home of the town clerk. This arrangement lasted until 1931, when Walden Town Clerk Gladys

Rowell stated she did not have the space to keep the books.

Following two years of paying Thomasina Lebreque, the Walden Heights storekeeper and postmistress, to store the books, trustees made the decision to divide the collection four ways so each of them kept a portion of the library books in their own homes.

The trustees found a dedicated home for their books in 1967 when George E. Milne, of Barre, deeded a small camp he owned in Walden to the library. The building was hitched to a tractor and moved through town over three days, from near Goslant Bridge to a spot next to the Walden Town Garage, which was at that time located near the corner of Noyestar Road and Vt. Route 15.

Volunteer time and labor turned the old camp into a serviceable space for the new library. Notes from that year's annual report credit Eveline Rice with taping sheetrock seams, Lee and Betty Hatch with laying and sanding the floor, Maurice Eddy with taking care of electrical work, and Ann Cochran with making curtains.

They are only a few of the folks who helped to get the library building open and ready for the official open house on August 24, 1968. A newspaper clipping from the time reported that over 400 visitors came to the library that day.

Trustees reports and newspaper articles from later years paint a picture of something not too different from how the library operates today. Volunteers worked to cultivate an interesting and relevant collection of books, engage with students and provide education and entertainment in



Since 2013 the Walden Town Library has been behind Walden school, in a former modular classroom, where it moved from inside the school due to concerns with student safety. *courtesy photo*

various forms to the community. They maintained magazine subscriptions, showed films to visiting groups of students, hosted art courses, story hours and book fairs.

Operating hours were regular but spare, due to the minimal availability of volunteers. In some years, the library was open only one day a week; other years, two afternoons and an evening. The trustees were supported in their work by the Walden Home Demonstration group, the regional library in St. Johnsbury, the state library in Montpelier and various donors. Many donations came in the form of books, some of which remain in the current collection with book plates commemorating the donors, or in memory of loved ones.

In the 1980s, two library projects began to preserve town stories and history. A bi-monthly newsletter, "Walden 200," compiled by the trustees, began in 1981 as a celebration of the 200th anniversary of Walden's town charter. The newsletter was maintained for the next 30 years, and an archive of issues is in the library. Much of the information for this article was gleaned from its Spring, 2004, edition.

In 1986, the library sponsored the publication of "Walden: A History," a book written by the Walden History Committee, led by Betty Hatch. It was updated and reprinted in 1990, and copies can be found in homes around Walden, as well as in the Vermont section of the library.

In 1995, the Walden Town Library and the school library merged, to be housed inside the

newly built Walden Elementary School on Cahoon Farm Road. (Until this time, Walden students had attended classes in four separate buildings scattered throughout the town.) The combined libraries became the Walden Community Library.

The old camp, after its decades of service, began its own next chapter. It was sold to Cedric and Susan Alexander and in 1996 undertook another journey over miles of road before settling in its new home in Cabot.

From 1995 until 2013, the library had extended hours, as it was open during school days. That was the only period of time when there was a paid librarian, with their salary included in the school budget. For a number of years, Judy Nudd, also the administrative assistant for the school, filled that position.

In 2013, due to increased concerns about student safety, the Walden School Board requested the library move to the modular building behind the school, allowing the students who had been attending classes in the outbuilding to move into the main school building.

Volunteers were once again solely responsible for keeping the doors open to the public, marking a shift in the day-to-day operations of the library.

The current board of trustees, led by long-time Library Director Martha Bissell, has been working together for about three years. They are part of a tradition, begun 130 years ago, of Walden residents pitching in to support the humble but valuable institution of the community library.



The Walden Public Library is pictured here in the camp that served as its home until it moved to the Walden School in 1995. In 1967 the former camp was moved from Goslant Bridge to the former town garage lot near the intersection of Vt. Rte. 15 and Noyestar Rd., now occupied by Walden Heights Heating. *courtesy photo*

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## The Meadow Across the Creek

by Thomas Berry

GREENSBORO – Whatever preserves and enhances this meadow in the natural cycles of its transformation is good, whatever opposes this meadow is not good. My life orientation is that simple. It is also that pervasive.

My understanding of the Great Work began when I was quite young. At the time I was about eleven years old. My family was moving from a more settled part of a small southern town, out to the edge of town where a new house was being built.

The house, not yet finished, was situated on a slight incline. Down below was a small creek and there across the creek was a meadow.

It was an early afternoon in late May when I first wandered down the incline, crossed the creek and looked over the scene.

The field was covered with white lilies rising above the thick grass.

A magic moment, this experience gave to my life something that seems to explain my thinking at a more profound level than almost any other experience I can remember.

It was not only the lilies. It was the singing of the crickets and the woodlands in the distance and the clouds in a clear sky. This early experience, it seems, has become normative for me throughout the entire range of my thinking.

Although the meadow has

none of the immensity or grandeur of other places, still in this little meadow the magnificence of life as celebration is manifested in a manner as profound and impressive as any other place I have known in these past many years.

From “The Meadow Across the Creek” in *The Great Work* by Thomas Berry. Shared with permission of the Sisters of the Earth Community at the Green Mountain Monastery/Thomas Berry Sanctuary, Greensboro.

They said, “Thomas Berry, at his request, was buried on our land in a meadow on June 8, 2009 and we are deeply honored to be the custodians of his final resting place.”

“For over 10 years we have

cared for this sacred site, welcoming people from around the world who come to pay their deep respects to Thomas.

“We chose the meadow as Thomas’s final resting place because it was the deep archetype of the Meadow, (representing the entire Earth community) that Thomas carried with him throughout his life.

“Now, in a gesture of gratitude, the meadow has taken Thomas back to itself in a full embrace.”

*Thomas Berry (1914-2009) was a cultural historian who sought a broader perspective on humanity’s relationship to the earth in order to respond to the ecological and social challenges of our times.*

# I HEARD IT THROUGH THE JEDEVINE

## Community room has been busy

by Brendan Buckley

HARDWICK – I wrote last month of Parker Ladd, a Hardwick native who bequeathed almost half a million dollars to our Jeudevine Memorial Library. In honor of his memory, the trustees have chosen to name the large meeting space in the new addition the Parker Ladd Community Room. It has been a very busy place since it opened, hosting numerous local groups and library events. A small kitchen is immediately adjacent to the room so refreshments can be included as part of any gathering there. You can find the link to “Meeting Rooms” on a tab at the top of the library website: [jeudevinememorallibrary.org](http://jeudevinememorallibrary.org).

The link includes a calendar so you can identify available time slots. The application form to hold a meeting is also there. Please be sure to review the “Meeting Rooms Policy”. There is no cost to use the room for a free public event. A smaller meeting room is also available for up to 12 people.

Last Saturday, Oct. 25, The Friends of the Jeudevine Library held an event that perfectly suited the season: Warm Up the Library. A variety of delicious soups were served, in addition to cornbread and Jasper Hill Moses Sleeper cheese.

Local potters donated bowls for the occasion. Everyone selected a bowl to bring home, but tested it out first with their

choice of soup. It was an overcast, chilly day with temperatures in the 30s. What better way to warm and brighten one’s day?

Additionally, visitors could bid on a wide variety of donated goods and services from local merchants through a silent auction. Winners were announced at the evening’s end. Proceeds from the event will go to the Friends of the Jeudevine. Their focus is on supporting programming for the library.

The event was a great success, so I am confident those who missed out will have a second chance in the future.

A popular occasion in recent years has been Pages in the Pub(lic) Library. It will be held this year on Sunday, Nov. 9, at the library, from 3 to 5 p.m. The event, co-sponsored by the Galaxy Bookshop, features local book-lovers sharing their thoughts about books they have read.

In my experience, this occasion is, no kidding, scintillating. The depth and breadth of subject matter presented will amaze you. You might hear a synopsis of a page-turning mystery, learn about herbal medicine, discover an historical figure you did not know, find a great new book for your toddler or your teen, marvel at a death-defying journey: the possibilities are endless because books transport us anywhere and everywhere. I promise: if you attend, you will go home knowing the title of a book you

cannot wait to read.

The Galaxy will have many of those titles available for purchase at the library so you can immediately scratch that itch if you must.

In addition to whetting your literary appetite for a great read, the Village Restaurant will hone in on your gustatory appetite with an array of its wonderful desserts.

Corrections: I need to correct two factual errors I have included in recent columns. In fact, I have repeated one of these mistakes more than once. The wood floors of the original Jeudevine Library, recently freed from their linoleum shroud and then beautifully refinished, are birch, not red oak. For months, in print and in conversation, I have commented on the lovely red oak flooring. However, a couple of weeks ago I uttered those words in the presence of a local carpenter, who politely (without any shaming) noted that they are birch. He even walked into the space to make absolutely sure, a kind gesture to me. I have no doubt he was certain of his facts beforehand and had no need to check.

In my story about Parker Ladd, I clicked on the uncorrected document when I submitted it to the Gazette. I mistakenly reported Lisa Sammet beginning as librarian in 1993. The correct version reports her tenure as the Jeudevine librarian lasted from May 2000 through the end of 2022.

## Heller’s World by Joe Heller



# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Gyttja: The Mud Beneath Us Reveals the Past

by Steven Arcone

WEST LEBANON, N.H. – Most people know that the bottom of a northern lake or large pond is a mucky, muddy mess of weeds, decayed leaves, some rocks, and a few crayfish to avoid stepping on while wading. This area is known as the lake shelf. Just beyond the shelf is often a steep drop-off, usually 20 feet deep or more, known as the slope, followed by a longer and much less steep rise leading to the deepest part, known as the basin. With every storm and footstep, most of the muck is resuspended, moving and settling again on the rise and basin. Most northern lakes have at least 10 feet of mud beneath the basins. Mirror Lake in West Thornton, N.H., has at least 45 feet of this mud. The technical term for this lake bottom mud made of mineral silt and decaying organic matter is gyttja, a Swedish word pronounced “yitcha.”

Gyttja’s silt-sized particles range between 0.002 and 0.05 mm in diameter. Finer sizes are referred to as clay. These sediments were left by ice sheets grinding down the rock beneath them over tens of thousands of years. These clays and silts were then eroded from nearby hillsides and washed down into lake bottoms over the years. Basins can accumulate up to one millimeter of sediment per year. Beneath gyttja, most New England and New York lakes have sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders that were also left or washed out of the ice sheet as it receded from these areas 14,000 to 15,000 years ago.

Gyttja density varies from about 1.8 grams per cubic centimeter at its nearly inorganic bottom to 1.0, the density of water, at the sediment-water interface where

suspended particles form a murky layer. By weight, gyttja’s mineral content tends to be 60 percent or more quartz and about 20 percent feldspars and micas. Organic matter, from a few percent at the bottom of the gyttja to nearly 40 percent at the top, includes rotting and totally decomposed vegetation, fish waste, and algae.

Gyttja’s organics, exotic chemical content, and layer structure can reveal ecological and climate history. By extracting cores, usually three inches in diameter, scientists can date and study pollen, toxic metals, pesticides, and other inorganics. Pollen research done at Harvard University in the 1970s determined that, after glaciers receded, herbaceous plants were the first to return to New England about 13,000 years ago, followed by spruce trees, then pines and oaks. In New Hampshire and Maine, Plymouth State University geologists have documented the recent history of DDT, evidence of shoreline erosion from motorboat activity, and ancient occurrences of cyanobacteria.

Also in the 1970s, Cornell University researchers discovered hundreds of nearly pure mineral layers embedded within gyttja cores: up to 10 in one centimeter. Layering style and sand content identified them as turbidites, or layers created by turbidity currents. These currents are denser than lake water because of their silt and clay content, so they travel along lake bottoms, much like an underwater sandstorm. They are generated from slumps or slides on slopes, where sediment deposits are most unstable, and are typically caused by large-scale disturbances, such as floods. These layers provide information on climate history



Sediment

by indicating when intense storms occurred. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, researchers at the University of Vermont found that over the past 13,000 years, storm-driven turbidites frequently occurred in intervals lasting from about a few hundred to over 1,000 years, with evidence that we may be in the midst of a 1,500-year period of intense storms.

Most New England lake water and gyttja have low electrical conductivity, which allows special, low-frequency radar signals to penetrate gyttja and reflect from the denser turbidite layers, revealing more about how turbidites form. Since the early 1990s, my own radar profiles of 25 New England lakes have shown that entire lake sub-bottoms

are often stratified with continuous, datable, turbidite horizons. Most importantly, I found that turbidites protect underlying gyttja from storm erosion, thus preserving valuable core data, which can be used to uncover the Northeast’s ecological past. Next time your toes are squishing into the mud of a lake bottom, think about how valuable the layers of turbidite and gyttja are. This fascinating muck holds some of the answers to the past.

*Steven Arcone is a semi-retired research geophysicist whose professional career included 43 years at the U. S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.*



At The Den’s bar in Harry’s Hardware, (from left) Walden’s Ben Rymarski shares good spots to walk in Walden, with Missy Lalonde and her mother Lindsay, who stepped inside to get out of the rain on a mission to walk a mile in each of Vermont’s 251 towns, Friday, Oct. 24. By mid-afternoon they had already visited and walked a mile in each of Barnet, Peacham, St. Johnsbury and Danville. As the rain let up, they headed out for their mile walk in Cabot, with plans to do the same in Walden and Hardwick before returning to Middlebury. photo by Paul Fixx

## The Women’s Center at Copley

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# IN THE GARDEN



*Tulips are among the most popular spring bloomers grown from bulbs.*  
photo by Debra Heleba



*Puschkinia scilloides, commonly known as early stardrift or striped squill, is an early spring bloomer.*  
photo by Debra Heleba

## Planting bulbs for Spring flowers

by **Deborah J. Benoit**

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Autumn is in full force. Green leaves have turned to brilliant shades of red and gold that flutter to the ground in their yearly dance. The garden is winding down in preparation for its long winter nap: the perfect time to think about spring.

Don't let another year pass by without planting spring blooming bulbs. In March and April (and beyond), they'll add color to garden beds that will be, for the most part, still fast asleep.

Planted in clumps or waves, spring bulbs can add bold pops of color. Scattered throughout a garden bed, they'll add a sprinkling of unexpected color here and there.

A row of daffodils can be striking. A border of crocus can draw the eye to an awakening flower bed. Consider planting early blooming bulbs under deciduous trees and

shrubs where they'll get plenty of sunlight under those bare branches before the larger plants leaf out.

Most people are familiar with spring standards such as tulips (*Tulipa*), daffodils (*Narcissus*), and crocus (*Crocus*). For something a little different, there are many alternatives.

While crocus grow only four to six inches tall, they're not the only diminutive spring flowering bulb. Consider snowdrops (*Galanthus woronowii*), early stardrift (*Puschkinia scilloides*) or star of Holland (*Scilla siberica*). They can all add color in borders and under taller shrubs and trees.

Mainstays of the garden, tulips and daffodils, are available in a wide variety of colors, heights, and petal types. Alternatives include allium (*Allium*) with its pom-pom flowerhead, the checkered lily (*Fritillaria meleagris*) with its checkerboard patterned petals,

and the fragrant hyacinth with its colorful, upright flower clusters.

Spring flowering bulbs such as the crown imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*) can add height and drama at three to four feet tall.

For extra interest, include a mixture of bulbs. For example, try a cluster of red tulips surrounded by white snowdrops.

Planting bulbs is easy, though it can be time consuming when the task includes hundreds of bulbs.

Single bulbs can be planted using a trowel or a bulb planter. Check package recommendations for specifics but, in general, plant bulbs at a depth of two to three times their height. For borders, a trench can be dug. For clumps of bulbs, dig a hole wide enough to accommodate the desired number of bulbs.

Larger bulbs should be spaced about three to five inches apart. Plant smaller bulbs one to two inches apart. Insert the bulb pointed end up with root side down and cover with soil. Water in. Finish with a layer of mulch.

If combining different sized bulbs in one planting, layer the bulbs. Plant the largest at the deepest point. Add a layer of soil to the proper depth, then add the next sized bulb. Repeat, if needed, with the smallest bulb at its suggested planting depth beneath a final layer of soil. Water and mulch to finish.

If combining like-sized flowers in a clump, place the bulbs at the bottom of the planting hole. Turn them pointed side up, cover with soil, then water and mulch.

To extend bloom time, consider mixing early-, mid-, and late-season bloomers in a border or garden bed.

Whether you plant traditional favorites like daffodils and crocus or try something a bit different like alliums or snowdrops, when spring arrives and the first flowers emerge, your efforts this fall will be well rewarded.

Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a garden columnist and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.



*An impressive display of daffodils and tulips adorns the University of Vermont campus.*  
photo by Debra Heleba



*A collection of spring bulbs are ready for planting this fall. Clockwise from lower left, a single giant allium bulb, tulip bulbs, a blend of daffodil bulbs, and small crocus bulbs.*  
photo by Debra Heleba

The  
Hardwick Gazette  
~ Since 1889 ~  
News,  
Opinion,  
Entertainment,  
Sports  
& More!

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Constitution reading, Oct. 29

CRAFTSBURY - Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., a community reading of the U.S. Constitution will take place at the

John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road. More information is available at [jwsimpsonmemorial.org](http://jwsimpsonmemorial.org)

## Halloween Trick-or-Treat Trail to GUCC, Oct. 31

by Greensboro United Church of Christ

GREENSBORO - The Halloween Trick-or-Treat Trail will happen throughout Greensboro Village on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Residents and volunteers will

be handing out treats from porches and driveways along the route and the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) will have free grilled cheese sandwiches while supplies last. Parking is available at the town hall, school, post office, the beach and the former Grange building.

## Window insert volunteers needed

CRAFTSBURY - October 31 to November 9, The Craftsbury Outdoor Center will host the WindowDressers community build, a week-long community event. Throughout the week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., volunteers will gather to assemble pre-ordered insulating window inserts to help local residents and businesses save energy and lower heating costs.

Window Dressers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that brings community volunteers of all economic and social situations together to improve the warmth and comfort of interior spaces, lower heating costs, and reduce carbon dioxide pollution by producing low-cost insulating window inserts that function as custom, interior-mounted storm windows.

## Library Mystery Month features games, trivia, performances

ST. JOHNSBURY - The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum has a slate of events for its November Mystery Month, including a live CLUE game and a murder mystery live radio play in the Art Gallery.

Throughout the month visitors can pick up a Mystery Bingo card and complete to win prizes.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m., teams can compete for prizes at the Mystery Trivia Contest. No sign-up is necessary and snacks will be provided.

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 1 p.m., the Athenaeum Players will perform "Murder Me Always: by

Lee Mueller.

On Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., local mystery writer Beth Kanell will talk about her process of writing mysteries, including her series "Winds of Freedom," which includes "The Long Shadow" and "The Darkness Under the Water."

Mystery Month concludes with a Live CLUE game on Saturday, Nov. 22, at 6 p.m.. Food and soft drinks will be provided and tickets are available at the Athenaeum website at [stjathenaeum.org](http://stjathenaeum.org) but attendance is limited. The Athenaeum is located at 1171 Main St.

## Indian dinner, sari fashion show, Nov. 1-2

HARDWICK - The annual Child Haven benefit Indian dinner for Child Haven will be held November 1, in the Hazen Union High School cafeteria at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5 p.m. Following the dinner is a sari fashion show.

Sunday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the cafeteria will be open for the purchase of additional Indian dinner food and chai, a chance to peruse the bazaar table and for information about interning with Child Haven.

Featured at the dinner will be stories and slides about Child Haven's children, a silent auction and bazaar tables.

To reserve and purchase tickets for the dinner, contact Deborah at (802) 472-5284 or go to [childhaven.ca](http://childhaven.ca) and click on the Hardwick Dinner. Anyone who would like to model a sari should call Walker Hartt at (802) 535-4102 to be informed about fittings and rehearsal timing.

The Dinner raises funds for the 1,300 formerly destitute children in Child Haven's Children's Homes in India, Nepal and Bangladesh and has sponsored the education of three low-income nursing students since it began, as well as general support for the homes. More information about Child Haven can be found at [childhaven.ca](http://childhaven.ca).

## Weaving talk, Nov. 2

EAST CRAFTSBURY - On Sunday, Nov. 2, at 4 p.m., local fiber artist Prin van Gulden will be giving a talk at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church about weaving. The evening will start with a presentation that tours through interwoven traditions and some of the ways they connect people. It will culminate in a hands-on exploration of weaving with time to explore a variety of looms and try their hand at different tools and weaving techniques. Prin van Gulden is

a fiber arts and traditional skills educator and faculty member in environmental humanities at Sterling College.

This talk is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library and is made possible in part by a grant from the Greensboro United Church of Christ Pleasants Fund.

For more information, please email [jwsimpsonmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:jwsimpsonmemorial@gmail.com), call (802) 586-9692 or visit [jwsimpsonmemorial.org](http://jwsimpsonmemorial.org).

## Moss talk, Nov. 3

by Vermont Land Trust

AREA TOWNS - The Vermont Land Trust will host ecologist Liz Thompson online for a discussion

exploring mosses, lichens and fungi in the forest, November 3, from noon to 1 p.m. The talk will be illustrated with close-up photos of all kinds of little things. Register at [vtcoverts.us](http://vtcoverts.us).

## Taco dinner, Nov. 5

HARDWICK - On November 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor (HNtN) will host a taco dinner provided by Caja Madera, and desserts, in the Parker Ladd Community Room at

the Jeudevine Memorial Library. Attendees will hear about HNtN's volunteer efforts, explore new opportunities to get involved, and discuss next steps for building a resilient Hardwick.

## NtN community gathering, November 5

by Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor

HARDWICK - Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor (NtN) will hold a community event with an evening of food, connection, and collaboration at the Jeudevine Memorial Library's Parker Ladd Community Room. (93 North Main Street entrance.)

The evening's theme, "Forward Together," will explore an ongoing commitment to collaboration and community

well-being, including the organization's progress in volunteer efforts. Information will be presented on new opportunities for involvement and next steps for building a resilient and connected Hardwick. The evening will include a taco dinner from Caja Madera and homemade desserts.

For more information, contact Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor at (802) 441-3301 or [hardwickneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:hardwickneighbors@gmail.com) or visit the Jeudevine Memorial Library for event details.

## Living with bears, Nov. 6

by Vermont Fish and Wildlife

AREA TOWNS - Vermont Fish and Wildlife will host an online workshop and discussion about Vermont's black bears, Thursday, Nov. 6, from 10 to 11 a.m. Attendees will discuss bear biology, ecology, the factors that

bring bears into communities and what to do to resolve ongoing issues and prevent future conflicts with bears. Participants will leave this workshop with specific action items they can implement at home and in their community.

Register at [vtcoverts.us20.list-manage.com](http://vtcoverts.us20.list-manage.com)

## Film, discussion, Nov. 6

MARSHFIELD - Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library will host a film screening and discussion with Rick Winston on "Occupation, Collaboration, Resistance: France in World War II Through Film" There will be excerpts from twelve films, both

those made in France during the occupation such as "Le Corbeau" and "Children of Paradise" and later films like "Au Revoir Les Enfants" and "Mr. Klein that look back on the era. For more information go to [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org) or call (802) 426-3581

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Corner Guild Christmas show, Nov. 7

PEACHAM – The Peacham Corner Guild Christmas Show will be held on November 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and November 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., upstairs at the Peacham town hall. Guild members and invited guest artists will be selling their work. A trunk containing items made and donated by members will be raffled. There will be a variety of baked goods and light lunch to eat in or take out.

## Doula skills, Nov. 8

HARDWICK – November 8, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Jeudevine Memorial Library will host a free workshop by Francesca Arnoldy in the Parker Ladd Community Room. This three-hour workshop will provide tools and methods for times of intensity, including serious illness, impending loss, grief and major life transitions. There is no charge to attend, but pre-registration at nekdeathcarecommunity.org is required. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. Those with food sensitivities or requirements should bring their own. The library is located at 93 N. Main St.

## Drag story hour, Nov. 9

CRAFTSBURY – A pair of drag queens will return to the Craftsbury Public Library on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m., to share stories of acceptance and individuality, creativity and expression. Vermont drag performers Emoji Nightmare and Katniss Everqueer, creators of Drag Story Hour Vermont will present stories appropriate for preschoolers ages 0-6, but all are welcome to attend. For more information on Drag Story Hour, visit dragstoryhour.org/ or contact the library at (802) 586-9683 or director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.

## Pages in the public library, Nov. 9

HARDWICK – The Jeudevine will hold a Pages in the Public Library in the children’s room of the library on Sunday, Nov. 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets will benefit the library. The afternoon will include book recommendations, a selection of pies, cakes, coffee and tea, and music by Take Five. The Galaxy Bookshop will donate a portion of the profits from all book orders placed during the event to the library.

Panelists include Dr. Hannah

Miller, an associate professor of education at Vermont State University; Vermont transplant Shana DuBois; and local authors Natalie Kinsey and Brett Stanciu. Take Five is a band from Lamoille County that plays jazz standards, bossa nova, blues, showtunes and original songs by Jeudevine youth librarian Rachel Funk.

Tickets are available at The Galaxy Bookshop, 41 South Main St., or call (802) 472-5533 for more information.



The view across the Lamoille River from behind the Hardwick Inn on South Main St., Wednesday, Oct. 22, no longer includes the home and garage at 41 Brush St. in Hardwick, which is being removed by demolition contractor F.C. Hammond & Son of Orange, N.H., specialists in construction waste management. photo by Paul Fixx

## Cutler Bollywood dance party, Nov. 9

PLAINFIELD – Sunday, Nov. 9, 3 to 5 p.m., the Plainfield Opera House will host an afternoon of Bollywood music to support Cutler Memorial Library. Admission is by donation, accepted as cash or check at the door. Bring indoor clean shoes to change out of street shoes. For more information, contact elizabethmathai@yahoo.com. The Plainfield Opera House is located at 18 High St.

## Blood donations scheduled for Hardwick Nov. 11, Plainfield Nov. 14

HARDWICK, PLAINFIELD – The American Red Cross asks people to schedule time to give blood or platlets now to keep the blood supply stable ahead of the holiday season. The donations may be made through the Red Cross in Hardwick, November 11, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Hazen Union High School, 126 Hazen Union

Drive and in Plainfield, November 14, noon to 5 p.m., at Twinfield High School, 106 Naismith Brook Road,

Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma through November 16, will receive \$20 in e-gift card to a merchant of choice and automatic entry for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards.



The Civic Standard’s Executive Director Rose Friedman takes a break from painting as she welcomes a curious visitor to the organization’s new home, across the street from its old home on S. Main St. in Hardwick, Oct. 8.

photo by Paul Fixx

**LA LIGA**  
Film Screening & Community Discussion  
NOV 2 | 3PM

**HEARTWOOD'S THE WELL TREE**  
Friday, NOV 7 | 7 PM  
A unique and enchanting weaving of song and storytelling.

**LOCAL FOLK ORCHESTRA**  
NOV 22 | 7PM

HIGHLANDARTSVT.ORG  
802.533.2000  
2875 HARDWICK ST, GREENSBORO, VT

# OBITUARIES

## Meredith Holch

EAST HARDWICK – Meredith Holch, 64, died suddenly while working in her yard in East Hardwick, on May 7. The cause of death was complications from polycythemia vera, a rare blood disorder.

Born and raised in Greenwich, Conn., she was a daughter of the late Arthur and Ellen Holch, and the sixth of seven siblings. A graduate of Greenwich High School, she earned a BA in French and Public Policy from Duke University (Magna Cum Laude), and received a MFA in Film/Video from Bard College.

An award-winning film maker specializing in stop-motion animation and video, Meredith's work, which has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art in NYC and PBS TV, centers on socially and politically relevant themes and local Vermont history. She was the recipient of two MacDowell artists colony resident fellowships in 2004 and 2009, and one at Millay Arts in 2011.

In early 2025, Meredith completed her final film "Brother Bird," a moving trilogy about death and reincarnation symbolized through birds and nature, with a segment inspired by her late brother Chris. It was named Best Animated Film at the Made Here Film Festival (MHFF) co-produced by the Vermont International Film Festival and Vermont Public just weeks before her death.

In her 20s and throughout her life, Meredith performed and toured with Bread & Puppet Theater in Glover, thriving on its community of artists, musicians and performers, many of whom became lifelong friends and collaborators. She later settled in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, and was an active and charismatic presence in her community.

Channeling her boundless energy into a variety of jobs and projects in the area over the years,



Meredith Holch

Meredith served as executive director of Hardwick Community Public Access TV, worked at the Vermont Council on Aging, organized and taught animation workshops for children and started a house painting business, to name a few. One of her many creative claims to fame among her vast network of friends was entering the annual Pumpkin Carving Contest in Barton, every year and invariably winning with her imaginative creations.

A doer, motivator, creator and adventurer, Meredith will be best remembered as upbeat, outspoken and confident, with a remarkable drive to excel at anything she did, from planting vegetables or learning the fiddle, to writing a novel or being there for family and friends when they needed her. She tackled everything with tenacity.

Predeceased by her parents, brother, a brother-in-law and niece, she is survived by her siblings and their spouses: Gregory, Hilary O'Neill, Milissa (Rick) Laurence, Jeremy (Tanya), and Allegra as well as three nieces and three nephews.

A memorial was held at Bread & Puppet on July 6 where hundreds of friends, colleagues and family gathered from near and far to celebrate a life well-lived, but far too short.

## Beverly A. Phelps

HARDWICK – Beverly Ann Phelps, 91, of Hardwick, died Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Greensboro Nursing Home. A complete obituary will follow in a later edition.

Pending arrangements are in the care of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. Online condolences are welcomed at: [northernvermontfuneralservice.com](http://northernvermontfuneralservice.com)

## Bronwyn H. Masse

GREENSBORO – Bronwyn H. Masse, 79, died peacefully at the Union House Nursing Home in Glover, on Saturday October 18, with family at her side.

She was born October 22, 1945, in Greensboro; the daughter of the late Herbert S. and Bronwyn (Bevan) Potter. She graduated from Greensboro High School and continued her education at the University of Vermont, graduating in the early '70s.

Bronwyn married Conrad J. Masse in Bennington, in the late '80s. They first made their home in Connecticut until Conrad retired. At that time, they returned to Vermont living in Craftsbury and recently in Greensboro.

She was employed by the State of Vermont in the Health Department, the Hardwick Gazette, the Chamber of Commerce in Berlin and until she fully retired in 2020, she was a secretary of the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

Bronwyn was a member of the Greensboro United Church of Christ, alternate organist, pianist and choir member of that church as well as alternate organist at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. She was an avid lover of music. She often filled her home and churches with beautiful music and song, as well as singing with various choral groups throughout the area.

Survivors include: her husband Conrad Masse, of Greensboro; two daughters, Linda Hall (Kenneth) of Greensboro



Bronwyn H. Masse

Bend and Patti Foster and her companion Russell (Rusty) Ferland of Hardwick; four grandchildren, Rosita Durbin (Jeff), Candace Hall, Abigail Foster and her companion Christoher Thompson, and Victoria Atwood (Matthew); three great grandchildren Jack and Matthew Durbin, and Evan Thompson.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at Greensboro United Church of Christ, with Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Greensboro United Church of Christ, Music Department, 165 Wilson Street, Greensboro, VT 05841.

Arrangements are in the care of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. Online condolences are welcomed at: [northernvermontfuneralservice.com](http://northernvermontfuneralservice.com)

## Northern Vermont Funeral Service

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# “A Wedding Tale,” a hilarious journey of mishaps

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – A perfect young couple deeply in love holds a perfect wedding: what could possibly go amiss? Evidently they had never read Robert Burns poem about “The best laid plans of mice and men oft go astray.” Or, more importantly, ever heard of Murphy’s Law, “If something can go wrong, it will.” The Civic Theater Project’s production entitled “The Wedding Tale” demonstrated the relevance of such observations last Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at the American Legion in Hardwick and took on a hilarious journey of mishaps complete with a generous multi-course dinner.

Skillfully directed by Rose Freidman, the large cast of some thirty actors and actresses was supported by a dozen or more people involved in writing the script, making the costumes, sets and props, cooking and serving the food and donating in-kind gifts and funds to make this genuine community theater such a success with live sold-out performances.

As the wedding guests arrived and were seated on the bride or groom’s side of the hall, right away there was a warning that the hopes for a perfect wedding were in trouble, as the groom’s best man had not arrived. First to come in were the parents of the bride, Diane Trowel (Catherine Eden) and Doug Trowel (Jesse Cooper) and parents of the groom, Caroline “Cricket” von Mayflower (Annie Houston) and Tertius “Tripp” von Mayflower (Nic Nicolet) as well as other relatives and friends of the couple.

The von Mayflowers were an old family from Connecticut, well-heeled. They had been coming up to their summer home on Caspian Lake in Greensboro for generations. They commented on how quaint and authentic Vermont was, where people weren’t concerned with the trivial, like mowing the lawn or painting their houses. Then these bridesmaids came down the aisle (Helen Sher, Maria Amador and Jo Landers), one staring at her cell phone, followed by the bride. Taylor Trowel (Ulla Collins Axelson) and the groom, Aspen von Mayflower (Elias Robertson). The bride’s veil stretched ludicrously at least thirty feet behind her.

Music \Director Caitlin DeLuca accompanied the procession excellently on the piano with J.S. Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” and several other pieces of wedding music by Wagner and Mendelssohn.

Doug Trowel spoke enthusiastically to Aspen about potential local

job opportunities in his property maintenance business, such as draining pipes in vacation places in the fall, plowing driveways in the winter and towing cars in the Hardwick area, although Aspen seemed more directed to be an entrepreneur in artisanal finances.

The priest for this occasion was Father Tom Slotska-Murphy (Tom Murphy), who began the wedding ceremony by telling the lovely story of how Aspen met Taylor when he was having dinner at the Highland Lodge, where she was a waitress.

Then everyone joined in singing “Amazing Grace,” printed in the wedding program. The first verses were almost correct but the following three sections became increasingly bizarre and irreverently humorous.

As if that wasn’t enough to make people wonder what was going on, one of the bridesmaids and Taylor’s oldest, best friends (Helen Sher) gave a reading from Chronicles, Chapter 1, verses 1 through 9 of the Old Testament which was a seemingly endless list of begottens and begotters starting with Noah, managing to combine boredom with ridiculousness.

Taylor and Aspen then read their vows to each other, which expressed their sincere love for one another with what one of the players (Roseanne Hickey) described as a “Surrealistic Valentines”, Taylor then talking about her growing dog grooming enterprise and Aspen promising to learn how to use a leaf blower. They both saw their deep love as “unwordable,” which may or may-not be a word. Since the groom’s best man had still not arrived, a substitute was found among those gathered, to perform the ring part of the wedding, and the priest pronounced the couple man and wife, they making the traditional kiss.

Well, so far some minor bumps in the road, but then a major pothole! As preparations for the first course of the dinner were being made, Master of Ceremonies MIitch Creshtible (Justin Lander) and D.J. David Jarpleworth (Kent Osborne) got some music going for dancing, but this was interrupted by a devastating confession from Father Tom Slotska-Murphy that he had not been ordained since 2020, because he was defrocked for running a betting game about how long marriages he had performed would last. The call was then made to ask if anyone attending the wedding could act as a priest to legalize this marriage, and a man named Sam volunteered. He went through the steps once more, as quickly as possible, skipping the longer parts, giving his blessings to Taylor and Aspen would be merging their souls and their bank accounts, and everything

appeared to be back on track. But not for long. We don’t want to reveal the rest of this convoluted plot for those who will come next weekend, which includes such characters as a true believer in alien visitors (Tobin Anderson) and a wedding cake-demolishing grandmother (Barbara Leber).

Other members of the cast were Heather Lamphear, Ted Fullard, Phil

Mercier, Bryan Delaney, Opie Upson, Will Miller, Julian Jimenez, Lauren Antler, Vince Razionale, Charlie Lander, and last but not least, intrepid photographer Scogin Zimmerman-Mayo, with special thanks to Chef Ashton Allen and servers Mariana Considine, Savia Hedrick, Audry Holston, Rob Montgomery and Leslie Ross.



Performers (from left) Heidi Wilson, Sarina Partridge and Willy Clemetson will present a crankie show, “The Well Tree,” on November 7, at Highland Center for the Arts. *courtesy photo*

## “The Well Tree” crankie performed Nov. 7

GREENSBORO – Heartwood will present “The Well Tree,” a participatory musical journey illustrated with a crankie, on Friday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Highland Center for the Arts. The show is an illuminated hand-cranked scroll made by papercut artist Jennifer Jones. The three members of Heartwood, Heidi Wilson, Willy Clemetson, and Sarina Partridge, are the actors, musicians and crew

that runs the crankie.

“The Well Tree” is an original singing-story about journeying and remembering. Heartwood is a trio of singers and instrumentalists. They first came together as a trio in 2021 during a musical intensive on Rabbit Island, a remote 91 acre island in Lake Superior. Wilson has been leading community singing in Vermont for the last 19 years.

### HOLISTIC WELLNESS and PSYCHIC EXPO

Saturday, November 1  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Raffle to benefit  
Lamoille Area Cancer Network

Reiki • Massage • Bodywork  
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Vendors contact Monica at  
monicalmorrisey@gmail.com



The Quartet, composed of Eric Revis (bass), Branford Marsalis (sax), Justin Faulkner (drums), Joe Calderazzo (piano), will perform at the Barre Opera House Nov. 12.

## Marsalis at the BOH, Nov. 12

BARRE – Branford Marsalis will offer a rare Vermont performance when he and his quartet stop at the Barre Opera House on November 12 at 7:30 p.m.

New Orleans-born Branford Marsalis is an award-winning saxophonist, band leader, featured classical soloist, and a film and Broadway composer. In the process, he has become a multi-award-winning artist with three Grammys, a citation by the National Endowment for the Arts as a Jazz Master and an avatar of contemporary artistic excellence. The Branford Marsalis Quartet, formed in 1986, remains his primary means of expression.

In its three-plus decades of existence, the quartet has established a breadth of stylistic range. The quartet recently made its Blue Note Records debut with the release of “Belonging,” a full album interpretation of Keith Jarrett’s 1974 ECM album of the same name.

Tickets may be ordered online at [barreoperahouse.org](http://barreoperahouse.org) or call the Barre Opera House at (802)

476-8188. The Opera House, at 6 North Main Street, is handicapped accessible and is equipped for the hearing impaired.

## Eames Brothers Band performs at inaugural concert

WOLCOTT – A live musical performance featuring The Eames Brothers Band will be presented Saturday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m., at the Wolcott Town Hall. The event is the first of the newly-formed Wolcott Arts Collaborative (WAC). Doors open at 7 p.m., with music ending at 9:30 p.m. There will be a sliding scale donation at the door.

The Eames Brothers Band is a Vermont-based trio known for bluesy funk with brothers Seth (guitar/vocals) and Ralph (bass)

Eames and Phil Carr (drums).

The Wolcott Arts Collaborative is formed by local residents, including Jim Ryan, Bradley Horstman, Michelle Gudorf and Sally Gardner, with the goal of hosting a diverse range of intergenerational events that cultivate expression, empowerment and collaborative community enrichment, including workshops, seminars, dances and musical performances.

The town hall is located at 4176 Vt. 15.

# WGDR 91.1 FM WGDR 91.7 FM CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY RADIO

## 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!							<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	The Rubber Room Dan Towner	Unshelved J Kramer	Techtonic	The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	<b>12 PM</b>	
<b>1 PM</b>								<b>1 PM</b>	
<b>2 PM</b>	Spanning the Chasm Peter Goreau	The Monday Drive at 2 Corey Flynn	Straight Up Soul	Adiagio	UpFront Soul	Modern Jet Set	Boxful of Blues John Foster	<b>2 PM</b>	
<b>3 PM</b>								<b>3 PM</b>	
<b>4 PM</b>	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see below)	Trailing Edge David Ferland	Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder	Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		<b>4 PM</b>	
<b>5 PM</b>	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Letters and Politics					Geezer Rock Jeff Lindholm	Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	<b>5 PM</b>
<b>6 PM</b>	Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)		Stranger & Deininger	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>	

- |  |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Rotating Slots</b></p> <p><b>#1: Sun 10 am–12 pm</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Audio Ergo Sum<br/>Darlen &amp; Ruby McElwain<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: The Immanent Grove<br/>Conni Mags</p> <p><b>#2: Sun 4–5 pm</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Afrosonic Taxi<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: Discoverances<br/>DJ Savannah</p> | <p><b>#3: Sun 9–11 pm</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Walkin' Will: Show of Live<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: All Mixed Up</p> <p><b>#4: Mon 11 am–12 pm</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> Mon: Blluminations<br/>Stefanie Lingenfelter<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Cuneiform Radio<br/>Kyle Schlesinger<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: Project Censored</p> | <p><b>#5: Mon 7–9 pm</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> Mon: Future Reflections<br/>DJ Syd<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Mon: In Common Sounds<br/>Brother B<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: Gilded Splinters<br/>Kevin Titterton<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Borderlands<br/>DJ Tenderman</p> <p><b>#6: Tue 9–10 am</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue: Alternative Radio<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Tue: Structurally Unsound<br/>Yardain Amron</p> | <p><b>#7: Tue 7–9 pm</b><br/>Biweekly rotation:<br/>Still Life with Club Soda<br/>Serena Matt<br/>Still Life with Orange Peel<br/>Ada Bowman</p> <p><b>#8: Thu 6–7 pm</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> Thu: The Broken Bois<br/>Collective Presents...<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Thu: Into the Issues<br/>Steve Pappas<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Thu: Radio RoundUp<br/>CVCR hosts</p> | <p><b>#9: Sat 9–10 am</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Gathering Peace<br/>Joseph Gainza<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Civic Radio Project<br/>Still Life with Orange Peel<br/>Emily Lanxner<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Pollinator Report<br/>Emily Lanxner<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Kitchen Permaculture<br/>Rebecca Beidler</p> <p><b>#10: Sat 10–11 am</b><br/>1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Sex Fly Bengé<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Pitter Patter Radio<br/>Pat Kantner<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Under the Covers<br/>DJ Rhizosphere<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Indigenous Music</p> |
|--|--|--|---|---|

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# EVENTS

## Wednesday, Oct. 29

**CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER** hosts Maura Adams of the Northern Forest Center to discuss how wood products and building reuse can be part of the housing solution, 7 to 8 p.m. Information: [headwatersnek.org](http://headwatersnek.org) or [treasurer@headwatersnek.org](mailto:treasurer@headwatersnek.org).

**ACT 73**, school redistricting community conversation, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Parker-Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., with Hazen Union and Mountain View school board members, Rep. Mike Southworth and Sen. Scott Beck.

## Saturday, Nov. 1

**HOLISTIC WELLNESS** and Psychic Expo, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Hazen Union School, Hardwick. Reiki, massage, sound healing, Tarot readings and more. Raffle to benefit Lamoille Area Cancer Network.

**CHILD HAVEN INDIAN DINNER** and Sari Fashion Show, 6 p.m., Hazen Union School Cafeteria, Hardwick. Extra food can be purchased Sunday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To reserve tickets for the dinner: Deborah at (802) 472-5284.

**THE EAMES BROTHERS BAND**, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Wolcott Town Hall, 4176 Vt. Rte. 15. Hosted by the Wolcott Arts Collaborative.

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

## Sunday, Nov. 2

**CABOT COMMUNITY DANCE**, special family dance, 3 to 4 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. Information: [cabotdance@aroundvt.org](mailto:cabotdance@aroundvt.org).

## Monday, Nov. 3

**MOSS TALK**, hosted by the Vermont Land Trust with ecologist Liz Thompson, noon to 1 p.m. Online discussion. Register at [vtcoverts.us](http://vtcoverts.us).

## Thursday, Nov. 6

**LIVING WITH BEARS WORKSHOP**, an online discussion, 10 to 11 a.m. Register at [vtcoverts.us20.list-manage.com](http://vtcoverts.us20.list-manage.com)

## Ongoing Events

**KIDS' CHORUS**, Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing. Information: [jeudevine.youthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevine.youthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov) or (802) 472-5948.

**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](mailto: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, [jw-simpsonmemorial.org](http://jw-simpsonmemorial.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 Denise Carr at (802) 472-3134 to reserve a meal. Take-Out or Eat-In. Donations appreciated.

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

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

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, 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 youngpeoplegettogetheratTheCivic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns, Games begin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

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

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

**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).

See EVENTS, Next Page

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# EVENTS

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

**HARDWICK HAIKU CLUB**, every first Thursday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, 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.

**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).

**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, 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 Wednesday and Saturday, 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

**ANN YOUNG: PEOPLE AND TRAINS**. Oil paintings of people on and off trains. Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover, through November 25.

**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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Resumes must be received by Friday, November 14, 2025, and can be submitted to:

Email: <a href="mailto:customerservice@hardwickelectric.com">customerservice@hardwickelectric.com</a>	Mailing address:
In person:	Hardwick Electric Department
Hardwick Electric Department	PO Box 516
123 N. Main St.	Hardwick, VT 05843
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More information can be found at [stowevt.gov/jobs](http://stowevt.gov/jobs). Submit cover letter and resume to [recruit@stowevt.gov](mailto:recruit@stowevt.gov). Application deadline: November 21, 2025, with position to start January 5, 2025.

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## HARDWICK

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Sean Leahoe (center) of Caledonia United controls the soccer ball ahead of Proctor players Mason Brothers (left) and Scooby Kimball (right) during quarter final play on school field in Danville, October 25. Caledonia United beat the Phantoms 1-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Caledonia United's Eli Russell (center) races to the ball on a rainy Saturday afternoon, October 25, during quarter final action in Danville. At back left is teammate Evan Whitehead. At right is Scooby Kimball of Proctor. Russell was the only player to score a goal during the game.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Caledonia United boys advance to Final Four

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – The Caledonia United boys soccer team advanced to its first Division IV Final Four as a three-school collective (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) last week, blanking seventh-seeded Proctor to remain a perfect 15-0 on the season.

Eli Russell's goal midway through the second half proved to be the game-winner as Cal United survived and advanced with a 1-0 win over Proctor on Saturday. River Thibault found Russell racing past Panther defenders near the right side of the box, and the senior Vermont All-State selection didn't miss, blasting the game-winner in the upper left corner with eighteen minutes to go in regulation. Proctor's goalkeeper Aaron Brock (nine saves) kept his team in the match the entire day before Thibault and Russell hooked up to finally finish off one of their many scoring opportunities on the day.

"We had 23 shots in the match, but we weren't clinical enough in the final third. Brock had a fantastic game in the net for Proctor. He was brave in the box and came up big on several occasions. They did a good job

denying us on many scoring opportunities," said head coach Peter Stratman.

Josh Petersen recorded one save to earn the tenth shutout of the season for the Cal United defense. Stratman's veteran club continues to reset the program win record with their fifteenth of the season. Proctor was a dangerous seventh seed in a

loaded Division IV state tournament. The Panthers came into this matchup with a 10-4-1 record that included four wins over the top six teams in the tournament.

"Proctor came ready to play and maintained strong energy throughout the match. They only got off one shot, but the match remained very tight. We were able to produce 12 shots in the

second half but only got four on frame. I was pleased with our backline for keeping Proctor off balance. It was a well-earned shut out," said Stratman.

Stratman advances to his fifth Division IV Final Four with now three different programs. Cal United will bring a lot of fire power into their semifinal matchup against Arlington with Russell leading the way with a career-high 29 goals on the season. Fellow senior Sam McLane is close behind with a career-high 25 and Jola Otten also reached double digit scores on the season. Cal United has been truly dominant this fall, outscoring its opponents 87-8 along the way.

Cal United will look to get its head coach to his first ever state title match on Wednesday as they welcome third seeded Arlington to The Hedges in Danville. The Eagles improved to 11-2-2 on the season with a 1-0 win over sixth seeded Grace Christian in the quarterfinal round. Top seeded Twin Valley (15-0) will host No. 5 Mill River on Wednesday in the semifinal match-up on the other side of the bracket. The state championship match will be held at Rutland High School on Saturday night.



Caledonia United senior Eli Russell (center) is congratulated by teammates (from left) Evan Whitehead, Ben Monaco, Russell, Jola Otten, Charlie St. John, River Thibault and Samson Kitonga after Russell scored the only goal during the quarter final game Saturday with Caledonia United taking the victory 1-0: Caledonia United will host Arlington on Wednesday, October 29 for semi-final action on the town field in Danville at 3 p.m. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# No home field advantage for Lady Cats

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls soccer team fell to twelfth seeded BFA-Fairfax last week in the opening round of the Division III state tournament, suffering a home playoff upset for the third consecutive season.

The third time was a charm for the Lady Bullets as they made a second half goal stand up against a late push from fifth-seeded Hazen to pull off a shocking 1-0 road upset last Wednesday. Mariah Wright won a scrum in the penalty box off a second consecutive corner-kick and tucked in the game-winner with fourteen minutes left in regulation. Hazen's all-time scoring leader (56 goals) Isabelle Gouin had a pair of point-blank chances for the equalizer late for the Lady Cats but just missed wide right on her first attempt before smashing her last attempt off the crossbar. Ella Renaud made six saves in the loss for Hazen. Emily Dearborn turned away seven shots for the Lady Bullets.

"As it goes, apparently the third time's the charm. It was the third matchup of the season against them, and they capitalized on a scramble in front of the goal that proved to be the game winner. We put tremendous pressure on their defense in the

final minutes, but couldn't find the equalizer," said head coach Megan Mercier.

Mercier's club handled Fairfax in two matches earlier this season by a combined score of 6-0. This match-up proved to be much more challenging as junior Taylor Thompson was out of the lineup due to injury. The 2024 Vermont All-State selection injured her ankle late in Hazen's regular season finale against Fairfax. Her absence on the pitch was glaring for the Lady Cats, whose offense looked disorganized without their midfield quarterback. Thompson not only is the catalyst for the offense with her dominant play in the middle of the field but is also the trigger on most set pieces. Mercier shuffled the lineup to adjust, but the familiar through balls past the defense from Thompson to Gouin just weren't there for the taking.

Mercier's first season at the helm was impressive, winning 11 matches, including nine by shutout. Losing Gouin, Renaud, Julia des Groseilliers, Brianna Holbrook and Craftsbury Academy's Adelina Augsberger to graduation will be a big challenge next fall. She will return however a talented core of underclassman with four years of varsity expe-



Craftsbury Academy's Adelina Augsberger controls the ball for Hazen Union in their play-off match. *courtesy photo*

rience under their belt.

"It was a great season, but this loss hurts as our seniors will be dearly missed. Some of my freshmen had their best matches of the season tonight, which

makes me excited already for next year!" said Mercier.

Fairfax's playoff run came to an end over the weekend, falling to fourth seeded Fair Haven 5-0 in the quarterfinal round.

# Lady Rebels clip Caledonia United girls late in game

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – Leland & Gray mounted a furious second half comeback to defeat the Caledonia United girls soccer team last week in the first round of the Division IV state tournament.

Sophia Hallock converted a penalty kick seven minutes into overtime to lift ninth seeded Leland & Gray to a first round 3-2 upset over Cal United last Tuesday. Lily Litchfield scored a pair of goals for the Lady Rebels as they clawed back from a 2-0 deficit with twenty-five minutes left in regulation to pull off the shocker. Eliska Siebenbrunner put Cal United on the board fourteen minutes into the match with a perfectly placed penalty kick. The home team returned from halftime with the same energy, and the versatile junior fed Cora Abetti eighteen minutes into the second half to give Cal United a two-goal advantage. Addison Eldridge found a streaking Litchfield in the 65' minute

to pull the Lady Rebels within one score. Litchfield buried a feed from Hallock eight minutes later for the equalizer. Leland & Gray continued to pressure Cal United down the stretch and into overtime, setting up Hallock's heroics. Annabelle Brookes made six stops for the Lady Rebels in the win. Phoebe Crocker turned away eight shots for Cal United as their season came to an end at 4-10-1.

It was a rebuilding year for head coach Spencer Morse and his club, coming off two successful seasons as a three-school collective (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) that included the program's first ever playoff win in Division III. Morse was challenged this fall with replacing a large graduating class that included three-time Vermont All-State selection Sloane Morse. His young team was strong in numbers but lacked the experience of navigating the rigors of a rugged Mountain League schedule. Siebenbrunner emerged early as a future star for Cal United, leading the defense

to three straight shutouts to start the season as a first-year goalkeeper. She continued her solid play throughout the season before a broken finger forced her out of action two weeks ago. She returned to the field last week, and her athleticism added instant offense to a struggling team. Her return next season, along with Abetti, Peyton Winn and a more experienced core of underclassmen has Morse and his coaching staff excited for the future. He will have the challenge however of replacing senior defensive stalwarts Crocker and Lauren Pecor.

"Losing Phoebe and Lauren will be hard, and their leadership will be missed, but numbers were up this season, and I am certainly excited for our future," said Morse.

Leland & Gray's Cinderella run continued on Friday as they knocked off top seeded West Rutland 3-1 in the quarterfinal round. They advanced to the Division IV Final Four and faced No. 4 Poultney on Tuesday.



Cal United senior goalkeeper Phoebe Crocker turned away eight shots for Cal United against the Leland & Gray Rebels. *photo by Jen Crocker*

# Winooski too much for Wildcats in first round

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Winooski showed off its championship pedigree last week, upsetting the seventh seeded Hazen Union boys soccer team in the first round of the Division III playoffs.

Stephan Stephano provided all of the offense for the Spartans last Tuesday as Winooski pulled away from Hazen late on the road to advance with a 3-1 win. Hussein Mohamed led Stephano with a perfect through ball at 25 minutes left in the first half to catch Wildcat keeper Grayson McNaughten by surprise to make it 1-0 visitors. Feroj Magar chipped a perfect ball into the penalty box four minutes later that Stephano collected and blasted into the back of the net to go up 2-0. Seville Murphy assisted Morgan Michaud a minute later, beating Spartans keeper Omar Turnage near post to close the gap to 2-1 heading into the break.

“We showed a lot of heart fighting back but ultimately couldn’t overcome the two goals given away in the first half. A great individual effort by Morgan gave us a lot of hope, but Winooski’s defense proved too stubborn despite a 55-minute onslaught trying to find the equalizer,” said head coach Harry Besett.

With numbers pushed forward for Hazen late in the match, Stephano raced past the Wildcat defense, completing the hat-trick to put the game away with three minutes left in regulation. Turnage

finished the match with 15 saves for Winooski. McNaughten finished his stellar career with eight stops, developing into one of the top keepers in the Capital League since coming over from Craftsbury Academy as a sophomore. Besett transformed the Wildcats into a tough one in the Capital in just his second season at the helm, posting the program’s first winning regular season (7-6-1) in six years. He’ll have a lot of holes to fill next season with the graduation losses of McNaughten, Michaud, Murphy, Sully Laflam, Justin Montgomery, Ethan Gann and Ari Jurkiewicz.

“It feels too early for the season to be over, but ultimately we need to reflect that we met our preseason goals of earning a home playoff match, redefining Hazen boys soccer in the Capital League. The seniors should be especially proud of their performances today and their play all season long,” said Besett.

Winooski wasn’t your typical No. 10 seed who entered the playoffs with just five wins on the season. The defending Division IV champs ventured outside of their division throughout the regular season, earning wins against Division I BFA-St. Albans and Division II Middlebury. They continued to play their best soccer of the season on Friday, knocking off second seeded Stowe to advance to the Division III Final Four. They travel to sixth seeded Thetford Academy on Wednesday.



Hazen Union senior Grayson McNaughten secures a corner kick against Winooski in the first round of Division III playoffs. photo by Dorothy Hill



Hazen Union senior Morgan Michaud celebrates with teammates Lincoln Hill and Seville Murphy after his playoff goal against Winooski.

courtesy photo



Zack Fuller, an avid fisherman from Western Massachusetts, with his catch from Caspian Lake. His wife Colleen Jenkins’ late father Bob Jenkins, grew up in Greensboro on Caspian Lake and, while her husband never got to meet her father, she said, “it felt special to bring him here to fish the same waters that my dad once did.” photo by Colleen Jenkins

## Tour de Greensboro registration begins

by Greensboro Association

GREENSBORO – The Tour de Greensboro, a non-competitive 25km ski tour, will be held on January 24, 2026. Participants start and finish at Highland Lodge, with an 18km loop for those looking for something a little shorter. The trail will be professionally groomed ahead of the event.

Along the route will be a food station with hot cider and donuts, then chili and cornbread after finishing.

Each participant will receive

a Toko ski hat and a trail pass.

All proceeds from the event will go to support the efforts of the Greensboro Association, which serves as a funding resource to support social, educational, municipal, and environmental projects that are important to the Town of Greensboro.

Event sponsors include Toko us, Lumi Experiences, Highland Lodge, Willey’s Store, Jasper Hill Farm and Carol’s Kitchen.

Capacity for the event is 140 participants. To register, go to skireg.com. For more information email Jimfredericks2@gmail.com

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