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Wednesday, December 31, 2025

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Volume 136 Number 52

## Hazen Union teacher reductions proposed, educators suggest cuts to administration

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – With just a month to go before the deadline to set school budgets before Town Meeting Day, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) budget and its five school district budgets remain far from final approval.

In the face of rising health care costs, general inflation, contracted

salary increases and reduced state funding to bring down school budgets, preliminary school budgets have been showing significant increases.

As word circulated that seven student-facing positions at Hazen Union School are being proposed for cuts, members of the school's teacher's union suggested the board look to cut Hazen and OSSU administrative costs.

A letter presented by Orleans Southwest Education Association (OSEA) member Kay Freedy at the OSSU school board meeting December 22, read in part, "The intent behind Act 73 is rooted in the consideration of administrative costs, and we encourage you to look closely at that side of our school and district budgets, and the proportions [of cuts] between administration

See REDUCTIONS, 5

### Area school district draft budgets up over 10% by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK AREA – Draft school district budgets in the Mountainview Union School District, Craftsbury and Wolcott are all up over 10%, with

See BUDGETS, 5

## Meals on Wheels delivers over 10,000 meals during year

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO - In 2025 the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging NEKCOA) Home Delivered Meals Program, more commonly called Meals on Wheels (MOW), delivered more than 10,000 meals in the Greensboro and Hardwick area during the year, according to area coordinator Janney Johnston.

This holiday season, each client will receive a large holiday bag filled with gifts from local businesses. Each bag contains one item selected specifically based on a client's needs, with other varied items that can include toiletries, pillows, blankets, food and even homemade cookies.

Meals are prepared by the Greensboro

Nursing Home, with 22 volunteers, sometimes in teams of two, picking up meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings to be delivered along six routes organized by geography. Most clients are in Greensboro and Hardwick, with routes in surrounding areas as the need arises, extending from Wolcott and into Walden

From 40 to 45 clients receive meals each week. Some are short-term, but others receive them for years, continued for as long as a decade or more, said Johnston.

Each delivery includes one hot meal that can be eaten immediately, with up to six frozen meals, giving clients one nutritious meal each day.

See MEALS, 6



In the parking lot of the Greensboro Nursing home, Meals on Wheels volunteers (from left) Norma Spaulding, Dave Mitchell, Kathy Mitchell, Sherral Lumsden, Hal Gray, Volunteer Coordinator Janney Johnson and Ken Johnson (at car) transfer holiday gift bags being delivered to clients along with the usual meal deliveries, Monday, Dec. 22.

photo by Paul Fixx

## Flood recovery, turkey power outage, protests, transitions highlight 2025

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Select Board kicked off the year with their usual mixed agenda, January 2, discussing various grant applications, 2025 town meeting and approval of the FY26 draft budget.

The month saw an announcement from Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Superintendent Dr. David Baker, saying in a January 3 newsletter addressed to parents, guardians, staff and community. "The supervisory union budget assessment is up significantly this year,"

Adriana Holbrook, Hardwick and LeighAnn Judd, Wolcott, were among Vermont 4-H horse

members who kicked off the new year with 4-H Winter Horse Camp at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction January 3.

UVM Senior Lucia McCallum's work with The Hardwick Gazette reporting on community resilience during her 2024 summer internship earned her a spot in the UVM Community News Service annual report, that stated, "Senior Lucia McCallum, an English major, joined

See RECOVERY, 6

### Gazette Takes Time Off

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Gazette office will be closed through Friday, Jan. 9. There will be no issue published January 7. The first issue of 2026 will be January 14. The deadline for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9.



Hardwick Elementary School Students ride in a wagon pulled by horses from The Kingdom's Horse Drawn Rides on Hardwick's South Main Street, Wednesday, Dec. 17. Students sang carols as they rode and received their own jingle bells to take home, social media photo

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# POLICE REPORT

## Cabot Fire Department Single vehicle accident

CABOT – On the evening of Saturday, Dec. 20, the Cabot Fire Department responded to a single vehicle accident on Vt 215 at the bridge near Larry’s Field. The scene was promptly secured and cleared. The operator was not injured. Road

conditions were icy. The Walden and Marshfield Fire Departments responded but were canceled en route. Cabot resident Dylan Wright salted the scene while clean up occurred, and Caledonia Wrecker Service responded to the scene.

## AWARE assisted many throughout year

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by AWARE

HARDWICK — Over the past year, AWARE continued to provide vital support to individuals and families affected by domestic and sexual violence across the greater Hardwick area as it has since 1984.

AWARE advocates assisted more than 220 families, providing legal support and information, safety planning, crisis response and help accessing housing, transportation, medical and mental health care and other essential community resources. AWARE honored and remembered lives lost to violence by hosting a community vigil to recognize 15 victims of domestic and sexual violence. Life-sized Silent Witness silhouettes, each accompanied by a plaque sharing the individual’s story, served as a powerful reminder of the impact of violence and the importance of prevention.

Community fundraising and awareness efforts this year included the Fall Foliage Craft Fair that drew over 450 attendees and raised nearly \$5,000.

Twenty-six people joined AWARE’s annual walk, raising more than \$8,000 to support local services.

The annual AWARE kayak raffle sold over \$1,100 in tickets, with the prize awarded

to Nathaniel Cunningham. This year also marked leadership updates. Miranda Elkins was named AWARE’s executive director, and Tonda Bryant returned to serve as AWARE youth advocate, after previously serving as both youth and legal advocate.

AWARE staff and volunteers remained active in the community, participating in local school wellness days, trainings and collaborative meetings. During the year, an updated website, awarevt.org, improved access to resources, information and ways to connect with AWARE.

Through advocacy, education and community engagement, AWARE continues its commitment to building safety, awareness and healing throughout the greater Hardwick area that includes Cabot, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Stannard, Walden and Woodbury.

AWARE’s ongoing mission is to provide 24/7 support, advocacy and prevention services to end domestic and sexual violence, empower individuals, fostering community empathy and non-violence, with the recent addition of diversity efforts.

AWARE’s services are free and confidential, using a survivor-centered, empowerment-based approach that fosters respect and dignity. Those needing assistance should call the AWARE hotline at (802) 472-6463 or aware@vtlink.net.

## Hardwick Police Department Fender-bender mystery, DUI

HARDWICK – On December 19, Hardwick Police were notified of a property damage only motor vehicle accident in the Poulin’s parking lot. The vehicle is a silver Toyota Rav 4 that was parked and sustained rear end damage. The vehicle was struck between 10 p.m. and 8:30 a.m., the next day. For those who have any information regarding this case, contact Hardwick Police.

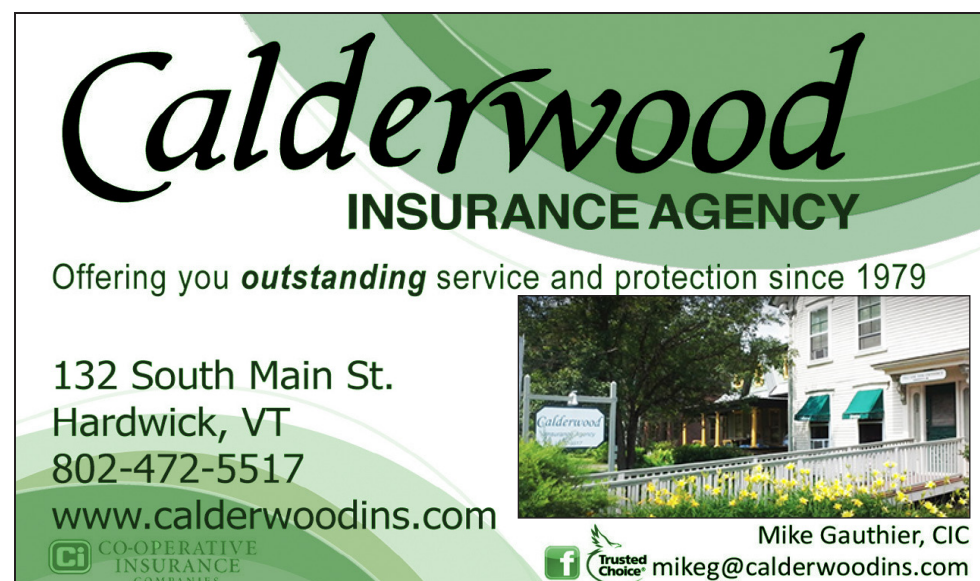
On December 21, just before 4:14 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department responded to Vermont Route 15 eastbound for the report of a driver operating erratically.

A motorist had called in to the dispatch center to advise they were following an operator who was driving erratically and had nearly hit an ambulance.

Hardwick Poilice Department stopped the operator, John M. Brereton of Barre, on South Main Street at Mill Street. Investigation revealed Brereton had been drinking and was impaired. He was taken into custody without incident for DUI, and issued a citation to appear in the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division Caledonia Unit to be arraigned for this charge.

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# WEATHER WATCH

## Snowy winter conditions bookend year of drought

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Tyler Molleur

**HARDWICK** – After experiencing several years of winters with dramatic fluctuations in temperatures and precipitation types, 2025 was a pleasant surprise when it came to what many would call traditional Vermont winter conditions, with persistently cool temperatures allowing outdoor enthusiasts time to enjoy the snow before the transition to spring. The pendulum, having pivoted to drier conditions by late summer, appeared to return largely to another season with some robust precipitation by year's end.

Persistent light-to-moderate snowfall dominated the 2024-25 winter season, with no extreme snowstorms to mention. Conditions that favored the incrementally accumulating snow included colder conditions, with January and February coming in with near-or slightly-below-normal temperatures. Total snowfall accumulations for the winter season were 103.5 inches in the lower elevations of Greensboro, 160.2 inches in the elevated Greensboro terrain, 91.3 inches in Woodbury and 81.9 inches in Craftsbury.

A widespread 10 to 12 inches of snow fell on February 16 and 17 in our largest snowstorm for the season region-wide. March 3 saw a new record low of -11 in St. Johnsbury, before quickly moving to a record high of 65 March 15. March's temperature average was above normal and snowpack depths quickly receded. Jay Peak reported a total snowfall of 475 inches for the season.

Summer solstice occurred on Friday, June 20, and was the last day of school for students at Calais Elementary School, which was slated to continue classes into the beginning of the following week. Instead, school was let out early due to an anticipated heat wave, with temperatures expecting to be well into the 90s with higher heat index values.

Indeed, record high temperatures were set at St. Johnsbury and Montpelier on June 23, with 97 and 93 degrees reported, respectively. On June 24, St. Johnsbury reported a record high of 96 and Montpelier again reached 93. Residents sought out places like the Jeudevine Library for relief from the heat and both the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House and the Highland Center for the Arts opened up as cooling centers.

Heat appeared in stretches intermittently throughout the summer, with five additional July days featuring record-breaking highs, including a 93-degree day in St. Johnsbury July 16. There were seven record-high days in August, that included a four-day heat wave from August 10 to 13. Both July and August highs averaged about four degrees above normal.

Welcome relief from two years of flooding, July 10 and 11 featured no significant washouts in our immediate area, and the overall summertime thunderstorm activity was generally on the less-severe side, with only a few localized wind damage reports. However, on July 10, the area a few miles north and east of our region received strong and persistent rain showers that quickly amounted to over five inches of rain. Towns like Sutton saw significant localized damage to homes and roads, while rain gauges in Hardwick and Greensboro logged about half an inch of rain. According to Vermont Public, damage to the Town of Sutton exceeded \$1 million. The focus of heavy rain came from thunderstorms training over the same location multiple times throughout the afternoon on July 10.

Abnormally dry conditions for several months were otherwise the rule with significant decreases in river and lake levels and concerns over wells and springs running dry. From June through September, rainfall totals were about 57% of normal, with conditions beginning to turn around in late October and November. November's rainfall was 135% of normal at the East Hardwick station.

Snowfall made significant progress in both November and December, with weather stations in Greensboro reporting between 41.5 and 64.3 inches of snow by December 21. East Hardwick reported 31.2 inches. The precipitation that fell from October 1 to December 21 is 95% of normal, which was a significant improvement from the prolonged drought through the summer and fall, although drought resolution continues to be slow.

Four record-low days occurred in December at a nearby long-term observation station. St. Johnsbury reported -15 December 9. Overall temperatures for the month remain a couple of degrees below normal, which helped to maintain some of the accumulated snowpack.

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center began welcoming cross-country skiers on a limited trail network just before Thanksgiving, with more



A pair of cats warming themselves in the morning sun are silhouetted in an east facing Hardwick window, Saturday, December 20.

photo by Paul Fixx

Craftsbury and Greensboro trails opening thereafter. Several VAST trails were open in fair condition at the start of the first week of the season, December 16, before some deterioration occurred on all groomed recreation trails due to heavy rain and snow melt by the morning of Friday, Dec. 19. The short-term forecast for large amounts of snow remained unlikely following the warm-up.

The long-term forecast into January and February supports equal chances of above, below or near-normal temperatures and a slightly higher than normal chance of precipitation. It's likely we will contend with persistently mild temperatures unlike last year as 2025 wraps up, but perhaps it will feel like winter again as we move further into the new year.

## POLICE REPORT

### Hardwick Rescue

### Hardwick Rescue expects to reach 1,000 calls by year-end

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Tyler Molleur

**HARDWICK** – From November 1 to December 21, Hardwick Rescue responded to 111 incidents, including 48 calls in Hardwick, 18 calls in Greensboro and 17 calls in Craftsbury.

As of the morning of December 21, the EMS agency is on its 985th incident of the year and expects to reach 1,000 calls by year-end. The 2024 year ended with 830 incidents, demonstrating a significant increase in 2025 EMS calls.

The most requested services were lift assists (25), followed by motor vehicle collisions (14), then breathing problems (10). Mutual aid from another agency was requested at least five times in 2025 when multiple calls came in at once. At least four simultaneous calls were able to be covered by a second in-house crew from the Hardwick station.

Hardwick Rescue has trained two new members as Vermont Emergency First Responders and is entering a busy period of license

renewal for members, who are required to participate in 20-60 hours of continuing education for each renewal, depending on their license level.

Many townfolk attended the Hardwick Memorial Tree Lighting on December 7 and made donations. The memorial names can be found on the Hardwick Rescue website and in the December 10 edition of The Gazette.

The organization is in the process of conducting multiple mock emergencies with community partners, to include local health care facilities. The first was at the Greensboro Nursing Home on December 17. Four EMS volunteers donated additional time to support this training.

Hardwick Rescue is a private, non-profit EMS agency that provides primary ambulance coverage for parts of eight towns. Rotating crews are covered by four full-time EMS members, four per diem employees and a contingent of 25-plus regularly-scheduled volunteers. Additional volunteer members support crew needs and first response in outlying communities. More information on the agency and how to volunteer can be found at [hardwickrescue.org](http://hardwickrescue.org).

# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – December 14: Property Damage, Mill St.; Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 15 E.

December 15: Suspicious Event, Elm St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fraud, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, Dewey St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Accident - TCNR.

December 16: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Trespassing, N. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 15; Alarm, Mill St.

December 17: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Theft, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Citizen Dispute, Church St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main Street.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.

December 18: Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 15; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Accident - Property Damage Only; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Juvenile Problem, Houston Hill Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

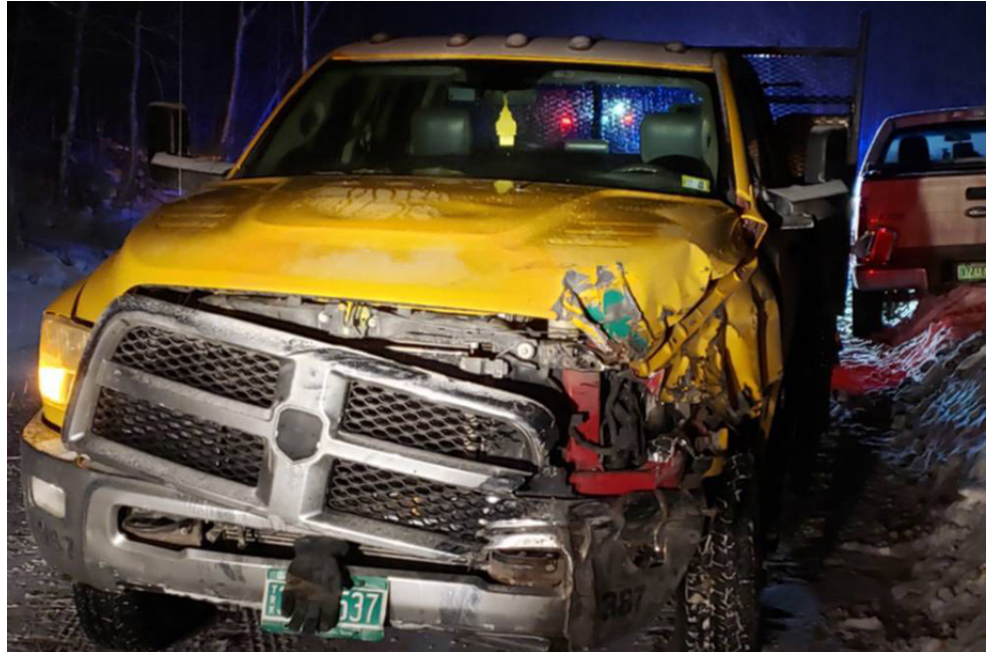
December 19: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Accident - LSA, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.

December 20: Suspicious Event, Mackville Road; Citizen Dispute, Church St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Alarm, Vt. Route 16; Property Watch, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Assist - Agency, Dutton Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Directed Patrol, Vt. Route 15 W.

## Vermont State Police Mountainside crash

STANNARD MOUNTAIN – On December 22 at 5:05 p.m., the Vermont State Police, along with members of local fire and rescue squads, responded to the area of Stannard Mountain Road near the intersection of Sheppard Road in Stannard for a two-vehicle crash with injuries. Investigation on scene determined that vehicle 1, a 2013 Ram 3500, was traveling north on Stannard Mountain Road and vehicle 2, a 2013 Ford F-150, was traveling South. The operator of vehicle 1, identified as Carson Welles of Eden, failed to maintain their lane and went into vehicle No. 2's path of travel. The operator of vehicle 2, identified

as David Demag of Greensboro, attempted to avoid the collision, but both vehicles collided on their drivers side in a side swipe manner. Vehicle No. 1 came to a position of controlled rest in the center of Stannard Mountain Road at the initial point of impact. Vehicle No. 2 came to a position of controlled rest next to vehicle No. 1. All occupants were assessed and cleared on scene by Vermont Rescue. All occupants were assessed and cleared on scene by Hardwick Rescue. Vermont State Police were assisted by Greensboro Fire Department, Hardwick Area Rescue Squad, Caledonia Towing and TCB Towing.



This 2013 Ram 3500 traveling north on Stannard Mtn. Rd. near Sheppare Road left its lane and collided with a 2013 Ford F-150 travelling south, Monday, Dec. 22. Both vehicles were damaged, and the driver of the Ford was suspected of having minor injuries, but both were examined and cleared by Hardwick Rescue personnel at the scene. *social media photo*



The Greensboro Fire Department, Vermont State Police, Hardwick Ambulance, Caledonia Towing and TBC Towing responded to a two-vehicle crash on Stannard Mountain Road in the early evening of Monday, Dec. 22 where this 2013 Ford F-150 was sideswiped as it attempted to avoid a 2013 RAM 3500 that crossed the road's center line. Both drivers were examined by Hardwick Rescue staff and the vehicles were towed from the crash scene. *social media photo*



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## Reductions

Continued From Page One and student-facing staff.”

Chief Financial Officer Annie Houston has been attending school board meetings to present draft budgets and, along with other administrators, hear recommendations for adjustments, mostly in executive sessions closed to the public.

The Hazen Union School Board, however, offered a public look at its recommendations with a motion at the end of its December 15 meeting. That motion, approved unanimously following an executive session to discuss personnel, directed “the administration to present a budget that results in per pupil spending at or below the state per pupil excess spending threshold and moves Hazen toward compliance with Act 73 class size minimums.

At that meeting, Principal Jason DiGiulio provided an overview of the second FY27 draft budget, showing expenses up 7.84% from the current year’s budget. That resulted in a per-pupil cost of \$17,271.88, which is \$801.88 over the state’s per pupil spending threshold of \$16,470.

There was discussion about reducing the budget by approximately \$350,000 to bring it below the threshold.

Minutes note DiGiulio “stated that this is likely going to involve reduction in staff.”

In towns where school districts exceed the per pupil threshold, the primary penalty is an additional local property tax on the average, essentially double-counting that excess spending in tax rate calculations, which significantly raises taxes for local homeowners.

“We have about 20 fewer students and the money that Governor Scott put in last

year to lower the tax rate is not there this year,” said DiGiulio. “These two factors, combined with the pressures of inflation, rise in health care costs, and our raises, put the equalized homestead tax rate for that proposed budget at 29 cents.”

DiGiulio said Hazen currently offers about 100 courses, with just seven meeting Act 73’s minimum class size.

“I met with those that are being considered for reduction,” said DiGiulio.

“I told the faculty about the situation, and about the process moving forward. It was important to us that folks know what was being considered.

“This budget, when ready, will be presented in January. If adopted, then we would follow our processes to notify those persons in accordance with our collective bargaining agreements.”

Discussion following DiGiulio’s conversations reached outside school faculty, to community members and even some students.

The OSEA letter read to the OSSU board by Freedy cited “Reductions in Force agreed upon by the Hazen School Board at its most recent (December 15, 2025) meeting.” That language suggested the decisions had already been made.

“To be clear, no proposed budget reflecting reduced staffing has been presented publicly at this time, and no final decisions have been made about specific positions,” DiGiulio said earlier that day.

The Hazen members of OSEA identified proposed staff reductions in their letter, suggesting the harm they would cause.

“The proposed cuts of a math teacher, an English teacher, a global citizenship teacher, a science teacher, a French

teacher, a technology integrationist and a work-based learning driver would dramatically harm Hazen’s culture and learning environment.”

Those comments, and others by some attending the board meeting online, focused primarily on a need for the Hazen and OSSU school boards to gain a better understanding of how and what classroom teachers spend their time doing, and how smaller classes are important for personal attention and positive student outcomes.

“As budget drafts are finalized, we urge you to look closely at expenses other than the adults who spend their days directly interfacing with students, both in the individual school budgets and in OSSU’s,” said the union members.

As school boards throughout OSSU are contending with possible cuts to programs and staffing, the OSEA letter said of the proposed cuts at Hazen, “. . . the proposed cuts to instructional staff would shake Hazen’s foundation, making our community more vulnerable to losing its school entirely in the years ahead. We need to fortify our schools against pending legislation by preserving robust, diverse, and academically rigorous learning experiences for our students, scaffolded by lean, efficient administrative support.”

Later, during a public comment before the OSSU board’s executive session, longtime Hazen Union English teacher Kelly Robinson said larger class sizes won’t allow the individual teaching that can happen with smaller class sizes. She extended an invitation for OSSU Board members to visit any of her classes at any time to find out what happens there.

## Budgets

Continued From Page One

Stannard, having no school of its own, lower.

In the second draft of a proposed budget, the Mountainview Union Elementary School District (MVUESD) board looked at a decrease of \$446k over the first draft, but still up 12.49%, an increase of more than \$1M from the current school year. That board spent an hour and 23 minutes in executive session to discuss personnel related to the budget, but took no action prior to adjourning the meeting.

In Craftsbury, a second budget draft reviewed at the December 10 school board meeting showed expenses up \$12.34%, resulting in a per pupil cost \$351.89 over the state’s excess spending threshold. That would require a cut of \$125,000 to meet the threshold, according to Houston’s presentation.

The Wolcott School District’s second budget draft was reviewed with revised revenue projections showing the expense budget with an 11.61% increase over the current budget year. The per pupil cost, at approximately \$15,545 is below the

FY27 excess spending threshold.

As with last year, there is a large allocated expense from OSSU, this time \$1.8M, that the district has no control over.

Minutes of the November 5 Stannard School Board meeting show the budget reviewed at that meeting showed staff health insurance rates up by 7.4%. Notes call that, “high, but lower than last year due to changes voted by the legislature.”

A discussion on the projected OSSU budget indicates that “school reps want [a] lower rate of increase.”

The projected “expenditure increase is modest at 4.2%” A lack of funds in the tuition reserve account is compensated for by a prior year surplus of \$23,564 and it’s noted that Houston “will provide more info at the December meeting.

Similar to Wolcott, minutes of the December 17 meeting weren’t posted as this was written five days after that meeting as required by the Vermont Open Meeting Law.

In working to get a budget completed, the Craftsbury school board planned a special meeting for December 30.

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## Recovery

Continued From Page One

CNS in the spring of 2024 with a curious mind and a first-day interest in getting clips.”

Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) was contacted Monday, Jan. 7, by its Student Information System (SIS) provider, PowerSchool to inform them of a cyber security incident affecting OSSU schools SIS data, according to a notice published Thursday, Jan. 9.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, a turkey flew into East Hardwick power lines and disrupted Hardwick Electric Department service. Turkeys can clock up to 18 miles per hour on foot and up to 50 miles per hour in the air.

Brian Preller, arrested in Hardwick on August 24, 2022, after being charged with felony civil disorder on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, January 6, 2021, was pardoned, January 20, by President Donald Trump.

General Manager Sarah Braese attended her first meeting of the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) Board of Commissioners, January 21, after joining the organization just two weeks earlier, on January 6.

The Clip Joint & Co. salon, 9 South Main St., reopened Thursday morning, January 30, with limited space, after being closed since November 18, 2024 for remediation of an oil spill.

At their February meeting, the Mountain View Union Elementary District board discussed school configurations at the February 11 meeting, with a proposal to centralize pre-kindergarten (preschool) and kindergarten education at the MVU Lakeview campus in Greensboro beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The ensuing debate sparked the resignation



of board member Doreen Cota.

The first select board meeting of the month had an agenda again comprised of various grant opportunities and updates, in addition to municipal matters.

On February 18, three local nonprofit organizations filed liens against Wolcott resident Laurel Schoop, citing unauthorized withdrawals amounting to \$16,909.19, during her time employed as a bookkeeper for each of them. Representatives of the three organizations met with Hardwick Police Chief Mike Henry, on February 19, reporting their concerns about financial irregularities.

On February 25, at 4:27 p.m., the Hardwick Fire Department was toned for a structure fire at Mini Mart Drive in East Hardwick.



The March 4 town meeting saw the Mountain View Union (MVU) Elementary School District Australian ballot vote results, with an \$8,973,600.32 budget passing with 353 votes in favor to 259 votes against. The vote to approve a bond for \$1.2 million for the purpose of necessary energy efficiency improvements at Hardwick Elementary School (HES) passed 396 to 211, with 606 votes cast.

The first select board meeting, March 6, after town meeting, again addressed flood repair work. The organizational meeting began with the nomination and unanimous appointment of Eric Remick as chairperson, as was Ceilidh Galloy-Kane for vice-chair.

A lunar eclipse was seen before 3 a.m. the morning of Friday, March 14. Onlookers had the rare change to see a fully-eclipsed blood moon in a clear, starry sky.



Hazen Union School principal Dr. Jason Di Giulio was selected as the 2025 Vermont High School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

The Thursday, March 20, select board meeting began right on time, with Chair Eric Remick counting down to 6 p.m. Items were moved through quickly with approval to proceed with submitting



a grant for repaving Center Road, a highlight of the meeting.

In April, it was announced that after years of work, the Food Hub, a new facility in Hardwick that aims to expand markets for local farms and food producers, opened. The Food Hub is operated by Hardwick-based nonprofit, the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE).

Sixty people climbed into a school bus and a van in the lot at Dona's in Hardwick, Saturday, April 5 to attend a statehouse rally scheduled for noon in Montpelier. It had been organized by the grassroots 50501VT organization. The rally's theme, "Hands Off," was billed as a fight to uphold the constitution and end executive overreach.

The select board had an extensive agenda at their April 17 select board meeting, with discussions ranging from a delay in the potential sale of town real estate, the pedestrian bridge replacement, flooding and FEMA matters, to an update from the Jeudevine Library.



## Meals

Continued From Page One

Johnston and her husband Ken have volunteered for the program since April 2008, just a few months after they moved to the area.

When a long-time volunteer, who had been delivering meals in Greensboro, was leaving the program, the Greensboro Walking Ladies took on that route and Johnston stepped in, eventually coordinating local volunteers and the routes.

The Home Delivered Meals Program program is available to any person age 60 or over who is unable to obtain or prepare meals on a temporary or permanent basis due to a physical, mental or cognitive condition that requires assistance to leave home. Also eligible are the spouse, regardless of age,

Saturday, April 26, Hardwick Fire Department hosted vehicle extrication training.

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

Twenty-five people joined a May Day protest, International Workers Day, on the sidewalk



along S. Main Street in Hardwick, in front of the block with Front Seat Coffee and Positive Pie.

Governor Phil Scott and the Department of Housing and Community Development announced the 2025 recipients of Vermont Downtown Transportation Fund awards, May 9. The Hardwick pedestrian bridge replacement project received a total of \$200,000 for the demolition and replacement of the deteriorated, unsafe and currently closed pedestrian bridge with a new ADA compliant pedestrian bridge.

Senator Bernie Sanders along with an estimated 300 people attended the Hardwick Spring Dance, Saturday, May 17. Sen. Sanders delivered some remarks, before dancing and taking photos with guests.

**See RECOVERY, next page**

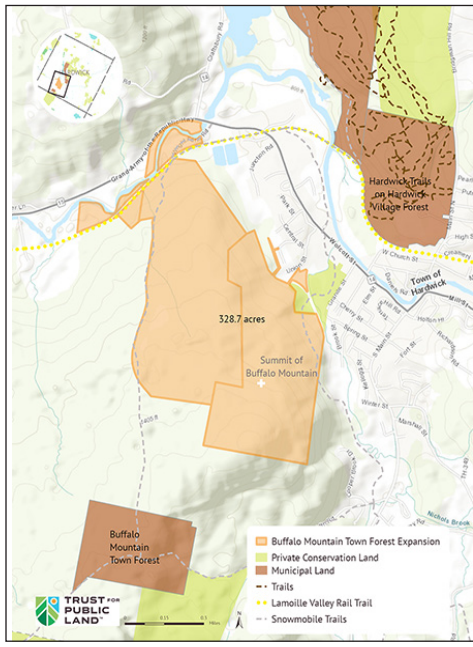
of eligible individuals; and individuals under 60 years of age with a disability, who reside with an eligible individual.

Additional volunteers are



Meals on Wheels volunteers (from left), Sherral Lumsden, Norma Spaulding and Hal Gray, load a cooler of frozen meals that will be delivered to clients, Monday, Dec. 22, at the Greensboro Nursing Home, where the meals are prepared.

photo by Paul Fixx



## Recovery

Continued from previous page

Hardwick's annual Springfest celebration took place Memorial Day weekend, May 23 to 26.

To kick off the month, the Civic Standard celebrated their birthday, on June 4, with a free Thanksgiving-style meal for attendees.

An ongoing spring exhibition of art by over two dozen contributors at the Hardwick Inn was extended into June. Contributors included Hardwick Elementary School students, Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Adam Molleur, Stephanie Garguilo, Ross Connelly and more.

Four students from Hazen Union School were winners in the Vermont Covered Bridge Society's (VCBS) poster contest held for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The June 15 No Kings Day rally in Hardwick, organized by the Hardwick Indivisible group, drew over 260 people who joined over 1,500 similar rallies throughout Vermont and the United States. Organizer Carlotta Hayes said, "I am so proud of the team that worked together to produce this event in Hardwick today. I'm impressed by the number of protesters who kept arriving in waves, 'peaceful, patriotic and pissed off,' as Rachel Cole put it."

Hardwick Electric Department's (HED) June 24 meeting began with approval of previous minutes. This was former Commissioner Lynne Gedanken's final HED meeting.

July saw the expansion of NEK Broadband services, with NEK Community Broadband Community Relations Manager Kitty Ufford-Chase writing in a July 4



Front Porch Forum notice, "Areas of town with little or no broadband internet service on some or all of Billings, Bridgeman Hill and West Hill Roads 'where NEK Broadband has extended its network' may now have service."

The Jeudevine Library addition opened its doors to the public on Monday, July 7, after over two years of construction. The project increased accessibility, adding more bathrooms and multiple meeting areas.

The Thursday, July 10 select board meeting consisted of a slew of appointments and approvals. Most notably, the select board began the process to acquire lands for a town forest after much discussion. The Hardwick Conservation Commission stated they are willing to assist with fundraising efforts, with Rachel Kane offering a \$1,000



personal contribution. Other contributions would come from public funds and private fundraising, with the total funds not due until closing.

U.S. Senator Peter Welch stopped by Front Seat Coffee Monday, July 14, as he traveled across Vermont discussing flood recovery and his new bill aiming to fix the



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Hardwick Rescue reported July 25, that, as of 8 a.m., that morning, it had received an unprecedented 12 calls for service in the past 24 hours.

On July 25, workers at Hardwick Elementary School discovered the roof of the lobby facing South Main Street had a noticeable sag in the supporting above where doors and windows had earlier been removed. The lobby supports had been mistakenly removed the previous day during the removal of



windows containing PCB caulking.

On August 2, at 9:19 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department responded to a report of vandalism to a field. The owner of the field, Kristopher Price, had witnessed a side-by-side vehicle tearing up the field by spinning around in circles. The side-by-side then fled down Hopkins Hill Road toward Hardwick village.

The Vermont Department of Health recognized the Hardwick Health Center among the 72 primary care practices across the state for achieving high vaccination rates and helping to protect children, teens and adults against vaccine-preventable diseases that can be serious or even deadly.

Rural Edge (RE) Executive Director Patrick Shattuck was present at the August 7 select board meeting to review the various properties and projects now under RE's management, including 9 South Main, following a transfer of management from the Lamoille Housing Partnership.

On August 11, Hardwick Rescue, Morrystown Rescue and Hardwick Police responded to 28 Mill Street for the report of a male who had fallen and had a laceration



on his head. Upon arrival it was clear the injuries sustained by the male were of a much more serious nature and appeared to be life threatening. Investigation revealed the male subject had been pushed through a wooden railing from a height of over 15 feet during a domestic dispute involving his girlfriend, identified as Angela J. Torres, age 59, of Hardwick. The male, identified as Zolie Altman III, age 65 also of Hardwick, would succumb later that day to his injuries.

In September, three Hazen Union School Art Honors students were awarded top district honors in the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Ella Renaud, 11th grade, secured 1st place; Karli Patridge,

10th grade, earned 2nd place and Brianna Holbrook, 11th grade, achieved 3rd place recognition.

Hardwick Head Start relocated to Lakeview Early Education Center, moving from its former Church Street home in the Caspian Lake Lodge No. 87 of the Free & Accepted Masons. "We are beyond thrilled to welcome them to our third classroom" stated one Mountainview Elementary School District board member.

Only three board members, Shari Cornish, Ceilidh Galloway-Kane and Danny Hale were



present for the September 4 regular select board meeting. Town Manager David Upson and Business Manager Casey Rowell were also present. To begin the meeting Upson reported about a number of projects.

Nine construction workers were detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at a convenience store and along Vt. Route 15 in Hardwick, Friday, Sept. 26. Migrant Justice said the detainees are Nicaraguan, Colombian and Ecuadorian. No criminal charges have been filed and all are facing removal proceedings.

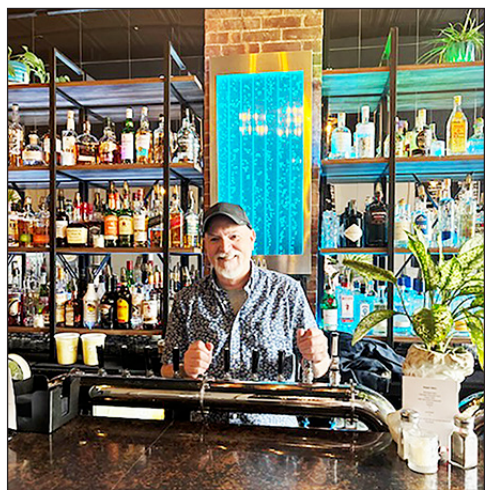
October began with Vermont Open Studio Weekend, featuring many local artists to visit, with works to show and for sale.

The Vermont Art Council (VAC) announced the 26 recipients of its most competitive grant funding program, the "Creation Grant", which supports Vermont artists in creating new work. Among these recipients was Brett Stanciu of Hardwick, for the creation of the novel "Save Town Hall." Stanciu received \$5,000 in funding.

Hazen Union School art teacher James Lockhart was named the Vermont Art Teacher of the Year by the Vermont Art Educators Association (VAEA), recognizing his 28 years of dedication to art education at Hazen Union and his lasting

**See RECOVERY, next page**





### Recovery

Continued from previous page impact on students' creativity and confidence.

The Civic Standard presented "A Wedding Tale," an immersive soap opera by, for and about Hardwick on October 24 and 26. The show featured a local cast of 30 amateur and professional actors.

The November 1 funding cut-off for SNAP benefits, or 3Squares, saw area services like the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, Buffalo Mountain Co-Op, CAE and more stepping up to help fill gaps ahead



of the Thanksgiving season. "The Buffalo Mountain Market's Emily Hershberger put together a donation account that will help people with SNAP benefits receive a \$50 gift card through Buffalo Mountain," according to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry's (HAFP's) Stella James.

The 17th Annual Hardwick Child Haven's Indian Dinner and Sari Fashion Show at Hazen Union school, November 1 and 2, raised \$13,000, wrote Wheelock's Robin Cappuccino, a board member of Child Haven International-India, last week.

Hazen Union High School's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), known as the HUGS Club, was

awarded a \$10,000 Changemakers grant from the It Gets Better Project to support a student-led initiative: a two-day regional queer youth dance and summit. The Hazen Union HUGS Club is a community-centered club focused on uniting queer-identified and -allied youth.

Justice for Dogs held their 19th annual craft show on Nov. 15, with over 50 area crafters and 73 spaces displaying homemade items.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Saint John de Crevecoeur Chapter, completed work on a new "Never Forget" garden



within the Memorial Fountain.

The 42nd annual Hardwick Area Rescue Squad memorial tree lighting ceremony took place Sunday, Dec. 7, with a crowd in attendance. Rev. Avril Cochran delivered a brief dedication, with carols led by Tyler Molleur of the Rescue Squad.

The grand opening of the Civic Standard's new Main St. location took place December 10, with dinner, music, a silent



auction and a live pie auction.

AWARE recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Northeast Kingdom Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. The funding will support the Healthy Relationships Project, advancing AWARE's mission to prevent and heal the trauma of domestic and sexual violence in the greater Hardwick area by promoting safety, respect, empathy and personal responsibility.

Scott Johnstone was formally appointed as HED general manager, following the exit of Sarah Braese who had occupied



the position since January.

The first regular select board meeting of December consisted primarily of budget discussions, updates on flood-related projects and debate over whether or not to implement a local option tax. Notably, Danny



Hale announced he would not be running for re-election to a select board seat.

OSSU Superintendent Dr. David Baker announced his resignation, effective at the end of the school year, after serving since



July 2022. Volunteers were being solicited to form a search committee for his replacement.

Flood recovery work continued throughout the year, with a handful of flooded properties already demolished after federally funded buyouts that turned the properties over to the town to be maintained as open space. Work to examine options for reducing future area flooding resulted in community presentations and discussion late in the year.



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# Local grant funding provides heart-safe community efforts with AEDs

by **Hardwick Rescue Squad**

GREENSBORO – For 2025, funding to purchase three automated external defibrillator (AED) for strategic public locations within the community were made possible in part by grants through the Greensboro Association (GA) and the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) Pleasants Fund.

The Pleasants Fund provided a \$2,500 grant relating to placing an AED at the GUCC, while the GA grant for \$5,150 covered AED stations at Willey’s Store and Smith’s Grocery.

Funding also supported training employees of the stores and nearby community organizations in CPR and proper use of the AEDs.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a pathological process that causes a person’s heart to stop pumping blood through the body. The person may collapse, lose consciousness and be pulseless. In these cases, CPR without delay and early application of an automated external defibrillator (AED) dramatically increases the chance of survival.

In rural communities, access to emergency medical services can take several minutes when seconds count. Survival from cardiac arrest decreases with every minute that passes with no intervention.

Access to AEDs and training to provide CPR are essential to increasing survivability.

Hardwick Rescue’s Training Officer, Tyler Molleur, a paramedic and EMS provider for 15 years, volunteered time, along with Greensboro’s Health Officer and Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer

Training Coordinator Karl Stein, to provide formal CPR training to nearly 40 members of the Greensboro community.

Stein was also able to secure bleeding emergency kits for all participants through the Medical Reserve Corps.

The GA previously provided grant funding in 2024 to expand the cache of training equipment for the rescue squad to deliver CPR training. The squad is now working to offer monthly courses on a rotating basis throughout the communities it serves in 2026.

Successful models of programs exist, with local connections bringing those models to Vermont communities.

In 2023, the University of Vermont’s efforts were recognized as the institution earned a Heart-Safe Campus designation. The University also provided the program that spearheaded those efforts, earning a 2023 safety award.

Molleur, a clinical assistant professor at the University of Vermont, trains emergency medical services and nursing students to provide CPR education to the UVM campus community through the Catamount Emergency Care Program. The program is student-led with supervision by key faculty and staff advisors and offers biweekly courses to the campus as well as special CPR events throughout the year. The program has also expanded access to emergency response equipment on campus, such as AEDs, Narcan, and bleeding control supplies since its inception in 2022.

Cardiac Arrest Registry Data Shows Value Of Public Response Resources

In the Hardwick Rescue



Karl Stein, left, stands next to a newly installed automated external defibrillator in the Greensboro United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall this summer. The defibrillator was funded by the GUCC Pleasants Fund. Representing the GUCC with Stein are Mary Meyer, center, and Judy Dunnan, right.

photo courtesy Karl Stein

service area in 2024, there were three incidents where return of circulation occurred after a cardiac arrest. In all of these cases, bystanders or first responders initiated rapid application of an AED and performed CPR immediately. Molleur says no matter how quickly an EMS unit can respond, what is done while waiting for help to arrive is critical to patient outcomes.

“Even calling for help and providing hands-only CPR, which is pushing hard and fast on the center of an adult’s chest if they are unresponsive and not breathing normally, is dramatically increasing that person’s chance of survival until additional trained help arrives,” he says.

The three-hour CPR course that is offered also teaches nuances when it comes to caring for pediatric victims, how to address a choking emergency, and when to use naloxone. It also gives learners multiple opportunities to practice with equipment before an actual emergency occurs.

Visibility of AEDs Is Important

Under Vermont law, any

business or community organization that has an AED must register their device with the Vermont Department of Health under their AED registration tool, found at [healthvermont.gov/emergency/emergency-medical-services/policies-documents-forms-and-meeting-minutes](http://healthvermont.gov/emergency/emergency-medical-services/policies-documents-forms-and-meeting-minutes). That website also provides information for grant funding to purchase new AEDs.

“The Vermont Department of Health AED map and phone-based apps such as PulsePoint AED can allow members of the public to locate an AED in real-time in the event of an emergency and send someone to retrieve the device,” Molleur says. “An AED that is not visible is just about as useful as having no AED at all.”

Molleur says eight AEDs are currently registered in the Hardwick Rescue coverage area, including the three new Greensboro locations. He suspects that is a dramatic under-representation of the number currently available.

More information on CPR courses being held by Hardwick Rescue will be available in January. Find those course listings on its website, [hardwickrescue.org](http://hardwickrescue.org).



Advanced EMT and CPR instructor Lindsay O’Steen, far left, provides feedback to learners in a CPR class at the Mountain View Country Club in Greensboro in the summer of 2024. The course was the first course to use newly-purchased CPR manikins funded by a Greensboro Association grant.

photo by Karen Gowen



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# Community celebrates often, while wastewater, Town Hall housing projects fail

## YEAR IN REVIEW



by **Raymonda Parchment**

GREENSBORO – In January, a town-wide survey pointed to affordable housing as a need of the community. Residents cited long travel times, limited local services and the recent pharmacy closures as significant barriers to health care access. Protecting Caspian Lake and local wildlife habitats remained a top priority for respondents.

The January 8 regular select board meeting saw residents voicing both their words of support and frustrations with members of the select board, amid a debate over a proposal to create housing in the town hall building. Aside from the community discourse, then-board member David Kelley spoke about the changes Act 46 may bring to Greensboro.

After some discussion, the board ultimately decided in favor of registered Greensboro voters electing town officers via Australian ballot, and voting on an article to change the day of town meeting. It was decided after much discussion



that the 2025 town meeting would be held at the Highland Center for the Arts.

In February, Greensboro's Mateo Kehler was named to the founding board of directors of Let's Build Homes (LBH), the fledgling organization announced February 6. LBH is a non-partisan, pro-housing coalition committed to creating abundant housing and addressing Vermont's housing shortage. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency is serving as the organization's fiscal agent.

A process of discussions and negotiation with Rural Edge dating back more than three years resulted in a purchase and sale agreement between Greensboro

and Rural Edge. The controversial plan for redevelopment of the town hall raised many questions among town residents. The entire agreement ran a total of 23 pages.

The Willey's Store celebrated their 125th anniversary this February, over President's Day weekend. The family business was started in 1900 with some of the same buildings being used today.

The February 11 Mountain View Union (MVU) elementary school district board meeting ignited a community wide debate, and one member's resignation, following a proposal to have all early education services moved to the Lakeview Union School (LVU) building. The decision was met with pushback from both the community



and board members present at the meeting.

Greensboro was among the towns announced to have forfeited wastewater funding, after more than a year of work and months of debate about siting. During the Covid-19 pandemic, state leaders earmarked upwards of \$30 million in federal relief funds for municipal water and wastewater initiatives in some of the state's rural villages with the goal of promoting housing and economic revitalization. Eleven towns received grants, including Greensboro.

Multiple sources helped settle the debate over the presence of lead and asbestos in the town hall. A discussion on Front Porch Forum led to questions about the safety of the town hall space, and whether its tenants were aware of these issues. In the 2024 fire marshal's report, there is no mention of lead, corroded pipes or safety risks that could pose a threat to the building's current tenants. Similarly to the William Gallup Architecture and Planning LLC report, no hazardous materials or safety risks are mentioned.

March 4 saw town meeting day held at the Highland Center for the Arts. Resident Tim Brennan was elected to a three-year seat on the select board. Brennan's appointment was preceded by a lengthy discussion about each candidate's stance on the Rural Edge project. Mike Metcalf was nominated to a two year seat, which he accepted. Judy Carpenter was nominated for a one-year term, which

she too accepted.

Announced March 3 via social media, Greensboro Garage was purchased by new owners, Maynard Bartlett Jr. and Jessica Bartlett. Joanne Lacasse served as the previous owner for 10 years.

The Vermont Cabot Creamery/Agri-Mark and Jasper Hill Farm products were honored at the United States Championship Cheese Contest, March 6, hosted by the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association. Jasper Hill Farm, from Greensboro, and Cabot teamed up to win a blue ribbon in the Natural Rhined Cheddar category with their revolutionary collaboration, Cabot Clothbound, a cheese nominated for best overall.

Jasper Hill went on to place Best of Class in three other categories with their Bayley Hazen Blue, Withersbrook Blue and Willoughby, a cheese also nominated for best overall.

Hill Farmstead Brewery earned 73 Untappd Community Awards, with 38 Gold, 15 Silver and 20 Bronze, in the second annual Untappd recognition of the world's best beers. Hill Farmstead Brewing is among the 10 U.S. breweries that produced the highest number of award-winning brews at a state or national level.

In April, Patrick Shattuck of Rural Edge and the select board held a community forum in preparation for the upcoming vote on the town hall redevelopment proposal. Three hundred and seventy-four Greensboro voters weighed in on



April 29, with the majority voting against allowing the select board to sign a purchase and sale agreement with Rural Edge for a project to convert the town hall into 16 to 20 apartments.

In May, a new gazebo was built by Mike Lapierre (left) and his son Corban in the park across from Willey's Store. The gazebo was paid for with ARPA funding requested several years ago by the Caspian Critters 4H Club.

Loons were confirmed to be nesting once again on Caspian Lake. The May 14 regular select board meeting garnered its usual attendance, with many community members wondering what's



next for the town hall. Several proposed uses came up in discussion throughout the evening. Other agenda items included the potential purchase of a new fire truck, paving bids and other public concerns.

In June, 75 loon enthusiasts flocked to Greensboro's United Church of Christ to hear loon biologist Eric Hanson share his knowledge on the species. One breeding pair on Caspian Lake had hatched one of their chicks that same morning, June 10.

The East Coast Inspirational Singers marked Juneteenth with a performance at the Highland Center for The Arts.

The select board held a three-hour and fifty-three minute meeting, during which the board decided to begin having two select board meetings a month beginning in September. Additionally, they discussed adding a local option tax.

At an event on June 19, Chris Steel, chairman of the Greensboro Conservation Commission, presented Clive Gray a Simon Pearce blown glass tree in appreciation for his 20 years of working for conservation in Greensboro.

Representative Leanne Harple presented a legislative update for residents of Craftsbury, Greensboro, Albany and Glover on Saturday, June 28 at the Highland Center for the Arts.

In July, Greensboro held its annual Funky Fourth celebrations, with the Vermont Philharmonic performing outdoors at the Highland Center for the Arts for a Family Pops Concert.

Summer Music from Greensboro (SMfG) also presented a four-part Tuesday evening concert series, beginning July 18.

Composer-pianist David Feurzeig came to the Greensboro United Church of Christ Friday evening, July 18, to give a concert and help support the Greensboro Land Trust.

The Greensboro Association's (GA) Grants Committee announced the distribution of \$47,000 to local organizations and non-profits in the greater Greensboro community, through a combination of its annual grants program and community relief grants.

In August, Peter Gould's youth Shakespeare camp, Get Thee to the Funnery, returned for **See COMMUNITY, next page**

Community

Continued From Previous Page

summer. The camp, now at Highland Center for the Arts, finished the season with two live public performances on Friday, Aug. 8 and Saturday, Aug. 9.

The Greensboro United Church of Christ hosted a homecoming celebration for Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters and his wife Patty, on Sunday, Aug. 10, inviting the wider community to take part in a day of worship, fellowship and food.

A gathering to honor former Willey's storekeeper, father, pastor, walker and chocolate chip cookie-maker Tom Hurst was well attended by 50 family members, friends and community members. Greensboro's United Church of Christ hosted the affair that began with lunch at noon, Monday, Aug. 11.

The Greensboro Nursing Home held an end-of-summer concert Friday, Aug. 29. Local musicians Roy MacNeil, Icarus Tyree, Mavis MacNeil, Andrew Koehler and Alice Perron presented an evening of folk songs, fiddle tunes, jazz standards, oldies and more.

In September, it was announced the newly-renamed Lakeview Early Education Center will now host students from Hardwick Head Start school, having moved from their former Church Street home in the Caspian Lake Lodge No. 87 of the Free & Accepted Masons.

Drought conditions affected Caspian Lake users this year with the lake more than 12 inches below its eight-year average on September 1, and 18 inches below its spring level.

Community members pulled the rope hanging from the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) bell tower to ring the church bell, at 4 p.m. on September 17. They joined participants gathered across the country for the Bells Across America, commemorating the moment the church bells of Philadelphia rang out when the U.S. The Constitution was first signed 238 years ago.

In October, the new Lakeview Early Education Center hosted a fall open house. At the first collaborative event of the combined Lakeview and Head Start programs, attendees met teachers and staff and toured the new classrooms.

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.

The Greensboro United



throughout Greensboro Village on October 31. Residents and volunteers handed out treats from porches and driveways along the route, with the GUCC providing free grilled cheese sandwiches while supplies lasted.

November saw a community vote over the potential purchase of a new firetruck for the Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department. In the proposal, Chief Brochu said, "Your fire department has been concerned for some time about the reliability of our fire trucks. Our main truck is nearly 25 years old, and the backup is 40 years old. I have recommended to the select board that we replace the pumper as soon as possible."

Friendsgiving was held at the HCA on November 14.

Broadfork Homestead announced they will provide free soup and bread daily, in light of federal debates on food assistance.

The Vermont Cheese Council received word that Vermont took home at least 33 awards at the World Cheese Awards international competition in Bern, Switzerland. The Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm, Greensboro and Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Cabot, were among the cheesemakers who received awards.

December 1 saw 12 fire departments respond to a single fire, with the Greensboro Fire Department responding to the structure fire at 117 Hutchins Farm Road in Stannard. Due to the remote location, tankers from the surrounding area were called to assist. The situation was further complicated by dropping temperatures leading to frozen hoses, equipment, gear and difficulty getting water. Tankers were re-routed from frozen rural hydrants to the station to access water.

December 12, the Tallis Scholars performed medieval works at the HCA, for which they received a standing ovation.

The Women's Holiday Luncheon at Greensboro United Church of Christ returned on Saturday, Dec. 13, welcoming neighbors of all ages. The luncheon featured a homemade meal, decorative table settings and live seasonal music.

HomeShare Vermont expanded, covers more counties

YEAR IN REVIEW

by Ric Cengeri

S. BURLINGTON - HomeShare Vermont had two matches this year in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK), one in Danville and one in Hardwick, where hosts offered to share their home with guests needing affordable housing.

HomeShare has expanded into the three NEK counties of Caledonia, Orleans and Essex.

Through additional funding from the State's Department of Aging and Independent Living and a partnership with the NEK Council on Aging, two of the Council's case managers are also handling homesharing duties. They were just trained in early October and there are a dozen active host applicants. What we need right now in the Kingdom are people looking for affordable housing.

The opportunity to serve all of the NEK is something the organization has looked forward to, because of the many housing concerns from people throughout the area in the past few years. Now, HomeShare Vermont can create

homeshare matches in an area that is so ready for this service.

Last week, HomeShare Vermont made a presentation at the Gilman Senior Center hosted by the Lunenburg Planning Commission. Lunch was sponsored by the Lunenburg-Gilman Community Trust. Twenty people watched a video and listened to a presentation about homesharing.

As background, hosts can ask for rent and/or help in exchange for providing room in their home to a guest. Currently, the average rent guests are paying is \$379 and they're providing an average of 8.5 hours of help each week. Matches tend to last between one and five years and average just under two. One match currently that has lasted for 19 years and another for 20 years.

HomeShare Vermont is holding an open house Thursday, Jan. 15, 1 to 3 p.m., with the support of Efficiency Vermont. This is an opportunity to meet staff members, learn about the process and what the next steps are to becoming a homeshare host or guest. For more information call (802) 863-5625 or visit the HomeShare website at [homesharevermont.org](http://homesharevermont.org).

*Ric Cengari is the HomeShare Vermont outreach and communications specialist.*



At the Cabot Village Store Saturday, Harlen Autry (left) as Santa Claus, and his wife Sharon as the Grinch visited with children recently. During the Christmas season, the Autry's of East Hardwick visit area stores to bring joy to children they meet. Harlen has worked at the Cabot Creamery for 38 years.

photo by Paul Fixx

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# Events draw community, Sterling ends programs

## YEAR IN REVIEW



by **Raymonda Parchment**

CRAFTSBURY – Crafts-bury government and civic organizations, the Public Library, the Academy, Community Care Center, Saplings and Sterling College made for an active community in 2025. An end to Sterling’s academic programs and Antiques & Uniques will leave holes to fill in 2026. A January 16 Bread and Puppet show for all ages was entertainment at the Craftsbury Community Care Center.

The Craftsbury Public Library received a \$9,130 grant to help upgrade its aging computer network. Library Director Susan O’Connell said she had been keeping public access computers purchased in 2012 running with “duct tape, luck and spare parts salvaged from parts computers stored in the basement.”

Craftsbury Schools appointed Katherine Locke as the new theater advisor for Craftsbury grades two through twelve.

Dr. Scott Brown joined the Sterling College community as the interim dean of students.

February saw chaos surrounding the federal assistance pause lead to questions from Sterling students of whether or not their federal aid would be affected.

Craftsbury Public Library partnered with the Owens-Van Akkeren homestead and Orienteering U.S.A. for the annual “Treasure the Library” snowshoe and ski adventure. From February 26 to March 4, participants could explore trails, find literary and culinary treasures and support the library.

In March, it was announced that Raz Mille, a 16-year-old Crafts-bury Academy sophomore was selected as one of five students in the U.S. receiving an all expense-paid scholarship to attend the 2025 International Science School (ISS) in Australia this summer.

Nearly 200 Craftsbury residents gathered at 9 a.m. in Crafts-bury Academy’s World War II Memorial Gymnasium, a healthy number that nearly filled the rows of folding chairs arranged across the gym floor, Tuesday, March 4 for town meeting day.

The town garage bridge, animal control, the neighbor-to-neighbor group, a new truck and reviewing town committee assignments took up most of the March 12 select board meeting.

Craftsbury Saplings Executive Director Melissa Jacobs told the select board at an April 1 public hearing, that her organization has signed a lease agreement with Headwaters Community Trust for the property they plan to build a new facility on. Plans are to expand the program from its current 19 students per day to accommodate 54 students.

The construction company and architect of a South Craftsbury Road home are among 13 firms honored for energy leadership at Efficiency Vermont’s annual Better Building by Design (BBD) conference, April 2 and 3.

Author and historian Kevin Graffagnino gave a talk on Ira Allen at the Craftsbury Public



Library April 6.

New faces stepped in to lead local high school programs this spring, with Maxfield English taking over the Hazen Union track and field team and Kyle Anderson doing the same at Craftsbury Academy (CA).

May saw The Craftsbury Public Library host free mending Mondays on the first and third Mondays of the month. This initiative is led by Lisa Santamore, who provided sewing machines and supplies each session. A plant sale was held on Craftsbury Library’s side lawn Saturday, May 24, with garden experts on hand to answer questions and offer advice.

In June, the Northeast Kingdom Death Care Community hosted Vermont doula and researcher Francesca Arnoldy at the Crafts-bury Public Library for an interactive workshop. The workshop covered the language of grief, including what to say, phrases to avoid and how to offer emotional care and practical assistance to the bereaved with sensitivity, no matter the type of loss.

Craftsbury Academy students presented The Wizard of Oz on June 4 at the Highland Center for the Arts, under the direction of Kate Locke.

The Craftsbury Academy Class of 1965 gathered at the home of their classmate Jane (Paterson)

Marlin on June 7 to celebrate 60 years since their graduation.

July saw Independence day festivities scheduled throughout the weekend, with the annual Craftsbury block party taking place July 3, continuing through a fireworks show at dusk.

Antiques & Uniques was held Saturday, July 12, on the Crafts-bury Common. The annual sale features antiques and vintage goods, fine art, handcrafted items, local produce, flowers and specialty foods. Later in the year it was announced there are no plans being made for a 2026 Antiques and Uniques event.

The Craftsbury Energy Committee’s Community Firewood Program for income-limited households reported three cords of split firewood had been taken without permission and reported to Vermont State Police.

The Craftsbury Public Library hosted children’s book author Christy Mihaly. Mihaly read from her books July 22. Children were invited to pick out two free books as part of a summer readers program.

In August, Craftsbury Academy (CA) announced that 22 out of 26 students earned a score of 3.0 or higher on their Advanced Placement (AP) exams last school year. The school offered praise for the students and teachers, saying, “Congratulations to these



accomplished students and to the dedicated Craftsbury faculty who teach and inspire our students every day!”

“The Creative Works of Francis Colburn and Gladys La-Flamme” was the title of a talk by granddaughters Adriane Colburn and Celine Colburn given at the Craftsbury Public Library late Friday afternoon, August 1.

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center’s Green Racing Project (GRP) headed to West Windsor, N.J., weekend for the USRowing World Rowing Championships Trial on Mercer Lake, August 1 to 3. GRP racer, Olympian Jacob Plihal won the men’s single sculls final.

Craftsbury Old Home Day took place Saturday, Aug. 9,



celebrating the historic properties around town.

Craftsbury Community Care Center celebrated 30 years of caring for elders in the area, August 28.

In September, it was announced that Craftsbury Academy was ranked No. 2 in the state of Vermont by U.S. News & World Report in its annual Best High Schools Rankings. “This recognition is a true testament to our commitment to rigor and inclusion of all students right through their senior year,” said Lisa McCarthy, principal. “I am beaming with pride thinking about how our small, rural school is performing at such a high level.”

Craftsbury Academy senior Owen McKibben was awarded the Green and Gold Scholars Award from The University of Vermont (UVM).

Roughly 45 people attended a community forum on Act 73 about the state redistricting plan for schools, September 10, sparking many questions about increased commute times versus the benefits of larger class sizes.

Monday, Sept. 22, marked the beginning of the annual children’s clothing swap at the East Crafts-bury Presbyterian Church.

In October, it was announced that Our Lady of Fatima would hold one last mass Oct. 11, a decision sparked by years of waning attendance. With the approval of the bishop, the property will be put up for sale.

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) presented a 2025 Municipal Service Award to Farley Brown of Craftsbury.

November saw the town launch its new website. The site has links to select board and other meeting archives with agendas, minutes and videos.

The Craftsbury, Glover, and Greensboro Energy Committees and the Albany Planning Commission worked together with teams of volunteers from Friday, Oct. 31 through Sunday, Nov. 9, to build 415 window inserts from kits provided by WindowDressers that will go to more than 60 homes in 14

**See STERLING, next page**

# School closure threatened, Co-op celebrates 90th anniversary

## YEAR IN REVIEW

by Paul Fixx, The Hardwick Gazette

CALAIS, ADAMANT – New and renewed events joined long-time arts and community celebrations as the co-op celebrated its 90th anniversary and the threat of the elementary school closing loomed.

Heading into town meeting, town leaders sought to demystify finances with a Town Meeting Primer and budget breakdown, guiding residents through the FY2026 proposals including medical insurance costs, highway equipment needs and reserve funds.

On March 4, Town Meeting Day, voters gathered at Calais Elementary School where

## Sterling

Continued From Previous Page

14 towns. Twenty-six volunteers filled the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's ski shop as they carried out the carefully designed steps to build insulating window inserts for community members in the three-corner area of Caledonia, Lamoille and Orleans Counties.

The Craftsbury Conservation Commission held a panel presentation at Sterling College Simpson Hall, November 17.

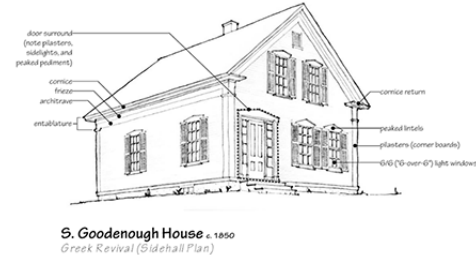
A turkey trot took place Nov. 21 on the common for students and staff of Craftsbury Schools, grades K-12.

Another re-districting conversation took place November 21.

Amber Everett was announced as the new athletic director and activities coordinator at Craftsbury Academy (CA), replacing Steve Welch after less than 18 months on the job.

Sterling College announced its degree programs will end, sparking concerns about the future of the properties and assets tied to the school's 67 year legacy. "We understand that this news is difficult and deeply personal for every member of our community. Sterling College has always been more than a place of learning; it has been a home where curiosity, creativity, and compassion thrived," officials wrote in the closure announcement.

A federal lawsuit was brought against the town regarding operation of its gravel pit. Plaintiffs James LaRock and Melanie MacEachern filed suit



S. Goodenough House c. 1850  
Greek Revival (Sidehall Plan)

all articles "voted from the floor passed as written," reaffirming support for municipal operations and community services.

In Australian ballot voting, Christy Mihaly was elected to a three-year term on the select board and Barbara McAndrew earned a seat through a successful write-in campaign. John McCullough secured a three-year term as lister.

Organizers made town meeting welcoming and inclusive, with Friends of Calais providing lunch, childcare offered at no cost, and Community Connections staff helping families



in Federal District Court, saying they own a home at 151 Gateway Drive in Craftsbury, adjacent to the gravel pit. They allege "numerous years-long violations of the federal Clean Water Act at the Town of Craftsbury's municipal gravel mine," which the plaintiffs are asking the court to abate.

In December, Headwaters Community Trust's first annual membership meeting was held at East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. Members of the trust elected Headwaters' first board of directors at the meeting.

A community conversation about the future of Sterling College was attended by more than 100 people, with many concerns expressed by residents, who learned the school intends to sell several properties, including the president's residence and is exploring options for collaboration with other schools.

Craftsbury students worked with music teachers Jonathan Chatfield and Jeffrey Reinhardt on choral pieces for the winter concert on the Craftsbury Common on Saturday, Dec. 13. The schedule included a spaghetti dinner fundraiser sponsored by the 8th grade class and a light parade on the Common.

participate.

In the summer, Friends of Calais revived "Thighs & Pies" at historic Memorial Hall with a chicken barbecue at Curtis Pond that included music.

Barnstock, a free music festival, August 23, at Curtis Pond in Maple Corner, brought local bands and neighbors together for live performances.

Art at the Kent's fall exhibition, "Mementos Kept, Memories Kindled," ran through October 12. The curated show featured 22 contemporary Vermont artists interpreting memory in clay, wood, fiber, photograph, and sculpture at the Kents' Corner State Historic Site.

Alongside visual arts, the "Words Out Loud" reading series offered Sunday afternoon readings by local authors during September as part of the exhibit programming, inviting neighbors into reflective storytelling tied to place and imagination.

The Calais Fall Foliage Festival from October 2 to 5, feature potlucks, contemporary art exhibitions, fen walks led by naturalists, and storytelling by fire pit to light the seasonal weekend.

On October 4, the Friends of Calais inaugural Chili and Cornbread Cook-Off and Contra Dance at Memorial Hall drew crowds for spirited tasting and lively dancing, with contra calls by Amy Cann and music from Joanne Garton and Emmett Stowell.

Historic awareness was a theme all year: visitors and residents alike took advantage of the Calais Town History Tour, a smartphone-accessible guided audio journey through 21 episodes exploring Indigenous presence, early settlement, and local

landmarks, a living archive of the town's narrative.

The Adamant Co-op marked a major milestone in 2025, celebrating its 90th anniversary as the oldest continuously operating food cooperative in the nation. Located at the crossroads of five dirt roads and embraced as both store and community hub, the co-op's history is threaded through generations of residents and visitors alike.

In a WCAX story, Co-op General Manager Liz Knapp noted that volunteer spirit fuels the co-op's daily life, and patrons like Eva Gumprecht described it as a place of "decency and warmth... how people should treat each other." The milestone celebration highlighted Adamant's unique identity.

Vermont State Police logs in September recorded a domestic assault arrest in Calais and an impaired driving case that resulted in a DUI citation, reminders of the routine enforcement activities that keep roadways and households safe.

Later in November, officers responded to a possible restraining order violation and processed an arrest of a Calais resident, in a sober counterpoint to the festival and civic stories of the year.

Education remained a community concern through late 2025. Washington Central Unified Union School District deliberations over consolidation and school closures, including planned 2026 vote on closing Calais Elementary School, continued to spark debate among families and advocates who view the local school as central to community life, even as boards seek sustainable budgeting and student support strategies.



A new Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) warehouse was placed off the Craftsbury Public Library parking lot and behind the United Church of Craftsbury this fall to be a food storage and distribution hub for HAFP that expanded to serve Craftsbury and Albany in early 2021. The building serves as a central spot for storing food and preparing it for distribution to meet increased demand in the region.  
photo by Paul Fixx

# Community celebrates resilience, culture in 2025

**YEAR  
IN REVIEW**



by Paul Fixx

CABOT – Hardwick Gazette reporting showed Cabot residents appearing at town meeting tables, celebrating the local cheese culture, marching and watching parades and sharing letters to the editor, shaping the 2025 year.

Cabot welcomed the new year, January 4, at the Cabot Village 12th Night Celebration with high-spirited performances and community warmth in the Willey Building. Brendan Taaffe’s Crankie Show with Tom MacKenzie drew a full house.

A community forum, held January 23 at the Willey Building (and via Zoom), was intended to help voters understand contentious issues before casting ballots at the March 4 town meeting. Up for discussion was a proposed revision to the Craftsbury Community Investment Fund (CCIF) to allow broader use of the funds, a Cabot Commons UDAG/CCIF loan forgiveness request and the town and school budgets. In February and March attention turned toward town and school district annual meetings, with voters gathering at the Cabot School

Performing Arts Center on March 3 and 4 to address school budgets, elect directors and shape educational priorities.

The updated Cabot Town Plan was adopted, guiding future land use, conservation, economic strategy and services. The revised CCIF plan was approved, continuing locally-controlled funding for community development, education and cultural projects. Voters approved a tax exemption for the former Masonic Hall in support of nonprofit community use by Neighbors in Action.

The general municipal and highway maintenance budgets were approved by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day.

Articles to fund local services including the Cabot Public Library and other community institutions



passed, affirming citizen investment in cultural and educational services.

A vote to close the Cabot School was defeated with 239 Yes votes vs. 367 No votes. It was a clear sign residents chose to keep their high school open.

On July 4, Main Street came alive with the annual Cabot 4th of July Parade led by veterans from Patrick Thompson ETC (SS) Ret.,

Bob Burke CDR Ret., and a host of local citizens driving tractors, marching bands and fire trucks. Vendor tents, book sales, music and food filled the town common, with Cabot Creamery volunteers passing out cheese along the route. Parade judge’s choice honors went to the Kingdom Crusaders Pipe Band.

2025 saw an important development on the Winooski River with the Town coordinating with Friends of the Winooski River to begin design work to clear the ruins of Cabot’s 200-year-old Clark Sawmill Dam, a relic of early Vermont industry and a lasting reminder of the catastrophic 2023 floods. Select board Chair Michael Hogan spoke about turning the area into a riverfront green space. At 93, local historian Jane Brown reflected on the dam’s role in powering mills and lives long ago.

As fall foliage came early, Cabot’s Cheese and Culture Festival returned for its third year on September 27, pairing education and festivities on the Village Common. The free festival featured talks by regional gardening expert Charlie Nardozi, artisanal demonstrations, food trucks and live music. It was all part of the broader Cabot Fall Foliage Festival experience.

In October, town resident Ruth Goodrich challenged actions by select board chair Michael Hogan, raising issues over USDA grants and the costs of a new public safety building. Goodrich wrote, “It would be good to listen to the whole recording [of the meeting] . . . and form your own opinions.”



In November Gazette readers learned that Cabot Creamery earned nine honors at the National Milk Producers Federation contest, including Overall Best Butter, with Chairman James “Cricket” Jacquier noting it as “a validation of the tried-and-true efforts across the co-op.”

Public health remained a priority, with flu/COVID-19 vaccination clinics offered at the Cabot School Wellness Space, open to all residents.

Voters also showed strong support for flood recovery, approving up to \$250,000 from the Cabot Community Investment Fund toward flood mitigation in a Nov. 4 vote.

In mid-December, Cabot’s volunteer spirit kicked into holiday mode with the Cabot Holiday Workshop on Dec. 13, an annual craft and maker event for all ages.

Elsewhere, Cabot Volunteer Fire Department crews responded to a multi-vehicle accident on Vt. 215 at the Marshfield town line, December 9, executing extrication and coordinating multi-agency support with no serious injuries.

In 2025 the Hardwick Gazette began delivering a free copy to read at the library and The Den at Harry’s Hardware.

# Forest, wetland conservation, grant for church restoration mark 2025

**YEAR  
IN REVIEW**

by Paul Fixx

STANNARD – With fewer than 200 residents, Stannard’s town center consists of a town hall across from a community-owned church, with no storefronts, yet in 2025 it saw historic preservation wins, forest conservation milestones, community gatherings and reminders of rural fire risk.

In late winter, Naturalists Robert Small and Emily Cayer worked with the Vermont Land Trust to protect approximately 269 acres of forest and wetlands along Steam Mill Brook near the Wildlife Management Area. The donation of a conservation easement ensured that the forestland, rich in habitat and streams feeding the Lamoille

watershed, would remain protected in perpetuity for wildlife and future generations. “We’re fortunate to be stewards of this land now,” Cayer said, capturing the gratitude many feel for Stannard’s wild places.

The Blackbeard’s Freak Show Festival held at Vermont Freedom Campground from August 27 through September 1, was a multi-day gathering included music, art and performances that drew visitors and participants from well beyond the town’s boundaries.

As the festival wound down, sustainable living tours at Sky Meadow Retreat in mid-July brought visitors curious about intentional community living and rural resiliency.

In September the town learned that it was awarded a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant of \$75,000 to support restoration of the 1886 Stannard Church, the town’s most recognized historic structure. Select board member

Jan Lewandoski explained that the money, awarded through the Preservation Trust of Vermont and supported by the National Park Service, will ensure structural repairs while preserving the church’s charm, from original windows to masonry work. “The Stannard Church . . . has neither electricity, plumbing, nor heat other than a wood stove,” Lewandoski told the Gazette, noting both its rarity and charm.

Each year, the church hosts weddings, memorial services, concerts and the Christmas-Solstice celebration.

In September and October, school and community calendars carried word of harvest gatherings, local hikes and autumn get-togethers.

On December 1, a structure fire on Hutchins Farm Road drew a regional response. Twelve fire departments battled the blaze in freezing conditions, contending with frozen hoses and limited rural water access.



The historic church restoration project, now funded and ready for architectural planning and stewardship, will have volunteers and the select board working through the winter on designs and plans for construction in spring and summer.

Community gatherings for the year will end with the Stannard Christmas Gathering, held at the town hall. Neighbors from near and far will share stories, music, food and renew old friendships.

## Town forest, wastewater, School St. Bridge projects progress

### YEAR IN REVIEW



by Paul Fixx

WOLCOTT—In a year marked by community resilience, bold vision and creative energy, Wolcott's long-standing character as a town that works together was on full display throughout 2025. From forest trails and bridge projects to lively concerts and grassroots efforts to strengthen village life, Wolcott's stories continued to reflect both the challenges and triumphs of northern Vermont life.

Wolcott entered the new year working steadily on issues that span safety, walkability, and infrastructure. In mid-January, a Wolcott Street Walkability Audit presented to the select board spotlighted safety concerns at the three-way intersection of Wolcott Street and Main Street, noting a lack of safe crosswalks connecting village businesses and gathering spots, part of broader community dialogue about walkable village life.

The select board, chaired by Linda J. Martin alongside Vice Chair Michael Paradee and members Richard Lee, Kurt Billings and Allen Carpenter, continued its regular first and third Wednesday meetings to address ongoing governance needs.

Local officials confronted the lingering legacy of recent floods, working with FEMA and state partners on home buyout plans that would convert repeatedly flooded properties to resilient town-owned spaces, with Martin acknowledging the emotional toll of asking families to relocate.

Flood resilience remained front and center in spring 2025. In interviews with WCAX earlier in the year, select board voices underscored the importance of proactive planning to avoid repeated disaster losses, noting vulnerable areas like Flat Iron Road and stretches of Route 15.

Behind the scenes, some of the town's longest-term planning continued as the Wolcott Wastewater Committee advanced design and permitting for a new village sewer system. The project aimed at facilitating development, improving flood resiliency and supporting the town's long-term economic health. By year's end, the town website reported significant progress on design, environmental review, and steps toward spring 2026 construction.



Summer brought the grand opening of the Wolcott Community Forest on September 13, a capstone event after years of planning, fundraising and partnership with the Trust for Public Land, Northern Rivers Land Trust and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The 735-acre preserve near the elementary school and Lamoille Valley Rail Trail introduced five miles of new trails for walking and biking, and provided space for nature, recreation and habitat protection. Vice President Shelby Semmes of the Trust for Public Land spoke to the joy and importance of community-rooted conservation, while Martin called the forest opening a moment of pride and "gratitude... for all the people and organizations who made this dream a reality."

Fall in Wolcott was rich with arts and culture. The newly-formed

Wolcott Arts Collaborative (WAC) kicked off its first community event with a performance by The Eames Brothers Band, November 1, introducing a season of musical gatherings meant to knit the community together and celebrate local creativity.

Building on that momentum, a follow-up concert featuring The Shady Trees at the Wolcott Town Hall, November 29, drew fans of funk, rock and reggae-infused "Northeast Mountain Music," illustrating the grassroots arts scene taking root in village spaces.

In October, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) recognized Linda Martin with a 2025 Municipal Service Award for her leadership.

Village infrastructure saw work continue through late fall with the School Street Bridge replacement project, a multi-phase undertaking requiring temporary one-way traffic patterns and careful coordination with VTrans crews.

As winter approached, community and cultural gatherings moved into performance season. Ballet Wolcott's "Land of Sweets" brought classical dance to the People's Academy stage in early December, blending artistic tradition with seasonal celebration.

The end of the year brought a seasonal photo contest for the 2025 Wolcott Town Report.

## Library expansion completed, meeting rooms well-used

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Diane Grenkow

HARDWICK—The library is open. The biggest story this year is that the expansion of the Jeudevine Memorial Library was completed. The new building opened to the public on Monday, July 7, 2025.

From the first day, with a crowd waiting outside to come in, through the change in season to winter, the new library has been full. People of all ages come in to work, pick up books, movies, and magazines, attend programs or just hang out.

The meeting spaces have been consistently booked and are being used during the day, in the evenings and on weekends.

With the first half of 2025 spent in construction and the second half with the new building open, the library went from an average of 680 people per month to 1,200.

As of early December 2025, more than 10,000 people came

through the doors this year.

The library has circulated more than 13,000 items, and over 1,600 people have attended library programs.

The two new meeting rooms have been well-used for library programs and by other organizations and individuals.

The Jeudevine hosted 75 programs for the library, Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor and the Town of Hardwick. It was booked an additional 68 times for classes and gatherings, including tai chi, quilting, tutoring, online classes, tele-health meetings and a birthday party.

Library programs included many for children, such as chorus, the Jeudevine Players, baking

afternoons, a vacation-week movie and story-times.

Programs for adults included readings by Vermont authors, a storytelling event, a sit-down dinner hosted by the Neighbors group and educational programs on topics such as bats and advance directives.

The library is managed with a staff of three, two part-time, one full-time, and a volunteer crew

that includes patrons, Friends of the Jeudevine and the board of trustees. Volunteers who

came in to help with re-shelving books and movies, preparing books for cataloging, light

cleaning, and shelf-reading, also moved many books into the new building and contributed over 200 hours to help the library run smoothly.

Although the bulk of the budget comes from the town, the library receives support from other sources.

The newly-revitalized Friends of the Jeudevine, has done a great job of fundraising this year. As they have in the past, they covered the full cost of programming for children and adults. The Friends helped purchase furniture for the new building, including a second book truck and a changing table, as well as two new staff computers, a comfortable chair for the children's room and eight new folding tables for the

Book-buying support this year included donations from Merry Gangemi and in memory of Pamela Blumgart, Sharon Fradette, Linda

Kinney and Beverly Pape.

The library received a \$5,000 grant to hire a consultant to develop a strategic plan to serve as a road map going forward, now that the addition is complete.

The library continues to serve as a communication hub for Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor. It

tracks emails and phone calls from people seeking help, dispatch requests to a volunteer

coordinator, and assist with the logistics of matching volunteers with those who need them.

Library staff manage the money the Salvation Army sends to this area to help people with

emergency gas and grocery vouchers. This year, \$2,000 was distributed to community members.

Many helped shepherd the library addition to completion with their time, money or goodwill, but most especially Kevin Hill and Rachel Funk and the library staff.

The Jeudevine Memorial Library has been a community space in Hardwick since its construction in 1896.

*Diane Grenkow is the Jeudevine Memorial Library director.*

## Cooperation Vermont buys Rainbow Sweets to become community hub

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Paul Fixx

MARSHFIELD – Marshfield started the year with a major community investment milestone that spoke to local identity and economic cooperation, while water system issues later in the year raised concern.

In January, Cooperation Vermont, the local nonprofit land trust, purchased the former Rainbow Sweets Bakery and Cafe building at 1689 U.S. Route 2, aiming to secure the historic space as a community hub, with plans for affordable housing upstairs and a community kitchen below. “This will ensure that our old building . . . continues to be a community hub . . . forever,” a Cooperation Vermont spokesperson said.

A notice on the Twinfield Union School website the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 28, said the school is closed “Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Superintendent Matt Foster said widespread illness Monday at Twinfield school had students lined up outside the nurses office, with many being sent home throughout the day. The gastrointestinal illness

affected staff as well, but classes were able to continue as teachers and paraprofessionals were shuffled to cover classrooms.

Samara Davis, representing Union 32 School at Vermont History Day, April 5, at Saint Michael’s College, placed first in the Senior Individual Documentary division with her essay, “The Right to Suffer - The 1963 Birmingham Children’s Marches.” She qualified for the National History Day competition, held between June 8 and 12 at University of Maryland College Park.

A June heat advisory sent people at-risk into air conditioned spaces, including the Jaquith Public Library.

Sen. Bernie Sanders appeared at the Twinfield gymnasium July 12, as a guest for Twinfield-Cabot’s annual Youth Free Throw Contest.

A Route 2 resurfacing project was completed by mid-July.

Law enforcement handled typical calls, with police responding to a person in crisis near the Martin Covered Bridge on Route 2, a tense but non-injury incident that drew first responders from the region.

By mid-September, an 800-foot earthen berm along the Winooski River had been removed and trees planted in the area, visible from

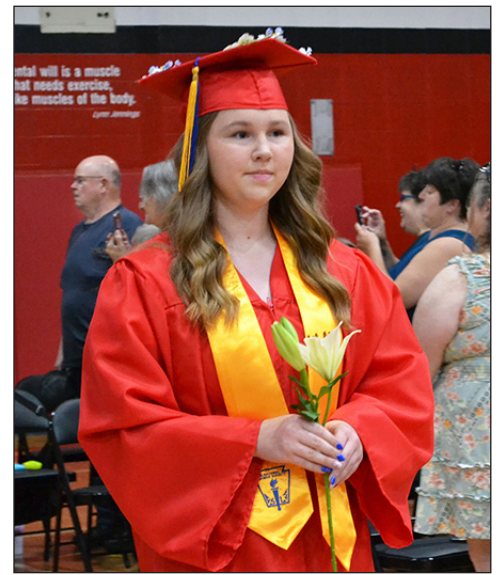
Route 2, according to the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). The restored riverside land near the Martin Covered Bridge and John Fowler Road, will allow the Winooski to expand into its surrounding floodplain, thus reducing flood risk, improving watershed health and keeping phosphorus out of Lake Champlain.

The waning days of summer’s warmth brought out the community, and the old engines, September 28, for the annual Marshfield Harvest Festival at Old Schoolhouse Common. The festival featured horse-drawn wagon rides, cider pressing, music, children’s activities, flea market stalls and antique engine exhibits.

Part of the season was also the Marshfield Farmers Market, where vendors offered everything from fresh eggs and vegetables to artisanal jams on Saturdays at the Common.

Water system issues briefly grabbed attention when a boil water notice took effect in mid-October due to maintenance needs in the village, a reminder of both Marshfield’s aging infrastructure and the importance of public works transparency.

Also in October, Governor Scott announced the Town of Marshfield received a \$60,000 grant to develop



engineering plans and cost estimates to remediate flooding and determine the source of groundwater infiltration at the Marshfield Town Hall.

At the same time, families and community groups gathered for the many film screenings, history talks and educational programs hosted by the Jaquith Public Library.

A free community Thanksgiving meal was held at the Marshfield Old Schoolhouse Common, November 27.

As winter set in, the Marshfield Resilience Hub and Jaquith Public Library showed the film “Santa Camp,” December 11, and hosted a Holiday Festival of Light, December 14.

## Joyful, somber events, regular business, mark 2025

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Paul Fixx, The Hardwick Gazette

WOODBURY – In a year shaped by civic deliberation, community collaboration and events both joyful and somber, Woodbury embraced 2025 with spirit rural Vermonters are known for. From town meetings and holiday gatherings, to news that captured statewide attention, stories from the small Washington County town reflect the varied texture of everyday life.

2025 began with the Woodbury Select Board continuing its regular schedule of meetings, navigating budget planning and foundational decisions that would set the tone for the year. An early report highlighted issues such as pending FEMA reimbursements for flood repairs, corrections to town road classifications, and preparations for town meeting.

At the February 10 board session, members discussed USDA flood-plain grant programs and planned for town meeting.

On March 1, Woodbury’s

annual town meeting saw a robust turnout, with about 80 citizens gathering in the Woodbury Elementary School gymnasium for deliberation and votes.

Select Board Chair Diana Peduzzi was re-elected to a three-year term, and long-time treasurer Brandy Smith was thanked for 11 years of faithful service as she left that role.

Woodbury voters approved all budget articles, including the town’s operating budget of \$570,426, a highway fund of \$775,882, and support for the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department and community library.

Moderator Stephen Murphy and Town Clerk Robin Durkee were confirmed to continue in their roles. Notably, community member Skip Marchesani praised the Woodbury Community Library from the floor, reminding neighbors of its importance as a civic hub.

In the spring, select board business included pay increases for town positions and work on key community infrastructure projects. The board continued oversight of flood-related repairs and stewardship of ARPA funds, as well as discussions about future needs like windows and waterproofing for the town office.

The season saw news when a body was found along Route 14 in Woodbury on June 19. Initially classified as suspicious, the Vermont State Police later identified the victim as 38-year-old Tina Daigle of Hardwick, whose death was later ruled a homicide by asphyxiation.

The investigation drew further attention in August with the arrest of Michael Williams, 60, of Morrisville, charged with second-degree murder and first-degree aggravated domestic assault in connection with Daigle’s death. A December appeal of a judge’s order to deny bail resulted in an order for a bail hearing to be held.

At a select board meeting in August, local resident Tom Peltz urged the board to keep Daigle’s case in the public eye, highlighting ongoing grief and questions among neighbors.

Life in Woodbury also took lighter turns in 2025. Cultural engagement was vibrant: the Woodbury Community Library hosted exhibits like “Headwaters and Mind Puddles” by artist Leif Goldberg, adding creative flair to the summer months.

As school resumed in the fall, local elementary students gained recognition when

Woodbury Elementary’s Hibernation Feast, a culmination of farm-to-fork learning and school community collaboration, was featured on WCAX.

Outside the school walls, holiday poetry evenings, a craft show and bake sale at Calais-Woodbury United Church and monthly winter potlucks beginning in November created opportunities for neighbors to gather.

Fall select board agendas, such as at the October 13 meeting, reflected ongoing oversight of school facilities and broader financial planning. Woodbury’s representatives to the Mountain View Union Elementary School District, including Darren Usinowicz and Heather Meacham, reported on elementary school repair needs and district budget considerations.

The Santa Fin holiday event on December 6 brought seasonal music and storytelling to the town hall, and plans for carol singing on December 20 on the Woodbury Village Green offered neighbors the chance to gather and ward off the winter’s chill.

The Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department provided mutual aid in a structure fire in Hardwick on December 4, exemplifying cooperation among neighboring towns.

# East Village Expansion reserve fund created, bond failed

## YEAR IN REVIEW

by **Raymonda Parchment**

PLAINFIELD – To kick off the year, the Plainfield Co-Op announced their move to the Route 2 Plainfield Hardware location from their long-time village building. The merger of the two businesses combined grocery and hardware offerings.

Plainfield Arts presented an afternoon of music with songwriter Spencer Lewis and Vermont banjoist Pappy Biondo, Sunday, Feb. 16., the beginning of its 2025 Concert Series.

March 4 town meeting day saw the community preparing for the future; residents voted 130-30 to pass Article 13, which proposed the beginnings of a solution to the housing shortage: a reserve fund dedicated to village expansion. The fund would go toward new development “by acquiring” land between East Hill Road and Main Street.

Caledonia Central School District budgets for Twinfield Union School District and Cabot School District passed in Australian balloting, March 4. Twinfield’s budget of \$8,402,577 will result in per pupil education spending of \$13,814

On April 2, in Plainfield, the Vermont State Police received a report of a domestic disturbance involving Nathaniel Cliche, of East Montpelier. While at the scene, troopers from the Berlin Barracks found a stolen camper belonging to Karl Bissex, of Plainfield. Cliche was found shortly after and placed under arrest for possession of stolen property. Cliche was brought to the Berlin Barracks for processing.

In May, the Cutler Memorial Library presented “Powwow Pastel Paintings,” a new body of work by Susan Ross Grimaldi. The exhibition opened with a reception on Friday, May 9 and remained on view through August 23.

The Celtic fusion band, Cantrip, performed live on May 9, at the Plainfield Opera House.

Discussion at the May 27 select board meeting veered into derelict housing and rabid raccoons for well over half an hour.

June began with a free public forum and workshops for households having persons with disabilities, chronic illness or debilitating old age who want to be prepared for flood or fire evacuation. Sheltering will be available at the Plainfield Town Hall.

Central Vermont Community Radio celebrated 52 years



of WGDR and 15 of WGDH at a birthday party, June 7, with food, drinks, DJs and music. In a recent blog post, WGDR-WGDH Station Manager Liu Mulvaney-Stanak announced, “The Vermont legislature just approved \$150,000 in one-time funding for the ten community radio stations in Vermont. This is a direct result of your advocacy on behalf of the difference WGDR & WGDH makes in your everyday lives. Especially given federal funding trends and the impact on state funding, this is a really, really big deal.”

The Plainfield Farmers Market took place June 27.

Residents came together, July 28, to discuss Plainfield’s future, part of a three-part process directed by community organization Plainfield Forward. In an effort to engage area residents in identifying important priorities for the town’s future. Over 100 attendees gathered at the historic Haybarn Theatre for a town-wide brainstorming session. The Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival presented “Woman to Woman: Two-Woman Scenes from Shakespeare,” conceived by Tom Blachly, and featuring Savannah Yates and Maeve McCurdy, July 31 in the Greenwood Dining Hall on The Creative Campus at Goddard.

July 10 passed uneventfully as flood mitigation work continued throughout the summer. Residents came together, July 28, to discuss Plainfield’s future, part of a three-part process directed by community organization Plainfield Forward. In an effort to engage area residents in identifying important priorities for the town’s future, over a 100 attendees gathered at the historic Haybarn Theatre for a town-wide brainstorming session.

Alice Howe and Freebo presented an outdoor concert on August 6 from the porch of Grace United Methodist Church.

“The Taming of the Shrew” was presented by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival from August 23 to 30, under the direction of Virginia Monte at the Haybarn Theatre on The Creative Campus at Goddard. A prix fixe Elizabethan-themed meal was served before the curtain by Master Chef Zack Fugazy.

September kicked off with Old Home Days, a farmers market and community meal, as well as a street fair and other community activities.

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

The four-piece Birdhouse Band with Andrew Koehler, Mavis MacNeil, Roy MacNeil and Annie Rowell played a set of Beatles tunes, original songs, and more, instead of the planned Abbey Road performance, September 20, at the Plainfield Opera House, due to an unexpected medical event impacting one of the band members.

October 1, at approximately 7:23 a.m., the Vermont State Police received several nonemergent phone calls from 42-year-old Cormick Cantwell, in which he harassed and threatened emergency dispatchers. Troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded and determined that Cantwell violated several of his active conditions of release and acted disorderly. Cantwell was arrested for Violation of Conditions of Release and Disorderly Conduct By Phone and transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing.

The Goddard College alumni reunion took place from October 10 to 13.

Select board members signed off on plans for new bridges over Great Brook at Mill Street and Brook Road at their October 14 meeting. The Mill Street bridge washed out in 2024 and the Brook Road bridge trapped debris, flooding the village

In November, town of Plainfield staff announced that helicopter flyovers would occur over the Great Brook and Winooski River collecting LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data as part of a study of the river. The study is being funded and managed by the state of Vermont.

A one-year operating grant was awarded to Central Vermont Community Radio Corporation for \$5,000 to support operating and administrative costs.



The Vermont Council on the Arts awarded artist development grants to local artists and organizations including Genese Grill of Plainfield for \$2,000 to support the purchase of image licenses for use in the first English-language biography of Austrian Modernist Robert Musil for Yale University Press.

A Bollywood-themed dance party was held at the Cutler Memorial Library as a fundraiser on November 9

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, residents voted at the Plainfield Municipal Building on a \$600,000 bond to purchase land for the Village Expansion project and a \$149 million bond to build a new Central Vermont Career Center. Both bonds were defeated by voters.

Lynne Hanson, “Canada’s Queen of Americana,” performed in concert on Sunday, Nov. 16 at the Plainfield Opera House.

The final report of the East Village Expansion Advisory Committee (EVEAC) was approved in a 10-0 vote at its December 3 meeting, after which the committee voted to recommend to the select board that that meeting be its last.

Thursday, Dec. 18, Plainfield’s Hazard Mitigation Committee hosted a presentation by the State of Vermont and their contracted river engineering firm SLR International, at the Plainfield Town Hall.

December 19 and 20, a Haybarn Theatre event, Combustible Cabaret’s Holiday Happening, said it “promises cardboard puppet chaos, ballyhoo, burlesque, drag and live music to stir up your seasonal celebration.” The 18 and over events featured cocktails and refreshments courtesy of The Haybarn Restaurant.

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# EDITORIAL

## As one wish nears its goal, many others remain

Here at The Hardwick Gazette, we are so very grateful to the more than 300 of our readers who have contributed a total of more than \$50,000 in matching funds and funds to match them during our end-of-year fund drive.

In reaching for a seemingly impossible fundraising goal, and now being close to reaching it thanks to a community that values the work we've done over the last two years, we find ourselves well on the way to achieving it.

We're less than \$10,000 from meeting our goal.

In that same vein, and continuing a tradition for The Hardwick Gazette, we've compiled a list of aspirational goals for the New Year.

For Opie, I wish funding for a new sewage treatment plant well above the flood plain.

I wish for Kristen Leahy smooth sailing with the remaining buyouts of properties hit by recurrent flooding, improvements to town infrastructure and enough new floodplain for Cooper Brook and the Lamoille River that future flooding becomes less damaging.

May Hardwick Police Chief Michael Henry get upgrades to the emergency services repeater that will allow clear communication between dispatchers and police patrols throughout the area.

I wish for Shari Cornish, Tracy Martin and the Hardwick Downtown Partnership, a new Main Street retaining wall and pedestrian bridge, along with a long-term plan for safety measures that make walking and driving safer on Wolcott and S. Main Streets.

For the Greensboro Select Board, I wish a crew of volunteers find the missing community vision to rehabilitate the former high school, now the town hall, in a way that meets the future needs of the community.

And may that town find a workable solution to managing wastewater in both villages and developing housing for the many employees in town who must find housing elsewhere.

May the evaluation of small rural schools' value include more than the direct costs of education, valuing their economic and social impact on their communities too.

For Craftsbury, I wish the elementary, high school and Sterling College remain in a way that continues to benefit community life in its unique way.

I hope for Lakeview School, that the current collaboration

between Head Start and the public school system thrives.

May the state of Vermont find the will to solve the problem of medical costs that are rising faster than inflation, affecting education and general human affordability.

As the state takes steps to make it easier for new homes to be developed in cities and towns throughout the state, may those responsible for implementing the Act 181 revisions to Act 250, not impose more onerous restrictions than Act 250 had already imposed on Tier 3 lands.

While Stannard seems to be flying well below the radar of Vermont's Open Meeting laws, I wish select board meeting minutes and recordings would become publicly available.

I wish Vermont residents would allow beavers to do their jobs, by damming upland streams to disperse increasingly heavy rainfall before it devastates the many stream and riverside towns.

For the federal government, I wish for the realization that citizen well-being is at the core of having a thriving nation, leading to tax measures that begin to close the income inequality gap.

I wish for the former Hardwick Gazette and Civic Standard building on S. Main Street, an organization or individual to rehabilitate it before it washes down the Lamoille River, or succumbs to the wrecking ball, allowing it to support the town's civic life as it has for more than 100 years.

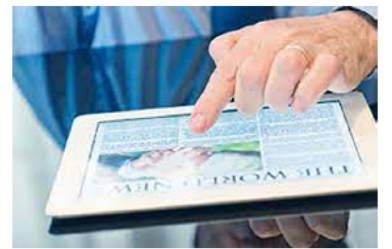
And finally, I wish for The Hardwick Gazette, a sustainable future with reporters and community journalists allowing us to cover every school and select board meeting in our 11 towns in a timely way.

**Paul Fixx, editor**

### For the record

Last week's fictional story, "Northern Star (1970)," was written in 1982 to sound like a story from 1970, when paperboys still existed in many places. The story mentions a therapy light, which isn't a term that came into common usage until the early 1980s as a therapy for Seasonal Affective Disorder.

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# THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

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

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

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

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## How very far I was from home

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The last few years, I've been traveling to my son's house in Arkansas for Christmas. I'll do the same this year. It's such a treat, after rattling around alone in this house through the seasons, to be immersed in family life, children and grandchildren all over the place, for a few festive days. We watch old movies together and go to feasts with well over a dozen people around the big table. For me it's also a chance to hear some Arkansas accents, rather like musical Texan.

As you get older, you tend to look back more and remember events and people with hazy glows about them. So it is this year, as I look back over seventy years to my first Christmas in Texas. It was one of those eye-opening experiences in which almost everything was new, and I've never forgotten it.

*That night after supper the four of us sat in front of the fireplace. Three of us were armed with baking pans and nut picks. The old man straddled a small bench with a nut-cracking device bolted over a hole in the bench.*

I'd fallen in puppy love with a fellow student from the hills of central Texas, next to the X, as she used to say. So when her parents included me in the invitation to join them for Christmas, of course I jumped at the chance. We boarded a Greyhound in central Ohio an hour after the college dean prayed over us and wished us godspeed, and I don't know how many miles later, after passing through some of the flattest country I'd ever seen, climbed stiffly off in Brownwood, Texas. Her father (hereinafter the old man) picked us up in his faded 1939 Chevy and carried us north twenty miles or so to "the ranch."

It was a faded old two-story clapboard house with a few live oaks and mesquites scattered around it. A porch ran all across its south side, but the main access to it was on the east, through a covered entry past what looked like an open well (which I soon learned was the cistern for drinking water) and into a large kitchen. The family ate at a table in the kitchen. In cold weather, the mother prepared a little table off to the side for a silent Mexican; in warm weather, he carried his meals

off to his room on the far side of the barn. A box stove heated the place; there was no central heat. I noticed right away that when the wind blew outside, candles and oil lamps inside flickered. Each of us heated a pair of bricks in front of the living room fireplace each evening. At bedtime, we wrapped them in rags and old towels and took them to bed with us. During the night, as they cooled, we kicked them out of bed. You could hear other people's bricks hitting the floor as the night wore on.

The old man, ever a joker, announced an imminent "pecan hunt." I helped him wrap and tie a bundle of burlap sacks ("tow sacks") around the front end loader of his old Farmall. We loaded the scoop with tarps and more sacks, and off we went to the pecan grove. At a likely tree, loaded with ripe pecans, we spread the tarps on the ground around it. Then the old man gently rammed the padded bucket into the tree, and ducked as a storm of pecans rained down upon him. We picked up a couple of sacks full, folded the tarps, and headed for home.

That night after supper the four of us sat in front of the fireplace. Three of us were armed with baking pans and nut picks. The old man straddled a small bench with a nut-cracking device bolted over a hole in the bench. With each stroke of the handle he cracked a pecan lengthwise; the pieces fell through the hole into a pan beneath. Each of us soon got a panful of nuts to pick. The shells and scraps went into the fire.

With a "blue norther" howling at the north side of the house, that fireside was the warmest place anywhere around. But it wasn't just the fire, fed frequently as it was with fresh shells. It was the closeness of family, all engaged in a homely common enterprise on a dark, cold night between supper and bedtime.

On Christmas Eve we piled into the old Chevy and rode into town. It was crisp, cold weather, the kind that creates clouds of vapor in front of everyone's mouth. Every church had a crèche scene, and some houses were decked modestly with colored lights. There was sporadic gunfire in the distance as a few fellows, enlivened by spirits both sacred and profane, celebrated Jesus' birth by shooting into the air.

But the great effect of the evening came when the children's choir of the Methodist Church lined up on the church steps in their lovely white-and-blue gowns to sing what they'd no doubt been practicing for weeks. "Angels we have heard own hah, sweetly singin' o'er the playns." It symbolized and expressed what has held us together so long; yet it also reminded me how very far I was from home.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"PEACE ON EARTH? NYET!"

## MEETING MEMO

<b>Tuesday, January 6</b> Cabot Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m. Craftsbury Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m. Marshfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m. OSSU Board, first Tuesday of the month, 6 to 8 p.m., OSSU Central Office, Hardwick. Plainfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.	Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, January 7</b> Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall. Wolcott Select Board, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.	<b>Thursday, January 15</b> Hardwick Select Board, third Thursday of month, 6 p.m.
<b>Thursday, January 8</b> Mountain View Union Elementary School Board, second Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m., alternating among the three campuses.	<b>Tuesday, January 20</b> Cabot Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m. Craftsbury Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m. Hardwick Electric Department Board of Commissioners, third Tuesday of month, 6 p.m. unless otherwise warned. Marshfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Plainfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.
<b>Monday, January 12</b> Calais Select Board, second Monday of month, 7 p.m.	<b>Town Clerks</b> Cabot: <a href="http://cabotvt.us">cabotvt.us</a> Calais: <a href="http://calaisvermont.gov">calaisvermont.gov</a> Craftsbury: <a href="http://townofcraftsbury.com">townofcraftsbury.com</a> Greensboro: <a href="http://greensborovt.gov">greensborovt.gov</a> Hardwick: <a href="http://hardwickvt.org">hardwickvt.org</a> 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>
<b>Wednesday, January 14</b> Craftsbury Town School Board, second Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Commons Room, Craftsbury Academy. Greensboro Select Board, second	

# WEEKS GONE BY

65 Years ago  
 The Hardwick Gazette  
**CUB SCOUTS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Santa Claus arrived on Thursday at the American Legion rooms to spend the evening with the Cub Scouts, Den No. 4. The festivities opened with the singing of "Jingle Bells," followed by a group singing of Christmas carols by the Cubs, relatives and guests.

Awards were presented as follows: Bobcat pages; Christopher Keith, Michael Picard, Roger Knowlton and Ivan Picard. A Gold Arrow Point was presented to William Millard.

Gifts were exchanged from a lavishly decorated tree including candy canes for old and young. A large cellophane bag of candy was won by Theresa Dufresne who guessed the closest to the amount of pieces in the bag and second prize of a smaller bag of candy was won by Billy Bassett. A social hour followed the most enjoyable meeting.

**FREE MOVIES SUNDAY  
 AFTERNOON AT 2:00**

The Kiwanis Club of Hardwick, in cooperation with the management of the Idle Hour Theatre will sponsor a Free Matinee for the youngsters at 2:00

P.M. Sunday, New Year's Day.

The showing will be a full program of cartoons.

**CRAFTSBURY GARAGE  
 DESTROYED BY FIRE**

Fire, from as yet an undetermined origin, completely destroyed the Craftsbury Garage, located in Craftsbury village, Saturday afternoon.

Starting at about 2:00 in the office in the front of the building it spread so rapidly that little was saved, with all accounts and book-keeping records being lost, as well as a stock of ammunition, sporting goods, garage tools and supplies, a farm tractor, three-quarter yard loader, dump truck and two chain saws.

The owner and operator, Louis Markers, was returning from a business trip to Hardwick when the fire broke out and noticed the smoke as he was going up the gulf road.

The Craftsbury Fire Department was soon on the scene and the Hardwick Fire Dept. was called and both pumped water from a nearby river.

# New Year's Party

## AMERICAN LEGION

DANCING 8-12

Come early for best accommodations.

### PUBLIC INVITED

Hardwick Gazette  
 December 29, 1960

The P. Beaudoin barber shop on one side and the Masonic Hall on the other side on of the burning building were both damaged somewhat on the outside, with the Masonic Hall suffering considerable smoke and water damage on the inside.

Eugene Markers and Hermie Spring attempted to get the records office and Mr. Marckres was burned the attempt.

The building was 82 feet long and 38 feet wide, two stories high, with total loss estimated at around \$30,000, with partial insurance coverage.

**100 Years ago  
 The Hardwick Gazette  
 December 31, 1925  
 St. John the Baptist  
 Mission. [Episcopal]**

West Church St., Near Library.

The Rev. G. R. Brush, Priest-in-Charge

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 3, 1926.

Holy Communion and Sermon at 10:45 A.M.

The congregation on Christmas Day was not as large as usual. For this reason it is earnestly hoped that there will be a full attendance next Sunday, which falls during Christmas-tide, that all may have the privilege of making their Christmas communion.

The Christmas Festival on Christmas Eve was a happy occasion for the children who presented their offerings in the manger for the orphaned children of the Near East Mission in Asia Minor. Santa Claus was present for the joy of the little ones and afterwards there was an hour of games and merry-making.

Friday, the Feast of the Circumcision and New Year's Day, there will be Holy Communion at 9:00 A.M., at the rectory.

1961

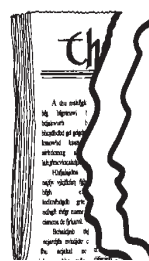
# Happy New Year!

Thank you for your many kind expressions of confidence in 1960.

## HARDWICK NEWS STORE

Hardwick Gazette  
 December 29, 1960

## The Hardwick Gazette



## PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

# ANOTHER OPINION

## Watershed neighbors share recovery

by **Kristen Leahy**

**HARDWICK** – Hardwick ends 2025 still engaged in recovery, preparedness and adaptation work that does not pause between emergencies.

While flooding has been the most visible and damaging hazard in recent years, the town's response has necessarily extended beyond flood events alone. As a service, employment and community hub for the surrounding region, Hardwick's emergency resilience work now encompasses infrastructure stability, housing safety, emergency response capacity, land-use decisions and long-term planning for a changing climate. For those working in floodplain and emergency management, the work continues year-round, regardless of whether the river is within its banks.

Since 2023, Hardwick has experienced three federally declared disasters and several additional damaging storms affecting not only the village and rural roads, but the broader river systems and travel corridors that connect neighboring communities. More than 100 structures across neighborhoods and rural roads were impacted, many of them repeatedly.

Local businesses and farms faced closures, cleanups and operational disruptions.

Six bridges and culverts were identified for major repair or redesign, and at least five areas of town experienced repeat flood damage, underscoring the need for coordinated, long-term solutions that extend beyond municipal boundaries.

In response, the town has focused on moving recovery forward

through long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes.

Since the 2023 flooding, Hardwick secured more than \$5 million in targeted recovery and reimbursement funding, allowing critical projects to advance without relying on local tax dollars.

Nine properties are progressing through the voluntary flood buyout program, with 11 structures demolished or scheduled for demolition and mitigation work to follow.

In addition, funding has been secured to floodproof historic and hard-to-elevate structures, reducing future risk while preserving the town's historic building stock.

Together, these efforts create opportunities for floodplain restoration and safer land use that benefit downstream communities as well.

At the same time, the town is planning well beyond individual sites.

Five major engineering and feasibility efforts are underway, including work on Jackson Dam, wastewater facility relocation, fire station relocation, bank stabilization and bridge upgrades.

Long-term recovery planning is active in four high-impact areas: the Granite Street Historic District, Wolcott Street Commercial Area, Downtown Hardwick and East Hardwick. These efforts are guided by technical analysis, on-the-ground conditions and community input, with coordination among regional partners and agencies.

Recovery in Hardwick has also been shaped by people, not just projects.

Volunteers supported cleanups, supply delivery and

outreach throughout the recovery period, often crossing town and county lines to help one another.

Community dinners, farmers markets and public forums served as places to share information, gather feedback and strengthen connections.

Local schools and public facilities were assessed for emergency sheltering and readiness, and a dedicated Emergency Supply and Support Center is now established and ready when needed.

Together, these efforts reflect a shared understanding that recovery is not linear. Emergency response leads to recovery. Recovery reveals housing, infrastructure and preparedness gaps. Each solution strengthens the ability of the region to respond to the next emergency, whatever form it takes.

Looking ahead, Hardwick is continuing to work with watershed partners to improve natural resilience and implement floodplain restoration projects beginning in 2025.

More than 18 local, regional, state, and federal departments and partner agencies continue to collaborate on a shared recovery

path that recognizes both the challenges and strengths of rural communities across the region. This coordinated effort brings together municipal staff, regional partners, state agencies and federal programs to align recovery, mitigation and long-term resilience work rather than addressing projects in isolation.

The work is ongoing. Costs are rising. But through collaboration, Hardwick and its neighboring communities continue to build systems that are safer, stronger and better prepared.

Recovery is a shared effort, and the work of neighbors, volunteers and partners continues to shape what comes next.

Residents throughout the area can stay informed and get involved by visiting [hardwickvt.gov](http://hardwickvt.gov) and signing up for VT-Alert at [vem.vermont.gov/vtalert](http://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert). For more information, contact the Town of Hardwick Resilience and Adaptation Coordinator's Office at [zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov) or (802) 472-1686.

*Kristen Leahy is the zoning and floodplain administrator and the resilience and adaptation coordinator for the Town of Hardwick.*

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



Hardwick artist and art instructor Sheri Howe displays her block prints, paintings, drawings, earrings, bandanas and more, during the Front Seat Coffee Maker's Market, December 19. Eleven different vendors participated.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

**Thanks**

for saying  
you saw it in the  
**Hardwick Gazette**

[hardwickgazette.org](http://hardwickgazette.org)



# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## Ring out wild bells

by Eleanor Guare

“Ring Out, Wild Bells” is a poem written by Alfred, Lord Tennyson in the year of 1850, when he was appointed by Queen Victoria as England’s Poet Laureate. It was customary at the time to ring bells at full circle, a full arc, to mark the passing of the year. At the time of this writing, Tennyson was grieving the loss of his friend and his sister’s fiancé, who died at age 22. It is said that he was lodging near the Waltham Abbey Church, and on a windy night, overheard the wild sound of the bells.

What seemed meaningful to me was not only the image of the wild bells ringing out the old on a frosty night, across the snow, but the deeper significance of ringing in truth, light, peace and the “common love of good.”

Throughout this past year of shepherding weekly Voices of Spirit, that has been a striking theme, the invincible power of love.

### Ring Out, Wild Bells

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light;  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more,  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,

With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

## Fall in

by Will Helms, 16, Hardwick for Young Writers Project

Past the burning day,  
at bedtime when I shrug off sleep,  
when I’ve got school the next morning,  
and I shouldn’t be here,  
I sit down and press play, and the noise starts,  
and the colors fly up around me,  
and cities erect and destroy themselves  
as the songs start and end.  
I fall in.  
I fall in deep.

This week’s Young Writers Project entry is “Fall in,” by Will Helms, 16, of Hardwick and an intern

with The Hardwick Gazette. Art is “Amazon After Hours,” by Meredith Rocke, 15, of West Rutland. Young Writers Project is a creative, online community of teen writers and visual artists that started in Burlington in 2006. Each week, VTDigger publishes the writing and art of young Vermonters who post their work on [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org), a free, interactive website for youth, ages 13-19. To find out more, go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) or contact Executive Director Susan Reid at [sreid@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:sreid@youngwritersproject.org); (802) 324-9538.

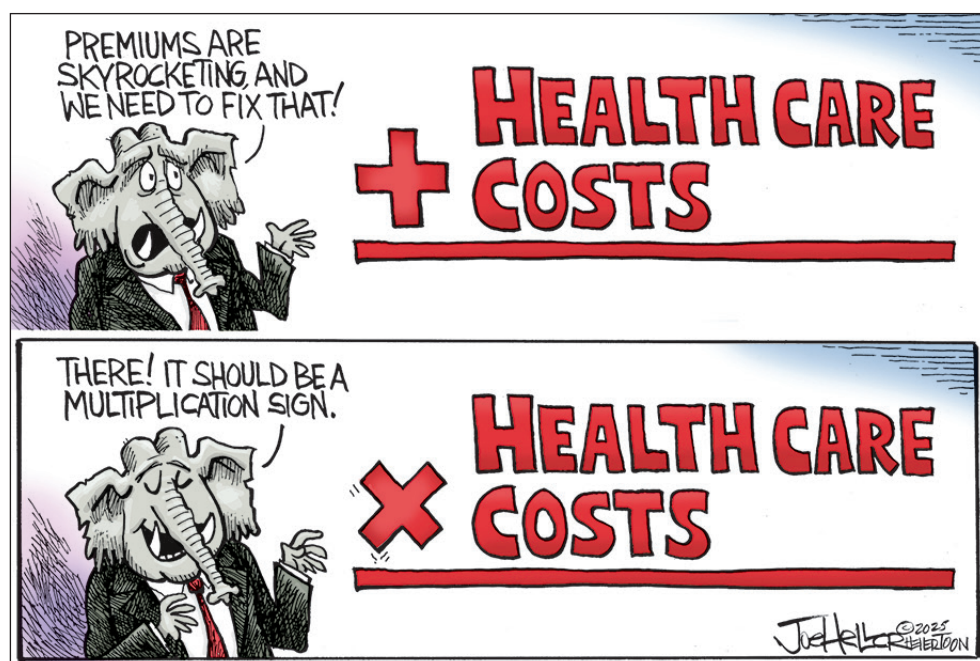


Amazon After Hours, by Meredith Rocke, 15, of West Rutland, for Young Writers Project



A wagon load of Hardwick Elementary School (HES) students leave Terrace Hill Road as it enters Route 14, Wednesday, Dec, 17. The rides were made possible by Friends of HES social media photo

## Heller’s World by Joe Heller



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# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Where do bees go in winter?

by **Spencer Hardy and Jason Hill**

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION** – Step outside on a brisk December day, and you’re likely to be surrounded by bees. No, you’re not likely to observe a bee visiting your snowman or investigating your yellow parka while you shovel the walk; yet they are all around us, probably much closer than you would imagine.

A rotten stump next to the mailbox? Yup: Pure Green Sweat Bee (*Augochlora pura*), Cresson’s Metallic-Sweat Bee (*Lasioglossum cressonii*), and maybe Black-and-green Metallic-Sweat Bee (*Lasioglossum nigroviride*). The patch of dirt at the edge of the driveway that never seems to grow grass? Yup: Probably Unequal Cellophane Bee (*Colletes inaequalis*) and likely many more. The raspberry patch in the garden that has gotten a little out of hand? For sure: Spurred Small Carpenter (*Ceratina calcarata*). The wooded slope down to the river? Right again! That’s where the queens are. (*Bombus* spp.)

Native bees in New England have evolved a number of different ways to survive a long, cold winter.

Bumble bees (genus *Bombus*) are our most familiar native bees, and one of a handful of social species with distinct castes (queens, workers, drones). In autumn, all

of our bumble bees except the future queens die off. These future queens store the sperm acquired from their late summer matings and seek out a sheltered spot like a rodent burrow, thick leaf litter, or a mossy bank to spend the winter.

Of the few studies that have monitored bumble bee overwinter survival in the wild, one from New England found that perhaps 60% of these future queens survive cold winters. As temperatures warm in spring and day length increases, the soon-to-be queen wakes to initiate a new colony, relying on the early pollen and nectar provided by blooming maples and willows.

Halictidae, the sweat bee family, is a large group (97 species in Vermont) of small and often colorful bees. Mos share a similar overwintering strategy with the bumble bees in that only the females survive the winter, having mated and stored all the necessary genetic material needed for the following season. Male bumble bees and male sweat bees simply don’t exist for six or more months of the year.

When the overwintered female is ready to start the next generation, she will lay some unfertilized eggs, which will develop into males with a single set of chromosomes, and some fertilized eggs, which will develop into females with two sets of chromosomes.

Clearly this overwintering period is critical for the long-term



*Pure Green Sweat Bee (Augochlora pura) in Franklin County*

survival of a species and we can help make it a little easier for them with small modifications to our landscapes.

Promoting overwinter wild bee survival often means doing less around a property in autumn, not more. Leave some yard or garden a little wild through fall and winter: skip the raking and trimming in a few spots, and let stems, stumps, and leaf litter stay put until late spring. That messiness provides crucial insulation for overwintering queens and solitary females tucked into soil, hollow stems, and rotting wood. Avoid tilling bare patches of ground or gardens where ground-nesting bees spend the cold months, and

resist the urge to clean up flower beds too early. Even potted plants or brush piles can shelter dormant bees. Also avoid pesticide use, especially in late summer when bees are building fat reserves for winter.

If you’re worried about what the neighbors might think of your untidy yard (oh, my), then treat your property like a mullet for bees: business up front and a party for bees in the back. A little patience and untidiness now will reward spring flowers with the quiet activity of native bees when the snow melts.

*Spencer Hardy and Jason Hill are staff members at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.*

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Winter farmers market begins Jan. 25

**HARDWICK** – The Hardwick community winter farmers market will be held on Sundays, January 25, February 15 and March 15, at Hazen Union High School. The market is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry is free.

### HARDWICK

Large furnished bedroom and private half bath available in spacious 1800s farmhouse.

Plant enthusiast seeking a winter season housemate interested in sharing occasional companionship and shared meals as mutually desired. \$500/mo. plus \$50 utilities in winter months, no smoking, pets considered. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

### HARDWICK

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(802) 863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required.

EHO



*Evening grosbeaks and a cardinal feed at a bird feeder on Montgomery Road in East Hardwick on Sunday, Dec. 7. photo by Dawn Gustafson*



A scene from Jerome Lipani's film "Bread & Puppet Our Domestic Resurrection Revolution In Progress PAGEANT," captures the end of a Bread & Puppet Theatre performance on August 8, with the company singing "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!"

YouTube screen capture

## Bread and Puppet 2025 films released

by Paul Fixx

ADAMANT – Jerome Lipani and his Ad Hoc Films posted a playlist of 13 films titled "BreadAndPuppet 2025," on the day of the Winter Solstice, Sunday, December 21

"I am finally able to release two dual-camera shoots in collaboration with Robbie Leppzer of this summer's B&P Circus & Pageant, which have been held back from public release until now to shield the touring company from possible cancellations of the circus tour by authoritarian fiat, as occurred more than once in 2024," Lipani's announcement of the release said,

"At the top of the list is a 2-1/2 minute iphone shoot by Curatrix Alexis of her very recent hanging of some of Peter Schumann's "Bedsheets" at the Plainfield Granary, i.e. the reincarnation of the Plainfield Community Center, in its first anti-art opening since the building was acquired by Aedan

Scribner and Chris Thompson, who have restored the historic Communitarian function of the space as a landmark for Freedom . . ."

The playlist can be found at [tinyurl.com/BandP-2025](http://tinyurl.com/BandP-2025).



Looking to start the new year doing meaningful work in a supportive, community-focused environment? Then we'd love to hear from you. The Craftsbury Community Care Center is accepting applications for several positions across departments, which may be combined for the right person:

### Delegated Medication Technician

Provide hands-on resident care and administer medications under nursing delegation. Particular need for evening and overnight per diem shifts; potential to grow into a regular part-time schedule. \$19.50/hr.

### Kitchen Support

Assist with cooking, meal prep, and/or service in a busy, supportive kitchen. Seeking part-time coverage with potential to increase hours over time. Cooks \$18.50-22/hr, Aides \$17-19/hr.

### Housekeeper

Maintain a clean, comfy home for residents through cleaning, laundry, and assisting with resident bathing. Daytime availability preferred for coverage as needed. \$17-19/hr.

Additional information and job descriptions listed on our website: [www.craftsburycarecenter.org/employment](http://www.craftsburycarecenter.org/employment).

To apply, email [msmith@craftsburycarecenter.org](mailto:msmith@craftsburycarecenter.org) with your resume!

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# Current 2025 Schedule

as of Nov 2025

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

### Rotating Slots

#### #1: Sun 10 am-12 pm

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Indigenous Music  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: The Immanent Grove Conni Mags

#### #2: Sun 4-5 pm

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Afrosonic Taxi  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: Discoverances with Savannah

#### #3: Sun 9-11 pm

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Walkin' Will: The Show of Life  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: All Mixed Up

#### #4: Mon 11 am-12 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Mon: Billuminations  
Stefanie Lingenfelter  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Cuneiform Radio  
Kyle Schlesinger  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: Biketalk

#### #5: Mon 7-9 pm

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

#### #6: Tue 7-9 pm

Biweekly rotation:  
Still Life with Club Soda  
Serena Matt  
Still Life with Orange Peel  
Ada Bowman

#### #7: Thu 6-7 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Thu: The Broken Bois Collective Presents... Khonsu X and Titan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thu: The Hyper Local Dispatch  
Natascha and DJ Syd  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thu: Democracy Now  
4<sup>th</sup> Thu: Into the Issues Steve Pappas

#### #8: Sat 9-10 am

1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Gathering Peace Joseph Gainza  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Projected Censored  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Pollinator Report Emily Lanxner  
4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Kitchen Permaculture  
Rebecca Beldier

#### #9: Sat 10-11 am

1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Sex Fly Bengé  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Pitter Patter Radio Pat Kantner  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Under the Covers  
DJ Rhizosphere  
4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Full Moon Hacksaw



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# EVENTS

## Saturday, January 3

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

## Monday, January 5

**JEUDEVINE PLAYERS**, 3 p.m. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Tuesday, January 6

**KIDS' CHORUS**, 3 p.m., for ages 9 and up. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## WEDNESDAY, January 7

**HOMESCHOOL UKULELE CLASS** for beginners, 11 a.m. for ages 7 and up. Borrow one from the library or bring your own. Sign up required: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Friday, January 9

**CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE**, 7 - 9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. Live music by local musicians. All dances taught, no partner needed. Families and beginners welcome. Information: cabotdance@aroundvt.org.

## Sunday, January 11

**VERMONT CELLO DUET**, 4 p.m., Plainfield Opera House. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Admission by donation with tickets available online at plainfieldartsvt.org and at the door.

## Monday, January 12

**JEUDEVINE PLAYERS**, 3 p.m. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Tuesday, January 13

**KIDS' CHORUS**, 3 p.m., for ages 9 and up. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Wednesday, January 14

**HOMESCHOOL UKULELE CLASS** for beginners, 11 a.m. for ages 7 and up. Borrow one from the library or bring your own. Sign up required: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

**DEATH CAFE**, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. Informal conversation. Refreshments provided.

## Ongoing Events

**ARTHRITIS RELIEF EXERCISE CLASS**, Thursdays, 10 a.m., Community Center, Hardwick. Sponsored by the NEK Council on Aging. Information: Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

**PICKLEBALL**, Sundays, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Beginners group starts at 11 a.m. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information: Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

**CHESS CLUB MEETS**, on select Mondays, 2:45 to 4 p.m., Crafts-bury School, Minden Art Room. Join advisor Andras Hadik-Bar-koczy in preparing for the Vermont State Chess Tournament on March 28.

**KIDS' CHORUS**, Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@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

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** practice group, every Thursday, 2 p.m., John Woodruff Simp-son Memorial Library, 1972 East Crafts-bury Road, Crafts-bury. In-formation: (802) 586-9692, jw-simpsonmemorial.org.

**FRIENDS OF THE JEUDEVINE LIBRARY**, meets the third Tues-day 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 Crafts-bury Road, East Crafts-bury. 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, Crafts-bury Public

See EVENTS, Next Page

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# EVENTS

Library, for children ages 8-13. Reserve a spot to play by contacting [director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org](mailto:director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org). **EARLY LITERACY STORY-TIME**, Craftsbury Public Library - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: [childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org](mailto:childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org) or (802) 586-9683.

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, 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 young people get together at The Civic 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 other while their babies play. Geared for babies 0-18 months. Siblings invited. 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581 or visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

**COMMUNITY SUPPER**, Wednesdays, 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).

**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).

**SPANISH CLUB**, meets the second Saturday of each month, 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library.

**FIBER ARTS**, meets the third Saturday of the month, 10 to 11 a.m., Woodbury Community Library.

**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.

**CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE**, second Fridays, through June, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. All dances taught, no partner needed. All welcome. Information: [cabotdance@aroundvt.org](mailto:cabotdance@aroundvt.org).

**HARDWICK AREA QUILTERS**, the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 1 to 4 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All levels are welcome. Not a library sponsored event.

**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 MAR-**

**KET**, 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 [\[library.org\]\(http://library.org\).](http://jaquithpubli-</a></p>
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**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

**BRENT MCCOY**, solo exhibit, "Tricks of the Light", Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Saturday, through January 11.

**VICTORIA MATIESEN**: Always Looking. New landscape paintings, through January 20, Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

**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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# Lancers snap Wildcats' streak to claim DMC title



Sullivan Laflam (left) of Hazen Union moves the ball up the court as Lamoille players Colby Hall (center) and Jackson Hoag (right) work to stop him during action Friday in the Wildcat den. At right, Lincoln Hill follows the play. Lamoille beat Hazen 61-54 to win the December 19 Dave Morse Classic Championship game.

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys basketball team's six year dominance of the Dave Morse Classic came to an end last week at the hands of an up and coming Lamoille Lancer program.

Brayden Lafountain led a balanced attack with 15 points as Lamoille rallied to defeat Hazen 61-54 to take home the hardware in the 10th annual Dave Morse Classic. The Lancers took a 31-26 lead into the break but found themselves down 6 midway through

photo by Vanessa Fournier the third as Hazen's Jameson Lamarre began to heat up. The junior drilled a pair of threes on his way to a career-high 28 point night. Lamoille cut the lead to 41-40 with eight minutes to play and used a physical defense and some clutch free throw shooting down the stretch to pull the upset. Jackson Hoag (13 points), James Wallace (12) and Isaac Schroeder (11) rounded out Lamoille's top scorers. Senior Sully Laflam added 11 points for the Wildcats in the loss.

"We battled but never played



Hazen Union senior Wildcat Morgan Michaud (left) looks to the basket as he passes defender James Wallace of Lamoille. In the back (center) is official Jim Companion. The Lancers won the Dave Morse Classic Championship game Friday, Dec. 19, 61-54.

with any kind of offensive flow," said head coach Aaron Hill. "Their physical play got us out of sync and as a result, we became very unorganized. We will go to work and get back to our more typical ball movement where we get more people involved offensively and play with a better rhythm,"

In round one Hazen fended off archrival Peoples Academy (PA) 58-55 behind a career-high 20 points from junior Lincoln Hill.

photo by Vanessa Fournier The Wildcats enjoyed a 28-19 lead at the break and a seven point edge heading into the fourth, but had to withstand a flurry from PA's Jack Lafayette. The senior guard scored 18 of his game-high 31 points in the fourth, including a fall away three to cut the lead to one with five seconds to play. Hill calmly sank a pair of clutch free throws to give Hazen a three-point cushion and Lafayette's long three at the buzzer missed the mark.

See DMC, 28



Jon Lussier (left) presents the 10th annual Dave Morse Classic Championship trophy to Lamoille Union after their 61-54 win against Hazen Union, December 19.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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## Happy Holidays

*from Hardwick Trails!*



Thank you to everyone  
for an awesome 2025.

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# ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT

## First High School Ski Race of the Season

CRAFTSBURY – Northern Vermont high schoolers had a chance to enjoy the good snow before last week's thaw skiing around a 2.5 km course one or two times. Skiers went out in wave starts. The racers utilized the venue where the U.S. Biathlon trials were starting the following day, thus were treated to elaborate fencing and course marking.

In the JV-Middle School boys race, Bowman Suddaby took the win in 7:13 followed by 3. Hollis Allen (Craftsbury Academy-CA), 8. Joe Krebs (CA), 11. Finn Nunnery (CA), and 29. Beckham English (Hazen). In the girls race, Bea Johnson (CA) placed first with Ada Allen 2nd (CA), and Amare Hansen 12th (CA). In the varsity girls race, Claire Serrano (U32) was first in 14:56 with CA's Aemelia Terrone 4th, and Lake Region's (LR) Nora Demaine 6th. For the boys, People's Academy Magnus Hayden set the pace winning in 13:54 followed by CA's Oryon Hart, 2nd; Oakley Crawford, CA, 4th; Max Demaine, LR, 5th; Jin Ramsey, PA, 18th; and Linden Urie, LR, 22nd.

## Three Days of U.S. Biathlon Trials in Craftsbury

CRAFTSBURY – Athletes from California, the Rocky Mountains, the Midwest and the Northeast convened for three days of skiing and shooting at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center to see who will receive invitations to ski on the IBU Biathlon circuit in Europe in January; IBU is the level below World Cup. If these qualifiers do well, they will have a chance to represent the U.S. in the upcoming winter Olympics in Italy. The first race last Thursday was a 7.5 km sprint for the women and 10 km race for the men. The second race, also a 7.5 km/10 km sprint, took place on a shortened course on Saturday because of the meltdown

on Friday followed by 12 and 15 km mass starts on Sunday back on the full 2.5 km loop.

The Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP) skiers performed well, with Luke Brown taking two second-place finishes. Vincent Bonacci (Utah-Montana) won both sprint races while Vaclav Cervenka (Army WCAP) from Minnesota won the last days' mass start by over two minutes ahead of Brown. Both Bonacci and Cervenka have had previous experience on the IBU circuit and the World Cup. On the women's side, GRPer Kelsey Dickenson had a win and two 2nd-place finishes, Jackie Gorso had two 3rd-place finishes, and Michaela Keller-Miller had a 5th- and 7th-place finish. Tara Garaghty-Moats (National Guard), who often trains in Craftsbury and is originally from Fairlee, won the final mass start race. After assessing the skiers top two-of-three performances, Dickenson and Kelso will all likely be flying to Europe in week to ski on the IBU circuit. Brown might have just missed the first trip over to Europe as I was told only two men would travel at this time. Keller-Miller was just a few places back. Congrats GRP skiers.

## Craftsbury Biathletes in Switzerland

LENXERHEIDE, Switzerland – Jake Brown (St. Paul, Minn. - Craftsbury Green Racing Project) and Bjorn Westervelt (Stowe - Craftsbury Green Racing Project) helped the U.S. Biathlon Team to a strong finish at IBU Cup 3 in Lenzerheide, SUI, posting the best mixed relay finish in over a decade finishing 5th. They teamed up with Joanne Reid (Grand Junction, Col. - Colorado Biathlon Club), and Luci Anderson (Golden Valley, Minn. - Team Birkie). France, Italy, and Germany took the top three spots.



The first wave of the girls varsity takes off. From left to right: Lamoille 56, Amelia Terrone Craftsbury Academy 52, Tillie Lange St. Johnsbury 55, People's Academy 54, U-32 53, and Nora Demaine Lake Country 51.

photo by Eric Hanson



Green Racing Project (GRP) skier Luke Brown follows closely behind Vaclav Cervenka (Army WCAP) in the U.S. Biathlon trials men's 15 km mass start.

photo by Eric Hanson



GRPer Kelsey Dickenson shoots prone in the first 7.5 km sprint race at the U.S. Biathlon trials.

photo by Eric Hanson



Dickenson takes off from the shooting range after hitting all five targets. She goes on to place 2nd in the race.

photo by Eric Hanson

# Area athletes set new records, reach new heights

## YEAR IN REVIEW

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Local athletes and teams shined once again in 2025 as they set new records and reached new heights that area fans and future stars will remember for years to come.

Despite graduating back to back all-time great senior classes, head coach Aaron Hill and his Hazen Union basketball team defied all naysayers, rolling to their fourth consecutive Division III state title game. Brendan Moodie certainly made his case to get into the All-time Great Wildcats club with a sensational



Sullivan Laflam

senior campaign that saw him lead Hazen in scoring at nearly 20 points per game. Moodie was the only senior starter on the court for Hill's young squad in 2025 as they reeled off 17 wins, capped off by an emphatic upset over undefeated White River Valley in the semifinal round. Moodie scored 92 points throughout the 'Cats' playoff surge and finished his career just shy of 1,000 points.

Hill was named Capital League Coach of the Year for the second time in four years.

Junior Sully Laflam's stellar season was rewarded with a Vermont Basketball Coaches Association (VBCA) Outstanding Underclassmen selection.

The Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team got over the hump in a big way in 2025 and a last

second basket was the only thing preventing them from making their first Division IV title game in over a decade. Head coach Kris Bador took his talented Trojan team to a new level, winning 19 games and getting back to the Barre Auditorium for the first time in eight years. Danville's Kohl Guinard ended Twinfield-Cabot's magical run in the closing seconds and the Pride went on to pummel top seeded West Rutland to capture the title.

Junior Eli Russell had a career year, leading the Trojans in scoring at just under 20 points per game. Fellow junior Tej Stewart was a Swiss-army knife for Bador's injury riddled squad, playing all five



Tej Stewart

positions on the court throughout the season. Russell earned his first VBCA Outstanding Underclassmen selection and Stewart hauled in his third straight.

In just his second season, Bador was named Coach of the Year in both the Mountain League and all of Division IV.

The Hazen Union girls basketball team suffered zero signs of a championship hangover, totaling 20 wins for a third straight season under head coach Randy Lumsden. The Lady Cats set the all-time consecutive wins record with 31 straight and made



Eli Russell

**See Year in Review, next page**



Brendan Moodie

## Trojans ready for rivalry with tune up against Raiders

by Ken Brown

STOWE – Coaches worry about let-down games on the eve of big-time match-ups from time to time, but the Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team was all business against Stowe last weekend as they ready for a heavy weight match-up against crosstown rival Danville.

Senior point guard Eli Russell poured in a game-high 26 points to power the Trojans to a dominant 68-36 road win over Stowe last Saturday. Fellow senior Tej Stewart recorded a triple-double (11 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists) as the visitors took a 46-18 lead into the break and never looked back.

"The boys brought great energy and efficiency on both ends of the floor today. All 10 of our players logged good minutes and it was well deserved for all the work they've been putting in practice. With practice being cancelled Friday, I was a little concerned coming in but they were locked in from the start," said head coach Kris Bador.

Sophomore Omar Miksic-Knibb complemented with 11

points, five steals and seven assists and Thomas Gouge chipped in with 6 points in the win. Russell added to his impressive stat line with five assists and four steals. Bador's Trojans had a full week of practice after capturing their second consecutive Bob Abe Tip-off Classic to open the season in Proctor earlier this month. Next up on the schedule was familiar foe Danville on Tuesday. The Pride dashed Twinfield-Cabot's hopes of a Division IV state championship last winter with a floater from Kohl Guinard in the closing seconds of their semifinal matchup at the Barre Auditorium. Danville went on to capture the state title and the two teams are once again on the short list of championship contenders this season. Bador has nothing but respect for his crosstown rival and insists this matchup is just the next game on the schedule for his veteran team.

"Game three is behind us and now and our next one is 7.5 miles up Route 2 in Danville. As always our coaching staff has scouted them and put a game plan together. Danville is well coached

and disciplined on both ends of the floor. Jason (Brigham) has always done a great job preparing his teams and having them ready to play. We are going to enjoy the challenge and continue to strive to be healthy, humble and hungry!" said Bador.

The Trojans traveled to

Danville on Tuesday and will get a holiday break before squaring off against Williamstown on January 2 in the Winter Solstice at the Barre Auditorium. They will stay on the road for a match-up against Enosburg on January 3 before their home opener against Blue Mountain on January 8.

### DMC

Continued From Page twenty-six

Williamstown downed PA 67-58 in the consolation game behind Alex Clark's 20 points. Lafayette paced the Wolves with 24.

It was another electric atmosphere with high level basketball honoring the memory of the late, great, Dave Morse. Fans from all four schools packed the Cat Den on both Wednesday and Friday night, affirming once again that the decade long tournament commemorating the hall of fame journalist's name is truly one of the best high school basketball tournaments played in the state.

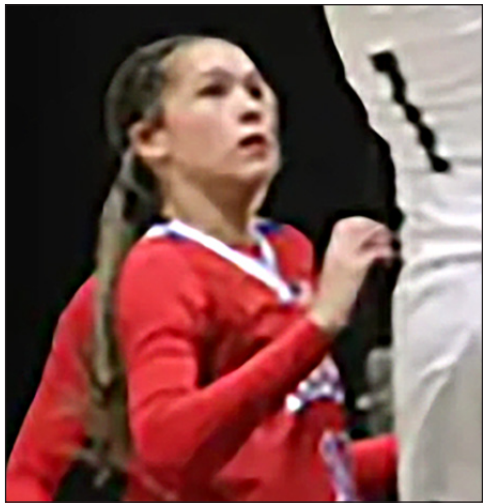
"This year's tournament was one of the best we have had.

Lamoille is one of the top teams in Division II, Williamstown is a top two team in Division IV and PA certainly showed they are a serious contender in our division this year. Every game was close and exciting. We had a full house both nights with an awesome atmosphere, and may have been the largest attendance in tournament history. It was such a wonderful way to honor Dave," said Hill.

Hazen hosted Enosburg on Tuesday, Dec. 23, and traveled to Vergennes, December 29. The Wildcats will head to the Barre Auditorium, January 3, to square off against Peoples Academy in the Winter Solstice. All home games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

## Year in Review

**Continued from previous page**  
it to the Barre Auditorium a third straight season, falling to a dominant Windsor team that cut down the nets for the third time in four years. Sophomore Kelsie Rivard continued to ascend as one of the best players in the state, leading the Lady Cats in scoring. Mya Lumsden took over the offensive reins from all-time great Caitlyn Davison and had career-highs in both points and assists. Both received VBCA Outstanding Underclassmen selections for their outstanding season.



Mya Lumsden

Randy Lumsden recorded his third straight 20 win season since taking over the program at Hazen and was named Mountain League Coach of the Year.



Head Coach Randy Lumsden

Second-year head coach Jack Whalen led his Twinfield-Cabot girls basketball program to a home playoff win for a second consecutive season. On the heels of their first winning record in over a decade, Whalen's squad netted a respectable nine wins. Senior Jorja Washburn capped off her outstanding high school career with a First Team All-Mountain League selection.



Jorja Washburn

Hazen Union alum Mike Clark was inducted into the Vermont Principal's Association (VPA) Hall of Fame for his 40-plus years of service as a decorated high school official. Joining Clark as an inductee was the late great Arlan "Chip" Langmaid. The legendary



Mike Clark

St. Johnsbury Academy head coach was at the helm for 29 Division I state championships for the Hill-toppers in both track and field and cross-country.

East Calais native and former U-32 standout Caitlyn Fielder led her Norwich University women's lacrosse team to a historic season in the spring of 2025. The super sophomore led the Lady Cadets to a program record 15 wins, including their first trip to the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Final Four in over a decade. Fielder's career-high 47 goals earned her First Team GNAC honors. Senior teammate Ellie Moriarty (Stowe) also netted First Team honors and finished her stellar collegiate career as Norwich's all-time assist leader.

Hazen Union's Grayson McNaughten enjoyed a breakout junior season for a rebuilding Wildcat baseball program. The former Craftsbury Academy standout led Hazen on the mound with a team high 42 strikeouts, while batting .380 at the plate and stealing a dozen bases. McNaughten and Wildcat teammate Owen Skorstad were key cogs during the summer in leading Lamoille to a Babe Ruth 16-18U State Championship.



Grayson McNaughten

Craftsbury Academy cross-country and Hazen Union track and field head coach Maxfield English had promising seasons as he continued to rebuild both programs with encouraging participation numbers and young talent. The 49-year-old also enjoyed a



Maxfield English

dominant individual season on the Central Vermont Runners/Onion River Outdoor circuits, winning four times throughout the year.

The sport of soccer ruled on many different levels across the state in 2025. The University of Vermont (UVM) men's soccer team captivated the state with a Cinderella Run through the NCAA Tournament. The unseeded Catamounts captured the university's first ever team Division I National Championship. Many of those same players teamed up in the summer to lead the Vermont Green FC to the franchise's first ever USL2 National Title. Both the Catamounts and the Green ended their 2025 seasons with double-digit sellout records at Virtue Field.

Many high school soccer programs around the state rode that momentum wave into the fall with upticks in interest and increased participation numbers. Leading the way was a storybook season written by head coach Peter Stratman and his Caledonia United boys team. Cal United (16-0) and Twin Valley (16-0) gave soccer fans what they wanted with a clash for the ages in the Division IV state championship match, ultimately won by the Wildcats 2-0. Stratman's team set a program record in wins and senior Eli Russell took home Mountain League Player of the Year honors. Russell capped off an incredible high school career with a program record 30 goals on the season, earning his second consecutive All-State selection. Fellow senior teammates Sam McLane (25 goals) and Josh Petersen (11 shutouts) also went out in style with their first All-State selections. Stratman took home Mountain League Coach of the Year honors

and has now taken three different programs to Division IV Final Fours.

The Hazen Union girls soccer team secured their third consecutive home playoff match with an eleven win season under first year head coach Megan Mercier. Despite their second first round exit from the playoffs in three seasons, the Lady Cats had plenty of highlights this past fall.

Isabelle Gouin put a bow on a legendary high school resume by breaking the school's all-time scoring record with 56 career goals. The senior striker also took home Mountain League Player of the Year honors and was a Vermont All-State selection.



Isabelle Gouin

Junior Taylor Thompson was a terror for the opposition once again for the Lady Cats, earning her third straight Vermont-All-State selection.

Head coach Harry Besett earned Capital League Coach of the Year honors after leading his Hazen boys soccer program to their first winning season in six years. Grayson McNaughten developed into one of the premier goaltenders in the state for the Wildcats in his senior campaign, earning his first Vermont All-State selection.

In a rebuilding year, the Cal United girls soccer team was still able to earn their second straight home playoff match under head coach Spencer Morse.

Junior Eliska Siebenbrunner was a force in net and on the field for Cal United, earning a Vermont All-State selection.



Eliska Siebenbrunner

We say goodbye to some all-time great local high school athletes in 2025, but with the emergence of several talented underclassmen, the odds say the stars will be back out again in 2026. Merry Christmas to you and your families and may you have sports-filled happy holidays.