



Residents question town meeting location, accessibility

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – The first regular February select board meeting, began with

Ann Gilcris of Hardwick, saying, “I saw something the other day that kind of disturbed me, and I finally decided I’d come here and speak to you about it.” She said, “Now, what made you decide that the Town House was the ideal place to hold town meeting? Was it the ample spacing, that people could run in easily to vote, or did you have extra money to spend to heat that place for two days so that we’d have a warm building to have meeting businesses in? Or did you want to

run a bus around town to pick up people that can’t find a parking place but want to be able to come to the meeting or not able to walk to the meeting for different reasons ...”

Gilcris continued, “Or did you just decide that there didn’t need to be so many booths with different things that you had at Hardwick Elementary School, or the food, because I don’t see how that’s going to be available. Or did you just want most of us not to vote because we’re not going to be able to, a lot of the older ones, and I’ve been talking with them. They’re not going to be able to go to the meeting. There’s others I

See **ACCESSIBILITY, 5**



A CCS Constructors crane lifted the bridge and set it down by the OSSU Supervisory Union, formerly the Daniels building, in Hardwick. It was dismantled and trucked away. At left, a temporary bridge placed last week, will be used by the construction workers to travel across the river. It will be removed following completion of the project.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Schoolhouse receives 2026 Historic Preservation Grant



Window restoration at the Wolcott Schoolhouse next to the Wolcott Town Hall received \$20,000 in funding from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

photo courtesy Wolcott Community Trust

by **Paul Fixx**

WOLCOTT – The Wolcott Schoolhouse, constructed ca. 1855, has received a \$20,000 grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as part of \$330,211 in Historic Preservation Grant awards to 19 municipalities and non-profit organizations in nine counties. This funding will facilitate the restoration and rehabilitation of Vermont landmarks and important historic buildings and structures, helping to leverage more than \$1 million in restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The Wolcott Schoolhouse served as a local public school for more than 100 years, from its construction in 1855 until 1988.

In 2007 the town renovated the newer

wing of the schoolhouse, built in 1964, to provide town offices and disconnected the historic schoolhouse from the newer wing. It has been largely unused since.

The newly formed Wolcott Community Trust is now working to rehabilitate the building to house the library and historical society with flexible spaces for community groups and gatherings. The building will undergo complete rehabilitation with the state preservation grant funding restoration of the building’s historic wood windows.

Linda Martin, with the community trust, said the town has given the trust a 99 year lease on the property, which has allowed it to pursue grants and other funding.

See **SCHOOLHOUSE, 4**



Karen Lane enters her ballot to be recorded at the Calais Town Hall during Washington Central Unified Union School District voting on the fate of Calais Elementary School, Tuesday, January 10. Votes in Calais and Worcester will determine whether the Washington Central Supervisory Union budget will support five, four or three schools in FY27.

photo by Calais Town Clerk Teegan Dykeman-Brown

Circus Smirkus suspends Summer 2026 Big Top Tour

by **Paul Fixx**

GREENSBORO – “After many months of planning, financial modeling, and careful consideration, the Smirkus Board and leadership have made the difficult decision not to hold a Big Top Tour program in Summer 2026,” wrote Circus Smirkus Executive and Artistic Director Rachel Schiffer in a message addressed to Smirkus friends and family. February 2.

“Because of you, we were able to pause, assess honestly, and choose a path that protects the long-term health of the organization. Thank you.”

“This decision was made with careful consideration,” she said.

“Throughout the fall and early winter, we explored multiple models for putting the Big Top Tour on the road in 2026, including reduced and alternative formats. Ultimately, none could be implemented responsibly without placing undue strain on staff capacity, timelines or financial sustainability. Moving forward under those conditions would have put the integrity of the program and the organization itself at risk.

The letter continued, saying the budget approved by the board in January “reflects our responsibility to ensure that when the Big Top returns, it does so on solid footing and with the care it deserves.”

See **TOUR, 4**

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POLICE REPORT

Cabot Fire Department Guardrail collision, no injuries

CABOT – On the morning of February 4, Cabot Fire Department responded to its second motor vehicle accident within the last 12 hours. The late night call was mutual aid to Marshfield, with cancellation en route. No one was injured. Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service responded and assessed the occupants. Walden Fire Department also responded to provide mutual aid.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Ten people used AWARE services between February 1 and February 8. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463. A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender. For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit awarevt.org.

Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department



Greensboro Fire responded to Country Club Road in Greensboro for a box truck stuck in the road at 2:43 p.m., February 7. The vehicle became stuck on the hill blocking both lanes. Traffic control was coordinated to block the road and prevent an accident with Orleans County Sheriffs Department assisting. Trahan Towing responded and removed the vehicle from the roadway.

social media photo



February 11 - February 17

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<p>Folgers Ground Coffee \$6.99 9.6 oz.</p>	<p>Starbucks Ground Coffee \$8.99 12 oz.</p>	<p>Kellogg's Rice Krispies or Corn Flakes \$3.99 12 oz.</p>
<p>Pearl Milling Pancake Mix \$3.49 32 oz.</p>	<p>Annie's Mac & Cheese Dinners 2/\$3 6 oz.</p>	<p>Campbell's Chunky Soups 2/\$5 18.8-19 oz.</p>
<p>Filippo Berio Olive Oil \$8.99 16.9 oz.</p>	<p>Skippy Peanut Butter 2/\$5 15-16.3 oz.</p>	<p>Betty Crocker Cake Mixes 2/\$3 13.25-14.25 oz.</p>
<p>Betty Crocker Brownie Mixes 2/\$4 16.3 oz.</p>	<p>Hersheys Baking Chips \$3.49 8-12 oz.</p>	<p>Bakers Baking Chocolate \$3.99 4 oz.</p>
<p>Choco Love Chocolate Bars \$2.99 3.1-3.2 oz.</p>	<p>Bear Naked Granola \$3.99 12 oz.</p>	<p>Glad Trash or Tall Kitchen Bags \$9.49 25-40 ct.</p>
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WEATHER WATCH

Moderating temperatures; chances for light snow remain

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – More cold temperatures arrived just in time for the weekend, with wind chills both Sunday and Monday mornings in the 20s below zero locally. Some light snow passed through on Saturday morning with the arrival of a cold front ushering in the Arctic airmass and some stronger winds. This led to the issuance of cold weather advisories.

The intensely cold air does retreat this week, leaving temperatures to moderate. As we make that transition, a clipper system crossing the crossing New England today and its lingering trough will bring snow showers to the region that will end by sunset. From there, a large area of high pressure maintains its influence through the weekend with mostly sunny skies, calm winds, and temperatures only slightly below normal, which will seem tolerable in comparison to what the past several days were like.

The next area of focus becomes a low-pressure area that develops over Texas and ejects to the mid-Atlantic by late Sunday. Model trends and spread seem to have this system staying well to our south, with increasing clouds occurring later in the day on Sunday. There's still time for things to change; but dodging another snowstorm makes sense with the influence of our fair-weather system for the duration. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Additional 1-2 inches of accumulation. High: 25. Low: 12. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny. High: 21. Low: 8. Northwest wind 5-10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny. High: 27. Low: 9. Calm wind.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High: 30. Low: 8. Calm wind.

Sunday: Partly sunny. High: 32. Low: 17. Light and variable wind.



The image of a fox materializes in the soot on the window of a pellet stove in Hardwick last week. photo by Paul Fixx

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department

Arrests on warrant, crack possession

HARDWICK – On January 21, Hardwick Police stopped Craig Devenger of West Danville for a motor vehicle violation on South Main Street. Investigation revealed that Devenger was under criminal suspension in Vermont and in possession of crack cocaine. Devenger was transported to the Hardwick Police Department for processing

and released on a citation to appear in the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division, Caledonia Unit to be arraigned on the above charge.

On February 3, at 7:39 p.m., Hardwick Police arrested Kevin Fradette on an outstanding Parole Board violation. Fradette was taken into custody without incident and

taken to the Hardwick Police Department. Fradette was picked up by the Department of Corrections and transported to the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

On February 3, at 5:05 p.m., Hardwick Police were on patrol and observed Brent Rathburn outside 122 Spring St. in Hardwick. Rathburn had an in-state arrest warrant for failure to appear for an arraignment. Rathburn was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility. Rathburn has a court date for February 4 at 12:30 p.m.

On February 3, at 5:53 p.m., Hardwick Police was notified that Casandra Rich was turning herself in on her warrant. She was taken

into custody without incident. She was lodged at Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

On February 5, at 8:59 a.m., the Hardwick Police Department responded to the area of Wolcott Street at South Main Street for the report of a two-car motor vehicle crash. Investigation revealed the crash had occurred on Wolcott Street just west of the intersection with South Main. Though both cars were damaged, no one was injured during the crash. The bright morning sun may have played a role in this crash. Motorists are urged to slow down, wear sunglasses, or use overhead car visors as well as avoid looking into any intense light sources while driving.



Marshfield Fire responded late Tuesday night, January 10, to a single vehicle crash in the village. Plainfield Fast Squad and East Montpelier Ambulance assisted on scene, Cabot and Plainfield Fire Departments were canceled en route. social media photo



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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – February 1: Property Watch, Vt. Route 16; Snowmobile, LVRT; Snowmobile, LVRT; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Assist - Motorist, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Medical, Pine Dr.; Assist - Agency, High St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.

February 2: Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 16; VIN verification, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Wanted Person, Vt. Route 15 W; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15.

February 3: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Threats/Harassment, Woodbury St.; VIN verification, Craftsbury Rd.; Wanted Person, Spring St.; Transport, High St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 West; Trespassing, S. Main St.

February 4: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 14 S.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Suspicious Event, Upper Cherry St.; Traffic

Stop, Pumpkin Lane; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 West; VIN verification, Central St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; TRO/FRO Service, Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

February 5: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Accident, Property Damage Only, S. Main St.; Snowmobile, Hardwick; Assist - Public, Mini Mart Dr.; Fire Alarm, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 16.

February 6: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Snowmobile, Hardwick.

February 7: Theft, Vt. Route 15; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 16; Citizen Dispute, Maple St.

February 8: Medical, Bunker Hill Rd.; Assist - Agency, VIN verification, High St.; Welfare Check, S. Main St.

Schoolhouse

Continued From Page One

The window project is expected to cost a total of \$56,000, of which this grant will fund \$20,000 and the rest will come for other sources.

The project had already received \$400,000, including \$100,000 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and other funding from the Vermont Community Fund, the Council on Rural Development and Preservation Trust.

Vermont Integrated Architects has done a structural assessment and are beginning to work on other parts of the project, she said.

A capital campaign will begin soon for the balance of funding for the project, said Martin.

After the library and historical society move to the schoolhouse, it is hoped a cafe can be developed in the depot and leased to an operator.

“Across the state, Vermonters are stepping up to take care of places that are the pillars of our communities,” said Governor Phil Scott. “This program supports local leadership, leverages additional investment, and preserves historic buildings that make Vermont so special, so they can continue to welcome residents and visitors for years to come.”

“The Historic Preservation Grants support places that matter, that reflect Vermont’s history, that serve as the centerpieces of our communities,” stated State Historic Preservation Officer Laura V.

Trieschmann. “Preserving historic buildings like those receiving 2026 grant funding starts at the local level, and we applaud this year’s grant recipients for their commitment.”

Grants awarded this year will support work on historic community buildings from Brownington to Guilford. Projects include slate roof work at the Isley Public Library in Middlebury, the Bennington County Courthouse, and the Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph. Other projects include window restoration at the Wolcott Schoolhouse, plaster restoration at the Bellows Falls Opera House, and drainage masonry restoration at the Union Meeting Hall in Ferrisburgh. The full list of award winners is available on the Historic Preservation Grant web page.

Historic Preservation Grants are a state-funded program awarding one-to-one matching grants up to \$20,000 for the rehabilitation of civic and community resources that are a vital part of Vermont’s historic downtowns, villages, and rural communities. To qualify, the resource must be at least fifty years of age and listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Since the creation of the Historic Preservation Grants in 1986, almost 700 projects on historic buildings, structures, and sites owned by municipalities and non-profits have received over \$6 million.



At 4 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 3, Cabot Fire Department’s Rory Thibault responded to a call from Aedan Scribner to help repair the ice rink, spraying water from the Cabot Fire Department truck to the left as he helps. Scribner said, “We’ve had a tricky year as the very cold temps are great for keeping it frozen, but make any repairs or resurfacing challenging. It’s my second year managing the rink and last year went much more smoothly.” *courtesy photo*

Vermont State Police Assault, DUI

MARSHFIELD – On February 5 at 12:30 p.m., the Vermont State Police - Berlin Barracks responded to a report of an assault at 1913 Peacham Pond Rd. in the town of Peacham. Investigation revealed that Matilda Adelaide committed the offense of Aggravated Assault during an altercation with Patrick Gomez of Marshfield. Adelaide was issued a citation to appear in the Caledonia County Superior Court, Criminal Division, for the above offense on February 6 at 12:30 p.m.

PLAINFIELD – On February 8 at 2:30 a.m., troopers responded to a disabled vehicle on U.S. Route 2 in the town of Plainfield. Upon arrival, troopers identified the operator of the vehicle as Aldo Ramos of Essex. Troopers observed signs of impairment and subsequently arrested Ramos for suspicion of DUI. He was processed at the Berlin Barracks and later released with a citation to appear in the Washington County Superior Court, Criminal Division on February 26 at 8:30 a.m.

Tour

Continued From Page One

She emphasized “this pause applies only to the Big Top tour. Smirkus remains active and vibrant in 2026. Smirkus Camp and our school residency programs will continue.” She said, “Our goal is for Tour 2027 to mark the beginning of

a thoughtful rebuilding phase, a ‘building blocks’ stage that allows the tour to return in a way that is financially sound, creatively strong and positioned to thrive for years to come. Our 2026 budget includes dedicated resources for tour strategy, planning, and fundraising to support that work.”

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Accessibility

Continued From Page One

know that just go in to vote, and they're parking outside. Well, they're going to go and see there's no parking places, and they're not going to come into vote."

Gilcris concluded by saying, at the previous town meeting, a vote took place about moving town meeting to the town house. She says this was met with "a resounding no."

Chair Eric Remick was first to respond, saying there is access and while the Town House is smaller than the elementary school gymnasium, there is parking and is a large enough space for the usual amount of attendees.

Remick added the townhouse has better acoustics, making it easier to hear everyone.

Gilcris asked when the last town meeting was held in the town house, which the board determined was 2006.

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane interjected, saying she recently spoke to Hardwick Town Clerk Tonia Chase about being set up at the townhouse. According to Galloway-Kane, Maya McCoy of the NEKarts board has put together a ton of volunteers to help with parking.

"There are going to be people actually out there helping with parking, helping to make sure people can get inside, providing different directions. I think there's been a lot of thought on how to make it accessible to people," she said.

Continuing, Galloway-Kane said obviously it's winter, it's tricky, but similarly in downtown Hardwick there is no guaranteed parking on Main Street for people going into the school.

She continued, "So I think we're going to encourage people to park on Creamery Road, which is a pretty short walk. Probably the same distance from the school parking lot down . . . So what we decided as a select board is to try it this year. There's a vote again, there's a vote on the ballot to decide whether or not we want to continue to have it at the townhouse or at the school."

Gilcris asked if the space would be as warm as the elementary school. Board member Shari Cornish responded, "So it'll be heated from March 1 to the end of the season, which is November 1. NEKarts pays for the heat."

Galloway-Kane emphasized these questions are important to hear before town meeting.

Chair Remick added, "And it may not end up working well, which is why we added a question to the warning about where to hold it next year."

Town Manager David Upson then spoke, saying having looked through the minutes, the board determined it was 2023 that the topic of location last came up.

Ceilidh Galloway Kane said, "I think your idea of having a bus, or at least volunteers who are willing to pick people up, whether or not town meeting is at the school is a really good one. To me it doesn't matter where it is, but that should be an option for folks because it's not always easy."

Gilcris responded, saying "Perhaps policemen should be around for help with the parking or for people just coming in to vote. That's another thing that bothers me, that for those who do not go to the meeting, but they come in to vote for the selectmen . . . and if they don't find an easy parking place like they do in front of the school, then they're not gonna vote . . . you're going to cut off a lot of votes."

Anne Galloway was present, asking the board if they had considered moving town meetings to Saturday. Chair Remick said the board had previously discussed this, with Remick looking into the matter, "What I found reported was that towns that had changed town meeting date or time didn't necessarily see an increase in attendance."

Remick said he hasn't looked into the matter recently, and polls still need to be open on town meeting day.

Upson said, "So he's right, town meetings that have moved to Saturdays, or the evenings, have been less attended when the polls aren't open."



A CCS crane lifts a temporary bridge from the Main Street side of the Lamoille River in Hardwick village to the parking lot beside the Daniels Building, February 4. The work began the long-anticipated project to replace Hardwick's swinging bridge. Work came to halt following removal of the old bridge last week until March when it's anticipated replacement of the South Main Street retaining wall will begin work leading to replacement of the pedestrian bridge.

photo by Ross Connelly

"That's not to say we shouldn't consider it," said Remick. "I think anything we can do to increase participation, should be considered."

Galloway asked if she could bring it to the floor, to which the board said yes but it would not

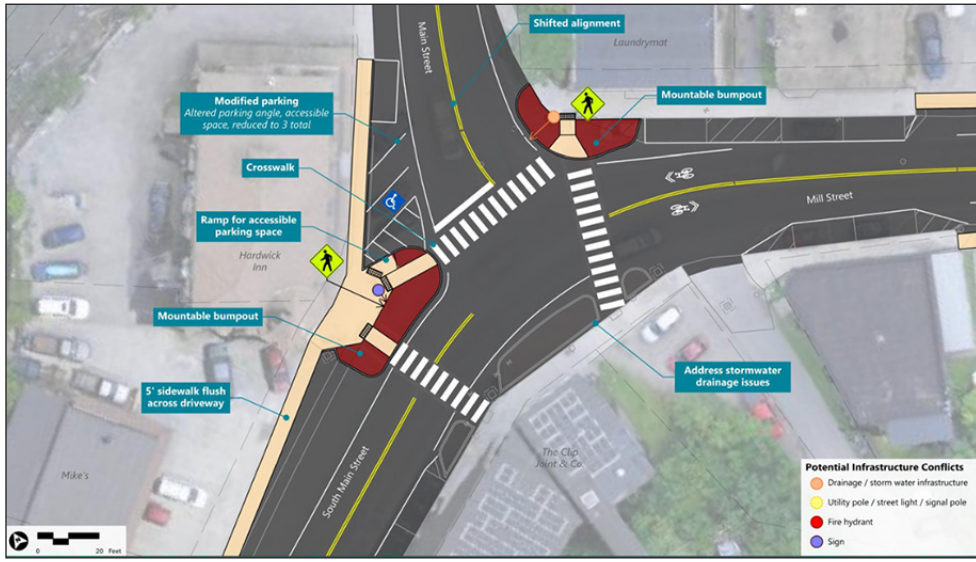
be on the warning. The board said they could warn it for next year, or potentially put it on a ballot during the primary election. After some discussion, the board directed Galloway to Town Clerk Tonia Chase for further information.



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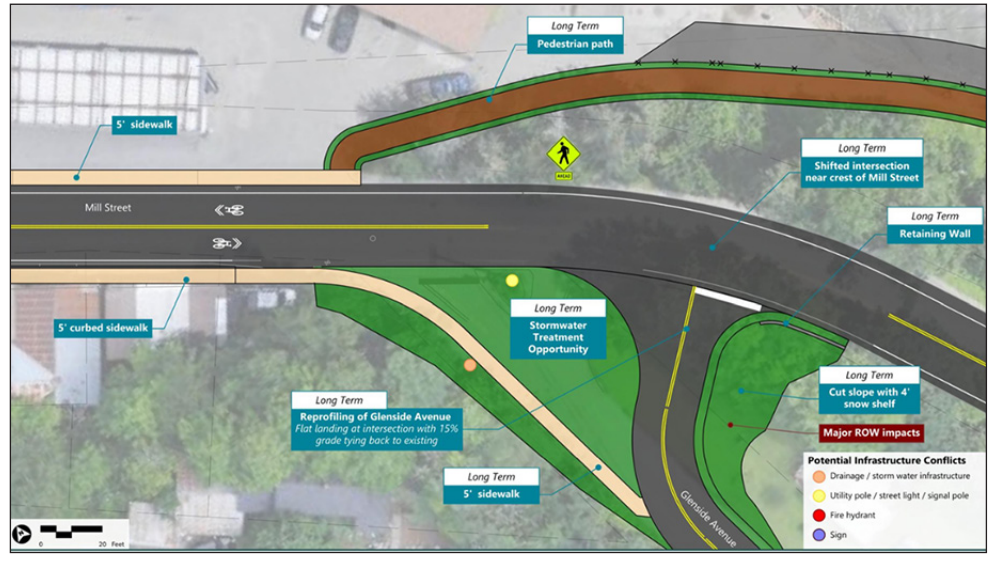
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Suggestions presented to the public at a January 7 by VHB representatives under contract to the Town of Hardwick show improvements to the Intersection of Main Street with Mill Street, with narrowing of each road crossing by adding islands that shorten the crosswalks, making them safer.

courtesy rendering



Realignment of the intersection of Glenside Avenue with Mill Street creates a safer intersection, with improved visibility to the east along Vt. Rte. 15, in the preferred alternative presented at a final public meeting to share findings of the Hardwick Downtown Study, January 7.

courtesy rendering

Downtown traffic study results accepted

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK - A study looking at vehicular and pedestrian traffic in downtown Hardwick came to a close at the February 5 Hardwick Select Board meeting with the board's acknowledgement that the public engagement process had come to a close. With that vote, the next step becomes a search for funding a design phase of the project to improve the flow of traffic, pedestrians and bicycles through the area.

The six-month Mill Street and Main Street Scoping Study began with the town's engagement of VHB consultants who studied pedestrian and vehicular traffic from Vt. Rte. 15 near the former entrance of the Inn by the River, along Mill Street to its intersection with Glenside Avenue, to the intersection at the Hardwick Inn and along South Main Street, stopping before its intersection with Wolcott Street.

In that area, the study intended to create a safe, comfortable environment in the village core and establish a clear transition to the area where motorized vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles coexist, supporting access to community destinations including businesses and recreational resources.

VHB reported more than 80 residents, business owners and other stakeholders provided input through three public meetings, discussion and other feedback. That process included exploration of alternatives developed in response to community input, public review and several steps of refining alternatives.

"Based on that input, town staff and VHB consultants have consolidated the feedback into one final preferred alternative, rather than multiple competing options," wrote VHB.

"This final version reflects the clear themes that emerged from the public process, including specific direction on issues residents felt strongly about, such as maintaining access on Summer Street and not pursuing its closure."

That version, presented to the public at a final January 7 meeting in the Jeudevine Memorial Library's Parker Ladd Community Room, was acknowledged by the select board, February 5.

The January 7 meeting allowed residents and others to look at conditions identified in Hardwick's downtown core and see recommendations to create a safe and comfortable environment for pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles.

Deficiencies and needs identified in the study area were the lack of an effective transition zone from the high-speed Vt. Rte. 15 rural highway into village center, a lack of continuous sidewalks, no capacity to handle increased activity from the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) and issues caused by turning vehicles, missing or inadequate crosswalks and impaired stormwater drainage.

Estimates of the cost for implementing alternatives presented by VHB ranged from roughly \$500,000 to \$1,200,000 a comprehensive package of treatments that included work on roads, driveways, sidewalks and signage resulting in significantly improved traffic operations and safety.

Comments from the first two public meetings supported suggested sidewalk treatments, pedestrian crossings and gateway treatments as drivers enter town, but a possibility suggested to dead-end Summer Street was not supported.

The community expressed a strong desire to not lose any more parking spots than necessary and increase their value.

Comprehensive treatments

recommended at the village intersection where South Main Street meets Mill Street and Main Street, included pedestrian bump-outs to shorten the crosswalk distances, including a new crosswalk from the Hardwick Inn to the Village Laundramat.

Work to address ongoing drainage issues in front of the 9 South Main Street building, where The Clip Joint is located, were recommended.

Improved sidewalk markings across the entrance to Mike's Service Center and the former location of Ricahrd Brochu's garage were components of the proposed plan too.

Several accidents were identified as happening at the driveway entrance to the U.S. Post Office (USPS), which VHB suggested

reconfiguring so that it is close to the USPS building, improving sight lines.

In response to a question from select board Chair Erick Remick, the VHB consultant said USPS staff had responded favorably to the suggestion.

A long-term phased approach to improve the Glenside Avenue intersection, adding a sidewalk connection and proposed pedestrian path across Mill Street was favored.

Earlier comments from the public resulted in an exploration of crosswalk treatments, parking options and traffic calming measures, which were presented.

A radar speed feedback sign was proposed for the village entrance, prior to the Glenside Avenue intersection.




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Vermont is overhauling Act 250. It's getting complicated

by Carly Berlin and Erin Petenko, VT Digger

VERMONT – Since its passage in 1970, Act 250 has worked more or less the same way. Broadly speaking, projects triggered review under the law based on how big they were, rather than where they were located, whether that was in the middle of town or on a country road.

Act 181 changed that. Its premise: ease the rules in developed areas to promote more homebuilding amid an acute housing shortage, and strengthen the law's protections over sensitive ecosystems.

Lawmakers mandated a first-of-its-kind statewide land-use map that will dictate where development will be subject to Act 250 scrutiny, and where it won't be.

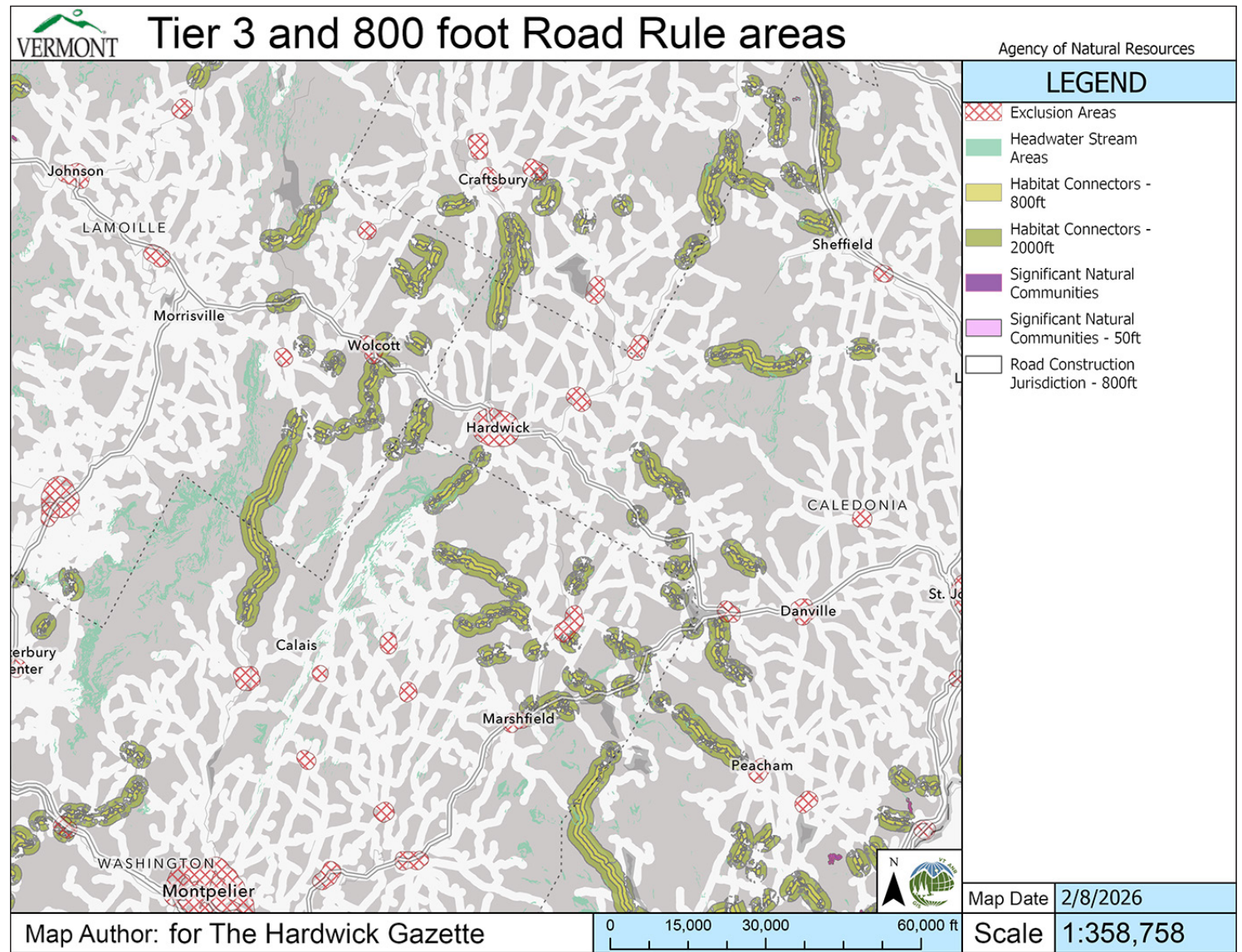
The state is categorizing land into three different "tiers" in a complex mapping process that has drawn confusion and controversy. Here's a progress check on each.

In Tier 1, Act 250 review will be relaxed for housing development. Regional planning commissions and municipalities will decide, with final approval by the Land Use Review Board. Tier 1 is split into two levels. In Tier 1A areas, development will be fully exempt from Act 250. Only Vermont's largest municipalities with sophisticated local zoning are likely to qualify for Tier 1A: Burlington, South Burlington and Rutland City are all currently preparing to apply. In Tier 1B areas, housing projects that are 50 units or fewer will be exempt from Act 250. Regional planning commissions are currently mapping out where these areas could be.

Five of Vermont's 11 regional planning commissions have submitted draft maps to the Land Use Review Board, giving us insight into where Tier 1B areas could be. (Only four RPCs were able to share their map data with VT Digger/Vermont Public before publication.)

Some municipalities that qualified for a Tier 1B area have chosen not to opt in to the Act 250 exemption, at least for now. In Chittenden County, Vermont's population center, a third of the towns the regional planning commission designated as potential Tier 1B areas have chosen not to get the status, including Colchester and Essex.

The Land Use Review Board also gets a chance to weigh in on the proposed Tier 1B areas, and in some cases has advocated for



White areas and the red hashed exclusion areas in this map covering from Craftsbury in the north, to Montpelier in the south and from Morrisville to the west and Danville in the east, will not require Act 250 review under Act 181 scheduled to take effect in December 2026. Construction will be permitted in the red exclusion areas and within 800 feet of roads identified by the white area. Olive green areas show 2,000 foot habitat connector areas and teal areas show protected headwater stream areas. Look for the Tier 3 Map Viewer to access the interactive map at act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report#Materials mapping provided by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

regional planning commissions to shrink them, including in the Rutland County towns of Castleton, Fair Haven, Killington and Poultney. The Land Use Review Board wanted the regional planners to match their 1B areas with traditional town centers "which don't always align [with] where those communities see future growth," said Devon Neary, director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

Based on preliminary maps for the entire state, Neary, who also chairs the state association of regional planners, expects 2% to 2.5% of the state's land to end up falling in Tier 1. That's less land area than currently falls under current temporary exemptions to Act 250, he said.

Regional planners will continue submitting maps to the Land Use Review Board in the coming months. The board expects to have all initial Tier 1B boundaries set by the end of the year, according to chair Janet Hurley.

The majority of the state's land is expected to end up in Tier 2. Tier 2 will more or less see Act 250's current structure continue, with one important change. That one important change is called the "road rule." When a private entity wants to build a road over 800 feet

long in a Tier 2 area, or a combination of roads and driveways longer than 2,000 feet, Act 250 review will kick in. The rule is intended to encourage development close to roads and prevent the fragmentation of forests. The new rule takes effect on July 1. That's before both the Tier 1 and Tier 3 maps are expected to be complete, which is important because Tier 2 will encompass all land that's not in one of the other tiers.

Tier 3 will consist of areas deemed "critical natural resources," where Act 250 review will be automatic for most construction. The Land Use Review Board decides. The Land Use Review Board identified three types of these resources to focus on protecting in Tier 3: rare natural communities, headwater streams in certain areas, and significant habitat connectors along roads. The board has released a draft map of where these areas are and preliminary rules for what kinds of development would trigger review, though they plan to release a heavily amended version in late February, according to Alex Weinhagen, the board member leading the Tier 3 process.

Rural municipal officials and property owners have pushed back against the Land Use Review Board's Tier 3 map, arguing

that too much land is falling into this more restrictive bucket.

"The current draft maps for Tier 3 disproportionately disadvantage Moretown's potential for housing development in some of the few areas best suited to housing growth," Karen Horn, the chair of Moretown's planning commission, wrote to the Land Use Review board in December. The prospect of laying on additional state review on areas where housing is encouraged locally "is beyond demoralizing," Horn added.

A resident on Wheelerville Road in Mendon wrote to the Land Use Review Board arguing that the entirety of her road should not be considered Tier 3 as a habitat connector, since wildlife use nearby intact forests to move around.

Weinhagen is sympathetic to these concerns, he said, adding that the next version of the Tier 3 map "will show much tighter areas."

He also wants the board to consider exempting "very small development" in Tier 3 areas, like homesteads on half an acre. Tier 3 jurisdiction is slated to kick in at the end of 2026.

This story, by Report for America corps member Carly Berlin, was produced through a partnership between VT Digger and Vermont Public.

House lawmaker's proposed school consolidation map would combine 119 districts into 27

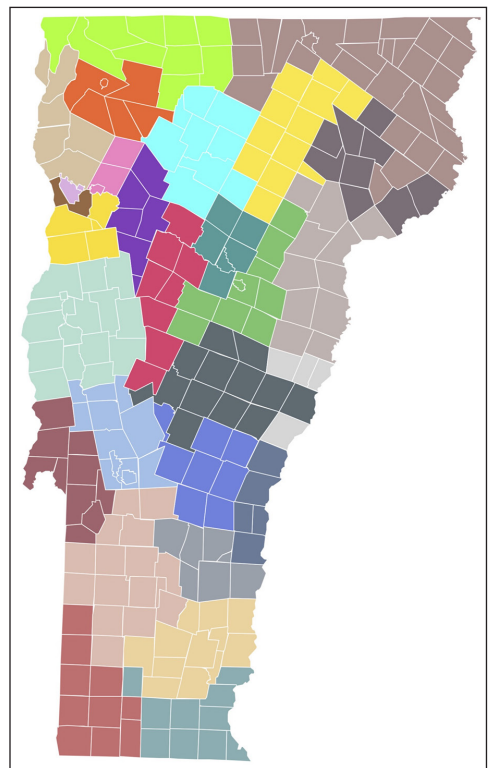
by Corey McDonald, VTDigger

MONTPELIER – Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, the House Education Committee chair, on Thursday introduced the first concrete proposal presented this legislative session to consolidate Vermont's dozens of school districts.

The proposal would merge the state's 119 districts and the 52 entities that govern them into 27 supervisory districts, each with student populations between 2,000 and 4,000, Conlon said.

The proposal would end non-operating districts, discard supervisory unions in favor of supervisory districts and introduce an updated statutory framework around Vermont's school choice system.

The map, by Conlon's own admission, is "faulty" and "fraught with political decisions." But he told fellow committee members the



Rep. Peter Conlon's draft district map courtesy of the Vermont Legislature

proposal was "not meant to be the end-all be-all."

"It's not perfect, and it's meant as a starting point, not an ending point," he said. "But even more so, the point is really to give us something to say, 'Oh, I can get behind this concept.'"

Rep. Leanne Harple, D-Glover, questioned whether small schools in her Northeast Kingdom district would still be viable under the proposal, a sentiment echoed by various school district officials and rural schools advocates over the past several months.

Conlon's proposal signals a ramping up of lawmakers' efforts to garner some consensus around school consolidation, set in motion last year by the state's sweeping education reform law, Act 73.

Those efforts hit a speed bump in the fall, when the school redistricting task force, directed by lawmakers to draw up maps last summer, flouted that directive and instead issued a proposal emphasizing voluntary mergers with school construction aid incentives.

Gov. Phil Scott, Vermont Agency of Education officials and some top lawmakers say consolidation is critical to achieving more equity across Vermont's public school system, and is a crucial prerequisite to establishing a new education finance formula. The legislature needs to agree on a map of consolidated school districts this year, proponents say, or risk delaying Act 73's reforms significantly.

Concerns have emerged around the feasibility of travel times for students in more rural areas under Conlon's proposed districts. Not to mention, the map's districts fall below the 4,000 to 8,000 students per



Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, chair of the House Education Committee, speaks during a press conference at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Tuesday, Jan. 6. photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

district that Act 73 suggests.

"There's a huge difference between clicking on towns and actually driving across counties," Harple said Thursday. "When we think about getting up to 2,000 (students), that's a farther distance for the people living there than you realize."

Conlon noted those concerns on Thursday. "This is what could be, using the testimony that we have heard," Conlon said. "But it is not meant to say, 'This is what should be.'"

Notably, Conlon's proposal introduces tweaks to state statute around Vermont's school choice system.

The proposal keeps some of the current language, but introduces new parameters. Under the changes, school districts would assign a designated public or private school for each grade if there is no "reasonably accessible public school" operated by the district.

School districts would have to enter into a contract with receiving schools, be they public or private schools (called independent

schools under state law).

Those schools would have to adhere to a host of requirements. Schools would be required to send progress and attendance reports to the primary district, for example.

Schools under contract would also be prohibited from conducting mandatory interviews and academic entrance exams, or charging students application or academic fees during the admissions process.

The policy changes, Conlon said, are an effort to respect "the fact that we need our historic academies" while also "pulling the state out of this complicated choice situation."

Policy changes would also open the door for districts to utilize cooperative service agreements, regional entities endorsed by the school redistricting task force that allow districts to share services like special education, transportation, business and administrative services and curriculum development.

The committee will continue to take testimony from experts and from public education officials, Conlon said Thursday.

OUR E-MAILS

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Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a hybrid hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 7 p.m., at the Greensboro Town Office and via ZOOM. The Board will consider a Conditional Use request by William Lyman to build a boathouse at 168 Aspenhurst. This request will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Use, and 8.7 New Uses and Encroachments Within the Shoreland Buffer Resource District (B)3. An in-person site visit for the proposal will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. Both the hearing and the site visit are open to the public.

The meeting number is 824 558 6005. There is no password. You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at: 646 931 3860.

The application is available for review at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, www.greensborovt.gov. Participation in the proceeding, either in person or in writing, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal. Interested persons may join the ZOOM hearing or send a letter or email (zoning@greensborovt.gov) to the Development Review Board at the Greensboro Town Clerk's office to comment on the proposed plan.

The Greensboro Development Review Board

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“The pit” in Newport may soon be sold

by Alan J. Keays, VTDigger

NEWPORT – The federal-appointed person charged with overseeing properties at the center of an investor fraud scandal that rocked Vermont appears to be winding down his work after nearly a decade on the job.

Michael Goldberg wrote in a recent court filing that he expected soon to sell off the last receivership property, a piece of land in the heart of downtown Newport known as “the pit” on Main Street.

Properties tied to the scandal were placed into receivership when federal and state regulators began enforcement actions against the developers of the project in 2016. VT-Digger broke news and drove coverage of the scandal.

Goldberg, who has served as the court-appointed receiver since that time, has sold most of the properties off, including two ski resorts. Now, according to the update on his work last week, the receivership is nearing its end with the expected sale of the Newport property.

Goldberg wrote that he “has been in extended negotiations to sell this property and is hopeful a sale can be consummated within the next six months and the proceeds of the sale along with other funds the Receiver is holding can be distributed to investors as the Court directs.”

The sale of the site would be a major step forward in cleaning up a highly visible reminder of dashed

hopes for a project that turned out to be riddled with problems.

No other details about the potential sale, including the identity of the buyer or price, were included in the filing, and Goldberg could not be reached for comment.

Newport Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase said this week there was nothing he could add to the statement included in the receiver’s court filing.

“All I’m at liberty to say is that it jives with my understanding of where he is in the process,” Ufford-Chase said.

Buildings that had been on the property had been razed more than 10 years ago amid plans to redevelop the site, which had been known as the Spates Block. Those plans were scuttled after the developers were brought up on civil enforcement actions in April 2016 and later criminal charges related to investor fraud allegations.

The developers had proposed turning the Main Street block into a four-story development to be known as the Renaissance Block. It was to feature retail and office space and a restaurant, as well as a hotel and longer-term suites.

The project was among the many initiatives headed by developers to boost the economy of Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, which included massive upgrades to Jay Peak and Burke Mountain ski resorts.

The developers had raised hundreds of millions of dollars for their work through the federal EB-5 visa



Michael Goldberg, the court-appointed receiver in the EB-5 fraud case, speaks at a Statehouse news conference on April 13, 2017.

file photo by Michael Dougherty, VTDigger

program, which allows foreign investors to obtain green cards or permanent U.S. residency, in exchange for putting money into rural development projects.

Some of the work headed by the developers did take place, including improvements to the ski resorts. However, their proposed \$110 million biomedical research facility planned on the outskirts of Newport, as well as the Renaissance Block initiative in the heart of the city, never materialized when the scheme—called “Ponzi-like” by the regulator—fell apart.

The developers in Vermont, Ariel Quiros, Jay Peak’s former owner; Bill Stenger, the resort’s past president; and William Kelly, a former advisor to Quiros, each later

reached plea deals and were sentenced to prison for their roles in the scandal.

Over the course of the receivership, Goldberg and other financial and legal professionals working for him have been paid more than \$13 million to cover their costs in cleaning up the financial mess.

Goldberg’s latest filing was made in federal court in Miami. The case was brought in federal court in Florida because that was where Quiros was living at the time the civil enforcement actions were brought against him.

Quiros received five years behind bars, the longest sentence in the case, and was released from custody in October, according to the U.S. Bureau of Prison’s website.

Buffalo Mountain Town Forest project receives funding award

by Paul Fixx

VERMONT – The Buffalo Mountain Town Forest project was among seven Vermont conservation projects that received funding from the The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Vermont. Of \$500,000 in funding to support the protection of 1,460 acres of critical habitat across the state, \$100,000 was awarded to the Hardwick project, the maximum available in this round of grants.

The award to Northern Rivers Land Trust for Hardwick’s Buffalo Mountain Town Forest noted its walkability from downtown Hardwick and hosting 15 rare plant species. “Conserving this 329-acre area will bolster the protection of a corridor stretching from the vast Woodbury Mountain Preserve down to the Lamoille River,” said the TNC announcement.

“Locally owned and managed town forests are essential to the lives of Vermonters,” said Northern Rivers Land Trust Board Chair Jack Travelstead. “Buffalo Mountain

Town Forest will give Hardwick residents and visitors ready access to outdoor recreation, contributing to community vitality while protecting clean water and preventing forest fragmentation.”

In its announcement, TNC said its Vermont Biodiversity Protection Fund (VBPF) supports land protection projects in priority regions across the state. This round of the VBPF, leveraged \$2,792,423 in funding from other sources that will maintain regional forest connectivity, support biodiversity and improve Vermont’s climate resilience. These grants build upon the first round of the VBPF, bringing the total awarded to \$1 million.

“Vermont has a goal of conserving 30% of its lands and waters by 2030, which requires a strong network of conservation partners, including local land trusts, state agencies and community supporters. The Vermont Biodiversity Protection Fund is an investment in Vermont’s conservation landscape to catalyze critical land protection work in key

areas,” the TNC information said.

The six other projects awarded funding this winter are:

Funds for Wennberg Forest in Waterbury were awarded to The Vermont Land Trust for a 226-acre site that adds to a critical connectivity zone between the Mount Mansfield Forest Block and Worcester Range.

Ledge Brook Headwaters in Grafton received funds to Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association for a 130-acre property that is an expansion to a block of more than 3,000 acres of existing conserved land.

The Clyde River Conservation Connection in Charleston project received funds awarded to Vermont River Conservancy for a site with freshwater benefits. The 155-acre riverfront parcel will protect 1.5 miles of river corridor along the Clyde River, and 105 acres of wetlands.

Funds for Simpson Brook Stepping Stone in Townshend were awarded to Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for protection of a 309-acre property to secure permanent public access

rights, ensuring community members can access the area for activities like hiking, hunting, fishing and cross-country skiing.

For Pinneo Forest in Bolton, the award to Trust for Public Land will add 278 acres in Bolton to Mount Mansfield State Forest.

For Maple Crossing in Weston, the award to Mount Holly Conservation Trust will conserve a forested, 33-acre property to protect more than 2,000 feet of tributaries to the West River, improving the flood resilience of the area.

The next round of VBPF funding will open to applicants in Spring 2026. Land trusts, municipalities, and state agencies are eligible to apply. For more information on the Vermont Biodiversity Protection Fund visit nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/vermont/stories-in-vermont/vermont-biodiversity-fund/

See The Hardwick Gazette events calendar for information about Hardwick Town Forest informational meetings, February 19.

Removal of the circa 1915 swinging bridge



CCS Constructors of Morrisville prepare the pedestrian bridge for its February 5 removal in Hardwick Thursday. photo by Vanessa Fournier



A worker from CCS Constructors removes cables from the 18 foot steel suspension tower connected to Hardwick's historical pedestrian foot bridge. photo by Vanessa Fournier



A CCS crane lifts the circa 1915 102 foot swinging bridge February 5 in Hardwick which connected Main Street to Brush Street for over 100 years. The foot bridge was closed in August 2020 due to a failed suspension system. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hardwick's swinging foot bridge was removed, February 5, by CCS Constructors of Morrisville. Rebuilding the Main Street retaining wall will begin in early March and after that is completed, a new pedestrian bridge will be installed. The project is scheduled to be finished by mid-November. photo by Vanessa Fournier



The removal of the iconic swinging bridge over the Lamoille River in Hardwick Thursday gave the familiar scene a different, though temporary look, with plans for the bridge replacement later this year. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Right: A crane from contractor CCS dwarfs the Daniels building as it became the first visible sign last week that work to replace the iconic Hardwick swinging bridge is moving forward. Built around 1915 and connecting Main Street to the Brush Street area for over a century, it closed in 2020 due to critical structural failure. photo by Norma Spaulding



Vermont Food Venture Center celebrates 15 years by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – In January, the Vermont Food Venture Center (VFVC) celebrated its 15 year anniversary. Owned and operated by the Center for Agriculture Economy (CAE), the VFVC was established in 2011, opening their doors in Hardwick to offer three state-of-the-art, shared-use commercial kitchens to rent for food entrepreneurs, farmers and community groups.

Designed for those seeking to grow their business, the kitchens are equipped with ovens, stove tops, food processors, steam kettles, fillers, blenders, mixers, peelers and other kitchen equipment.

The goal of the VFVC is to support job creation, strengthen Vermont's food businesses, create opportunities for farmers and further integrate the agricultural economy into the community and the state.

According to VFVC's monthly newsletter, over 100 businesses have produced over 500 different products at the VFVC since the non-profit began its operation.

Improvements to the space have continued, with significant investments in kitchen equipment and further upgrades planned for 2026.

Colleen Crist, CAE Food Production Advisor, reflected on the past 15 years of operations in Hardwick: "Over the next year, I plan to continue working to ensure that aspiring food entrepreneurs are aware of the VFVC and everything we offer, while also providing our current clients with the tools to develop their business."

"I'm looking forward to improving efficiencies in both big and small ways, with everything from clearly labeled kitchen equipment to moving our freezer and cooler to make a more efficient workflow. We'll also continue to work on marketing the VFVC, letting shoppers know when they are purchasing products made in Hardwick, and letting food businesses across the state know about the resources we offer."

"Finally, we'll continue to invest in keeping our equipment well-maintained and purchasing new and upgraded equipment as needed."



Hardwick Gazette Editor Paul Fixx receives a local civic journalism award from Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland-Hanzas on behalf of the organization, Wednesday, Jan. 28. photo by John Walters

News about the news

by Ethan Weinstein, VT Digger

Press Forward Vermont.

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Journalism Coalition, a new advocacy organization advancing the interests of local news outlets, gathered in the Cedar Creek Room Wednesday, celebrating the winners of the Vermont Community Foundation's local civic journalism awards. The award was administered by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office.

Paul Fixx, editor of the Hardwick Gazette, said the news organizations would use the grants to pay Vermonters to contribute to their papers, making the awards an even more crucial investment in the state.

"However you slice these awards, a significant portion of them keeps Vermonters working in a business where we hold our government and businesses' feet to the fire," he said, "and I think that's a really important piece of what we're doing."

Sixteen news organizations received grants, funds for which were appropriated by the state in this year's budget and matched by

VT Digger is a member of the coalition but did not receive an award.

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2/\$6 Mac & Cheese Annie's Homogrown, varieties, 6 oz	\$4.99 French Fries Alexia, varieties, 28 oz	\$4.99 Tonic Water Fever Tree, varieties, 4 pack	\$3.29 Polenta Ancient Harvest, varieties, 18 oz
\$4.49 Mint Toilet Bowl Cleaner Seventh Generation, 24 oz	\$5.49 Chlorine Free Bleach Seventh Generation, 64 oz	\$8.99 Organic Tahini Artisana, 14 oz	\$6.39 Dill Pickle Spears Orliss, 32 oz
\$4.99 Dark Chocolate Candies Justin's, varieties, 42 oz	\$3.79 Lemon Poppy Oat Bites Bobo's, 6.5 oz	2/\$5 Pasta Sauce Classico, varieties, 24 oz	\$2.99 Refried Beans Amy's, 15.4 oz

Some of our Member-owner Deals This Week ...

\$2.69 Breath Mints Vermints, varieties, 141 oz	10% off Sapi Yaki Higgins, varieties, 5 oz	10% off Chocolate Bars Champlain Chocolates, varieties	25% off Botanical Tea Sprouting Soul, varieties, 16 oz
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TOWN OF GREENSBORO,
82 CRAFTSBURY ROAD, GREENSBORO, VERMONT 05841

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4441(d) and §4444, the Greensboro Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing at 6:30 pm on March 10, 2026 in the Meeting Room at our Greensboro Free Library, 53 Wilson Street, Greensboro VT or online via Zoom, using the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87957096874>, ID: 879 5709 6874; +13052419668,87957096874# US.

The purpose of the meeting is to solicit public input on proposed amendments to the Greensboro Zoning Bylaw, dated March 1, 2024. Ned Swanberg, Vermont Flood Hazard Mapping Coordinator with the Vermont ANR|DEC|Rivers will participate.

AMENDMENTS TO FLOOD HAZARD REGULATIONS PURPOSES: To maintain the eligibility of the Town of Greensboro, its landowners, residents, citizens and businesses for federal flood insurance, federal disaster recovery funds, and hazard mitigation funds when new Flood Insurance Rate Maps go into effect; to make the Town eligible for enhanced state cost sharing under the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund, as may be available; to provide additional protection for the community from flood related hazards; to affect the purposes of 10 V.S.A. Chapter 32, and in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, §§ 4424 and 4414.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA AFFECTED: Areas of high risk of flood damage in the Town of Greensboro.

LISTING OF SECTION HEADINGS: Article 6 Flood Hazard Overlay Regulations; plus related Zoning Bylaws: Article 1 Authority and Purpose; §3.9 Protection of Water Resources; Article 5 Administrative and Enforcement; and Article 9 Definitions.

A FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSALS AND/OR MAP: Copies of the proposed changes to the Greensboro Zoning Bylaws are available at the Town of Greensboro's official website: <https://greensborovt.gov/>; in the municipal building located at 82 Craftsbury Road; at the Greensboro Bend Post Office at 975 Main Street; at the Greensboro Village Post Office at 12 Cemetery Ridge, in Greensboro, Vermont.

Written comment on the proposed changes should be directed to the Planning Commission via the Planning Commission Clerk, at gpcclerk@greensborovt.gov or by mail to GPC Clerk, Greensboro Planning Commission, Box 119, Greensboro, VT 05841.

Dated at Greensboro, Vermont, this 8th day of February, 2026.

Greensboro Planning Commission

Kent Hansen, Chair
Christine Armstrong, Clerk
Alexis Mattos
Janet Patterson
Sheila Dillon

Welch secures nearly \$60 million for Vermont communities

by Paul Fixx

BURLINGTON, VT – U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Credit, announced February 6 that he has secured \$58.68 million in federal funds to support 38 Vermont projects, including projects in the Northeast Kingdom, Senator Welch nominated project recipients through the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) process.

These funds will support all Vermont communities, including communities in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom where \$1,400,000 was awarded to Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital to construct new pharmacies in Caledonia County to address the recent loss of pharmacies in Caledonia towns; a \$1,000,000 award to Craftsbury Saplings to expand available childcare slots to meet the needs of the community and add nine new full-time jobs; \$100,000 for the Center for Agricultural Economy will support farm-to-school education and local food school nutrition and \$2,000,000 for the Vermont Army National Guard will go toward constructing a readiness center in Northeast Vermont.

"I can say that we are thrilled to receive these funds to help us fulfill our vision of servicing families in our region," said Craftsbury Saplings Executive Director Melissa Jacobs.

"We are working with community partners to expand our Early Education Programming to serve more children, especially infants and toddlers."

"Senator Welch and his staff have always been very supportive of local agriculture and our community; we are very thankful for this support," said the Center for

an Agricultural Economy's (CAE's) Executive Director Jon Ramsay.

"The award will help fund two of CAE's programs that work with area schools: Place-Based Education and Just Cut."

CAE's Place Based Education Program supports work in all Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union's (OSSU) schools to increase opportunities for experiential learning focused on local food and agriculture.

CAE's Place Based Education Coordinator Reeve Basom co-teaches a high school class at Hazen Union School called "Recipe for Human Connection" (RFHC). The class builds community through food and cooking, both within the classroom and through projects that connect to the wider community. Common activities include leading taste tests for local pre-K students, growing and harvesting food in the Hazen greenhouse and hosting the monthly community meal at the United Church in Hardwick.

In this sixth year of RFHC, a new introductory version of the class for middle schoolers has been added. A total of over 60 Hazen students will participate in the classes this school year. Basom said, "We receive feedback from students all the time about how much this class means to them as they learn how to connect with each other through food, and it feels wonderful to get this kind of support through CDS that validates these students' experiences."

CAE's Just Cut program supports local food purchasing at area schools. CAE has operated Just Cut since 2013 and the program operates out of CAE's Vermont Food Venture Center (VFVC) facility.

It works with around 20 farms annually, contracting with them before the growing season



Hazen Union student Anderson Williams shares the meal he helped prepare with community member Anne Gilcris at the monthly United Church in Hardwick meal, May 15, 2025. photo by Jen Olson

starts. Farmers plan how much they need to grow for Just Cut and know how much income that will bring. Just Cut can then count on receiving a specific amount of vegetables.

CAE's delivery service, Farm Connex, picks up the produce at the farms and brings it to the VFVC where CAE's staff prepare it into ready-to-use products like diced potatoes, shredded cabbage or whole peeled carrots.

The finished products are then sold to schools, colleges and hospitals.

Last year CAE staff purchased, processed and distributed 180,000 pounds of local produce through the program. That is enough for 580,000 servings of local produce on plates at those institutions.

Since Just Cut started in 2013, the program has processed over 1.1 million pounds of fresh vegetables.

Area schools benefit as the vegetables are served throughout the local supervisory union.

"Just Cut minimally processed veggies gives the OSSU schools more opportunities to use a variety of local products on our menus as a lot of the labor has already been done for us," said OSSU Food Service Director Valerie Hussey.

"Time is always an issue in school food service as we are on very strict schedules. In the past we did not serve root veggies as often since they require a lot of time and labor; now our schools have standing monthly orders, which is a win-win for both CAE and the OSSU school food service programs."

The funding from Sen. Welch will allow CAE to move forward with the purchase of new equipment which will streamline efficiency and allow more varieties of

produce to be processed, said CAE.

"As a result the Just Cut program will be able to serve more schools a greater variety of vegetables. Support from the CDS will help CAE continue their critical work that supports food security, place-based education, and fostering connections between youth and the community." "I fought hard to secure nearly \$60 million in federal funding for Vermont through the Congressionally Directed Spending process. I'm proud this money will be invested right back into Vermont communities, including in the NEK. This funding will help build new pharmacies, create jobs and support students, children and families right here in Vermont," said Senator Welch.

Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital CEO Shawn Tester was not available to offer details of plans for Caledonia County pharmacies before this edition's deadline.

View the full list of projects at welch.senate.gov/welch-secures-nearly-60-million-in-federal-funds-for-vermont/

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding was included in a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan funding agreement that included 11 of the 12 annual appropriation bills, including Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies; Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies; Energy and Water Development; Financial Services and General Government; Interior, Environment and Related Agencies; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies.



JustCut_Production...

Just Cut team member Josh Peets processes cabbage at the Center for an Agricultural Economy's Vermont Food Venture Center in Hardwick.

photo by Kelly Bogel Stokes

EDITORIAL

War, war and more war

Like many others, I watched the opening ceremonies of the 2026 Winter Olympics on my television over the weekend.

I was moved by the calls for peace and the sheer talent and beauty created by the countless dancers, artists, technicians and more.

The combination of stunning visuals, with messages of hope for peacetime, created the perfect conditions for one to admire humanity's ability to come together from across the globe, uniting in more than sport, but in the shared value of excellence.

For a moment I marveled at this show of unity. I was able to relax and take my mind off the current crises plaguing our nation.

Then I remembered what I heard during PBS News Hour that same evening: the U.S. was holding indirect nuclear talks with Iran amid escalating threats and a buildup of U.S. forces in the region; the effects of the Trump administration's suspension of immigration visas for citizens from 75 countries.

The everyday national headlines prove to be a sharp contrast to the wondrous spirit of the Olympic games.

I admire and congratulate the Olympic athletes currently taking up residence in Milan, who have reached pinnacles that most of us will only dream of. But I wonder, having closed our borders for a litany of countries that are surely in attendance, what will be the legacy of this resurgence of nationalism and xenophobia?

Will U.S. athletes be welcome at future Olympic games, and how, in abiding by our current policies will we ever be considered to host Olympic games? Or the World Cup, for that matter? Invite some athletes, but not others?

While we blackball citizens from other countries for what appears to be entirely subjective reasons, we have strengthened our military presence overseas. We bombed Venezuela whilst kidnapping their President, Nicolas Maduro, as well as his wife, Cilia Flores.

The nation seems to have moved on alarmingly fast from this event. I do not think our neighbors on this continent will do the same.

A recent discussion came up in the office, of memories of cold war nuclear drills, something to which I could only compare the active-shooter threat drills I began in kindergarten, and never ceased until graduating.

From age five to eighteen, I was prepared to be shot at, bombed, chemically attacked and more. I can only hope in my lifetime there will be a day of no conflict, bombs or nuclear threats looming over humanity.

But I was never prepared for that day, and I worry for future generations.

I will be 25 next month, and for almost my entire lifetime, the United States has been a warring nation.

When I look to D.C., I see no signs of a de-escalation in rhetoric or action.

I see no signs of ending the plague of gun violence the nation's children have been subjected to for my entire lifetime.

I see no signs of stopping the neverending oil wars and decreasing our military presence in the Middle East.

I am young, and perhaps I have to wait it out to see things come full circle. But I wonder, at what cost? The psyches and lives of kindergarteners across the nation? The Palestinian people? The sovereignty of Ukraine?

Again, perhaps I am too young, and have more to learn, but what will it take for us to evolve beyond war, war and more war?

Raymonda Parchment, reporter

LETTERS FROM READERS

Act 250 is the wrong tool for implementing Act 181

To the editor:

What will rural Vermont be like after implementing the new Act 250 requirements? On December 31, Act 250 permits will be required for any development, including single-family homes, in areas that meet certain criteria. These include habitat connectors, headwater streams and other areas that meet the act's environmental criteria. As currently mapped, habitat connectors are the largest feature, containing over 300,000 acres along many rural roads.

On July 1, a new road rule comes into effect. Construction of a road greater than 800 feet, or a road and driveways greater than 2,000 feet will require Act 250 permits in all of Vermont outside of already developed areas.

These changes were included in Act 181 and the rules are in the process of being created or finalized now. (For details see Act250.vermont.gov.)

Act 250 was designed to regulate large developments. It is a complicated permitting process during which you must satisfy its 32 criteria and sub-criteria. I have been through this process during

the 25 years I spent helping local groups and municipalities create projects.

Act 250 is the wrong tool for the job of implementing Act 181. You don't have to take my word for it. During the rule-making process there was an attempt by the Land Use Review Board to reduce the 32 Act 250 criteria that would be required because some should not apply. The board's attorney advised them that, according to statute, they do not have the authority to do that.

This should be fixed by the legislature. Each step in the Act 250 process can be time-consuming, difficult and expensive. What is needed instead is a simpler Act 181 permit designed to address its concerns. It is unfair to ask people to do work that is unnecessary, especially non-developers that just want to build a home, considering the need for more housing in Vermont.

The legislature is unlikely to make this important change unless their constituents demand it. Please contact them if you agree.

**Norm Etkind
Woodbury**

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

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

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

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

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

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Reminders of some of the happiest days

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – I’m writing this during the afternoon of February 2. The sun is flooding the yard, raising the temperature to a dizzying 23 degrees, the snow lies deep in the woods, and there’s never been a bluer sky. Twenty-five years ago I wouldn’t be here; I’d be outside on cross-country skis, probably with a Swix blue kicker and a happy heart.

Today those skis are still only a few feet away, below me in the cellar, standing abandoned in a corner, poignant reminders of some of the happiest days of my life. Everywhere I turn around here, in fact, are similar reminders: canoes, a kayak, a guide boat, deer rifles, fly rods, an ice axe, a carbide lamp and sleeping bags rated all the way down to thirty below zero. They’ve slipped slowly away, like a love affair growing imperceptibly older, till it’s likely none ever will be used again, by me.

But what a somber way to feel on such a day! The sun, if any reminder were needed, signals the beginning of the second half of winter. It’s Hinge Day. The beginning of winter is officially December 21, the shortest day, when the northern end of the earth’s axis is at its steepest angle away from the sun. Then, as the old-timers say, when the days lengthen, the cold will strengthen. We’ve just been going through an extreme example of that phenomenon. The other end of winter is equally illusory. Just about the time we’re getting ready for mud season in March, the clocks are setting to daylight-saving time, and I’m hopefully recharging the battery of the summer top-down old roadster, here comes a foot or two of wet snow. So much for the so-called vernal equinox.

Therefore, nowadays I deal with the cold, dark months by focusing on February 2. It’s the middle of meteorological winter. From here on out, till spring really arrives, our days are longer and, on average, warmer.

If we’re still into winter sports, February is the ideal month: as much snow as there will be, and cold enough to preserve it. More sunlight and later stays outdoors in the afternoon. Maybe you’ve already noticed it. Back in 1985, when right around Valentine’s Day my buddy Dudley and I tackled the 207-mile Alaska Marathon, which for about half its length followed the Iditarod

Trail, we actually could tell the difference in the moment of sunrise each day. Evenings, too, in spite of the looming threat of icy cold that gripped the woods as soon as the sun sank below the horizon.

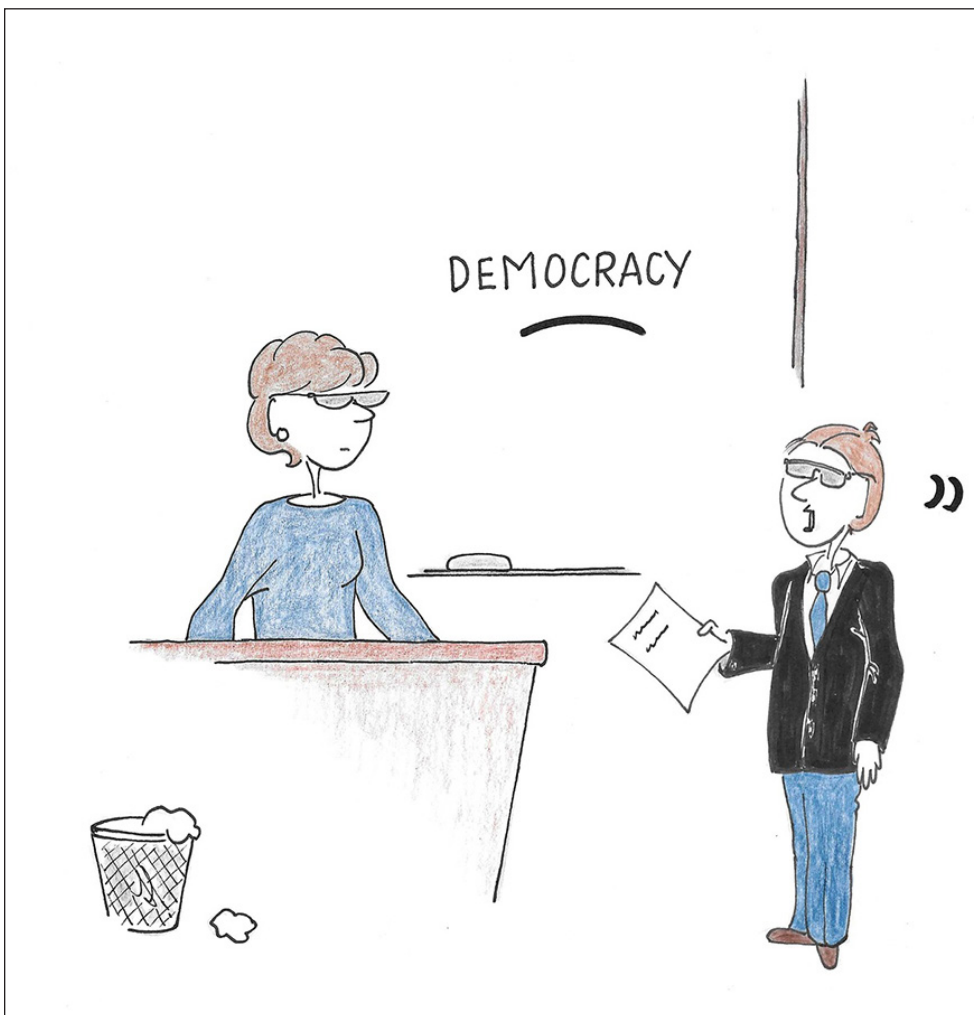
Meanwhile, down in Punxsutawney, Pa., (a town I could never live in. Imagine having to write all that on forms and the return address space on envelopes), a band of top-hatted locals are celebrating Groundhog Day, when they rouse a poor, irritated, drowsy groundhog named Phil out of his winter’s hibernation, hold him up and wave him around for the photographers, then return him (I presume) to his slumbers. The object is to predict, however unreliably, the immediate future of winter: if Phil can see his shadow, there’ll be six more weeks of it; if he can’t, the rest of the season will be warm and gentle. Today, it’s reported, Phil saw his shadow. He would not have seen it here. Bright as it is here today, there’s a foot or more of snow on top of his burrow, wherever it is. He’d never make it out.

The other folk tradition, a hangover from the days when almost everybody was a farmer or at least kept a horse (till Henry Ford changed everything), and heated with wood, is that half your wood and half your hay should still be left on Candlemas Day.

Which brings up another tradition. The liturgical churches (notably the Anglican), in what I’ve long assumed is an effort to pep up the doldrums between the twelve days of Christmas and Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and the forty days of Lent, celebrate Candlemas Day on February 2, when they consecrate the candles to be used in the coming year. It’s also the beginning of the collection of last year’s palms from Palm Sunday, which are burnt to ashes, prayed over and ground into powder to anoint the foreheads of worshipers on Ash Wednesday. Never a dull moment.

This weekend, on a trail stretching roughly one hundred miles up the Ottawa River valley, the Canadian Ski Marathon will celebrate its sixtieth birthday. As cold and snowy as its been this winter, it’ll likely be ideal conditions. Thousands of enthusiasts of all ages, some teams, some tough cookies, will be hustling through the woods and farmyards. I did it for years, and just now am remembering a Frenchman at a checkpoint who handed me hot soup, his “own mudder’s receepy.” I asked him who his mother was. “Oh,” he said. “Madame Camp-bell.”

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“WHY SHOULD I LEARN ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION WHEN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT DOESN’T BOTHER TO FOLLOW IT?”

MEETING MEMO

Wednesday, February 11

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

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

Thursday, February 12

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

Tuesday, February 17

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, February 18

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

Wolcott Town School Board,

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

Tuesday, February 24

Mountain View Union Elementary School District, 6 p.m. Annual school district meeting, 6:30 p.m., public informational hearing on the FY 27 Budget.

Wednesday, February 25

Hazen Union School District, 7 p.m., public informational hearing on the FY 27 Budget, 7:30 p.m. annual school district meeting.

Town Clerks

Cabot: cabotvt.us

Calais: calaisvermont.gov

Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com

Greensboro: greensborovt.gov

Hardwick: hardwickvt.org

Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us

Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us

Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net

Walden: waldenvt.gov

Wolcott: wolcottvt.org

Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

ANOTHER OPINION

Rethinking infrastructure in an era of change

by **Kristen Leahy**

Across our region, towns are facing infrastructure questions that would have been hard to imagine even a decade ago. Roads that once flooded occasionally now see water again and again. Bridges built for smaller storms are being overtopped or undermined. Public systems we rely on every day are now operating outside the conditions they were built for.

For a long time, the response to damage was simple: fix what broke and put it back the way it was. Today, that instinct is being challenged. Climate conditions are shifting, public funding is limited and the cost of repeating the same repairs after every storm is becoming harder to justify.

As a result, communities are being asked to step back and ask different questions; not just how to repair infrastructure, but whether, and in what form, it should exist going forward.

Hardwick is having that conversation: In recent years, flooding has forced the town to look closely at roads, bridges and river-adjacent infrastructure that were damaged more than once in a short period of time.

In some cases, rebuilding exactly what existed before would put people, public dollars and future responders back in harm's

way. In others, the scale or location of infrastructure simply no longer fits the behavior of the river during high water.

These are not easy conversations to have, especially in small rural towns. Infrastructure decisions affect how people move through town, how neighborhoods connect and how daily life functions. When alternatives are discussed such as larger bridge spans, changes in road alignment or decisions not to rebuild in the same location, it can feel uncomfortable, expensive or even personal.

It's understandable to want things put back the way they were. Familiar roads, crossings and routes matter. For many people they represent reliability, access and a sense of normalcy after disruption. Wanting repairs to be straightforward is not unreasonable, it comes from lived experience and a desire for stability.

What has changed is not that instinct, but the context around it. When damage happens repeatedly, and when the risks to safety and cost become clearer, towns are required to look more carefully at long-term outcomes alongside short-term fixes. That shift can be frustrating, but it is driven by responsibility, not indifference.

Funding programs increasingly reflect this reality. Many state and federal sources now require

towns to evaluate long-term risk, future flood behavior and the total cost of ownership, not just the upfront cost of construction. That means communities are often required to consider multiple options and explain why a particular approach makes sense, even when it departs from past practice.

The most important part of this shift is not engineering or funding, it is people. Decisions are strongest when they are made openly, with clear information, time for questions and real opportunities for local input.

Community members deserve to understand what options are on the table, what constraints are real and how their perspectives help shape the path forward.

Hardwick's experience reflects a broader transition happening across Vermont. We are learning,

together, that resilience is not about rebuilding faster or bigger for its own sake. It is about making thoughtful choices that reduce future risk, use public dollars responsibly and reflect how people actually live and move through their towns.

Adaptation is not something done behind closed doors, and it is not something imposed from the outside. It happens through conversation, patience and shared decision-making.

When a community stays engaged and asks hard questions together about what it values, how it cares for one another and how it prepares for what lies ahead, even difficult infrastructure choices can become moments of clarity.

Kristen Leahy is the Zoning & Floodplain Administrator and the Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator for the Town of Hardwick.

For the record

Last week's story, "Voters to weigh in on town forest acquisition," should have referred to the "Davis" family in the third paragraph and indicated voters will weigh in on contributing \$25,000 to the project from the floor, not by Australian ballot, in Article 7, which says, "Shall the Town contribute \$25,000, to be matched by more than \$700,000 of other public and private funds, toward the acquisition of +/- 329 acres of land on Buffalo Mountain to become a Town Forest to protect recreational access, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, and Lamoille River water quality, and to provide outdoor educational opportunities for schoolchildren?"

LETTERS FROM READERS

The school funding problem is unequal funding

To the editor:

Imagine. I hire five employees and tell all of them the same thing: You need a reliable, responsible vehicle to do your job. I'll pay for it.

The Five-School Model: I give three employees enough money to buy brand-new cars with safety features and options.

I give two employees just enough to buy a used car that runs, barely.

Later, when the used cars break down, I say: "See? These two aren't reliable. It's not worth investing in them anymore."

But the problem was never the employees: it was unequal funding from the start.

That's the five-school model: Same expectations. Same job. Different budgets. Predictable failure for the underfunded.

The Three-School Model: Now I give the same three employees even more money than before so they can buy top-of-the-line cars

with every option.

The other two? No replacement. No repair.

They're told to ride with the better-funded employees.

Then I say: "We're eliminating their positions because their cars weren't reliable enough to justify keeping them."

That isn't efficiency. That isn't data-driven. That's rewarding those already funded and blaming those who weren't.

The bottom line: You can't underfund two schools, compare them to well-funded schools, then claim the results prove they aren't viable.

The outcome was decided when the budgets were set.

This isn't about enrollment. This isn't about performance.

It's about selective investment followed by selective blame.

You don't starve something, then criticize it for being weak.

**Cole Bliss
East Calais**

Pleased to learn Fliegelman running

To the editor:

I was so pleased to learn from Larry Fliegelman that he's running for one of the two open one-year seats on the Hardwick Select Board. I've worked with Larry these past few years, through several Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor initiatives. We've also worked together shoulder-to-shoulder with the town manager's office in setting up, organizing and maintaining the Emergency

Supply and Support Center.

Larry is a smart, thoughtful, tirelessly generous volunteer, who knows our community and we are all winners to have him sign up for more! He's a great listener and team player and will be a terrific addition to our Select Board. Please support him on Town Meeting Day, March 3, when you can vote for him as I'll be doing!

**Ken Leslie
Hardwick**

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Committee action planned

by Rep. Leanne Harple

MONTPELIER – On the House Education Committee, we’ve been laying out the different paths Vermont could take when it comes to education reform.

This month, we’ll begin exploring possible district maps that would plan for larger, more consolidated systems. At the same time, I will continue to strongly advocate for Cooperative Education Service Agreements (CESAs), as recommended by the redistricting task force.

I believe CESAs offer the best path forward for saving money through shared contracts and services but without disrupting rural communities, disenfranchising local school boards or putting small schools on a path toward closure.

No decision has been made yet, and it would be helpful for our community to weigh in on this debate by following along and writing to members of the House Committee on Education.

We are also discussing broader governance questions, including whether larger, more regionalized districts should operate as supervisory unions or supervisory districts, whether any mergers should be voluntary or mandatory, and if mandatory, how they might be incentivized.

I’m grateful to the many community members who have already weighed in on these important questions.

In January, during NEK Day at the State House, I spoke at the Northeast Kingdom press conference in strong support of our small schools. I was thrilled to see such a strong turnout this year. NEK Day was very well attended, and it truly felt like a powerful

moment for the Kingdom.

Beyond education, I am supporting a number of other initiatives this session. I have cosponsored multiple bills aimed at ensuring immigration enforcement in Vermont is legal, ethical and constitutional.

These include legislation to prohibit ICE agents from wearing masks to obscure their identities during arrests; strengthen protections for schools, hospitals, places of worship and other sensitive locations by requiring a warrant for entry; protect private data, including immigration status and help fund legal representation for individuals arrested for civil immigration violations.

The House also passed a resolution (H.R. 12) supporting Governor Phil Scott’s call on our congressional delegation to defund ICE and to address the violence and due process violations caused by unconstitutional immigration enforcement across our country. I truly believe this is a moment to draw a moral line in the sand: whether we lead with compassion and empathy for all people, or continue down a path that undermines our national values and our relationships with former global allies. Only one path is the right choice, and history will remember.

I hope we will all stand together on this.

Affordability remains a major focus for all legislators as well. We continue to work on expanding middle- and low-income housing options that make sense for rural Vermont, and on redesigning our property tax and education funding systems, which are two of the biggest challenges facing our communities right now. Particularly within the Rural Caucus, we are working on updates to

Act 250 regulations that are more responsive to the needs of rural communities, as well as examining which unnecessary or outdated regulatory barriers could be amended to enable more rural housing development. Stay tuned.

This week, I will be testifying before the Agency of Natural Resources on the importance of adopting new wake boat rules for small lakes. These proposed rules would prohibit wake boats to a 100-acre zone (it was previously 50 acres), which would prohibit them from operating on Lake Parker and Shadow Lake in Glover, but

still leaves other slightly larger small lakes vulnerable to wake boats, and so I remain committed to continuing the fight to protect Caspian Lake in Greensboro. The reality is that most Vermont lakes are too small for wake sports, and many lake communities have invested years of effort protecting their waters from invasive species. I want to keep our small lakes safe for families, children, paddlers, swimmers and wildlife.

Leanne Harple represents Orleans-4 District (Glover, Craftsbury, Albany and Greensboro) in the Vermont Legislature.

Energy, Climate Action Committee promotes energy efficiencies

YEAR IN REVIEW

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – At the end of 2024 the town received a \$122,000 Municipal Energy Resilience Program state grant to fund energy efficiency improvements in the Greensboro Free Library.

During 2025, the Greensboro Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC) led the energy efficiency upgrades at the Greensboro Free Library which will be completed in the spring of 2026.

The weatherization effort has included insulation of the old basement and air sealing in the new basement, along with moisture prevention measures.

A ventilation system has been installed throughout the building offering a healthier environment for patrons.

A new air-to-water heat pump system is in the process of being hooked up to help reduce fossil fuel use with new smart thermostats installed on two floors.

Windows in the new wing were replaced to help reduce fossil fuel use, making the interior of the library quieter and improving comfort for patrons and staff. A backup battery is to be installed for resiliency in the face of power outages.

The committee launched a communications campaign to help homeowners manage their energy bills and actively supported the WindowDressers initiative.

In the summer, the committee participated in the Funky Fourth, the Bend Block Party and the Greensboro Art Fest, providing information on home energy efficiency incentives and sharing

insights on home weatherization.

ECAC published a series of monthly news alerts, featuring rebates and promoting steps homeowners can take to reduce their energy bills. They are all archived on the ECAC webpage of the town website.

The committee hosted an Efficiency Vermont “Button Up” event in October at the library to showcase the work in progress in conjunction with Efficiency Vermont, the Northeast Vermont Development Association and the Vermont Building and General Services Department.

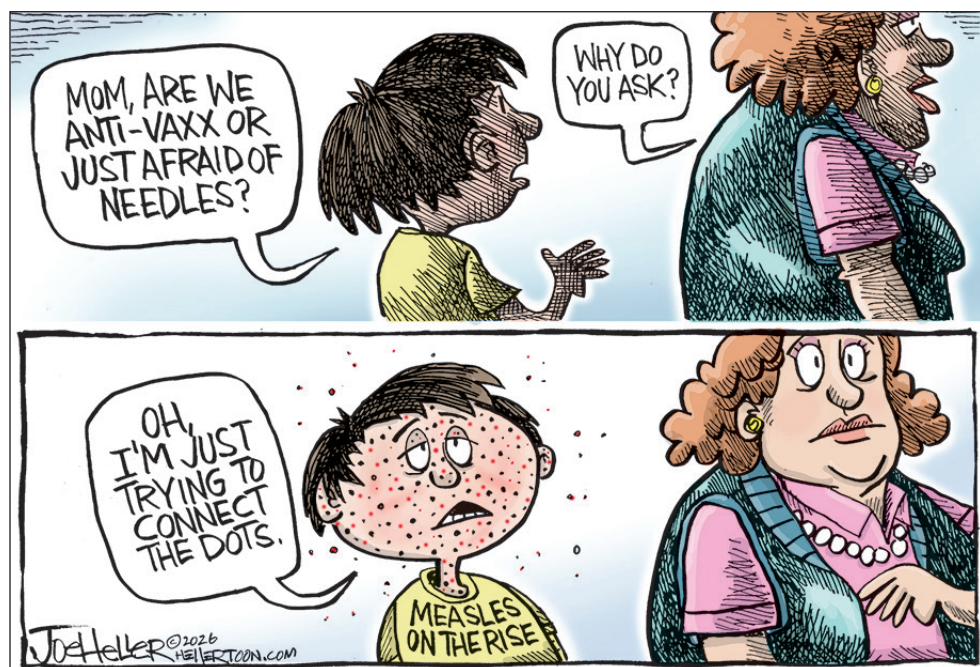
ECAC member Liz Steel, a Climate Catalyst Leadership Program participant, discussed incorporating Vermont Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) into the building permit application process with the Greensboro Zoning Administrator and the Development Review Board Chair as the zoning rules are being rewritten.

In November, Greensboro joined forces with Albany, Craftsbury and Glover to host the Southern Orleans County WindowDressers Community Build. Over seven days, 125 volunteers and program participants built more than 415 window inserts, to insulate windows in 66 homes and businesses in 14 towns this winter.

During 2026, the committee said it will continue to focus on ways to help residents conserve energy and improve resilience in weather-related events through educational programs and development of a lending library of energy saving resources.

New members are welcome and anyone interested in joining the committee can find more information at the ECAC page on the town website at greensborovt.gov/energy-committee/

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

I am hopeful we'll come out stronger

by Dave Yacovone

MONTPELIER – The topic of the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or ICE, weighed heavily on the minds of many legislators recently. The Governor made a strong statement saying “enough is enough” about the tactics being used by ICE to make America safer from violent illegal immigrants. The governor made it clear that due process, the rule of law and our constitution were being trampled on, and enough was enough. The murder of two Minnesota citizens in Minne-

apolis shocked the country and moved the governor.

Legislators were pulled into the debate on ICE when two Independent legislators offered a resolution calling on the House of Representatives to support the governor's sentiments and decry the strong-arm ICE actions against minority populations, irrespective of whether they had a criminal past. One of the sponsors of the resolution made it clear that she was not typically a fan of the Vermont Legislature focusing on national issues, given the numerous local issues that

needed attention. She argued this time was different. An outright assault on our constitution by our government and an infringement on our freedom of speech and right to peacefully demonstrate called for us to act.

The resolution passed on a 106 to 25 vote with 18 absences. The reasons to vote one way or another varied greatly. This vote will not be the last time House members will vote on ICE. Proposed legislation would stop law enforcement officials from wearing masks as ICE agents do, and all law enforcement officials would be required to wear

cameras. I expect these efforts to pass by large margins.

As I reflect on the ICE vote, I cannot help but feel a great sadness for the law-abiding minorities who live in fear, persecuted by misguided government officials whose hearts have been hardened by hate. Yet I am hopeful we will come out on the other side stronger, where the dignity of decency helps to restore the kindness, we need.

David Yacovone represents Lamoille-Washington in the Vermont Legislature, including Elmore, Morristown, Woodbury, Worcester and Stowe.

ANOTHER OPINION

We have all been here before

by John Walters

EAST MONTPELIER – This unprepossessing gentleman pictured is I.F. Stone, crusading journalist and truth-teller. I've been reading “*The Haunted Fifties*,” a collection of his writings that includes a four-page piece he wrote in December 1953, more than seven decades ago, that stopped me in my tracks. It could literally have been written yesterday. Which tells me some very disturbing things about my own country's history and the throughlines that lead directly to Trump's racist authoritarianism.

The piece is called “Bleak Landscape of the Resistance,” and recounts a meeting in Chicago organized by the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, which definitely sounds like a group that could have been formed last week in Minneapolis. (The article can be downloaded from the I.F. Stone's Weekly Archive, or you could buy a copy of “*The Haunted Fifties*” through an online used bookseller.)

I don't think we realize how bad things were in the 1950s. It went far beyond Joe McCarthy. The executive branch, yes, under the “moderate” stewardship of President Eisenhower, was just as committed as McCarthy to rooting out subversive elements, which meant any one who had ever displayed the slightest shade of pinko.

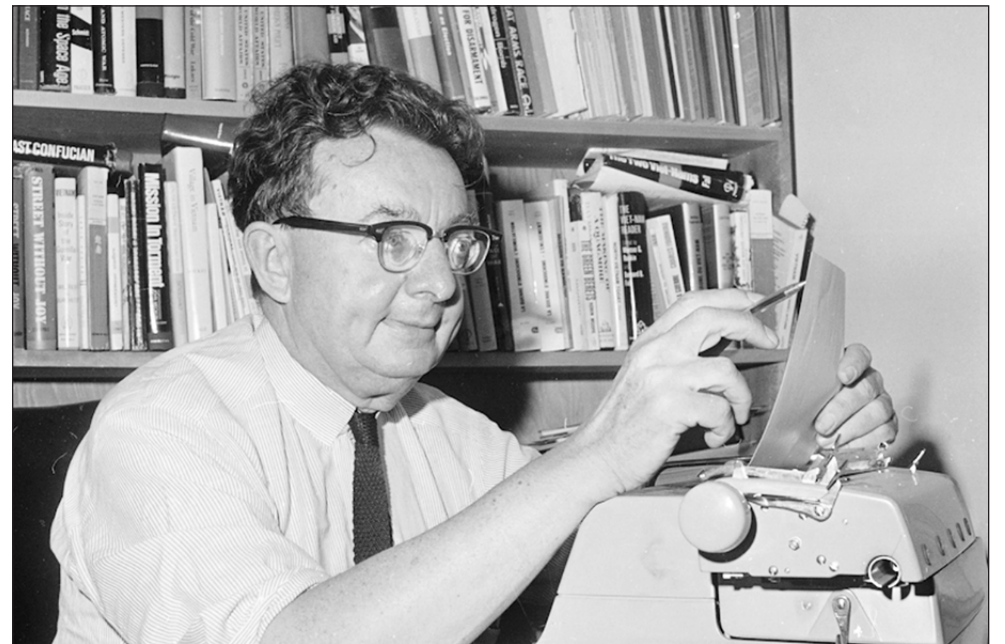
Reading Stone's piece made me realize that McCarthy is the convenient fall guy for a much broader and more intense anti-immigrant regime that was just as destructive as anything Trump has managed to do. To label this period “The McCarthy Era” is to absolve many others of their complicity

in a campaign of oppression that led to the deportations of many, including American citizens who happened to be born elsewhere.

Calling it “The McCarthy Era” also isolates this period as an outlier in our history when the truth is quite the opposite: Trump may be cruder than Ike or John Foster Dulles or J. Edgar Hoover or A. Mitchell Palmer, but his official actions are very much in line with similar episodes that litter the dark side of American history.

Let's start with the fact that the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born was on the attorney general's list of subversive organizations. Its leader had served six months in jail after refusing to hand over records to a grand jury. The secretary of the Los Angeles chapter had been imprisoned for a year and was subject to denaturalization proceedings. (Which meant, yes, that she was a citizen.) The secretary of the Michigan branch faced trial for refusing to give records to the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Many of the targeted had emigrated to America during the 1930s or World War II. They fled the Nazis and the widespread destruction of the war. Some were socialists or even Communists at a time when, you may recall, the United States and the Soviet Union were allies. (Even those who broke with the Soviets after World War II were still considered suspect.) Many were active in the labor movement. Some were newspaper editors or publishers who should have enjoyed the protection of the First Amendment. One, Stanley Nowak, was a prominent Michigan politician who had served for a decade in the state legislature.



I.F. Stone

People from Eastern Europe were targeted but, as Stone writes, so were Mexican-Americans:

Reports to the conference from Los Angeles pictured terror and lawlessness: the use of roadblocks and sudden raids on areas in which persons of Mexican origin live, the invasion of their homes without warrants, the exile to Mexico of native-born Americans of Mexican parentage.

Gee, that sure sounds familiar. As does Stone's conclusion:

The suffering in terms of broken families and disrupted lives is beyond the most sympathetic imagination. As serious is the moral degradation imposed by spreading terror. People are afraid to look lest they be tempted to help, and bring down suspicion on themselves. This is how good folk in Germany walked hurriedly by and shut their ears discreetly to telltale screams.

Oh, and for those concerned about journalism in our age of oligarchy, Stone reports that one of Chicago's leading newspapers (a Hearst publication) “published

a smear attack and telephoned the Committee's various sponsors and schedule speakers in an effort to frighten them off.” Fox News, as bad as it is, never tried to do that.

I knew things were bad in the early Fifties. I didn't realize how bad, or how pervasive the government's involvement was, or how precisely it parallels what we're going through today. The mechanisms of power that enable Trump have been in place a long time, and they have been used just as heartlessly before. The Fifties spawned their own backlash in the Sixties. I can only hope that we will also see a new dawn after this long dark night.

John Walters is the sole author of The Vermont Political Observer, readable for free (but donations cheerfully accepted) at thevpo.org. Walters has had a long career in print and broadcast journalism. He's been an observer of Vermont politics since 2011, including a three-year stint as political columnist for Seven Days. He lives in East Montpelier with his loyal spouse, two house rabbits and two cockatiels.

WEEKS GONE BY

45 Years ago in The Hardwick Gazette, February 8, 1951

GREENSBORO

Church of Christ
 Rev. Kenneth McCrae
 10:30 A.M. Divine Service.
 The Church School meets
 each Sunday at 11:30.

New Doctor Expected
 about March 1

Dr. Freideric Sharpless of Haverford, Pa., is expected to arrive in Greensboro about March first. Dr. Sharpless will have his office at the hospital.

Thirteen of our young people accompanied by Rev. and Mrs. McCrae and Mr. and Mrs. Fed. Ling and Mrs. Donald Drown, attended the Caspian Lamoille Youth Rally at Cambridge this Sunday afternoon and evening.

The Women's Union will observe the World Day of Prayer in a meeting held at the parsonage on Friday, Feb. 9, at 2 P.M. Marjorie Lapierre and Harriette Noyes are hostesses.

A program on "One Great Hour of Sharing" will be broadcasted on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 9 P.M. on N.B.C.

We in the Church of Christ will continue to contribute to this World Observance on Sunday, Feb. 18. A film strip "The Eleventh Hour" will be shown at the Church Auditorium on the evening on Feb. 18.

On Thursday George Willey, P. N. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Drown attended the Food Products Show at Barre. Mr. and Mrs. Drown attended the Vermont Jersey Cattle Club meeting at 4 P.M. Donald

Drown was appointed Vice President of the Club. They also attended the banquet held at the Pavillion, Montpelier, the same evening, which was attended by more than 250.

The collections for the Pollo Fund to this date are \$57.10.

The auditors, Herbert Potter, Mellie Gebbie and Everett Lyes, began work on the town books on Feb. 1. Everett Lyles took the place of J. I Wilson resigned.

The name of Miss Lois Campbell was omitted last week from the list of those who earned 2nd honors at Greensboro High School.

Mrs. B. M. Willey entered Greensboro Hospital on Saturday. Mrs. Willey's many freinds are pleased to know she is gaining from her recent illness.

Miss Alice Cowley and friend of Boston spend the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cowley.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blanchard and John were Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Drown.

Mrs. Alice Tolman spent the weekend at her home in Orleans.

Mr. and Mrs. George Colby were business visitors in Hardwick on Monday and called on Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Barrington. They report Mr. Barrington somewhat improved.

Greensboro Basketball Teams played Hyde Park on Tuesday night. Girls won 42-28. Boys won 29-19.

LOCAL GROWERS PREDOMINATE AT POTATO MEETING

One would gather from the daily papers of last Thursday that Hardwick stood out as far as potato growing was concerned in this state.

At the annual meeting last week Wednesday of the Vermont Certified Seed Potato Growers association, held in conjunction with the Vermont Farm Products Show at Barre, Commissioner of Agriculture Stanley G. Judd presented certificates to ten growers in the "400 Bushel Club."

The winners were: W.P. Brow, Albany 844.5 bu. Green Mountains; Joseph brow, Albany, 793 bu. Chippewas; W. S. Hill, Hardwick, 708 bu. Green Mountains; C. J. Batten, East Hardwick, 687.36 bu. Katahdins; Howard Rowe of Guildhall, 682.4 bu. Green Mountains; Rudolph Danforth, Tunbridge, 650.5 bu. Green Mountains; Fred W. Peaslee Estate, Guildhall, 598.2 bu. Green Mountains; Fred W. Peaslee Estate, 559.9 bu. Kennebecs; J. E. Farrell, Middletown Springs, 531.6, by. Houmas; Howard Eastman, Hardwick, 489.44 bu. Katahdins. The figures represent the number of bushels grown per acre on the plot in competition.

The annual meeting was held

FOR YOU FOR YOUR VALENTINE

Teena Paige Dresses

Tailortown Cottons

Jackie Grey Blouses

Gotham Hosiery

RACETTE'S

TEL. 98

HARDWICK

in the afternoon at the Presbyterian church hall and the banquet at Marios Restaurant in the evening.

At the election of offices the association president, C. E. Cramton of Castleton, was re-elected; C. J. Batten of East Hardwick was named vice president; Harold L. Bailey of Montpelier, secretary-treasurer (re-election); and, Miss Rosemary Sullivan of Montpelier was named assistant secretary. James Farrell of Middletown Springs, William Hill of Hardwick and W. P. Brow of Albany were chosen on the executive committee.

The speakers included Burton Strong of Craftsbury Common, who discussed "Spuds Across the Sea", telling of his exchange trip in Europe last summer, where he lived with farm families, as a 4-H club member, under Department of Agriculture and State Department auspices. He attended social functions and farm meetings in England, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland and Scotland. Dr. Ora Smith of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., talked on "Recent Advances in Potato Research" and John R. MacInnes of Springfield, Mass.; representing the New England Potato Marketing Administrative committee.

The problems discussed by the potato growers were numerous, but the problem of surplus potatoes was the principal one. There will be no more subsidy payments after this spring, it was predicted. The invariable answer was: Raise quality potatoes.

100 years ago in The Hardwick Gazette, February 11, 1926 MARSHFIELD

The Wa-Yu-Waste Club members and their families were very pleasantly entertained last Friday evening at the vestry of the M. E. church, by the defeated side in the recent membership drive. The gave the farce, entitled, "The

Kleptomaniac", presenting it in a very creditable manner, also some readings with musical accompaniment. Refreshments of orange sherbet and assorted cakes and wafers were served, making a very enjoyable occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wheelock of Calais were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Shortt.

Nelson Atkins has moved to his farm on the east side of town.

Mrs. D. R. Tibbetts visited her sister in Barre last week.

Earle Smith's herd of cattle has recently been pronounced an accredited herd by the state.

Mrs. Zulu Mears was a visitor in Montpelier Saturday.

George Barber of Montpelier was a recent business visitor in town.

Will Davis was a visitor in Barre Sunday.

W. B. Lance of Plainfield was in town Friday, in the interests of the schools.

The next meeting of the Women's Club will be held Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. G. L. Dwinell and Mrs. James Wheeler, as hostesses. Topic, "The Lincoln Memorial" in Washington.

Elbert Davis, Kenneth Rogers and Kyle Swash were home from Lyndon Institute over the week end.

Mrs. E.L. Burnham is ill and Miss Benjamin of Woodsville, N.H., a trained nurse, is caring for her.

Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Cameron were in Cabot Sunday at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Glendon Orne.

The ball given by the P.T.A. was well attended and a good time was reported by all attending. ill Felix went to the Heaton Hospital last week for an operation.

Mr. McKenzie of Burlington was a recent visitor in town.

Rev. and Mrs. F. E. Currier returned Thursday from a several weeks trip to North Carolina, to visit their daughter.

VOICES OF SPIRIT

Contemplation and action balance each other

by Rona Kinsley

EAST MONTPELIER – One of the ways I deal with my anxiety about the state of our country and world is to stay busy. It serves as both a distraction and a way of feeling I am doing something positive, especially if my busyness has the purpose of helping others.

But sometimes that very busyness can create distance between me and others, and from the practices that feed my spirit. I recently reread something I had written after a friend rescued my nose from the grindstone, reminding me to stop, take a breather, and appreciate the world around me. I share this experience with you in the hope that it might remind you, too.

It was my day off, but the morning found me at my desk, doing background study for my sermon, because I couldn't afford to take a day off. A friend called and asked me to go for a cross-country ski. After I told her what I was doing

she gave me an earful for working on my day off. I decided to go.

We skied across a beaver pond, into balsams on the other side, then up through hardwoods to a field at the height of the land.

We stood in silence there, taking in a spacious view of the surrounding hills.

Snow was falling; the kind of snow that gives the feeling of being inside one of those shake-up snow globes so loved by small children.

It was a mixture of single flakes and fat clumps, all drifting earthwards. As I watched, I realized that the snowflakes didn't fall at the same rate. Some were uninterrupted in their downward drift, while others were caught by slight currents in the air and sent sideways, or even back upwards, before resuming their fall. The air was alive with little currents made visible by the snow.

We stood for a long time, mesmerized by the dance of the falling snow. It was an interval that filled me with more quiet and

peace than I had felt in some time.

My contemplation of the snow became a prayer of gratitude for the beauty all around me and for the grace I feel when I simply take time to be in the mystery and wonder of the natural world. I stayed as long as I could in that place of peace until my freezing toes told me it was time to move on.

That experience is a reminder that while staying busy is an effective, and productive way of dealing with the stress and anxiety of difficult times, it is only one way. And, in the end, it can be a distraction rather than a solution.

Taking the ski and watching the snow brought me to a place of deep quiet and appreciation where my anxieties fell away.

I suspect that if I sought out these experiences more frequently, they would do as much, if not more, to help me cope with the stress of our world as my busyness.

Benedictine monks have a commitment to "ora et labora," prayer and work, that recognizes

contemplation and action balance each other: that both are necessary for living a balanced life.

Even if we don't have a formal practice of prayer or meditation, time spent outdoors, letting the beauty around us quiet our restless minds, can bring us the kind of deep peace spoken of in a Celtic blessing, which includes these words:

"Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,

Deep peace of the gentle night to you,

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you."

May it be so.

Rev. Rona Kinsley is Pastor Emerita at The Old Meeting House in East Montpelier Center. Previously she was the interim pastor at the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

Frigid February

SHELBURNE – With ice on our roads and ICE in the streets, it feels frighteningly frigid this February. One needs a warm up while the other requires a cool down.

Dr. Dan Siegel, Founder of the Mindsight Institute, loves alliteration and describes the stress response as "fight, flight or freeze." When he is among friends, he adds "fornicate." It's all about fear in the reptilian brain. I think we should be fussy about our f-words. I much prefer "feelings, funny, friends and fabulous."

It is essential to acknowledge all our feelings. Fear is warranted when you are in danger. When you can, give yourself a few seconds to acknowledge your fear, then make a choice in how you respond. Even this short reflection on your feelings activates the neocortex of your brain, where you can choose from more alternative responses. Remember Louis Pasteur's advice that, "Chance favors the prepared mind." Make sure you are readily in touch with your core values. Mine are love, peace, hope and joy, all done with Grace.

I am reminded of Jack Kornfield's story about a Tibetan Monk who told him he knew why Jack makes people laugh. When they open their mouths, he slips in a

peace pill. Good medicine. I often quote one of Jack's favorite sayings, "Without a sense of humor, it's just not funny." He is talking about life, not just February. It's fabulous to have funny friends.

Another friend of mine is a trained violence interrupter. He knows how to deescalate violent behavior. He was Archbishop Desmond Tutu's bodyguard on his last trip to the U.S. At the time, my friend was facilitating community dialogues and public-private partnerships to promote wellbeing across Minneapolis. A gentle man almost twice my size, he loves working with children.

Choose your friends wisely. Spend time together, in person or online. Listen, laugh and love together. Hug each other.

My husband, Bill, is nearly ninety now. He represented the United States all over the world as an athlete and goodwill ambassador. He threw the javelin in the 1960 Olympics in Rome. He says he was proud to be an American then. Not now. He sends his best to all the athletes in Milan.

I am part of an informal group who call themselves the Good Troublers. Some peacefully protest, and most advocate for their core values by making phone calls, writing post cards, sending

emails and supporting community nonprofits. It can be stressful work. With a deep bow to the late John Lewis, I wonder if we should call ourselves the Hopeful Healers?

We could stay warm and wear baby blue bunny bonnets in solidarity with Liam Ramos and his family.

Trish Passmore Alley holds an MBA in Organizational Development and Behavior. A published

author and poet, her career has included teaching at the collegiate level, owning several small businesses in manufacturing, engineering, and retail, and founding and operating three social profits in Greensboro. A published author and poet, she posts brief, monthly blogs at gracefulmischief.com/. When her column refers to Grace, it is a presence in her life, and it is capitalized. She now lives in Shelburne.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



THE OUTSIDE STORY

Rare winter flicker of red, yellow

by Colby Galliher

NEW ENGLAND – While many of our region’s colorful birds fly south for the cold months, resident woodpeckers offer a reliable contrast to this season’s monochrome palette. A pileated woodpecker’s blazing crest and the miniature red cap of a hairy woodpecker brighten the gray-and-white doldrums. But few avian winter wardrobes match the brilliance of the northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), a mostly migratory bird that every so often toughs out the snow and ice in northern New England.

Northern flickers sport a combination of mottled and speckled brown-and-black plumage that camouflages the birds effectively, so look for the eye-catching red nape of their necks and their white behinds. You might also pay close attention when they take flight: Perhaps their most dazzling feature is the lightning-yellow underside of their wings and tail. (Out west, these feathers are primarily red. There are two recognized subspecies in the United States: yellow-shafted and red-shafted.)

Flickers’ migratory pattern is unorthodox for woodpeckers of the northern forest. Just one other of our eight woodpecker species, the yellow-bellied sapsucker, summers here and winters farther south. The other six find no need to travel even as the weather turns: their invertebrate prey remains accessible in the crevices of tree trunks and under their bark.

But winter tends to put a damper on flickers’ usual diet. Stalwart contrarians among their kin, the species most often feeds not clinging to tree trunks in forests but on the ground in open areas, including urban and suburban environments, where their choice dish lives: ants. Flickers can reportedly devour up to 5,000 of the little bugs in a sitting with the aid of their long, barbed tongues, which they can extend up to two inches beyond their beaks directly into anthills and tunnels. Deep and persistent snow cuts off the birds’ access to these buffets and other ground-dwelling insects like beetles, leading most flickers to fly south in the fall in search of suitable feeding grounds.

Not all decamp for warmer climes, however. The occasional flicker braves the northern New England winter, seeking out areas of exposed grass and dirt on which to forage. I have spied them feeding at pond edges, along plowed roadsides, and in fields where wind has scoured the snow from patches of soil, particularly during thaws. They also resort to eating seeds and fruit when snow cover persists for long stretches and visit bird feeders if suet is available, offering opportunities to notch a rare winter flicker sighting.

But could changing winters lead more flickers to remain in northern New England year-round, downgrading these sightings from brag-worthy to commonplace? Rising temperatures decrease snowpack and increase insect activity, which



Northern Flicker

may open up previously buried feeding areas and provide flickers with a steadier supply of invertebrates. One need only look to other familiar bird species to see how climate change facilitates range expansions and shapes migratory behavior. Carolina wrens, tufted titmice, and red-bellied woodpeckers, once unable to endure punishing northern winters, can all now be found in northern New England at any time of year. Given an improvement in foraging conditions, flickers may well buck the dangerous trip south in favor of permanent residency.

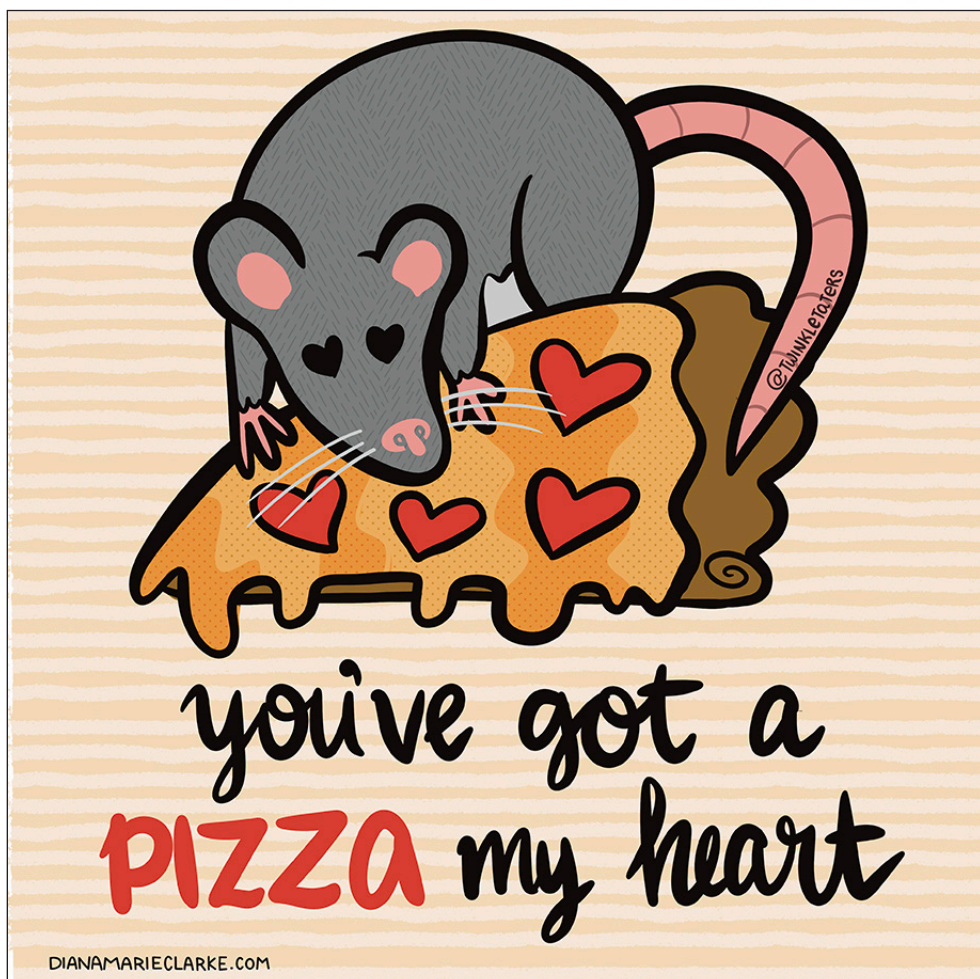
Weighing against the likelihood of greater winter flicker abundance is the species’ overall population trend. Flicker numbers in all seasons have steadily declined across the birds’ range, with the Cornell Lab reporting a 49-percent decrease since 1966. The woes are no different in New Hampshire and Vermont; in the former, according to New Hampshire Audubon, there are now just

a quarter of the flickers there were 50 years ago. Factors driving this slide include a shortage of the dead trees in which flickers nest and competition for these dwindling nest sites with European starlings. Because flickers live near and within human-dominated settings, they are also vulnerable to pesticide applications on lawns and golf courses, which both eliminate insects and can directly poison individuals.

Seeing a flicker in winter, then, is an unusual delight. Keep your eyes on open ground, and if that far-off flock of ground-feeding white-throated sparrows or dark-eyed juncos seems to include one unlike the others, look closer. You might spot a handsome woodpecker pecking for its breakfast, dreaming of the bugger days of spring.

Colby Galliher writes about conservation, ecology, and environmental policy. Visit his website to learn more about his work. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

Twinkletaters by Diana Marie Clarke





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IN THE GARDEN



White Ash bark

courtesy photo



This red oak has buds that have pointed tips and come in clusters at the tips of branches. courtesy photo

Identifying trees in winter

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – If you like to hike or snowshoe in the winter, you might like to learn the names of the trees you see. Do so, and the trees will seem like your friends. No need to greet them as Sally and Bob, know them as sugar maple, ash or white pine. Let's start with a few evergreen trees.

White pine (*Pinus strobus*) has clusters of five soft needles, each about three inches long. Branches grow in whorls off the trunk; each year the tree grows just one new set of branches, so you can see how fast they grow by observing the distance between whorls on the main trunk. From a distance you can see clumps of needles pointing up near the top of the tree.

Canadian hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) has short, flat needles that feel soft to the touch and have a white line on the underside of each. It is one of the few trees in the woods that can grow in deep shade as well as

full sun.

There are several kinds of spruce (*Picea spp.*), but all share a characteristic separating them from hemlock trees: turn over a branch and observe the color of the leaves. If the needles on the top bottom of the bough are the same color, it is a spruce. Spruce needles are pointy and sharp.

Recognizing bark is a great way to identify trees. Summer or winter, if you know the look of a tree's bark, you can identify it. It takes practice, of course, and careful observation.

Some bark is very distinctive. Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), for example, has a smooth gray bark that you can learn in moments. I love to run my hands over the bark, as if petting an elephant. Young beech, particularly, hold onto their leaves in winter, which is also a good clue. The leaves are oval with sharp points along their edges.

Most everyone can identify white or paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) by its white, peeling

bark that is easily removed from a tree by enthusiastic Scouts anxious to start campfires.

Gray birch (*B. populifolia*) is similar to white birch, but does not peel like its cousin, and has a dirtier look.

Yellow birch (*B. alleghaniensis*) peels like white birch but is a golden or silvery gray color.

Did you know young white birch are not white at all? They have a deep reddish black color and are spotted with small white dots or short white lines, lenticels that feel rough if you rub your hand over them. Eventually, after seven or eight years, white birch saplings will start to turn white.

Branching patterns help to identify trees at any time of the year. Most species of trees and shrubs have what is called alternate branching. That means that as your eye follows a branch, the twigs and leaves alternate from one side to the other. A limited number have opposite branching with twigs facing each other across a branch. Of course, just to confuse us, sometimes twigs or leaves have broken off on a tree like a maple that usually have opposite branching.

There is a mnemonic for trees that have opposite branching: MAD Cap Horse. Translated, that means Maple, Ash, Dogwood, member of the **Cap**rifoliacea family (honeysuckle, viburnum and elderberry, among others) and **Horse** chestnut. So if you see opposite branching, you can eliminate lots of possibilities.

Of the opposite branching trees, white ash is an easy tree to identify by bark: it has prominent ridges with deep furrows. It is dark brown or deep gray. The leaf buds are large and pointy, and new growth tends

to be thicker than that of most other trees. Unfortunately this wonderful tree will probably disappear from our woodlands due to a foreign invader, the emerald ash borer.

Buds at the end of a branch are another distinctive characteristic of trees in winter. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and sugar maple (*A. saccharum*) can be distinguished by their buds, for example. Sugar maple terminal buds are sharp and pointy, red maple buds are blunt and reddish in color, especially as we approach spring. Sugar maple buds are grayish or purplish-brown. And the bark of an old sugar maple is distinctive.

Oaks have opposite branching and hold on to their leaves throughout part of the winter. There are two major groups of oaks: the red and white oak families. Both have lobed leaves; red oaks have pointy tips on their lobes, while white oaks have rounded lobes. A good tree book can give you clues to narrowing down which of the oaks you are seeing, though red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and white oak (*Quercus alba*) are the most common.

When not in the woods, you might want to be at a spring flower show. Here is the lineup: Connecticut Flower Show will be in Hartford, Conn., February 20 to 23. The Philadelphia Flower Show is February 28 to March 8. The N.H. Orchid Society Flower Show will be March 6 to 8 in Nashua, N.H. The Capital Region Flower Show, is in Troy, N.Y., March 27 to 29. Lastly, the Chelsea Flower Show, in London, England, will be May 19 to 23.

Homeyer is a lifelong organic gardener living in Cornish, N.H. Write him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net. His column appears once a month.



The under side of hemlock needles have a white stripe.

courtesy photo

IN THE GARDEN

Building a dish garden

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – While indoor gardening helps stave off post-holiday blues and cabin fever, windows providing full sun can be scarce. Light stands take up needed space, so a gardener can build a dish garden.

Dish gardens are collections of plants sharing a single container. Terrariums are enclosed dish gardens.

To build a dish garden, select a container deep enough to hold a few inches of soil. It can be a shallow ceramic pot and matching saucer or a decorative casserole dish that's no longer used in the

size. Terrarium plants should also be suited to an environment with high humidity.

Humidity-loving plants like miniature African violets (*Saint-paulia*), polka dot plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachya*), and button fern (*Pellaea rotundifolia*) do well in terrariums. Cacti and succulents are best suited for open dish gardens. If you've fallen in love with a glass container but the plants you want to use prefer a dryer environment, leave the lid off to allow moisture to escape.

Now comes the fun part: designing and planting your miniature garden. Use a piece of paper or cardboard cut to the



Terrariums are enclosed dish gardens and can hold a number of plants and mosses. photo by Debra Heleba



Dish gardens can come in all shapes and sizes to house various indoor plant collections. This ceramic log houses succulents. photo by Debra Heleba

kitchen. An old gallon pickle jar, an unused aquarium, or any glass container with a lid can become a terrarium.

When using a container without a drainage hole, you'll need to take extra care that the plants' watering needs are met without overwatering. Accumulation of excess water can lead to root rot. For containers with drainage, use a light potting mix. For terrariums and containers with no drainage, start with a layer of gravel. Add a thin layer of activated charcoal to help prevent bacterial growth. Finish with a few inches of light potting mix.

Select plants that share the same requirements for light, water, and humidity. They should be slow growing and naturally small in

dimensions of the planting area to layout your intended design. Be sure to allow room for any embellishments to include.

Depending on the container, a spoon may be needed for planting. If building a terrarium in a glass container that's deep or has a small opening, attaching a spoon to a dowel makes reaching the soil easier. Kitchen tongs can help position plants.

Once plants are in place, consider adding pebbles, aquarium gravel or colored sand. Tiny figurines or other decorations can add interest to a miniature landscape.

Finally, give plants a drink of water. Because terrariums are enclosed, they won't lose much moisture from evaporation, so water sparingly, adding it by

spoonfuls to the soil to achieve desired moisture levels.

Place dish gardens in a well-lit location. Depending on the plants selected, this could be in or near a sunny window or under a grow light. Terrariums should never be in direct sun.

A terrarium won't require much maintenance. Depending on how airtight the lid is, it may be months before water is needed. Some pruning can maintain the size and structure of the plants. Always remove any dead or

damaged foliage.

A dish garden will require more attention. In addition to watering, pruning can help maintain the plants' size and shape. If they become overcrowded or outgrow the container, consider removing and repotting them.

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

Twinkletaters by Diana Marie Clarke



OUR E-MAILS

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OUR COMMUNITIES

Art opening reception, Feb. 13

WOODBURY – On Friday, Feb. 13, the Woodbury Public Library will host an opening reception for Ana Peltz’s “Serpentine, A Visual Homage to the Year of the Snake.” This exhibition is a collection of works on paper and nature-based assemblage completed over the past year, an exploration of forms, materials and processes that explore the spirit of the serpent.

Lunar new year story time, Feb. 14

WOODBURY – On Saturday, Feb. 14, the Woodbury Public Library will host a Lunar New Year story time with Rui Pougner from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Third Sunday poetry readings

MARSHFIELD – The Poetry Society of Vermont (PSOV) and the Jaquith Public Library will present Sunday Afternoon Poetry at the library on the third Sunday of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m. February 15 will feature poets Mary Collins and Rick Agran. Each monthly poetry reading will feature two Poetry Society of Vermont poets, with the exception of a special reading by Nadine Budbill on May 17. In addition to the Jaquith Library staff, hosts for the Sunday afternoon poetry readings will be PSOV board members David Hartnett and Elizabeth McCarthy. The readings are free and open to the public.

Winter markets, Feb. 15 and Mar. 15

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Community Winter Markets continue Sunday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hazen Union High School. The markets are a partnership between the Hardwick Farmers Market, Center for an Agricultural Economy, and Hazen Union High School. The final Hardwick Community Winter Market is scheduled to take place March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hazen Union High School. For more information, please find the event on Facebook or send an email to HardwickFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

Winter farmers market, Feb. 15

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Winter Farmers Market is Sunday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Plainfield Opera House. Shop local farms, businesses and craftspeople with lunch and live music by Jess O’Brien and Tim Davis.

Abu El-Haj discusses migration, Feb. 15

ADAMANT – Barnard College Professor of Education Thea Abu El-Haj will be a guest speaker at the Adamant Community Club on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 3 P.M., as part of the Winter Sunday series.

Thea Abu El-Haj, professor in education, is an anthropologist of education. Her research explores questions about belonging, rights, citizenship and education raised by globalization, transnational migration, and conflict. Her current research, “Disrupting Dispossession: Teaching Palestine in Exile, 1970-1990” is an oral history project with Palestinian teachers in Lebanon.

Recently Abu El-Haj was one of four authors of a special issue of the Harvard Educational Review devoted to “education and Palestine;” the issue was canceled within days of publication. She will



Thea Abu El-Haj

discuss that experience, plus what she terms “scholasticide” and the issue of Gaza on today’s college campuses with Rick Winston.

Admission is free; the series will continue each Sunday through March 1. For more information, call (802) 454-7103.

School Budget 101, Feb. 16

HARDWICK – Monday, Feb. 16, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the OSSU school board is hosting a general information session on budgets. Because school budgets are confusing for voters, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union School Board is hosting a general information session on how school budgets are developed, the role of the supervisory union in school budgets, and the relationship between school budgets and property tax rates. There will be a presentation, followed by

a discussion. This is not the annual meeting each school community holds and will present general information, not budgets specific to towns.

Everyone in the OSSU community (Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, Wolcott and Woodbury) is invited. There will also be a virtual option, check the OSSU.org website for the link.

The meeting will take place in the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Jeudevine Library.

Fish grow on trees, Feb. 18

ONLINE – Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 6 to 7 p.m., an online seminar will tell about the best ways to improve fish habitat is with trees from Courtney Buckley, a Fisheries Biologist at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Hosted by Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District, this webinar will share the ways that Vermont is promoting healthy habitats in streams and rivers.

Register at bit.ly/4toRQD5.

Film series, second, fourth Thursdays

MARSHFIELD – On the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, the Jaquith Public Library will host a film series, “Glimpses of a Maybe Future,” at 6:30 p.m..

For film titles call or email the library. For information call (802) 426 - 3581 or email: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or visit the website at jaquithpubliclibrary.org

Winter story time, playgroup, Fridays

MARSHFIELD – Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library will present stories, songs, snacks, crafts and free play, outside unless the weather is frightful, for children birth to age six and their grown-ups.

Following the Twinfield Union School calendar, Jaquith does not hold the program on the days Twinfield is closed. For information call (802) 426-3581, email jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or visit the website jaquithpubliclibrary.org

History book group, second Saturdays

MARSHFIELD – Second Saturday of the month at 2 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library hosts a free reading and discussion series. Books are available for loan from the library. On February 14, the

group will discuss “Empire Statesman: The Rise and Redemption of Al Smith”. For information call (802) 426-3581 or email: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or visit the website: jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

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EDUCATION

Tatistcheff named superintendent of OSSU

HARDWICK – Rebecca Tatistcheff will commence her role as superintendent of Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) on July 1. Tatistcheff was previously principal of the Cabot School and U-32 High School. She spent the bulk of her career in the New York City public school system, a member of a small superintendents team for 52 schools. Tatistcheff returned to Vermont in 2020.

The OSSU board reported they unanimously selected Tatistcheff,

recognizing her strong alignment with the values and needs of the OSSU community, and look forward to her leadership.

About the selection, the OSSU Board said, “Tatistcheff comes with a wealth of knowledge regarding the Vermont education system and deeply understands the current landscape that OSSU exists within. She draws on experience navigating large, complex educational systems, which she can apply to our multi-district

supervisory union. Her enthusiasm to strengthen supervisory union and community relationships, as well as her desire to creatively problem solve, with an eye to sustainability, and to position our schools and learners to succeed in the face of an ever-changing educational environment, is inspiring and exciting.”

Reflecting this shared commitment, Tatistcheff said, “I am excited to join the OSSU community. The attention to finding sustainable and student centered ways to care for our communities is clearly at the center of your current work and I am excited to support this into the future.”

The OSSU Board said that community members, families, staff and students participated



Rebeca Tatistcheff

in the superintendent search forums and shared their perspectives throughout the process. “Your engagement, feedback and commitment to OSSU were invaluable and played an important role in informing the board’s decision.”

Keller-Angelo named to Dean’s List

WORCESTER, MA – Amatishta M. Keller-Angelo of Hardwick was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean’s List.

This selection marks

outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2025 semester. Students must have a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Krumperman named to Dean’s List

NEWPORT, RI – Nora Krumperman of Marshfield was named to the Dean’s List during the fall 2025 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must

earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Students Named to President’s List

PLYMOUTH, NH – The following local students have been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List: Savannah Boyce of Craftsbury, Grace Cloutier of Hardwick and Keenan Wallace of Plainfield.

To be named to the President’s

List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Fall 2025 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Spanish club, Feb. 14

WOODBURY – On Saturday, Feb. 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Spanish Club will explore canciones de

amor (love songs) accompanied by singer and guitarist Julie Bacher at the Woodbury Public Library.

Trail Camera Tips, Feb. 18

ONLINE – Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 7 to 8:15 p.m., a webinar will present practical tips for using trail cameras to document wildlife presence and monitor habitat use.

Topics include camera placement and settings, managing photos and data, and how trail camera observations can complement on-the-ground tracking. Register at bit.ly/4al9Bul.

Baby, caregiver meet-up, Wednesdays

MARSHFIELD – Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., the Jaquith Public Library will hold a weekly gatherings for caregivers to connect while babies play. The event is geared toward babies to 18

months and their caregivers. Siblings can come along as well. For information call (802) 426-3581 or email jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or visit the website jaquithpubliclibrary.org

History book group, second Saturdays

MARSHFIELD – Second Saturday of the month at 2 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library hosts a free reading and discussion series. Books are available for loan from the library. On February 14, the

group will discuss “Empire Statesman: The Rise and Redemption of Al Smith”. For information call (802) 426-3581 or email: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or visit the website: jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

OBITUARIES

HARDWICK – Bryan Lee Putvain, age 74, of Hardwick and Bushnell, Fla., passed away at Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness, Fla., on January 30. He was born on November 5, 1951, in Hardwick, son of Joseph Francis and Dena Mae (Davidson) Putvain.

Bryan went to Woodbury Elementary then graduated from Hardwick Academy in the class of 1970. He married Valerie Perry on November 3, 1973. He raised his son and namesake, Brent and his daughter, Roxanne in Hardwick where he worked for the Village of Hardwick for several years. Bryan also worked at Morrisville Lumber for 35 years before he retired.

In his retirement he was a driver for Lamoille Valley Ford of Hardwick.

Bryan enjoyed spending time with his family, basketball, hunting and NASCAR (Dale Earnhardt No. 3). Bryan’s favorite pastime the last several years has been “womping” people in the card game “O’ Hell” (which he played a few rounds with his daughter a few days before his passing). He loved his No. 3. So he always gave three kisses to his wife when ever they parted. So in his honor we will give three honks in remembrance.

He is preceded by his parents, Joseph and Dena Putvain; son,



Bryan Lee Putvain

Brent Lee Putvain; brother, Bruce Putvain.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory, wife, Valerie (Perry) Putvain; daughter, Roxanne (Putvain) Fletcher; brother, Bradley Putvain (Merri); sisters, Bonnie Patoine, Bethany Kibodeaux; three grandsons Brandon Lee (Erionah Williams), Gavin James (Morgan Foster) and Aiden Zakkary; two great granddaughters, Pyper Elizabeth and Tempest Raellen.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Hardwick in the spring, details to be announced at a later date. Condolences and memories of Bryan may be shared with his family at dgfunerals.com.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org
ads@hardwickgazette.org

OBITUARIES

Virginia M. Cochran

MORRISVILLE – Virginia Mae Cochran, 82, of Morrisville passed away peacefully, in the comfort of her home, on Monday, February 2, with her loving family at her side.

Virginia, known to many as “Ginny” or “Mema,” was born November 3, 1943, in Newport, daughter of the late Douglas and Sylvia (Sanville) Niles. She was a graduate of Craftsbury Academy.

In her earlier years she worked as a stitcher at the stitchery in St. Johnsbury.

On August 11, 1962, Virginia married Carlton Howard Cochran in Craftsbury. Together they raised three children. In 1965 their family relocated to Alaska where they began a new adventure living in the great north for more than 24 years. During their time in Alaska, Virginia held several seasonal positions until she started working year-round for Skagway Air Service and Skagway Hardware. Virginia was also an active member of the Skagway Assembly of God, acting as youth leader, choir member and a variety of other titles.

In 1989 their family returned to Vermont where Carlton and Virginia purchased the Waterville Market. They operated the business for several years and sold the Waterville Market in 1996, when they moved to Morrisville. During this time, Virginia sewed for Black Diamond Flannel. In 1998, Carlton and Virginia made the decision to return to Alaska seasonally, in which Virginia worked as a seasonal employee at the Alaska Christmas Store. In Fall of 2006, both Carlton and Virginia retired and moved back to Vermont full-time.

Virginia was a member of the Trinity Assembly of God Church in Hyde Park where she took great pride in the holiday decorating and annual bazaar. She enjoyed spending time crafting, scrapbooking and taking care of her flower beds. She spent lots of time in the kitchen baking her well-known donuts, pies and cookies, which she shared at her church’s annual Christmas bazaar. She also loved to cook, hosting family Sunday dinners every Sunday night, with dessert of course. Virginia loved her family unconditionally, spending time with her family and attending as many of her grandchildren’s events as possible. She also spent countless hours helping her children and grandchildren with school projects, fundraisers,



Virginia M. Cochran

making costumes and contributing in any way she could.

Survivors include her husband, Carlton, of Morrisville; three children, Randy (Dawn) Cochran of Kingsland, Ga., Renee (K.J.) Myrtvedt of Graham, Wash., and Renita (Paul) Dubie of Morrisville; eight grandchildren, Ryan (Ciara) Cochran, Kaylin (John) Connors, Nina (Matthew) Kueter, Kjers-ti Myrtvedt, Avery (Devaney) Cochran, Dakota (Abby) Dubie, Darian (Hayden) Brown and Landon Dubie; many nieces and nephews; 14 great grandchildren, Roxy, Kalub, Delanie, Brayden, Talon, Kylan, Ember, Layah, Ford, Jace, Millie, Beckett, Rivie, and Hudson; brother, Robert (Irene) Niles of East Charleston; sisters, Beverly Nadeau of Essex and Sandra Gutzmann of Craftsbury.

In addition to her parents, Virginia was predeceased by four siblings: Ronald and Reginald Niles, Gloria Stevens and Shirley Kibbee.

A Memorial Service was on Sunday, February 8, at Northern Vermont Funeral Home, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick, with Rev. Avril Cochran officiating. Visiting hours were held from 1 to 2 p.m. The service immediately followed. A burial will be held in the spring at the Craftsbury Village Cemetery, Craftsbury.

Virginia and her family are forever grateful for the care she received from her nurses, aides, PCAs, chaplain and caretakers, who helped ensure her wish to stay home was honored. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Lamoille Home Health & Hospice, 54 Farr Avenue, Morrisville, VT 05661.

Arrangements are in the care of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. Online condolences are welcomed at northernvermontfuneralservice.com.

Richard E. Lee

WOLCOTT – Richard E. Lee was born and died on February 3. He lived all of his 82 years as a man of integrity and humor. He was born Richard Cruise in Winthrop, Mass., son of Helen (O’Leary) and Edward Cruise.

When he was nine, Richard and Helen moved to Hardwick. She later married Sawyer Lee and he adopted Richard. Richard graduated from the Hardwick Academy and attended Johnson and Lyndon State Colleges, leaving there to go into the U.S. Army at the beginning of the Vietnam Conflict.

After his service, he moved back home with his mother and step-father, George Badger. Eventually, he married Carol (Billings) McGranahan and they had two children. Years later, he married Lee Ann (Wheeler) Lee and they had six more kids together. He worked for over two decades at the Vermont State Surplus Warehouse, but it was after his retirement, when he went to work in the fish department at the Morrisville Hannaford, when he became involved in the community.

He served on the Lamoille Solid Waste District, the Hardwick Electric Board and he was a member of the United Church of Hardwick, most recently serving as the chair-past chair. He was a decades-long member of the Hardwick American Legion Post No. 7, and for over ten years, he served on the Wolcott Select Board.

Richard was a character. He loved a good joke and he kept people laughing. He had the gift of gab and he also had an extremely high intellect, which served him well when he was researching the things he liked to collect. He was an avid gun enthusiast and competitive shooter at muzzle-loader



Richard E. Lee

competitions across the state and beyond, taking first place in most of the competitions he participated in for years.

Richard is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Lee Ann, his children: Kimberly, Jessica, Charles, Quentin and Mary, Graydon, Emma, Zoie and Savannah; grandchildren Caleb, Oliver and Amira; siblings, Patricia and George, Janet, Larry, and Leslie; in-laws Clarence and Lorelei, Mary and Earl, and John; family of the heart, Lisa and P.J. He also leaves nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Helen, George, Sawyer and Edward; in-laws, Hilda and Charlie; brother, Sawyer Wendall; sister-in-law, Eileen; and infant son, Dominic.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the United Church of Hardwick at 11 a.m., A Celebration of Life will follow at the Hardwick American Legion Post No. 7, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, consider donating to either the Lamoille Area Cancer Network or the Lift Fund at the United Church of Hardwick. Arrangements are with the des Groseilliers Funeral Home. Condolences and memories of Richard may be shared with his family at dgfunerals.com.

**The
Hardwick
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**PRENEED
PLANNING**

Cirque Kalabanté showcases West African circus culture

LYNDON – Yamoussa Bangoura’s Cirque Kalabanté performs at Lyndon Institute, February 15, at 7 p.m.. Founded by West African circus star Yamoussa Bangoura, who has performed worldwide, including with Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Eloize, Cirque Kalabanté is inspired by daily life in Guinea. He first became interested in circus arts as a young man growing up in Conakry, Guinea, in the 1990s. He studied the

circus performers he saw on European TV and practiced around his home. He also studied the Nyamakala tradition of circus practiced by the Fula people of West Africa. He eventually joined Guinea’s original circus company, Circus Baobab, with whom he toured Africa and Europe. In the early 2000s, Bangoura was recruited to Canada by Cirque Eloize, a Montreal-based company. While in Canada, he also performed with Cirque du Soleil and Cavalia (cirque with

horses). In 2007, Bangoura opened his own company, Kalabanté Productions, in Montreal. He recruited many of his extended family to join the company, including his twin sisters, brothers and cousins.

“A daredevil circus,” writes the Georgia Straight, of Vancouver, “with astounding leaps and drum music [and] high-flying, jaw-dropping performances that will amaze the whole family.”

To buy tickets or learn more, visit cata-mountarts.org or keppresents.org or call (802) 748-2600 or visit the Catamount Arts box office at 115 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury.




Cirque Kalabante showcases West African culture, February 15, at Lyndon Institute.

courtesy photo

Vermont Youth Orchestra performs Feb. 18


MONTPELIER – The 2026 Farmers Night Series presents the fifth concert of the season with the [Vermont Youth Orchestra](http://VermontYouthOrchestra.org) (VYO) on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., in a performance of chamber music. The VYO Flute Choir will play Vivaldi’s “Spring” and fiddle tune “Ashokan Farewell;” VYO Brass Quintet plays Shakira and Shostakovich and VYO String Squad plays dances from Spain and Panamá. These groups come together to showcase New England composer Charles Ives.

The Farmers Night Concert Series is a longstanding State House tradition which goes back over 100 years to a time when lawmakers entertained themselves in the House Chamber mid-week while away from home. Artists from around the state, in genres ranging from classical music to bluegrass to spoken word, perform in the well of the House Chamber each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. during the legislative session. All concerts are free and open to the public. For the entire series, visit legislature.vermont.gov/the-state-house/events/farmers-night-concert-series/



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

Rotating Slots

#1: Sun 10 am-12 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Indigenous Music
2nd & 4th Sun: The Immanent Grove *Conni Mags*

#2: Sun 4-5 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Afrosonic Taxi
2nd & 4th Sun: Discoverances with Savannah

#3: Sun 9-11 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Walkin' Will: The Show of Life
2nd & 4th Sun: All Mixed Up

#4: Mon 11 am-12 pm
1st Mon: Billuminations *Stefanie Lingenfelter*
2nd & 4th Mon: Cuneliform Radio *Kyle Schlesinger*
3rd Mon: Biketalk

#5: Mon 7-9 pm
1st Mon: Future Reflections *DJ Syd*
2nd Mon: In Common Sounds *Brother B*
3rd Mon: Gilded Splinters *Kevin Titterton*
4th 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
1st Thu: The Broken Bois Collective Presents... *Khonsu X and Titan*
2nd Thu: The Hyper Local Dispatch *Natascha and DJ Syd*
3rd Thu: Democracy Now
4th Thu: Into the Issues *Steve Pappas*

#8: Sat 9-10 am
1st Sat: Gathering Peace *Joseph Gainza*
2nd Sat: Projected Censored
3rd Sat: Pollinator Report *Emily Lanxner*
4th Sat: Kitchen Permaculture *Rebecca Beldler*

#9: Sat 10-11 am
1st Sat: Sex Fly *Benge*
2nd Sat: Pitter Patter Radio *Pat Kantner*
3rd Sat: Under the Covers *DJ Rhizosphere*
4th Sat: Full Moon Hacksaw

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EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Basketball, 7 p.m., Twinfield girls varsity vs. Rivendell at Twinfield.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Teen Minecraft Competition, 3 p.m. Use one of the library's desktop computers or bring your own device. For ages 12-18. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Basketball, 5:30 p.m., Hazen Union junior varsity boys at North Country.

Basketball, 5:30 p.m., Twinfield junior varsity boys at BFA-Fairfax.

Community-building, 6 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Shawna Trader will present "Facing A Flooded World: Why Relationships is the Sweetest Way." Information: (802) 472-5948 or jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.gov.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Hazen Union varsity boys at North Country.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Twinfield varsity boys at BFA-Fairfax.

Contra dance, 7:30 to 9 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. Calling by Jennifer McHone Villalobos, live music by local musicians, all dances taught, no partner needed, families and beginners welcome, Bring dry shoes to dance in. Information cabotdance@aroundvt.org

Friday, Feb. 13

Tech literacy, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Cabot Public Library, with Seth O'Brien. Mastering video calls with Facetime, Google Meet and Zoom. Bring digital devices. Information, cabotlibrary.com.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Twinfield girls varsity vs. Richford at Twinfield.

Reception, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Woodbury Public Library, Art opening for Ana Peltz's "Serpentine, A Visual Homage to the Year of the Snake,"

Saturday, Feb. 14

Story time, 10:30 to 11 a.m., Woodbury Public Library, for Lunar New Year with Rui Pougner.

Spanish Club, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Woodbury Public Library.

Winter sowing, noon to 2 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, with Donna Hisson. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Bowling, noon, Craftsbury Academy Bowling Team at Valley Bowl, Randolph.

Turkey Pie Supper, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cabot United Church, Main St. Eat in or take-out. Donation.

Sunday, Feb. 15

Winter farmers market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hazen Union High School, Hardwick. Information: HardwickFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

Winter farmers market, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Plainfield Opera House. Lunch available. Live Music.

Discussion, 3 p.m., Adamant Community Club, Abu El-Haj,

Barnard College Professor of Education, discusses migration, part of the Winter Sunday series. Information: (802) 454-7103.

Jumping worms, 4 p.m., with Dr. Josef Gorres, Craftsbury Public Library. Information: director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Tech literacy, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Cabot Public Library, with Seth O'Brien. Mastering video calls with Facetime, Google Meet and Zoom. Bring digital devices. Information, cabotlibrary.com/.

Webinar, noon to 1 p.m., Nichols Pond reed study with Annie D'Alton, Registration information go to vermontlakes.org/event/manual-phragmites-control-a-pilot-study-at-nichols-pond/

Basketball, 5:30 p.m., Hazen Union junior varsity boys vs. Randolph at Hazen Union.

Basketball, 5:30 p.m., Twinfield junior varsity boys vs. Stowe at Twinfield.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Hazen Union varsity boys vs. Randolph at Hazen Union.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Twinfield varsity boys vs. Stowe at Twinfield.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Lego Club, 2:30 to 4 p.m., for ages 5 and up, Information cabotlibrary.com

Cooking Club, 3 p.m., Make hot chocolate from scratch. For ages 10 and up. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Twinfield girls varsity at Blue Mountain.

Trail Camera Tips, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Webinar, register at bit.ly/4al9Bul.

Concert, 7:30 p.m., Vermont Youth Orchestra performs, well of the State House Chamber, Montpelier, oart of Farmers Night Series. Open to the public.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Informational Meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Buffalo Mountain Forest proposal, Parker Ladd Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Online discussion, noon to 1:30 p.m., with registration information on the town website at hardwickvt.gov.

Basketball, 6 p.m., Twinfield varsity boys at Northfield.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Bowling, 9 a.m., Craftsbury Academy bowling team at Bowlerama, Rutlant, independent tournament.

Comedian, 7:30 p.m., Paula Poundstone, Barre Opera House. Tickets and information: barreoperahouse.org or (802) 476-8188.

Monday, Feb. 23

Jeudevine Players, 3 p.m.,

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EVENTS

original play to perform at the library. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Basketball, 5:30 p.m., Twinfield junior varsity boys vs. Oxbow at Twinfield.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Twinfield varsity boys vs. Oxbow at Twinfield.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Kids' Karaoke, 1 p.m. Sing your heart out to your favorite songs. For ages 7 and up. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Pizza and movie, 1 to 4 p.m., for ages 5 and up, Cabot Public Library. Pre-registration is appreciated. Information, cabotlibrary.com/.

Thursday, Feb. 26

Book group, 2 to 3 p.m., Cabot Library, "All About Me! My Remarkable Life in Show Business" by Mel Brooks. Information: cabotlibrary@yahoo.com.

Basketball, 5:30 p.m., Twinfield junior varsity boys vs. Williamstown at Twinfield.

Basketball, 7 p.m., Twinfield varsity boys vs. Williamstown at Twinfield.

Saturday, Feb. 28

Bowling, 9 a.m., Craftsbury Academy bowling team at Sparetime, Colchester, state tournament.

Saturday, March 7

Bowling, 10 a.m., Craftsbury Academy bowling team at Maple Lanes, Claremont, N.H., Senior Classic.

Ongoing Wednesdays

Pilates, 9 a.m., mat level 2, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Chair Yoga, 9 a.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Office hours, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., St.

John The Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 W. Church St., Hardwick. Information, (802) 472-5979.

Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon, Craftsbury.

Parents of Challenging Children, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., first Wednesday of month, support group for adoptive parents of children presenting serious emotional and behavioral challenges, Easter Seals Vermont, 641 Comstock Road, Berlin. Information, (802) 223-4744.

Outdoor Story, Activity, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Cabot Recreation Field Pavilion with the Cabot Public Library's Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.

Parenting Group, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. Geared toward babies to 18 months. Siblings invited. Information at jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Book-lovers Social, every first Wednesday morning, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Craftsbury Public Library. Sharing books, authors or books new to the library collection, no assigned reading. Tea and coffee, handwork projects welcome.

Brain Injury support group, 1 - 2:30 p.m., second Wednesday of month, Vermont Department of Health, 107 Eastern Ave., Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, hosted by The Vermont Center for Independent Living. Information, (800) 639-1522 or tyoungman@vcil.org.

Quilters, 1-4 p.m, Jeudevine Memorial Library, the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. All levels welcome.

Acudetox, 4 p.m., ear Acupuncture, good for anxiety, depression, various organ supports, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, 802-851-8120.

Community Supper, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick.

Food Shelf, 5 to 6:30 p.m, fourth

Wednesday, , 49 Valley Lake Road, South Woodbury. Information, (802) 472-6292.

Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Weigh-in at 5:15 p.m. United Church dining room, Hardwick.

Death Cafe, 6 p.m., second Wednesday of month, Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Jam Session, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities. Old-time jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., The Church in Cabot, 2 Common Road. Beginners' and open meeting.

Ongoing Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 - 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, West Church St., Hardwick. Literature and open meeting.

Tai Chi, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., Church of Christ, Greensboro. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. Information, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com

Arthritis Relief, 10 a.m., Community Center, Hardwick. Exercise class sponsored by the NEK Council on Aging. Information at Sara, Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

Office hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Information, mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Tai Chi, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Qigong and Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information at (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

Story Time, 10:30 a.m. preschool, Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Books, songs, art activities and more for ages 5 and under. Information, jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-5948.

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.

Diabetes support group, 1:30 p.m., The Health Center, Plainfield. third Thursday each month. Information, (802) 322-6600 or dgrabowski@The-Health-Center.org.

Peace Vigil, Thursdays, 2 - 3 p.m., Hardwick Peace Park, S. Main St., Hardwick, (beside the river).

Sign Language, 2 p.m., practice group, John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information at (802) 586-9692 or jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

Hang Out, 2:45-6 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, 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.

Refuge Recovery, 3 p.m. Thursdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

All Recovery, 4 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Crafftfit, 4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Taming Knotweed, 4:30 p.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hos-

See EVENTS, Next Page

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY IS HIRING FULL-TIME ROAD CREW

Visit craftsbury.gov/resources/employment-application for an application. Job opening will start in the fall.

Competitive Salary \$25-\$28/hour & Benefits – EOE.

Contact (802) 586-2823 or craftsbury@gmail.com for more information.



The Craftsbury Community Care Center is accepting applications for several positions across departments, which may be combined for the right person:

Cook (Part-Time) \$18.50–\$22/hr.

Prepare nutritious, appealing meals according to established menus and residents' diets. Ideal for someone comfortable adapting recipes, multitasking and supporting coverage as scheduled.

Delegated Medication Technician (Per Diem) \$19.50/hr.

Provide hands-on resident care and administer meds under nursing delegation. Ideal for someone calm, reliable, and detail-oriented who is comfortable with responsibility and flexible scheduling. Potential to grow into part-time.

Housekeeper (Per Diem) \$17–\$19/hr.

Maintain welcoming facility by cleaning resident rooms and common areas, doing laundry and assisting with bathing. Ideal for someone who values resident connection, comfortable providing personal care, enjoys physical work, and prides themselves on being thorough. Potential to grow into part-time.

Learn more and apply: www.craftsburycarecenter.org/employment



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EVENTS

mer Dam. Bring water, bug spray, gloves, assorted clippers, shovels. Craftsbury Conservation Commission.

Dance, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Prayer Service, 5:30 p.m., Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information, touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Grief Support, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., first

and third Tuesday of each month, a safe, confidential space to can share a story or be surrounded by those who understand and care, Lamoille Home Health & Hospice Building, 54 Farr Avenue, Morrisville. Information, Oona Lee at (802) 888-4651 or olee@lhha.org.

Trivia, 6 - 8 p.m., Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, unless there is a home basketball game. Limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First

come, first serve event, with room for about 10 teams.

Al-Anon, 6 p.m., Church on the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Services, 6:30 p.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Narcotics Anonymous, 7 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Film Series, "Glimpses of a Maybe Future," 6:30 p.m., second and fourth Thursdays of the month, Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Ongoing Fridays

Pilates, 9 a.m., level 3, at the Barn

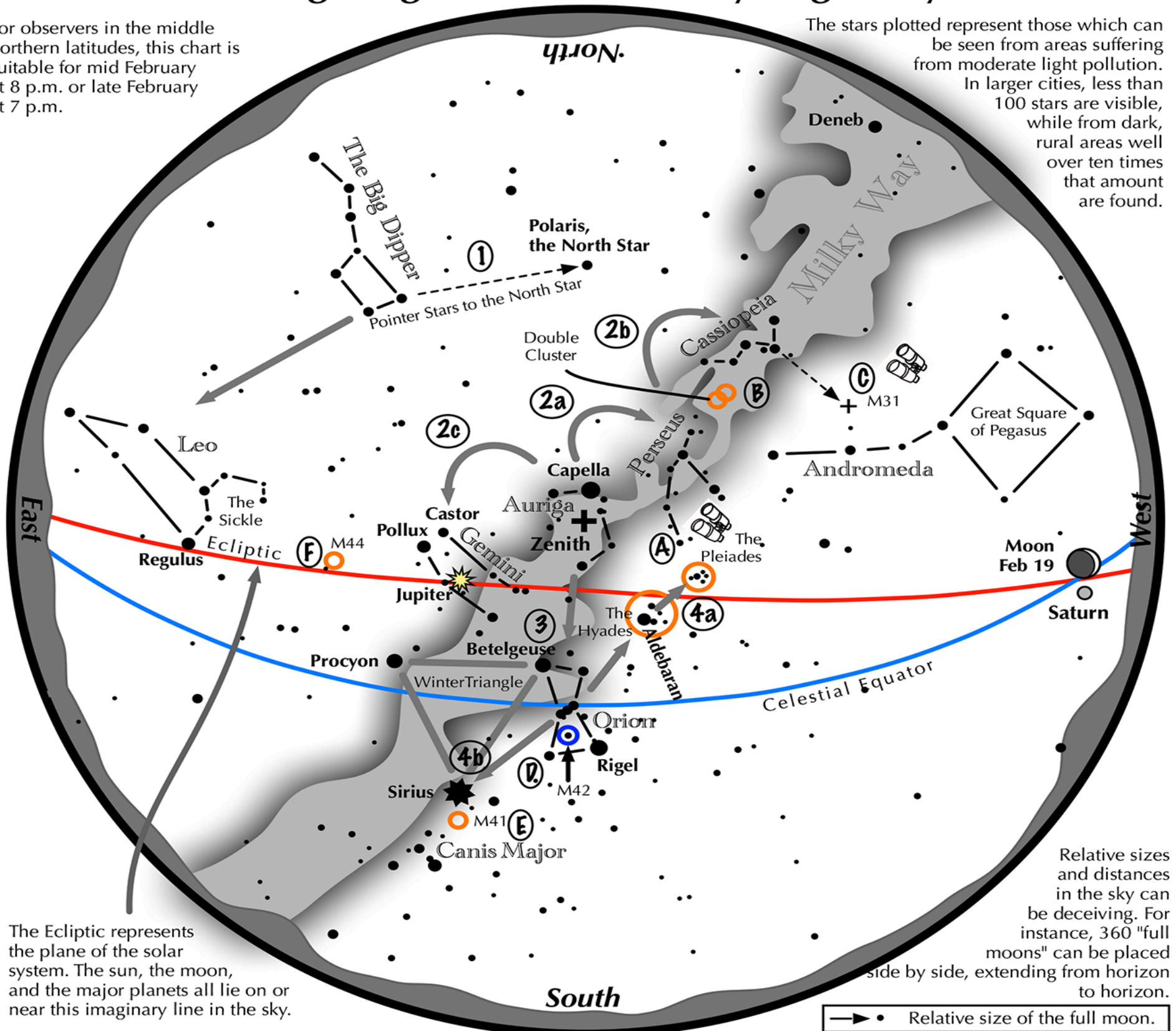
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Navigating the mid February Night Sky

2026

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for mid February at 8 p.m. or late February at 7 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the February night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Above the northeast horizon rises the Big Dipper. Draw a line from its two end bowl stars upwards to the North Star.
- 2 Face south. Overhead twinkles the bright star Capella in Auriga. Jump northwestward along the Milky Way first to Perseus, then to the "W" of Cassiopeia. Next jump southeastward from Capella to the twin stars of Castor and Pollux in Gemini.
- 3 Directly south of Capella stands the constellation of Orion with its three Belt stars, its bright red star Betelgeuse, and its bright blue-white star Rigel.
- 4 Use Orion's three Belt stars to point northwest to the red star Aldebaran and the Hyades star cluster, then to the Pleiades star cluster. Travel southeast from the Belt stars to the brightest star in the night sky, Sirius, a member of the Winter Triangle.

Binocular Highlights

- A: Examine the stars of two naked eye star clusters, the Pleiades and the Hyades.
- B: Between the "W" of Cassiopeia and Perseus lies the Double Cluster.
- C: The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval.
- D: M42 in Orion is a star forming nebula. E: Look south of Sirius for the star cluster M41. F: M44, a star cluster barely visible to the naked eye, lies southeast of Pollux.



EVENTS

off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Taiji, 10:15 a.m., intermediate, Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Storytime, Playgroup, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information at jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Homeschool Program, 10:30 a.m., Friday, Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Meditation, 3-3:45 p.m., Craftsbury Community Care Center, 784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, the second and fourth Fridays, with Nancy Milholland. Open to all, sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsbury.

Farmers Market, 4 to 7 p.m., 13 Mill St., Plainfield. Food and craft vendors, baked goods, fruits and veggies and more.

Haiku Club, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, every first Thursday, Read published haiku, brainstorm Vermont kigo, or season words, write a haiku. No previous writing experience needed. Hosted by Mark Scott.

Contra Dance, 7-9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St., Cabot, second Fridays, through June 7. All dances taught, no partner needed, all welcome. Information, cabotdance.aroundvt.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., for women only, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

The Hardwick Gazette at Front Seat Coffee, Fridays, 10 a.m. Visit with Gazette staff.

Ongoing Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:30 a.m., step meeting, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

History book group, second Saturdays of the month, 2 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Informa-

tion: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Food Shelf, 9 to noon, third Saturday of each month from 9 to noon, 49 Valley Lake Road, South Woodbury. Information, (802) 472-6292.

Fiber Arts, 10- 11 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets the third Saturday of the month.

Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon, Craftsbury.

Al-Anon, 10 a.m., Community Justice Center, St. Johnsbury, information, (802) 626-5355.

Overeaters Anonymous, 10 a.m., Zoom meeting, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Acudetox, 11 a.m., every fourth Saturday, ear acupuncture, good for anxiety, depression, various organ supports, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: (802) 851-8120.

Taming Knotweed, 11 a.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Bring water, bug spray, gloves, assorted clippers, shovels. Craftsbury Conservation Commission

Osteoporosis Education and support group, 1 p.m., first Saturday of month, Better Bones of the Northeast Kingdom, Community Room at Community National Bank, Derby. Information, BetterBonesNEK.org or Mary King at Mary@BetterBonesNEK.org, or (802) 535-2011.

Craftfit, 2:30 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Vigil Mass, 4 p.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Confessions before Mass, Information, mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

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

Albany Library Writing Group, first and third Saturdays of the month, 2 to 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Ongoing Sundays

Service, 8:30 a.m., United Church of Marshfield, U.S. Rte. 2, worship service and Sunday school, Pastor Carlyle Pierce. Information, (802) 684-2114.

Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Confessions before Mass, Information, mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Service, 9 a.m., Danville United Methodist Church, Danville Green, Rev. Henry Cheney. Information, (802) 684-3389.

Sunday School, and prayer, 9 a.m., adults, Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information: touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Sunday School, 9 a.m., The Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott, for all ages. Information, (802) 888-5277, (802) 888-9113.

Sacrament Meeting, 9 a.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Rte. 15 W, Johnson. Bishop Erik Worthington, (802) 326-3035, mormon.org.

Children's story time, 9:30 a.m.,

The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick. Information, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 9:30 a.m., West Danville United Methodist Church, Vt. Rte. 15, across from Joe's Pond, Pastor Pam Smith. Information, (802) 684-1201.

Service, 9:30 a.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information. (802) 472-5294.

Bible study, 10 a.m., East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1773 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, VT 05856. Information, (802) 586-7707, epecvt@gmail.com, east-craftsburypresbyterian.org.

Worship, 10 a.m., and Sunday School, Albany Methodist Church, Route 14,.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 South Main Street. In person, Zoom or livestreaming. Communion Service, first Sunday of month. Rev. Avril Cochran, Pastor. Jean Hackett, music director, an Open and Affirming Congregation. Information, (802) 472-6800 for information.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Cabot, 2 Common Way, refreshments following. Information, (802) 563-2278.

Service, 10 a.m., Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information, touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Children's service, 10 a.m., The

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EVENTS

Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick. Information, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 10 a.m., St. John The Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 W. Church St., Hardwick. Rite II Service with music and coffee hour following service. Information, (802) 472-5979.

Service, 10 a.m., the United Church of Craftsbury, an Open and Affirming Congregation; Affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Handicap accessible, (802) 586-8028, unit-edchurchofcraftsbury.com, united-churchcraftsbury@gmail.com.

Service, 10 a.m., the Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott, Pastors, : Marlin Wadel and Stephen Groff. Information, (802) 888-9113, (802) 888-5277.

Service, Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Calais-Woodbury United Church, Rte. 14, South Woodbury. Communion, first Sunday of month. Church phone, (802) 232-1013, information, (802) 456-1557.

Service, 10 a.m., First Universalist Parish of Derby Line, P.O. Box 454, Derby Line, VT 05830, (802) 873-3563, derbylineuu.org, Zoom service.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Christ, 165 Wilson St. 802-533-2223, also online. Communion Service first Sunday of the month. Rev. Dr. Ed Sunday-Winters. Coffee hour following service. An Open & Affirming Congregation. gucvvt.org.

Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Michael's Church, 270 Bend Road, Greensboro Bend, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, confessions before Mass, Father Raj Madri. Information, (802) 472-5544.

Service, 10:30 a.m., The Act of Consecration of the Human Being, The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick. Information, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 10:30 a.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Service, 11 a.m., East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1773 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, VT 05856. Sunday Service, 11 a.m., handicapped accessible. Rev. Joe Welker, Pastor. Information, (802) 586-7707, ecpcvt@gmail.com, east-craftsburypresbyterian.com.

Service, 11 a.m., First Congregational Church (NACCC), 123 E. Church St., East Hardwick, worship led by Jim Casavant, interim Pastor. Closed in winter. Information, (414) 856-1620.

Pickleball, 11 a.m., Hardwick Elementary School gym. Beginners group. Information, Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

Service, 11 a.m., Trinity Assembly of God, Rte. 15 East, Hyde Park. Pas-

tor Ron Doyle. (802) 888-7326.

Fellowship Service, 11 a.m., The Healling Stream Church of God, Wolcott Town Hall, Pastor Peter La-Bonville, Wheelchair accessible.

Spanish Club, 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets the second Saturday of each month.

Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wolcott United Methodist Church, Route 15.

Pickleball, noon, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information, Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

Service, noon, Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Mending Circle, 3 to 5 p.m., every third Sunday, The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Bring clothes in need of fixing. Materials, instruction, snacks supplied.

Poetry Readings, third Sunday of each month, 2 to 4 p.m., Jaquith Public Library. Each reading will feature two Poetry Society of Vermont poets. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Evening Service, 7:30 p.m., The Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott. Information, (802) 888-5277, (802) 888-9113.

Ongoing Mondays

Pilates, 9 a.m., level 1, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Adaptive Biking, 2 - 3 p.m., the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road in Hardwick. Reservations or information, kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org, call (802) 427-4116.

Chess Club, 2:45 - 4 p.m., Craftsbury School, Minden Art Room. Join advisor Andras Hadik-Barkoczy on select Mondays preparing for the Vermont State Chess Tournament, March 28.

Mending, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

Quit Tobacco, support group, 3 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Adaptive Biking, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road in Hardwick. Reservations or information, kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org, (802) 427-4116.

Dads' Group, 5 - 6 p.m., at the Oxbow in Morrisville. Connect with other dads.

Information, Rob at rcary@LRCVT.org or (802) 730-3000.

Dance, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Service, 6 p.m. Walden United Methodist Church, 109 Noyestar Road, handicap accessible, (802) 684-1201.

Families Anonymous, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Alcoholics Anonmous, 7 p.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 S. Main St. Open discussion. Information, (802) 748-3708, local AA (802) 334-1213 or toll-free (877) - 334-1213.

Ongoing Tuesdays

Qigong, 8:30 a.m., the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Tai Chi, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, Hardwick. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, Information at (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

Tai Chi, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, Hardwick. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information at (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

Storytime, 10 a.m., Craftsbury Public Library, early literacy for children ages 0 - 5. Information at childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.

Exercise, 11 a.m., Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro, lead by certified AFE-crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com instructor Alice Perron. Information esanderson@nekcouncil.org, (802) 751-0431.

Moms in Recovery, support program, 1 - 2 p.m., tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information, (802) 635-0084.

Kids' Chorus, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing. Information at jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

After School, 3 - 5 p.m., Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Dungeons & Dragons, 3:30 - 5 p.m., Cabot Public Library, ages 9 - 13. Mysteries and magic, tails and talons, puzzles and prophecies.

Smart Recovery, 4 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Craffit, 4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Crafting Group, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Magic, 5 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, A group of young people get together at to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. New players are welcome.

Friends of Jeudevine Library, 5:15 p.m., third Tuesday of every month at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.

As Bill Sees It, AA Meeting, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Taiji, 6 p.m. Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 p.m., meditation meeting, United Church, 6 Church Lane (next to library), Craftsbury Common. Open meeting.

Exhibits

Victoria Matiesen, "Always Looking," new landscape paintings, through January 20, Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

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Hazen Union Wildcat Sully Laflam (center) splits Lamoille players James Wallace (left) and Graesyn Strisberg (right) during play, February 3, in Hardwick. Hazen edged Lamoille 54-52. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union junior Jameson Lamarre (No. 11) is double teamed by Ryan Clark (No. 11) and Isaac Schroeder of Lamoille as Lamarre shoots for three with one second left on the clock to sink the game winner. At left is Wildcat Kobe Smith. Hazen won the February 3 game 54-52. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Statement week for Hazen boys with impressive wins

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys basketball team fired a shot across the bow of Division III last week with a pair of impressive wins against Division II powerhouse Lamoille and two-time defending champion Thetford Academy on the road.

Jameson Lamarre’s buzzer-beating three-pointer completed a fourth quarter comeback, sending the Cat Den into a frenzy last Tuesday night as the Wildcats stunned the Lancers 54-52.

Hazen looked dead in the water in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter against a suffocating Lamoille defense, but consecutive three-pointers by Lincoln Hill and Lamarre, coupled with some troubles at the foul line by Lamoille, set the stage for an all-time ending. Down one with just under five seconds to play, Hill took the inbound and handed off to Lamarre, who dribbled to his left across the top of the key. When Lamarre’s leaner from beyond the arc touched nothing but net as time expired, the packed house erupted and the visitors were left staring into space in disbelief.

Lamarre finished with 20

points, seven rebounds and six assists. Hill added 14 points, Morgan Michaud nine and Sully Laflam chipped in with seven.

Ryan Clark paced the Lancers with 12 points and Jackson Hoag finished with 10 as they saw their nine-game winning streak come to an end. Lamoille (12-2) held on to their No. 2 spot in the current Division II standings behind undefeated Hartford.

There was no letdown for the Wildcats on Thursday night as they exercised some demons against division rival Thetford with an impressive 66-43 road win. Lamarre (23 points) and Hill (21) led the charge once again, sparking a 16-7 run to start the second half to carry a 46-36 lead into the fourth quarter. Lamarre added 10 rebounds and six assists to his impressive stat line and Hill continued as Hazen’s deep threat with five more threes. Michaud did the dirty work in the paint with eight points and 10 boards.

The Wildcats enjoyed their best free-throw shooting performance of the season, converting on 17 of 22 attempts.

Conner Sloop led the Panthers with 14 points and Mitchell Parkman added nine

as they fell to 8-5. Thetford has beaten the Wildcats in the last two Division III state title games.

“This was a big week and a huge confidence boost for the kids,” said head coach Aaron Hill. “Lamoille is such an athletic team at the guard position, and they can beat you up inside as well. Thetford is a very physical team too, but we did a great job of applying pressure on the ball in the second half. Our effort was great on their guards, and it disrupted their entry passes into the post. It was huge to get both

of those wins and it really sets a positive mindset to keep working at finishing off the regular season strong.”

Hazen (11-3) was back home on Tuesday for a match-up with Montpelier before traveling to Newport to take on North Country on Thursday. They’ll welcome a Randolph team to the Cat Den next Tuesday that sits just ahead of the Wildcats in the top spot of the current Division III standings. All home games can be live-streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Hazen Union team members (from left) Ethan Gann, Jeter Demers, Chayse Newell, Noah Foster (No. 5), Lucian Jurkiewicz and manager Blair Demers (in front) erupt onto the floor at the final buzzer in celebration of their 54-52 victory over Lamoille, February 3. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union's Autumn Dailey (No. 10) shoots for two as she's defended by Gabriella Marshia (right) of Lyndon, February 3, in Hardwick during Cancer Awareness Night. Hazen topped Lyndon 54-26.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Julia des Groseilliers of Hazen Union aims for the basket ahead of Lyndon defenders (from left) Maddison Newland, Gabriella Marshia and Madison Gray during action February 4, on Cancer Awareness Night at Hazen. The official at left in back is Josh Smith. The Lady Cats won 54-26.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lady Lancers snap Hazen girls win streak to stay perfect

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls basketball team discarded Lyndon Institute (LI) to run their win streak to twelve games last week before getting clipped by Division II power Lamoille on the road for just their second loss of the season.

Kelsie Rivard led the way with 14 points as the Lady Cats took care of business at home last Wednesday with a 54-26 win over LI. Isabelle Gouin powered the backcourt with 12 points and Mya Lumsden drained a pair of field goals from long range to finish with eight. Taylor Thompson and Autumn Dailey chipped in with six points apiece and Ari Nichols (three points) connected on a corner three in the win. Gabriella

Marshia led the Lady Vikes with 15 and Julia Allen added six in the loss as they fell to 2-13.

Rivard continued to have the hot hand on Friday night with a game-high 24 points, but it wasn't enough as Lamoille ran their record to 16-0 with a 55-50 win at home. Alana Crittenden led the Lady Lancers with 15 points and Ava Baisley added 14 to help the home team erase a 28-24 deficit at the half, cutting it to one with eight minutes to play. Rivard drained a pair of threes on the night and Lumsden (11 points) also connected from long range, but Lamoille cashed in on 10 of 12 free throw attempts to keep the lead for good down the stretch. Cassi Boissoneault chipped in with 12 points for Lamoille as they held on to their top spot in the division ahead of two-time defending champion Fair Haven (14-1). The Lady Slaters have ended Lamoille's playoff runs each of the last three seasons. Lamoille starts five guards (four seniors and one junior) and applies full court pressure with a positionless style of basketball similar to the Lady Cats. Head coach Randy Lumsden is taking positives from his team's only two losses of the season (CVU and

Lamoille) coming on the road and out of the division.

"We one hundred percent battled with both of those teams and the result could have gone either way. Friday's game at Lamoille was back and forth, they just happened to go on the last run. We definitely need to tighten up the screws on the defensive end however. We were back in the gym Sunday working on defensive rotations. Playing teams of this

caliber will make us better as a team come tournament time," said Lumsden.

The Lady Cats were back on the road Monday for a Capital League matchup against Montpelier. They are scheduled to host Lake Region on Wednesday night before wrapping up a busy week with a trip to Oxbow on Friday. All home games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



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ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT



On the Craftsbury Outdoor Center course last weekend, Shea Brams (15) of Middlebury catches a ski on a high speed turn, while Amelia Tucker (8) Dartmouth, Evelyn Walton (6) Dartmouth, Mica Bodkins (3) Middlebury, and Emma Crum (2) Bowdoin prepare to change course fast.

photo by Eric Hanson

Speed, cold at the UVM College Cross Country Ski Carnival

CRAFTSBURY – The northeast college ski circuit came to the Craftsbury Outdoor Center this past weekend, along with the New England Nordic Ski Association's Eastern Cup series. Friday was college skiers only in classic sprint races for the UVM Ski Carnival. In this new event, the top 50 skiers move on from the morning qualifier to the five quarterfinals consisting of 10 skiers each. Traditional sprint racing consists of six skiers in each heat, thus the crowds were anticipating lots of elbow-to-elbow interaction in the ten person mini-mass start races at full speed. They were not disappointed. Most groups of 10 stayed very close together over the first 600 meters of relatively flat terrain before speeding down the one major hill in the race. The race was then on during the next 300 meter climb, two technical corners and the final 600 meters back to the finish. As sprint courses go, this one is long and might favor some of the longer distance specialists, espe-

cially by the fourth and final sprint. The skiers in the 10-person final are essentially skiing four, one mile long races with 25 minutes of rest between each sprint in 3 ½ to 4 minutes.

Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP) skier, John Schwinnhamer, jumped into the qualifier and showed why he is one of the top sprinters in the country besting the field by seven seconds, the equivalent of winning a 10 km by a minute or two. Only college skiers moved into the heats. UVM skiers took 1st and 3rd with Bennon Brattebo winning the final by two seconds (3:27), ahead of Middlebury's Nathan Doughty. Bailey Finnegan was 3rd. Henrik Wist (St. Michael's) finished 4th and Miles Miner (Williams) was 5th. Both Brattebo and Doughty won their respective quarterfinal and semi-final.

On the women's side, UVM's Haley Brewster made her way through the quarters and semis to win the final (4:01) with Emma Crum (Bowdoin) 2nd, Mica Bodkins (Middlebury) 3, Amelia Tucker (Dartmouth) 4, and Natalie Nicholas (UNH) 5. Crum, Bodkins and Tucker all avoided a crash in their semifinal when the lead



Shea Brams (15) fell on high speed corner at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center course last weekend. She finished the race but once one falls in a sprint race, there is no catching up.

photo by Eric Hanson

skier from Middlebury, Shea Brams, caught an edge and crashed in the most technical downhill corner (see photos).

On day-two of the UVM / Easter Cup weekend, racers faced 6 F at the 10 a.m. start that descended all day with a good northwest wind. It was a challenge to stay warm and race hard at the same time. Haley Brewster (UVM), who last year earned World Cup starts with the U.S. Ski Team, demonstrated why by winning the 10 km freestyle race in 29:13, over 40 seconds ahead of Hattie Barker (UNH) and Natalie Nicholas (UNH). Barker is an MMU graduate. Greta Kilburn (UVM) was the 2nd UVM skier placing 9th. Greta's family has ties to Greensboro. Craftsbury's Ruth Krebs (Bowdoin) placed 19th. Craftsbury Ski Club (CSC) junior skiers joined in the mix for the Eastern Cup portion of the race trying to keep up to the college skiers with Tillie Lange 95, Katherine Mackenzie 148, and Lila Mackenzie 150.

One hundred sixty-four skiers started in the mens' race with Brian Bushey (GRP) winning in 25:58. UVM's Tabor Greenberg and Finnegan Bailey went

2 and 3. CSC skiers included Travis Roy 137, Soren Wilkens 140, and Oryon Hart 147.

On day-three, the sun made -2 F seem much warmer as skiers competed in 5 km for the Under 16 (U16) and 10 km for the men's and women's open races. Michaela Keller-Miller had the fastest women's time in 32:39. Tillie Lange (CSC) jumped to 12th after most of the college skiers headed home after Saturday. Adele Pritchard was 21, Anya Moriarity 27, Katherine Mackenzie 37, Nora Demaine 39, Anna Wetherell 43 and Lila Mackenzie 47. Bushey won his second race of the weekend in 27:38 with GRP teammate Jack Christner 3rd. CSC skiers Soren Williams was 44 and Travis Roy 48. The U16s had their own races with Acadia Enman (Mansfield Nordic) winning in 16:57 with CSC skiers Hadley Abbene 11, Aemelia Terrone 14, Lillian Suddaby 17, Valerie-lynn Hivkova 22 and Anna Cotterill 24.

For the boys, Wren Chalmers placed 1st in 15:10 with CSC skiers Isaac Nadzam 5, Oakley Crawford 6, Henry Young 12, Jin Ramsay 17, Salvador Doyle 19, Theodore Fournier 20 and Dean Roy 24.

See SKI REPORT, next page



Two Middlebury College skiers lead the pack down Moss Run on the 1.6 km sprint course at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center course last weekend.

photo by Eric Hanson



The 14- and 15-year-old girls are off in the 5 km Eastern Cup classic race last weekend at Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

photo by Eric Hanson

KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS

Twinfield-Girls notch first win

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot girls basketball team brushed off a pair of losses to Winooski and Danville to start their week, then defended home court with a resounding win against Stowe to earn the seasons first win.

After a disappointing 52-20 home loss to Winooski on Monday, The Lady Trojans gave crosstown rival Danville all they could handle Wednesday night on their home court before running out of steam in a 40-33 loss. Junior Chloe North was the offense for Twinfield-Cabot, pouring in a career-high 26 points, including four three-pointers. Lynsey Lavelly led the Lady Bears with 11, Lauren Joncas added nine and Desirae Crocker added eight points and 11 boards in the win.

North continued with the hot hand on Friday, punishing Stowe with 14 points in an impressive 42-24 win at home. The young Lady Trojans avenged a six-point loss to Stowe last month, where they gave up a fourth quarter lead.

“Everyone on the roster contributed, with almost everyone scoring. It was a great team win,” said head coach Jack Whalen.

Twinfield-Cabot will look to carry

momentum into a home matchup against Rivendell Academy on Wednesday before hosting a red-hot Richford squad Friday night.

Youth hockey update

LYNDON CENTER – For the second straight season, the 10U Tier 5 State Hockey Tournament will be hosted by the Lyndon Area Youth Hockey Association (LAYHA) at Fenton Chester Arena.

The best teams from all around the state will be competing for the cup, with playdowns starting later this week. Greensboro's Caden and Torin Stuart play for the LAYHA 10U Tier 4 team and their state tournament will be held in Woodstock. Hardwick's Gracie and Paige Cruickshank also compete in Vermont's youth hockey program.

Caden notched two goals and an assist and Torin added an assist last week as they split games with St. Albans and Rutland. Their Tier 4 team will rematch with Rutland on Saturday in the first round of the state tournament, with playdowns running through Monday.

In a hockey filled weekend, several LAYHA hockey players attended the Norwich University hockey game at Kreitzberg Arena Friday night. LAYHA alum Cam Gwatkin plays

for Southern Maine and allowed attending youth hockey players into their visiting locker room to meet the team. Gwatkin recorded an assist in a 6-3 loss to the Cadets.

Chargers compete at Missisquoi Lanes

LOWELL – Several Chargers hit their season highs last week at Missisquoi Lanes as the Craftsbury Academy (CA) bowling team hosted its third meet of the season.

Senior Parker Holcomb bowled his best game of the season, pacing the Chargers with a 170. Junior Eva Small also set a personal record with an impressive 139 for CA. Freshman Arden Bissell's 124 was also a personal best for the first time bowler.

Fair Haven junior Michael Towle bowled the game of the week, vaulting him up the individual standings with a 236. South Burlington freshman Christian Monfreda was a close second with a game of 223. Randolph and Fair Haven continue to battle for the top spot in the state, with the Slaters currently holding down the top spot by percentage points.

The Chargers will be back in action this Saturday at the Valley Bowl in Randolph.

Russell powers Trojans to tenth straight win

by Ken Brown

WELLS RIVER – Senior point guard Eli Russell continued his march towards a career scoring milestone last week, leading the Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team to a pair of lopsided road wins over Blue Mountain and Grace Christian.

Russell knocked down a three on his way to a 19-point night as the Trojans doubled up Blue Mountain last Tuesday 76-38. Omar Miksic-Knibb complemented with 14 of his own, Zepherin Hebert added 13 and Thomas Gouge (13 points) ventured out of the paint to connect on a rare three. Azeem Stewart chipped in with seven points as Twinfield-Cabot put the game away early, taking a 47-13 advantage into the break. Conner Dailey led the Bucks with eight points as they fell to 2-13 on the season.

On a rare back-to-back road trip, Russell showed zero signs of fatigue Wednesday night, pouring in a career-high 36 to power the Trojans past Grace Christian in Bennington 86-46. Russell added four steals to his impressive stat sheet as he surged within 70 points of 1,000 for his stellar career. Azeem Stewart continued his solid sophomore campaign with 17 points, Herbert scored 14 and

Miksic-Knibb did a little bit of everything with 12 points, seven assists and five rebounds. It has been a quick fall from grace for the Lions from their 21-win season and Division IV state runner up to Danville in 2024 as they fell to 1-9 on the year.

Russell seems determined to put his stamp on a historic high school career at Twinfield-Cabot, coming off a 30-goal season for his Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) soccer team whose only loss came in the Division IV state title match. Russell earned Mountain League

Player of the Year honors as well as a second straight Vermont All-State selection. He hopes to get his senior running mate Tej Stewart back from injury before season's end as the Trojans look to make it back-to-back trips to the Barre Auditorium. Stewart is just 50 points away from 1,000 for his career.

“We continue to keep our fingers crossed on Tej and hope to get some good news in the next week or two. Eli and Omar are both doing a wonderful job getting everyone involved into the flow of the game as we battle through

injuries. We have another big week ahead of us with two more road games and hopefully we can continue to grow as a group and finish off games together,” said head coach Kris Bador.

Bador's talented squad (13-1) kept their No. 2 position in the current Division IV standings behind undefeated West Rutland. Williamstown (12-3), MSJ (12-2) and Twin Valley (12-3) round out the top five. The Trojans traveled to Richford on Tuesday and will stay on the road for a match-up against BFA-Fairfax Thursday.

Ski Report

Continued from previous page

Freed has Olympic debut in biathlon mixed relay

CORTINA, Italy – Craftsbury Green Racing Project's Margie Freed anchored the U.S. Biathlon team to 14th place in the opening biathlon event. She teamed up with Max Germain, Campbell Wright and Deedra Irwin. Nerves and some not-so-great shooting by the U.S.'s top biathlete, Campbell Wright, set the team back a bit in the second leg but they maintained as best they could.



The collegiate men in one of five quarterfinals stride up dino hill with spectators lining the Craftsbury Outdoor Center course last weekend.

photo by Eric Hanson

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