



## Staff RIFed following failed budget votes

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK, WOLCOTT – Following voters' rejection of both the Wolcott and Mountain View Union (MVU) School District budgets last week, staff received an email message April 10, notifying them contracts for the coming school year would be delayed.

School board meetings this week on Wednesday in Wolcott and Thursday in Greensboro are scheduled to take up FY27 Budgets.

The email message to staff Friday, titled, "Notice of Reduction In Force (RIF) due to an unapproved School Year 2026-2027 budget," was written over Superintendent of Schools Dr.

David Baker's signature and sent by Human Resources Manager Tess Martin.

"Without an approved budget, contracts for the 2026-2027 school year cannot be sent to the staff at this time," it said after explaining it was written notice required under a contractual agreement between the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) and Orleans Southwest Education Association, a local union of the Vermont NEA (National Education Association).

A paragraph followed explaining the importance of staff to the district, with Dr. Baker writing, "Please understand that the Mountain

**See RIFed, 5**



Michael Cloutier (left) and Clarence Wheeler mark their ballots in a slow start to voting on the second Mountain View Union School budget, Tuesday, April 7. photo by Paul Fixx

## Voters turn down Mountain View, Wolcott school budgets second time

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK, WOLCOTT – The second round of school budget votes failed today in both the Mountain View Union and Wolcott School Districts. Both school boards

**See BUDGETS, 5**



The AWARE Candlelight Vigil was held on September 19, 2024, at the Peace Park in Hardwick. Co-executive director Ashley Gravel (right) speaks to those that gathered for an evening of remembering the 16 silent witnesses and listening to their stories as victims from domestic and sexual violence. photo by Vanessa Fournier

## SVAM reaffirms commitment to survivors, advocates

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – Sexual Violence Awareness Month (SVAM) is observed throughout the month of April. The annual campaign to raise public awareness and educate communities on preventing sexual violence and abuse is sometimes referred to as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).

For those who may be unfamiliar with the terms, sexual violence includes experiences such as sexual assault, abuse, harassment, stalking and exploitation.

Reaching its twenty-fifth anniversary, this year's SVAM theme is "25 years stronger: looking back, moving forward," honoring the history of the movement while reaffirming commitment

**See REAFFIRMS, 4**

## Math, literacy instruction prioritized for SY27

by Paul Fixx

CABOT – The Cabot School Board settled on a plan to improve math and literacy instruction without reducing staff positions for the 2027 school year at a series of special meetings April 3 and 9.

After seeing a presentation and hearing comments from the public, April 3, the board decided on a more flexible approach to improve math and literacy education.

On April 9, they listened to a proposal and decided to retain current staff levels, dropping the full-time theater arts position and posting an opening for a full-time secondary language arts position and a half-time middle-high school music teacher position.

**See PRIORITIZED, 2**



Thirteen instructors and 11 new members from Hardwick, Greensboro, Woodbury, Cabot, Wolcott, Morrisville, Hyde Park and North Hyde Park participated in the vehicle extrication portion of a 45-hour basic firefighters class at the Hardwick Fire Station, April 11. All departments are involved in the classroom and hands-on training. The four vehicles used were provided and brought to the station by All Metals Recycling in Hardwick. photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Lakeview medical incident misrepresented in state child care report

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – A March 4 report on the state's Child Care Information System about a February medical incident at the Mountain View Union (MVU) School District's Lakeview Campus resulted in a letter to families from the school principal.

Members of the public shared expressions of concern about the facility on social media as the MVU School District is now faced with the need for a third budget vote after the previous two proposed budgets were rejected by voters.

The state licensor's report came about a month after the February incident, said school Principal Beth Parker, who fills that position at both the Lakeview and Woodbury schools. It began, "A child was found unconscious in the bathroom while staff were standing outside the door verbally checking on the child. The child responded when the staff spoke to them but did not once which prompted the staff to visually check on the child."

Parker had reported the medical incident as state law requires, which prompted the state licensor's visit.

**See INCIDENT, 4**

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# PUBLIC SERVICES

## Berlin Police Department

### Retail theft

BERLIN – On April 9, Berlin Police officers responded to One Stop Country Pet Supply for a reported retail theft. After speaking with employees, officers reviewed surveillance footage and recognized the suspect as Logan Ballard of Woodbury. Officers, who were familiar with Ballard from prior contact, observed that she was across the street upon their arrival.

she returned the stolen item and was issued a citation to appear in court in late June. She was also issued a Notice Against Trespass on behalf of One Stop Country Pet Supply.

Note: The Berlin Police Department does not manage bail or incarceration; these duties are handled by the judicial system, including judges, court clerks and the state attorney's office.

## Lyndonville Police Department

### Violation of conditions of release

GREENSBORO – On April 9, at 5:38 p.m., Axl Errington of Greensboro was cited for violation of conditions of release after he operated a car on Vt. Route 122 in contravention of

active conditions of release. Errington was cited into Caledonia Superior Court with an arraignment date of May 18, at 8:30 a.m., and the vehicle he was operating was grounded.

## Prioritized

Continued From Page One

They then voted to reduce the current art position from full-time to 0.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) and add 0.2 FTE for a paraeducator.

In addition, they decided to retain the 0.6 world language position.

A presentation by Chris Tormey for board members, staff and the public, April 3, highlighted the importance of improving student math and literacy skills and suggested potential staff reductions to be paid for by a reduction in special classes such as art, music and world language, from two to one 45-minute block daily. He also shared the many ways students can earn credits to graduate; through courses at career-tech centers, entering the school lottery to attend another school and by taking early college credits.

They learned that enrollment is projected to fall to 23 students from the 37 currently, with more students studying options outside of Cabot school.

The public shared a wide range of comments, followed by comments from board members Ellen Cairns, Melissa Pratt and Alicia Hebert

who were opposed to staff reductions. Jason Monaco said he recognized the need to strengthen core programs and asked whether those needs could be addressed without implementing staff reductions, while acknowledging some may be necessary due to licensing constraints.

The board agreed to explore alternative options to ensure that core program needs are met, involving staff in generating ideas and solutions.

At the April 9 meeting, Mark Mooney presented strategies to improve math and literacy instruction without reducing staff positions. That involved having two specialists present in K-4 classrooms during math and literacy blocks; establishing a WIN (What I Need) block for tier-two interventions and enrichment; and transitioning the high school to more integrated, collaborative project-based learning to allow staff greater flexibility.

To accomplish the latter, staff said they would handle scheduling creatively, creating time for collaborative planning by using specialist teachers to cover lunch and recess.



April 15- April 21

<b>New for Spring Kuhl Clothing For men and women</b>		<b>Frozen Salmon Sale \$13.99 lb.</b>	
<b>Spindrift 8 Pk. Sparkling Water \$4.99 96oz.</b>	<b>Maxwell House Coffee \$5.99 9.9-11.5 oz.</b>	<b>G.M. Cheerios \$2.99 8.9-10.8 oz.</b>	
<b>Bove's Pasta Sauce \$2.99 24oz.</b>	<b>Bove's Pizza Sauce \$2.99 16 oz.</b>	<b>Classico Pasta Sauce 2/\$5 15-24 oz.</b>	
<b>Barilla Pasta 3/\$4 12-16 oz.</b>	<b>Near East Side Dishes 2/\$3 5.25-10 oz.</b>	<b>Hamburger Helper 2/\$4 5.9-6.6 oz.</b>	
<b>Dole 4 Pk. Fruit Cups \$3.29 16-17 oz.</b>	<b>Spam Luncheon Meat \$3.99 12 oz.</b>	<b>Bove's Salad Dressings \$2.99 12 oz.</b>	
<b>Food Club Ketchup 2/\$3 20 oz.</b>	<b>G.M. Chex Mix \$2.99 8 oz.</b>	<b>Nabisco Family Size Snack Crackers \$4.79 12.5-20.5 oz.</b>	
<b>Nature Valley Granola Bars \$2.99 7.4-8.98 oz.</b>	<b>Charmin Essential 6 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue \$5.49 215-280 s.f.</b>	<b>Glad Trash or Kitchen Bags \$8.99 25-40 ct.</b>	
<b>Cabot Shredded or Bar Cheese 2/\$6 6-8 oz.</b>	<b>Wyman's Frozen Berries \$3.79 12-15 oz.</b>	<b>Outshine Fruit Bars \$4.99 14.7-16.5 oz.</b>	

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# WEATHER WATCH

## Rainy conditions persist through the work week; possible snow Sunday evening

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK — This past week featured several days of steady rain with a couple of sunny days blended in. A total of 0.84 inches of new rain fell at the East Hardwick station, with our total for the month still placing us at about 130%, of normal. This is about half an inch ahead in terms of rainfall. The warmest day of the forecast period was Friday, which had St. Johnsbury reaching 71 degrees and Plainfield topping out at 70. This is in the wake of a 14-degree record low on Wednesday at Montpelier that tied the old record low set in 1982.

The start of the work week has already featured steady rain and cloudy conditions as a frontal boundary settled into the St. Lawrence River Valley, where it will set up for the next several days.

Temperatures will be about 10 to 15 degrees above normal for most of the forecast period as we are under the influence of a ridge building over the southeast, which continues to usher warm air into the region. The slow-moving frontal boundary will send waves of low pressure every 24 hours or so. This will continue through Friday. Showers are likely each day, with a few thunderstorms and heavier showers possible, especially on Thursday.

Clouds will linger on Saturday

as a stronger and more progressive storm system approaches from the Ohio River Valley. It will become breezy with a southwest wind. Showers are possible overnight on Saturday, with the majority of precipitation from the passage of a cold front occurring midday Sunday. Temperatures behind the front will drop about 25 degrees, with the last of the precipitation Sunday evening wrapping up as a mix changing to snow. Only minor accumulations, if any, are expected. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy. Showers likely with a chance of thunderstorms. High: 63. Low: 52. Calm wind.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy. Showers, with a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. High: 67. Low: 53. South wind 5-10 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers. High: 63. Low: 47. Light and variable wind.

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy. A chance of showers overnight. High: 67. Low: 48. South wind around 5 mph; becoming 10-15 mph later in the day.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy. Showers likely with a chance of thunderstorms. A chance of snow showers by late afternoon. High: 57, with temperatures falling through the afternoon. Low: 31. Southwest wind 5-10 mph; becoming west.



*Signs that spring is on its way are these pussy willows beginning to bloom on Montgomery Road.*

*photo by Dawn Gustafson*

# PUBLIC SERVICES

## Hardwick Police Report Media Log

HARDWICK – April 5: Medical, Bridgman Hill Road; VIN verification, Craftsbury Road; DLS, Vt. Route 14; Suspicious Event, Prospect St.; Transport, High St.

April 6: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

April 7: Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Juvenile Problem, N. Main St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Daniels Road; Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Assist - Agency, High St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Spruce Drive.

April 8: Traffic Stop, Union St.; Directed Patrol, N. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; VIN verification, Craftsbury Road; Medical, Church St.; Medical, Hillary Drive; Suspicious Event, Elm St.; Accident - TCNR, Mackville Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

April 9: Transport, High St.;

Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive.; Directed Patrol, West Church St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, West Church St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15 E.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Catamount Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

April 10: Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; VIN verification, High St.; Suspicious Event, West Woodbury Road; Accident, LSA, Vt. Route 15; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 W.; Suspicious Event, N. Main St.; Animal Problem, Wolcott St.

April 11: Trespassing, Mackville Road; Assist - Public, Hardwick

Farms Road; Directed Patrol, West Church St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Suspicious Event, Hazen Union Drive.

April 12: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Mackville Road; ATV Incident, Granite St.; Assist -

Public, High St.; Directed Patrol, Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 West; Traffic Stop, Bunker Hill Road; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Accident - TCNR, Vt. Route 14; Welfare Check, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

## Orleans County Sheriff's Department Excessive speed

GREENSBORO – On March 28, at 8:13 p.m., Deputy Battista of the Orleans County Sheriff's Department was conducting a speed enforcement on Route 16 in the town of Greensboro. Deputy Battista observed a vehicle traveling south on Route 16 at a

high rate of speed. Deputy Battista initiated his blue emergency lights and conducted a traffic stop.

The operator, identified as Joshua Sabens of Glover was issued a criminal citation for Excessive Speed, a Misdemeanor.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Twelve people used AWARE services between April 5 and April 12. 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.

## Incident

Continued From Page One

The report continued, “The staff person found the child on the floor; their lips were blue, they were limp, pale and not moving. Staff discussed their presentation but failed to call emergency services for some time after being discovered. It is unknown how long from the time the child was found until the call was made to emergency services. Ultimately the child was transported, and care was received at the local hospital.”

“This is a serious violation,” the report concluded, with a recommendation that, “. . . The program director shall develop and implement written procedures to be followed in case of accidents or injuries and plans for accessing emergency services.”

Parker’s letter to families, April 6, took issue with several items in the report, for which she is submitting an appeal, she said. “This communication is to share a recent licensing report that we received at Lakeview. It saddens me

to share a report that, from our perspective, has many omissions and does not give an accurate picture of what happened, or happens daily, in our building. We have 30 days to appeal this report, and violations, and we will. In order to protect the student’s privacy, I am unable to share all of the omissions. However, below are some facts that were left out of the report.”

The report of a previous site visit, on November 13, 2025, noted the school was in compliance with state regulations, indicating “There have been no violations for this visit,” and recording 78 regulations that the school met during that visit.

Parker’s letter to families began, “The student was not unconscious when found. The child verbally responded to the adult by saying their belly hurt.”

“The student was immediately brought out of the bathroom, to the classroom and was in the care of 3 to 5 adults the entire time,” with one adult holding the student on their lap “providing comfort and care,” she said.

Parker later said that all staff

at the facility are trained in both first aid and CPR and the nurse delegate that day made the decision to monitor the student.

“The choice to evaluate the situation and then call 911 was based on the student’s responsiveness and assessment from our nurse delegate (and all other staff members who are trained in First Aid and CPR).”

Parker’s further concern about the report expressed concern about how vague it was regarding the response of the staff in calling 911. “The wording ‘some time’ is unclear and allows for significant misinterpretation.

“We know that from when the child was in the bathroom, until 911 was called, was 12 minutes. Again, this was based on constant assessment, knowledge of the child, and their responsiveness.”

Later, Parker explained that she’s certain the maximum time from the initial discovery of the child until 911 was called was 12 minutes, but likely even less.

She later said the child had been responding to the staff member waiting outside the bathroom

door, when they learned the buses were getting ready to depart. At that time they opened the door to find the student on the floor saying their tummy hurt.

Parker noted another finding on that date, about medication involving an incident a month earlier. The item notes the school was in compliance with those requirements at the March 4 visit.

“Emergency procedures were written and in place,” she wrote. “The staff felt nervous during the investigation and had difficulty recalling details of the procedures in place.”

Parker concluded with a paragraph about what the school has learned and what changes have been made since the incident, also saying the child is back in school.

She said later, “As a mother and grandmother, I would have been perfectly fine with the school’s response if it were my child,” saying, “My heart is breaking for my staff because that licensing report is complete misinformation.”

“With any incident, we will always learn and grow,” she wrote in the letter’s concluding paragraph. “This report has brought us a clearer understanding that we must call 911 immediately, if there are any questions about health or safety with our students.”

Further, she said, “We have updated our emergency procedures and all staff members have had additional training from Nurse Josie. All staff members have read all of our procedures in our procedure manual and have signed off that they have done this.”

Finally, she added, “The entire Lakeview staff is grateful that this student is well and back with us. We are grateful to Hardwick Rescue for their response, gratitude for the information we collected and care for the student. I continue to be extremely proud of the staff and how they responded to this.”

Parker said she had submitted a request that the state withhold its report and the requirement that she send a letter to families until she had the chance to submit an appeal, but the message was apparently missed, she said, so she received no response.

She said she hopes sharing what actually happened will calm the community’s concerns, as it has for the family that returned their child to the care of the school.

A representative of the Hardwick Rescue Squad said the first thing they do when approaching a person is ask “are they okay, or sick.” If the person is sick they recommend calling 911 immediately. It’s always possible to call back and cancel the trip, though they said it’s likely they will show up anyway to be certain all is well.

## Reaffirms

Continued From Page One  
to survivors and advocates.

Area expert, AWARE Executive Director Miranda Elkins recently said, “This theme really resonates with our work at AWARE. While the national campaign marks 25 years of awareness efforts, AWARE has been serving this community for over 40 years. That long-standing presence has given us a unique perspective on how conversations around sexual violence have evolved over time.”

She continued, “We have seen meaningful progress. There is more awareness, more survivor-centered support, and more willingness to have these conversations. At the same time, we know there is still a lot of work to do.

“Locally, this means continuing to build on that progress while also recognizing the gaps that still exist, especially in rural communities. At AWARE, we focus on meeting people where they are, providing individualized advocacy, and making sure survivors feel believed, supported and not alone. Looking forward means continuing to strengthen those supports and deepen our community’s understanding of the impact of sexual violence.”

While SVAM falls during the month of April, AWARE works year-round to provide resources for the surrounding communities, collaborating with the Clarina Howard Nichols Center in Lamoille County.

Elkins shared examples of their continued efforts; “While April brings important visibility, this work

happens year-round, and there are many ways for community members to stay involved. Throughout April, we are partnering on several awareness efforts, including co-hosting Take Back the Night with Clarina Howard Nichols Center on April 29 at 5 p.m., in Morrisville at the Oxbow Park. This event brings community members together to speak out, support survivors, and raise awareness. We are also participating in Denim Day, which involves wearing jeans in solidarity with survivors of sexual violence, April 29, as a way to spark conversation and challenge harmful myths about sexual violence.”

Additionally, AWARE is part of a community book group this month centered around “Nobody’s Girl” by Virginia Roberts Giuffre, a space for learning, reflection and discussion.

Beyond April, AWARE hosts several events that help sustain their work and keep the community engaged, including the annual AWARE Walk on September 19, which will include new elements this year such as Silent Witness displays and the option to participate as a team; a summer gala event on August 9 as well as the annual Fall Foliage Craft Fair on October 3.

“People can also support AWARE by volunteering, donating, sharing resources and helping create a community where survivors are met with compassion and respect,” Elkins said.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, preventing sexual abuse, assault and

harassment takes action on every level. She elaborated on this shared responsibility as a community: “Preventing sexual violence is truly a shared responsibility. It is not just about responding after harm has occurred. It is about creating a culture where harm is less likely to happen in the first place.”

Elkins provided examples, “That can look like believing and supporting survivors, speaking up when we hear harmful language or see concerning behavior, teaching and modeling healthy relationships and boundaries, and creating safe, respectful environments in our workplaces, schools, and communities. It can also be as simple as helping someone take the next step toward support. This might mean sharing AWARE’s information, offering to sit with them while they call, or letting them know they do not have to navigate things alone.”

Elkins concluded, “Everyone has a role to play, and even small actions can make a meaningful difference,” she says. Elkins had a final message for the community; “Sexual Violence Awareness Month is an important opportunity to center survivors and bring visibility to an issue that is often kept quiet. At AWARE, we are committed to this work every day, and we are grateful to be part of a community that continues to show up, learn, and support one another. If you have questions about events or would like to get more involved, please call us at 1-802-472-6463 or email aware@vtlink.net.”

# Hospital association donates remaining funds to rescue squad

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – As the Hardwick Rescue Squad prepares to begin raising funds for a long-anticipated building to replace its undersized 1972 home on Creamery Road, they have received a grant of more \$350,000 from the Hardwick Hospital Association (HHA).

A Card of Thanks from Hardwick Rescue in today’s issue notes, “The HHA donated their remaining funds, amounting to over \$350k, to Hardwick Rescue in recognition of the close ties between the two organizations over the past several decades.”

Hardwick Rescue’s Tim Nisbet said they are thankful for the funds from HHA, which come at a good time as they are getting ready to begin fundraising for their new facility.

Nisbet, who serves on the new building committee, said he’s

been promoting the need for a new building for roughly 10 years because the current 54-year-old building was built only as a place to park the smaller ambulances in use then and has a meeting room.

Since then the organization has grown from handling about 200 calls in the early 1970s to more than 1,000 now, he said. Larger ambulances now barely fit in the bays and out of town volunteers and paid staff routinely sleep in the building that has no real facilities for that purpose.

With its gift to the rescue squad, Art Williams, said the five member HHA board unanimously agreed to give it their remaining funds from the sale of the long-gone Hardwick Hospital building that was on the site of the current police station,

HHA has supported local health organizations over the years, with gifts to the Hardwick

Area Health Center and Hardwick Rescue, including for the current rescue squad building, said Williams.

HHA funds have been invested since the sale of the old hospital after it closed in 1973, but current interest rates are so low the fund hasn’t been growing, making the gift to the rescue squad appropriate, he said. The gift comes with no strings attached, though Nisbet said the rescue squad will use it for a new facility.

Hardwick Rescue has been planning for an expanded facility for four years now and more recently wrapping its needs into the facility being planned by the town to accommodate the public works department and fire department in the area where its current building is, said Nisbet.

Hardwick Rescue has never sent fundraising appeals to area residents, he said. Their expenses

have been covered by fees from insurance, medicare, medicaid, town appropriations and unsolicited donations.

With the new \$4 million facility being planned, the organization has been preparing for its first ever outreach to the public, said Nisbet. The funds from HHA add to a sizable amount of funds already saved by the organization, from which they plan to offer matches for new donations.

This donation of funds by the Hardwick Hospital Association comes 16 years after it donated the old health center building to the Town of Hardwick, which now serves as the home of the Hardwick Police Department.

HHA has had its last meeting, said Williams, with all five members agreeing to dissolve the organization and resign from the board after giving the last of its funds to the rescue squad.

## RIFed

Continued From Page One

View Board believes in building strong partnerships among students, families, staff, and the community to provide an education that is relevant and meaningful to each child. To do this, we value and need our current staff.”

The message continued, “Contracts will be issued as soon as possible once funding for your position is secured. Your position information is below.”

The message was received with concern as word spread through the community. A Front Porch Forum (FPF) post by Hardwick’s Joe Nudell said, “Today, teachers and staff employed at MVU received Reduction in Force notices due to the second failed budget vote this week. For those who voted “No,” and those who chose not to vote: this is doing harm to children, and to the teachers and staff who dedicate their lives to educating and caring for them.”

Others took the opportunity to call the MVU district’s direction into question, with a FPF post by Doreen Cota, also of Hardwick, ending, “This is not about opposing safety, required repairs, or responsible maintenance. It is about transparency, consistency and ensuring that decisions reflect the direction voters have clearly communicated through two budget votes.”

When a majority of voters reject a budget twice, it should

meaningfully change the path forward,” she said.

Opportunities for residents to contribute to conversations about the next proposed budgets will be available for Wolcott on April 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wolcott Elementary School.

There will be a 15 minute public comment period at 6:05 p.m. and 70 minutes for discussion of three items identified as; a SU Board Meeting Report Out; FY27 Budget and Redistricting Survey.

Then, action items scheduled for 7:40 p.m. include “FY27 Budget” and “Proposed Revote Timeline.”

The public can access the Wolcott School Board meeting by phone at (574) 404-7630 PIN: 142 648 471# and online at [meet.google.com/vfh-bcpw-wzg](https://meet.google.com/vfh-bcpw-wzg).

The following evening, April 16, the MVU School Board will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. at Lakeview Early Education Center.

The agenda for that meeting includes 10 minutes for public comment beginning at 6:10 p.m., then 30 minutes for four discussion items at 7 p.m., listed as: FY27 Budget; Retain Financial Consultant; SU Meeting Update and Facilities Update. Three action items scheduled for 7:30 p.m., include “Proposed Revote Timeline (including date for special meeting).”

The public can access the MVU meeting by phone at (240) 903-4200 PIN: 295 687 217# and online at [meet.google.com/xuh-mpkf-hwf](https://meet.google.com/xuh-mpkf-hwf).

## State board recommends flood grant to Plainfield

by Phil Dodd, The Bridge

PLAINFIELD – Plainfield each appears poised to receive \$5.2 million in state flood grant funding.

The \$5.2 million will build infrastructure and a portion of the costs to construct 20 new housing units, 14 of which are for low- and moderate- income households, on a 24-acre parcel in Plainfield. Four duplexes will be built by Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity, and two buildings of six condominium units each will be built by

HONE Homes, LLC, of Montpelier.

The 20-unit project is a scaled-back version of a 40-unit plan that had been proposed by the town of Plainfield for the same parcel; Plainfield voters killed the project by defeating a proposed bond. The private, nonprofit Plainfield Community Development Corporation will now be purchasing that parcel, but with plans to build half the number of units, according to Corporation Treasurer Arion Thiboumery.

This story is excerpted from one first published in The Montpelier Bridge, April 3, 2026.

## Budgets

Continued From Page One

submitted the same budget that had been submitted on Town Meeting Day, saying a state buy down would lower tax rates, but voters rejected that.

In the Mountain View Union District, with schools in Hardwick, Greensboro and Woodbury, votes are totaled for these three towns, plus Stannard. Voters cast 597 votes, with 315 voting no and

282 yes. Those 597 votes were well below the Town Meeting Day vote total of 778. The vote failed by a wider margin than the Town Meeting Day vote, where 389 voted against the budget and 377 for it.

One-hundred-forty-nine (149) votes against the budget in Wolcott won out over the 121 votes for it. Those 270 votes were 20 more than the 250 cast on Town Meeting Day in a much closer vote than the 142 no votes and 108 yes votes then.



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# Radar speed sign, LVRT trailhead to come

by Paul Fixx

EAST HARDWICK – The East Hardwick Neighborhood (EHNO) organization announced Friday that it has reached its fundraising goal for the purchase of a radar speed sign.

“Your overwhelming support for our radar speed sign campaign has been truly inspiring,” they wrote in email and Front Porch Forum (FPF) announcements.

The sign will “bring traffic calming to our village,” they said.

The campaign exceeded its \$4,000 goal, “receiving approximately \$1,500 from 26 families and businesses.”

The \$4,000 total includes a \$2,500 grant from the Pleasants Fund of the Greensboro United Church of Christ previously announced.

EHNO raised the funds to add a second radar speed sign in East Hardwick village because the town agreed it would be helpful, but didn’t have the funds to purchase the second sign. The new sign will be added at the Main Street

entrance to the village from Vt. Rte. 16, adding to the sign provided by the town on Church Street.

EHNO, with the help of the Town of Hardwick, is undertaking a major project this summer, they said in their FPF post. “We will be building a trailhead on the Lam- oille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) at the point where it crosses Stevens Lane, near Church Street.”

A site plan is now being developed with a landscape designer/architect and Vermont Department of Transportation (VTrans) representatives have been consulted for feedback and approval of the plan, said EHNO.

The current plan calls for an aggregate base with an ADA compliant parking space, a 10-by-20 foot cedar pavilion, an information kiosk, an historic interpretive panel, bicycle racks, a bike repair station, a picnic table and grass areas.

Traffic calming and pedestrian/bicycle safety have been priorities for EHNO since the group’s first neighborhood meeting in 2018. The need for immediate

action grew last summer, as increased use of the rail trail brought more bicycle traffic through Main and Church Streets, often by bicyclists seeking to bypass Greensboro Bend.

Finding ways to manage vehicle speed has been an ongoing challenge. The EHNO board believes that an additional radar speed sign will be a simple, effective step toward slowing traffic and making the village a safer place.

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



Downtown Hardwick serves as a backdrop for construction equipment being used on reconstruction of the South Main Street wall and pedestrian bridge, Saturday. photo by Paul Fixx



Participating in the 45-hour basic firefighters class on vehicle extrication training held at the Hardwick Fire Station, April 11, are (from left) Hardwick firefighter Sam Avery, Woodbury Assistant Fire Chief Tim Neill and Morrisville firefighter Warren Dompierre, running a hydraulic dash spreader. Thirteen instructors and 11 new members from eight fire departments attended.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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 <b>\$4.79</b> Honey Graham Crackers <small>Annie's, 14.4 oz</small>	 <b>\$5.49</b> Ice Cream Pints <small>Ben &amp; Jerry's, varieties, 16 oz</small>	 <b>2/\$8</b> Organic Tea <small>Equal Exchange, varieties, 20 ct</small>	 <b>\$4.99</b> Irish Butter <small>Kerry Gold, varieties, 8 oz</small>
 <b>2/\$7</b> Kettle Potato Chips <small>Kettle Brand, varieties, 5 oz</small>	 <b>\$3.99</b> Vegan Hot Dogs <small>Lightlife, 12 oz</small>	 <b>\$4.49</b> Spray Cleaner <small>Mrs. Meyer's, varieties, 16 oz</small>	 <b>2/\$4</b> Probiotic Soda <small>Olipop, varieties, 12 oz</small>
 <b>\$5.49</b> Mushroom Jerky <small>Pan's Jerky, varieties, 2.2 oz</small>	 <b>\$3.99</b> Strained Tomatoes <small>Pomi, 26.46 oz</small>	 <b>\$4.49</b> Grain Free Tortilla Chips <small>Siete, 5 oz</small>	 <b>\$5.79</b> Dandelion Caramel Tea <small>Teecino, 10 bags</small>

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# CAE Food Hub in Hardwick celebrates one year of operation

by **Raymonda Parchment**

**HARDWICK** – The food hub, established by the nonprofit Center For an Agricultural Economy (CAE), is celebrating its first year of operations this spring.

Located at the Yellow Barn complex, the new building allows Farm Connex, a local food logistics and transportation partner, to operate out of a space more appropriate for their size. In addition to the energy-efficient refrigeration and heating systems, the space expands CAE’s storage capacity and has a designated gathering space for public use.

Products from local farms and food businesses pass through the Food Hub weekly, on their way from farms to markets across the state and beyond. According to the Northern Vermont Development Association, the Food Hub has become a critical piece of community infrastructure in Hardwick and has served multiple uses in its first year of operation as a shared-use business incubator.

Since Farm Connex and Community Connection moved into the facility, \$13 million in local food has been distributed.

Executive Director Jon Ramsay shared a highlight from the past year. “One thing that stuck out to me was the gap in SNAP benefits back in the fall, and we were immediately able to work with community partners and make soup in the food hub that was distributed to folks in the area, and we worked with the Hardwick Area Food Pantry on that. To have the infrastructure to respond immediately like that, really helps solidify why this local food system infrastructure is so important for

communities.”

Local businesses and non-profits stepped up with donations in November for the soup, made in the food hub multipurpose community room.

Almost everything for the project was donated: Front Seat Coffee owner Tobin Porter provided food, supplies and equipment; Snug Valley Farm and Saw Mill Brook Farm shared local meat; Pete’s Greens, carrots and vegetables; Salvation Farms came up with gleaned vegetables and extras from their freezer. Hill Farmstead Brewery also jumped in with a contribution.

Ramsay provided another example. “We’ve just come through a really cold, snowy winter and to see all of the fresh food coming off of farms, going through the Food Hub, and seeing those products come through there and knowing that is supporting our local farms through a time of the year where it’s challenging and difficult, that also, again, really validates why this local food system infrastructure is so critical and important.”

According to [hardwickagriculture.org](http://hardwickagriculture.org), the Food Hub was designed to generate zero greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing an innovative CO2-based refrigeration system, capturing and recirculating the heat generated from the refrigeration system to serve as the primary heat source for the space; facilitating the annual transportation of over \$15 million in local food within the first two years of occupancy; improve farm efficiency and business viability with access to aggregation, fulfillment and distribution services; provide four different types of storage space (dry, refrigerated, root



*Farm Connex driver Silas Wood moves products into the coolers from his truck after returning to the Food Hub at the end of his daily route, Wednesday, March 26, 2025.*  
photo by Kelly Bogel Stokes

and frozen) for farms and community partners to increase the shelf life of perishable products and decrease duplicative infrastructure and be a model for large-scale, energy-efficient agricultural infrastructure.

Improvements to the space, outside and in, continue; in late October a 400 panel solar installation was completed on the roof of the food hub in Hardwick. The solar panels, installed by Green Mountain Solar, are the final piece of a four-part efficient heating, cooling and power system for the facility.

“The solar array will provide long-term environmental benefits and play a crucial role in the sustainability of this critical new piece of local food system

infrastructure. It will also help keep costs down for the farms using the facility, which is a direct benefit to their operations. It marks an important milestone in CAE’s commitment to being a good steward of the land,” Ramsay said in a December newsletter.

With the help of Hazen Union students from the Dare To Be Me Class, led by Anja Pfeiffer and Sol Lew-Smith, a restoration of disturbed wetland next to the food hub has also begun. In the first of a three-phase tree planting project on the Wright Farm Road site, owned by the town, 75 trees and woody species were planted to begin repairing the ecosystem health of an area that was heavily impacted by the recent development.



CAE Staff and volunteers (from left) Calder Camardello, Front Seat Coffee; Martha Machia, Salvation Farms and Bethany Dunbar, Center for an Agricultural Economy, make soup in the Community Room at the Food Hub to help fill in the gap for SNAP in the fall of 2025.

photo by Kelly Bogel Stokes



*Downtown Hardwick serves as a backdrop for construction equipment being used on reconstruction of the South Main Street wall and pedestrian bridge, Saturday.*  
photo by Paul Fixx

# EDITORIAL

## No paywalls ever, thanks to reader support

Many newspapers have retreated behind paywalls, requiring subscriptions to access their content. Recently, Forbes Magazine profiled a billionaire with a plan to “save America’s newspapers” that will include paywalls around all the content his papers produce. Seriously, have we learned nothing from Jeff Bezos and the Washington Post?

That will never happen at The Hardwick Gazette, where open access to news and information is a guiding principle. The Gazette will always be available to everyone.

But it costs money to provide dependable local news. In this digital age, reader support is vital to keeping The Gazette going. And the most reliable support comes from sustaining members who donate to The Gazette every month.

If you receive our free weekly newsletter ([hardwickgazette.org/subscribe](http://hardwickgazette.org/subscribe)), check out the headlines and regularly read at least one story, this message is for you.

If you aren’t a sustaining member already, please consider donating \$5 a month or more. It’s less than you used to pay for print copies of The Gazette, and it really helps provide a solid financial foundation.

There’s a special thank-you gift to those who make a monthly commitment of \$10 or more: an attractive, large Hardwick Gazette ceramic mug. Trying not to brag, but these are real beauties.

The Gazette is a community resource, and a community enterprise. It can’t happen without your support. Please do your part to strengthen the service you depend on by visiting our website ([hardwickgazette.org](http://hardwickgazette.org)) and clicking the “Donate” button.

**John Walters**

**Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism board member**

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## People before profits, greed

To the editor:

On Sunday, over sixty people turned out on a rainy evening to see gubernatorial candidate Amanda Janoo speak at Front Seat Coffee. Her message of hope and transformation was a ray of sunshine in the gloomy weather.

A seasoned economist who has worked for the U.N., Amanda shared her vision for the state where she was born and raised and still calls home. She explained how a fair share tax on the top 1% of wage earners would fully fund free, universal primary care. As employee health insurance is the top driver of education spending, divorcing primary care from insurance would also eliminate the principal driver of school funding and drastically reduce property taxes. Amanda thoughtfully responded to audience questions for an hour, sharing her vision for affordable housing, creating systems that build and retain wealth within Vermont communities, and empowering towns to make more significant contribu-

tions to state goals.

Having recently endorsed Amanda Janoo, members of Indivisible Hardwick were in attendance to show their support. Indivisible Hardwick’s mission of defending and promoting democracy is reflected in Amanda’s recognition that building self-sufficiency and independence from federal funding will allow Vermont to chart its own path and never bow to authoritarianism.

Notably, Indivisible Hardwick is endorsing Amanda over competitor Aly Richards, because Janoo has the courage to offer transformative solutions that establishment Democrats are loath to embrace. Amanda is seasoned and experienced, but is not an entrenched politician committed to the status quo.

In these dark times, dare to dream of a better future where people and our planet are put before profits and greed.

**Amber Carbine-March  
Elmore**

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EDITOR - Paul Fixx

REPORTER - Raymonda Parchment

PRODUCTION - Sandy Atkins, Dawn Gustafson, David Mitchell

SPORTS - Ken Brown, Eric Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHER - Vanessa Fournier

CARTOONISTS - Julie Atwood, Abrah Griggs,

Joe Heller, Kay Spaulding

WEATHER - Tyler Molleur

CIRCULATION - Dawn Gustafson

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CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Alley, Brendan Buckley

Ken Brown, Hal Gray,

Henry Homeyer, Willem Lange,

Cheryl Luther Michaels, David Rodgers,

Liz Steel, John Walters; Will Helms, intern.

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Fixx, John Walters, Stefanie Cravedi,

Anita Engel, Betty Jones

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

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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

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Yesterday was the eighth anniversary of my wife’s death. I remember the day well, even though through a fog, as if I were watching from a distance what was happening only an arm’s length away. Other people, mostly family, took charge of things I couldn’t have handled. The funeral was lovely, with friends coming from all over. My younger daughter wrote the obituary, swinging for the fences; a version even made it into the Boston Globe. My wife’s ashes have spent the last eight years in a granite urn (younger daughter again) beside the big unused TV set in my bedroom, where I occasionally make a few comments to her about what she’s missing, but more frequently cuss as I lean on the cabinet for support while pulling on my pajama pants, an operation that grows ever more difficult and dangerous.

If your spouse’s death has been in the usual progression, increasing debilitation and finally nursing home, you’ve already become accustomed to shifting for yourself around the house: changing the bed, doing the laundry, cooking, taking care of the dog, paying the electric bill. So there’s no sudden shock of responsibility. You just keep on doing what you’ve already been doing, perhaps even for years.

What’s different is your social

## Naming household objects and speaking to them

and emotional status. You’re now a widow or widower (hereinafter widow), and the other person in your life, upon whom you leaned for conversation and company, for stimulation and affection, for reassurance that, in spite of all your faults and shortcomings, you were still all right, even lovable at times, was gone. And this time it was no vacation or business trip; they were never coming back. You begin to understand the impulses and wishful thinking that lead many of your friends and family members to assure you that in time you will be together again. You won’t. It’s over.

Well, in many ways it’s not. My wife was a kitchen designer, for example, and left me a really great kitchen, with cabinets and countertops just as I’d have them if I ordered them myself. She liked electric stoves with downdraft exhausts; so do I. Late in life, she added a conduction cooktop for its speed and energy savings. But she set it on top of one side of the electric stove and on two occasions, to her dismay, inadvertently turned on the stove burner under the cooktop, in short order melting it and filling the house with a really bad smell. I finally solved the problem by removing the knobs from the stove controls, and still think fondly of her whenever I notice the control stems sticking out from the stove beneath.

Like many widows, I had to deal self-consciously with

the loneliness that likely would last the rest of my life. I took to naming household objects and speaking to them in their native languages. Mister Coffee, who has for years been my faithful supplier of my day’s coffee, is French, so is either Monsieur Café or Henri-Pierre, depending on my mood. The washer and dryer are clearly German (Maytag), so are Hans und Franz. And so on.

That kind of foolishness can take you only so far. Every so often I had to come to grips with the fact that, after almost sixty years of marriage, I was alone. My little terrier, Kiki, is the best companion imaginable, but she’s a bust when I want to talk about Heidegger or Sartre. She’s more of a Benthamite.

There’s an unspoken and undefined line between mourning and moving on. It varies with cultures and religious beliefs. Some folks never get there. All I know is that I woke up one morning a few months past my

83rd birthday, Kiki snuggled up against my legs, the white granite urn gleaming beside the defunct TV set, and the sun flooding the yard, and wondered, “Is this it? What if I live another fifteen years? I wonder what old Bea’s doing.” I hadn’t seen or heard of her in fifty years.

She wasn’t hard to find; she’s on the university’s website. (Email is, as far as I’m concerned, a gift from the gods at least the equivalent of fire and sliced bread.) And it happened that her husband had died only a few months after my wife had.

Lunch halfway between our houses. Weekend visit. A hike up a small mountain. Great conversations. Heidegger came up; she sent me a small biography and précis of his work, and is still amazed that I actually read it. So am I. And thus have I moved in several years from the numbness of widowhood to the joy of looking ahead. There can’t be too much left to contemplate. But the key word is joy.

The Hardwick Gazette



## Talk with Ray and Paul, Fridays



Come in to Front Seat Coffee in Hardwick at 10 a.m., Friday, and chat with reporter Raymonda Parchment and editor Paul Fixx from the Hardwick Gazette. Talk about issues, Gazette coverage or just chat about happenings in the area.

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## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“ONLY DICTATORS ERECT MEANINGLESS THINGS IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO IMMORTALIZE THEMSELVES!”

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## The power to reverse this nightmare

To the editor:

March 28, "No King's Day," brought thousands of Vermonters together in protest of the Trump administration's cruel and authoritarian regime. In Morrisville alone, hundreds of people came to make their voices heard. Lamoille Valley Visibility Brigade continues to rally and organize and we invite you to join us. Our rallies are weekly at the four corners in Morrisville, Fridays from 4 to 5 and Saturdays from noon to 1 (these times might vary, check the Lamoille Valley Visibility Brigade Facebook page for updates and special announcements). We are also meeting to organize for the

mid-term elections, to strategize around getting out the vote, and to educate people about their power to reverse this nightmare of fear and oppression that has overtaken our country.

Hope is hard to come by at present. But as Robert Reich wrote in "The Guardian" on April 5, "From the rubble left by the Trump regime, it's possible to envision an economy premised on inclusive prosperity, a democracy based on political equality, and a system in which power is widely shared." I would add, only if we join together to work towards those goals.

**Karin Shearer  
Hardwick**

## Funds for bells and chimes

To the editor:

A couple of weeks ago, Raymonda Parchment wrote a wonderful article on the St. Norbert's Community Handbell Choir. I am a 15-year member of the bell choir and enjoy playing. In the article, Raymonda stated that the bells and chimes will be headed to Pennsylvania for repairs and refurbishment. We have been raising funds to cover this cost. We need to raise \$3,000 and are currently two-thirds of the way there. We still need to raise \$1,000. If you have heard the bells at the many locations we have played, I hope you enjoyed the performance.

If you are interested in helping

us fund this work there are a couple of ways you can participate.

The Hardwick Kiwanis is donating their April bottle collection proceeds for this purpose. You can drop bottles off at three locations in town. M&M Beverage on Route 14 south, the Hardwick Kwik Stop & Deli at the corner of Route 15 and 14 north, and D&L Beverage Deli in East Hardwick. You will find blue boxes with the Kiwanis emblem at each location. Or, you can donate by sending a check to Mary Queen of All Saints Parish (MQAS) at PO Box 496, Hardwick, VT 05843 and write in the memo "Handbell Choir."

**Diana Frederick  
Greensboro**

## Special town meeting could threaten future of democracy

To the editor:

The Hardwick Select Board has been forced to hold a special town meeting to vote on two petitions that could threaten the future of democracy in Hardwick.

The first petition speaks for itself and asks that all items be voted on via Australian ballot at future town meetings. Its clear why this is a bad idea, but most important is that it would essentially eliminate the purpose of gathering at town meeting, which is to talk and debate on the issues that we are voting on.

The second is to overturn the Buffalo Mountain Town Forest which seeks to conserve Buffalo Mountain and puts the property in Hardwick's stewardship in perpetuity. Apparently they want to overturn this vote because it was voted on by hand. The vote passed overwhelmingly but because some people "didn't recognize a lot of people at town meeting" it appears that these people think that somehow dozens or hundreds non-residents voted on Town Meeting Day.

Neither of these issues should be political but I cannot understand how people could think some-

thing so ridiculous without their being the persistent backdrop of one national political movement's obsession with spreading lies that illegals are voting in our elections and therefore we need to pass legislation to suppress and disenfranchise voters.

I find it really troubling that the select board was forced to entertain these petitions, which I believe are problematic at best, and at worst, violate Hardwick voters' civil liberties and are blatantly xenophobic and racist. Just because you don't recognize someone, doesn't mean that they're not your neighbor.

I hope the people of Hardwick will show up to vote down the Australian ballot petition and will vote yes on conserving Buffalo Mountain. Stand up for democracy and preserve your vote and your voice. Don't let a small group of naysayers tell us that this town can't change.

For voters that need help getting out to vote I am happy to offer ride share assistance to and from the Town House. Call (802) 355-0520.

**Tyler Buswell  
Hardwick**

## Democracy is currently being dismantled

To the editor:

Life can feel disorienting these days. The news is lurching from one emergency to another, while our day-to-day lives go on. So it can be useful to look at the big picture. The Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem) is an organization that specializes in the big picture. V-Dem is comprised of 4,200 scholars and experts in 202 countries that manage a global dataset tracking 600 attributes of democracy. They synthesize 32 million data points into a Liberal Democracy Index that tracks countries on a scale from most to least democratic. The scale, which runs from liberal democracy to closed autocracy, shows a worldwide shift towards autocracy. V-Dem's 2026 Democracy Report describes the situation as "uncharted territory" saying "there have never been more countries autocratizing at the same time in the world as now."

Especially concerning is the status of the United States. For the first time in over fifty years, the U.S. is not categorized as a liberal democracy, but instead has been reduced to an electoral democracy: one that has elections but lacks other indicators such as equality before the law, legislative restraint on the executive, and protection

of civil rights. This change is happening extremely quickly, with Trump's second term ushering in a "rapid and aggressive concentration of powers in the presidency." In 2025 the U.S. declined on every single measure of democracy except for elections, which are only measured in election years. The report continues, "The speed at which American democracy is currently being dismantled is unprecedented in modern history."

The good news is that it is possible to reverse this. 70% of recent autocratizations have shown signs of a U-turn where they increase democratic factors. But this can only happen if we understand what is happening and work together, persistently, to advocate for democracy and resist autocracy. V-Dem cites elections as "pivotal windows of opportunity" and the first after autocratic breakthrough as "decisive."

When we act together, organize, and speak about the hope of a government by and for the people, we become the democratization that we want to see. It is up to us.

Find the full V-Dem Democracy Report at [v-dem.net](http://v-dem.net)

**Rachel Cole  
Hardwick**

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



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for saying  
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*Hardwick Gazette*  
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# ANOTHER OPINION

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month

by **Jessica Bickford**  
Healthy Lamoille Valley

MORRISVILLE – On January 7, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a set of new Dietary Guidelines for Americans. These updated guidelines leave out some important recommendations and information included in previous versions, including any mention or guidance on alcohol consumption by people under 21. In fact, youth are a significant population group that should completely avoid alcohol for health and wellbeing, as well as being legally restricted from drinking.

Alcohol remains the most used drug among people under 21 in the United States. Alcohol use is a common element of Vermont life, it is also the adult use substance that youth are most likely to encounter first in their homes, their friends' homes, in school and at social events. Across all age groups, Vermonters drink alcohol more frequently than the national average, 59% Vt. vs. 51%

nationally, according to the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Among Caledonia County high school students, 42% report drinking alcohol during their lifetime, according to the 2023 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey. And 53% of Caledonia County high school students don't think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), alcohol use during adolescence is associated with anxiety and depression for teens and can increase the likelihood of individuals developing alcohol dependence later in life. The earlier youth start drinking alcohol, the more significant the impact on their brain functions, including memory and school performance. These impacts can continue well into adulthood.

Youth who drink are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including impaired driving, and more likely to experience serious social, academic, psychological and legal consequences. The Vermont Department of Health reports that

the number of alcohol-attributable deaths has been continuing to increase overall, as much as 36% between 2017 and 2021. Alcohol use also increases the likelihood of violence, including sexual harm. Simply put, alcohol use among youth is far from harmless.

Along with my role as coalition coordinator of Healthy Lamoille Valley, I also serve on the Regional Coordination Team for the Northeastern Vermont Prevention Consortium, a substance-misuse-prevention group housed within NVRH's Substance Misuse Prevention Services program. The consortium works to build up community resources for action and fund prevention efforts across the St. Johnsbury, Newport, and Morrisville Health Districts as one of four state Prevention Lead Programs created by the Vermont Department of Health. You can learn more about how the Northeast Vermont Prevention Consortium helps to fund the work of Healthy Lamoille Valley and other community-run programs in addressing underage alcohol use and other

ways to make our community healthy and supportive for youth at [nvrh.org/substance-misuse-prevention-services](http://nvrh.org/substance-misuse-prevention-services).

While you may not have time to come to Healthy Lamoille Valley's monthly coalition meetings, every community member can take action right now during Alcohol Awareness Month. Start conversations with the young people in your life about the real risks of alcohol use. Set clear expectations and follow through by modeling responsible behavior. Don't make excuses for mistakes, instead believe that youth deserve a community that takes their health and safety seriously. The "Talk. They Hear You" app developed by SAMHSA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is a great resource available for free on the App Store, Google Play, and the Microsoft Store. This interactive app helps prepare parents and caregivers to support youth through everyday conversations about alcohol and other drugs, mental health, and school-related issues.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### Chance encounter on State Street

by **Rep. David Yacavone**

MONTPELIER – As I walked across the street in Montpelier, I noticed a little old lady standing on the corner, staring at me. As I got closer, I could see she was fixated on me.

"Are you a senator?" she asked.

"No," I replied, "I'm a representative. Can I help you?"

I was startled by her loud voice for such a diminutive person. Her kerchief, wrapped tightly around her head, fluttered in the wind. She was barely more than four feet tall.

"You can stop taxing the hell out of me!" she said sternly.

She caught my startled expression and added, "Are you scared of me?"

"Not unless you're planning on body-slammng me," I replied.

She cracked a smile and chuckled. "If I could lift the likes of

you, I'd go to work for UPS!"

We both laughed. Then her expression turned serious. She told me she was 92 years old, living alone on Social Security, and struggling to make ends meet.

She shook her head and started to walk away. I called out, "Hey, wait a minute, Mamme, give me a chance."

She turned back indignantly. "Make it quick."

I reached into my briefcase and pulled out my card, along with the Health Care Advocate's number. I wrote my name on it and added the words Medicare Savings Program.

"Call this number," I told her. "Tell them I referred you and ask about the Medicare Savings Program."

She gave me a steely look. "I told you I need help with my taxes, not health care," she said, turning to leave again.

"I can't wave a magic wand and lower your taxes," I called after her, "but I might be able to put real money back in your pocket by helping with your Medicare premiums."

She paused, turned back, and gave me a small smile. "It better work," she said, "or I'll come looking for you."

I admired the grit and independence of this remarkable woman, and I hoped my referral would make a difference.

The Medicare Savings Program can help Vermonters by covering some or all of their Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, depending on income. In many cases, the amount of money you have in the bank does not count toward eligibility. If you think you might qualify, I encourage you to call (800) 917-7737 and ask for assistance.

Make no mistake: many older Vermonters are struggling to pay

their property taxes. But there are also younger families working just as hard, trying to pay their bills, support their children, and make ends meet. There is no single, easy answer to these challenges: if there were, we would have found it by now.

What I do believe is this: in a state as strong and caring as ours, we have a responsibility to look out for one another. That means being willing to make tough choices: cutting state expenses where we can, while also recognizing that those with the greatest means may need to contribute a bit more. If we strike that balance thoughtfully, we can ease the burden on those who are struggling and build a stronger, more resilient Vermont for everyone.

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

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# I HEARD IT THROUGH THE JEDEVINE

## Library celebrates Poetry Month

by **Brendan Buckley**

HARDWICK – I have written previously of the variety of events that have been held in the Parker Ladd Community Room since it first opened last year. This month yet another first will take place there: the “All Acoustic Anything Goes Poetry Slam,” hosted by Vermont’s reigning Slam Master Geof Hewitt. Hewitt is a writer and a teacher of writing. He both competes in and hosts poetry slams. He won the Vermont Poetry Slam in 2004. No such statewide event has been held since. Thus, he is Vermont’s reigning poetry slam champion.

April is National Poetry Month. In recognition of that, a number of Vermont towns have signed on as Poem Towns or Verse Villages. Hardwick is a Verse Village. To kick off the local honoring of poetry, Front Seat Coffee held a poetry

reading on April 1. Throughout the month, Hardwick store-fronts are featuring poems in their windows. On Saturday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m., Hardwick’s first-ever poetry slam will take place.

What is a poetry slam? What is a slam master (and should it be capitalized)?

Legend has it that the first poetry slam was held in a Chicago bar in the 1980s. A construction worker, Marc Kelly Smith, wrote poetry as an avocation. Out of frustration that his drinking buddies failed to show up at his public readings, he pitched the concept of a poetry competition to a local pub owner. The idea took hold. As the phenomenon grew it became a forum for edgy protest verse delivered in rapid-fire speech, often in a strident tone.

A poetry slam is a competitive event, such that judges

select a champion, or master, at the conclusion of the evening. One distinction between the upcoming Jeudevine event and a traditional poetry slam is that participants (I hesitate to use the word, contestant, when it comes to the reading of poetry, even as I recognize that judging is involved) will not be obliged to present original material. So, if you enjoy poetry, but do not consider yourself a poet please choose a favorite poem that you would enjoy sharing with others and join in the excitement of the evening. Presentations can be solo or ensemble, even musical. Each performance will have a five-minute time limit, more than enough time to tackle a longer work of Robert Frost, or “The Cremation of Sam McGee” by Robert Service, or take just a minute or so to share “The Second Coming” by William Butler Yeats,

or opt for a humorous piece by Ogden Nash or Shel Silverstein. Or endless wondrous possibilities: your choice. This is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the magic of hearing verse read aloud.

If you are a poet, please join in the excitement that night and share your work. Most poetry slams are designed to focus attention on original material. If you are hesitant to stand before an audience you can enlist others to share in the presentation with you. If you do plan to participate please arrive by 6:15 p.m.

Geof Hewitt will select five judges from the audience. Presentations will be graded on a

10-point scale, so each score must carry to the tenth of a point. The high and low scores will be tossed out and the remaining three scores added together for a final total.

With limbs reaching out,  
does the hemlock see itself  
in the lake’s mirror?

In her snug small nest,  
does the chipping sparrow dream  
about her children?

On his morning walk,  
does the black bear praise the sun  
for warming his fur?

SURELY.

**Norma Wiesen  
Hardwick**

*This poem was written for the VerseVillage celebration of April Poetry Month.*

### Ash Bucket

March thaw revealed  
the ash bucket’s cinders strewn into my daughter’s rock garden,  
dead coals squashing tender moss, staining her cherished hens  
and chicks.

Had I carried the bucket three steps further,  
set it on the barn’s cement ramp:  
none of this damage, no repair needed.  
Ahead lies  
April’s tedious work of extracting cinder from tendril.

This winter of disease.

It was enough those wobbly February mornings  
that I shoveled the spent coals, toted the bucket off the  
porch  
kindled the fire, and kept myself alive.

**Brett Ann Stanciu  
Hardwick**

*This poem was written for the VerseVillage celebration of April Poetry Month.*

### April

Every muddened pothole laden  
with water, slamming tires,

Looks less intense from afar, and even  
if slow going, we’re jolting from our seats.

Again, the back road dirt life is heightened,  
puddled heavier than those on pavement,  
squelching deeper and more insistent on  
trapping wheels within.

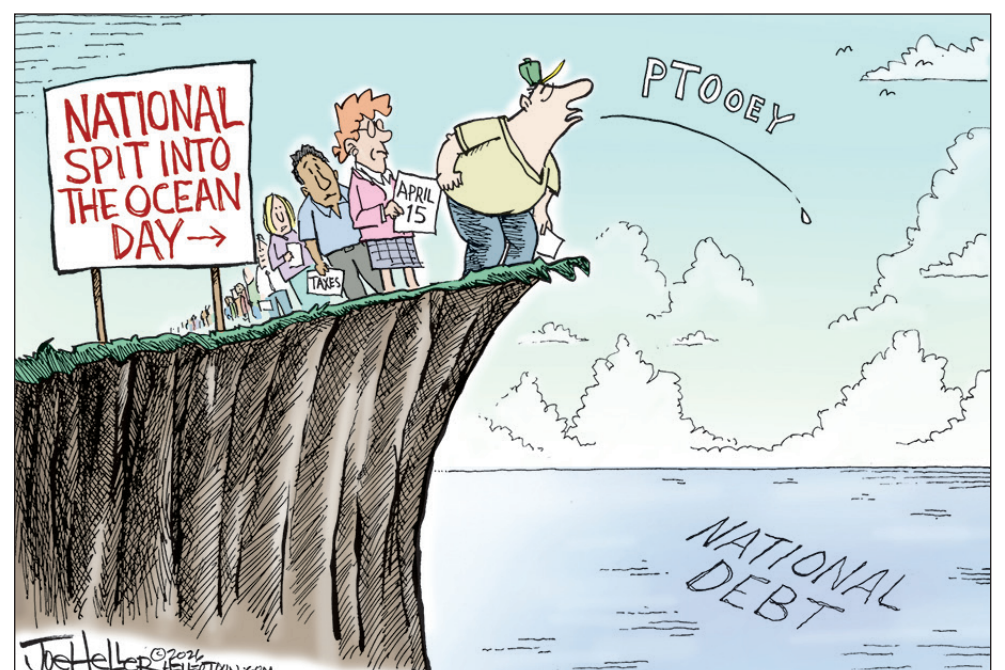
Soon, enchanted by peepers hopping to verdant pools,  
drunk on lilac smells,  
cutting fiddleheads by the bagful,  
sun whistling down,  
we’ll delight in spring.

Until then, grab hard the handle above the window,  
be ready to brake,  
and keep the tow hitch handy.

**Tamsen Turner  
Albany**

*This poem was written for the VerseVillage celebration of April Poetry Month.*

## Heller’s World by Joe Heller



# WEEKS GONE BY

**Weeks Gone By  
100 years ago in The  
Hardwick Gazette  
Thu, Apr 15, 1926  
ACADEMY NOTES**

The date of the Annual Bam Boozle Bazaar has been set at May 7th, this year. This event has come to be a big part of the school activities outside of their regular course of study and gives the students an opportunity to manage a worthwhile enterprise for themselves. It also gives the townspeople an opportunity, or rather an incentive, to visit their school building and see for themselves the work that their children are doing. This means more than would appear from the surface for it creates an acquaintanceship [sic] between teacher and parent. This is of prime importance in our schools. The guessing contest will be different from any of previous years.

The guesses this year will be on a string of beads of various sizes. The first prize is to be \$5 in gold. The second 25 lbs. of sugar. And the third a dictionary.

In the Commercial department three typewriting proficiency certificates have been awarded by the Remington Typewriter Company to Miss Edith Ward for attaining a speed of 36 words per minute; Miss Helen Gould for 34 words per minute and Miss Mamie McGough for 30 words per minute. A Medal Emblem was awarded Miss Dorothy Glass by the Underwood Company for a speed of 41 words a minute for fifteen consecutive minutes a feat which has not been accomplished heretofore in Hardwick academy. This test was taken by Miss Glass according to the National Contest

Rules. Coach Lacey is grooming his prospective baseball material and shortly we will hear the crack of horse hide against wood. The following boys will be out for the team: Schlarman, Clark, Williams, Burke, Ggetti, Stewart, Calcagni, Feeley, Schoolcraft, Hay, Murch, Ainsworth, Coburn, Young, Ambrosini, Donlin and Sinnott.

It is readily seen by this list that H. A. has some excellent material for a team, several of the groups having had several years experience on the squad.

**75 years ago in The  
Hardwick Gazette  
April 19, 1951  
BEING**

BEING Additional Items: Some things heard and seen along Main St. and around the village. No harm meant and not hurt feelings intended. Sugarin' is nearly over but there's plenty of snow in the mountains yet... Where are the marble players of yesteryear.

'Bout this time you couldn't used to git around the corner by the McLoud Block without fallin' over about a dozen kids all hunkered down | on the sidewalk shootin' at alleys... No Pips, No Pops... See "Norm" Michaud gettin' around pretty spry the other day. ...seems good to see him step off so sure... Only noticed one of the Mother-Daughter Spring outfits so far on Main Street. Looked pretty cute both dressed jest alike.

Tulips are up good on the Village Green... New fishin' tackle is in, now the tall tales begin... And the boys start lookin' the stuff over and gettin' ready. Haircuts have gone up and shaves... been expectin' it any way, every-

## New Fountain

### Completely Equipped with Frigid- aire Refrigeration

This means that we use no ice of salt in or around any part of our fountain. It means that the temperature of the ice cream is the same at all times.

**It Means-** that the ice cream is neither too hard or too soft any time day or night.

**It Means-** that the soda is of the same temperature at all times.

**It Means-** that the temperature of our bottled sodas is the same at all times.

**It Means-** that the fruits and syrups are kept at an even temperature.

And with the line of fruits and syrups which we use only the best, and Green Mountain Creamery's Ice Cream, it means that we will be able to serve a glass of soda that will please the most exacting.

Come in and look it over. We will be glad to show it to you.

## KIMBALLS PHARMACY

Albert E. Cox, Prop'r

Hardwick - Vermont

"Get It At Kimballs"

*The Hardwick Gazette, Thursday, April 15, 1926*

## Fishing Tackle

Now on display

EVERYTHING FOR THE FISHERMAN.

SEE OUR COMPLETE STOCK, PRICED RIGHT.

COME IN NOW.

## HARDWICK NEWS STORE

F. L. Shattuck, Prop.

Stationery and Confectionery

Magazines

Cigarettes and Tobacco

Open Evenings Until 9:00

Open Until 1:00 P. M. on Sunday

Agent for Palmer Brothers Cleaners

thing else has gone up... You're an old-timer they say if you can remember when: Ira Shattuck was Town Clerk; W. W. Marshall had a store; Daniels Mfg. Bldg.

was the Brush block. And your a "young" oldtimer if you remember: The 1922 High School Basketball Team... When Hardwick went en masse to Morrisville by train to beat them at Basketball. When the Boy Scouts had a swell orchestra, "Pop" Barr, Huntress Clark, Waldo Bemis, "Bill" Robb, George Hanford. Electric Light Dept.

has put in some new reflectors on some of the street lights... makes the light shine down on the street better... Village has had to patch a pile of holes on account of frost heaves. ... Legion's television aerial sure sticks up on top of the Kimball | block.

A few of the parkin' meters are bein' relocated. Lotsa talk along the Street about fixin' up a place for Free Parkin'... Good Idea... Did you know, it's a fact that: There are over 8 million T-V Sets in the U.S.

already. .. Ice went out easy this year... I can remember when

rowboats were used on Wolcott St. . . . Hardwick, right now, has one of the lowest Unemployment | quotas of any town of its size in the state.

**50 years ago in the  
Hardwickian  
Tuesday, April 20, 1976  
Hardwick Business  
Will Be Good**

There are some clear indications that business is going to be very busy and successful in Hardwick this summer.

The arrival of last week's warm weather has brought. people out in droves and many of them have been shopping in our local stores. When people are spending their money at home, that's a real encouraging sign. We urge our local merchants and business people to promote their services and their products.

Hardwick is the hub of a population area of some 8,000 people. Those people are going to shop somewhere. Why not here? When local money is kept here, it gives a boost to the entire local economy.

With the national economic  
See WEEKS, Next Page

**Weeks**

Continued From Previous Page

situation on the upswing, people are going to be traveling again. A lot of them will be going to the olympics in Montreal. Many of them will drive right through Hardwick. Some will stay at the Village Motel and they'll be looking our stores over. So, let's be ready for them.

We have a lot going for us here in the Hardwick area. Let's take maximum advantage of our assets and our potential.

**25 years ago in The Hardwick Gazette  
April 18, 2001  
by Jo Gilder**

WOODBURY - It's a several mile drive up a dirt road to reach a junction of more dirt road. The only way to reach the quarry is to walk, and it's all private land although



*The Hardwick Gazette, April 20, 1976*

it isn't posted. In the middle of April you don't run into anybody or anything.

This is where Tom and Kevin Glusak want to put the FM radio antenna they want to build — out in the middle of a quarry on top of a mountain.

The controversy surrounding the FM radio station in Woodbury continues.

Recently, zoning administrator Diana Peduzzi turned down a permit for the radio antenna tower. The Glusaks appealed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, but currently a date for a hearing hasn't been set.

Townpeople aren't waiting

for a hearing date. Citizen George Ray circulated a petition against the antenna tower and addressed it to the zoning board. It reads:

"By this petition we hereby demand that the Woodbury Zoning Board of Adjustment follow the Zoning regulations established by the voters of Woodbury for Agricultural-Rural Residential District and deny the application to construct a 120-190 foot radio tower, which would change the essential character of the neighborhood [and town] be very visible and obtrusive from many locations including Nichols Ledge, numerous lakes and many home and other areas of town, and clearly does not comply with uses established for an Agricultural-Rural Residential District."

Approximately 67 people signed the petition. Ginger Etkind was one. She said it was a communications tower and she didn't need

it. She thought alternative sites, such as the top of silos or steeples should be considered.

Glusak said if he couldn't get the antenna tower past the zoning adjustment board he would not waste his money on the FM construction license. He also stated his son Kevin wants to become a part of the community as he would be living in Woodbury at the station. While the antenna would be in the Swenson Quarry area, the station would [be] located in a house or some pre-constructed building in Woodbury.

The Glusaks had previously told the Select Board they were willing to work with the community regarding the location and appearance of the tower as best as the antenna design would allow and they were willing to let town public safety departments mount a radio communications antenna on the radio station tower for free.

**Woodsmoke** by Julie Atwood



**WARNING TOWN OF HARDWICK  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 19, 2026**

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Hardwick Town House in said Town of Hardwick on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:30 o'clock in the evening to act on the following business:

**Article 1.** 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?

**Article 2.** Shall the Town vote to require that all future voting at Annual and Special Town Meetings be conducted exclusively by Australian ballot?

**Article 3.** To transact any other nonbinding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick are further notified that voter qualifications, registration, and absentee voting relative to said Special Town Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont this 13th day of April, A.D. 2026.

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Chair  
Shari Cornish, Vice Chair  
Timothy Ricciardello, Larry Fliegelman,  
Derek Richardson

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 13th day of April, A.D. 2026 at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.

Attest: Tonia L. Chase, Town Clerk

**WHERE ELSE?**

- Where else would the public get the very complete coverage of the candidates for local and state offices such as appeared in this week's issue?
- Where else would there be coverage of the exciting news that Habitat for Humanity will be building two housing units in Greensboro Bend?
- Where else was there coverage of the beautiful mural recently unveiled in the Bend?
- Where else has there been unbiased coverage of the critical issues such as the future of the Lakeview School or discussion of the proposed use of Town Hall?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of events at the Highland Arts Center?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of Hardwick sports and local teams?



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

# IN THE GARDEN

## Spring garden chores, planning for more

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – This was supposed to be my very last gardening column, but (spoiler alert) it is not. I started writing a gardening column in 1998 and wrote weekly for 25 years. Then in late 2023 I dropped down to once a month. I liked the extra time and freedom it gave me to do other things.

Recently I have been tempted to say “Adios, my friends” once I turned 80 this month (same day as Will Shakespeare, different year). But I have decided that I will continue on as long as I can and still have readers who tell me they learn from the column. And so long as



*Primula vulgaris* in early April. *courtesy photo*

local newspapers, like this one, keep on being willing and able to pay me. Thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm and support.

Despite occasional snows, our gardens are awake in April. Flowering bulbs abound: snowdrop and winter aconite have been blooming since March; early daffodils, glory of the snow, scilla (also called Siberian squill) and crocus are plentiful. Trees are awakening, too: spring witch hazel is blooming and leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) will bloom by the middle of the month.

Spring is good time to determine where you should plant bulbs, come fall. Get some plant tags and place them where nothing is coming up, places that would look good with some daffodils or snowdrops. Come fall, most of us cannot remember exactly where we have clusters of spring-blooming bulbs.

Bulb flowers can last decades. My family had hundreds of daffodils that bloomed along the paths through our woods in Connecticut. The high canopy of mature maples was quite dense, but the daffies got enough sunshine to re-charge their energy before the maple leaves were big. I have some clumps of daffodils I moved from there, some 40 years ago. FYI: Planting bulbs under evergreens is not good idea.

The timing of spring clean-up depends on the weather, and where you live. We don’t cut back many of our tall perennials and grasses in the fall as they offer food for seed-eating birds, and some harbor eggs or larvae of pollinators in their hollow stems. We’ll wait until the weather is consistently in the 50s before we clean up and remove dead stems so insects can hatch. We’ll rake and remove debris from mid-to late-April.

April is a good month for pruning fruit trees. Although there are entire books about pruning, the rules are fairly simple:

Never remove more than 20% or 25% of the live, leaf-bearing branches. This may mean

spreading out your pruning over two or three years if a tree is badly overgrown. Pile up your branches as you work, so you can estimate more easily how much you have cut off.

Don’t leave short stubs of branches, cut back to the swollen area called the branch collar. This is where it heals.

Remove all dead branches. They don’t count in that 25% threshold.

If two branches are rubbing, crossing or fighting for sunshine, remove one. Don’t be afraid to cut out large branches.

Remove all “water sprouts” which are thin, pencil-like sprouts growing straight up. Do this every year. Remove any root sprouts, too.

Remove branches pointed toward the middle of the tree.

April is a good month for planning what you want to grow this year, and what you want to eliminate. I know people who refuse to cut down trees or dig out shrubs. Not me. If a woody plant is not performing well or is difficult to keep looking nice, I remove it. It opens up a place for something new.

This year Cindy and I plan to plant two more peach trees. I planted a good-sized Contender peach in 2021, and although it has produced some peaches, they have not been very tasty. So this year I will plant a Reliant peach and a Red Haven. Both are peaches that are tasty and hardy here in our Zone 5 garden. And I hope to convince Cindy we should remove the Contender. She is much less ruthless than



*Leatherwood blossoms* *courtesy photo*

I am.

Pay attention to what pleases you in the perennial garden as spring moves along. Last year I planted a few Common Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*). They started blooming at the beginning of April this year, a striking bright yellow. I will plant half a dozen more since they bloom so early. They prefer part shade, rich soil and plenty of moisture. Another early primrose is the Drumstick Primrose (*P. denticulata*). It sends up a purple, blue or white cluster of florets vaguely in the shape of a chicken drumstick.

If you have a good location for primroses, think about obtaining some Candelabra Primroses (*P. japonica*). These beauties bloom on two-foot stalks with rings of small trumpets in magenta, pink or white. They grow and produce a new set of flowers each week for four to six weeks starting in mid-May for me. And best yet: they produce lots of seeds and spread quite rapidly. They do best in rich, moist soil beneath mature apple trees. Buy three plants and before you know it, you’ll have a dozen, then three dozen. Twenty five years ago I was given seven plants, now I have more than 500!



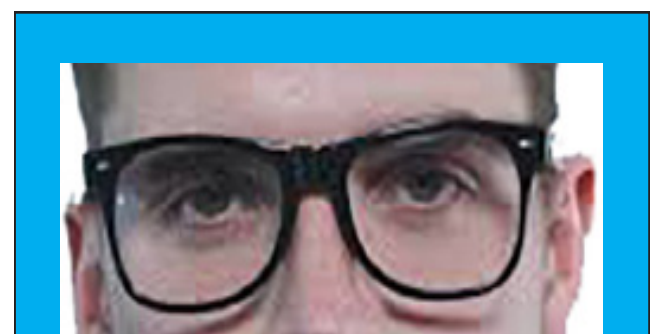
*Drumstick primula* is an early spring bloomer. *courtesy photo*

I firmly believe that gardening keeps me fit and young. I always have to survive the winter to see what blooms well in the spring and beyond!

Reach Henry with comments and questions at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or by email at [henry.homeyer@comcast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comcast.net).



Don’t leave stubs: they have to heal back to branch collar. *courtesy photo*



Thanks

for saying  
you saw it in the

Hardwick  
Gazette

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

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Padding floodplain forests for hidden highlights of mud season

by Catherine Wessel

MONTPELIER – By early April I start to get impatient for full-blown spring. I'm ready for the treetops to be full of warblers and the understory to be crowded with blooming flowers. But when mud season lingers, I pick up my paddle. Kayaking and canoeing in floodplain forests is a seasonal treat as fleeting as spring ephemerals, and it comes earlier.

Floodplain forests are low-lying deciduous woods along rivers, and a few lakes, that flood in springtime as waterways fill with snowmelt. Silver maple almost always dominates the overstory in these habitats, although green ash, American elm, and cottonwood often also grow here. Few shrubs survive the inundation of water, but when the water recedes later in summer, the forest floor becomes a riot of ferns and sedges.

Padding quietly beneath the elegantly arching silver maples, I forget my daydreams of the coming spring abundance. While the rivers rush with snowmelt, these adjacent backwaters often remain still and serene. Although the water can be very shallow, and the risk of getting temporarily stuck is high, the novelty of weaving through a forest by boat is well worth muddy feet. The colors here are still muted, hinting at what's to come: the silver maples sending out the first of their pale green leaves above, the remnants of their red flowers floating on the water's surface, the blue gray of the sky and water.

Occasionally, I let my kayak drift, dipping my paddle in only to avoid obstacles. I find this is the best way to admire the reflection of the sky and trees on the water and to see the secret world of the floodplain reveal itself. During these still moments, I've watched

muskrats glide into the water and swim silently in front of me. Beavers collect mouthfuls of the first fresh green growth along the water's edge. Painted turtles bask on partially submerged fallen trees.

Phoebes and red-winged blackbirds sing, and I often hear the high-pitched whistles of wood ducks and sometimes glimpse them in the branches or careening through the trees. Many of the early-returning migrants in these flooded forests don't sing, however, which makes spotting them all the more special. Last year, floating along with my eyes on the treetops, I noticed a lanky great blue heron landing on a stick nest in the high branches and realized I had drifted below a rookery. The herons didn't notice or didn't care as I watched about 20 of them come and go, taking to the air with dramatic flaps. Ospreys are also returning at this time, and I sometimes spot them flying above, talons clutching nesting materials. By mid-April, I may see green herons and black-crowned night herons along the water's edge, standing among the reeds and sedges and staring intently into the shallows.

Exploring floodplain forests by boat is an incredible reminder of the ecological and economic value of these unique habitats. Large swaths of New England's floodplains have been cleared for farms – their flat topography and rich soils make them prime agricultural land, but those that are still intact provide important benefits to wildlife and humans. These sheltered backwaters are essential nesting and feeding grounds for a number of birds, amphibians, and fish, and are home to several rare and uncommon species such as green-dragon, a plant in the same genus as Jack-in-the-pulpit, and the wood turtle, which prefers



Floodplain edge

woods by slow-flowing waters for foraging.

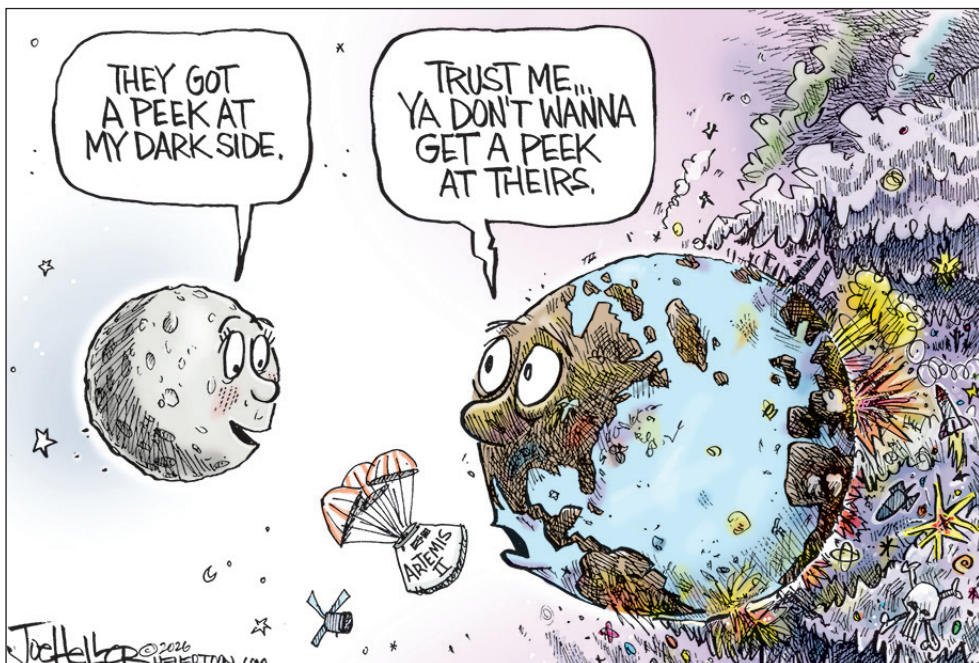
Floodplain forests also store and slow floodwaters, protecting communities downstream. And these habitats filter pollutants from the water and trap them in the soil, improving water quality in adjacent waterways. The slow release of water from floodplain forests prevents riverbank erosion downstream. As climate change increases precipitation across New England, especially in spring, these natural buffers are critical to restore and protect.

In a few weeks, newer delights

will catch my eye, and I'll put my paddle aside for hiking boots. By then, the water level in floodplain forests will start its slow drop, making navigating by boat a challenge. By late spring, riverbanks will emerge, and by mid-summer these floodplain forests will be thick with wood nettle and mosquitoes. A mossy water line on the silver maples will be the only reminder of these quiet days of early spring.

*Catherine Wessel works in Montpelier and is the assistant editor at Northern Woodlands. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.*

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



This young moose was sighted on North Wolcott Road, April 4, about 9:30 a.m. photo by Donna Bernadino

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Rail Trail walks, every Friday

EAST HARDWICK – Starting April 10, the East Hardwick Walkers meet every Friday, on the rail trail at 9:30 a.m., at the Steven’s Lane intersection near 123 East Church Street. Everyone is invited. Contact Gail at gob7878@gmail.com for more information.

## Movie, popcorn, April 18

EAST HARDWICK – The family film, “Time Changer,” will be shown on April 18, at 6 p.m., at Touch of Grace, 104 Vt. Rte. 16. There will be free popcorn. For more information, email clahill77@hotmail.com

## Hazard Mitigation Committee discusses meadows, April 16

PLAINFIELD – The Hazard Mitigation Committee will present GIS mapper and former wetland analysis intern Cil Relland and hydrologist Ethan Ely at the Plainfield Town Hall on Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m., for a discussion on meadows and open land. These open lands create habitats for mammals from voles to deer, reptiles like snakes, seed-eating and predator birds, amphibians like salamanders and insects. They also store and release water at the surface and underground, and host wetlands.

## NVDA updating Regional Plan

by Northeast Vermont Regional Development Association

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – NVDA planners continue to put finishing touches on NVDA’s draft 2026 Regional Plan, which covers Caledonia, Orleans and Essex Counties. Every eight years the plan must be updated to better reflect statewide planning goals to guide future growth and development in the three counties and 55 communities it serves. NVDA is working to comply with the statutory obligations of Act 181 which was passed into law June

2024. Act 181 overhauled Vermont’s current planning framework and created land use categories that all regional planning commissions must use for mapping in their regional plans to coordinate state, regional and municipal land use. After approval by NVDA’s Board of Directors, the updated Regional Plan will be submitted to the Land Use Review Board (LURB) for its approval by the end of 2026.

Learn more at [nvda.net/regional-plan.php](http://nvda.net/regional-plan.php) and contact Alison Low, NVDA Senior Planner with questions at [alow@nvda.net](mailto:alow@nvda.net).

## Act 250/181 public comments sought

by Northeast Vermont Development Association

VERMONT – The Land Use Review Board (LURB) is accepting public comments on proposed guidelines for road construction under Act 250 / Act 181.

Beginning July 1, 2026, “...the construction of a road or roads and any associated driveways...” will trigger the need for an Act 250 permit.

Some exceptions exist for the length of the road, see 10 V.S.A. and exceptions are provided for municipal, state, utility, farm, and forestry roads and driveways. Act 181 also provides that the LURB may adopt rules to help guide implementation.

LURB is holding a 30-day public comment period on the document from Mar 30-Apr 30, 2026. Submit comments by U.S. mail to the Vermont Land Use Review Board, Attention: Comments on Draft Road Construction

Jurisdiction Guidance Document,” 10 Baldwin St., Montpelier, VT 05633-3201 or via email to [Act250.Comments@vermont.gov](mailto:Act250.Comments@vermont.gov).

A finalized draft of the guidance document will be produced in early May for LURB to consider adopting. More information and future drafts will be posted at [act250.vermont.gov/road-construction-jurisdiction](http://act250.vermont.gov/road-construction-jurisdiction).

LURB has requested that the Legislature delay the effective date to allow for public outreach and consultation to develop guidance in rule making. Guidance under development is intended to help clarify exemptions, define what qualifies as pre-existing road, and give definition to the difference between a road and a driveway. Draft Road Construction Jurisdiction Guidance is available at [act250.vermont.gov/document/road-construction-jurisdiction-guidance-draft-3-25-26](http://act250.vermont.gov/document/road-construction-jurisdiction-guidance-draft-3-25-26).



Glenn McKee, of Hardwick, reads his VerseVillage poem hanging in the window of Front Seat Coffee in Hardwick, Saturday afternoon. Listening (from left) are Norma Wiesen, of Hardwick, Janet Slayton, of Woodbury and Rick Agram, of Worcester. Slayton led a poetry and history walk along Main Street to view and read the poems hanging in business windows. She shared historical photos of downtown Hardwick and her memories of businesses that used to be there and buildings now long gone. photo by Dawn Gustafson

## Old-fashioned barn dance and silent auction, May 16

EAST CRAFTSBURY – On Saturday, May 16 from 6 to 10 p.m., Dave Rowell will host a benefit barn dance and silent auction at his Brassknocker Farm Barn located at 2000 East Craftsbury Road. Funds raised at the event will go to support three local non-profit organizations: the Craftsbury Chamber Players, the Craftsbury Public Library, and the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library.

This year’s dance features The Radio Rangers for dance music, and a large silent auction. There

will be food for sale, and Blackbird Bistro is returning to provide the cash bar. Due to licensing and insurance restrictions BYOB is not allowed.

Tickets to the barn dance are a suggested donation of \$10- \$20, children 10 years old and under free. Tickets can be bought in advance or at the door. Purchase tickets in advance here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/old-fashioned-barn-dance-tickets-1983388181442?aff=oddtcreator>

## NOTICE TOWN OF HARDWICK HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Town of Hardwick Public Works Department will be conducting hydrant flushing during the week of April 20-24. Flushing will begin at North Main Street. All hydrants in the Village will be flushed. If you experience dirty water, please let your faucets run until the water clears. If you have any concerns, please contact the Town Manager’s office at 472-6120.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Justice For Dogs April pet food drive

HYDE PARK – Lamoille Valley Chevrolet is again hosting their annual pet food drive, in support of Justice For Dogs for a second year. Donations may be dropped off at Lamoille Valley Chevrolet at 868 Vt. Rte. 15 in Hyde Park. Pet food can be also shipped to

the dealership. Items needed are dry cat and dog food, wet pet food, treats, pill pockets and cat litter. This pet food drive is for the month of April. Justice For Dogs is a local animal rescue serving only local dogs and cats. For more information, see [justicefordogsvt.org](http://justicefordogsvt.org).

## Rescue squad hosts emergency care training, April 20

WOLCOTT – The Hardwick Rescue Squad will host a CPR and Stop the Bleed Class on Monday, April 20, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Wolcott Town Offices.

The course will cover CPR on individuals in all age ranges, choking relief maneuvers, naloxone administration, automated external defibrillator use, and performing bleeding control for traumatic injuries. For those who live in rural communities in the United States, geographic area and

resource availability means it can take time for emergency services to reach many locations. One of the leading treatable causes of death from trauma is uncontrolled bleeding. Survival from severely bleeding injuries and sudden cardiac arrest increases when care is rendered without delay. Training members of the public so they are prepared to assist with confidence in an emergency is a critical element of emergency care in rural communities.

## Morel mushrooms, mycology talk, April 23

THURSDAY – On Thursday, April 23, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Greensboro Free Library hosts Anabelle Langlois, M.Sc., to present a program focused on morel mushrooms and spring mycology. Langlois is both an ER nurse and a biologist.

the specificities of spring mushroom hunting and which species can be found in Vermont. A large portion of the lecture will focus on hunting morels and the recent findings about their diversity and ecology.

The program will take place at the library in the upstairs meeting room.

In this program she will cover

## All-ages poetry slam, April 25

HARDWICK – Saturday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m., VerseVillage and the Jeudevine Memorial Library invite poets and poem performers an all-ages, all-acoustic poetry slam in the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Jeudevine Memorial Library in Hardwick.

and Vermont's reigning poetry-slam champion, will emcee the show. Performers have up to five minutes and may present original work or, unlike traditional poetry slams, "covers," because anything goes.

Group performances are also welcome, and all ages are welcome to participate. This event is free and open to the public at 93 N. Main Street. For more information, contact the library at (802) 472-5948.

Poets take the stage for up to five minutes to be judged to win bragging rights of Poetry Slam Winner at VerseVillage 2026. Slam master Geof Hewitt, resident of Calais,

## Sacred harp convention, all-day sing, May 2

GLOVER – Saturday May 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Glover Town Hall, located at 3018 Glover St., there will be a Sacred Heart convention and all-day sing. Singing will be from the new edition 2025 song book: bring loaners

if available. Potluck lunch will be served at noon, dishes of all kind welcome. No experience is necessary and the event is free and open to all. Donations are welcome.

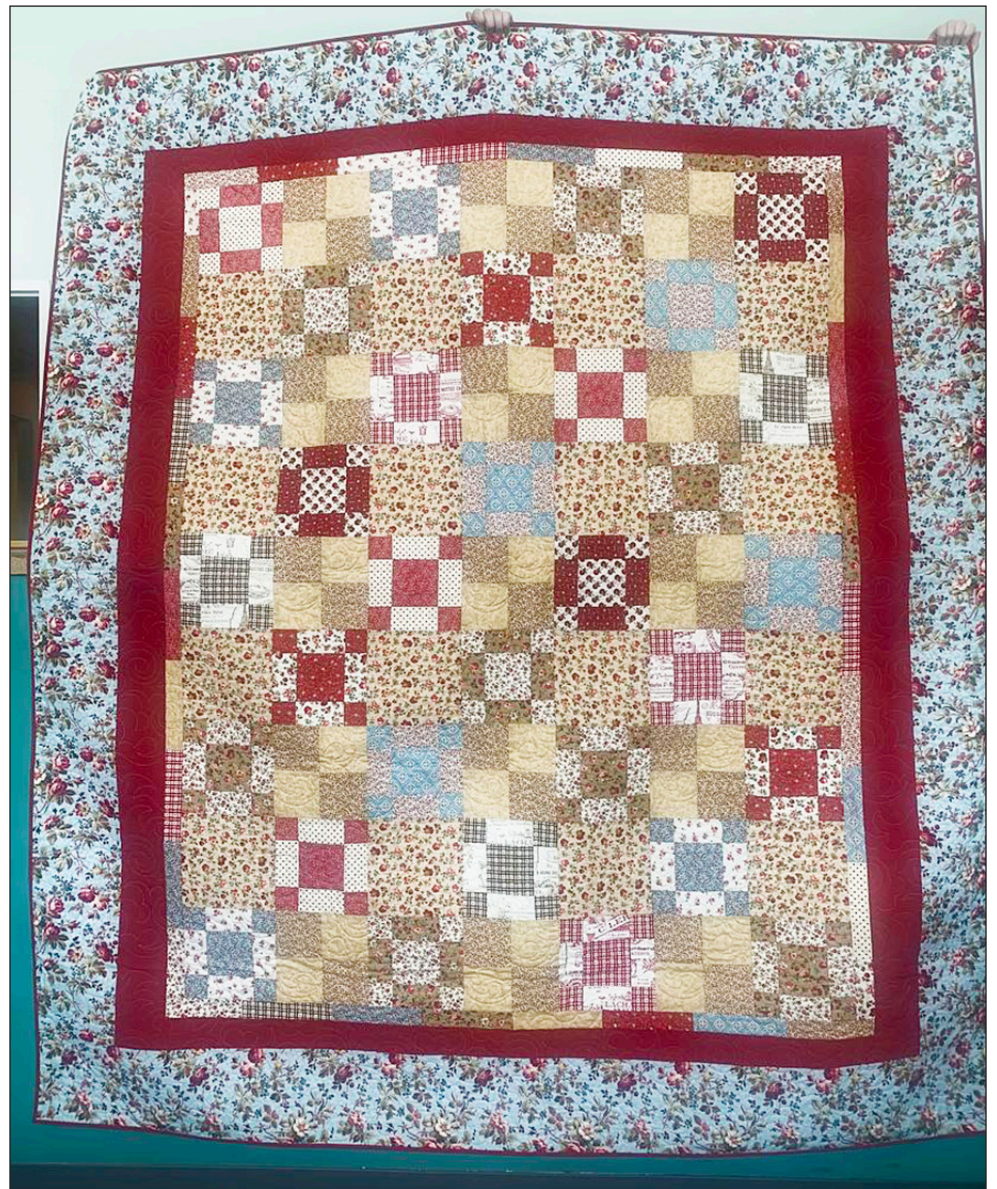
For information, [ziggybrd@gmail.com](mailto:ziggybrd@gmail.com)

## Open house to view sign, May 30

EAST HARDWICK – On May 30, an open house will take place from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Grange Hall.

All are invited to preview the new Historic Interpretive Panel

that will be placed in the trailhead near Stevens Lane this fall. This sign will commemorate the railroad and its impact on the development of East Hardwick Village. Refreshments will be provided.



The quilt being raffled by the Walden School 8th grade class to support their end-of-year trip. *courtesy photo*

## Walden 8th Grade Quilt Raffle, April 15

WALDEN -- The 8th grade class at Walden School is selling raffle tickets for a queen size quilt to fund their end-of-the-year trip,

drawing is April 15. The quilt is made with 100% cotton fabrics that can be machine washed and dried.

Contact Tammy Hall at (802) 881-9779 or stop by the Walden School to purchase tickets.


## Olympic athlete to visit library, April 24

CRAFTSBURY – Olympian Susan Dunklee will share stories and photos from the 2026 Paralympics in Italy at the Craftsbury Public Library on April 24, at 6 pm. Dunklee will share an inside look at the athletes, training routines, race-day nerves and triumphs, adaptive equipment, and the teamwork that makes elite para-sport possible.

the event: Dunklee worked as a biathlon coach and Audrey Mangano served as a ski wax technician. They will share some of their images from behind the scenes, memorable moments on and off the snow, and leave time for questions about coaching, accessibility in winter sports, and what it takes to compete at the highest level.

Craftsbury had two residents supporting Team USA at

For more information, contact the library at (802) 586-9683.



### ROADSIDE MOWING

The Walden Selectboard is accepting bids for roadside mowing of all Walden town roads. Mowing should commence by July 13, and to be completed by August 17, 2026. All work is to be done at the direction of the Town Road Foreman.

Sealed bids for the total amount plainly marked as "ROADSIDE MOWING BID" will be received until 4 p.m. on April 6, at the Walden Town Office. Please enclose a "Certificate of Insurance" with your bid. The Board reserves the right to accept any and all bids, as is in the best interest of the Town of Walden.

# EDUCATION

## Recipe class holds all-school sugar on snow party

by Reeve Basom and Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Last month the Hazen High School Recipe for Human Connection Class took on a project to hold an all-school sugar on snow party they hope will become a regular annual event.

Sugar on snow involves boiling maple syrup to 235 °F and drizzle it on snow for maple taffy. But the class added homemade doughnuts and dill pickles. And they decided to invite 300 people and make it a party.

Then the weather warmed up and the snow was disappearing as the date approached.

When the idea was hatched, students first spent a week testing

out recipes on a small scale and considering what it would take to level up for a school-wide event, said their teachers.

With a date set, students stored snow in the freezer to make sure temperatures didn't upset their plans. They then set to work making two gallons of garlicky dill pickles and turned the classroom into a doughnut factory.

"The scaled-up production went smoothly due to their incredible collaboration and team-effort," said co-teacher Jen Olson. "... and when it was party time and the delicious syrup from Vermont Way Foods was at temp, the Recipe class welcomed all students and staff through their buffet line set up outside,



Students Lucas Hall (Left) and Ella Luther make doughnuts for the sugar on snow party put on by Hazen Union School's Recipe for Human Connections class, with Emma Slayton in the background, March 12. They hope to make it an annual event. photo by Reeve Basom



Recipe for Human Connection students (from right front) Maya Kittredge, Ella Luther and Ginger Bowley (hands clasped) serve sugar on snow to (from left front) Atticus Metevier and Noah Foster as Malakai Bigelow-Talbert watches from the Hazen Union School window, Thursday, March 12.

photo by Reeve Basom

serving the excited crowd the classic Vermont treat."

Human Connections are collaborations and services designed and led with partners and neighbors. These programs help build collective, local resilience through community organizing, shared learning and food justice.

Place-Based Education helps youth connect to food through

community and to community through food. Co-created programming with school and community partners integrates meaningful place-based learning into the rural education system.

Reeve Basom co-teaches the Recipe for Human Connection class and shares her time with the school and the Center for an Agricultural Economy.

**OUR E-MAILS**  
 ads@hardwickgazette.org  
 news@hardwickgazette.org

**Hardwick:** Large furnished bedroom and shared half-bath in spacious 1800s farmhouse. Plant enthusiast seeking housemate interested in sharing occasional company and shared meals. \$500/mo. plus \$50 utilities. No smoking. Pets considered. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

**Cabot** Share beautiful home with great outdoor access with delightful senior woman and her dog. Help with occasional errands, tending the wood stove, help with mowing, some occasional company. \$0 rent, \$200 utilities. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required.

**Woodbury:** Enjoy private lakefront apartment with two bedrooms, living space, bathroom, private laundry in popular summer vacation spot. \$850 plus \$300 utilities. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

# OBITUARIES

## Edward J. "Ed" Kish

HARDWICK – Edward Julius "Ed" Kish, 67, of Hardwick, passed away on April 9. After a four-year battle with leukemia, he passed in peace with loved ones by his side.

Ed will be remembered as a man of integrity, faith, and unmatched selflessness. He was known for his strong work ethic, deep devotion to his family and unwavering faith in God.

He is survived by his loving wife, Nancy; his children, Edward Kish III (Rachel); Samuel Kish (Kayla); Kristina McIntosh and partner Dakota; Daniel Kish (Lauren); Righley Jones and fiancée Deziree; and Colby Kish; his cherished grandchildren Halie, Emanuella, Brooklynn, Kensington, Kaleb, Lincoln, Rosalie, Juliet and Elora; and his brothers, Keith Kish and his wife and family, David Kish and his wife and family. He is also survived by Cotey Bartlett and his family who, over the years, became a son to him in love and hard work.

He was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Lorraine Kish.

Ed graduated from Andrew Warde High School in 1977 where he was a running back on the varsity football team. He graduated from Barrington College in 1981 where he studied business, computers and music. He spent most



Edward J. "Ed" Kish

of his career in sales and management, but also worked on his brother Keith's dairy farm, and as a CNC operator at Caspian Arms. Ed found his greatest joy in time spent with his family on the farm, worshipping the Lord through music and being a mentor to his "guys" at Kimball Midwest.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on April 25, at the Lamoille Valley Church of the Nazarene in Johnson.

Ed will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

## Lynda Marie Mercy

WOODBURY – Lynda Marie Mercy, 76, passed away April 6, peacefully, in her home in Woodbury with her loving husband by her side.

She was born on January 24, 1950, to Edwin G. Lowell Sr. and Katherine Goldy (Jerome) Lowell in Wolcott. Lynda graduated in 1970 from Peoples Academy in Morrisville.

She married Robert William Mercy on October 23, 1971, in Montgomery Center and they shared 54 devoted years together.

Lynda enjoyed hunting and fishing with the family as well as making homemade doughnuts for the neighborhood kids and loved cooking with her granddaughter. Lynda believed in holidays. She enjoyed celebrating and cooking a big dinner for the family. She enjoyed floral arranging and watching the outdoor birds.

Lynda is predeceased by her parents, sister Lydia Ann Coughlin, and brother-in-law Roger H. Mercy.

Lynda is survived by her husband, Robert W. Mercy; daughter Tracy Mercy (Antonio Carbonell) of Williamstown; and son Jason Mercy of Hardwick. She also leaves behind her granddaughter Kamryn Benoit (Lennon Turner) of Morrisville; grandson Julian Mercy of Hardwick; brother Edwin Lowell Jr. (Sandra) of Walden; brother Donald Lowell (Cindy) of Brooksville, Fla.; brother Ronald Lowell (Linda) of Montgomery Center; sister-in-law Dianne Lague Mercy of New York; brother-in-law Gary Mercy (Debbie) of



Lynda Marie Mercy

Morrisville; sister-in-law Patricia Eastman (Ken) of East Hardwick; sister-in-law Diane Porter (Bobby) of Jeffersonville; brother-in-law Duane Mercy (Sherri) of Montgomery Center; brother-in-law Bruce Mercy (Marlene) of Montgomery Center; and sister-in-law Denise Ballard of Morrisville.

She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and close friends. A special thanks to Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice in Berlin.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, April 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the des Groseilliers Funeral Home in Hardwick. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, April 15, at 11 a.m., at St. Norbert's Catholic Church in Hardwick with a reception to follow in the Julien Room.

A Spring Committal Service will be held later on in May at Saint Isidore Cemetery in Montgomery Center. Condolences and memories of Lynda may be shared with her family at dgfunerals.com.

## Claudia Elizabeth Bagiackas

WOODBURY – Claudia Elizabeth Bagiackas passed away on April 12, surrounded by her family and loved ones. A Celebration of Life

will be held at noon, Saturday, April 18, at 2110 Dog Pond Road in Woodbury. Please join us to share memories. Potluck luncheon to follow.

### Card of Thanks

The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization extends its gratitude to our wonderful community. Your overwhelming support for our radar speed sign campaign has been truly inspiring. We are thrilled to announce that we exceeded our goal, receiving approximately \$1,500 from 26 local families and businesses. Combined with a generous \$2,500 grant from the Pleasants Fund of the United Church of Greensboro, we have reached a total of \$4,000 to bring traffic calming to our village. We wish to publicly honor and thank our donors:

Mary Braun, Helen Beattie and Brendan Buckley, John Buscemi, Deborah and Peter Cook, James Duncan, D&L Beverage & Deli, Irene Nagle and Brian Gilmartin, Tracy Martin and Dave Gross, Kathy Hemmens, Hay's Auto, Anne Galloway and Patrick Kane, Rachel Kane, Laggis Farm, Kristine and Mike Lance, Elizabeth Rosano and Griffin Lussier, Joyce and John Mandeville, Louisa Mattson, Cheryl and Gary Michaels, Rick Norcross, Gail and David O'Brien, Sally Potter, Jane Richards, Michele and Phillip Robertson, Carol Schmenke, Snug Valley Farm, Randall Thompson.

### Card of Thanks

The board and members of the Hardwick Rescue Squad would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the Hardwick Hospital Association for their recent generous gift.

The HHA donated their remaining funds, amounting to over \$350k, to Hardwick Rescue in recognition of the close ties between the two organizations over the past several decades.

Hardwick Rescue will put these funds towards their share of the Town of Hardwick's Essential Services Complex building project on Creamery Road.

Hardwick Rescue would like to acknowledge all past and current members of the Hardwick Hospital Association for their service to our community. We are deeply grateful to them for their continued support of the mission of Hardwick Rescue.

## Northern Vermont Funeral Service

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Funeral Director

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# EDUCATION

## Haynes honored with dairy scholarship

by Paul Fixx

EAST SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Charlie Haynes of Calais, Vt., was among six students from Cornell University receiving scholarship awards at the 2026 Northeast Dairy Management Conference (NEDM), March 4 to 5.

The Richard Popp Scholarship Fund was established by friends, families and colleagues of Dick Popp and honors senior undergraduate

students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

For more than 3 decades, the biennial NEDM Conference has connected progressive dairy farmers from across the northeast to learn, share and explore the latest developments and topics shaping the dairy industry. The conference is presented as a collaboration between Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY and the Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA).



The singing group, "Many Waters," performs Sunday, April 25, at the Adamant Community Club. The group includes (from left) Lily Jacobson, Scottie Harrison, Michael Kellog, Lee Blackwell, Kate Latz, Marianne Perchlik, Christian Athena-Blackwell, Donia Prince, Julia Ostrov and John Harrison.

courtesy photo

## Singing group performs April 25

ADAMANT – "Many Waters," a ten-person choir led by John Harrison, will bring their music to the Adamant Community Club's Winter Sunday series, Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m. Their original date in Adamant had been canceled due to weather.

Choir Director and Composer John Mark Harrison presents a concert of original a cappella choral compositions, performed by an ensemble of Vermont singers.

Says Harrison, "This is a program of joyful and heartfelt

songs exploring themes of community: births, people who have passed, love for our local environment, our water, our floods, our joys and our sorrows." The ensemble members are Christiana Athena-Blackwell, Lee Blackwell, Scottie Harrison, John Harrison, Lily Jacobson, Michael Kellogg, Kate Latz, Julia Ostrov, Marianne Perchlik, and Donia Prince.

The Adamant Community Club is located at 1161 Martin Road, Adamant. Admission is free. For more information, call (802) 454-7103.



Walden Elementary School 6th grader Azailya Lesperance (left) is congratulated by her social studies and global citizenship teacher Katey Foster after winning the Regional Civics Bee. She moves on to the State Championships in Stowe, Monday, June 8.   
courtesy photo

## Local student wins Regional Civics Bee

by Paul Fixx

LYNDON CENTER – Walden Elementary School sixth-grader, Azailya Lesperance, won first place and a cash prize at the Regional Civics Bee, Friday, April 10. The event at Lyndon Institute was organized by the NEK Chamber of Commerce.

Azailya's social studies and global citizenship teacher Katey Foster said she learned of the National Civics Bee's regional competition for 6-8th grade students several months ago and encouraged her sixth-graders to enter the contest. It involved writing an essay describing an issue of concern to them, identifying founding principles and virtues that their issue was related to and suggesting meaningful ways they could address an aspect of their chosen issue.

Two of Foster's students took up the challenge with great passion, she said. They stayed after school to work on their essays into the evening.

Azailya's essay earned her one of twenty slots at the Regional Civics Bee competition.

For months, Azailya dove into the study of civics in class, and for many hours of her personal time preparing, said Foster.

The competition consisted of two rounds of 10 multiple choice

questions. The top-five finishing students would then move on to the final round, which required participants to stand before a panel of judges, and the audience of their peers and families, to summarize their essay and respond to questions posed by the judges.

Azailya was one of only two sixth-graders there and was tied for first place with the most questions answered correctly after the first two rounds.

She was called up first for the public speaking portion of the competition, said Foster. "Azailya walked with poise to the podium, delivered her summary and took questions from the judges, [responding] with confidence and clarity."

"Azailya is excited to carry on with her studies of civics in addition to her engagement in education reform discussions," said Foster. "This young woman has come such a long way into herself over these past several months; participating in student voice initiatives, attending press conferences at the state house and competing with peers from around the state. I could not be more proud of her hard work and dedication."

Azailya will now move on to the State Civics Bee Finals in Stowe on Monday, June 8. Winners from that competition will go on to the nation's capitol to compete in the National Civics Bee.

Get the free newsletter featuring notable news, arts, sports and opinion. Sit back, relax and catch up. [hardwickgazette.org](http://hardwickgazette.org)

or help at [hardwickgazette.org/donate](http://hardwickgazette.org/donate)

# Gould discusses new young adult novel at Jeudevine

## REVIEWS

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – Peter Gould came to the Jeudevine Library on the evening of April 7 and gave an insightful talk about his new young adult novel, “Red Nose Girl.”

Initially set in a small town in Vermont, it is about an independent 15-year-old girl, Lettie, who frequently wears a clown nose to school. This gives her the complex identity of a circus clown, amusing but also somewhat dangerous by breaking the boundaries. The nose is more important developing her characteristic of someone who always tells the truth no matter what the consequences. This gets her into constant trouble with her fellow students and teachers, and she often ends up at the principals office.

Her only friend is Trevor, an Afro-American boy of the same age who dresses flamboyantly. Together they are working on an Advance Placement Course for their history class on incarceration in this country and the problem of for-profit prisons, with Vermont shipping some prisoners to other states. Vermont facilities are at full capacity and it is cheaper to send them elsewhere. The issue is important personally for Trevor because his own father is in such a for-profit prison in Mississippi.

But the problem is much wider than the privately owned prisons run by corporations rather than publicly accountable states and the federal government. Inseparable factors are the horrifying history of human slavery in America for the first two-and-a-half centuries until the Civil War and the legacy of pervasive racism and systematic

violence. In addition, there is the almost-universal discrimination preventing people from getting good jobs and participating in the growing economy of the second half of the 19th century and well into the 20th century; the inordinate mass incarceration of Afro-Americans due to the inequities of sentencing and demonic travesties of the justice system. There is the harm to families caused by the absence of a parent, especially when that person is put in a prison at too great a distance to visit regularly.

Thus the heroine, Lettie, and the hero, Trevor, take on an enormous cause to raise people’s awareness of these contemporary problems. The novel becomes a journey, simultaneously inner and outer, for two relatively innocent but curiously wise teenage high school students to discover what power they have to change this unjust system.

The nominal structure of the novel is that they travel to Mississippi to see Trevor’s father, but the larger message of the journey was their coming of age, discovering who they are and dealing with the often frustrating adult world.

Gould read some extended passages from the beginning of the novel and towards the end, giving the audience the flavor of his writing style. In “Red Nose Girl,” he has created vivid characters which we can identify with, following Letties every thought and observation as well as her conversations with others on her journey. In his talk he revealed aspects of how a writer proceeds to put together a work of fiction based on both personal experience and a creative imagination.

Peter Gould is uniquely qualified to get inside the minds of young people as he has given his own Shakespeare theatre camp, Get Thee To Funnery, in the summer of several locations in Vermont (including Craftsbury

Common) for the past 29 years. This particular topic has been fermenting in his mind for twelve years, and is based originally on two actual high school students who took on these same issues, testified about them in the state-house and were applauded for their efforts by the Vermont legislature. He has gone out of his way to have the novel read by knowledgeable people to check for the authenticity of contemporary teenage conversations and mindsets, as well as talking with state officials in the

Department of Corrections and visiting a maximum security prison for youths in New Mexico doing a theater project. He himself has been a life-long activist for justice and has written seven previous works with activist themes, from “Burnt Toast to Home Comfort,” “A Peasant of El Salvador,” “Mac Bush,” “Marley,” “House Drawn Yogurt” and most recently, “Write Naked.”

A separate, more detailed review of “Red Nose Girl” will follow.

## The timeless pastoral: reading, reception, April 18 at HCA

by Highland Center for the Arts

GREENSBORO – The Highland Center for the Arts will present “Vermont Pastoral,” on Saturday, April 18, from 4 to 7 p.m., with a paired reading and artists’ reception.

The “Salt, Stone & Stars: exhibit features two literary pastoral works, “The Salt Stones: by Helen Whybrow and “The Serpent of Stars,” translated by Jody Gladding. “Seasons & Cycles,” the accompanying art exhibition, presents the work of female Vermont artists.

## Circus show premieres April 24

GREENSBORO – The Highland Center for the Arts presents the circus show, “Broken Open,” for one show, 2 p.m., Friday, April 24.

The show, created by the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA), with acrobatics and feats, celebrates human ingenuity during challenging times.

Based in Brattleboro, NECCA is a circus arts training school and the performers are soon-to-be graduates of the school’s three-year full-time program. Previous graduates went on to contracts with Cirque du Soleil, Ringling Bros, The 7 Fingers, Circa, as well as on Broadway and in cabarets around the world.

The theatrical circus show combines elements of circus and story telling created under the direction of New York and Philadelphia-based deviser, Marisol Rosa-

Shapiro. Each year, NECCA holds an open application for directors from around the world and Rosa-Shapiro rose to the top because her artmaking practice centers play and community building. Rosa-Shapiro’s many collaborations include artist in residence at the family focused New Victory Theater in New York City as well as the international Clowns Without Borders.

NECCA is offering a circus sampler class to the public. Youth aged 7 through 16 are invited to experience juggling, acrobatics and aerials in a class offered in collaboration with the Greensboro Free Library. The sampler will be held at the Highland Center for the Arts on Wednesday, April 22, from 1 to 2 p.m. Youth must register in advance by emailing greensborokids@gmail.com.

Tickets are available at highlandartsvt.org

# Vermont Philharmonic performs at Opera House, May 3

BARRE – The Vermont Philharmonic will feature a performance of Beethoven’s “Violin Concerto in D” in a concert celebrating spring on Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m., at the Barre Opera House, with music director Lou Kosma conducting.

Soloist Arturo Delmoni, violinist, will perform the concerto. He has performed with major orchestras across the country and played recitals throughout the



Arturo Delmoni

U.S., Europe, Japan and Hong Kong. He is known locally for his many performances in the Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival.

The orchestra will play “The Moldau,” one of Czech composer Bedrich Smetana’s six tone poems from his “My Fatherland” cycle. It describes the course of the Moldau river starting from its two springs, flowing through fields and woods, past hunters, peasants celebrating

a wedding, nymphs frolicking in the moonlight, wild rapids, and finally in a broad stream flowing through Prague and its castle to join the Elbe river.

The program opens with Mozart’s overture to “Der Schauspieldirektor” (“The Impresario”).

To find more information about the orchestra, go to vermontphilharmonic.com. Tickets are available at the door or online, students are admitted free.

# The Great American Crooners is world-class

## REVIEWS

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – Last Thursday evening the Highland Center for the Arts hosted a show of The Great American Crooners, performed by a group entitled Jazz at Lincoln Center, from New York City.

This world-class band of seven excellent musicians presented tunes from the “American Song Book” popularized by such singers as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Roberta Flack and many others of the decades ranging from the 1940s to ’70s in a high-energy concert of almost two hours.

Sponsored by KCP of Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury, the group was at the end of a ten week tour of the United States and Canada.

Participating in the ensemble were singer Shenel Johns, Benney Benack on trumpet, Michael Stephenson on saxophone, Jocelyn Gould on guitar, Robbie Lee on piano (the last four also on vocals), Felix Moseholm on bass and Gary Kerkezov on drums. Their individual talent was amazing and their coordinated playing was very impressive.

One of the most profound elements of jazz is the way the melody is shared around among all the musicians with the freedom to improvise in an egalitarian atmosphere, which has its roots in African American culture.

The first song on the program was “Jamie Mather,” and featured John’s singing, joined by Benack, Lee, Stephenson and Gould all doing imaginative improvisations

on the theme with their respective instruments, accompanied by Moseholm and Kerkezov. Cole Porter’s “I’ve Got You Under My Skin” was next, of which Frank Sinatra recorded a compelling interpretation, a number with a great melody and engaging lyrics.

Nat King Cole’s original version of the classic song “Route 66” has long been popular, with the amusing line, “You’ll get your kicks on Route 66,” celebrating the old interstate highway between Chicago and Los Angeles. The band’s skillfully integrated playing was evident here, and John’s beautiful voice was highlighted, combining warmth, deep color and expressive phrasing, truly exceptional.

“I Only Have Eyes for You” was one of Ella Fitzgerald’s favorites, to which Johns gave genuine feeling and richness of tone in her rendition. Moseholm got an opportunity to do some improvisations here on his bass, which were much more interesting than most attempts on solo bass to transcend the limited range of the instrument. Etta Jones was another female crooner whose interpretation of “Yes Sir, That’s My Baby” became famous. Stephenson, Gould, and Lee all had fun moving the turn around, each one with their variations, while John’s commanding voice and use of her hands and whole body really enhanced the performance.

“Moon River” was another memorable classic that was a delight to hear as sung by Johns and Gould in a duet, accompanied by Lee on piano with appropriate restraint in a nice slow tempo, coming to a well crafted ending.

“Walkin’ My Baby Back Home” was a piece popularized by Nat King Cole, here given fine scoring through three part harmony by

Benack’s, Stephenson’s and Lee’s well-blended voices. “When A Man Loves a Woman” began with Gould on guitar and evolved into solo improvisation by Moseholm on bass Kerkezov on drums, rounding out with Stephenson on saxophone and Benack on trumpet in a vibrant ending. Benack got some amusing interaction with the audience in the song, “Georgia,” repeating the lines of the lyrics, and then doing some seat passages (made up words).

“One For the Road” was given a good arrangement by Stephenson, Benack and Lee, with the trumpet muted in a duet with the piano. “Tea for Two” is a perennial favorite and all the musicians joined in sharing the tune, with Lee getting in some complex and daring permutations.

A piece originally sung by Nancy Wilson, again spotlighted the truly superb voice of Johns, which was continued in her performance of the following selection, “Save Your Love For

Me.” Benack and Stephenson then had a dynamic interplay on their trumpet and saxophone, Lee giving some very creative improvisations on the piano and Kerkezov adding a burst of spectacular drumming.

“Where Is the Love?” recorded by Roberta Flack in the 1970s inspired a wonderful duet between Johns and Stephenson, as well as great moments in Lee’s masterful variations. A Tony Bennett song, “I Left My Heart in San Francisco”, was a love song to that fascinating city, which Lee gave expressive feeling to with his fine resonant voice.

The last number of the evening brought everyone back on stage playing and singing with full force, earning them a standing ovation from the totally appreciative audience. A generous encore was a second Tony Bennett piece, “In Other Words, I Love You”.

We certainly hope that Jazz From Lincoln Center will return to Greensboro in the near future.

## Pianist Bowles performs in classical series

ST. JOHNSBURY – Noted for his “uninhibited imagination and sweep” (Fanfare Magazine), pianist Chad Bowles will play the final concert of the 36th season of the Northeast Kingdom Classical Series, on Sunday, April 26, 3 p.m., at South Church Hall, St. Johnsbury.

The varied program will exhibit Bowles’ technique in works of Scarlatti, Schubert, Reger and Liszt.

Tickets are available at the door or online: For program and ticket information, go to nekclassi-



Pianist Chad Bowles performs Sunday, April 26, 3 p.m. at South Church Hall, St. Johnsbury. *courtesy photo* calseries.org or call (802) 748-9309 or (802) 274-5322.

### NOTICE OF SALE

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Greensboro in the County of Orleans are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the year 2024 and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

1. REAL ESTATE OF MICHAEL AND SANDY THOMPSON  
Parcel #018-1023

Being a parcel of land consisting of 12.48 acres, more or less, together with a mobile home affixed thereon and any other improvements located thereon at 1023 Salls Road in Greensboro, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Michael Thompson and Sandy Thompson by warranty deed from Leo J. Shatney, Steve R. Shatney and Christine R. Shatney dated July 23, 2008 and recorded in Book 43 at Page 183 of the Greensboro land records

and so much of such lands will be sold a public auction at the Greensboro Town Hall, a public place in such Town, on the 2nd day of June, 2026 at 9:30 in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Greensboro, Vermont this 1st day of April, 2026.

TOWN OF GREENSBORO

By Michael Cloutier, Delinquent Tax Collector

Lamoille County Players

Founded 1952

PRESENTS

PIPPIN

Director: Shannon Sanborn - Music Director: Isaac Besso  
Choreographer: Taryn Noelle - Producers: Holly Biracree and Gene Heinrich

Book by Roger O. Hirson - Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz  
Originally produced on the Broadway stage by Stuart Ostrow and directed by Bob Fosse.  
Pippin is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

April 17-19 and 24-26

At The Historic Hyde Park Opera House

To purchase tickets go to: [www.LCPlayers.com](http://www.LCPlayers.com)

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\$20 (adults) • \$15 (students, seniors & military)

Friday, Saturday 7pm • Sunday 2pm



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# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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dwrichardson1999@gmail.com

# EVENTS

### Wednesday, April 15

Japanese fish printing, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Cabot Public Library, Willey Building, Main St., with the Lake Champlain Basin Project to learn about Gyotaku, For ages 5 and up.

room, with Annabelle Langlois, M.Sc. an ER nurse and a biologist.

**Film**, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Glimpses of a Maybe Future film series continues, Information, (802) 426-3581.

### Thursday, April 16

**Lecture**, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Hills of home lecture by cultural historian Jill Mudgett, Information, (802) 454-1680.

### Friday, April 24

**Circus show**, 2 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro, with soon-to-be graduates of the New England Center for Circus Arts three-year full-time program. Tickets at [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org).

**Hazard Mitigation Committee** discusses meadows and open land, 7 p.m., Plainfield Town Hall.

### Friday, April 17

**Play**, evening shows at 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays; matinees Sundays at 2 p.m., April 17 to 19 and April 24 to 26, Hyde Park Opera House, "Pippin" by Lamoille County Players.

**Stories, photos**, 6 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library, Olympian Susan Dunklee and biathlon coach Audrey Mangan share stories from the 2026 Paralympics in Italy. Information at (802) 586-9683.

**Documentary**, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield, screening of "The Librarians." Information, (802) 426-3581 or go to [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

**Concert**, 8 p.m., Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St., Kathy Mattea performs. Tickets online at [barreoperahouse.org](http://barreoperahouse.org) or call (802) 476-8188.

### Saturday, April 25

**Poetry slam**, 6:30 p.m., Parker Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All ages. Information, (802) 472-5948.

### Saturday, April 18

**Skill-share**, noon to 2 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield, Zen doodles with local artist Nancy Chapman. Information, (802) 426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

**Night sky watch**, 7 p.m., Stranahan Town Forest Moon Field, Marshfield, hosted by George Springston, Cloud date will be Sunday, April 26. Information, (802) 426-3581 or go to [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

### Sunday, April 19

**Poetry Readings**, third Sundays, 2 to 4 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Hosted by the library and the Poetry Society of Vermont. Information, [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org) or call (802) 426-3581.

### Sunday, April 26

**Spanish club**, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, East Craftsbury. The library will host a Spanish conversation group.

### Tuesday, April 21

**Tech Literacy**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Cabot Public Library. Concerns avoiding scams and online safety. Bring digital devices, third and final session, Information, [cabotlibrary.com](http://cabotlibrary.com).

**Concert**, 3 p.m., South Church Hall, St. Johnsbury. Pianist Chad Bowles performs, Part of the Northeast Kingdom Classical Series. Tickets at the door or online. Information: [nekclassicalseries.org](http://nekclassicalseries.org) or (802) 748-9309 or (802) 274-5322.

### Wednesday, April 22

**Circus Sampler class**, 1 to 2 p.m., offered by the New England Center for Circus Arts, for youth ages 7 through 16, at the Highland Center for the Arts, Register by emailing [greensborokids@gmail.com](mailto:greensborokids@gmail.com).

### Monday, April 27

**Legislative breakfast**, presented by the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce in St. Johnsbury, 8 a.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St., St. Johnsbury. Coffee and refreshments available. All welcome. Information: [nekchamber.com/monthly-legislative-breakfast](http://nekchamber.com/monthly-legislative-breakfast).

**Tea party**, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Community Care Center, East Craftsbury, and board games, hosted by the J.W. Simpson Memorial Library.

### Wednesday, April 29

**Beavers presentation**, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Learn about beavers with Patti Smith, naturalist from Bonnyvale Environmental Center and Skip Lisle, beaver expert and inventor of the patented Beaver Deceiver. Light refreshments served.

### Thursday, April 23

**Cooking Camp**, 1 p.m., and fundraiser, Parker Ladd Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information, [jeudevinememoriallibrary.org](http://jeudevinememoriallibrary.org).

**Mycology talk**, 5 to 7 p.m., Greensboro Free Library upstairs meeting

**See EVENTS, Next Page**

# EVENTS

## CONTINUED from previous page Thursday, April 30

**Teen clay workshop**, 4:30 p.m., with Cal Spinelli at Deep Woods Pottery Studio, 1665 Town Hill Road, Wolcott. No experience necessary.

**"Bringing up Beaver,"** by John Aberth, presentation, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: (802) 426-3581 or go to [jaquith-publiclibrary.org](http://jaquith-publiclibrary.org).

**Deadline**, to submit public comment on guidelines for road construction under Act 250/181 for the Land Use Review Board. Draft Road Construction Jurisdiction Guidance is available at [act250.vermont.gov/document/road-construction-jurisdiction-guidance-draft-3-25-26](http://act250.vermont.gov/document/road-construction-jurisdiction-guidance-draft-3-25-26).

## Friday, May 1

**Concert**, 7 p.m., Plainfield Town Hall Opera House, 18 High St., Dana Robinson presents album release, Information: [plainfieldartsvt.org](http://plainfieldartsvt.org).

## Saturday, May 2

**Convention**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sacred harp, all-day sing, Glover Town Hall, 3018 Glover St. Potluck lunch at noon. No experience necessary and open to all. Information, [ziggybrd@gmail.com](mailto:ziggybrd@gmail.com) [ziggybrd@gmail.com](mailto:ziggybrd@gmail.com).

## Sunday, May 3

**Concert**, 2 p.m., Barre Opera House, the Vermont Philharmonic celebrates spring, featuring violinist Arturo Delmoni. Information, [vermontphilharmonic.com](http://vermontphilharmonic.com)

## Saturday, May 16

**Barn dance**, 6 to 10 p.m., Brassnocker Farm Barn, 2000 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury, Dave Rowell hosts benefit and silent auction, with the Radio Rangers.

## 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 to 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 to 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 [jaquith-publiclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquith-publiclibrary@gmail.com), (802) 426-3581, [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

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

**Brain Injury support group**, 1 to 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](mailto:tyoungman@vcil.org).

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

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

**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.

**Food Shelf**, 5 to 6:30 p.m, fourth Wednesday, , 49 Valley Lake Road, South Woodbury. Information, (802) 472-6292.

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

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

**Meeting**, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesdays of month, Stannard Town Hall.

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

**Meeting**, 6 p.m., first Wednesdays of month, Wolcott Select Board.

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

**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.

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

**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](mailto:nspauld@gmail.com)

**Arthritis Relief**, 10 a.m., Community Center, Hardwick. Exercise class sponsored by the NEK Council on Aging. Information at Sara, [Shbehrring@gmail.com](mailto:Shbehrring@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\\_queenof-fallsaints@comcast.net](mailto:mary_queenof-fallsaints@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](mailto:nspauld@gmail.com) and (802) 441-4599, [pfixx@pfixx.net](mailto: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, [jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevineyouthlibrarian@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., **See EVENTS, Next Page**

## STOWE FIRE RESCUE



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# EVENTS

**CONTINUED from previous page**

The Health Center, Plainfield. third Thursday each month. Information, (802) 322-6600 or dgrabowski@The-Health-Center.org.

**Sign Language**, 2 p.m., practice group, John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsby Road, Craftsby. 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 Vava 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.

**Craftfit**, 4:30 p.m., Craftsby Outdoor Center.

**Taming Knotweed**, 4:30 p.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Bring water, bug spray, gloves, assorted clippers, shovels. Craftsby Conservation Commission.

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

**Writing Circle** with novelist Brett Stanciu, 5 to 6:30 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at the Civic Standard, Main St., Hardwick.

**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, Craftsby Common.

**Meeting**, 6 p.m., first Thursdays of month, Hardwick Select Board.

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

**Meeting**, 6 to 8 p.m., second Thursdays of month, Mountain View Union Elementary School Board, alternating among three campuses.

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

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

**Ongoing Fridays**

**Pilates**, 9 a.m., level 3, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsby Common.

**Rail Trail walks**, 9:30 a.m., every Friday, with the East Hardwick Walkers. Meet at Steven's Lane intersection near 123 East Church St. Everyone invited. Information: Gail at gob7878@gmail.com.

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

**Storytime**, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield, playgroup.. 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., Craftsby Community Care Center, 784 East Craftsby Road, Craftsby, the second and fourth Fridays, with Nancy Milholland. Open to all, sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsby.

**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 **See EVENTS, Next Page**

**WGDR 91.1 FM**  
**WGDH 91.7 FM**  
CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY RADIO

## Current 2025 Schedule

as of Nov 2025

Talk/Interview Music

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

**Rotating Slots**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**#7: Thu 6-7 pm**  
1<sup>st</sup> Thu: The Broken Bois Collective Presents...   
Khonsu X and Titan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thu: The Hyper Local Dispatch   
Natascha and DJ Syd  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thu: Democracy Now   
4<sup>th</sup> Thu: Into the Issues   
Steve Pappas

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

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

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

@WGDRWGDHVT

# EVENTS

**CONTINUED from previous page** 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.

**News Discussion**, 10 a.m., Front Seat Coffee, Visit with Hardwick 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. Information: (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.

**AI-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.

**Knitting Class** with Lise Roussel, 10 a.m. to noon, John W. Simpson Memorial Library, East Craftsbury. All levels welcome on April 11, 18, 25 and May 9, 16, 23.

**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

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

**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

**Writing Group**, 2 to 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., first and third Saturdays, (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.

**Story time**, 9:30 a.m., The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, for children. 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, ecpcvt@gmail.com, eastcraftsburypresbyterian.

**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 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, unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com, unitedchurchcraftsbury@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., Greensboro, (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. guccvt.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.

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## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

The Town of Greensboro seeks a Town Administrator to support the Selectboard and assist with day-to-day municipal operations, grant administration, project coordination and public communication.

**Position Details:** Approximately 30 hours per week with some evening meetings. Hybrid work possible with at least two days per week in the Town Office.

**Compensation:** \$25-\$30 per hour depending on experience, plus Town employee benefits including paid leave and retirement benefits.

To apply, send a cover letter and résumé to the Greensboro Select Board at

[macneil@greensborovt.gov](mailto:macneil@greensborovt.gov) and [townclerk@greensborovt.gov](mailto:townclerk@greensborovt.gov) by April 16, 2026.



Delivering On A Promise  
**Dead River  
Company**

**Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel  
Heating Equipment Installations**  
189 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT  
(802) 748-8934 or (800) 222-9276

# EVENTS

**CONTINUED from previous page**

**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, eastcraftsburypresbyterian.

**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. Pastor Ron Doyle. (802) 888-7326.

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

**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.

**Poetry readings**, third Sundays, beginning March 15, 2 to 4 p.m., hosted by the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library. This month features Buffy Aakaash and Bethany Ann Barrett Bohall. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

**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.

**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 11 and up. Learn how to build a character and then embark on an adventure.

**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.

**Greensboro Community Meal**, every Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Greensboro United Church of Christ, East Craftsbury Road. Meal is free and all are welcome. Information: GreensboroCommunityMeal@gmail.com.

**Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Marshfield Select Board.

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

**Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting**, second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., first floor. Information: Call Bill Chidsey, Hardwick Energy Coordinator, (802) 249-6004. Energy.Coordinator@HardwickVT.org.

**Meeting**, 6 to 8 p.m., Orleans Southeast Supervisory Union Board, first Tuesday of month, OSSU Central Office, Hardwick.

**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),

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## TOWN CLERK

The Town of Woodbury seeks applicants for the position of Town Clerk. This is a half-time position with pay starting at \$25 per hour. The Town Clerk is responsible for keeping the records of town and private transactions, maintaining the voter checklist and running elections, issuing a variety of licenses, and helping town residents and landowners in many other ways. Computer literacy is a must. Proven administrative skills and familiarity with government work is helpful. This job is a great opportunity to serve our community and meet people.



Send a letter of interest and qualifications to [selectboard@woodburyvt.org](mailto:selectboard@woodburyvt.org), or Town of Woodbury, P.O. Box 10, Woodbury, VT, 05681, by April 24.

More information at the town website, at

[woodburyvt.org/2026/04/09/woodbury-town-clerk-posting/](http://woodburyvt.org/2026/04/09/woodbury-town-clerk-posting/)

## ROAD FOREMAN



The Town of Walden, is seeking a qualified individual for their Road Foreman Position. This is a full-time 40 hour week position, with overtime requirement during winter months. The position involves maintaining and repairing town roads, culverts, ditches, equipment and other projects as needed.

The Town of Walden offers a competitive wage, to be based on experience and a generous benefit package.

For a complete job description, visit our website at [waldenvt.gov](http://waldenvt.gov), email [tc@waldenvt.gov](mailto:tc@waldenvt.gov) or call (802) 563-2220.

For consideration, please submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to

Town of Walden, 12 Vt. Rte 215, West Danville, VT 05873.

# EVENTS

**CONTINUED from previous page**  
Tuesday of month, OSSU Central Office, Hardwick.

**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.

**Meeting**, 7 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Cabot Select Board.

**Meeting**, 7 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Craftsbury Select Board.

**Meeting**, 7 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Plainfield Select Board.

## Exhibits

**Mary Young's** "Notions and Nature," Greensboro Free Library, on view through April.

**Kim Darling's** "People and Things," Back Room Gallery, at NEK Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad St., #2, St. Johnsbury. Oil paintings on view through April 17.

**Ice Shanties:** Fishing, People and Culture, through April, courtesy the Vermont Folklife Center, at the Athenaeum Hall Art Gallery, 1171 Main Street. St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-8291, stjathenaeum.org . inform@stjathenaeum.org

## Community Services

**Aging assistance**, Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, St. Johnsbury, (800) 642-5119.

**Aging assistance**, Central Vermont Council on Aging, Montpelier, (802) 479-0531.

**Community dinners**, United Church of Hardwick, noon, third and fourth Thursdays, eat-in or take out. (802) 472-6566 to reserve meal.

**Crisis line**, 24 hours, involuntary custody screening, Lamoille County Mental Health, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., (802) 888-5026; nights and weekends, (802) 888-8888.

**Food pantry**, Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf, serving Calais, Woodbury, Cabot, (802) 472-6292..

**Food pantry**, Hardwick Area Food Pantry, 36 W. Church St., Mon., noon - 2 p.m.; Thurs. and Sat., 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (802) 472-5940.

**Food shelf**, vtfoodbank.org/nuture-people/3squaresvt, (802) 855-6181.

**Human services**, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, 181 Crawford Road, Derby, (802) 334-6744.

**Human services**, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, 2225 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-3181, nkhs.org

**Online safety**, cyber tipline, report-

ing online exploitation, missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline?gad\_source=1

**Online safety**, Take it Down, support for removing and reducing spread of explicit images, takeitdown.ncmec.org/

**Meals on Wheels**, Greensboro Nursing Home through Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, (800) 642-5119.

**Meals on Wheels**, Vermont Center for Independent Living, Montpelier, (802) 224-1825, melissa@vcil.org.

**Mental health**, Lamoille County Mental Health Services, 72 Harrel St., Morrisville, (802) 888-5026, (802) 228-0591, lamoille.org.

**Mental health**, Washington County Mental Health Services, 9 Heaton St., Montpelier, (802) 223-6328, wcmhs.org

**Recovery center**, St. Johnsbury Recovery Center, 297 Summer St., (802) 751-8520, recoveryinfo@stjkr.org, kingdom-recovery-center.com

**Thrift store**, Angel Outfitters Thrift Store, United Church of Christ, 216 S. Main St., Hardwick, Thurs., 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; (802) 472-6800.

**Veterans' services**, Caledonia County, (802) 338-4324.

**Veterans' services**, Lamoille County, (802) 338-3411.

**Veterans' services**, Orleans County, (802) 338-4325.

**Veterans' services**, Washington County, (802) 338-4318.

## Libraries

**Albany Public Library**, 530 Main St., Albany, (802) 755-6107, albany-publiclibraryvt.org. Mon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wed. 2 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 1 to 5 p.m. Story time for all ages: Mon., 10 a.m. and Sat., 4 p.m.

Brown Library, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-7711, sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library, Mon. to Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

**Cabot Public Library**, 3084 Main St, (802) 563-2721, cabotlibrary.com, Mon., 3 to 6 p.m.; Tues., noon to 6 p.m., Wed., 2 to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon.

**Craftsbury Public Library**, 149 Common Loop, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-9683, craftsburypubliclibrary.org, Mon. and Thurs., 2 - 6 p.m., Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Story time, Fri., 10 a.m.

**Cutler Memorial Public Library**, 151 High St, Plainfield (802) 454-

8504, cutlerlibrary.org, Tues., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wed., 3 - 6 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Glee Merritt Kelley Community Library**, 320 School Hill Drive, Wolcott, (802) 472-6551, Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. closed; Sat., 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Greensboro Free Library**, 53 Wilson St., Greensboro, (802) 533-2531, greensborofreelibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Thur. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun., noon - 2 p.m.

**Hazen Union School Library**, 126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick, (802) 472-6511, hazenlibrary@ossu.org, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mon. to Fri. while school is in session. Open to the public.

**Jaquith Public Library**, Old Schoolhouse Common, 122 School St., Marshfield, (802) 426-3581, jaquith-publiclibrary.org, Tues. to Fri., 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. - noon, closed Sundays. Winter story time and playgroup, Fri., 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for weather.

**Jeudevine Memorial Library**, 93 N Main St., Hardwick, (802) 472-5948, jeudevinememoriallibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. 1 - 6 p.m., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**John W. Simpson Memorial Library**, 1972 E. Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury, (802) 586-9692, jw-simpsonmemorial.org. Wed., 9 a.m. - noon and 6 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.

- noon and 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - noon; Sun. noon - 2 p.m.

**Morristown Centennial Library**, 7 Richmond St., Morrisville, (802) 888-3853, centenniallibrary.org, Tues. and Wed., 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Walden Community Library**, Walden Elementary School, 135 Cahoon Farm Road, (802) 563-2195, walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/bin/home, Tues., 6 - 8 p.m.

**Woodbury Community Library**, Woodbury School, 69 Valley Lake Road, (802) 472-5710, library@woodburyvt.org, Wed., 1 - 5 p.m.; Thurs., 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## Town Clerks

**Cabot**, [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us)

**Calais**, [calaisvermont.gov](http://calaisvermont.gov)

**Craftsbury**, [townofcraftsbury.com](http://townofcraftsbury.com)

**Greensboro**, [greensborovt.gov](http://greensborovt.gov)

**Hardwick**, [hardwickvt.org](http://hardwickvt.org)

**Marshfield**, [town.marshfield.vt.us](http://town.marshfield.vt.us)

**Plainfield**, [plainfieldvt.us](http://plainfieldvt.us)

**Stannard**, (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@my-fairpoint.net

**Walden**, [waldenvt.gov](http://waldenvt.gov)

**Wolcott**, [wolcottvt.org](http://wolcottvt.org)

**Woodbury**, [woodburyvt.org](http://woodburyvt.org)

**To have your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, e-mail news@hardwickgazette.org.**

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# Hazen Union Baseball looking to make improvements

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Returning an experienced core could help the Hazen Union baseball team make the defensive and offensive improvements they need to build on a three-win season a year ago.

The Wildcats struggled to find consistency in head coach Shaun Allen’s third season. Defensive miscues and erratic pitching plagued Hazen all of last season while attempting to navigate a rugged Capital League. Allen’s club also struggled to find their footing offensively throughout 2025, failing to record a hit four times last season, including in a first-round loss to Green Mountain in the Division III playoffs. The good news is that his young team only lost one senior to graduation (Evan LaMare) and returns plenty of experience.

“Our four seniors are all going to play a major part in our success this season, said Allen. Owen Skorstad will be behind the dish, as well as a key factor as a pitcher. Grayson McNaughten and Justin Montgomery are both looking strong on the mound and in the field for us defensively, and Jake Hayden has turned his pure strength into



Hazen Union head coach Shaun Allen (left) and assistant coach T.J. Davison (right) watch a home baseball game.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

agility. He’s looking strong from the batter’s box,”

Allen has 11 players from Hazen practicing with the team this spring and two from Craftsbury Academy. John Sicard, Will Halperin and Avery Loomis return after showing flashes as freshmen. Junior Chayse Newell returns to solidify the outfield along with Kiah Cloutier, who will also backup

but are making great progress and show future promise. Hats off to Bases Loaded down in Williston, who we spent some time with, helping u with our pitching and hitting,” said Allen.

McNaughten will be leaned on to have a monster senior campaign for the Wildcats after earning Capital League First Team honors last year. He anchored the infield last season, while batting .380 and driving in a team-high nine runs. He also anchored the Wildcat pitching staff with 42 strikeouts in 35 innings of work. If McNaughten’s performance for Hazen’s soccer team this past fall, as a Vermont All-State goalkeeper, is any indication, he is up for the task this spring. Skorstad received Capital League Honorable Mention honors for the Wildcats in 2025 after leading the team in hitting with a .420 average.

Skorstad behind the plate. Trevor Smith and Maddox Robinson are showing promise as freshmen, and Allen’s roster is rounded out by newcomers James Bowlin and Matthias Patoine.

“Trevor has shown immense talent and speed in the outfield so far in practice. We have a couple of players who have never played or haven’t played since Little League,

“Things look promising. Overall, we have a strong team. We just need to keep our heads in the game for its entirety, and we will do fine,” said Allen.

Allen’s club is scheduled to open the season at home against Paine Mountain next Tuesday before hosting Harwood on Thursday.

# Numbers strong for Charger track and field program

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – The future is looking bright for the Craftsbury Academy (CA) track and field program with strong numbers coming out for the team this spring in head coach Kyle Anderson’s second season.

It was a full reboot of a highly successful CA program in 2025 under Anderson, with the graduation of several state champions. His young team of ten strong competed in their first-ever Division III State Meet at Burlington High School last June. Everyone has returned for the Chargers in 2026, with six new freshmen coming out for the team. With a solid mix of experience and youth, the arrow is pointing up for CA’s program under Anderson.

“Last season was our first year competing at the D3 level, and it took some time adjusting to the new standards. I’m looking forward to seeing our veteran athletes continue to work toward meeting the state qualifying standards. We had a lot of success in year one and are preparing to be even more competitive this season across all events,” said Anderson.

Soren Stelma-Leonard leads a returning core for CA after a strong junior campaign that was capped off by a podium finish at states in the 1500m. Sophomore Nora Van-Gulden also returns after a promising first season at the varsity level that saw her finish in the top 10 in the 800m at states. Owen McKibbin, Theo Alexander and Natalie Hill also return for the Chargers after qualifying for States in Burlington. Arwen Alexander, Kosmos Gletsos, Raz Mille and Kille Burner all narrowly missed out on qualifying for states after strong developing seasons for the Chargers.

“This is still a young team, and everyone is showing a lot of potential. We’ve had a good month of practices, and our group of new athletes is adding depth to the team. Based on how everyone is working so far, we anticipate seeing major progress all around. Ten of our runners have their eyes on mid to long-distance events, which gives the team an opportunity to be competitive in relays. This is where we can leverage our depth of skill and talent to be competitive at meets and possibly States,” said Anderson.

 2026 High School Track & Field Schedule				
Date:	Opponent:	Time:	Bus Depart:	Dismissal:
04/14/2026	at BFA St. Albans	3:30pm	1:00pm	12:45pm
04/28/2026	at Colchester	3:30pm	1:00pm	12:45pm
05/02/2026	at South Burlington (Twilight Meet)	1:00pm	10:15am	N/A
05/05/2026	at CVU	3:30pm	1:00pm	12:45pm
05/13/2026	at Lyndon Institute			
05/16/2026	Burlington Invite			
05/19/2026	at U-32	3:30pm	1:30pm	1:15pm
05/21/2026	Essex NVAC Championships (9th & 10th only)			
05/30/2026	Essex Invitational			
06/01/2026	at MMU Last Chance Meet	3:30pm	1:20pm	1:05pm
06/04/2026	D3 State Championships at Burlington HS	PM		

Thetford Academy was a runaway winner for the boys state championship last season in Division III. Peoples Academy outlasted Bellows Falls to capture the girls state title.

CA was scheduled to open the season on Tuesday at BFA St. Albans. They will have another week of practice before traveling to Colchester on April 28.

# ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT



The ski leg of the triathlon was slight chaos but skiers quickly sorted things out as they took the 1.8 km loop course times four laps.

photo by Eric Hanson.

## Racers take on slush, muck in triathlon

CRAFTSBURY – It was the final ski for most, and maybe the first bicycle ride and run for many more as nearly 150 people took part in the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Mud 'N Ice triathlon. Race organizer, Keith Woodward, was able to keep the 1.8 km Lemons Haunt ski trail skiable for one final event as racers headed out for four laps. The kayak-canoe leg had to be canceled at the last minute, so teams adapted as necessary. Participants skied about four miles, ran another 4.5 north to Albany, and then biked about nine miles back to Craftsbury. The ski was challenging especially in the fields, which quickly became a slow slush ski, while the woods trails stayed a bit firmer. Wolcott's Alex Howe came into the ski-run transition first a few seconds of solo competitor Nils Koons and tagged off to his partner Emily Dreissigacker in the two-person category. Asa Lloyd, a Craftsbury Ski Club member, kept his two-person team near the top, 53 conds back, and his teammate, Claire Serrano, then ran the second fastest two-person team leg keeping them in second-place overall over the 4.5 mile segment. Philip Matthews, of the Barkeater Outdoors team ran one of the fastest legs (27:13) moving his two-person team to the front. The Barkeaters kept their lead with their anchor biker Timothy Zieglar for the fastest time of the day in 1:20:16. Lloyd maintained second place the bike leg in the two-person race.

Koons had the fastest solo ski time and was second in the run, just ahead of Issac Kristich who was part of the Moppy's Marauders three-person team of Paul Smith's college. Koons had the third fastest bike to hold on for the overall solo win in 1:22:12, a minute and 46 seconds ahead of Eli Enman from Huntington, who has won this event in past years. Maxfield English placed 10th overall and had the fastest run time of the

day. Other local finishers included Magnus Hayden (11), Cyrus Kidder (17), Adrian Owens (18), Mike McCarthy (20), Kestrel Owens (22), and Damian Bolduc (23).

Albany's Hallie Grossman and GRP biathlete Kelsey Dickinson stayed side by side throughout the day finishing 1-2 after ski and run portions, and they would fall back to 4-5 after the final bike leg. Evelyn Needham moved up to third in women's solo category with the second fastest run, and finished second overall. Rachel Slimovitch of St. Johnsbury moved up from sixth after the run to third overall with second fastest bike. But the big mover was Anna Ramsey of Hardwick. Ramsey was sixth after the ski, moved up to fourth after the run with fastest women's run time (29:36), and then found another gear to have the fastest bike leg and take the win in 1:38:22. St. Johnsbury Academy senior, Tillie Lange, finished sixth on the day with Eloise Girard 11, Mae Searles 12, and Jessica Bolduc 13.

In the three-person team event, the Siboure team from Quebec had the fastest time of 1:24:28. Their cyclist Pierre Olivier-Boily had the fastest bike time of the day in 29:40 moving the team up from eighth to first in the final leg. Lots of cheering in French going on here. Local teams of Jake Barton, Lucy Donaghy, and Averill McDowell placed sixth, and Hannah Dreissigacker and Anna Schultz were part of the 7th place team. Three really young teams of third- to eighth-graders made their way through all ski, run, and bike legs including the team of Sam Koschak, Lawrence Fox, and Asher Jacobs (14). Bee Johnson, Ruthie Podolin, Scarlett Podolin, Emerson McCarthy and one or two others had a 5-6 person team (17). Joe Krebs, Linden Fox, and Finn Nunnery were 18. The youngster were not to be outdone as veterans of these events, Gina Campoli, Judy Geer, and Carly Geer, placed 19 in a not-so-easy race.

Spring is here. See you next winter.



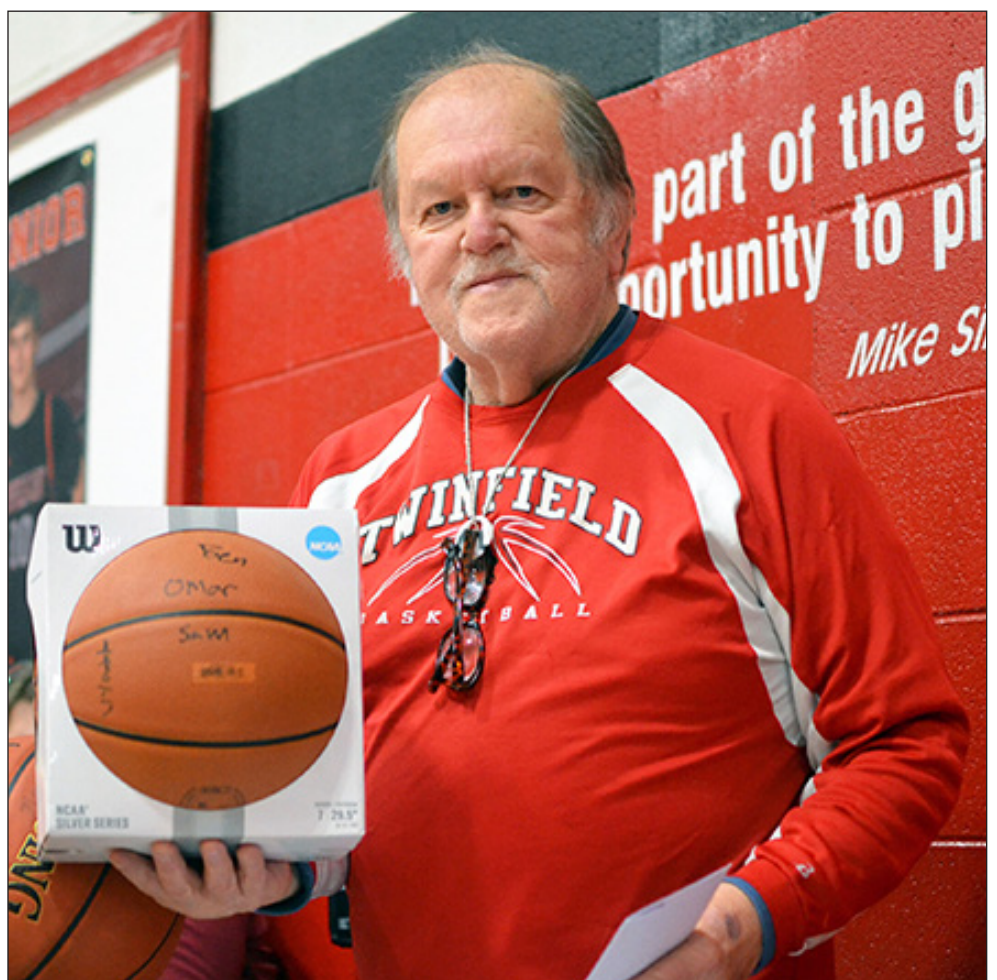
Alex Howe of Wolcott takes his young kiddo from his wife, Emily Dreissigacker in a true exchange from skiing to running. Nils Koons of Albany, the eventual overall winner in the solo category, prepares to put on his running shoes.

photo by Eric Hanson



Bee Johnson of Craftsbury finishes her ski tagging off to teammate, Ruthie Podolin of Walden, who is all smiles as she heads out on the run leg.

photo by Eric Hanson



George Cushing was presented with a signed basketball and a gift certificate for a local restaurant by this year's Twinfield-Cabot boys varsity team, for his 36 years as scorekeeper at Twinfield Union School, March 6.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# An era of unprecedented winning from local seniors

by Ken Brown

Northeast Kingdom – Hazen Union and Twinfield-Cabot will graduate a group of high school seniors later this spring that has given their communities a rate of winning and championships that we have never seen before.

Isabelle Gouin and Julia des Groseilliers helped lead their Hazen Union girls basketball team to their second Division III state championship in three years last month. They ended their varsity high school basketball careers with four consecutive 20-win seasons and four straight trips to the Barre Auditorium. Their senior teammates Ella Renaud, Sadie Gann and Ari Nichols join them in having never lost a home game for Hazen in their entire careers. Gouin also led the winning for the Hazen girls soccer team, joining des Groseilliers, Renaud, Brianna Holbrook and Craftsbury Academy's Adelina Augsberger in posting 27 victories over the past three seasons. Gouin will graduate as the all-time leading scorer for the Lady Cats program (56 goals), the reigning Mountain League Player of the Year and two Vermont All-State selections.



Senior girls on the 2025 Hazen Union varsity team are (from left) Hazen students Isabelle Gouin, Ella Renaud, Julia des Groseilliers, Craftsbury student Adelina Augsberger and Hazen student Brianna Holbrook.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

record for most games played (8) at the Barre Auditorium in his career.

Twinfield-Cabot will say goodbye to a family of seniors in the spring that elevated the athletic program to new heights in both soccer and basketball. Eli Russell, Tej Stewart, Sam McLane, Zepherin Hebert, Thomas Gouge, Sam Churchill, Ben Monaco and Wyatt Bickford led the Trojan basketball program to over 50 wins the past three seasons, back-to-back trip to the Aud and a Division IV State Runner-Up last month. Stewart ends his stellar career at Twinfield-Cabot as a 1,000-point scorer and three VPA Outstanding Underclassmen selections. Russell will also graduate as a 1,000-point scorer, an Outstanding Underclassmen selection and as the reigning Mountain League Player of the Year.

Russell, McLane, and Monaco were joined by fellow seniors Josh Petersen, Jola Otten and Sean Lehoe in the fall that carried the Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) boys soccer team all the way to the Division IV State Championship match. This outstanding group of seniors will graduate in the spring having had the only undefeated regular season in program history, with their only loss coming to No. 1 Twin Valley in the state title match in Rutland. They end their careers having won 45 matches in the last four years, a pair of Division

IV Final Fours and a Division IV State Runner-Up. Russell (30 goals), McLane (26 goals), Petersen (11 shutouts) and Otten were all Vermont All-State selections last fall. Otten will represent Vermont this summer in the Twin-State Lions Cup match against New Hampshire. Russell cemented his legacy as one of the best multi-sport athletes in school history and will leave in the spring with multiple Vermont All State selections on the pitch and another Mountain League Player of the Year award in soccer.

Senior classes like these only come around every so often. They



Hazen senior Ethan Gann (right) looks past Enosburg's Daniel Murphy.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

pave the way and set the standard for the underclassmen who follow them and plant the seed of dreams for middle school fans who look up to them. We say goodbye, we say thank you and we look forward to watching the next senior stars they helped mold.



Hazen Union senior Wildcat Morgan Michaud (left) looks to the basket as he passes defender James Wallace of Lamoille.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Sully Laflam, Morgan Michaud and Ethan Gann will graduate with every one of their high school basketball seasons at Hazen Union having ended in the state championship game at the Aud. The senior trio helped lead Hazen to 57 wins in the last three years and capped off their impressive careers with a Division III State Championship last month. Laflam graduates from Hazen as a former Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) Outstanding Underclassmen selection and now holds the school



Hazen Union's Sully Laflam looks to turn the corner on Rupeni Mara, of Peoples.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Caledonia United varsity senior boys in 2025 are (front) Danville student Josh Peterson. Back row (from left) Twinfield students Jola Otten, Eli Russell, Sean Lehoe, Sam McLane, Cabot student Ben Monaco and Danville students Alijah Andrews and Samson Kitonga.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



The Lamoille Lady Lancers 8th grade team in grey play NW ICE from Enosburg in the Craftsbury Academy Gym, Sunday afternoon in the AAU Vermont Hoopsters April tournament. NW ICE who won 35-29.

photo by Paul Fixx