



## Town forest funded, voter engagement explored

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Voters gathered for three hours at a special town meeting in the Town House last Tuesday to debate and vote on two articles.

For the second time town voters approved providing \$25,000 toward the estimated \$700,000 cost of acquiring roughly 329 acres of land to become a town forest that includes the summit of Buffalo Mountain. Voting on that article ended in a one-hour paper ballot resulting in 234 yes votes and 89 no votes.

See **VOTER, 4**



Hardwick voters at a Special Town Meeting, March 19 cast ballots in favor of an amendment to Article 2 by raising colored index cards in a new procedure designed to prevent anyone not registered from voting.

photo by Paul Fixx

## Legion honors memory of deceased, fallen comrades

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Memorial Day ceremonies for Hardwick's American Legion Post 7 began downtown as an honor guard and several dozen community members marched to the North Main Street bridge over the Lamoille River. There post Chaplain Lynn Sweetser-Bessette prayed for departed comrades and a wreath was deposited into the Lamoille River by Post Sergeant and former Post Commander Lou Furry as "a token of our enduring memory."

Chaplain Sweetser-Bessette's remarks asked those gathered to "remember with reverence the valor and devotion of our departed comrades" wherever they lay.

The march continued on North Main Street to the Memorial Park where Post Commander Bradley Slayton stood on the monument there offering remarks. "AgaIn our nation has assembled to honor its heroic dead. On this Memorial day let us pledge ourselves anew to patriotic service. Let us make ourselves the friend and brother, sister, son, daughter, father and mother, of those who will not see their own again in mortal flesh. . . Let us stand with bowed heads

in solemn memory of our heroic dead."

Chaplain Sweetser-Bessette added her comments, then a salute was fired by the Legion Honor Guard and a bugler played "Taps."

Legion members and the honor guard then went to visit the town's cemeteries and the private family cemetery where past Post Commander Willie McAllister, who died in the past year, on December 10, 2025, lies.

## Third times a charm, school budget passes

by Raymonda Parchment

WOLCOTT – On May 20, the Wolcott school budget passed with 165 voting yes, 158 against.

For a second straight year, the town of Wolcott defeated the budget once on town meeting day, and once again in April.

Residents first rejected the proposed \$6.3 million budget, March 3, by a vote of 143 to 108, and the school board responded by warning the same version of the budget, however with a lower estimated property tax rate.

The approved budget results in per pupil education spending of \$14,229.49, which is 6.07% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

To secure passage on the third attempt, the school board cut approximately \$65,000 from its previous proposal, which necessitated eliminating a full-time behavior specialist position at Wolcott Elementary.



Members of the Hardwick American Legion Post No. 7 family, back (all from left) Suzette Greaves, Tonia Chase, Andrew Menard, Matt Greaves, Ivan Menard and Denis Chase help hold the 15 x 25 foot flag after CCS Constructors workers Macky McLeod and Mike Speer attached it to the CCS crane and raising it above the Lamoille River for Memorial Day.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## MVU budget passes

by Paul Fixx

AREA TOWNS – Voters passed the third offering of the Mountainview Union Elementary School District (MVU), May 20 in a vote by 612 members of the district's four communities, with 361 in favor and 251 opposed.

Turnout exceeded the second vote in April, but fell short of the Town Meeting Day turnout by 154 voters. Just 16 fewer people voted in favor of the budget this time than on Town Meeting Day, but 138 fewer voters opposed it.

The approved budget of \$9,065,204.25 will result in per pupil education spending of \$16,328.74 which is 4.79% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year. The state has not yet set the Yield amount necessary to establish school tax rates, which may vary depending on a possible state buy down.

The vote missed a July 1 deadline for passing a school budget before one of not more than 87% of the previous year's budget must be set by state law for the year beginning July 1.

The 59% margin passing this budget exceeded the percentage of voters turning down

See **MVU, 5**

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# PUBLIC SERVICES

## Hardwick Police Department Two-car accident

HARDWICK – On May 20 at approximately 1:56 p.m., Hardwick Police were dispatched to a two-car accident in front of 39 North Main St. Upon arrival it was determined that a 2015 Ram 1500 operated by Ty Metevier had a mechanical problem and the steering wheel locked up. This caused the vehicle to pull to the right, hitting a parked vehicle. A 2022 Subaru Crosstrek owned by Caitlin Deluca was parked alongside the road and was unoccupied at the time of the crash. The Subaru sustained damage to the driver’s side door and fender. There was minor damage to the

truck’s front bumper. There were no injuries reported in the crash.


On May 29, at approximately 9:56 p.m., Hardwick Police were on patrol when notified of a male being loud and refusing to leave a residence. Upon arrival, Hardwick Police found Justin Perry to be the individual who refused to leave. A record check through Lamoille County Dispatch Center found Perry to have an active arrest warrant for failure to appear. Perry was taken into custody without incident and transported to Northeast Correctional Complex where he was lodged on the warrant.

## Vermont State Police Car crash

PLAINFIELD — On May 22, at approximately 7:51 a.m., troopers from the Vermont State Police Berlin Barracks were notified of a two-vehicle crash on High Street, near Towne Avenue, in Plainfield. Through investigation it was determined that Operator No. 1 was identified as Andrew Buckley of Cabot. Operator No. 2 was identified as Ebony Ann Mullen-Grant.

Mullen-Grant was stopped waiting to make a left turn from

High Street onto Towne Avenue. Buckley attempted to stop while traveling on High Street and was unable to avoid colliding with Mullen-Grant’s vehicle. Buckley collided with Mullen-Grant and they each came to positions of rest on High Street. The roadway was cleared of all hazards, and the general flow of traffic was able to resume. Vermont State Police were assisted by the Plainfield EMS and Fire Department and East Montpelier EMS.



May 27- June 2

<b>Deli Sale</b> B.H. Cheddar - \$6.99 <sup>lb.</sup> B.H. Blackforest Ham - \$7.99 <sup>lb.</sup> B.H. FireSmith Chicken - \$7.99 <sup>lb.</sup>		<b>New Carve Designs For Women</b>	
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<b>Barilla Pasta</b> 3/\$4 <small>12-16 oz.</small>	<b>Cabot Mac &amp; Cheese Dinner</b> 2/\$3 <small>6.25 oz.</small>	<b>Bush's Baked Beans</b> 2/\$5 <small>28 oz.</small>	
<b>Briannas Salad Dressing</b> \$2.99 <small>12 oz.</small>	<b>Stubb's Marinade or BBQ Sauce</b> 2/\$6 <small>12-18 oz.</small>	<b>Vlassic Pickles</b> 2/\$3 <small>12-32 oz.</small>	
<b>Jet Puffed Marshmallows</b> 2/\$3 <small>12 oz.</small>	<b>Nabisco Graham Crackers</b> \$3.99 <small>14 oz.</small>	<b>Hershey's 6 Pk. Milk Choc. Bars</b> \$6.99 <small>9.3 oz.</small>	
<b>Mi Nina Tortilla Chips</b> \$3.99 <small>12 oz.</small>	<b>Blue Diamond Nut Thins</b> 2/\$7 <small>4.25 oz.</small>	<b>Kellogg's Toasted Crackers</b> \$3.29 <small>8 oz.</small>	
<b>Quaker Chewy Granola Bars</b> 2/\$5 <small>6.5-6.7 oz.</small>	<b>Cabot Sliced or Cracker Cut Cheese</b> 2/\$5 <small>7-8 oz.</small>	<b>Almond Breeze Milk Alternative</b> \$2.99 <small>64 oz.</small>	
<b>Crav'n Flavor Frozen Pizzas</b> \$3.99 <small>27.15-30.2 oz.</small>	<b>Morning Star Garden Burgers</b> \$4.49 <small>8-12 oz.</small>	<b>Breyers Ice Cream</b> \$3.99 <small>64 oz.</small>	

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# WEATHER WATCH

## Cool and wet conditions persist through the week

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Another weekend with soggy conditions as the prominent feature started later Saturday and persisted through Sunday and Monday, with a total of 1.04 inches of rain. We remain about an inch and a half above normal for the month’s precipitation. Days throughout the forecast period originally projected to be cooler ended up with highs closer to seasonal normals. By Tuesday, we were surpassing that with temperatures expected to reach 80 degrees under full sunshine.

The threat of any shower will quickly dissipate Wednesday morning as a dry and weak cold front moves through the region. Mostly sunny conditions will appear in the wake of the front, with temperatures near normal. The upper-air pattern then keeps us under the influence of intermittently cloudy conditions throughout the period otherwise, with relatively cool temperatures into the day

Saturday. Weak disturbances will bring on-and-off showers through the weekend, with some heavier showers possible Friday afternoon into Saturday morning. At the higher elevations, there may briefly be some snowflakes mixed in with no accumulation expected. If April showers bring May flowers, what do May showers bring? Hopefully sunshine and warmth in June. Here are the forecast details:

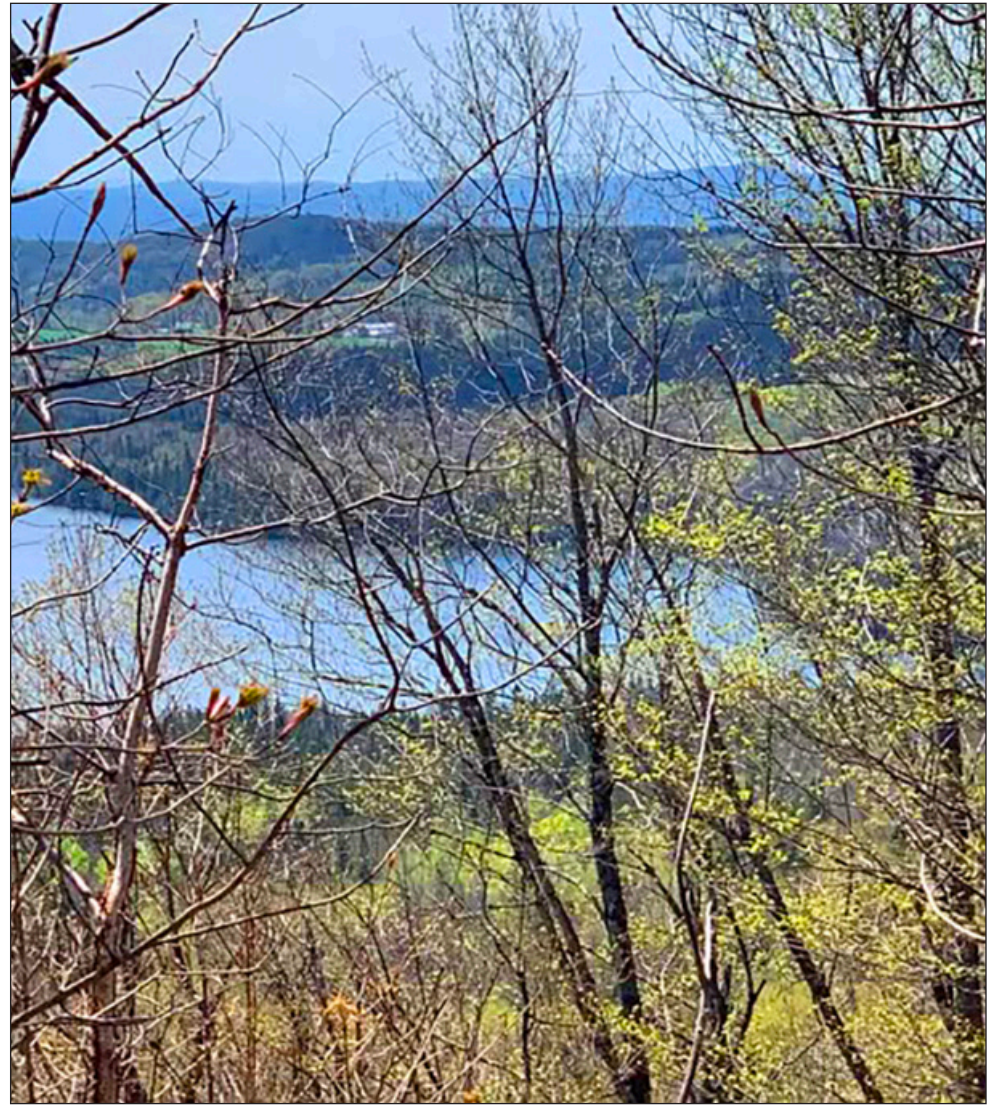
**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy, becoming mostly sunny. High: 70. Low: 47. Northwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers. High: 60. Low: 42. Northwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Friday:** Partly sunny in the morning, becoming mostly cloudy. Showers likely by afternoon. High: 57. Low: 40. Calm wind.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. Showers likely. High: 55. Low: 43. North wind 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny. Scattered showers. High: 64. Low: 44. Calm wind.



Greensboro's Long Pond is seen from Paddock Hill on May 17.

photo by Howard Hill

# PUBLIC SERVICES

## Hardwick Police Report

### Media Log

HARDWICK – May 17: Overdose, Spring Street; Suspicious Event, School Circle; Citizen Dispute, S. Main St.; Theft, S. Main St.; Noise Disturbance.

May 18: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.; Accident - TCNR, School Circle; Abandoned Vehicle, Vt. Route 14 S.; Wanted Person, Vt. Route 15 W.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 E.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Found Property, High St.; Burglary, Marshall St.; Traffic Stop, Spring Street.

May 19: Unsecure Premises, Mill Street; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Assist - Public, High St.; Theft, S. Main St.; VIN verification, Gallup Road; Citizen Dispute, Spring Street.

May 20: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, River St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, N. Main St.; VIN verification, Vt. Route 16; Fingerprints, High St.

May 21: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Directed Patrol, S. Main

St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Fire Alarm, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; VIN verification, High St.; Background Investigation, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Animal Problem, High St.; Theft, Belfry Road.

May 22: Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Animal Problem, Vt. Route 15 W.; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Public, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Missing Person, Evergreen Manor Drive; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

May 23: Traffic Detail, Hardwick; Property Damage, Vt. Route 14 S.; Found Property, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 E.; Traffic Stop, Route 14; Medical, Renaud Road.

May 24: Medical, W. Hill Road; Threats/Harrassment, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 E.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Eleven people used AWARE services between May 17 and May 26. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is (802) 472-6463.

A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE provides

help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit [awarevt.org](http://awarevt.org).

## Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) Media Log

WOLCOTT – May 15: LCSD firefighters were able to quickly found a pair of wire strippers at the intersection of Route 15 and Flat Iron Road.

May 17: LCSD responded to an alarm which was an accidental activation in Wolcott; LCSD responded to a brush fire where the

firefighters were able to quickly control the fire and save the woods from the flames; LCSD conducted a welfare check on Jacks Road.

May 20: LCSD responded to a two-car accident with injuries; LCSD conducted a VIN verification in Wolcott.



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COOPERATIVELY OWNED

# Towns develop creative solutions to address voting accessibility

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Following a special town meeting last Tuesday, the Hardwick Select Board is charged with creating a process to “maximize engagement and democracy and to maintain an amendment process at town meetings.”

Coming after extended debate where many made the case for secret Australian balloting, while others made similarly impassioned arguments for traditional town meeting, most voters said the resolution offers the opportunity to carefully consider the Hardwick voting process.

Those who were solidly in favor of Australian balloting came away saying they saw the evening’s floor debate as an important community process while remaining committed to the equity and privacy offered by Australian balloting.

Other towns in Vermont have faced the same issues.

While debate from the floor of town meetings offers opportunities to revise and amend articles without summarily voting them up and down, secret Australian balloting offers convenience and access for those unable to attend a meeting for many reasons that include jobs, family responsibilities and disabilities

Australian balloting and the informational meeting process before it, does not offer the possibility of amendment.

The book “All Those in Favor,” written by

Susan Clark with UVM political science professor Frank Bryanco offers research and suggestions on the Vermont Town Meeting tradition and difficulties communities face as they try to preserve it.

Some towns have created a hybrid system that moves discussion of budgets and the nomination of town officials to an open meeting in January, before town warnings and annual reports must be finalized.

Duxbury Town Clerk Maureen G. Harvey recently said, “We noticed during COVID that our turnout increased by about 300% because they were able to vote Australian. We asked the voters if they would like to switch to Australian and they voted to vote officers, budget and articles by Australian and the increase in numbers has stayed.”

Harvey then shared what is a radical departure from the usual town meeting process.

“We have what we call ‘Say Day’ in January so the voters can review the budget, get information on the articles and give feedback to the Selectboard. If public sentiment is such that something needs to be changed, there is time to do that before the ballot is presented in March.”

This year Duxbury notified voters early, in 2025, of its plans for 2026 with the headline, “Duxbury Have Your Say Day – January 10th, 2026 – Save the date.”

The notice continued, “It is time again to weigh in on town affairs. We will be having Citizens Have Your Say Day on Saturday,

January 10th at the Crossett Brook Middle School cafeteria.”

The town created additional reasons to draw voters with a community meal before the meeting.

“We will start with Pie for Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 9 a.m. Bring a pie to share and the Duxbury Historical Society will serve it up in small slices so you can mix and match pieces for a serving and have a cup of coffee as well. They will do the work and provide the rest so a donation plate will be available.”

Following the shared meal, “The Selectboard will review the budget and answer voter questions. This is your opportunity to suggest changes to the budget that will be voted on in March.”

Opportunities to sign on to be considered for positions as a town official are also available that day in Duxbury.

“We also need candidates for our ballot in March. We have four selectboard positions that will be open. Is 2026 the year that you will have time for community service? We need people for 2 open positions – one each on the DRB (Development Review Board) and the Planning commission. There are several elected and appointed positions that need to be filled in March.”

Copies of the candidate petition were available in a packet available online and from the town clerk in advance of the meeting.

“All the information for Say Day will be on the website and in the office for pick up after the Selectboard has their meeting with the budget committee on December 22nd. The packet will have the financial information along with the open positions on the March ballot and the instructions for running. Say Day is a great opportunity to introduce yourself to the voters and have them sign your petition.”

In addition to the business of the Say Day gathering, Duxbury organizations attend the meeting to provide information to voters as similar organizations do at town meetings throughout Vermont.

“There will be information tables on the Town forest, Duxbury land Trust, Energy committee and others. Come participate to provide your input and visit your neighbors.”

Both Waterbury and Moretown have taken a page from the Duxbury playbook and added their own special twists to it.

In 2026 the Moretown Select Board held its budget preview on Monday evening, January 5, and the Waterbury Select Board hosted Budget Adjustment Day meetings on Saturday, January 10, and Monday, January 12, according to a January Waterbury Roundabout story.

Hardwick’s vote on moving to Australian ballot is not unusual in Vermont, where many towns discovered increased voter turnout with Australian balloting and universal mailed ballots during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jericho made the move to Australian balloting after their DEI committee realized that weekday meetings were impossible for many. They found floor votes averaged 6.6% turnout, while Australian ballots averaged 19% in off-years and 49% in presidential years.

After the switch, the co-chair of their committee said, “Everyone finally has a seat at the table. We had people thanking us because it was the first time they had ever been able to vote on our town budget.”

## Voter

Continued From Page One

The first vote at Town Meeting Day in March resulted in over 150 in favor and less than 60 opposed, so both sides of the debate showed increased turn out.

Many of those opposed continued to say taxes keep increasing and this additional expense comes at time when gas prices have gone up in addition to years of increased medical expenses and school tax increases.

Meeting Moderator Audrey Grant turned to Article 2 and debate began on moving all future town meeting votes to secret voting by Australian ballot.

Eventually an amendment was proposed by David Kreindler to take a step back and study the proposal after spirited debate on both sides of the issue had not brought consensus.

Kreindler’s amendment “To strike the current text in Article 2 [and] to instruct the Select Board to study and hold public engagement sessions to maximize engagement and democracy and to maintain an amendment process in Town Meeting.”

Public discussion during consideration of Article 2 touched on the importance of creating accessible options for voting, maximizing democratic participation in the process of developing what to vote on, and the role of town meetings versus secret Australian balloting as they affect accessibility for those unable to attend in person due to work, childcare, disability and other barriers. Some emphasized the importance of preserving in-person deliberation, amending motions from the floor and community discussion as essential components of town meeting democracy.

Ross Connelly said he was “thrilled to see everyone at the meeting.” He said in-person meetings are exceedingly important to making good collective decisions.”

Comments from Patrick Larson noted, “Town meeting has a long history, but we seem to ignore the fact that a lot of that history is trying to keep people from voting. For a half century women were outright banned from voting in town meetings.”

He continued, emphasizing the exclusion caused by town meetings, “Today, the roadblocks to voting have changed, but the disenfranchisement of voters remains. The nature of the system now disenfranchises the working class, poor people, single moms, child care providers, care givers, medical workers, people who work graveyard shift, people who travel for work, sick people, people who are immobile and people with disabilities.

Vermont is ranked 49th in the nation in disability voting access, due entirely to the town meeting process, he said.

“And what we’re left with is a very small, very homogeneous subset of voters making all the decisions. That is not a healthy democracy.”

Larson concluded his remarks saying, “Do we want people to have a realistic and reasonable opportunity to vote, or do we want to sustain a system that disenfranchises and excludes our neighbors?”

Then said he planned to vote yes on Article 2.

After the meeting Andrea Brightenbach said, “It will be interesting to see how the process evolves over the next year and who chooses to participate in the upcoming opportunities for input.”

**MVU**

Continued From Page One

the budget in each of the two previous votes.

The Town Meeting Day vote on March 3, when voters first turned down the MVU budget, was the closest, with 389 voters opposed to approving the budget; just 51% of the 766 voters casting ballots that day. In that close vote, just 12 fewer voters favored the budget.

In April, 315 of the 597 community members voting turned down the second budget, with 282 voting for it. Then slightly more people opposed the budget than in the first vote, with 52% voting against it.

In announcing results of the recent vote, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) superintendent Dr. David Baker said, "We are grateful for the continued engagement and participation of residents throughout this process. Your willingness to show up and make your voices heard speaks to the value the OSSU community places on its schools and students."

Baker spoke about the mission of the school district after the vote, saying, "At the heart of everything we do is a deep commitment to the educational well-being of every child in our care. We also understand that voter approval comes with an expectation of careful stewardship, and we take that responsibility seriously."

For the third vote, district board members cut the budget by just over \$100,000 through reduced PCB testing costs at Hardwick Elementary School and a decision not to replace a teacher at the Lakeview Early Education Center.

In addition board members responded to repeated calls to examine options to close schools, most recently in Woodbury, by creating a Building Consolidation Subcommittee to provide a report by October 1.

It will be "a short-term planning committee that will investigate the advantages and disadvantages to further consolidation of buildings in the district."

The group is charged with gathering information to support future decisions, "Based on evaluation of data, including financial, access to educational opportunities, community impact and organizational needs."

Subcommittee members will be one board member from each town, two administrators and one community member from each of the four MVU towns: Greensboro, Hardwick-East Hardwick, Stannard and Woodbury.

Community members in MVU towns interested in joining the subcommittee may complete the form at docs.google.

com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqobj\_Qr8ICTBGpyEQtp\_NbC7tAZbt-Plnsq3PQ98oz-zMOW/viewform by May 27.

In looking at possible closure of MVU schools, the Articles of Agreement say, "information and sharing meetings must take place in the community where the school to be closed is located." A vote is then required by the entire electorate, meaning all registered voters who chose to vote from all four of the MVU member towns.

In December 2023 a petition signed by more than 5% of the electorate of all four towns was delivered to the district clerk that called for the closure of Lakeview School. The board chose to present a non-binding advisory Australian ballot vote along with its budget vote) on Town Meeting Day in March 2024. Then there was more support to keep Lakeview open than to close it.

After that the school pivoted to create the preschool program in the entire building for this 2025-2026 school year.

Many comments on social media and Front Porch Forum were made about the school budget, with some commenting on closure of the Woodbury School, despite repeated comments from administrators and the MVU Board that it was too far into the budgeting process to meet the necessary conditions to consider such a move.

Woodbury community member Sean Prentiss wrote an impassioned email appeal prior to the third vote, saying, "I hope you will vote yes . . . for the Mountainview School budget."

He went on to make note of several reasons he believed a vote in favor of the budget was important, listing health care and inflation "Much of the rising costs come from rising national health care costs, which are outside of local schools' control. Rising costs due to inflation also lead to rising school budgets, again, this is a national issue."

Prentiss continued to say, "Our schools need the resources to properly educate our students. Another failed vote will lead to important staff or educators getting fired or positions remaining unfilled."

He made a critical point that, "If we keep failing our budget votes, our budget will be set to 87% of this year's budget, which will lead to drastic budget cuts at all Mountainview schools."

Finally Prwntiss said, "My daughter goes to a Mountview school (Woodbury Elementary). That school is filled with dynamic teachers, superior staff, wonderful kids and a student-focused environment. A yes vote helps preserve a great education for our local students."



The Crazy Kountry Band plays tunes as people listen and dance in the Hardwick American Legion parking lot during SpringFest.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



The first pair of women town moderators for neighboring Vermont towns of Greensboro with Mavis MacNeil (left) and Hardwick with Audrey Grant (right), meet at the SpringFest Fair in Hardwick, Saturday, May 23 outside the American Legion Hall in Hardwick.

photo by Paul Fixx

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# Act 181 letter questioned, wastewater, stormwater get attention

by **Raymonda Parchment**

GREENSBORO – The regular May 13 meeting of the select board began with public concerns, and chairperson Chris Steel of the Greensboro Conservation Commission (GCC) submitting a letter to the board in response to actions taken at its April 22 meeting.

Steel expressed concerns that the select board approved sending a letter to the state government then, authored by Peter and Sandy Gebbie regarding flaws in Act 181.

On behalf of the GCC, Steel formally submitted a letter in response, asking the board to consider the importance of conservation elements included in Act 181.

Steel expressed his surprise the board would take such a strong stance against Act 181

on the basis of Gebbie's letter. He expected there would have been some consultation with relevant town committees, such as the planning commission or GCC, regarding the merits of the letter.

Board member Tim Brenann said he abstained from the vote due to lack of background information, and in hindsight would have suggested a consultation with the GCC. Mike Metcalf, board member, said while he did vote to send the letter, he appreciated Steel bringing the issue to the attention of the board.

Continuing public comment, Davis Barnett reported just one response was received from their Request For Qualifications postings to . The committee would like more consultants to choose from and has reached out to the State Department of Environmental Conservation. The wastewater committee is seeking a new engineer to help with investigations.

Given the town's history of wastewater siting kerfuffles, they would like to find a firm with experience in areas with geographic constraints as well as creative solutions.

Resident Paul Brierre said that stormwater flows down North Shore Road impacting his driveway, and he'd like the town to do what it can to improve the situation. MacNeil asked Paul if his driveway is built and maintained to shed water properly. Paul said, while he is planning to improve the driveway by installing waterbars, he believes diverting stormwater off North Shore Road would help, and would also reduce the amount of stormwater getting to the lake.

Treasurer Brett Stanciu said she will connect Paul with road foreman Tom Camarra to continue this conversation.

Gary Circosta said he saw that the town administrator position is on the agenda under executive session, and asked for an update on the hiring process. MacNeil said the board has received seven or eight applications and will be deciding this evening which candidates to reach out to.

Road Foreman Tom Camarra said while sections of the roads have been graded, overall the grading process has been slow due to the rain. The crew has been transitioning equipment from winter to summer use. He informed the board this year's paving projects will be partially funded by a state grant.

The board decided to table a decision on a new grader, to give board members time to review Camarra's memo on the purchase. The vote is set to take place at the May 27 meeting.

Moving on, Kim Greaves and Fire Chief Dave Brochu updated the town's Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP), which was approved by the board.

The board approved the warning for a Special Town Meeting, June 18, at 6:30 p.m., at the Highland Center for Arts, however, a community member has alleged an Open Meeting Law violation that will be considered at the May 27 select board meeting. An item on

the agenda for that meeting reads, "Consider re-voting the date, time, location and warning for the special town meeting."

The select board will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Flood Hazard Area Regulations section of the zoning

bylaw on May 18, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall meeting room.

A tax sale will be held on Tues. June 2, at 9:30 a.m. at the Greensboro town office. The sale's information package is available at the town office. MacNeil will represent the town at the sale.



Norah Connolly of Jay holds Milly, her Puerto Rico "Sato" as they watch the human truck pull Saturday during SpringFest activities.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hardwick American Legion Unit #7 Auxillary placed poppies in the Hardwick Memorial Park on Memorial Day, May 25, to remember members and other veterans remembered by donations by community members:

**Hardwick Fallen KIA**

- SPC Scott P. McLaughlin
- SPC Christopher S. Merchant
- SGT. Tristan H. Southworth

**Past American Legion Post #7 Commanders (deceased)**

- Ralph Ainsworth
- Lawrence Bailey
- Laurent "Zoom" Bellavance
- Albert "Bert" Bellavance
- Dona Bessette
- Lewis Billings
- Warren Dodge
- Wilfred E. McAllister Sr.

**Veterans (Dec'd Community)**

- Andrew Allen
- Robert Bagley
- Bird Boys
- Harvey Colburn
- Eric N. Colson Sr.
- James F. Fixx
- Odina Frechette
- Perley Gifford
- Archie Holbrook
- John Klee
- Justin McKinney
- John Northrop
- Victor Patoine
- Catherine Sargeant
- Charlie Smith
- Ernest Smith
- Robert Sweetser

Prices shown valid 05/29-06/02  
Member-owner deals valid 06/01-06/30

**While supplies last**

**BUFFALO MOUNTAIN MARKET**  
COOPERATIVELY OWNED SINCE 1975

**Weekly Highlights**

Just a taste of the deals this week. Stop in for hundreds of local items, cafe food, and more!

<b>\$6.49</b> Against the Grain, 15 oz	<b>\$7.49</b> Bachan's, 17 oz	<b>\$5.49</b> Ben & Jerry's, varieties, 16 oz	<b>2/\$6</b> Boulder Canyon, varieties, 6 oz
<b>2/\$7</b> Deep Indian Kitchen, 5 oz	<b>2/\$3</b> Larabar, varieties, 16 oz	<b>\$4.29</b> Lily's Chocolate, varieties, 3 oz	<b>\$3.79</b> Made Good, 6 ct
<b>\$3.99</b> Minor Figures, 32 oz	<b>\$11.49</b> Miso Master, 16 oz	<b>\$4.99</b> Woodstock, 16 oz	<b>\$4.69</b> Nature's Bakery, varieties, 6 ct
<b>\$4.69</b> Nature's Path, varieties, 10.6 oz	<b>\$7.49</b> Organic Valley, 8 oz	<b>\$4.99</b> Quinn, 7 oz	<b>\$6.49</b> R.W. Knudsen Family, 32 oz

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

<b>20% off</b> Mama Tree Farm, 21 oz	<b>10% off</b> Fussie Cat, varieties, 2.47 oz	<b>20% off</b> Green Mountain Repellents, 8 oz	<b>10% off</b> OWL Bars, varieties, 2.7 oz
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75 Mill Street Hardwick, VT 05843 • 802 472 6020 • www.buffalomountainmarket.com

# Traffic study suggested to address speed control

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – The May 7 regular select board meeting saw a mixed agenda, beginning with communication from the audience. Rachel Kane asked whether speed bumps could be installed in the East Hardwick village during the summer months, to help slow traffic. Town Manager David Upson stated motorists need to be more aware of their speed when entering the village areas. He noted Kane could request a traffic study through Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA). Larry Fleigleman, board member, asked whether a traffic study would also be needed for additional signage near the rail trail. Upson commented that signage is only effective if motorists are paying attention. He noted that Doug Morton at NVDA would be the contact person if Kane wishes to pursue the matter further.

Upson reported the pedestrian bridge project is slightly ahead of schedule. The contractor has reached the lowest required elevation and is approximately halfway through installation of the micropiles creating a base for the foundation of the new retaining wall.

Rain has not impacted the project; however sandbags will be installed for water control. The footing for the new wall will be poured over the micropiles.

Engineering plans are being submitted to tie the new wall into the existing wall.

The new bridge is expected to arrive in July and be installed in early August.

Shari Cornish, board member, asked about the non-functioning crosswalks and the parking spaces adjacent to the jersey barriers in the construction area downtown. She suggested painting over the white lines and covering the two-hour parking signs, as people continue attempting to park along the barriers. Upson said the town can communicate with CCS regarding the issue.

Environmental remediation studies have recently begun at the proposed Vermont Huts location at 9 South Main Street as well as another on Creamery Road, said Upson.

Design for the Fisher Folly Bridge has been completed, with the permitting process underway, he added.

Road Foreman Tom Fadden said the crew has completed grading on Mackville and Hopkins Hill Roads, along with work on West Hill, Tucker Brook and Kate Brook Roads. The crew also completed the West Woodbury section the town maintains annually under contract.

Fadden reported the crew repaired a water main break on South Main Street, with the help of Gravel Construction.

Unfortunately, after those repairs were completed, another break occurred near Jiffy Mart. The crew responded at 10 p.m. to complete repairs overnight and minimize disruptions. They also replaced the hydrant near Buffalo Mountain Market. Additional hydrant repairs were completed on the corner of Vermont Avenue and near Slapp Hill.

Fadden said the crew has started roadside mowing and painting crosswalks.

They relocated the radar sign near the Buffalo Mountain Co-op because it was repeatedly being struck by delivery trucks.

Cornish asked about crosswalks near the laundromat intersection, expressing concern about pedestrian safety. Fadden explained traffic cannot be stopped in that area due to the ongoing construction and completing the work at night is not a practical option because the paint requires warmth and sunlight to dry properly.

The board approved a slew of tobacco and liquor licenses, for businesses including; Positive Pie, Hardwick Gas & Convenience, Hardwick Convenience & Deli, D&L Beverage and Deli and Buffalo Mountain Co-Op.

Floodplain and Zoning Administrator Kristen Leahy said the town received six responses to their Request for Qualifications in regards to the Lamoille Riverbank Stabilization and Flood Mitigation Study, five of which are considered excellent submissions. Leahy explained the selection process and noted that Stone Environmental has an urban planner on staff. She also explained the study area extends from Hay's over to the Cottage Street Bridge. Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Derek Richardson, the board voted to authorize the town manager to execute a contract with Stone Environmental for the work.

The board considered the Confluence Floodplain Restoration Project. Leahy reported that, similar to the RFQ process, the town also received several strong proposals for it. Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the select board voted to authorize the town manager to execute a contract with SLR Consulting for the work.

In other business, the board approved a new debt management policy, as presented by town Finance Director Casey Rowell.

They voted to adopt new Road and Bridge Standards released in January 2026, in order to remain



The Hardwick Select Board (from left) Business Manager Casey Rowell, David (Opie) Upson, Shari Cornish, Tim Ricciardiello, Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Larry Fliegelman and Derek Richardson, begins its Thursday, May 7, meeting.

photo by Paul Fixx

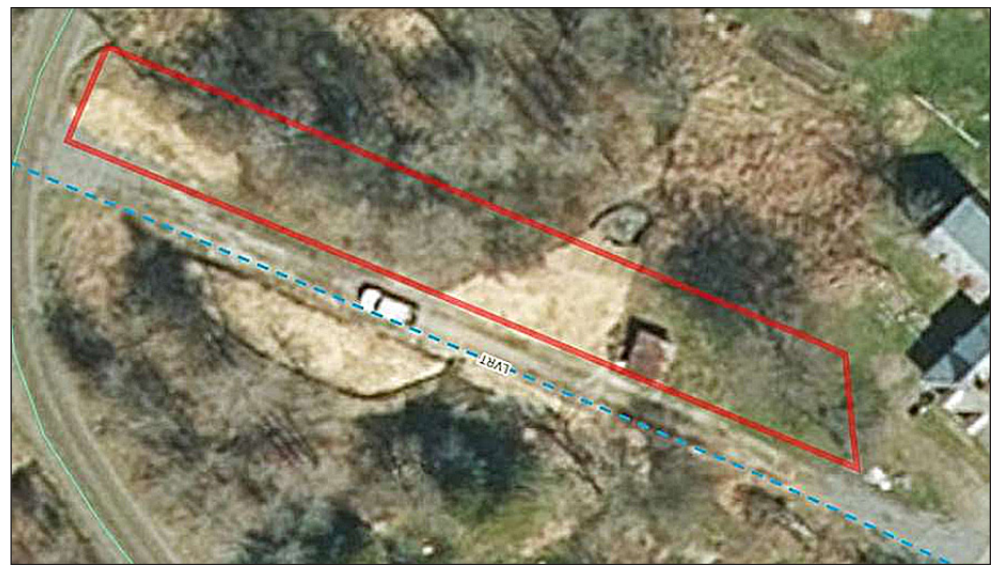
eligible for FEMA reimbursements.

The board considered roadside mowing bids, agreeing to proceed with a local contractor contingent upon satisfactory reference checks.

The town's current recreational policy was discussed at length,

although no action was taken.

Draft changes to the town's economic development loan policy were reviewed, with the board deciding additional time was needed to potentially adjust language related to board recommendations.



The site of the East Hardwick Trailhead on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is marked in red along the trail that runs diagonally across the center, from west to east, in this aerial photo. Plans for the site include a single ADA compliant parking space, a pavilion with a picnic table under it, a bicycle repair station, an information kiosk, other signage and bicycle racks.

## Trailhead project plan moves forward

by **Paul Fixx**

EAST HARDWICK – A plan to create a trailhead on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) has taken another step forward with the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization's (EHNO) Invitation to Bid on improvements in the area that will become a new trailhead in East Hardwick. Plans are to install the planned amenities and have it completed before the fall.

During the summer of 2026 the EHNO plans to work with the town of Hardwick and plans to hire a contractor to build the trailhead on the LVRT at its intersection with Stevens Lane.

The site will initially have a single handicapped parking space and a crushed stone area that will include a kiosk, bicycle rack, historic marker, pavilion, bicycle repair station and picnic table.

The project is funded by a 2025 grant from the Recreational Trails Program of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, reported EHNO.

An initial evaluation of project options was developed through a

scoping study completed by Wall Consultant Group and the Dufresne Group for the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA). Land along the trail's east side off Stevens Lane has been leased from VTrans by the Town of Hardwick and an application for the required zoning permit has been approved by the Town of Hardwick.

The kiosk and a base for a marker from Timber Homes Vermont, a bike rack and picnic table have been purchased by the Town of Hardwick with LVRT grant funds.

Wetlands Mapping at the site was completed by Michael Lew-Smith of Arrowwood Environmental in Huntington. Landscape Architect Barnabas Kane completed the site design.

An historical interpretive marker was completed by MajaDesigns of Essex, with a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation. The pavilion has been ordered from Timber Homes Vermont.

More information about the project and the RFP, for which a response is due by June 5, is at [ehno5.wordpress.com/trailhead-project/](http://ehno5.wordpress.com/trailhead-project/).

# Hardwick Kiwanis Club Spring Festival Parade



Hardwick American Legion Post No. 7's Color Guard leads the Hardwick Kiwanis Club Spring Festival parade, with (from left) Stephen Fortman, Marc Cloutier, 1st Vice Commander; Lynne Besette, Chaplain; Matthew Greaves, Adjutant; Barry Cadorette. In back is Ivan Menard, Sergeant at Arms.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



The Grand Marshal of this year's Spring Festival Parade is Bernie Lussier, 85, of Craftsbury. He is holding a picture of he and his late wife Linda taken on their 55th anniversary. Riding with him in the back is his great-granddaughter Natalie Allen. Driving them is Betsy Brown. photo by Vanessa Fournier



The Jeudevine Memorial Library float won first place in this year's spring festival parade.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Second prize in the Spring Festival Parade went to the float for Lakeview Early Education Center for preschool age children ages 3 to 5 from Hardwick, Greensboro, Woodbury, Wolcott, Craftsbury, Walden and Albany.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



The Hazen Union band provides its traditional marching and music for the Hardwick Spring Festival parade, May 23. photo by Vanessa Fournier



The third place float in the Spring Festival Parade was the Honeybee Steel Band which includes (from left) Aro Veno (walking), Lindsey Scott, Josephine Courtney, Liz Courtney and Nevina Felix. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Hardwick Kiwanis Club Spring Festival Parade and SpringFest



Spiderman (Trevor Howard) entertains the crowd as he makes his way through the parade Saturday.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hope Peets (left) and her great-grandmother Shirley Benway (right) ride in the "Our Loving Family" goat farm in Hyde Park float during Saturday's Spring Festival Parade.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



The Bread & Puppet Theater from Glover adds political commentary about an upside down world to the Spring Festival Parade in Hardwick.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hardwick Fire Department's 1927 Concord fire engine is only one of two left in existence, and always a regular in the annual Spring Festival Parade.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



The 15 x 25 foot Hardwick American Legion Post No. 7 family flag was hung from the CCS Constructors Crane on Friday over the Lamoille River for Memorial Day.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



David Stevenson (right) of Morrisville barely crosses the finish line ahead of Axel Stancliff (left) during cubmobile races held on Spring Street as part of SpringFest activities.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Hardwick American Legion Post 7 Memorial Day Ceremonies



A wreath floats down the Lamoille River in Hardwick after being dropped from the N. Main St. Bridge during Memorial Day ceremonies by Hardwick American Legion Post 7 Sergeant and former Post Commander Lou Furry, photo by Paul Fixx



A Hardwick American Legion Post 7 Honor Guard fires off a salute to fallen comrades in the Hardwick Memorial Park during Memorial Day ceremonies, May 25 photo by Paul Fixx



Hardwick American Legion Post 7 Chaplain Lynn Sweetser-Bessette (left) and Commander Bradley Slayton (right) place a wreath at the Veterans Memorial in the Hardwick Memorial Park, May 25, Memorial Day. photo by Paul Fixx



Poppies remembering deceased U.S. soldiers are placed by the Hardwick American Legion Auxiliary in Hardwick's Memorial Park, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. photo by Paul Fixx

## Hardwick Farmers Market Friday, May 22



The first farmers market of the season opened May 22 on Atkins Field in Hardwick. It will run from 3 to 6 p.m. every Friday until early October. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Several workshops were held on opening day of the Hardwick Farmers Market, May 22. Karen Brown (left) of Dusty Swamp Provisions in Hardwick shows how to do soil blocking and seed snailing to (right to left) Paul and Rhoda Gladding of Fort Myers, Fla., and Woodbury in the summer, and Nancy Shepard of Hardwick. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## We find a way to get it done

To the editor:

Vermont is small. Small towns, small mountains, small businesses, small schools.

It's why we love it here.

On Thursday night the gym at Woodbury Elementary School was packed with community folks there for the spring concert. It was especially joyous as the school budget finally passed the night before. But I know the chatter to close WES will continue.

As I sat in the audience I tried to imagine why anyone would want to take this beautiful sense of community away from these kids. To possibly save a few dollars on your tax bill? Or because you're upset that the building needs some maintenance? All structures need maintenance now and then. Along with roads and infrastructure. It's a fact of life. We find a way to get it done.

Sure, our population of young people is smaller than it was when my kids were in school 20ish years ago, but our small towns are going to have an even harder time attracting families if we keep closing schools.

Let's put our energy into

supporting our small schools, not constantly holding a chopping block over their heads.

Woodbury Elementary has a great thing going. Dedicated staff, active community members and students that look out for each other. And the families of our district towns have a choice between Hardwick Elementary and WES. What a gift. What isn't the best fit for one child is perfect for another. These kids and teachers clearly worked hard to put on such an amazing concert and art presentation. They performed to an enthusiastic packed house and at the end all ages were congratulating each other. Everyone knows everyone, how special is that? Isn't that why we live here? I know I'm happy to cut back on a few small things to support our small schools. Children are our future. It's cruel to keep holding school closings over their heads. Please reach deep inside and ask yourself if you are really okay with working toward taking away a place of such educational and emotional importance to children.

**Lenore Renaud  
Hardwick**

## Grant announces run for Vermont House of Representative

To the editor:

Democratic candidate Audrey Grant is announcing her campaign for Vermont House of Representatives representing Caledonia-2 (Hardwick, Walden, Stannard) in the 2026 election.

Audrey Grant grew up in Hardwick, graduating from Hazen Union High School in

2020 before attending Simmons University in Boston, Mass., where she graduated with a Bachelors in Political Science and a Master in Public Policy. She currently serves as Hardwick's Town Moderator and leads the SpringFest Committee.

"I am excited to run for State Representative," says Audrey Grant. "Our rural communities

need a strong voice in Montpelier to advocate for our needs. I've spent the last few years listening to neighbors and seeing complex policy issues up close. It's now time to bring your voice to the State House."

As a community organizer in the Northeast Kingdom, Audrey has championed localized flood resilience and brought Kingdom residents to the State House to advocate for their needs. She has also served as Program Director for the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State, educating Vermont youth

on government and leadership development.

"Vermonters need relief. The cost of living has increased exponentially in the last few years, making it increasingly unaffordable to live here. I'm running on solving our affordability crisis, investing in flood-resilient infrastructure and supporting our local economies."

You can learn more about Audrey and her campaign for State Representative at [audreyforvermont.com](http://audreyforvermont.com).

**Mieke Riddlebarger  
Hardwick**

## EDITORIAL

### Another Step Forward

The Hardwick Gazette's spring fundraiser was a success, and marked another step toward financial sustainability. The goal of the campaign was to encourage readers to become monthly donors, the most reliable and consistent source of funds.

In all, 24 more readers became monthly sustainers, two made sustaining annual gifts and 12 more made one-time gifts. For a small news operation, that's a total worth celebrating. The Gazette now has more than 80 sustainers who now contribute roughly \$1,300 a month; more than \$15,000 a year.

Sustaining members make The Gazette's finances more dependable. Expenses are consistent throughout the year, but The Gazette's two major revenue sources, reader support and advertising sales, are strongest in November and

*You depend on The Gazette every week to deliver the news and information you need.*

December. Having a strong base of monthly donors helps us get through the rest of the year.

If you haven't become a sustainer, you haven't missed your chance. Simply visit our "Donate" page and sign up for a monthly donation of \$5, \$10, or whatever amount you choose. You depend on The Gazette every week to deliver the news and information you need; can The Gazette depend on you to deliver consistent support every month?

**John Walters  
NEKPJ Board Member**

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

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

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

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

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## I watch her watching

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The apocalyptic traffic predicted for the last day of the Memorial Day weekend hadn't become evident before Kiki and I covered the three hours and change from the North Shore back to Montpelier. As usual, I emptied everything temporary out of the car, put the leftovers from last night's restaurant meal into the fridge, and unpacked my overnight bag (locating as I did the belt I couldn't find when I duded up for a fancy meal at a yacht club north of Boston).

Flushed with virtue and success at getting everything put away first thing, I allowed myself a few moments of repose before getting on with the rest of the evening. I flipped the bedroom recliner chair open and stretched out by the window. That's always the signal for Kiki to jump up onto me and lie down in various attitudes of repose. I find it mildly flattering that she likes and trusts me enough to use me as a dog mattress, so I don't object when, sometimes after several hours, she's still there.

This time she sat crossways and, enjoying the elevation of my lap, stared intently (I can't imagine her not staring intently) out the front window, seeming to expect something spectacular like a dragon or a FedEx van to come up the driveway. I cranked the window open wide. She leaned forward, stood up, and began sniffing at the odors wafting

*I read recently that dogs have the ability to smell things independently from both sides of their noses, like frying hamburgers on the left and a skunk on the right.*

through the window. I had a close-up view of her senses in action.

First, of course, her eyes. There are no eyes brighter than a terrier's. Bred and trained to spot, catch and destroy mice and rats, she sees everything. I often envy her ability, even without the multichromatic vision we human beings have, to spot things in the woods that I don't see till they move. She gazed out the window unblinking, as if the first of us to see something important would win a prize.

The nose. I read recently that dogs have the ability to smell things independently from both sides of their noses, like frying hamburgers on the left and a skunk on the right. I watched carefully; her nose is no bigger than a walnut, and was no more than a foot from my eyes. Sure enough, the two halves were twitching and pointing in different directions, her eyes following one or the other. There didn't appear to be much of particular interest out there.

The ears. Kiki's always had outsized ears. When she was a puppy, I often wondered if she'd ever grow into them. Eventually she did, kind of. They're still pretty large, and go a long way toward making her look cute. But they also operate as inde-

pendently as her eyes. Not always. At times, both of them stand up straight and point straight ahead; at others, they spin around in search of the source of the sound she's trying to isolate. Her ears, more than anything else, are key to her feelings. They can rotate with enthusiastic interest, or lie flat with the expectation of unhappiness from the boss or a sudden surprising loud noise nearby. You should have seen them the other morning in Exeter when a trash truck dumped an empty metal bin onto the pavement right beside us.

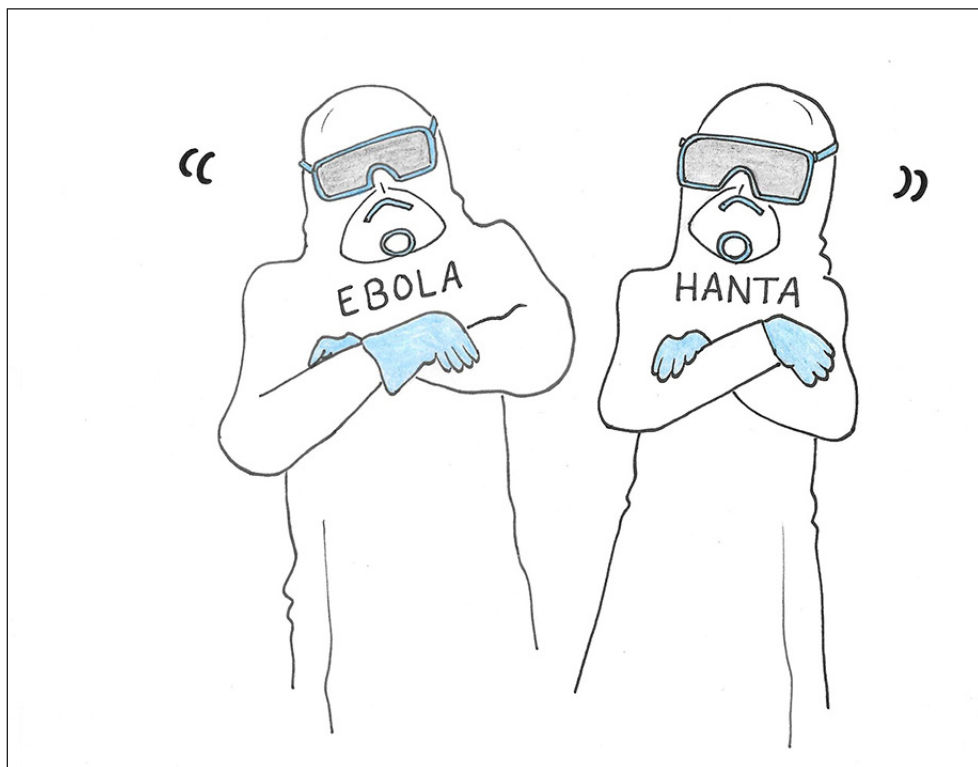
Her tail. A terrier's tail kind of sticks up into the air naturally, anyway. I love to watch hers. It wags most of the time, usually in anticipation. If I had to characterize Kiki in a few words, they would be food and anticipation: a 24-hour-a-day search for edibles and an unflagging interest in whatever is coming next.

So I watched her watching

the front yard, still but coiled, ears erect and facing forward, standing utterly carelessly on my thighs as if her claws weren't digging into them, tail slowly wagging and ready to be excited. Her slender front legs, the bones hardly larger than a chicken's, have always intrigued me. When she was still a puppy, I marveled at how she tossed herself down the steepest stony hills without ever snapping a single bone. She's pretty sturdy now, but those leg bones still surprise me.

She's ten years old, so, dreading the inevitable hour of our separation, I've started looking for signs of advancing age (I don't have to look very hard for signs of my own). But this little ginger-colored rascal still acts like a puppy most of the time. Watching her stare out the window, I can just feel the enthusiasm radiating from her. Either one of us could go first. If it's me, I hope she'll remember perching on my lap on a holiday afternoon, gazing out the window; if it's her, I'll want to live always with the memory of an intimate friend with enthusiasm bred in the bone, and a constant interest in whatever's coming next.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



**"WE DON'T NEED A BALLROOM FOR NATIONAL SECURITY. WE NEED FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT FIGHT INFECTIOUS DISEASES THAT CAN BECOME A NATIONAL SECURITY!"**

## 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.

THE **Hardwick Gazette**  
INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

# ANOTHER OPINION

## On Memorial Day we recognize graves of veterans in final resting places across the Northeast Kingdom

by Mike Metcalf

[Editor's note: Craftsbury's Memorial Day observances began with a service, Friday, May 22, at 9 a.m., that began with music in the Craftsbury Academy gym. Greensboro Select Board member and former state senator, Mike Metcalf, shared thoughts about his own and his son's military service, with a local connection.

A procession then followed to North Craftsbury Cemetery, where flowers donated by the community were placed on veterans' graves. The service concluded with the laying of a wreath at the Veterans' Memorial on the Common. Afterward cookies were shared with those in attendance.

Metcalf's remarks follow.]

CRAFTSBURY – This is the 161st Memorial Day; a practice started in Waterloo, N.Y., in 1866, to honor the memories of so many young men who had recently given their lives in America's Civil War. Veterans of both the Grand Army of the Republic and the Armies of the Confederacy have now been recognized North and South for more than a century and a half. Veterans groups and families decorate the graves of veterans of every American war.

For years recognition was scheduled on May 30. In 1968 the Congress designated the last Monday in May as the date for Memorial Day. To include members of the school-aged generation in the recognition, and since the Monday holiday means there is no school on Monday, at the Academy we are recognizing veterans today. Armed Forces Day, earlier in May, and Veterans' Day in November are two other opportunities to recognize the sacrifice of so many who have kept alive the dream of our quarter-millennium experiment in democracy.

A recent book by Admiral William McRaven, "Duty, Honor, Country & Life," recounts much of what the history of this American experiment in democracy is all about.

His final chapter starts with: "In the past 250 years, there has been tremendous change in America. We have grown from three-million people in 1776 to over 330 million today, from thirteen states to fifty. Manifest Destiny drove us west expanding American territory through acquisition and war. Initially an agrarian society, we moved through the Industrial Age into the age of technology and

globalization. A civil war freed the slaves, and societal changes expanded voting rights for everyone. We brought electricity to the people and mass produced the automobile, the airplane and the telephone. We fought two world wars and a dozen other conflicts. We put men on the moon, built the internet, conquered crippling diseases and fed the world. But for all the political, economic, and societal changes, America is best known for what didn't change:

*Our young men and women on the front lines are getting the very best protection the nation can provide, produced by people who care in a state we all value.*

the American spirit."

There is a connection between this celebration and our history. So many of the advances brought forth in the U.S.A. have been made possible by the service and sacrifice of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. This we recognize today, and this weekend several hundred graves of veterans are decorated in final resting places across the Northeast Kingdom. All of us are here in part because service to America deserves our thanks.

I have a very personal reason for adding my family to the list of grateful celebrants. On Thursday, August 5, 2004, at 6 a.m. the phone rang at our home in Greensboro. Our Green Beret younger son, Keyes, (on his first of four tours in 'the sandbox') said, "Mom, I wouldn't call except the Army's going to call later to make sure I talked to you."

"What happened?"

I got shot in the head. I'm fine. I have a pretty good headache; a stitch; the helmet saved my life."

Keyes is laconic, not one for idle chit-chat, so the call was brief. Though we learned some details about the injury, we would wait until Christmastime to fill in a lot of the pixels about what happened and how he was protected.

The firefight took place in eastern Mosul, "up north" as our sons called it. Keyes and his A-team were working with an Iraqi battalion defending the city's northernmost bridge across the Tigris River. The round entered Keyes' Advanced Combat Helmet at the back left of his head. The force of the shot partially delaminated the Kevlar as it moved forward, cutting into

his left temple, leaving him black and blue, a bit bloodied, and in need of minor medical attention and Ibuprofen. The round would have gone clean through a steel helmet from WWII or Vietnam.

During the fall, we learned more about this helmet: made of many layers of Kevlar fabric, forced together under tons of pressure. Remarkably, the firm whose helmet saved our son's life is located here in Newport, in the Essex-Orleans District which I

represented for a few years in the Vermont State Senate.

On the last day before the company's Christmas break, Keyes (home on leave), my wife Mary and I visited them to thank them for saving the life of a Vermont Green Beret. After showing off the process by which the helmets are built and guiding a tour of the plant, Rudy Chase, a leader of the team manufacturing the helmet, who lives on the Creek Road in Craftsbury, asked Keyes if he still had the helmet.

"Yes, it's back at Fort Campbell."

"When you get back to Campbell, would you pull back a small tab, inside, center top, and send us the serial number?"

At the new year, back in Kentucky, Keyes sent us a photo of the serial number as part of an e-mail. I forwarded the photo to MSA Industries where they were able to thank the exact crew that made the helmet that had saved his life.

Our young men and women on the front lines are getting the very best protection the nation can provide, produced by people who care in a state we all value. I want to express my personal thanks to each and every individual whose work ethic and focus helped to save Keyes' life and the lives of countless others.

A few years ago, there were 1.5 million men and women on active duty in the armed forces. Their average age was 24½. Another 1.7 million served in the reserves and the national guard. Fifty-one percent of active duty personnel are married. They have 1.9 million spouses and dependent children. They come from every American state and 80 foreign countries. For

many people around the world, the most direct route to American citizenship is service in America's military.

The sacrifice offered by active-duty service personnel is but part of the reason that the United States experiment in democracy has lasted for a quarter of a millennium. The workers at MSA industries in Newport whose helmet saved our son's life are also part of that story. We were pleased to see the process, guided by a resident of our neighboring town, when we visited the facility 22 years ago.

In 2012, there was a message on the answering device at Hazen Union School informing me that Revision, a company in Colchester, had purchased MSA Industries and inviting me to a 'change of command' ceremony at the plant in Newport. My first thought was that they had an old list of state legislators because I was no longer in the state senate. Three days of phone tag told me that they wanted me to tell the story of how their helmet had saved our son's life.

U.S. Senator Leahy, Vermont Governor Shumlin and I were the three outside speakers along with Revision CEO Jonathan Blanshay. When I got home, I e-mailed a script of my remarks to Keyes, who responded within minutes. "Dad, you missed something."

"What was that?"

"Well, you know I didn't own a camera. I went next door to borrow one. That's where and when I met Kristen." She is now his wife and mother of two of Mary's and my four grandchildren. As did our sons, Kristen went through college partly on a ROTC scholarship and was also in Iraq at the same time as both our sons.

It is up to us to renew our dedication to the ideals of the American nation: "E pluribus unum: From many, one," a motto that accepts our differences in religions, ethnic origins, views, politics and told the world that we could be united in our common beliefs, principles and values.

Keeping our democracy alive past 250 years will not be easy. It will require courage, compassion, and a willingness to bridge the divide we see growing in our public discourse.

This we owe as a debt to the many who have sacrificed to bring America to 2026.

Thank you!

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Getting major legislation right

by Rep. Leanne Harple

MONTPELIER – It is a little daunting that the legislative session is continuing this late into May, but that is because we are working hard in these final weeks to get several major pieces of legislation right.

We are close to reaching an agreement with Governor Scott on the final education bill, H.955. This legislation would establish a new statewide education foundation formula that changes how schools are funded, facilitate the creation of regional service-sharing structures called Cooperative Education Service Areas (CESAs), and encourage and incentivize school district consolidation through a voluntary, democratic process rather than through forced mandates.

The new funding formula would centralize more decision-making at the state level and redistribute funding differently across districts based on need. The CESAs could allow districts to share services such as

special education, transportation, curriculum support, HR, payroll and other administrative functions. The goal is to reduce duplication and lower costs by sharing resources across multiple districts.

Final details are still being hammered out and will continue into next week as the Senate will begin debate to pass it back to the House for a final vote. If passed, this deal would represent a huge victory for Vermonters all over the state, and especially for our small rural communities.

It has taken incredible effort to walk our state back from the forced mergers that were looming ahead of us at this time last spring, and I am really proud of the work we've accomplished this year. However, I expect that whatever final bill ultimately emerges next week, it will likely continue to favor larger districts and place financial and structural pressure on smaller schools and communities.

Because of that, rural Vermont will increasingly need to focus on maintaining healthy growth that can sustain both the educational

quality and the costs of the school systems that we want to preserve. That is why we have also worked on legislation related to housing, affordability, and broader economic development this year, and are finalizing some bills in those areas as well. Our schools and the strength of our communities are deeply connected, and long-term sustainability will require us to address both together.

Another important bill we passed yesterday was S.190, which aims to lower hospital and health insurance costs for public school employees, small businesses and Vermonters who purchase insurance through Vermont Health Connect. The bill expands the use of "reference-based pricing," a system designed to help control health care costs by tying certain hospital payments from insurers to Medicaid rates. By creating more predictable pricing, the goal is to reduce overall insurance costs for Vermonters. If fully enacted, the measure could save tens of millions of dollars each year in health care spending statewide. The bill now

heads back to the Senate next week for further consideration.

We are hoping to gavel out sometime next week, and I will be hosting my final coffee hour on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Craftsbury Town Hall. Please note the new location, where I will be joined by Lieutenant Governor John Rodgers and State Senator John Morley. Together, we will share our final reports from this biennium and welcome questions and conversation with our neighbors. This event is being hosted by the Craftsbury Freedom and Unity Committee, which will also be providing coffee, cider and baked goods. I hope you can stop by to learn more about the many bills we passed this session, the measures we have taken to try to make life better for our communities, and the work ahead as we discuss what comes next for our community.

Leanne Harple represents the Orleans-4 House District that includes the towns of Albany, Craftsbury, Glover and Greensboro.

## Confronting highest health insurance premiums

by Rep. David Yacavone

MONTPELIER – The debate over health care legislation known as S.190 may ultimately be remembered as one of the defining affordability fights of this legislative session. At issue was whether Vermont would finally take aggressive action to confront some of the highest health insurance premiums in America or continue down the same path that has steadily priced more Vermonters out of coverage.

S.190 accelerates the use of reference-based pricing for Vermont hospitals, an effort aimed at lowering the amount commercial insurers pay for hospital services. Supporters argued that without meaningful intervention, premiums would continue spiraling upward for working families, small businesses, municipalities, and school districts already under crushing financial strain.

The bill proved highly contentious, even though it finally passed the House.

Opponents raised legitimate concerns about the financial stability of Vermont hospitals, particularly rural facilities already operating under enormous pressure from workforce shortages, inflation, and declining federal support. Others argued against the bill because it would not immediately help every Vermonter equally. Yet testimony before

lawmakers indicated that approximately 100,000 Vermonters would receive the greatest premium relief under the proposal. In a state the size of Vermont, this is significant.

What became frustrating to many supporters was the argument that because the bill could not solve the entire affordability crisis for everyone at once, it should not move forward at all.

By that logic, because there were not enough lifeboats to save everyone on the Titanic, you would not help anyone.

That is not governing. That is paralysis.

The reality is, Vermont's health care affordability crisis is no longer theoretical. It is here now.

If reference-based pricing rules had been in effect last year, regulators could have increased commercial reimbursement levels at the Copley Hospital birthing center with far greater precision, potentially eliminating many of the financial arguments used to justify cutting those services. Regulatory tools are urgently needed that allow Vermont to stabilize critical health care access while also controlling costs.

An estimated 5,000 Vermonters have already lost health insurance coverage following the expiration of enhanced federal premium assistance programs. Thousands more have responded to rising costs by reducing benefits, accepting higher deductibles, or purchasing less

comprehensive coverage.

And when people lose coverage or delay care, the costs do not disappear. Hospitals still provide emergency treatment. Uncompensated care still exists. Those costs are then shifted back onto the commercial insurance market, driving premiums even higher for everyone else.

That vicious cycle is one reason Vermont's commercial insurance costs have become increasingly unsustainable.

I explained my vote as follows: "It has been said before: if you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got. I am tired of getting some of the highest health insurance premiums in the country. I stand proudly fighting for greater affordability."

That sentiment captured the mood of many legislators who voted yes.

No one claimed S.190 was a perfect bill. No one claimed it would instantly fix Vermont's health care system. But supporters argued that continuing to do nothing while premiums explode was itself a dangerous decision.

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*"It has been said before: if you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got. I am tired of getting some of the highest health insurance premiums in the country. I stand proudly fighting for greater affordability."*

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In many ways, this may prove to be the single largest affordability measure passed by the Legislature this year.

Health insurance costs ripple through nearly every aspect of Vermont life: family budgets, business competitiveness, municipal finances, school property taxes and workforce recruitment.

For years, Vermonters have demanded action on affordability. S.190 represents an acknowledgment that incremental rhetoric without structural change is no longer enough.

The larger challenge now will be balancing affordability with the financial realities facing Vermont hospitals. That balancing act will require continued oversight, flexibility, and likely future adjustments.

But one thing has become increasingly clear: Vermont cannot preserve meaningful access to health care if ordinary Vermonters can no longer afford to buy health insurance in the first place.

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

# FROM THE WATERSHED

## What happens when a dam comes down?

by **Kristen Leahy**

**HARDWICK** – Over the past few weeks I've written about Jackson Dam, the sediment that has accumulated behind it, and the reality that rivers and infrastructure do not remain frozen in time. One of the questions that naturally follows is simple: what happens when a dam is removed or significantly altered?

Many people picture an empty basin or a sudden transformation. In reality, river systems tend to adjust more gradually.

Behind most older dams, decades of sediment have accumulated. Sand, gravel and finer material carried downstream during storms settle out where the water slows. Over time, that material builds up and reshapes the impoundment.

If a dam is eventually removed or lowered, the river does not suddenly disappear into a void. Instead, it begins to reestablish a channel through those accumulated sediments. The process is

influenced by flow, slope and the shape of the valley, but the river generally finds a path like the one it occupied before the structure was built.

As that channel forms, the surrounding sediments begin to stabilize. Vegetation quickly takes root in exposed areas. Grasses, willows, and alders often establish themselves first, helping hold soil in place. Over time, the landscape can begin to resemble a natural river corridor rather than an open impoundment.

Floodplains also begin to function differently. Instead of water backing up behind a structure, flood flows can spread across low areas of the valley during larger events. That ability to spread out reduces pressure and energy within the channel while allowing sediment to move through the system more naturally.

The timeline for these adjustments varies from place to place. In many projects, the transition happens over several seasons or

years as vegetation grows and the river settles into a new equilibrium. Engineers and river scientists often phase changes carefully so sediments stabilize and downstream areas are protected during the adjustment.

Wildlife often responds quickly to these new conditions. Flowing water, wetlands and vegetated floodplains support a wide range of birds, fish, amphibians and insects. In many restored river corridors, biodiversity increases as habitats diversify.

All of this is why projects involving dams tend to involve careful planning and sequencing. The goal is not to force the river into a new shape, but to allow natural processes to reestablish a more stable channel and floodplain.

In Hardwick, the Jackson Dam study is helping the community understand what those processes

might look like in this particular reach of the Lamoille River.

The work so far has focused on gathering information: how much sediment has accumulated, how flood flows move through the reach today and what options might exist for the future.

Those questions will take time to answer fully. They also involve more than engineering. They involve how a community thinks about the landscape around it and how that landscape may continue to evolve.

Rivers have always reshaped their valleys. The question communities face is how thoughtfully they guide that change when aging infrastructure and changing river conditions meet.

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

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Lots to do at SpringFest

To the editor:

Saturday's community-wide SpringFest effort was an incredible success that was made so by an amazing team of contributors.

An unofficial 'Hardwick SpringFest Committee' has been so important to making the weekend the best it could be, with The American Legion Post No. 7 family, Hardwick Kiwanis Club, Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Town of Hardwick, The Civic Standard, Jeudevine Library, Center for an Agricultural Economy and Hardwick Farmers Market all contributing.

SpringFest sponsors included Hill Farmstead, Gravel 3 Construction, New England Auto Glass, Hardwick Downtown Partnership, American Legion Post #7, The Hardwick Gazette, 3rd Floor Media, Sons of the American Legion, All Metals Recycling, Calderwood Insurance, Jasper Hill Farm, Hardwick Dental Group, Wildcat Busing and Michaud's Septic.

Vendors and exhibitors gave visitors lots to see and do with all of the following on hand Saturday with almost perfect weather: Sweet Treats, Adult and Teen Challenge, The Hardwick Gazette, Rural Edge, NEK 3d Creations,

Rick Lansing Concessions, Designs by Diana, Summer Day Face Painting, Central VT Solid Waste Management District, Indivisible Hardwick, Hardwick Area Food Pantry, Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Hardwick Fire Auxiliary, Caledonia #9 Grange, AWARE, Inc., Northeast Kingdom Organizing, Hardwick Conservation Commission, Hazen Hatchery Club, Josh Peets Goats, JDK BBQ, Aladdin Food Truck and Hill Farmstead Brewery.

Musical entertainment was provided by Birdhouse Band and followed by Edie Menard and the Crazy Kountry Band. These local bands kept the energy high throughout the afternoon. We are so grateful to have so many highly skilled musicians in our community.

I am so grateful to everyone who made this week a success; from our Special Town Meeting Tuesday, to SpringFest, our town has had a busy week! But we listened, learned and celebrated as a community. Everyone makes me proud to be from Hardwick.

**Audrey Grant  
East Hardwick**

*Audrey Grant is Hardwick Town Moderator and Hardwick Kiwanis Club President.*

### Awakenings

This gentle depression was little more than a sag and slump until the torrentials of April swelled this hollow into a pond. Now, bulbous and gelatinous masses of shimmering silver eggs cling to submerged branches. Tomorrow, a red eft will flame from this pool, orange shocking into this tawny land. Tomorrow, a wood frog will intone into evening, a cardinal croak, refilling our saturated world.

**Sean Prentiss  
Woodbury**

*This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.*

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Loons are nesting again on Caspian Lake

by Stew Arnold

On April 16, with the ice departing, the “Call of the Loon” returned to Caspian Lake. This call evokes feelings of wildness, solitude and mystery, so a pause welcomes its return.

The next day a pair of loons is seen swimming amongst the remaining few ice floes. Ah, they are back, to be enjoyed, witnessing their dives and returns to the surface many feet away. Their mysterious underwater travels; how far, how fast and whether they will arise with a minnow in their beak for dinner.

Caspian Lake now has a steady number of loons each summer, mostly between 12 and 18 when annually counted.

Loons have made a good recovery state-wide, from very endangered low numbers of years past. In 2017, a pair attempted to build a nest on the Caspian Lake shore and was challenged by a raccoon. Eric Hanson, Vermont Eco-studies biologist, brought a raft with native foliage to assist with a safer nesting spot. The pair liked this option and quickly made it a



Aparent loon on its nest in Caspian Lake in Greensboro turns a single egg, May 15.

photo by Stew Arnold

the other side of the lake. A chick did not survive and the other parent’s fate was unknown.

Caspian Lake is assured it has raised 14 chicks to be juveniles. Last year, a juvenile was victim to an eagle. Another year a juvenile went missing towards the end of summer with its fate unknown.

In the past nine years, 13 juveniles have launched themselves in the fall to travel to ocean shores near Rhode Island and Connecticut. They will grow to adults on the ocean for three to five years before returning for summers back in Vermont and very likely to a waterbody within 25 miles of their birthplace. The successful increase is to be celebrated.

Raft checks in early May found no loon on the nest yet. Nearby, an active pair were seen regularly claiming territory. “Hello Friends” makes a good reply to their quiet “Hoots.”



Stew Arnold and his grandson Charlie patrol Caspian Lake for loons in May

courtesy photo

A May 15 raft visit showed a parent on the nest. After about 15 minutes, the parent stood for a stretch and a single egg was seen in the nest bowl. After a quick egg turn, the parent settled back down on the egg where they are known to sit for hours. Loons are likely to lay an egg and follow with laying a second egg the next day. Loons are also “biparental.” Both male and females incubate and care for chicks equally.

To give the new loon parents safe space, four warning signs were set afloat around the small cove protecting the raft. The signs let boaters and kayakers know to keep clear of the area.

A day later a parent is laying in the nest bowl. Is it the male or female? The black and



Aparent loon on its nest in Caspian Lake in Greensboro turns one of two eggs in its next, May 16.

photo by Stew Arnold

white loon patterns are identical, thus males and females can not be told apart visually. If side by side, their size can identify the sex as the males are about 25% larger.

How many eggs were there I wondered? Plus, how long will I have to wait to find out? The partner loon returned to raft, circled and dove, then floated around.

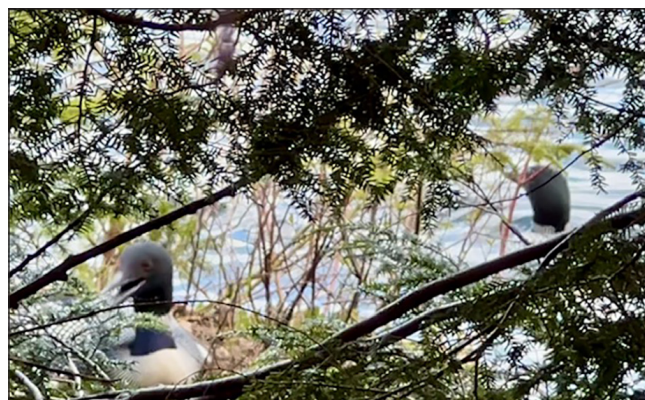
The loons hooted soft coos to each other, then the partner went off fishing. Fifteen to 20 minutes later the partnership pattern repeated, but there was and still no exchange of duties.

After an hour and a half, the nesting parent sat up. I hoped we’d see if another egg had been laid, but the parent sat back down. How much longer would it be? Before, one could even sneeze, the parent was up again, showing a clear view of two beautiful eggs.

Caspian Loons are back at it again!

Incubation of loon eggs takes about 26 to 29 days to hatch. It’s a guess. May 15 and 16 egg laying will make the hatch date be about June 10 to 12. What happens next? Do we have a cliff-hanger?

Come hear the egg hatching results at the Highland Center for the Arts talk celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, June 20, from 3 to 4 p.m., during a reception for the “Call of the Loon” show which runs there from June 11 to 21.



One loon sits on a nest, the other circles anxiously nearby, May 15. Observers had yet to see whether there was one egg, or more.

photo by Stew Arnold

home for two eggs. Just under a month later, Caspian Lake had its first pair of chicks in many decades.

This April 23, the raft was readied in position for the tenth year, under the watchful eye of the mating pair. While they give the raft some interest by floating nearby, they typically wait until mid-May to climb aboard. It is only a guess that this is the same pair from year to year. Not completely certain as there have been two different intruder loon battles in the past few years, with one most likely changing the partnership.

Each of the nine prior years has produced a pair of eggs, totaling 18 eggs. One of the intruder battles occurred when eggs were in the nest, leaving them unattended for incubation for half a day thus those two eggs never hatched.

So, nine years has produced 16 chicks. The second intruder battle happened when the chicks were about one month old. That battle resulted in one parent and one chick escaping to

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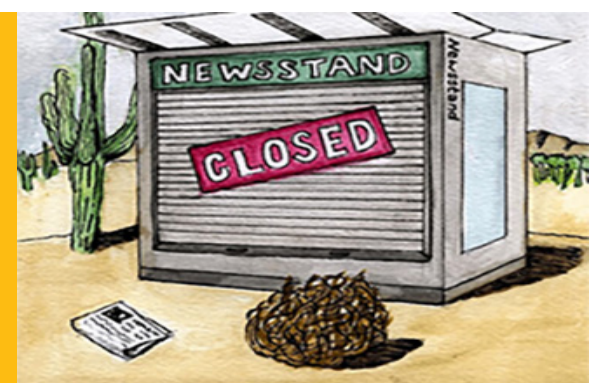
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# WEEKS GONE BY

**100 Years ago in The Hardwick Gazette, May 27, 1926**

**Commissioner H. P. Sheldon to Speak Here Next Week**

State Fish and Game Commissioner H. P. Sheldon will come here next week Thursday evening, a guest of the Hardwick Rod and Gun Club, and a banquet will be given by the Club at the Hardwick Inn, at 8:00 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Sheldon will speak after the supper and several local men will contribute their share to the talk-feast. Several musical numbers are down on the program. Fish stories, of course, with [sic] predominate during the evening and all members of the Club and others interested in fish and game are invited to come prepared with their big stories. Tickets are being sold for the banquet at \$1.00 per plate.

**Memorial Day Memories**

Memorial Day this year will be a day of sorrow in many Hardwick homes. The Grim Reaper has stalked through our midst in the months that have past [sic] and laid low some of the most beloved of our citizens. For the last few years each Memorial Day has brought vividly to the minds of those of us who have made Hardwick our home for a considerable period, the realization of our loss. Memorial Day did not seem the same for a long time after J.H. McLoud passed on. For many years his duty and pleasure was to read Lincoln's Gettysburg address at the Memorial Day services. We always looked forward to hearing his voice ring out eloquently in those immortal words, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." There are others who were wont to take their places in the Memorial Day services who have passed on, and whose place in this community will never be filled. On this Memorial Day, 1926, we honor these good citizens who will never walk and talk with us again on this side of Heaven's gateway. When we

place wreaths on the graves of our soldier dead next Sunday, we will place a flower and shed a tear upon their graves, too.

**50 years ago in The Hardwickian, May 25, 1976  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
PROTEST APPRAISALS**

To the Editor:

We believe it should become public knowledge that the so-called reappraisal done in the Town of Hardwick has met with a greater feeling of injustice than was indicated in the Caledonian Record of May 14, 1976. This interview with the Hardwick Listers presented only one side of the picture. Many taxpayers felt it was futile to ask for a hearing on Grievance Day. Most of the taxpayers that requested a hearing, left with unanswered questions of any definite formula used for the various and divergent increases. Denials for adjustment were reached by the Listers from their office, without an inspection of properties before or after their decisions.

There is the question in many minds of the legality of this reappraisal, coming only two years after the vote to reappraise by the Vermont Tax Dept. It was stated in the papers and on television news that Burlington has not had a complete reappraisal in twenty years. They only pickup new houses, businesses and others from building permits issued each year. No one would object to this procedure.

These figures were taken from the Hardwick [sic] Annual Reports.

YEAR	Listers Salaries & Expenses
1972	\$ 2,148.04
1973	8,195.08
1974	20,510.60
1975	6,262.44

All taxpayers are still paying their share for the costly errors made in 1974. With the 1975 Listers expenses three times greater than the year 1972, what will 1976 cost us? How long do you taxpayers want to continue to pay for further mistakes?

Be sure and write your letters of appeal to the Board of Civil

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The Hardwick Gazette, May 24, 1956

Authority and deliver to the Town Clerk by May 29, 1976. Anyone interested in pursuing this matter further by having a meeting with legal counsel, contact 472-5486..

**VILLAGE TRUSTEES  
DECIDE TO BORROW FROM  
LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
By PETER BUKNATSKI**

The Hardwick Village Trustees decided last Thursday night to borrow \$5,000 from from [sic] the Village Light Department.

The loan is for the general fund, which Village President Ellis Richardson said is "hard up for money."

Expected cut -backs in federal revenue sharing funds and a mistake which was apparently made by town listers on the anticipation of the town's highway taxes, were reasons given for the money transfer.

In Richardson's words, both the Revenue Sharing Office in Washington and the Hardwick Town listers "goofed" in their mathematical calculations.

Rupert Peake, superintendent of the Village Light Department, reported an eight per cent increase in kilowatt output by the Hardwick plant for the first four months of this year.

Peake said that Hardwick and other communities supplied by Green Mountain Power may take their negotiations with Yankee Power to the Federal Power Commission in Washington if an arrangement, is not made through the Vermont Public Service Board.

The trustees also discussed the possibility of keeping a CETA

employee now working on book-keeping in the Village Light Department on for a few weeks after the federal funding runs out next month.

The trustees said that they did not expect the federal government to continue funding the employee's salary after June.

A complete overhaul of the electrical wiring in the Memorial Building was suggested. The trustees will discuss this with the selectmen.

Village Clerk and Treasurer Carmeline Williams said that village office equipment has not been getting full power and the trustees believe that this is due to the additional electric equipment in other offices at the Memorial Building, causing overload in the circuits.

**25 years ago in The Hardwick Gazette, May 30, 2001  
Railroad Corridor  
Decision Put On Siding  
by Kelly E. Papke**

There may still be a chance to see a railroad running through the Lamoille County Railroad Corridor.

Brian Searles, secretary at the state Agency of Transportation, agreed last week to the Mountain Valley Consortium's recommendation to turn the corridor into a multiuse, four season trail.

Before the process of blazing a trail can began [sic], however, Searles' proposal must pass through the state Legislature. The Senate will not look at the proposals until its next session

**See WEEKS, Next Page**

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The Hardwick Gazette, May 30, 2001

# WEEKS GONE BY

## Weeks

Continued From Previous Page

in January 2002, said Sen. Dick Mazza, D-Grand Isle, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

"We don't want anything to happen on that line prior to our own economic study of the advantages and disadvantages," Mazza said yesterday.

The Senate has not seen any of the proposals made by the three groups wanting to use the corridor, he said.

The consortium reviewed proposals from the Vermont Association of Snow Travellers, the Town of St. Johnsbury, and Vermont Rail Link Inc.

Members did not recommend [sic] the Rail Link's proposal to re-open the track for railroad use.

"We appreciate comments made by the committee, but we don't know how they made their evaluation," said Mazza. "We have to make sure they have looked at every possible decision and have exhausted all the possibilities of ever having a rail."

According to Catherine Dimitruk, chair of the consortium and executive director of the Northwest Region Planning Commission, the decision to approve the St. Johnsbury proposal was a "nobrainer."

The town was only asking for 2,600 feet of the trail for a path and funding was already in place through the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

With the other two proposals, the consortium used a ranking system based on technical, financial, and business areas of the proposals. Economic viability played a strong role in the decision, said Dimitruk.

"If a project isn't economically viable, there will be no benefit," said Dimitruk. "Based on the committees [sic] ranking system, VAST had a better chance of succeeding.. that's my opinion."

Pete Snyder, president of Vermont Rail Link Inc., is not satisfied with the consortium's recommendation and Searles' decision.

"Obviously, I am very disappointed by the decision," said Snyder. "It is a frustration to hear from the consortium that our plan is not viable."

All three phases - Swanton to Morrisville, Morrisville to Greensboro Bend, from Greensboro Bend to St. Johnsbury - would cost \$10,600,000, Snyder gave as an estimate in his proposal. The Rail Link was only attempting to start the first phase and continue with the other two after the beginning 45 mile stretch was a success, said Snyder.

In his financial plan, 12 businesses throughout the first two phases committed letters to Vermont Rail Link, promising to use the line. These included Timber Resource Group, of Farmington, Maine, which wanted to ship logs from Hardwick, to Vermont Brick and Manufacturing in Highgate promising to ship bricks by rail.

If the Swanton to Morrisville phase went through, the Senate was going to allocate \$500,000 this session to help the get [sic] train up and running, said Mazza.

"We will re-allocate that money to other rail in the state," said Mazza.

The VAST proposal's estimate was for \$5,000,000, which is more than half of the Vermont Rail Link proposal, according to Sanford Woodbeck, a VAST official.

Searles was not sure how much the VAST proposal would ultimately cost, according to Dimitruk. The agency of transportation estimated a cost of \$23,000,000 to create a trail.

"The \$23,000,000 is the estimate by the Agency of Transportation and includes a contractor," said Woodbeck. "That is more expensive than doing it through a volunteer organization."

Woodbeck said the renovation would be composed of volunteer work. All the work needed is present in the \$5,000,000, he said, including cutting brush, adding wood decks on the bridges, and repairing the washouts.

Woodbeck estimated it would be at least two years before work may even start on the trail due to a combination of passing through the state Legislature and Act 250,

the state's environmental review law.

"If the money is available, we can do it in two summers," said Woodbeck of his volunteer program.

Searles' decision was expected earlier this month, but a combination of problems set the public announcement back over a week.

"The secretary was out of town at a national association meeting in Kansas and other staff members have been away, so it took time for the staff to get together and discuss it," said Nick Marro, assistant to the secretary.

Dimitruk said Searles' reason for taking the extra time was to look into what the implications were for rail-banking the track.

Rail-banking is a policy that after a track is abandoned or converted, it has to be able to return to rail use within 90 days.

"At this point it is not definite, they will be pulled up yet," said Dimitruk of the rails and ties.

She said the state may not take them up t but it is a possibility if the proposal moves further.

Snyder hopes the tracks will not be torn up.

"Rail-banking is a convenient legal vehicle in order to turn this into a trail," he said. "This is a giant blow to economic development in the area."

According to Woodbeck, the Agency of Transportation has already agreed to taking up the rails. He said the original idea VAST had was to cover the track with gravel. That estimate was \$60,000,000, he said.

"It (the proposal) was revised and the Agency of Transportation agreed it would be removed and all the ties were fairly rotten and needed to be replaced anyways for it to go back to rail," said Woodbeck.

Mazza said he had not heard

## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

SEVENTH ANNUAL VERMONT TULIP FESTIVAL - 1956

FRIDAY, MAY 25

DANCE FESTIVAL

Featuring Charles Baldwin, Caller and Instructor

SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

2:00-5:00 P. M. Children's Square Dance Party with Demonstrations. Free to all school children.

8:00-12:00 Adults Square Dancing. Fred Atkins, Local Chairman.

Lunches served throughout the day downstairs in the auditorium. Local restaurants serving regular meals.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

2:00 P. M. Grand Parade. Bands, Mass Color Guards, and Legion Units, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Floats, National Guard Units.

Line of March—Form at Memorial Building, down Main Street, past reviewing stand, down Spring Street, cross Elm Street, up Wolcott to Main and back to Memorial Building.

Following Parade Archery Demonstration - School Athletic Field.

2:00-5:00 P. M. Arts and Crafts Show - Memorial Building. There will be an Arts Exhibit; a Craft Show to include wood carving, wood working, hooked rugs, loom woven rugs, and ceramics; a flower arrangement contest; and a Silver Tea.

Exhibits and Demonstrations of Rug Hooking, Oil Painting, Pastel Painting, Wood carving, Silk screening, and other arts.

8:00-12:00 P. M. Tulip Festival Ball. Music by Arabian Knights. Choosing and Crowning of Tulip Queen.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

CHURCH SERVICES

St. Norbert's Church (Catholic) Masses 8 A. M. and 10 A. M. Rev. Leo Gingras, Pastor.

United Church (Protestant) 10:30 A. M. Rev. Carl Skillin, Pastor.

St. John the Baptist Mission (Episcopal) 11:00 A. M. Rev. Dan Hays Goldsmith, Pastor.

2:00 P. M. Program Recital - Edward Parker, Baritone - John A. Hosmer, Organist. United Church.

2:00-5:00 P. M. Arts and Crafts Show - Memorial Building.

*75 Years ago in The Hardwick Gazette, May 24, 1956*

of that offer, but the Senate would not accept the offer at this time.

"This is a very serious issue," said Mazza. "There is no hurry for this project. We are currently putting \$21,000,000 all over the state into maintaining rail and before we take it up anywhere in Vermont, we need to have exhausted all the possibilities of every [sic] having a rail there again."

Nothing will happen to the corridor until the Senate goes through all the information plus its own, said Mazza.

## Erosion

Erosion  
Wind and waves  
so in love with the Earth  
they can't keep  
themselves from returning  
to the shore  
Over and over -  
sand is born  
scouring away the hours  
of each day, either  
planned or erratic  
No angle of repose  
can hold back  
our wearing away.

**Erin Rosenthal  
Woodbury**

*This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.*



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# IN THE GARDEN

## Combating slugs in the home garden

by Amy Simone

**SOUTH BURLINGTON** – Slugs are a tenacious foe in the home garden, as they do their work at night and are capable of wreaking havoc quickly. To combat them, you need to understand what conditions they prefer, what plants they target, and how to protect your garden from their assaults.

A slug is a type of mollusk in the clam and oyster family. It is a slimy, soft-bodied, brown or grey-colored legless creature that can be one-quarter to two inches in length. They have two pairs of feelers on their heads, the upper pair containing the eyes and the lower pair that facilitates their sense of smell. They move themselves using the

lings are especially vulnerable to their damage.

As you create a plan for a slug-free garden, begin by removing their most common egg incubation sites. Since hostas are a favorite plant, be sure to cut all foliage back in the fall to deny them a place to overwinter their eggs. Also, remove any chopped leaves that you may have used as winter mulch.

Next, understand that slugs seek out cool, damp, shady areas in which to live and feed. Therefore, divide, thin, prune, or stake plants to raise them away from soil and to improve the air circulation around them. Water in the morning and be sure to put the water right at the root zone, not on the plant parts. Improve drainage in soil that is constantly

*Fermented liquid traps can also be used. Bury a vessel such as quart-sized yogurt container 6 to 7 inches deep with the rim at soil level. Fill it with beer or a mixture of 1 teaspoon yeast to 3 ounces warm water to 1 inch below the rim. Slugs are attracted to the odor and will drown. Clean out the trap, refill, and repeat until no longer needed.*

slime that they produce.

In early spring, you may not be aware of their presence as their eggs have been overwintering in plant debris, mulch, and on wood boards. But from spring to early summer, the eggs hatch and the hungry slugs set out looking for nourishment.

Slugs' preferred plants are ornamentals like bellflower, larkspur, plantain lily (Hosta), daylily, dahlia, and lungwort. They also target vegetables and fruit such as strawberries, basil, beans, cabbage, and lettuce. Seed-

damp by adding compost.

Most importantly, monitor your plants regularly to catch any damage and address it quickly before your plant's health is compromised. Slug damage will be noted by a trail of slime and irregularly shaped holes in leaves, flowers, and fruit. Use a flashlight at night to locate them.

Handpick the culprits from your plants and either crush them or drop them in soapy water. To attract many slugs, set out flat boards, shingles, or damp newspapers. Turn these over in



A slug is a terrestrial mollusk.

photo by Debra Heleba

the morning and kill the slugs attached to them. Repeat daily until there are no more slugs.

Fermented liquid traps can also be used. Bury a vessel such as quart-sized yogurt container 6 to 7 inches deep with the rim at soil level. Fill it with beer or a mixture of 1 teaspoon yeast to 3 ounces warm water to 1 inch below the rim. Slugs are attracted to the odor and will drown. Clean out the trap, refill, and repeat until no longer needed.

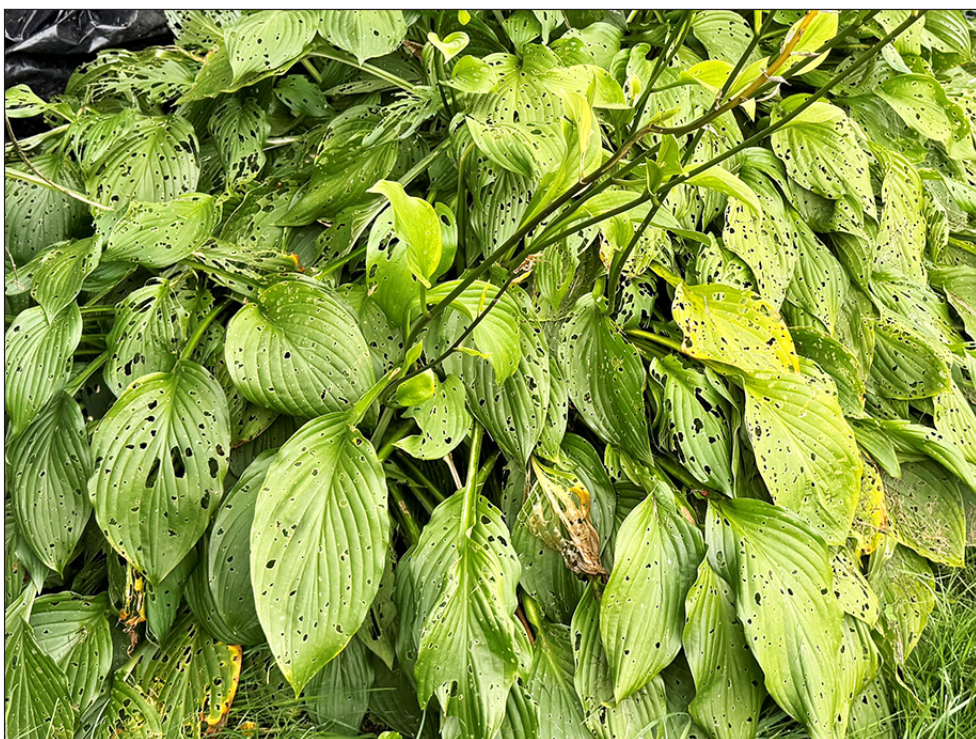
Invite the natural enemies of the slug to your garden. Ground beetles, rove beetles, fireflies, toads, snakes, turtles, shrews, ducks, starlings, and other birds will happily munch on your garden pests.

Baits may be used as a last resort. Your local garden center will have a variety of effective organic management options that contain iron phosphate. Products with this active ingredient will naturally degrade into the soil and will not harm pets. Follow the package directions.

Take that, Mr. Slug!

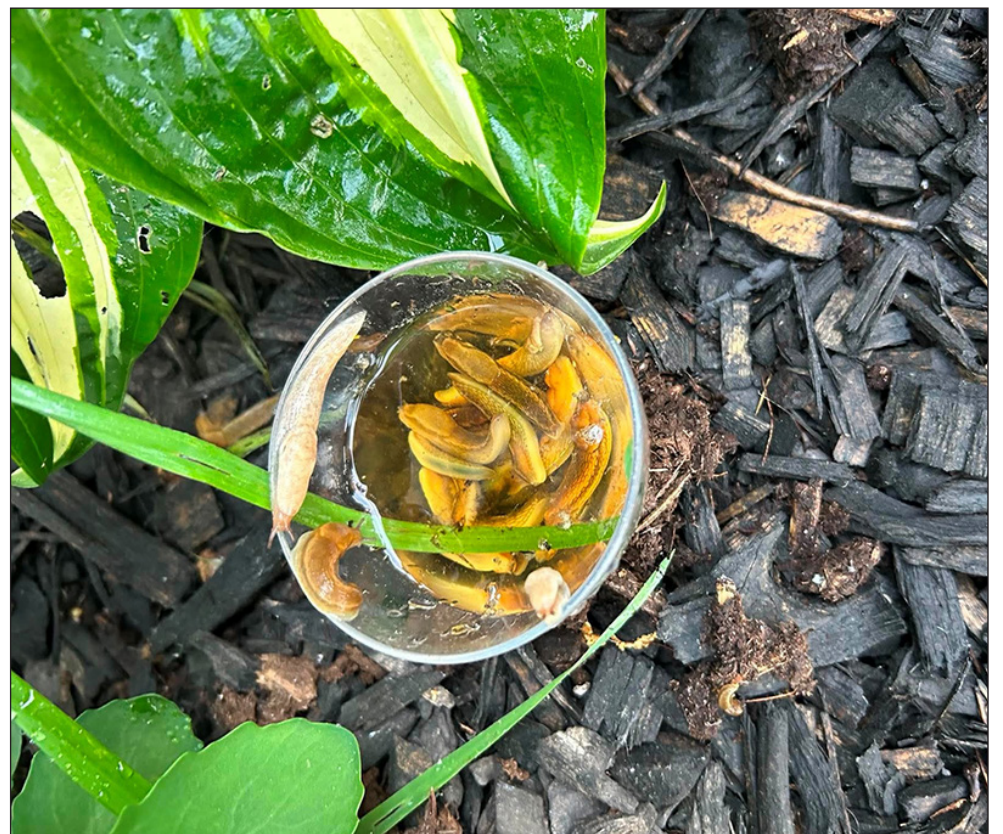
For answers to your home gardening questions, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardeners Helpline online at <https://go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline> or by phone at 802-656-5421 on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from South Burlington.



Typical slug damage on a hosta. Slugs use their rough tongue-like organs called radulas to scrape and shred plant leaves as food, leaving behind irregular holes.

photo by Debra Heleba



Gardeners can easily use a small container filled with a fermented liquid to trap and drown slugs.

photo by Rosalie Covey Hinckley

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Tussock Cottongrass is champion of bogs, alpine areas

by Emily DeAlto and Matthias Sirch

BURLINGTON – A bog is a special natural community, characterized by deep, wet and acidic soil below an open sky. Soft sphagnum mosses squish underfoot, dominating the surface of the bog and making up the mostly undecomposed organic soil below. The ground springs up and down with each step, a sign that the entire surface of vegetation is saturated with water and even floating in some cases. This enchanting little world selects an eclectic group of plants that, against all odds, can survive here in such wet, exposed, and nutrient-poor conditions, something not many species can tolerate.

Tussock cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) is one of these iconic plants. It's in the sedge family (Cyperaceae), with straight, slender leaves that make it look quite similar to its cousins in the grass family (Poaceae). Upright stems extend from a tuft of slender leaves, and at the end of each stem grows a mass of soft, white hairs. About an inch in length, the hairs appear to be combed together such that the plant takes on the disguise of a cotton ball attached to the top of a blade of grass as tall as garden boots. Tussock cottongrass is distinct from other cottongrass species because it has only one white cotton ball per stalk. Tawny cottongrass (*E. virginicum*) also appears to have a single cotton ball inflorescence, but it gets its name from its distinct copper-colored hairs, which can help distinguish the two species. The long stalks of these cottongrasses wobble and wave in soft wind throughout the summer, a sprinkling of stars across the flat expanse that makes you feel like you've wandered into some kind of heaven.

Not limited to just bogs, this plant is also found on New England's mountaintops, sprouting between rocks across alpine zones. And it's not the only species that is found both in bogs and alpine areas; black spruce, leatherleaf, and Labrador tea also straddle such seemingly different worlds. These alpine peaks are the first to hold snow in late fall and the last to lose it when the weather warms. Winds from the valleys topple or stunt the trees so that they form only a low hedge.

Alpine zones and bogs have much in common, ecologically. They both are mostly treeless, or at least canopy-less, making them similar in terms of exposure. Both habitats lack a consistent supply of nutrients and get water only from rain and snow, which is acidic in the Northeast, rather than groundwater, which usually carries the minerals most plants need. And alpine zones and bogs are often much colder and wetter than their surroundings.

The bog and the alpine are ecological battlegrounds in comparison to the dry, nutrient-rich slopes of northern hardwood forests. While saturation and acidity are typically considered obstacles for plants, they also make these bogs and alpine areas breeding grounds for evolution. High stress environments beget special features in plants to make them hardy in these especially challenging conditions. And like many of us who live in New England, the species that live here fare well in these weird, wet, and cold natural communities.

Despite being officially described as a wetland-obligate plant, meaning it is nearly always found in wetlands, tussock cottongrass creates its own micro-habitat, allowing it to tolerate a



Cottongrass

wide variety of conditions. True to its name, it creates a tussock, or a thick clump of its own stems and leaves. Each plant grows into a bulbous bouquet of slender grass-like leaves, which, over time, raises the plant slightly above its surroundings. In wetlands, the tussock creates an elevated surface for the species to grow on as the water table rises throughout the growing season. In the alpine, the tussock growth form provides protection from harsh winds and a source of nutrients from the accumulated plant matter. A cottongrass seed can even germinate on top of an older tussock, making

the tussock a nursery for itself, like an old rotten log in the woods becoming the perfect spot for a tree seedling.

Next time you're out in a bog or the alpine, consider the struggles and adaptations of the plants that live there. How do they handle the wind and cold? How do they handle the wetness and acidity? If you find tussock cottongrass swaying in the wind, take a moment to appreciate all that it does to survive in these harsh environments.

*Emily DeAlto and Matthias Sirch are ecologists living in Burlington. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.*

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



In this town that we call home,  
we are never, ever all alone.  
In times of joy, we celebrate,  
in times of sorrow, we congregate,  
to hug, to love, support and help.  
You're never alone or by yourself.  
A familiar face, a happy place,  
they can be found on any day.  
If you're feeling alone or in a bad space,  
let someone know and you're going to be safe.  
A reassuring word, a warm gentle touch,  
these are the things that mean so much.  
No, life's not perfect,  
we suffer, we cry;  
the roller coaster of life is quite a ride.  
Hang on, reach out,  
for what's needed to survive.  
It's there for you at any time,  
Have faith in your community and you'll be glad  
for what you find!

Marie  
Hardwick

*This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.*

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Trains, floods, depot exhibit, May 30

EAST HARDWICK – Saturday, May 30 from 1 to 3 p.m., (one day only) at the Caledonia Grange, located at 88 East Church Street, the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization will display the new Historic Interpretive Marker that will be placed at the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) trailhead in

East Hardwick later this summer or fall.

Learn more about the golden days of the railroad with additional exhibits from the Hardwick Historical Society, the Greensboro Historical Society and Caledonia Grange No. 9. Free, cake and lemonade will be served.

## East Hardwick children's parade, June 6

EAST HARDWICK – The East Hardwick Children's Parade will take place Saturday, June 6, at 11 a.m. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. at Hardwick Chiropractic, 54 School Circle, Rte. 16. All surrounding communities are welcome. Children may wear a favorite costume, dress up pets (or parents), decorate bicycles, wagons or doll carriages with free crepe paper.

free ice cream and popcorn, as well as a Rock-Paper-Scissors contest and other games and activities. There will be hot dogs and a bake sale, as well as a basket raffle to benefit the East Hardwick Congregational Church.

This event presented by East Hardwick Neighborhood Org., Caledonia Grange #9, The Civic Standard, and The First Congregational Church of E. Hardwick.

After the parade there will be

## Plant swap, June 6

EAST HARDWICK – The Swap Sisters and the East Hardwick Grange collaborate to offer the annual plant swap, coinciding with the East Hardwick Children's Parade June 6, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Caledonia Grange No.

9, located at 88 East Church St. All plants are free to take or drop off. Bring seedlings in potting soil or bare root perennials from the garden to discourage the spread of jumping worms. Information at [swapsisters@gmail.com](mailto:swapsisters@gmail.com)

## Free entry to Vermont State Parks for eligible residents

AREA TOWNS – For eligible residents, free entry for the day in Vermont State Parks is available for eligible Vermonters including those enrolled in 3SquaresVT, Essential Person Program, Fuel Assistance, General Assistance, Reach Up, Summer EBT and WIC.

the card to a state park and the cardholder and household will get in free for the day. Camping and equipment rentals are not included.

Visit the local Economic Services District Office to receive an ESD card that can be used for state park entrance this year or call (800) 479-6151 to request one be sent by mail.

For those with EBT or WIC card with active benefits, bring

## Loon exhibit, June 10 to 21

by **Stew Arnold**

GREENSBORO – June 11 begins an 11-day celebration of art and conservation at the Highland Center for the Arts. The event "Call of the Loon" shows loon-theme art by 27 local artists. A reception on Saturday, June 20, from 2 to 5 p.m.,

will include talks by Eric Hanson and Eloise Girard from 3 to 4 p.m., kicking off the fiftieth anniversary of the Vermont Loon Conservation Project. Egg-hatching results will be discussed of two loon eggs laid in a nest on Caspian Lake, May 15 and 16, with the hatch expected June 10 to 12.

## Academy friends luncheon, June 17

MORRISVILLE, CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy Friends Luncheon will be June 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at

the Charlmont Restaurant in Morrisville.

Contact Stella Slicer at (561) 222-6924 to reserve a spot.

## Documentary premiere, June 19

by **Helen Beattie**

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Trails Committee is hosting the premiere of a new Vermont-based documentary, "Best Day Ever," June 19, at 5:30 p.m.,

in the Jeudevine Library. "Best Day Ever" follows the stories of adaptive mountain bikers Greg Durso and Allie Bianchi as they navigate the challenges of their disabilities. See the trailer at [bestdayever.mov/](http://bestdayever.mov/).

# EDUCATION

## Duff named to Dean's List

CULLOWHEE, N.C. – Henry Duff of Wolcott has been named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List at Western Carolina University. To qualify for this honor, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## Museum hosts workshop for early childhood educators

ST. JOHNSBURY – Teaching artist Susanna Olson will lead a workshop for early childhood educators. "Bringing Butterfly Life-Cycle & Migratory Behavior to Life through Drama!" at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, Monday, June 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. The evening will explore drama-based exercises to teach about butterflies and beyond. The session earns to hours PD credit.

The workshop will explore playful and simple drama routines, early childhood educators can expand expressive range and deepen learning for children by offering them opportunities to construct and demonstrate their understanding of a wide range of content from literature to science and beyond.

In this workshop, participants will experience a collection of tried-and-true exercises designed to guide young learners, each in their own unique way, to pantomime the life cycle and migratory behavior of monarch butterflies. Drama exercises will include "Echo," "Freeze," "Moving through Space," "Solo," "Shaping," and more.



Susana Olson *courtesy photo*

Following the acting session, teachers will brainstorm together ways these same exercises can be used to support a wide range of curricular content in the classroom. A brief tour of the butterfly house at Fairbanks Museum will enrich this fun experience.

The workshop is free, but advance registration is required. Reserve a spot at [catamountarts.org/education/classes-and-workshops](http://catamountarts.org/education/classes-and-workshops) or by calling (802) 748-2600, extension 3.

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*Hardwick Gazette*  
[hardwickgazette.org](http://hardwickgazette.org)

Hardwick:

Large furnished bedroom and shared half-bath in spacious 1800s farmhouse. Plant enthusiast seeking housemate interested in sharing occasional companionship and shared meals as mutually desired. \$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.

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# EDUCATION

## Celebration of Learning presentations June 9

by Chris Tormey

CABOT – On Tuesday June 9, Cabot School will hold its annual Celebration of Learning, a schoolwide exhibition where students from pre-K through twelfth grade share their work with real audiences.

This day-long event features students explaining their own learning. Visitors will move through displays of student work, research, designs, models, writing, and more, and talk directly with the students who created them. Every piece on display represents months of investigation, revision, and reflection.

This year’s exhibition grows out of a school-wide commitment to project-based learning, an approach that challenges students to tackle questions, develop skills and share what they’ve discovered.

This year’s projects and products include the following:

“Summit to Sea” as middle school students explore the value of habitat from local headwater streams to the Atlantic

“Small Gardens, Big Impact”: Second-graders present how to help the Earth by starting gardens

“Rock and Roll into Cabot History”: Third- and fourth-graders show how rocks and soil have affected the town’s history and agriculture

“A grave, a lantern”: High school students use a variety of media (paintings, music, filmed scenes and musical recording) to interpret the acts of “Romeo and Juliet”

A community barbeque begins serving at 5:30 p.m. on the CSPAC lawn, and the high school band concert is at 6 p.m. Specifics on the projects and timing of exhibits across the campus are available at 2026 Cabot Exhibition Flyer .pdf - Google Drive

Chris Tormey is a member of the Cabot School Board

## GMTCC graduation ceremony, June 9

HYDE PARK – Green Mountain Technical Center will hold a Program Completion Ceremony on Tuesday, June 9, at 6 p.m., under the graduation tent located on the Lamoille Union softball field.

This evening recognizes the growth and accomplishments of students as they complete their technical programs. Families are encouraged to arrive a little early to allow time for parking and seating.

## VSU graduates 1,531 students

VERMONT – Vermont State University’s Class of 2026 has a weekend of commencement ceremonies at four of its residential campuses: Castleton, Johnson, Lyndon, and Randolph, with Williston campus students participating in the Randolph ceremony. Commencement was held on the Castleton and Randolph campuses on Saturday, May 16, and on the Lyndon and Johnson campuses on Sunday, May 17.

In total, Vermont State will graduate 1,531 students from 227 Vermont communities and beyond in Academic Year 2025-2026. The majority of Vermont State graduates live and work in Vermont after graduation. Facts on Vermont State’s graduates include:

Over one-third are earning degrees from the university’s health-care programs, including all levels of nursing, paramedicine, respiratory therapy and dental hygiene. These graduates will continue on with their education or enter the workforce, prepared for a career in these high-demand fields.

82 are earning degrees in engineering and construction management, supporting infrastructure, research, and housing needs.

400 are graduating from the university’s education programs, spanning early childhood, elementary and special education, secondary education and teacher preparation.

215 graduates are leaving with degrees in business, hospitality, or technology, ready to start a business, work in the state’s booming tourism and outdoor recreation industries or contribute

meaningfully to business and industry.

95 studied mental health and human services, ready to address shortages in the mental health workforce.

Audrey Tembreull is graduating with a degree in communications. She attended both the Johnson and Lyndon campuses and combined her academic interests with her athletics, sharing: “VTSU was a great option for me to do both a sport I love that I’ve always done since second grade, but also to be able to pursue what I want to do for a degree. My internship with VTSU Johnson Athletics, doing video content photography for them, boosted my creativity and editing skills as well as photography skills.”

Vermont State University President David Bergh presided over each commencement ceremony, and emphasized the importance of living Vermont State’s core value of continuous, lifelong learning after graduation. He also spoke of the importance of building on the skills and knowledge gained in each individual’s education, and adapting those to life outside the classroom, stating:

“I am confident you all are leaving here prepared for whatever comes next. With the insight to define what matters to you, the skills to act on it, the determination to see it through, and a community that will stay with you throughout your career and your life. That’s what Vermont State University set out to give you. And I am certain that wherever you land will be better because of you.”



The Hardwick Gazette set up a tent in the parking area on Hillside Avenue alongside the American Legion parking lot during the SpringFest Fair, Saturday after the parade, where Walden sixth grader (from left) Azalea L’Esperance, sitting with Editor Paul Fixx and Eric Jonathan, asked visitors civics questions to help her prepare for a Vermont State Civics Bee.

photo by Alli Foster

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

## SEASONAL LANDSCAPER

Dead Eye Works is looking to hire a seasonal landscaper. Experience using a zero-turn mower is ideal but we are willing to train the right person. Pay is based on experience. Must have reliable transportation and be able to work long days.

Please contact Jennifer at (802) 793-0599 or by email to [jennilynnpers@gmail.com](mailto:jennilynnpers@gmail.com)

# Museum opens new exhibit

GLOVER – The Museum of Everyday Life opens its new exhibition, “Deep Seated: chairs and the stories they tell” on Saturday, June 6, from 3 to 6 p.m. The opening will feature live music, performances with snacks and beverages.

The exhibition will be on view through May 2027. The Museum of Everyday Life is a self-service museum, open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and is located at 3482 Dry Pond Road (Rte. 16) in Glover, a short distance south of the Shadow Lake Road.

See [museumofeverydaylife.org](http://museumofeverydaylife.org) for more details, or for more information contact Clare Dolan at (802) 626-4409. Admission is by donation.



Wooden folding chairs  
photo by Shaun Pierson



Dancers under the moonlit Atkins Field pavilion listen to Cajun music by Pointe Noir at a party after the first Friday Hardwick Farmers Market of the season put on by The Civic Standard.  
photo by Paul Fixx



Hardwick Fire Department volunteers help with the Hardwick Kiwanis Joe Brosseau Duck Dive fundraiser by dropping 550 numbered ducks sold at \$5 each from their ladder truck as they were suspended over the American Legion parking lot Saturday. Duck Dive winner Calvin Barclay, who is less than 2 years old, won \$1,375 dollars in the 50-50 raffle that earned the same amount for the Hardwick Kiwanis Club to fund scholarships and the Hardwick Humanitarian Awards, among other things.  
photo by Paul Fixx

## Emers paintings exhibited through July



“Early Morning” by Charlie Emers  
EAST HARDWICK – White

Water Gallery will exhibit new paintings by Charlie Emers. The exhibit runs from June 7 to July 12, with an opening reception June 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. Refreshments and music will be provided. The gallery is open on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by appointment.

For more information, call (802) 472-7045. White Water Gallery is located at 5 River Street.



The Hokum Brothers, including (from left) Allan Nichols, Woody Keppel and Gus Ziesing, perform Sunday, June 14, at the Plainfield Opera House.  
courtesy photo

# Hokum Brothers perform at Opera House, June 14

PLAINFIELD – Plainfield Arts presents The Hokum Brothers on Sunday, June 14, at 7 p.m., at the Plainfield Opera House.

The Hokum Brothers sing original songs filled with humor and satire that add social commentary to true-life experiences. Recent appearances include performances at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Tanglewood, and the Vermont International Film Festival.

The trio features Woody Keppel on guitar, Allan Nicholls on drums and Gus Ziesing on accordion,

saxophone, and clarinet. Keppel founded Burlington’s Festival of Fools, Ziesing runs a recording studio and was a founding member of the 1980s Vermont band the N-Zones and Nicholls spent four years writing for Saturday Night Live.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with admission by donation, with tickets available online and at the door. The Plainfield Town Hall Opera House is wheelchair accessible and assisted listening devices are available upon request.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## Flooring



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**Sat., 9 a.m. - noon**  
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## Laundry



**Self-serve • Open daily 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.**  
**Drop-off service available, call Derek, (802) 793-7388**

## Martial Arts



**Offering**  
 Jiu Jitsu to kids ages 4-15 and Karate for ages 4 to Adult. First class is free to try!  
**802-282-8215 (Adam)**  
 adambeckley87@gmail.com  
 martialartsinhardwickvt.com

## Moving



**RELOCATING?**  
 • household • commercial  
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 LOCAL PENSKE AGENT  
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## Plumbing



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 Glenside St., RFD 1, Hardwick, VT 05843  
**Josh Holmes • 472-6228**

## Restaurants



**The Village Restaurant**  
 Home Cooking at Its Best  
 74 South Main St., Hardwick  
**(802) 472-5701**

## Advertising

**Advertise with the trusted source!**  
**The Hardwick Gazette**  
 ads@thehardwickgazette.org  
**(802) 472-6501**

## Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing  
 Water Treatment • Pump Sales & Service  
 Aggregate- Gravel & Stone Products  
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 24/7 Emergency Service  
 120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE  
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## Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing  
 Camera Inspection • Hydro-Vac Services  
 Catch Basin Cleaning • Lift Station Maintenance  
 24/7 Emergency Service  
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 802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

## Services



**DR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**  
**LAWN CARE**  
 802.793.7388  
 HARDWICK • VERMONT  
 • Dumpster rental  
 • Excavation  
 • Landscaping  
 • Stump Grinding  
**dwrichardson1999@gmail.com**

# EVENTS

### Friday, May 29

**Concert**, 8 p.m., Barre Opera House, 8 p.m., 6 North Main St. Ruth Moody, lead singer of the Wailin' Jennys with her band. Tickets online at [barreoperahouse.org](http://barreoperahouse.org) or call (802) 476-8188.

### Saturday, May 30

**Open house**, 1 to 3 p.m., Grange Hall, East Hardwick. Preview the new Historic Interpretive Panel that will be placed in the trailhead near Stevens Lane. Cake and lemonade served.

### Saturday, June 6

**Plant Swap**, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Caledonia Grange #9, 88 E. Church St., East Hardwick, in collaboration with the Swap Sisters. Plants are free to take or drop off. Information, [swapsisters@gmail.com](mailto:swapsisters@gmail.com).

**Parade**, East Hardwick Children's Parade, 11 a.m. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. at Hardwick Chiropractic, 54 School Circle, Rte. 16, East Hardwick. After the parade: free ice cream and popcorn, games, rock/paper/scissors contest, hotdogs and bake sale, basket raffle, to benefit East Hardwick Congregational Church.

**Auditions**, Lamoille County Players, June 6 and 7, Hyde Park Opera House. Auditions begin at 1 p.m. each day. Auditions for "California Suite." No appointment necessary. Information, [LCPlayers.com/california-suite](http://LCPlayers.com/california-suite). Auditioners must be 18 or older.

### Monday, June 8

**Workshop**, 5 to 7 p.m., Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, St. Johnsbury. Teaching artist Susanna Olson leads a workshop for early childhood educators, "Bringing Butterfly Life-Cycle & Migratory Behavior to Life through Drama!" Reservations and information, [catamountarts.org/education/classes-and-workshops](http://catamountarts.org/education/classes-and-workshops) or call (802) 748-2600, ext. 3.

### Sunday, June 14

**Agricultural Sing**, 4 p.m., Grange, East Hardwick, with Maria and Josh, Potluck. Information: [easthardwick-grange.org/easthardwickgrange@gmail.com](http://easthardwick-grange.org/easthardwickgrange@gmail.com)

**Hokum Brothers**, 7 p.m., at the Plainfield Opera House, Doors open at 6:30. Tickets available online and at the door.

### Wednesday, June 17

**Luncheon**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Charlmont Restaurant, Morrisville, for Craftsbury Academy Friends. Contact Stella Slicer at (561) 222-6924 is planning to attend..

### Thursday, June 18

**Shakespeare**, 7 p.m., Plainfield

Town Hall Opera House, 18 High St., "Hamlet," performed by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, directed by Tom Blachly, Tickets at [sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes](http://sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes).

### Friday, June 19

**Shakespeare**, 7 p.m., Plainfield Town Hall Opera House, 18 High St., "Hamlet," performed by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, directed by Tom Blachly, Tickets at [sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes](http://sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes).

### Saturday, June 20

**Craft fair, flea market**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Craftsbury Community Care Center, 1784 E. Craftsbury Road.

**Shakespeare**, 7 p.m., Plainfield Town Hall Opera House, 18 High St., "Hamlet," performed by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, directed by Tom Blachly, Tickets at [sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes](http://sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes).

### Sunday, June 21

**Shakespeare**, 7 p.m., Plainfield Town Hall Opera House, 18 High St., "Hamlet," performed by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, directed by Tom Blachly, Tickets at [sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes](http://sites.google.com/view/green-mountain-shakespeare-fes).

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

### 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. to 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.

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# EVENTS

## CONTINUED from previous page

**Parenting Group**, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Caregivers can relax and connect with each other while their babies play. Geared toward babies to 18 months. Siblings invited. Information at [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@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 to 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 to 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, West Church St., Hardwick. Literature and open meeting.

**Tai Chi**, 9:30 to 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, [Shbeharsing@gmail.com](mailto:Shbeharsing@gmail.com).

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

**Tai Chi**, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Qigong and Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information at (802) 472-8724, [nspauld@gmail.com](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., The Health Center, Plainfield. third Thursday each month. Information, (802) 322-6600 or [dgrabowski@The-Health-Center.org](mailto:dgrabowski@The-Health-Center.org).

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

**Hang Out**, 2:45 to 6 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, spend time with friends. Facilitated by Hazen

Union's Community School Coordinator Vaiva Velzis, with support from The Civic's staff. Snacks provided. Information, [Vvelzis@ossu.org](mailto:Vvelzis@ossu.org).

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

**Figure drawing studio, Thursdays through September 24, 4 to 6 p.m., Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. Hosted by artists Larry Golden and son Ricky. Information: [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).**

**Pilates class by Kris Coville, 4 to 5 p.m., Thursdays, United Church of Christ, Greensboro. All Recovery**, 4 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

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

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

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

**Prayer Service**, 5:30 p.m., Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information, [touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:olee@lhha.org).

**Trivia**, 6 to 8 p.m., Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, unless there is a home basketball game. Limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First come, first serve event, with room for about 10 teams.

**Al-Anon**, 6 p.m., Church on the

Common, Craftsbury Common.

**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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com) or [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

## Ongoing Fridays

**Pilates**, 9 a.m., level 3, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury 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](mailto:gob7878@gmail.com).

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

**Storytime**, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield, playgroup.. Information at [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), (802) 426-3581, [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

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

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

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

**See EVENTS, Next Page**



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# EVENTS

**CONTINUED from previous page** veggies and more.

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

**Contra Dance**, 7 to 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, [cabot-dance@aroundvt.org](mailto:cabot-dance@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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com) or [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://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 to 11 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets the third Saturday of the month.

**Historical Society**, 10 a.m. to noon, Craftsbury.

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

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

**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](mailto:BetterBonesNEK.org) or Mary King at [Mary@BetterBonesNEK.org](mailto: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](mailto:mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net) (802) 472-5544.

**Contra Dance**, 8 to 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](mailto:cdu.tim@gmail.com)

**Writing Group**, 2 to 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., first and third Saturdays, (802) 755-6107, [albany-publiclibraryvt.org](http://albany-publiclibraryvt.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](mailto: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: [touchofgrace.org](http://touchofgrace.org)

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

# Current Schedule

as of April 2026

Talk/Interview Music

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<b>12 AM</b>	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	RNB Love Train	<b>12 AM</b>
<b>1 AM</b>		BantuNauts RAYdio		Donne Del Mondo	Baroque and Beyond	The Kinetic Playground	Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	<b>1 AM</b>
<b>2 AM</b>	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine	Open All Hours DJ Citrus Heights		The Sonic Cafe		<b>2 AM</b>
<b>3 AM</b>	WGDR New Music Mix Music Directors							<b>3 AM</b>
<b>4 AM</b>	Thom Hartmann Program							<b>4 AM</b>
<b>5 AM</b>	Softpower/Fulstories Prison Pipeline	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters					Oldies Time Machine	<b>5 AM</b>
<b>6 AM</b>	Counterspin Green St. News	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Podcast Steven and Walt	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Woodsongs Radio Hour	<b>6 AM</b>
<b>7 AM</b>	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage, Steven Farnham & Ethan O'Hara	Maggie in the Morning Delia Gillen	Bike Talk	Portal Levi		Eastern Dawn Luke Lampugnale	Ozark Highlands Radio	<b>7 AM</b>
<b>8 AM</b>	Democracy Now!						The Country Jamboree	<b>8 AM</b>
<b>9 AM</b>	Trance-Formational Listening Dennis Darrah	Eggs on Toast Kelly	Alternative Radio	The Quilting Hour Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer	Relocalizing Vermont Carl Etner	The Magical Mystery Tour Tonio Epstein	ROTATING SLOT #12 (see reverse)	<b>9 AM</b>
<b>10 AM</b>	ROTATING SLOT #1 (see reverse)	Peace Talk Radio	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #13 (see reverse)	<b>10 AM</b>
<b>11 AM</b>		ROTATING SLOT #3 (see reverse)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	Writers' Voice		<b>11 AM</b>
<b>12 PM</b>	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat	The Rubber Room Dan Towner	Unshelved J Kramer	Modern Jet Set	The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	<b>12 PM</b>
<b>1 PM</b>						Now Playing DJ Liu		<b>1 PM</b>
<b>2 PM</b>	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	Upfront Soul	Straight Up Soul		David Rogers Music Mix		Boxful of Blues John Foster	<b>2 PM</b>
<b>3 PM</b>			Econ. Update Rumble Strip	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see reverse)		Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		<b>3 PM</b>
<b>4 PM</b>	Afrosonic Taxi	Trailing Edge David Ferland	Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder			<b>4 PM</b>
<b>5 PM</b>	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Shortwave Rpt. Food Sleuth		ROTATING SLOT #9 (see reverse)	Big Picture Science	Found Sound Corey Flynn	Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	<b>5 PM</b>
<b>6 PM</b>	The Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)	ROTATING SLOT #5 (see reverse)	ROTATING SLOT #10 (see reverse)	ROTATING SLOT #11 (see reverse)			<b>6 PM</b>
<b>7 PM</b>	The Revel Level DJ EHMmAh	ROTATING SLOT #4 (see reverse)	ROTATING SLOT #6 (see reverse)	Woodwarbler's JazzGrass Brian Aust	Xav Wax Xav Jimenez	Spiral Galaxy Tom McMurdo	Jagler Katz Worm Hole Jason Hagler	<b>7 PM</b>
<b>8 PM</b>								<b>8 PM</b>
<b>9 PM</b>	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see reverse)	Deep Blues Les Mawson	ROTATING SLOT #7 (see reverse)	Music as Art Uku Meri	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic DJ Eben Flow	The Meltdown KingTone	First Wave	<b>9 PM</b>
<b>10 PM</b>		Blues Edge Les Mawson					The Beatdown Z-Point	<b>10 PM</b>
<b>11 PM</b>	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	RNB Love Train		<b>11 PM</b>

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

@WGDRWGDHVT

# EVENTS

**CONTINUED from previous page**  
**Pickleball**, noon, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information, Sara at [Shbeharsing@gmail.com](mailto:Shbeharsing@gmail.com).

**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.

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

## Ongoing Mondays

**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.

**Hardwick Conservation Commission meetings**, second Monday of the month, 5 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, third floor. Public invited. Information: Rachel Kane, Co-chair, (802) 472-5512.

**Dads' Group**, 5 to 6 p.m., at the Ox-bow in Morrisville. Connect with other dads. Information, Rob at [rcary@LRCVT.org](mailto:rcary@LRCVT.org) or (802) 730-3000.

**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

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

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

**Exercise**, 11 a.m., Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro, lead by certified AFE instructor Alice Perron. Information [esanderson@nekcouncil.org](mailto:esanderson@nekcouncil.org), (802) 751-0431.

**Moms in Recovery**, support pro-

gram, 1 to 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.

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

**Dungeons & Dragons**, 3:30 to 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.

**Crafting Group**, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information, [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), (802) 426-3581, [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org).

**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](mailto: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.

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

**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

**Elisha Renne's "The Warp and Weft of Life"** will be on display through June at the Woodbury Community Library, 69 Valley Lake Road. For more information, call (802) 472-5701 or email [library@woodburyvt.org](mailto:library@woodburyvt.org).

**Emers paintings exhibited** at White Water Gallery, 5 River St., East Hardwick, June 7 through July 12. Opening reception: June 7, 4 to 7 p.m. Refreshments and music provided. Information: (802) 472-7045.

**The Museum of Everyday Life**, "Deep Seated: chairs and the stories they tell," Saturday, June 6, 3 to 6 p.m. Exhibition on view through May 2027. Dry Pond Road (Rte. 16),

Glover. Information: Clare at (802) 626-4409.

## 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.

**Children's Food Relationships** – Guidance and tools for families, coaches, educators, health care providers to help children develop positive relationships with food and movement at [healthvermont.gov/family/confident-kids-language-help-kids-grow-strong](http://healthvermont.gov/family/confident-kids-language-help-kids-grow-strong)

**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.

**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](mailto:melissa@vcil.org).

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

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

**Recovery center**, St. Johnsbury Recovery Center, 297 Summer St., (802) 751-8520, [recoveryinfo@st-jkrc.org](mailto:recoveryinfo@st-jkrc.org), [kingdom-recovery-center.com](http://kingdom-recovery-center.com)

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

## Libraries

**Albany Public Library**, 530 Main St., Albany, (802) 755-6107, [albany-publiclibraryvt.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://craftsburypubliclibrary.org), Mon. and Thurs., 2 to 6 p.m., Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Story time, Fri., 10 a.m.

**Cutler Memorial Public Library**, 151 High St, Plainfield (802) 454-8504, [cutlerlibrary.org](http://cutlerlibrary.org), Tues., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wed., 3 to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

**Hazen Union School Library**, 126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick, (802) 472-6511, [hazenlibrary@ossu.org](mailto:hazenlibrary@ossu.org), 7:30 a.m. to 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, [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org), Tues. to Fri., 9 a.m. - noon and 3 to 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. to 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](http://jeudevinememoriallibrary.org), Mon. and Wed. 1 to 6 p.m., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**John W. Simpson Memorial Library**, 1972 E. Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury, (802) 586-9692, [jw-simpsonmemorial.org](http://jw-simpsonmemorial.org). Wed., 9 a.m. - noon and 6 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. - noon and 2 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon; Sun. noon to 2 p.m.

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

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

# KEN BROWN'S HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP



Hazen Union head coach Shaun Allen (center) and assistant coaches T.J. Davison (left) and Jason Smith (right) watch the Wildcat baseball team play against U-32 May 19.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Offense sputters for Wildcats in dropping fourth straight

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union baseball team struggled to generate offense last week in a pair of losses out of division to U-32 and North Country.

The Raiders spoiled Senior Night for the Wildcats on Tuesday with a 19-0 win at Hudson Fields. Seniors Grayson McNaughten, Justin Montgomery and Own Skorstad were honored before the game for their outstanding high school careers. It was the third straight win for U-32, who improved to 8-3 and remain in the mix for a top spot in the upcoming Division II state tournament.

North Country wasn't much kinder to Hazen on Thursday, cruising past the Wildcats 11-1 at home. It was the fourth straight win for the Falcons (8-3) as they battle for a home playoff game in the upcoming Division I playoffs.

The Wildcats looked to right the ship on Tuesday against a struggling Peoples Academy team and will wrap up the regular season at BFA-Fairfax on Thursday. Despite a 3-9 record, Hazen is still in play for a home playoff game in the upcoming Division IV state tournament. All home games can be live-streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

## Challenging week for Cal United and CA softball

NEK – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) and Cal United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville)

softball teams struggled against stiff competition in the rugged Mountain League last week.

BFA-Fairfax blanked Cal United 19-0 at home last Friday, dropping them to 2-6 on the season. Tatum Gaudette earned the win in the circle for the Lady Bullets, allowing just one hit over five innings of work. Gaudette, Jaiden Thweatt and Paisleigh Niles combined for nine hits at the plate to power the offense. Alaina Robbins took the loss for Cal United. Fairfax improved to 9-2 and is battling for one of the top four spots in the upcoming Division III state tournament.

Peoples Academy earned its first win of the season over a short-handed Lady Charger team at home last Thursday, 15-3. CA was forced to forfeit its final two games of the week against Richford and Blue Mountain.

CA looked to earn its first win of the season on Tuesday as they traveled to Danville to take on Cal United before wrapping up the regular season with a trip to BFA-Fairfax on Friday. Cal United is scheduled to host Vergennes on Saturday afternoon in their regular-season finale.

## Eldred powers Vikings to big week

LYNDON CENTER – Danville's Sebastian Eldred continued to swing a hot bat for his Lyndon Institute baseball team last week, leading them to wins over Spaulding and North Country.

Eldred belted a pair of



Hazen Union Wildcat Kiah Cloutier comes off the field after an inning against U-32, May 19.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union junior Chayse Newell makes contact with the ball against a U-32 pitcher on Hudson Field, May 19. The U-32 Raiders won 19-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

doubles and drove in a run to lead the Vikings to a 10-2 home win over Spaulding last Tuesday. Raymond Powers earned the win on the mound, fanning five and scattering a pair of hits over five innings of work.

Eldred recorded Lyndon's only hit on Friday as they outlasted North Country at home on Senior Day, 2-1. Jackson

Dwyer went the distance for the Vikings to earn the win, allowing five hits and striking out seven. Lyndon improved to 9-2 and held on to the #2 seed in the current Division II standings.

Eldred and the Vikings were back in action on Tuesday against Randolph and will wrap up the regular season with a trip to U-32 on Thursday.

# Allen leads Craftsbury Chargers at Lyndon meet

by Ken Brown

LYNDON CENTER – The Craftsbury (CA) Academy, Hazen Union and Danville track and field teams were back in action at Lyndon Institute for their fourth meet of the season.

Sophomore Linsey Allen carried the momentum of a runner-up finish at CVU by capturing her first title of the season in the discus event at Lyndon. Allen's throw of 22.07m bested runner-up Farrah Pepin (19.61m) of North Country. Her first career title was also good enough to qualify for the Division III State Championship on June 4. Freshman teammate Aemilia

Terrone was also strong for the Chargers, posting a third-place finish and personal record time (2:43) in the 800m event. Lamoille's Hailey Porter bested the field with a time of 2:26.7. CA senior Soren Stelma-Leonard also qualified for states with a third-place finish in the 800m. Lamoille sophomore Jack Neckins took home first-place honors. Senior Own McKibben's fourth-place finish in the 400m also made him a state qualifier. Keith Brown of North Country edged Lamoille's Ethan Rossi to win the event. Junior Kosmos Gletsos recorded a personal best in the long jump and posted a top ten in the javelin and freshman Jade Griggs qualified

for the Burlington Invitational with her best time of the season in the 100m.

"It was a cold and rainy meet at Lyndon, but the team showed up ready to compete despite the uncomfortable conditions. Linsey became our first thrower to qualify for States this season and also qualified for the Burlington Invite, a highly competitive meet with tight qualifying standards," said head coach Kyle Anderson.

Hazen freshman Chris Tongolei continued his impressive maiden season at the varsity level with a personal best throw in the shot put that landed him another top five finish. North Country's Cullin Ward took home first-place

honors. Freshman Alden Pougner finished just outside the top ten for the Wildcats in the 1500m with his best time of the season.

Freshman Samuel Giroux led Danville with a sixth-place finish and a personal record in the javelin event. Freshmen teammates Hudson Costas (6th) and Landon Garrand (7th) ran their best times of the season in the 200m and Molly Daniels and Charlie St. John landed top ten finishes in the 100m for the Bears.

CA, Hazen and Danville all made the trip to U-32 on Tuesday at Chaplin/Topping Track. The 9th/10th Grade Championships are scheduled to be held at Essex High School on Thursday.

## Fairfield's run ends despite gem from Alekson

by Ken Brown

WAPPINGERS FALLS, N.Y. – Former Peoples Academy (PA) star Ben Alekson's Fairfield University baseball team saw its season come to an end last week in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championship last week.

Alekson took the hill for the Stags on Wednesday night in the MAAC Tournament opener, throwing his first complete game of the season to lead Fairfield to a 6-3 win over Marist. The junior right-hander scattered seven hits, walked one and struck out two. His 114 pitches were also a season-high as he improved to 7-4 on the season.

Fairfield held off Niagara 4-3 in the second round, the very next night, behind a collective effort off the mound from Harrison Engle, Will Youngman and Jimmy Mulvaney. Left fielder Zach Stephenson crushed a home run to right field in the fourth inning to lead the Stags' offense. Fairfield fell to top-seeded Rider on Friday afternoon, 5-1, to drop them to the losers' bracket of the double-elimination tournament. That same night, they defeated Niagara 9-2 for the second time in as many days to advance to the MAAC Championship game. Brendon Miller earned the win with seven strong innings, scattering five hits, while striking out seven.

Having the tall task of beating Rider twice to capture the MAAC Championship, the Stags completed miracle No. 1 in a 12-7 win with an improbable eighth-inning rally on Saturday morning. Trailing 6-3 in the top of the eighth, Fairfield pushed

across nine runs to stun the Broncs 12-7. Stephenson led the Stags' offense once again with four RBI. Rider's ace P.J. Craig silenced Fairfield later that afternoon to capture the MAAC Championship with a 6-1 win. Craig improved to 9-3 on the season, striking out six and walking just one over 7.0 innings of work. He had thrown a complete game for the Broncs just two days earlier.

The Stags (31 wins) reached the 30-win plateau under former University of Vermont great Bill Currier for a sixth consecutive season, and the MAAC Championship game four straight. Currier will call it a career at Fairfield after leading the program to a pair of MAAC Championships and two NCAA Tournament berths in the last decade. He recorded 428 wins in his 15 years at Fairfield, and finishes his career with 920 total.

Alekson was named to the MAAC All-Championship Team along with teammates Stephenson and J.P. Kuczuk. The Stowe Native was named MAAC Pitcher of the Year after leading the Stags with seven wins and a 2.47 ERA. He already holds the record for single-season wins at Fairfield with nine in 2025 and has now tied John Signore's all-time career wins record with 22. His ERA ranks in the top 50 in the country, and he has been on the College Baseball Foundation's National Pitcher of the Year Watchlist all season. Alekson led PA to three consecutive state championships and was named the Vermont Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year in his senior season.



Dakota Stancliff (left) of Morrisville and Sean Prentiss (right) of Woodbury race down Spring Street during cubmobile races after the parade Saturday. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Four teams participated in the human truck pull on Brush Street during SpringFest with Nancy Nottermann (left) running the event. First place went to The Hoppers (front to back) Josh Lumsden, Ronin Quinn, Ty Metevier, team captain Atlee Metevier, Maxfield English and Beckett Metevier. The 27,500-pound dump truck was driven and owned by Jarrett Drown of Hardwick.

photo by Vanessa Fournier