

THE CABOT CHRONICLE

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~ February 2022

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Walt Celley, WCAX Super Senior



On December 23, Joe Carroll of WCAX aired a Super Senior segment about Walt Celley. Joe appeared intent on a story about Walt and his collection of antique engines when he arrived at the Celley barn. During the interview,

he discovered an impressive collection of moose antlers Walt and Cyrena gathered over their 59 years of marriage.

To watch or read the whole story, go to <https://www.wcax.com/2021/12/23/super-senior-walt-celley/>.

Joe's Pond Ice Out

by Michelle Walker

The 35th Joe's Pond Ice Out is on. Just after Thanksgiving 2021 the large pond (also known as third pond) had a skim of ice covering it north to south. The ice wasn't very solid or thick, but that didn't stop brave fishermen or paragliders from trying it out. Thanks to a very cold January, the ice would seem to be here to stay through the winter. There is activity on the ice daily: ice fishing, walking, skating, and snowmobiling.

In spring 2021 the block went through the ice on April 10, 2021, at 4:57 p.m. This was the third earliest Ice Out in contest history. A total of 12,531 tickets were sold last year at \$1 each. Once expenses are deducted, the person

guessing the closest time to the actual Ice Out is awarded half the proceeds. Last year, the winner received over \$5,000, the other half of the proceeds goes to the Joe's Pond Association for activities such as promotion of water quality and the fireworks.

The Ice Out tickets are available at Hastings Store and Marty's First Stop. In Cabot tickets are at the Cabot General Store, Harry's Hardware, and Walden Corner Stop Inn Shop. Tickets are also at vendors in Marshfield, Barre, and Montpelier. They can be purchased on-line at www.joespondvermont.com. All tickets must be returned or postmarked before midnight on April 1, 2022.

Cabot Awarded Top Honors and Best Cheddar Title at National Cheese Competition

Local cheesemaker garners 15 awards at national cheese competition.

Agri-Mark's Cabot Extra Sharp Vermont Cheddar earned the Chairman's Award and the title of Best Cheddar at the National Milk Producers Federation's (NMPF) Annual Cheese Contest held during December in Las Vegas, NV. The Co-operative earned an additional 13 awards, sweeping the Extra Sharp Cheddar, Sharp Cheddar, and the Natural Cheese Snack categories.

"These remarkable results are a testament to the craftsmanship and quality of our fabulous Cabot and McCadam cheeses," exclaimed Bill Beaton, Agri-Mark's CEO. "After such a challenging year, these awards make the collective hard work of our employees and farmers all that more meaningful. And they're an inspiration for us to stay focused, to continue to raise the bar and produce the finest cheese possible."

All three of Agri-Mark's cheese production facilities (Cabot, Vermont, Chateaugay, New York, and Middlebury, Vermont) plus its Cut & Wrap team had winning entries in the contest. In addition to the competition's highest recognition, Agri-Mark received the following awards

Extra Sharp Cheddar Category:

- First Place - Extra Sharp Vermont Cheddar, Team Middlebury
Chairman's Award & Best Cheddar

- Second Place - Extra Sharp New York Cheddar, Team Chateaugay
- Third Place - Extra Sharp Vermont Cheddar, Team Cabot

Sharp Cheddar Category:

- First Place - Sharp Vermont Cheddar 2, Team Cabot
- Second Place - Sharp New York Cheddar, Team Chateaugay
- Third Place - Sharp New York Cheddar 2, Team Chateaugay

Medium Cheddar Category:

- Third Place - Medium Vermont

Cheddar, Team Cabot

Mild Cheddar Category:

- Second Place - Mild New York Cheddar, Team Chateaugay
- Third Place - Mild Vermont Cheddar, Team Cabot

Unique or Mild Flavor Category:

- First Place - Cracked Peppercorn, Team Cabot

Natural Cheese Snack Category:

- First Place - Seriously Sharp Yellow Cheddar Cracker Cuts, Team Cut & Wrap
- Second Place - Sharp Vermont Cheddar Cracker Cut, Team Cut & Wrap
- Third Place - Colby Jack Cracker Cut, Team Cut & Wrap

Agri-Mark also brought home three International Cheese and Dairy Awards in November. The Co-operative's Cabot Mild Cheddar won Gold, their indulgent Chocolate Mousse Triple Cream Yogurt won a bronze award, and their Cabot Clothbound, aged in the Cellars at Jasper Hill, also took a bronze award. The Cabot Chocolate Mousse Triple Cream Yogurt was the highest scoring yogurt from the United States.

"There's a tremendous sense of satisfaction and joy in receiving awards like these, especially at the national and international levels of competition. These awards reflect the hard work, dedication and devotion that our farmers and employees put into creating best-in-class cheeses and dairy products," said Beaton.

Agri-Mark, the premier dairy cooperative in the Northeast, markets more than 370 million gallons of farm fresh milk each year for more than 700 dairy farm families in New England and New York. The cooperative has been marketing milk for dairy farmers since 1916 and has headquarters in Andover, Massachusetts and Waitsfield, Vermont. Agri-Mark farmers own the award-winning Cabot brand of Vermont Cheddar, butter and (see Cabot Awarded, page 3)

**TOWN PUBLIC HEARING ON
2022 AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES
Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
INFORMATIONAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
Monday, February 28, 2022, 6:30 p.m..**

**TOWN AND SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING VOTING
BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ONLY
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Town Meeting Voting at the Willey Building, 3084 Main St. Cabot**

BALLOTS:

All ballots will be mailed to Town of Cabot registered voters. Ballots may be returned in advance of Town Meeting Day to the Town of Cabot Town Clerk's office by mail, in person, or at the drop box at the back door of the Willey building, received by 7:00 p.m. on March 1. On Town Meeting Day, you may cast your ballot in the Town Clerk's office or ring the doorbell on the right side of the Willey Building back door for drive-through drop-off between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

See page 8 for Town Warning and Page 11 for School District Warnings.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT CABOT ♦ DANVILLE ♦ PEACHHAM

by Representative
Henry Pearl

As I'm sure we all were, I was hoping things would be a bit more "back to normal" by now.... However, as the pandemic continues to keep us all on our toes, we in the legislature are striving to find the balance between the best ways to serve Vermonters and keeping everyone as safe as possible. This has resulted in this session looking somewhat like a hybrid model in which we are in person in Montpelier, but members of both the assembly and the public can participate remotely for safety and optimal access.

Your House Agriculture and Forestry Committee began the year by hearing a broad range of updates from the Office of Legislative Counsel; the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets; Rural Vermont; the Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation; and Vermont Farm Bureau. We heard from the Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry. They emphasized the ongoing struggles of dairy in Vermont and acknowledged that the largest negative impact to dairy is still inadequate milk pricing, which is largely out of the state's control. They spoke to some of the potential solutions and/or incentives to help our state's dairy producers increase efficiency and stay viable in today's challenging market. Dr. Sara Via, a Professor and Climate Extension Specialist from the University of Maryland, testified regarding her work to quantify the benefits of certain practices, such as cover cropping and no- and low-till, in terms of carbon sequestration. We also took testimony from members of the Vermont Climate Council regarding their

work on carbon sequestration. We are working to ensure that Vermont is leading the way in best agricultural practices and the fight against climate change. This theme continued as we had discussions with a group of Agri-Mark farmers and a representative from the GUND Institute. We also took testimony on the animal welfare situation in central Vermont, in which debris from fiber installation was left in a farmer's field and caused the death of animals and significant financial harm. We are trying to determine how we can prevent these circumstances and ensure that farms are compensated.

Much of our work in the legislature continues to be around addressing the impacts of the pandemic and navigating how to best utilize the federal dollars that are coming from both ARPA and the Build Back Better initiative. Whether you agree with the policies at the federal level or not, there is no denying that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hopefully invest in our state in ways that can benefit Vermonters for generations to come. ARPA funds and their optimal usage came up throughout many of our discussions in committee. One area on which we focused was an increased request of \$2 million for the Working Land Enterprise Initiative to the Appropriations Committee for the FY22 Budget Adjustment Act. This initiative issues grants to improve and increase local food production, processing, and access. The request was unanimously supported by our committee.

As always, stay safe and feel free to reach out with your questions or concerns.

CVFiber Community Update

by R.D. Eno, Cabot Representative

The big news this month is that CVFiber has reached agreement with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), a professional services company that provides network design, project management, construction management, inspection, and other related services for the deployment of broadband networks. Next up will be to contract for network operation and an internet service provider, which we expect to accomplish before Town Meeting Day. CVFiber's High-Level Design contractor, Vantage Point Solutions, will finalize its work by mid-January. The pole inventory is now complete in three towns, Middlesex, Moretown, and Worcester, nearly done in Calais and East Montpelier, and will soon get underway in Cabot, now that grant funding is in hand.

CVFiber has joined a consortium of districts partnering to buy 2,000 miles of fiber this month. The \$7 million purchase is a joint effort by the Vermont Communications Union District Association, the Vermont Community Broadband Board, the Vermont Community Foundation and the Vermont State Employees Credit Union. This transaction is likely to be the first of many bulk purchases designed to prevent supply-chain delays and possible price hikes due to high demand for fiber and other materials. The 2,000 miles should supply construction needs for Vermont's CUDs for all of 2022 and part of 2023. CVFiber has committed \$800,000 to purchase 300



miles of that total, which is enough fiber for one-quarter of our entire network.

More details can be found in this VTDigger article: <https://vtdigger.org/2021/12/13/in-push-for-rural-broadband-vermont-groups-partner-to-buy-2000-miles-of-fiber-optic-cable/>.

The redesigned CVFiber website (<https://cvfiber.net/>) is online now. It's easier to navigate and provides information that wasn't available before, with more to come. The website also includes every past issue of our monthly Community Updates, links to stories about CVFiber in the news, CVFiber's Annual Report for 2021, meeting schedules and minutes for CVFiber's Governing Board and committees, and a complete list of Requests for Proposal (RFP), both past and present. Our aim is to provide complete transparency in CVFiber's contracting processes.

CVFiber is a nonprofit municipality and we welcome your input. You can post inquiries on our [Contact page](#). You can also reach out to your representatives on the Governing Board, which includes one delegate and one alternate from each of our 21 communities. A list of delegates and alternates can be found on our [Governing Board page](#) or you can contact your delegation on our [Contact page](#).

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CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION ON TOWN MEETING BALLOTS

Candidates for Cabot Selectboard

2-year term

Walter (Skip) Bothfeld
Lisa Olson

3-year term

R. D. Eno
Ruth Goodrich
Amy Hornblas

Candidates for Cabot School Director

Ellen Cairns – 1-year term

Jason Monaco – 2-year term

Chris Tormey – 3-year term

THE CABOT CHRONICLE

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CCA 2021 Town Meeting Report

We began 2021 with great promise, envisioning a post-pandemic future with hopes of creating a new normal for Cabot events and activities. But as the return to normal still eludes us, the Cabot Community Association (CCA) Board of Directors and volunteers worked through 2021 to support the following CCA programs/projects – Greater Cabot Area Working Landscape Network, Economic Development Workgroup, Cabot Visual Arts, Fall Foliage Festival and *The Cabot Chronicle*.

Specifically, our work in 2021 included:

- Launching the Cabot Harvest Hub - an online farm and artisan market to promote local agriculture and art businesses. The pandemic heightened interest in buying local food and this project created an easier way to connect buyers with sellers. The CCA was able to leverage private donations and grant funding (state and foundations) to support this project. After our successful pilot program for the summer 2021 season, we have transferred the project to Faith in Action, so that they might add their expertise on community food security issues to further enhance The Hub.
- Hosting a 2-day Cabot Fall Foliage event to provide opportunities to promote local businesses (local food sellers, Cabot Harvest Hub vendors and Smith Farm) and provide an outdoor, safe way for the community to gather during the pandemic.
- Supporting *The Cabot Chronicle* advisory board and advertising sales staff as we continued publication throughout the pandemic.
- Providing bookkeeping, administrative assistance (i.e., hosting virtual meetings and assisting groups to accept online donations), office space and grant research to eight local grass roots organizations/projects who, because of their affiliation with the CCA, can solicit tax-deductible donations.
- Continued updates to the CCA web presence to better represent the vitality and diversity of Cabot to attract new homeowners and business owners, and provide an uncomplicated way for community not-for-profit leaders to communicate. [Completion anticipated in February 2022].
- Securing funding to improve Cabot's presence in regional and statewide marketing efforts targeted at potential new residents and visitors. This project stalled due to the pandemic, but will resume this winter.
- Promoting and administering CCA grants to Cabot not-for-profits and grass roots organizations, including grants to village businesses for beautification this spring and summer, the Faith in Action winter toy & clothing drive and Cabot Arts 12th Night Celebration.
- Assisting other organizations and businesses with event promotion and grant writing.
- Initiating a new relationship with the Community News Service of the University of Vermont to assist with reporting and training for *The Chronicle*.
- Provided support, financial and administrative, to the electric vehicle charging station at the Willey Building.
- Maintained contacts with legislative



representatives.

- The CCA Economic Development Work Group (EDWG) continued to strategize best use of the 3065 Main Street property. In December, the CCA sold the building to a private investor who can make site improvements much more quickly than the CCA could.
- The EDWG is instrumental in creating new relationships with Cabot Creamery administrators to address housing and childcare in Cabot.
- The EDWG has also researched the history of the Cabot Community Investment Fund (formerly UDAG) to account for how Cabot has applied the funds over the 30+ years. State authorities had made the lack of accounting a barrier for Cabot in applying for larger economic development, infrastructure, and housing grants, but now that barrier is eliminated. The history is also interesting and helps us more fully understand the impact these funds have had in Cabot.
- Published nine issues of *The Cabot Chronicle*, the only local news source that reaches every household in Cabot. *The Chronicle* helps bridge the communication gaps in town by offering free advertising space to local not-for-profits and community groups and providing extensive space to town government for coverage of town business and outreach.

Cabot Trails Update



by Gary Gulka

The Trails Committee has been busy the last couple of months with trail marking and applying for a grant. We encourage you to sample some of our trails this winter on snowshoes or skis. The Talbert Farm Trails, accessible from Elm Street Cemetery or the Talbert sugar house on Bothfeld Hill Road, provide five miles of trails through fields and forests. Parking is very limited at Elm Street Cemetery and more accessible at the sugar house.

Cabot Community Association Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

Income	CCA Administration	The Cabot Chronicle
Advertising, Subscriptions		3,746
Charitable contribution	32,980	765
Appropriation	10,000	15,000
Total Income	42,980	19,511
Expenses	CCA Administration	The Cabot Chronicle
Administrative expenses	995	
Insurance	3,947	
Economic Development Projects	3,600	
Working Landscape Network Projects	1,000	
CCIF loan payments, taxes, municipal fees for 3065 Main St property	5,323	
CCA Grant Fund Awards	7,603	
Office rent & utilities	2,649	
Printing & Postage	76	5,935
Payroll & payroll expenses	14,049	12,936
Total Expenses	39,242	18,871
Net Income	3,738	640

We welcome new volunteers and ideas. If you are interested in being involved in any projects mentioned above or in joining the CCA Board of Directors, please contact us.

Respectfully submitted by the CCA Board of Directors:

Paul Wade, President	Frank Kampf, Vice President
Jan Westervelt, Treasurer	Jeannie Johnson, Secretary
Roz Daniels	R.D. Eno
Gwen Hallsmith	Susan Robinson
Lori Augustyniak, Exec. Director	

the end of Dubray Road to Menard Road. We will have trail maps posted at all trailheads and maps on the web site soon.

The Trails Committee has applied for a major trail grant through the VT Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation to support new trails, as well as tools, equipment, and trail building materials. We are scheduled to hear back in mid-February. In the coming year we hope to start a trail steward program with volunteers to assist with trail maintenance.

We thank the many landowners in Cabot who have allowed public access to non-motorized trails on their properties. Our trail network is growing, and we see great possibilities for expanding local recreation.

Cabot Awarded

(Continued from page 1)

other dairy products in addition to the McCadam brand of New York Cheddar, Pepper Jack and other cheeses. Agri-Mark has also invested in operations to manufacture and market valuable whey proteins globally while also marketing fresh fluid milk from its local farm families to the region's largest dairy processors. For more information about Agri-Mark, visit our web site at www.agrimark.coop.

Trail maps are posted at both places. The McQueeney Trail network has over three and a half miles of easy to moderate terrain and many people are using it for cross country skiing and hiking. There is parking at the trailhead and kiosk on McQueeney Road. The Cabot Winter Trail network runs from the end of Dubray Road to Danville Hill Road (one mile in length). There is another section of the Winter Trail that stems from the end of Taylor Road to Dubray Road. The newly marked Langone Road trail runs from

OBITUARIES & MEMORIALS

Jason Anzback



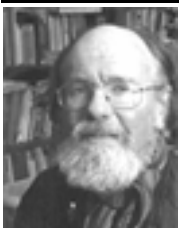
Jason Anzback was a brilliant artist and animal lover. He loved animals, and they loved him freely. Wild birds would land on his shoulders for a brief second before flying away. He never met a dog that didn't adore him, and he loved them right back. With his art, he depicted a world in which he saw landscapes, people, cars and cities beautifully rendered and crafted with care. He was impulsive, passionate and talented, and he had a deep capacity for love. Born in New York City, he spent his early years

in Louisville, KY, before moving with his mother to Vermont.

He is survived by his mother, Cecile Johnston, of Cabot; siblings Sarah Coffman of Las Vegas, NV., and Ferdinand Sawyer of Portland, OR; father, Harald Anzback, of Pownal VT.; grandparents Janet Sawyer and Jerome Tauber of New York City; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and chosen family who cared deeply about him.

His sudden death has left us heartbroken, and we ask that you plant trees, feed birds, donate to an animal shelter and support artists in his memory. He will be remembered at a celebration of life at a future date and buried in East Hampton, N.Y.

Leonard H. Spencer



Leonard Holmes Spencer, 76, of Cabot, passed away unexpectedly last week at his home in Cabot, where he had lived for nearly 50 years. He was born April 26, 1945, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, to Leonard R. and Avery (Holmes) Spencer. He grew up in Pittsfield, moving to Becket, Massachusetts, in his teens where they lived next door to his Spencer grandparents' farm.

He graduated from Waconah Regional High School and went on to earn a BA in Art History from Williams College and an MA in Education from Clark University. He then moved to Vermont and taught for several years in Enosburg Falls, East Montpelier and Cabot schools. In 1977, he started a building restoration business. His specialty was recreating historic paint colors with an emphasis on Victorian-era buildings. He worked on private homes, churches and public buildings throughout Vermont and leaves a legacy of handsome edifices.

He was deeply interested in history and served as president of the Cabot His-

torical Society for many years. Traditional music was another of his passions, particularly shape note singing; he was involved with groups of singers all over New England. Leonard was a strong supporter of Cabot School and served on the school board for several years. He was a member of Cabot United Church where he sang in the choir and was also on the executive board. He wrote and published a history of the church, "Cabot Church: Biography of a Building." In his youth, he had written poetry; in 2012, he published a book of his poetry, "Winter Butterflies: Poems of a New England Youth."

Leonard was predeceased by his parents and a sister, Linda Brazeau. He is survived by his wife, Susan (Aldrich) Spencer; two daughters, Cerelia and Mandy; and a son, Jonathan. He also leaves friends in the Cabot area.

Leonard had his faults but he was basically a kind and caring person, very intelligent and creative. He took being a Christian very seriously and tried to live accordingly. He will be missed by many people.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.guareandsons.com.

Donald Walker

Donald (Don) Walker of Montpelier and Joe's Pond passed away at the age of 94 on December 16, 2021, at Central Vermont Medical Center.

Don was born on February 8, 1927, in Rutland to the late Hazel and Rufus Walker. He graduated from Rutland High School in 1945.

On December 17, 1944 (77 years ago), Audrey and Don Walker went on their first date and became inseparable. They were married on September 25, 1948. Besides his parents, Don was preceded in death by his wife Audrey (2018), his brother Rufus and his grandchild John Donald Picard. Don is survived by daughters Michelle Walker; Megan Picard and her spouse, John; his son Wade Walker and his spouse, Carolyn; brother in law Richard Tower and his spouse, Betty; grandchildren Suzanne Picard Lowden and her spouse Kent; Melissa Picard Vickers and her spouse, Ted; and Jessie Picard Alfarone and her spouse, Paul, Geoffrey Walker and his partner Cydney Barrett, Nathaniel "Nano" Walker and his spouse, Tory, Lindsay Walker and her partner Richard

Harper; and great-grandchildren Nikola, Jelena, Eva, Teddy, Biruk, Oscar, Hazel and Finley. He also leaves behind his dog, "Toto".

In 1953 Don moved to Montpelier and, with his father, established Walker Motors Inc. (a Ford Franchise). He later added a Jeep franchise to the store. During his time as a Ford Dealer, Don was active on many Ford boards. He retired in 1992.

Don spent his life being very active in the community. He proudly served on the board of directors for many years and served as Chairperson for the Central Vermont Medical Center. He was one of the official scorers for the Barre High School Basketball Tournament for over 40 years. He was the official scorer for the Montpelier High School Girls Basketball Team, the Spaulding Boys Basketball Team and the Montpelier High School Boys Ice Hockey Team for many years. He was the first President of the Montpelier Boosters Club. He served on the Advisory Board of the Chittenden Bank for many years.

Don spent his summers at Joes Pond for 53 years. He was very active in the Joes Pond Association, the Ice Out con-

test (he was nicknamed the "Iceologist") and Commodore of the sail boat races.

Don took up tennis in his mid-50s and played until he was 80.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to The Office of Development, Central Vermont Medical

Patricia Murphy Wheeler

Patricia "Patti" Murphy Wheeler, 72, of Cabot passed away peacefully on December 7, 2021, at the McClure Miller Respite House in the town of Colchester after a valiant struggle with cancer. Patti was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister who will be deeply missed by her entire family. Born in Montpelier on September 2, 1949, she was the youngest of three children born to James and Irene (Harvey) Murphy. James and Irene later divorced. Patti and her two siblings (Ann and Dennis) later became the stepchildren of Frank Judson Kelley after he and Irene married. Patti and her siblings soon became part of a larger family with the birth of three stepbrothers (Judson, Peter and Scott) and a stepsister (Laurie). On February 10, 1968, Patti married Phillip "Skip" Partridge in Barre. Their marriage resulted in the birth of one daughter (Shannon). Phillip and Patti divorced in July of 1971. On May 18, 1991, Patti married Lawrence "Larry" Wheeler in Montpelier, forming a blended family with Patti's daughter, Shannon, and Larry's two children, Eric and Josie.

Patti worked for 30 years in various administrative positions for the State of Vermont, retiring in February of 2009. In her retirement, Patti enjoyed traveling, especially to the Maine coast, flower and vegetable gardening, attending the outdoor, summer concerts in Island Pond, feeding and watching the birds, and spoiling her grandchildren and great-granddaughter as much as possible.

Center, P.O. Box 547, Barre, VT 05641; or to Central Vermont Home Health, 600 Granger Road, Barre, VT 05641, in honor of the excellent care Don received.

A service will be held in the spring of 2022.

But in the spring of 2021, Patti's health began to decline from numerous causes. After being diagnosed with cancer in September of 2021, Patti retained her cheerfulness and good spirit right to the end. The family would like to thank the loving and caring medical staff at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington and the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester for keeping Patti as comfortable as possible during this troubling time.

Patti leaves behind her loving husband, Larry Wheeler; children, Shannon Partridge, Eric Flanagan and Josie Lang; a sister, Ann Murphy; stepsiblings, Judson Kelley, Scott Kelley and Laurie Kelley. Patti also leaves behind grandchildren, Jeremy Bigelow, Shelby Bigelow, Kayla Page, Samantha Flanagan, Zoe Lang and Benjamin Lang; and great-granddaughter, Kinsley Bigelow; along with numerous nieces and nephews. Patti was predeceased by her father, James Murphy; mother Irene Kelley; stepfather Frank Judson Kelley; brother Dennis Murphy; stepbrother Peter Kelley; and brother-in-law Bob Murphy.

A service of remembrance will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the Eaton Cemetery in Marshfield, Vermont. In lieu of flowers the family would like to ask that donations be made to the Good Samaritan House, 105 North Seminary St., P.O. Box 1104, Barre, VT 05641 (www.goodsamaritanhaven.org). Arrangements are in care of the des Groseilliers Funeral Home, 97 Church St. in Hardwick. Memories and condolences are welcome at dgunerals.com.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCH welcomes the first baby of 2022

Kempton and Carrie Randolph of Cabot with their child Keziah Anne, the first baby born at North Country Hospital in 2022. (Photo by Christopher Roy)

Christopher Roy, staff writer for *The Newport Daily Express*, reported January 5 the first baby of the new year born at North Country Hospital is Keziah Anne Randolph. Her parents are Kempton and Carrie Randolph of Cabot. The world welcomed Keziah Anne at 8:20 a.m., Tuesday. She weighed in at just over eight pounds.



Zara Skye O'Brien

Gwen and Seth O'Brien welcomed a beautiful baby girl to the world the morning of January 19, 2022! Meet Zara Skye O'Brien - 9 lbs 14 oz.

Through The Cabot Chronicle, the CCA promotes their mission to enhance the quality of community life for those residing, doing business, and visiting Cabot, VT. One aspect of that mission is to empower Cabot residents to participate in the governance and management of our town.

The Chronicle is dedicating a staff writer to cover select board and other meetings, for the purpose of keeping community members informed about issues discussed at meetings they might not be able to attend. Most meetings during this time of Coronavirus are available via Zoom for those who would like to listen in person. Instructions for joining meetings virtually through Zoom are posted regularly on Front Porch Forum, or you can call the Town Clerk's office for details at 563-2279.

To Mask Mandate or Not (Part 1)

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

NOTE: at the time of these meetings, the predominant COVID-19 strain was Delta, at the time of this writing it has become Omicron, which is generally considered more contagious.

The subject of a mask mandate was on the agenda for the December 7 Selectboard meeting. Mike Hogan started the discussion by explaining to those in attendance how he wanted the meeting to proceed and why the subject matter was being discussed. Mike stated that the governor wasn't interested in a mask mandate, and the state legislature wasn't interested in creating one, so they passed legislation authorizing individual towns to enact face covering rules.

Mike explained that it would not be an ordinance, if enacted, but a rule. When the Selectboard votes to adopt a rule, it remains in effect for 45 days. He told the public in attendance that there was no requirement for the board to take any action tonight, and they might continue the discussion in another meeting so everyone has a chance to speak. He noted that we are not epidemiologists, and this agenda item is about masks and the wording in any proposed rule.

Unlike some meetings in other parts of Vermont, everyone at this meeting was respectful and took their turn speaking from the designated table or on Zoom. This article is presenting the debate at the meeting and nothing stated as fact by anyone has been verified.

Lynn Maxfield was the first member of the public to speak, and stated her support for Amy in her stand. She explained that people can't breathe and can't see other people's smiles. She wants masks to be a choice. Gwen Hallsmith spoke next and commented in favor of a mask mandate since it significantly decreases the chance of spreading COVID.

Richard LaSalle then took his turn and stated he was opposed to a mandate. He said that after two years of pandemic, the authorities have been wrong all the time. We are the most vaccinated in the country with the highest caseload. He further stated that people can wear two masks because he is not wearing one. Susan Robinson spoke next in favor of the mandate and agreed with Gwen. She stated that the data does show that masks help protect against COVID.

Next up was Amy Hornblas, and she referred to a survey she conducted about the harm against any potential benefits of wearing a mask. She refuted the CDC and said they are not using high quality data. She called masks gas chambers on people's faces because they are experiencing three times the normal level of CO2.

Viki Palmer then presented a solution. She said the Selectboard should just follow the CDC guidelines. The guidelines base the mask requirement on how many cases you have in the town or county. She expressed that you can't tell whether someone without a mask is vaccinated, and if they are carrying COVID. She

added that she loves to shop at the village store but it makes her nervous, and if Montpelier has a mandate she would shop there instead.

Oliver Welters stated he was against a mandate, and thought it would be divisive because a mandate would have to be enforced. Elizabeth Vitale noted that there are already businesses that enforce a mask mandate, and she doesn't see it necessary for the board to mandate.

Cecilia Gulka also expressed that businesses should make that decision on their own. She stated that a cloth mask protects other people, and Delta is causing asymptomatic spread, which is different than other respiratory illnesses. She told everyone that she has been caretaking elderly people, and she has known people who have died in long term care facilities. She divulged that she is afraid of catching COVID and spreading it to the elderly.

Carrie Randolph revealed that she contracted Delta this past fall and was at Dartmouth for a week. She said she takes this seriously but is still letting people choose what they want to make them feel safe. She added that the cloth face masks really don't do much, we really need to be wearing N95 masks. She stated that the policy should be based upon science, but after two years we don't need more community conflict.

Mike responded to the worry about community conflict and said that most of the towns that have looked at a mandate have not put any enforcement in the rule. He expressed that it would probably break a town apart.

Greg Burt spoke as a business owner. He expressed concern about the people behind the counter that have to wear the mask all day. He said he thinks science is really inconclusive right now and that we need to respect people's personal beliefs. He told the board that he hopes they err on the side of giving people the freedom of making their own health decisions.

R.D. Eno recalled when there was a statewide mask mandate, and almost everyone who went into the village store wore a mask. He said if masks are mandated, people will wear masks even if they don't want to.

Allison Despathy, a resident of Danville, spoke next and said that we are all individuals, we have the right to make that decision for ourselves, everyone should have the choice of what they need to do to feel safe. We live in a free society, our decision about our health is our own. She stated that science will always be divided and people can best assess what is right for themselves and their families.

Jenn Miner, the emergency management coordinator, came forward and said that a lot of people have made a lot of valid points, and there is some validity to everything said. She noted that it has to be a personal decision, and there might be someone in this room that isn't wearing a mask for a medical reason.

Mike concluded the discussion by stating a decision would probably be made at the meeting next Tuesday.

To Mask Mandate or Not (Part 2)

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

NOTE: at the time of these meetings, the predominant COVID strain was Delta, at the time of this writing it has become Omicron, which is generally considered more contagious.

The conclusion of the mask mandate debate occurred on December 12 with a room full of mostly unmasked individuals, and many others connected through Zoom. Mike Hogan started out by noting if enacted it would be a temporary rule. However, by his count the current board opinion is 3:1 against enacting the rule. Mike said he felt it was important for the people in Cabot to speak their mind, and he would like to hear from people who didn't speak last week.

This article is only covering remarks by people that didn't speak in the first meeting regarding the face mask mandate.

Sarah Welters spoke first against the mask mandate specifically because she has small children that won't wear it. She relayed that over the last year they have become socially unwelcome.

Alexandra Jump took a turn and spoke in the capacity of an eldercare clinician. She said people she cares for are over 60 and homebound, and that she takes special precautions to ensure she doesn't bring COVID to them. However, she stated that a mask mandate puts undue pressure on businesses. She expressed that people have already made their decisions, and a mandate will create a dynamic that will just make it more divisive.

Ruth Goodrich then spoke about the mask mandate they have had in their facility since early 2020, and will continue as long as it takes. She relayed that most visitors are good about it, only a few have been a stick in the mud, and only one was asked to leave because they got nasty. She stated that she appreciates all who wear masks for the safety of others.

Jenn Boucher spoke in favor of a mask mandate. She mentioned she has many elders in her family that she wants to keep safe. She also said she is a caregiver for someone who is extremely immunocompromised. She expressed that if there is a sign on the door to wear a mask, most people will wear a mask.

Jason Monico stepped forward and said he opposes a mandate. He expressed it is ok if you want to wear a mask, if you don't, it's ok to chose not to. He noted that other states like Florida and Texas have already gone through the surge. He said

they currently have the lowest case rates, and at some point we will gain a natural immunity.

Beth Wade went next and said she wasn't going to argue about apples to apples and would just like to say, masking is more about source control, then protecting yourself. She continued stating that people are protecting others, not themselves when they wear a mask.

Christine Scalais asked the board to listen and keep an open mind. She stated she is in favor of a mask mandate. She revealed that she lost her mom to COVID-19 at the very beginning of the pandemic. She wondered if her mom would still be here if the woman she contracted it from was wearing a mask. She concluded by saying when she sees other people who wear a mask, she sees someone who is caring for the people around them.

Chris Tormey then stated he is in favor of a mandate for a short period of time. He noted that masks are not a perfect solution, it's one part of the solution. He continued by explaining how we are going into the holidays with the Delta variant and another variant coming at us from all over New England, and there is a need to protect everyone.

David added to the discussion by pointing out a nuance without expressing his opinion. He put forth that if people don't have to wear a mask, then when can the elderly access the store? And if people have to wear a mask, then when can people who don't wear them access the store?

Kurt Stienert focused on the new variant, stating it is much more transmissible. He added that it's not so preventable through the vaccine and we should exercise caution and require masks.

Allisa Mulligan shared that her sister had multiple myeloma, and she wore a mask and washed her hands constantly. It ended, but not because of COVID-19. She said they didn't ask the world to protect her sister, her sister just didn't go to certain places, and that's the best way to deal with the situation.

Allison Hogan was the last to speak, and talked of her 4-year old and 10-month old. She expressed that a mandate would actually cause her to shop at Walmart because her 4-year old will not keep the mask on. She felt that shopping at Walmart would be even more dangerous.

After hearing from the public, the board approved a motion from Mike to decline to act upon making a rule to require masks at locations open to the public.

Class 4 Roads

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

The subject of Class 4 roads was brought back to the Selectboard's attention at the first board meeting of the year, on January 4. Irv Robbins, who was consulted by the Selectboard at prior meetings, spoke during public comment. Irv started off by asking if the board had put any money in the budget for Class 4 roads, and if so, how would it be administered?

Mike Hogan responded with a no. He said to Irv that the last time the board discussed the subject, they decided to do an evaluation and that the board was not going to put anything in the budget until there is a plan. Mike expressed that putting a pile of money aside for a pile of gravel would not accomplish anything. He further conveyed that the board needs something before they can act upon it, that they need a plan. Mike also pointed (see Class 4 Roads, page 6)

Year in Review (Second Half)

Continued from December/January Edition

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

This is the second of two articles that summarize the actions taken by the Selectboard over the second half of 2021. Though there are many topics discussed at Selectboard meetings, not all topics require action (motions) and some topics do not conclude with a decision by the board and are left open.

The record of all meetings are the minutes, which are posted on the town website. According to the Vermont Secretary of State Guide to Open Meetings:

The open meeting law requires that minutes "give a true indication of the business of the meeting," covering all topics that arise. At minimum, minutes must include: the names of all members of the public body who are present at the meeting; the names of all other active participants; all motions, proposals, and resolutions made, and their dispositions; and the results of all votes, with a record of individual votes if roll call is taken. 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1).

This article only covers motions made by the board that carried but does not cover motions that involve town meeting articles, appointments, agendas, and minutes. To show the record, this article quotes the motions as recorded in the posted minutes. If the wording is not clear it is due to quoting the minutes directly.

Pandemic - The Selectboard was put in the position by the state legislature of having to make a decision, or not, regarding a face mask rule in places open to the public. The board dedicated two meetings to hear public opinion on the subject and the following excerpt from the minutes is a summary of the board's decision:

"At this point, Mike closed the comments. He then proposed a motion Cabot Select Board Decision Regarding a Temporary Face Mask Rule Requiring Individuals within the Town of Cabot to wear face coverings while indoors at locations open to the public. The Cabot Select Board declines to enact a temporary rule in the Town of Cabot requiring the wearing of face masks at locations open to the public. The Select Board understands that any kind of mandate would be very difficult to enforce and could be divisive and cause further division in the town. Therefore, we recommend that people respect the wishes of any local store owners or other public locations that request people to wear a mask upon entering their establishments. COVID is not going away, but please respect the opinions of others though they may be different than yours. The Select Bboard and our Emergency Management Coordinator will continue to monitor COVID caseloads pertaining to Cabot and other information coming out of the Governor's Office and the Department of Health. There was a second by Fred. Motion carried."

ARPA - The Selectboard is responsible for allocating and disbursing the funds received by the town under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds are approximately \$428,000 and can only be spent on things that are allowed under the act.

At the July 6th meeting of the Selectboard, the board did the necessary actions to set up what was required to receive ARPA funds:

"Mike moved that the Town/Village/City of Cabot accept its allocation of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the US Treasury, along with the Award Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements that are requirements of accepting these funds. This was seconded by Fred. Motion carried."

"Fred then moved that we appoint Michael J. Hogan to serve as the Town/Village/City's "Authorized Representative" as required by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the US Treasury, to sign the Award Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements by [x date] with a second by Matt."

"Mike then moved that we name Betty Ritter & Michelle Leclerc to be the "Contact Person" for the Town/Village/City's CLFRF Award from U.S. Treasury with a second by Matt. Motion carried."

At subsequent board meetings, the board allocated monies to specific expenditures:

Land Records Software - According to the information received from ARPA, the first thing is to allocate this money which will be under \$20,000. A motion was made by Mike to allocate under \$20,000 with a second by Ian, motion carried. We now need a motion to spend the ARPA money for the Land Records Software. Mike motioned that we spend under \$20,000 for Land Records Software with a second by Fred, motion carried."

Water, Office Equipment/Recycle/Wiley Building Repair Requirements ... A motion was made by Fred to approve ARPA funding for no more than \$30,000 to upgrade the Cabot Water System with a second by Ian, motion carried."

"We are able to purchase a new copier for the Town Clerk's office. Mike motioned that we approve the ARPA money of not more than \$3,000 for a new copy machine in the Town Clerk's Office with a second by Fred. Motion carried."

Finances - The board is responsible for the town's budget and authorization of loans. The following action was taken in the second half of 2021:

"Approve Line of Credit - Passumpsic Bank - Every year we have a line of credit from Passumpsic Bank in the amount of \$500,000. A motion was made by Mike with a second by Ian. Motion carried."

Grant Applications - the Selectboard must approve all grant applications made on behalf of the Town by its committees. The action was taken by the board:

"Trails Committee and Recreational Grant Application - Gary to looking for an approval of a grant application for parks and recreation in the amount of \$62,500... A motion to approve the Forest Parks and Recreation grant of \$62,500 over two years by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried."

Water/Wastewater - The board spent a lot of time this past year talking about repairs and upgrades to the water and wastewater plant. During the second half of the year, the board took these actions:

"Dufresne Engineering won the bid for the contract for mandatory evaluation of plant in the amount \$48,750. This will be

reduced by one-half after the certification is completed. ANR has a program to pay it off in five years with zero interest. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian, motion carried."

"Mike will be sending a letter (via email) to Agri-Mark for a pretreatment fund regarding the wastewater plant. We are not under obligation; this is just a letter supporting their efforts. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried."

Taxes - The board is responsible for approving loans and approving changes to the grand list, which is used for property tax calculations. The following actions were taken by the board during the first half of 2021:

"Errors and Omissions - There was a mistake in the Spectrum tax bill that creates a deficit in the grand list. The decimal was put in the wrong spot. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried."

"Errors and Omissions - Jeanne stated that the current use file is frozen, and she couldn't enter current use reductions into the system until Property Valuation and Review finished working with the files, which was after tax bills went out. There was no change to these property values, but tax due changed. The final one was three parcels merged into one. A motion was made to approve by Mike with a second by Fred. Motion carried."

Events & Permits - The board is responsible for approving Liquor Licenses and some events held in town. The following actions were taken by the board during the second half of 2021:

"Application for Special Event at Holiday Market-St. Johnsbury Distillery A motion by Mike to approve with a second by Fred. Motion carried."

"Cabot Arts is asking for a Resolution for Highway Closure for 12th Night. It will be from Danville Hill to the Wiley Building and will take 45 minutes. Mike moved that we do this with a second by Fred. Motion carried. Matt will come in and sign this also."

Ordinances and Policies - The board is responsible for enacting town ordinances and policies. An ordinance governs the residents of Cabot, whereas a policy governs how the town and its employees shall operate. The following policy was adopted by the board:

"Municipal Parking Policy - Mike read the policy and would like to add another line, which he read. This is a temporary policy until the Planning Commission

offers a new more detailed policy on the ballot for Town Meeting in 2022. This revision will be offered as a temporary policy. A motion was made by Ian with a second by Fred, motion carried.

Highway - in the later half of 2021, the board had several discussions regarding who will plow the sidewalks and fire hydrants in the village. This topic has been a topic since last winter. The following action was taken at the beginning of winter by the board

"Bid for Snow Removal on Sidewalks - A motion was made by Mike to hire an individual to clear the fire hydrants and sidewalks, with a second by Ian. Motion carried. An ad will be placed in the Times Argus, Caledonia Record papers, Front Porch Forum, and Cabot Connects starting next week."

Leases - the town leases Larry's Ballfield and the board is responsible for approving the contract. The following action was taken:

"The contract for the ball field needs to be approved. There is an addendum that needs to be added that we received from Agency of Natural Resources. Fred moved to approve the contract with the addendum about mowing with a second by Matt, motion carried."

Executive Sessions - The board entered executive session once in the second half of 2021. According to the Guide to Open Meetings, "a motion must be made in open session that indicates its reason for doing so..." The following lists the executive session motions:

"Personnel Issue Matt moved that we go into executive session with a second by Fred. Motion carried and we went into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m."

Actions cannot be taken during executive session and must be done after returning to an open meeting. Per the minutes,

"We came out of Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. and went back into open session. The SB met in Executive Session on July 20 to discuss the need for Aldo Nunn to pass his Class A license test. Having failed the second test, the Board hopes he can pass the third test on August 11, 2021. A motion was made by Mike to review his situation at that time. The Select Board is suspending the letter of February 2, 2021, and extending it to August 11, 2021, with a second by Fred. Motion carried."

Class 4 Roads

(continued from page 5)

out that Ian was going to work with Irv to evaluate the Class 4 roads.

Irv said "I have a hard time with that. I've heard the same song every year." He sympathized that money has always been tight. However, he recalled that the voters of Cabot had always passed the road budget, and that in the past people on class 4 roads had a small property tax reduction, but that ended in 2020.

Irv proposed that the board find out what the reduction of taxes were in 2019 for all the people on Class 4 road and apply that to Class 4 roads. He felt that those on Class 4 roads would then be paying their own way for improving and taking care of the Class 4 roads. Irv further identified that the Town of Cabot has set

a precedent since 1994, in that homes on Class 4 roads received a small reduction on the assessment which equated to a reduction in taxes. He explained that money would be important for anyone on Class 4 roads.

Irv continued to describe how some people on Class 4 roads will not do anything to help maintain the road while others plow and grade the road. He also pointed out that Class 4 roads were in much better shape many years ago, but the road crew seems to be stretched too thin.

Mike responded and said "I'm not disagreeing with you" and restated that class 4 roads need to be evaluated. He stipulated that until the board has a plan together, they don't know how much to put in the line item. Fred expressed agreement with Mike.

Selectboard Update

by Michael Hogan,
Chair Cabot Selectboard

Town Meeting 2022:

As of January 13, the Vermont House and Senate have approved S.172 (awaiting the Governor's signature), which allows municipalities to authorize alternative procedures for town meeting. Unfortunately, this year's Town Meeting looks like it will be postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis with all articles voted on by either Australian Ballot in person at the Willey Building on March 1, 2022, from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., or by mail in ballot.

The Selectboard at its 1/12/2021 meeting approved mail in ballots for the 2021 Town Meeting vote according to 2021-Act 60 passed by the Legislature. That same authority will carry forward to 2022 according to what the Legislature is proposing in similar legislation. Further details will be coming forth shortly with information on Front Porch Forum and the Town of Cabot Website.

FY2023 Budget for July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

The next fiscal year (FY 2023) budget that covers the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, has taken considerable work at multiple budget meetings. The Board has set aside an hour or two for special budget meetings each week to discuss expenses needed to meet the financial demands of the Town. At these meetings (10 to be exact), various entities of the town that comprise both the General and Highway Funds presented their FY2023 budget requests. We have had a fair amount of public input and that is very appreciated.

The Selectboard approved the following budgets amounts at its January 4, 2022, meeting to be voted on by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2022:

- FY2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) General Fund Operating Budget is \$693,815 as compared to last year's budget of \$674,200, an increase of \$19,615. There are no General Fund projects this year. All social service appropriations will be outlined in Article 22 and were fully funded as requested by the organizations that will be listed in the town report.

- The FY2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) Base Highway Operating Budget totals \$823,725 as compared to last year's base budget of \$818,840, an increase of \$4,885. There are no projects scheduled as we have finished the Porter Road Project that has been in the works for a couple of years. There will be some small patch paving and repairs in some needed areas.

ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act) Update:

The Federal Government has given the state of Vermont \$1.25 billion to be disbursed to all towns and municipalities throughout the state to be used for a variety of needs that have come out of the pandemic. Cabot will be receiving \$428,361 in two payments. The first has been sent to the town this year of \$214,180 and the second will come in the spring of 2022 for the remaining \$214,180. The town has until 2024 to obligate the monies and 2026 to spend all the funding for the various needs of the town.

The Selectboard has had various public meetings and will continue throughout the upcoming year and beyond to consider how these funds should be spent. Thus far the following has been allocated and spent:

- \$20,000 to digitize town records,
- \$30,000 for water system upgrades
- \$3,000 for color printer for town clerk's office
- \$25,000 allocated for youth librarian
- \$45,000 for wastewater system upgrades.

Other requests have come from various groups such as trails, recreation, and for Willey Building ventilation upgrades.



Cabot's CoD is OK, But CLA is Out of Whack

by Cabot Board of Listers
Jeanne Johnson, Jacqueline Lumbra, Brittany Butler

2020 was a terrible year to perform a town-wide reappraisal! Not that we had a choice: Cabot was mandated by the State to do so, according to statute, and we had begun the process to contract for that reappraisal in 2017.

The good news is that Listers were able to maintain the accuracy of the previous reappraisal values since 2006, through changes in ownership, construction updates and deterioration of properties over time. That made the money spent on the 2005/2006 reappraisal an excellent investment. It was accurate at the time of appraisal, and the Listers had the tools to maintain the accuracy of the data for more than twelve years.

2020 and COVID-19 brought a double whammy. Appraisers were not able to enter structures for health reasons, leaving interior inspection data dependent on conversations with homeowners, when possible, or appraiser speculation. We have no idea how much was missed in the way of added value or updates, and Listers never had the chance to review each parcel with the contracted reappraisers because of safety precautions required for doing business during a State of Emergency. On top of that, nationwide pandemic concerns fueled a hot Vermont real estate market, which was experienced across the state, not just in Cabot. Property sale prices \$100,000 and more over listed assessments, resulting in values up to 200% of appraised value, were not uncommon over the last two years, throwing the appraised value way below fair market value.

Year	Grand List (1% of total property value)	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	Coefficient of Dispersion (COD)
2021	\$164,764,120	87.95%	13.5%
2020	\$162,904,693	97.25%	7.71%
2019	\$160,610,608	99.26	27.47%
2018	\$159,711,539	99.84%	26.9%
2017	\$158,899,732	99.31%	32.38%
2016	\$159,287,640	100.75%	21.83%

You can see from the chart above that the 2017 order to reappraise was triggered by the CoD. After the 2019/2020 reappraisal, the CoD is well within limits. But the CLA fell to an unsatisfactory level within the first year after reappraisal.

A reappraisal is very expensive and intensive; it behooves us to bring that CLA within range as quickly as possible. Because this is a statewide problem, we are hoping the State will give us time to work on it. A significant effort on the part of Listers, in concert with our partners at the State, will be required to determine what actions we can take to make appraised values in town fair to all and closer to fair market value. We may need to conduct a partial reappraisal if we can isolate a particular class of property (e.g.: single family homes, farms, open land) or identify a particular part of town (e.g.: Joe's Pond, Coits Pond Road, Main Street properties) where prices are inconsistent. We will be working with the State to identify actions we can take to make appraisals fair and consistent without requiring another whole town-wide appraisal so soon after the 2019/2020 one. That would be a huge financial burden. Property owners may be hearing from Listers as we struggle to bring our listed values up to fair market value.

In Rory Thibault's article for the Cabot School Board this month, you can see the effect fluctuations in the CLA have on property tax bills.

Cabot Business Insider: New Year! New Website! New Idea!

by Janet Van Fleet

Have a look at my spiffy new website, still at <https://www.janetvanfleet.com>. I've kept the old site (that you know and love) intact and available on the Archive tab on the far right, so people who want to can still see all the other stuff I've done over the last 25 years!

The new idea is that I've started an e-commerce site, selling prints of my fun wine foil collages, my ABC book, and some of the original collages. You can have a look at what's for sale on the SHOP page on my website <https://www.janetvanfleet.com/shop> and, if you're interested in buying something, click on SHOP NOW to go (after a brief

re-direct notice that Google insists on doing) to the commerce site where people can order by credit card. I will be filling orders and speeding them on their way!

Feel free to share with anyone you think may be interested. And have a great New Year!





The Cabot Cafe

3075 Main St., Cabot, VT ~ (802) 560-5999

Serving a variety of baked goods, coffee, sandwiches, soup of the day

Sunday Take Home Meals
Classic & Creative Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
"Bringing Grilled Cheese to the next level!"

Starting January: We will have an expanded menu and inside seating

Check us out on facebook for specials and to preorder Sunday Take Home Meals

HOURS:

Wed: starting in January

Thurs: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sat: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2022 – WARNING TOWN OF CABOT – 2022

The Legal Voters of the Town of Cabot are hereby warned and notified that on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, the polls will be opened from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the Willey Building to vote by Australian Ballot to transact the following business:

Article 1. 1 Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on August 18, 2022, and November 17, 2022, by delivery to the Cabot Town Hall postmarked on or before that date; and, Establish that overdue taxes will bear interest at a rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5136; and, Establish the amount of the penalty charged by the collector of delinquent taxes for payments made after the due date for payment to eight percent of the tax collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1674(3)(A) (Australian Ballot).

Article 2. To elect a Selectperson for a term of two years (Australian Ballot).

Article 3. To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 4. To elect a Lister for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 5. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a term of one year (Australian Ballot).

Article 6. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 7. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 8. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 9. To elect a Library Trustee for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 10. To elect a Library Trustee for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 11. To elect a Cabot Community Investment Fund (CCIF) committee member for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 12. To elect a Willey Building Committee Member for a term of three years (Australian Ballot).

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Selectboard to sell a piece of property located on Danville Hill Road, Parcel Id #04-026.000, retrieved by tax sale of Debra Delouise Property estimated to be 21.90 acres in size, current assessed value of \$46,000 with the proceeds of the sale to be deposited in the General Fund as sale of land? [Australian Ballot]

Article 14. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$693,815.20 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$77,500 to come from income and \$616,315.20 from local taxes? [Australian Ballot]

Article 15. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$823,725.13 to repair and maintain the Highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$153,600 is to come from income and \$670,125.13 from local taxes? [Australian Ballot]

Article 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the Cabot Conservation Fund? [Australian Ballot]

Article 17. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve access to the Town Forest for the Abenaki people to gather medicine, food, and art materials? [Australian Ballot]

Article 18. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the Parking Policy addition to the Zoning Regulations to address parking needs in the village? [Australian Ballots]

Article 19. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot amend the Town Plan to include a map of the village area to maintain village designation as required by the State of Vermont? [Austrian Ballot]

Article 20. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot allow the Planning Commission to amend the Zoning Regulations by cleaning up typographical and grammar errors? [Australian Ballot]

Article 21. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot allow the Planning Commission to change the terminology from Zoning Board of Authority to Development Review Board to align with current Town practice? [Australian Ballot]

Article 22. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget \$846,615.50, at no expense to the Town of Cabot? [Australian Ballot]

Article 23. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the following appropriations? (All amounts listed below are approved as requested and included in Article 14) [Australian Ballot]

American Red Cross	500
A.W.A.R.E.	1,000
Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	500
Central Vermont Council on Aging	1,600
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice	3,650
CIRCLE	600
Family Center of Washington County	500
Friends of the Winooski River	600
Good Beginners of Central VT	300
Green Up Vermont	100
Joe's Pond Association	750
Kingdom Animal Shelter	500

Mosaic, formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team	350
Onion River Food Shelf	1,000
People's Health & Wellness Clinic	300
Twin Valley Senior Center	3,000
Vermont Association for the Blind	300
Vermont Center for Independent Living	165
Vermont Family Network	250
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force	100
Washington County Mental Health	1,600
Washington County Youth Service Bureau	250
West Danville Community Club	500
Woodbury-Calais Food shelf	139
TOTAL	\$18,554

REGISTER TO VOTE:

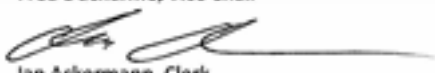
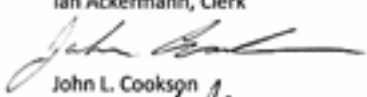
There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to vote on the day of election. You can register to vote prior to voting by visiting the Cabot Town Clerk's Office or going online to olvr.sec.state.vt.us. Registration will be available at the Town Clerk's office on any day prior to the election between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Registration will be available on Election Day during the hours the polls are open, which is 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Willey Building, 3084 Main Street, Cabot, VT.

BALLOTS: All ballots will be mailed to Town of Cabot registered voters. Ballots may be returned in advance of Town Meeting to the Town of Cabot Town Clerk's office by mail, in person, or at the drop box by the back door of the Willey building, received by 5:00 p.m. on March 1st. On Town Meeting Day, you may cast your ballot in the Town Clerk's office or ring the doorbell on the right side of the Willey Building back door for drive-through drop-off between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022.

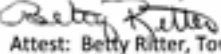
Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Cabot Selectboard held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Received and recorded in the records of the Cabot Town Clerk's Office, Cabot, Vermont, on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Hogan, Chair

Fred Ducharme, Vice Chair

Ian Ackermann, Clerk

John L. Cookson

Matthew Nally

Dated this 18th day of January A.D. 2022

Attest: Betty Ritter, Town Clerk
This Warning was recorded before posting. Attest: Betty Ritter, Cabot Town Clerk



ADVICE FROM THE TREE WARDEN

by Roland Payne, Jr.
Cabot Tree Warden

Winter is a wonderful time to go outside, get exercise and appreciate the trees in our local forests. Improving winter tree ID skills is a must for people interested in identifying the deciduous trees in the forests. During the summer months when leaves are present, identification by leaf shape is the main identifier of tree species for most of us. In the winter, relatively few of our deciduous trees have leaves present. Beech and oak trees typically retain some leaves during winter months, though the leaves change color, turning brown in the fall. The characteristic shapes of the beech and oak leaves are still present for means of tree identification. Beyond these two deciduous tree species, one must look at other means of identification for deciduous trees during the winter months. Other identifying characteristics useful for trees in winter include tree shape, twigs, buds, and bark. With the aid of a tree guide or a smartphone with an app for tree ID, these identifying traits can make winter tree ID a simple task.

In a dense stand of trees within the forest, the shape of an individual tree may be difficult to view, and tree shape is sometimes not available for tree identification purposes. A tree's twigs, buds, and bark will always be readily available to view and determine a tree species. Bark is a good identification means for most trees. Ash, white birch, and black cherry are all easy to identify by looking at only the bark. Ash has bark that is dark gray to brown with parallel ridges. White birch has bark that is white and paper like. Underneath the inner bark is bright orange. On young black cherry, the bark is red brown to black with white lenticels. Lenticels are one of the many raised pores on the stem of a woody plant that allows gas exchange between the atmosphere and the internal tissue. On older black cherry trees, the bark is broken into irregular plates that are dark and scaly. The terminal buds at the end of twigs and lateral buds along the sides of twigs have distinct colors, characteristics, and position which are good indicators for tree identification. The lateral buds are positioned on the sides of twigs in (see Tree Warden, page 9)

It's Income Tax Filing Season Again The Vermont Homestead Declaration:

<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

2022 Filing Deadline for Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit or Income Taxes is April 18. Even if you file an extension for reporting income, you must still file your HS-122 A&B by April 18.

Overview

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. Here is the information you as the property owner need to know about the Vermont Homestead Declaration.

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either nonhomestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile.

All property is considered **nonhomestead** (formerly "nonresidential"), unless it is declared as a **homestead**. The education property tax rate levied on nonhomestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:

- You are a Vermont resident
- You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, 2021

Filing Deadlines

You must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If you file after April 15, your municipality may assess one of the following penalties:

- Up to a 3% penalty if the nonhomestead (formerly "nonresidential") rate is higher than the homestead education property rate,
- Up to 8% if the nonhomestead rate is lower than the homestead education property tax rate.

If you fail to file your declaration by the October 15 filing deadline, your property will be classified as nonhomestead. You then must pay the higher of the two rates, a

penalty, and any additional property tax and interest due.

Property Tax Credit Overview

The Vermont Property Tax Credit assists many Vermont homeowners with paying their property taxes. You may be eligible for a property tax credit on your property taxes if your property qualifies as a homestead and you meet the eligibility requirements. The maximum property tax credit is \$8,000.00

Eligibility

To file a property tax credit, you must meet **ALL** of the following eligibility requirements:

Your property qualifies as a homestead, and you have filed a Homestead Declaration for the current year's grand list.

You were domiciled in Vermont for the full prior calendar year.

- You were not claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer.

- You have the property as your homestead as of April 1.

You meet the household income criteria (see form for current year income limit).

How to File

You need to file the following two forms to apply for a property tax credit. You can submit your claim electronically when you file your Vermont Income Tax return.

- Form HS-122, Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim

- **Section A:** Homestead Declaration

- **Section B:** Property Tax Credit Claim Schedule HI-144, Household Income. Learn how to determine household income at <https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/household-income>.



Tree Warden

(continued from page 9)

either an opposite or alternate configuration. For terminal and lateral buds, other traits may be described, such as smell or taste. As you learn more about winter tree identification, the methods of identification used during the winter will become useful during the summer, making tree ID easier. A good tree guide will also have multiple photos and thorough descriptions of twigs, terminal buds, lateral buds, and bark characteristics for each tree species in the field guide. Using tree ID apps such as LeafSnap, iNaturalist or PlantNet are great options if you choose to carry your smart phone while out hiking, snowshoeing, or cross country skiing this win-

ter. A tree guide, though larger than most smartphones, is also a great choice. A simple Ziplock bag will keep your field guide dry in your pack or pocket during even the most inclement weather. Enjoy your time outside recreating this winter, improve your tree ID skills, and learn more about the trees in our local forests as you go. Good field guides for tree identification are below. Forest Trees of Vermont by Trevor Evans is available at the Cabot library.

The National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees by Elbert L. Little

Forest Trees of Vermont by Trevor Evans

National Wildlife Federation Field guide to Trees of North America by Bruce Kershner

What Are Selectboard Candidates Thinking? Q&A for Selectboard Candidates for Election



by Jeanne Johnson, Editor

Once again, because of pandemic precautions, *The Cabot Chronicle* and Cabot Community Association are not sponsoring a candidate forum to allow candidates and voters the opportunity to discuss issues in person, but we CAN ask questions and bring you the answers. Our goal is to empower voters to make informed choices at the ballot box by bringing them information they want.

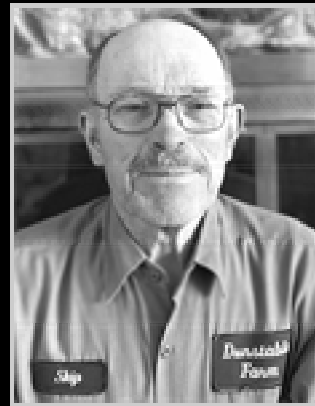
Candidates for open seats on the Cabot Select Board are not required to register their candidacy until the day before we send *The Cabot Chronicle* to the printer. For that reason, we are not able to bring you answers from candidates in this issue, but we will print them in the March edition, which will be mailed February 24, before Town Meeting Day voting March 1.

For early voters, we will make those answers available through other means

by the time you receive your ballots in the mail from the Town Clerk mid-February. We will post the questions and answers on the CCA website (CabotVermont.org) and share them through Front Porch Forum and the Cabot Connects Town Bulletin Board on facebook.com.

QUESTIONS WE WILL ASK SELECTBOARD CANDIDATES:

1. What do you think is the most important issue facing the Selectboard?
2. What strategies will you use to solicit opinions of Cabot residents?
3. What has the pandemic taught you about how the Selectboard could better serve the needs of Cabot residents?
4. How do you think the Selectboard can engage local businesses and organizations to facilitate economic development?
5. How do you propose to ensure the Town uses ARPA funds in a fair and equal way to benefit all residents of Cabot?
6. What would you suggest the Selectboard do to improve communication with the Creamery?



**WALTER
'SKIP'
BOTHFELD, JR.**

RUNNING FOR SELECTBOARD TWO-YEAR TERM

**AFTER 30 YEARS
AS FIRE CHIEF,
IT'S TIME TO TRY
SOMETHING DIFFERENT
I WANT TO HELP THE
TOWN MOVE FORWARD**

The Cabot Chronicle Submission Guidelines



The Chronicle welcomes letters written with an economy of words. The maximum length is recommended to be no longer than 400 words. Letters may be edited for clarity and length or returned to the author with suggestions for re-submittal. All letters and commentary published in *The Cabot Chronicle* represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the opinions of staff.

The Cabot Chronicle reserves the right to reject letters that may contain unsuitable material for our readers. Letters will not be considered for publication unless signed and accompanied by a phone number. We will gladly consider articles and photographs for publication.

The Cabot Chronicle is not responsible for errors in submitted material. Nor does *The Cabot Chronicle* assume responsibility for claims arising in connection with products or services advertised on these pages. If you have editorial questions or would like advertising information, call at 802-279-6897, visit our website, www.CabotVermont.org or email us at inbox@cabotchronicle.org. Letters and other inquiries can also be sent to: The Cabot Chronicle, P.O. Box 245, Cabot, VT 05647.



Cabot School
Respect.Responsibility.Kindness.Engagement.

by Rebecca Tatistcheff, Principal

Dear Cabot Community,

In June of 2021, we welcomed you back into our community for a final Exhibition of Learning. This outdoor showcase featured work produced by our high school students. Students and community members gathered around a fire in June to hear original stories in the style of a *hero's journey*. They spent time at the river learning about the health of the Winooski watershed and educated folks around labor movements. And we were able to hear the band play on CSPAC lawn. We ended the 2019-2020 school year with a closing circle on the common, graduation outside, and a moving up ceremony to usher in the senior class and welcome our newest faculty members. Joy and hope characterized the end of the school year.

This sentiment has continued. This year we have focused our energy on truly being One School. One Community. One Crew. In this report, I outline some of the major accomplishments we have experienced this year as well as the continued challenges that education within a pandemic calls for us to address. I hope that, as you read, you can share in my amazement and joy at the strength and resilience of our small community.

One School: At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the Instructional Leadership Team met to reflect on our work and to plan forward into the new year. As a result of that work, we devised a k-12 scope and sequence that built on our work of identifying Graduation Expectations that reflect 21st Century skills necessary for students to successfully bridge their local goals with a global economy. There is a curriculum map of projects from grade k-12 and collectively we committed to our values of Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and Engagement in all grades. We meet across grade levels to talk about our work and, as a result, there is greater consistency in students' experiences across the school. On a k-12 campus, it is easy to become divided into three disparate schools. We have made a conscious effort to break down those boundaries.

- Adults engage with each other in what we call Staff Crew. These heterogeneous groups offer staff the opportunity to get to know each other across the school and share their practice.

- Students meet in cross grade collaborations; 5th and 6th graders joined the 7th and 8th grade choral students. Students hike together in multi-grade groupings at the beginning of the year and created tie-dye shirts symbolizing their unique contributions to a common community.

- A student leadership team comprised of students from grades 6-12 meets weekly to plan for school-wide events. Collaborative co-teaching teams now support multi-grade classes throughout the school. From grades 1-12, students experience flexible and multi-age grouping that reflects the developmental and personalized needs of each student. In

the elementary grades these partnerships include a Special Educator and General Educator for each classroom.

One Community: Cabot School is, as you know, uniquely positioned as a pre-k to 12 school located in one township. Your school is literally and figuratively a part of the village community. This year we made a conscious effort to acknowledge the position of Cabot School as a community school. We were awarded a three-year grant under Act 66, the Community Schools Act. The first year of this grant brought us over \$160,000 in additional funding to build connections between the school community and wider Cabot community. Highlights from this work include:

- An increased partnership with local arts organizations. Cabot Community Theater hosted an afterschool program this fall that was made possible by the joint efforts of Community Theater and funding that allowed us to bridge the timing gap between the school day and afterschool programming.

- The hiring of a Community Coordinator to build a robust and sustainable afterschool program based on student interest, family need, and wider community involvement.

- The development of localized and personalized internship programming for our High School Seniors.

- The use of the Willey Building as a site for our Exhibition of Learning on the lives and cultures of Indigenous Peoples.

- Visits to local and regional museums.

- Increased availability of Siskin Outdoor Leadership Programming.

The reboot of the Cabot School Parent Teacher Organization which partnered with the Rec Committee to host the Trunk or Treat and Halloween Walk.

These are just examples of some of the ways in which we are continuing to partner with local and regional resources to build bridges between the school day and out of school opportunities.

One Crew: We talk a lot as a school community about "being Crew" and the phrase "we are crew not passengers." In times like the one we are in where uncertainty and disruption are part of our everyday lives, it truly takes a Crew to be able to sustain the work of educating our young learners. Our staff and students step in and step up consistently this year to manage an ever-evolving COVID-19 situation and keep school open and vibrant. As Crew we have:

- Ensured that there is a cohesive testing system in place along with other mitigation strategies to create a healthy space for students to learn.

- We have worked to be flexible as families continue to navigate their personal choices in a pandemic world. This has meant delivering food and work to homes, checking in with families regularly when there is need, and operating across the school to cover classes when staff shortages occur.

- Our students have worked to be helpful

members of the community across the school, working in partnership with classroom teachers in younger grades to support and mentor young learners, helping in the kitchen, clearing the ice rink, tending to our gardens, and maintaining trails in the woods that a landowner graciously allows for our use.

As Crew we continue to work to educate all our students, who have a range of academic, social, and emotional needs, and all of whom have experienced significant disruption in learning. This means assessing students where they are and building their proficiency as readers, writers, mathematicians, artists, historians, and scientists.

We are working together and building our collective sense of responsibility and accountability to each other.

Cabot School FY23 Budget Update

by Rory Thibault,
Cabot School Board Chair

On January 13, 2022, the Cabot School Board voted to approve the FY 2023 school budget proposal – projecting a minor increase of 1.7% on the tax rate, or \$0.03 per \$100 of assessed value.

For this year's budget cycle we had two primary goals: (1) ensure stability and consistency in staffing and programming, and (2) to minimize any impacts on Cabot taxpayers. We believe the proposed budget meets these goals. Here are some highlights:

- Per pupil expenditures are below the "excess spending threshold" – meaning we would not be subject to a penalty (note: the legislature suspended enforcement of the penalty in FY22 & FY23).
- We added equalized pupils to Cabot School this year, favorably impacting the tax rate, and more importantly, enriching the community with new families and classmates for our students.
- The Board did not add new programming or cut programming/instructional positions. The increase in total expenditures are tied primarily to a change in state funding for special education, increases in salary and benefits for school staff, and allocations to cover inflation related to higher costs for fuel, transportation, services, etc. .
- The Statewide property tax yield rate changed favorably, but this positive impact was offset by a large drop in Cabot's common level of appraisal (CLA) value – in simple terms, Cabot property values appreciated significantly versus the assessed values on record, resulting in upward pressure on the tax rate (please read Jeannie

As I write this, I am looking out the windows of the school onto the common where our young people play alongside older generations skating and wassailing together. It reminds me of how we begin and end the year, in a circle on the common, the literal and figurative centerpiece of our collective community. It is in these moments that I am reminded that it will be small and local communities that ultimately prevail with hope and joy in these uncertain times. This work is, for all of us here at Cabot School, deeply personal and could not be done without the support of the caring and kind community that is Cabot.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Tatistcheff, Ed. D
Principal

Johnson's informative article in this edition of the Chronicle). Neither of these metrics is controlled by the Board, but it is worth noting that, if not offset by other factors and spending decisions, the change in CLA would have resulted in a \$0.10 cent increase by itself!

As noted, consistency was a big goal for this budget cycle. In the past five years, the Cabot School has right-sized and restructured its school programs and staffing, and also began the process of changing how special education services are delivered to increase efficiency. Adding to the challenge of these changes has been the need for faculty and staff to face down the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are cautiously optimistic that FY 2023 will be the year we finally get to enjoy the benefits of stability and that the Cabot School community can focus exclusively on making sustained gains in educational outcomes.

The demands on our educators and staff have never been higher – in addition to teaching, the Cabot School team has had to serve as de facto public health officials, administering contact tracing and testing protocols, while they still work to fill the gaps between student needs and what other community-based services can offer. The Board is incredibly grateful for the professionalism demonstrated by Cabot's educators and staff, and their flexibility and commitment to our students during this challenging time.

On behalf of the Board, I humbly request that Cabot voters support this budget on Town Meeting Day. An informational meeting will be held via Zoom on February 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., and voting will be by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Willey Building.



HAPPY PRESIDENTS' DAY

**CABOT TOWN OFFICE
CLOSED**

**In honor of Presidents' Day
Monday, February 21, 2022**

CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING
FOR
March 1, 2022
VOTE

The legal voters of the Cabot School District who are residents of the Town of Cabot, are hereby notified and warned to meet at their polling place, the Willey Building, 3084 Main Street, Cabot, VT on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 between the hours of seven (7:00) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7:00) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close; to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:

ARTICLE 1

Shall the voters of the Cabot School District vote to establish the Central Vermont Career Center School District as described in the Governance Planning Committee Report approved by the State Board of Education on December 13, 2021?

ARTICLE 2

To elect four members to the Central VT Career Center School District for the ensuing term commencing March 2, 2022 as follows:

- One at-large director from Barre Unified Union School District to serve a term of three years.
- One at-large director from Harwood Unified Union School District to serve a term of three years.
- One at-large director from Montpelier Rouben Public Schools to serve a term of one year.
- One at-large director from Washington Central Unified Union School District to serve a term of two years.

The legal voters and residents of Cabot School District are further warned and notified that an informational meeting will be held virtually by the Central VT Career Center on February 15, 2022 for the purpose of explaining the articles to be voted on by Australian ballot.

The legal voters of Cabot School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said election shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Cabot School District held on January 13, 2022. Received for the record and recorded in the records of the Cabot School District on January 14, 2022.

ATTEST:
Betty Ritter
Betty Ritter, Clerk

Ellen Cairns
Ellen Cairns
Michael Taub
Michael Taub

Chris Tormey
Chris Tormey, Vice Chair

Frank Kampf
Frank Kampf

Cabot School District Board of School Directors

CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Cabot School District, Cabot, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 to transact the following business by Australian Ballot. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Willey Building, 3084 Main St, Cabot, VT 05647

The School Board will hold an informational hearing via electronic conference (Zoom) on Monday, February 28th at 6:30pm to discuss all articles as warned below. A separate meeting notice with information for Zoom will be posted.

- Article 1.** To elect a School District Moderator for a term of one (1) year.
- Article 2.** To elect a School Director for a term of three (3) years.
- Article 3.** To elect a School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article 4.** To elect a School Director for a term of one (1) year to complete the term of a vacated seat.
- Article 5.** Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Cabot School Board to expend three million four hundred seventy-eight thousand three hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$3,478,377.00) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,965.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is a 4.6% increase in spending compared to the current year.
- Article 6.** Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2023 in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?
- Article 7.** Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Board of School Directors to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2023 in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

Dated at Cabot, Vermont 1-20-2022

Rory Thibault
Rory Thibault
Frank Kampf
Frank Kampf
Ellen Cairns
Ellen Cairns

Chris Tormey
Chris Tormey
Michael Taub
Michael Taub

Attest:
Betty Ritter
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk 1-20-2022
Date

Lisa Olson

For Cabot Selectboard 2-year term



Hello everyone,

I moved to Cabot in 2010 so that our four children could attend Cabot's middle and high school. I served on the Cabot Schoolboard for seven years, from March 2014 to June of 2021. I am currently the Assistant Preschool Teacher at Walden School.

I am interested in helping the town of Cabot to attract young families with children to our community. The more children we have to send to our school, the more affordable our school taxes become. I believe that it is important to grow our stock of affordable housing, help establish more childcare options in Cabot and strengthen the relationships among the various stakeholders in our community.

I would be honored to receive your vote on Town Meeting Day and will do my best to serve the Town of Cabot to the best of my abilities.

New Governance Model Proposed for the Central Vermont Career Center

by Chris Tormey

High school students in towns across central Vermont have for years had the opportunity to develop skills in a variety of fields- ranging today from building trades and electrical technology to natural resources and digital media arts at the Central Vermont Career Center in Barre. The Career Center (formerly known as "the tech center" or "Barre Tech") currently offers one- or two-year programs in 12 disciplines on the campus of Spaulding High School. This year these programs attracted over 350 applicants but could accept less than 300 due to space and staffing limitations.

Although students from six different school districts (Barre, Montpelier, U-32, Harwood, Cabot and Twinfield) cur-

rently benefit from the career preparation offered by the Career Center, at this time its budget is annually developed by the Barre School Board and voted on only by residents of Barre. On Town Meeting Day voters in all of the school districts now served by the Career Center will vote on a proposal to form a new Central Vermont Career Center School District that would, if approved, permit residents of all towns served by the Center to have input and make decisions on its programs, budget, and future growth. The attached flier provides more detail on the benefits of forming this school district. If the proposal is approved, it will not change how the Center is funded or property-tax bills in individual towns

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CHRONICLE

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inbox@cabotvermont.org

A Somewhat Short History of Cabot's CCIF (UDAG) Fund History

by Peg Elmer Hough

If the request were made at town meeting, "How many of you have been involved in managing the Cabot Community Investment Fund (CCIF) over the years?" a LOT of hands would go up! For thirty years, so many volunteers (including me in the mid 1990's) have served to manage the fund and distribute the scholarships.

Earlier this year, the CCA Economic Development Workgroup asked the VT Department of Housing & Community Development for grant funding to demolish the brown building at 3065 Main Street. The state responded that "the Town of Cabot won't be competitive until it accounts for what happened to the \$2 million" awarded as an Urban Action Development Grant (UDAG). This was not the first time the town was confronted with this question, so I decided it was time to pull together an answer.

I had been told by numerous people that there was no clear record of the fund on file. RD Eno served on the then UDAG committee for a long time and did have some old files, including the original history of the fund, that he allowed me to borrow and review. I read all of those documents, old Town Reports, and researched on the web, which resulted in the following story of the CCIF fund, formerly known as UDAG.

The Town of Cabot, VT, was formally awarded a federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) via an agreement executed October 1, 1986. The \$2 million grant to the town was loaned to Cabot Farmers' Cooperative to construct the cheese aging warehouse, cutting plant and waste disposal facilities, and make other improvements on the company's Cabot property. The town received and loaned the funds back to the Cooperative in 1991.

The federal UDAG program was initiated during the Carter administration in 1977, to lure private investment development to distressed and declining cities – a novel incentive for public/private partnerships. Eligibility criteria emphasized deteriorating urban conditions. Viewed as a pork barrel failure by some and a huge success by others, Congress stopped funding the program in 1988. A table on the US HUD website lists approximately 3,000 grantees, with more than 50% noting "no information available" and a considerable number indicating that the recipient corporation failed at some point later. Even though the program was not targeted to a small, rural town, Cabot proved a success story.

Agri-Mark, a large New England dairy cooperative, and the Cabot product family purchased the Cabot Farmer's Cooperative and has expanded since 1986 into a national, award-winning brand. The town used the funds to build a wastewater treatment plant, a senior living community, a town garage, accessibility and other upgrades to the Willey Building, improvements to the Cabot School and other public buildings in the village, along with starting the Cabot Community Association that has spun off innumerable volunteer organizations to support Cabot School, cultural activities, working lands, village center revitaliza-

tion, a community newspaper and more.

The initial agreement listed construction requirements for the Creamery, including paying the loan back to the town, which was done by 1996. The Town was to spend those funds for activities "eligible under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, in accordance with the grant agreement and in accordance with the provisions of 24 CFR Part 570". At the time, 24 CFR 570 was aimed at a mix of economic development, education & training and housing activities. In the 30+ years since, that section of the Federal Register has gravitated to address solely housing and no longer applies.

However, the closeout agreement between the federal government, the Town, and the Creamery, executed in April 1992, noted that, once the agreed-on activities were completed, the funds would be considered "miscellaneous revenues" and could be spent on any activities "eligible under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974" and "not governed by 24CFR 570".

After a voter petition and town meeting action, Cabot created a committee to oversee use of the funds and develop a plan to guide the fund's distribution and procedures. This provided several benefits, including a secondary level of accountability, and expanded volunteer capacity in a small town with little staff. Also, the plan has been a carefully thought-out guide, approved by voters, on distribution of the funds. In the beginning, Central VT Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC) supported the town in developing loan review and approval procedures. Over time, the town has used Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC), Union Bank and others for that service. Most local Vermont banks and credit unions have fielded questions from the Cabot UDAG Committee over time.

Initially, the plan described four funding areas: commercial loans to existing Cabot businesses and residents, loans for public works, educational loans for residents who planned to work in Cabot and development of an "incubator building" in South Cabot. The plan evolved regularly, to allow for more flexibility and broader access to support community development. The first three funding areas remained for 30+ years, the incubator building idea disappeared early.

The closeout agreement, executed April 1992, included a specific condition that Cabot "use, and not accumulate the revenue...in a timely fashion". The town was also supposed to provide an annual accounting on use of the money to the regional U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) office in Concord, NH, and hasn't. Oops.

When the Cabot voters approved the first UDAG Plan in 1991, it included a goal (among others) to "preserve the fund in perpetuity to serve the greatest number of people in the community". The Town maintained an active conversation with Richard Hattin at the regional U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) office in Concord, NH, in the early years and sent him Plan drafts. It appears both the Town and the regional office were not reading each other's documents. At least

two members of the UDAG Committee in 1997 remember a letter from Richard Hattin that stated that the Town "asked too many questions" that he "couldn't really answer". Cabot felt it was on its own.

The "in perpetuity" goal remained in the Plan and became embedded in the political leadership of the Town until 2004, when it was revised to "manage and use the Fund to be able to continue to meet the long-term needs of the community". The Committee's repeated requests to the Selectboard to hire a part-time administrator finally happened in 2001 for a brief time, but the UDAG Committee has been supported only by volunteers for a long time.

In 2013, the name of the UDAG Committee was changed to the Cabot Community Investment Fund.

Summary of UDAG distribution, 1992-2020, from the information in

Town Reports:

- Grants for Public Facilities and Community Life: ~\$1.92 million
- Loans for Public Buildings: \$1.64 million
- Commercial Loans: listed in only a few Town Reports, but at least \$270,000
- Educational Grants: ~\$175,000 to more than 100 recipients

The small town that received a massive \$2 million grant that it was told to spend, has managed the Fund carefully for more than 30 years and spent close to \$4 million on important community infrastructure. Wow, excellent job, Cabot!

Have we satisfied state and federal granting agencies questions of "What happened to the \$2 million Urban Action Development Grant (UDAG) awarded to Cabot?" Find out in the next installment of this story that will appear in the March issue of the Chronicle.



Authors Jane Brown, left and Patty Conly signing their history book, *West Danville, Vermont, Then and Now, 1782-2021*, published in December, 2021, by the Danville Historical Society. The book has nearly 400 pages that cover good times and hardships as the community of West Danville at Joe's Pond, was settled, grew and became what it is today. There are stories about people in Cabot and Walden, as West Danville was a business hub once the railroad came and impacted the development of this area. There are some 300 photographs and maps included, many never seen before. This is a treasure-trove of information gathered from old newspapers, town records, personal diaries and recollections. Brown, Conly, and the late Dorothy Larrabee, worked over a period of eight years researching and verifying material and sorting photographs to write this important historical record. With the invaluable assistance of editor Linda Bishop, graphic artist Randee Leightcap who prepared photographs and maps, and final layout and design by Peggy Tuttle of Foster Design, it is available at the Stop-Inn Shop in Walden, Hastings Store in West Danville, the History & Heritage Center in St. Johnsbury, or at the Danville Historical Society on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The cost is \$45. Please add \$7.00 S&H if you need one mailed to you. Contact the Danville Historical Society for more information at book@danvillevt Historical.org or call them at 802-684-2055.



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CABOT COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you to all the wonderful community volunteers who made it possible, sharing energy, money, and time



We could never have enjoyed that great day without generous help with baking delicious and photo-worthy desserts
Delivering meals on a snowy, icy day
Donating locally-grown vegetables
Preparing and cooking pans and pans of turkey, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, squash and rolls
Cleaning up after all that cooking and packaging
Paying for Cabot Chronicle ads
Contributing money for items we had to purchase

Thank you, it was a great day!

Mark Your Calendars for Christmas Day Next Year
With Gratitude, Shirley and Fred Ducharme

CABOT ARTS SHOW AND TELL

Taking a Break for February

Cabot Arts Show and Tell invites visual artists (folks that make things we can see) of all kinds to join us once a month on a Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Willey Building for discussion of works presented and happenings in the area.

Roz Daniels



Cabot FREE Food Shares

Wednesday, February 9th

Wednesday, February 23rd

12:00 - 2:00 PM

Neighbors Online Book Club

Starting Tuesday, February 15th

Let us know if you are interested in joining by
emailing smasland@faithinactionvt.org.

Soul Flow Yoga

Wednesdays at 6:00 & Saturdays at 1:00

www.faithinactionvt.org
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1938 Hurricane



by Peter Dannenberg
Cabot Historical Society

During the night of September 21, 1938, my wife's grandmother, Eva May (Clough) Joyal, held her four children at the foot of the stairs in their Cabot Village home. She prayed they would be safe from a howling gale and flying debris outside. They were, but Vermont lost five lives in New England's worst hurricane.

Vermont had few deaths, but the Northeastern Seacoast was decimated. The storm hit with no warning. Ships were warned to avoid the area and antennas snapped, so there were few radio reports. Predictions were it would stay at sea. Instead, it crashed into Long Island in mid-afternoon. The monster screamed into Connecticut and Rhode Island at 60 miles per hour. Gusts tripled wind speeds. The storm surge dragged hundreds of shore homes into the sea and sank thousands of boats.

The "Long Island Express" killed almost 700. It destroyed or damaged more than 57,000 homes. It took months to clear washed-out back roads.

In Rhode Island winds funneled high tide into Narragansett Bay, straight at downtown Providence. A 40-foot-high wall of water slammed the coast. Sea-water flooded city streets to 14 feet. It was quitting time. Commuters drowned in cars carried off by the torrent. Rhode Island had 400 deaths; in Massachusetts, 99 died.

Charging up the Connecticut River, the storm veered across the Green Mountains. Skies turned yellow, then black. Heavy rains the week before worsened flooding. Some towns had more damage than in the 1927 flood. Power and telephone lines tore apart. Roofs, siding, and barn doors flew from buildings. Rain fell and wind howled until 9:00 p.m.

Wind toppled one-third of New England's forest. More than 2,000 miles of Vermont roads were blocked, some for months. In Montpelier, salt spray, from 120 miles away, was on windows. Winds leveled orchards and sugar woods. A sugar maker in Cabot lost 2,600 of 3,500 maples; a Walden sugar maker lost 4,000.

The hurricane uprooted the equivalent of five years of New England's timber harvest. The Forest Service reduced forest fire threats and salvaged logs before insects and rot ruined them. It cre-

ated the Northeastern Timber Salvage Administration (NETSA) to harvest, process, purchase, store, and set prices of timber.

In the 1930s, the Great Depression meant people struggled to make ends meet. Unemployment did not fall below ten percent, until the US entered World War II in 1941.

President Roosevelt created jobs in the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, and other relief programs. The crews did hazard removal. A logger quipped, "FDR tried to make jobs for years; the hurricane did it in five hours." Clean up went on for almost three years.

In cold weather, there is no danger from insects, stains, or decay, but, in warm weather, logs deteriorate. NETSA stored wind-thrown logs under water or under cover, until sawing into lumber. The first logs arrived 60 days after the hurricane.

NETSA did not log; it paid owners 90 percent of the value of salvage. They set up more than 800 receiving sites, bought and stored logs, sawed or contracted for sawing, and sold lumber.

NETSA ended in 1944. It bought more than 660 million board feet of saw logs and 35,000 cords of pulpwood from 13,000 owners. NETSA salvaged nearly half the blowdown. Lumber dealers and manufacturers bought it to build barracks and ship interiors in the war. The program saved hundreds from economic ruin.

In Vermont, active farmland meant smaller forests than in more urban states. The hurricane ripped up woodlots and sugar bush. Maple syrup was a vital cash crop for Vermont farmers. Many barely stayed afloat in the depression. Trees were farmers' "bank accounts," when bank failures wiped out life savings. Loss of sugar bushes and orchards rang the death knell of scores of hill farms. Many could not farm and also clear tangles of downed trees to haul logs.

Hardwood trees grew in Vermont's abandoned fields. Brilliant fall foliage replaced vacated hill farms. Today, autumn tourists enjoy stunning scenery planted by the 1938 killer storm.

Weather forecasting is better now, but warmer seas spawn knock-down tempests more often. There is still little choice but seek shelter, batten down the hatches, and wait for gales to pass.



CABOT PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

by Kathleen Hoyne,
Library Director

The Cabot Public Library is open! Come visit in person **Monday 3pm – 6pm, Tuesday noon – 6pm, Wednesday 2pm-6pm, Thursday 9am-6pm and Saturday 9am-noon. Curbside library service will still be available during regular library hours.**

Two new youth programs are underway at the Cabot Public Library. Please call the library at 563-2721 or email amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to attend an upcoming session.

Graphic Novel Club (ages 11-14) - Wednesdays 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM - January 12th - March 23rd

Do you love reading graphic novels or drawing your own characters, storyboards or comics? Do you want to talk with other comic-loving kids? Then come join us as we explore new titles and revisit old favorites!

Be in It - Yoga, Mindfulness and Community Service Program (ages 15-18) - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month - 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM - January 13th - March 24th

Learn techniques to calm your mind and relax your body. Get involved in community service projects that make an impact! *Hours can count toward H.S. community service requirements.*

Outdoor Story and Activity Time has been postponed until further notice but don't let that stop you from coming to the library to pick out books or sign out one of our many **Storytime Kits!** We have several snow kits in addition to our dinosaur, rain, color and frog kits. Each kit comes with books, materials for crafts, sensory activities and handouts. In addition, you can access the corresponding PDF (found on our website under the "Library Resources" tab) with links to songs, videos, healthy snack recipes and ideas for additional crafts and activities.

Cabot Book Group – The new series will be African American Experience: The Harlem Renaissance, facilitated by Vermont Humanities Council scholar,

Gina Logan. All are welcome! “During the 1920s, New York’s Harlem neighborhood hosted an explosion of African-American cultural expression. This series features a history of the era alongside texts that have come to define it.” The remaining two sessions are as follows:

Thursday, February 24th – 2pm – Plum Bun – Jesse Redmond Fauset
Thursday, March 24th – Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston

Librarian’s Picks: A few of my recent favorite reads:

The Night Watchman – Louise Erdrich – She’s such a master storyteller. This book really opened my eyes and heart to issues stemming from legislation in the 1950’s threatening land rights for Native Americans. The backstory is so suspenseful; it’s hard to put down.

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest – Suzanne Simard – Suzanne comes from a family of loggers in British Columbia and has a strong hunch that there has to be a better way than clear-cutting. Her commitment and persistence in devising experiment after experiment against a community of disbelievers is so inspiring. A great look at the life of a scientist in the field. Very readable.

Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art – James Nestor – I’m not even halfway through this book and I can’t stop thinking about it. A book that can literally change your life. Nestor writes about some amazing science on breathing that ancient cultures have known for centuries that will surely surprise you.

Thanks so much to the Library Trustees for their ongoing work for the library: Linda Gabrielson, Jeannie McCallum, Angela Ogle, Kurt Steinert and Beth Wade and our student representative, Ila Steinert. Special thanks to Jim Goodrich and Beth Wade for their countless hours cleaning up and updating our computers.

See you at the library!

Kathleen Hoyne – Library Director
Amanda Otto – Youth Librarian

Mow Less, Fish More: Free Trees and Shrubs



by Shawn White, Friends of the
Winooski River Project Manager

Reducing the area of lawn on your property can help improve the water quality and reduce flooding. When land is developed for residential housing in Vermont, forested landscapes are often con-

verted to lawns, rooftops, roads, and driveways. These surfaces, including lawn, reduce the amount of rainfall and snowmelt an area can intercept and absorb, increasing the volume of runoff. Excess runoff carries pollutants such as phosphorus, sediment, pet waste, herbicides, and pesticides to waterways, causes

News from the Jaquith Public Library

Tues., Wed., Thurs., & Fri. 9-12 & 3-6
Mon. & Sat. 9-12

jaquithpubliclibrary.org ~ 426-3581
jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Winter Story Time and Playgroup:
For kids Birth to Age 5
Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Get ready for some fun with Sasha during story and activity time.

Animal Tracking Walk with Jonathan Shapiro
February 13, Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join tracker and naturalist Jonathan Shapiro of Fox Paw School for a morning exploration of the Stranahan Town Forest. We'll check out animal tracks and interpret their behavior, listen for winter flocking birds, and talk about how our wild neighbors are earning their livings during this cold winter month. Come dressed for the weather. Co-sponsored by the Jaquith Public Library and the Marshfield Conservation Commission. Meet at the Stranahan Forest in Marshfield at the Thompson Road entrance off of Hollister Hill Rd. **Please pre-register for this event because we need to cap attendance at 16 participants.**

Chapters in History Eight: Development and Division
Second Saturdays at 2 p.m.

James Madison by Richard Brookhiser - Feb. 12th

The Last Founding Father: James Monroe by Harlow Unger - March 12th.

The public is encouraged to participate in this free continuing series. Books are available for loan from the library.

Monthly Book Group for Adults:
Fourth Mondays at 7 p.m.

Join us for the Jaquith book group. For copies of the book, please stop by the library. New members are always welcome, and it's only one hour a month
February 28 – Deacon King Kong by

James McBride
March 28 – *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke

Winter Festival
Saturday, February 26th
from 12 to 4 p.m.
(inclement weather date February 27th)

Featuring **storytelling** and a **sing-along** around the fire-pit, a circus type performance (**fire dancer/juggler**), **soup and bread & hot drinks**, a story walk on the recreation path, and if there is snow, **snow sculpting and snow painting**. We are looking for volunteers to help with the event.

Afterschool Program for kids 9-12
First week of March
through June 10th

The grant funds three days a week of afterschool programming on 3 of the following days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The after-school program will provide directed and self-directed outdoor and indoor activities ranging from science-based nature workshops, arts and crafts, and STEM activities to sports. **Funded through a grant from the Association of Rural and Small Libraries**

Makerspace Kits,
Games and Puzzles

Available For Checkout!

STEAM-focused Makerspace kits catalogued and ready for checkout! Robotics kit, snap circuits electricity kit, friendship bracelets kit, origami/Calligraphy kit, toothpick/play dough building kit, pattern block kit, marble run kit and bird watching kit. We also have games, puzzles, snow shoes and more.

For a full list and description of Maker kits, click the link and scroll down: <https://www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org/new-and-featured-kids.html>
Supported in part by the Vermont Humanities Council.

erosion of private and public property, and makes streams more erosive and “flashy”. While one parcel may not contribute enough stormwater volume to make much difference, the cumulative effect of many small deforested parcels can become quite large. Stormwater runoff is one of the main contributors of pollutants to Vermont’s streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.

The Friends of the Winooski River’s Lawns to Forest project seeks to help landowners restore the benefits of forests to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality. All Cabot, Marshfield, and Plainfield residents are eligible for the program. The non-profit organization will plant trees free of charge on selected properties, working with landowners to choose appropriate native trees and shrubs. Priority sites have runoff reaching a stream, river, or pond. The Friends of the Winooski River pays for all the plants and recruits volunteers to do the planting. Multi-resident properties are also eligible.

The primary impact of forests on water quality is the prevention of water pollution by reducing the volume of stormwater runoff. Trees and other woody vegeta-

tion capture and store water by intercepting rainfall, promoting infiltration, and improving the soil’s water storage capacity. Leaves catch rainfall, keeping as much as 30% of rainfall volume from reaching the ground, and the plants act as water pumps, carrying water in the soil to the atmosphere and increasing the soil’s water storage capacity. At the same time roots and leaf litter slow runoff and create conditions that allow water to soak into the soil. Trees and shrubs also improve air quality, lower urban air temperatures, provide wildlife habitat, store carbon, and improve aesthetics and mental health. When lawn is converted to woody vegetation mowing, fertilizer, pesticide, and fossil fuel use is reduced, further reducing pollutants in runoff and CO2 emissions to the atmosphere.

Shawn White is the Project Manager for the Friends of the Winooski River. Contact her at shawn@winooskiriver.org for more information about the Lawns to Forest program and the Friends of the Winooski River’s many other efforts to protect and restore the Winooski watershed.

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Valentines Day
February 14

Cabot Senior Housing



Cabot Senior Housing on Glinka Road offers:

- Eight apartments: seven affordable, one market rate.
- Full kitchen, living room, bath, dining area, one or two bedrooms, deck or porch.
- Solarium, large common area with deck, laundry, bathroom, kitchen, function area.
- Mail delivery and trash and recycling pickup.
- Free parking, garden plot and storage unit.
- Support services in Central Vermont help residents maintain independent living.

Cabot Commons is managed by the Downstreet Housing & Community Development. Applications are available at www.downstreet.org or call 802-476-4493.

Cabot Senior Housing is fully occupied but maintains a wait list. Approved applicants are not committed to moving in when an apartment is available. Applicants maintain their wait list position through three offers of open apartments.

Feel free to contact local board members, Judy Pransky at 563-2730 or Susan Carpenter at 426-3331 for more information.

CABOT'S ONLINE FARMERS' MARKET

**Shop Local,
Online!**[HTTP://CABOTHARVESTHUB.ORG](http://cabotharvesthub.org)

Cabot's Online Farmers Market the Cabot Harvest Hub

by Elizabeth Vitale

The Cabot Harvest Hub took a brief break for the holidays but is back open with many new and exciting products from local farmers and artisans. Our winter market has been filled with comfort foods such as yeast donuts from Local Donut and sourdough bread boules from SoulHoney Bakery & Bodyworks, self-care products like the wonderful line of immunity elixirs and elderberry syrup from Luna Root Wellness, and plenty of winter veggies including potatoes and winter squash from Nama Farm. Some of our newest items include local pottery classes or a trip to a sauna at Back Roads Farm, beautiful handmade bags by Two Hearts 1 Love, and a muffin or cookie subscription from Second Time Around Homestead!

Also new at the Hub, at customer pick-up Saturday mornings you'll find our Donation Basket. You can leave any item purchased at the Hub in this basket to be donated to Faith in Action's Food Share program. This is a wonderful way to support not only your local farmer, but also your neighbors in need. Food items, personal care items, greeting cards and more are all appreciated.

We're also excited to announce that we can now accept cash or check for payment for items purchased at the Hub! To take advantage of these alternate



payment methods, please send us an email at CabotHarvestHub@gmail.com and we can get you all the details.

Our local farmers, artisans and producers rely on your participation to make the Hub work. While we have had great enthusiasm for this market from everyone we've spoken to in the community, we would love to see more weekly sales and need your help to achieve this. If you have not yet made a purchase at the Cabot Harvest Hub, please check it out today! Use Membership code: WINTER2022 for a free one-week Sprout Membership. And, if you are one of our regular shoppers, thank you so much for your continued participation – your neighbors and community really appreciate it. Together we can support our neighbors, sustain our farmers, and build a more resilient local economy!

Shop local, online! <http://cabotharvesthub.org>.



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Darren Celley's Maple Rise Blood Sugar Booster Featured on WCAX

Printed with permission of WCAX-TV

Elissa Borden of WCAX-TV came to Cabot in November for a "Made in Vermont" segment about Darren Celley's blood-sugar-boosting maple cream products, developed to control blood sugar without taking insulin or eating food. Darren developed his product line to control Type 1 diabetes, creating a unique packet that can stabilize blood sugar on-the-go without risk of freezing or deteriorating.

To watch or read the full story, go to <https://www.wcax.com/2021/11/15/mivt-maple-rise/>. Maple Rise products are available at <https://maplerisevt.com/>.



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