# THE CABOT CHRONICLE

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## American Woodcock

*The American Woodcock returns to Vermont in March. The tip of its bill is flexible for probing in wet soils. Photo by Rollin Tebbetts.*

## Ballot Question: Central Vermont Career Center School District

**by Chris Tormey,**
**Cabot School Board**

Along with official ballot forms for the Cabot School District Annual Town Meeting and the Town of Cabot Annual Town Meeting, Cabot residents were recently mailed a yellow ballot entitled "Cabot School District Special Election". Article 1 on that ballot asks voters if a new school district for the Central Vermont Career Center should be established.

The Career Center is located on the Spaulding High School Campus in Barre and offers a dozen different programs (ranging from auto mechanics to plumbing and heating to digital media arts) for high school students from across Central Vermont. In addition to Cabot, students from Twinfield, U-32, Harwood, Montpelier and Spaulding take advantage of these one-or two-year programs, but the budget for the Career Center is currently voted on only by residents of the Barre Unified School District.

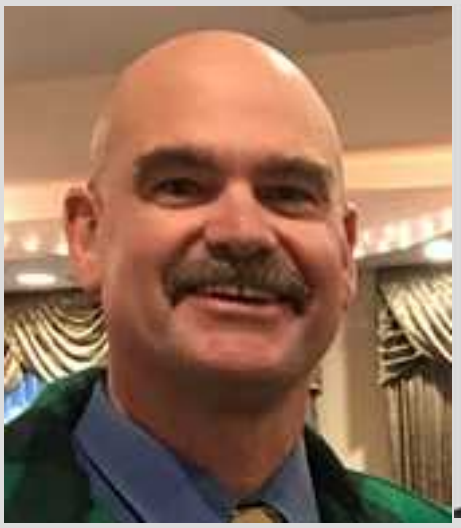
If Article 1 is approved on Town Meeting Day by a majority of the total votes cast in the six school districts served by the Center, then the new CVCC School District will be governed by a board with representatives from all six school districts, and its budget next year will be voted on by voters in all six districts.

The CVCC ballot also includes an article to elect four members (termed "At -Large Directors") of the new board if Article 1 is approved. In total this new board will include ten members: one representative from the school boards of each of the six sending schools along with one "At Large" member from each from the four largest sending school districts (Spaulding, Harwood, U-32 and Spaulding). On the ballot there are candidates listed for only the Barre and Harwood districts' at-large positions.

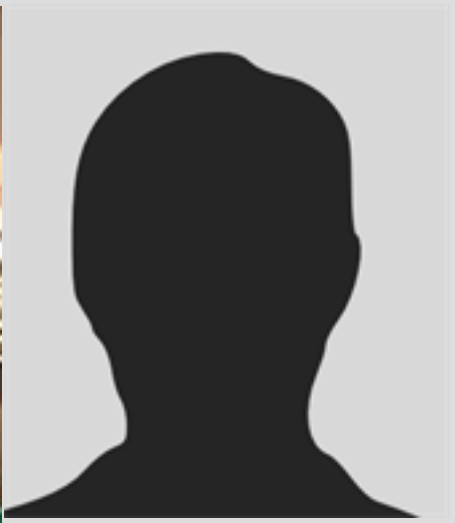
The link below provides more information on the proposed new district:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AcAN32KYgTZCNU5zy6cIxdGF5uZM4ufh/view.

## NEW BLOOD ON CABOT BOARDS



Matt Nally



John Cookson (photo not available)

[redacted]

## 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
Larry Gochey

### Candidates for Cabot School Director

Ellen Cairns - 1-year term
Jason Monace - 2-year term
Chris Tormey - 3-year term

## TOWN AND SCHOOL AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING

The ballots have been mailed to all registered voters in Cabot. Make sure your ballots are received by the Town Clerk's Office by 7:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022. There are four ways to vote:

1. You may mail back to the Town Clerk's Office in the pre-stamped envelope (please be sure to put your ballots in the required envelope before putting it in the pre-stamped envelope).
2. You may bring them to the Town Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
3. You may drop them in the secure drop box outside the entrance any time. (We collect them a couple of times a day.)
4. You may vote in person on Tuesday, March 1 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

***See page 7 for Town Meeting Warning and page 10 for School District Warnings. Registered voters should have received their ballots by mid-February.***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# How Vermont's Education Funding System Impacts Our School Taxes

**by Chris Tormey,**
**Cabot School Board**

If voters approve the proposed FY '23 Cabot School Budget of $3,314,718 on Town Meeting Day, Cabot taxpayers will pay over two million dollars in the coming year to fund the school - more than twice what it costs each year to maintain the town's roads and support the fire department, ambulance, library and all other town services. Beyond its expense, the system for funding public schools in Vermont and how that translates into the property taxes we pay is so complicated that it's not understood by the vast majority of Vermonters who write checks each year to support them. Given that in the coming days we'll once again choose to approve or reject the proposed school budget - a large financial investment in the education of our town's children - this post is an
effort to make that funding process and how it impacts our school and town more understandable.

Twenty-five years ago this month the Vermont Supreme Court handed down the "Brigham Decision", in which it agreed unanimously with several property-owners and small-school students that the existing school funding system was both inequitable and unconstitutional. At that time, the kind of school a town could provide for its students was determined mainly by its collective property value - which resulted in big differences in opportunities for students across the state. The court charged the Vermont Legislature to develop a new system in which, "Children who live in property-poor districts and children who live in property-rich districts should be afforded a substantially equal opportunity to have access to similar educational revenues".

It took the Legislature just four months back in 1997 to craft an alternative approach, first known as Act 60 and since revised as Act 68. This system is definitely complicated, but's been judged by many policy experts to be the fairest education funding system in the country. In the overview that follows, I've used several questions to clarify how the system works, starting with how it differs from the process used to fund our town and highway budgets.

1. How are our local town and highway budgets funded? Each year the Select Board develops these budgets and uses the town's overall Grand List to set the tax rates needed to fund them. The Grand List is a value equal to 1/100th of a property's assessed value. In the current year, for example, the town's overall Grand List of $1,800,391 was divided by Cabot's proposed FY 21-22 highway budget of $660,563 to arrive at the highway tax rate of $0.3669 (or 36 cents for every $100 of assessed property value.)

2. How is the annual budget for Cabot School funded? This is more complicated. There are three sources of funding: local taxes raised on residential ("homestead") property, local taxes raised on "nonresidential" property (commercial and industrial property, second homes, etc.), and payments from the State of Vermont. In the current 2021-22 school year, payments from the State accounted for 31% of the funding of the overall budget of $3,314,718, while residential and nonresidential taxes accounted for 31% and 38% of the total respectively. The nonresidential tax rate is set by the State each year and does not differ by town - this year that rate is $1.6576/$100 of property value.

3. How does our local school spending determine our Homestead Tax rate each year? This part of the system uses our per-pupil spending to drive our Homestead tax rate- we can choose in a given year to put more dollars into our kids' education, but it will cost us to do so. To calculate our spending per pupil for a given year, our "Education Spending" is divided by our number of "Equalized Pupils". (Education Spending for the current year is $3,022,945: the amount remaining in our overall budget after revenue from sources like tuition and grants from the State for transportation, technical education and small school support are subtracted. The "Equalized Pupils" figure is a two-year average of the number of students enrolled with specific weights attached to different categories of students: grade level as well as English Language learners and students in poverty - our E.P. for this year is 158.32).

Our Education Spending per Equalized Pupil, then, is $3,022,945/158.32 or $19,094. When that figure is compared with (divided by) the State-set "Yield" figure of $11,385, the result is a "District Spending Adjustment Factor" of 1.661. When that Factor is multiplied by the State's base Homestead Tax rate of $1.00, we arrive at our statewide Homestead Tax rate of $1.6671/$100 of property value. After factoring in Cabot's FY '22 CLA of 97.25%, the actual local Homestead Tax rate comes out to $1.72 ($1.6671/0.9725=$1.7175).

Back to the original premise: our pre-CLA Homestead tax rate is a direct result of that spending rate of $19,094 per student. Decreasing that rate to $18,094 for example, would drop our pre-CLA tax rate from $1.6671 to$1.5892.

4. How does Vermont's current school funding system allow communities with a limited property base to provide their students with a similar level of educational opportunities as a community with a much larger property base?

The answer is the statewide Education Fund, which is essentially a pool of dollars developed to support schools across the state. This year the residential (Homestead) tax rate of $1.7175 and the non-residential tax rate of $1.6576 in Cabot raised (from our total Education Grand List of $1,644,508) a total of $2,779,017 towards the funding of our FY 22 school budget of $3,314,718. As a result of property tax credits to Cabot residents paying some of their Homestead Taxes based on their household income, however (see #5 below), the actual property tax sum paid by Cabot residents to support the school this year is $2,294,723, or a little more than ⅔ of the total school budget. From Cabot and towns across the state, those collected local taxes are sent to Montpelier and comingled in the "Ed Fund". In addition to property tax payments, about a third of the Ed Fund's revenue each year comes from Vermont's sales, rooms and meals, and purchase and use taxes.

For towns like Cabot whose total property value ("Grand List") isn't large enough to generate all the tax revenue required to support its school, the State uses funds from the Ed Fund to make up the difference. In Cabot's case this year, that difference was over $500,000. For property-rich towns like Stowe, on the other hand, their collected property taxes that are sent to the Ed Fund each year far exceed the dollars needed to fund their school. The Ed Fund system, then, uses tax revenues from across the state to ensure that any community regardless of its property wealth can access the resources that it agrees are needed to properly fund its school.

5. How does the current system base school taxes on a resident's ability to pay? A 2021 study commissioned by the VT Legislature concluded that personal income was a more accurate indicator of a property-owner's tax-paying ability than their property's assessed value. Until the Legislature changes the law, however, homeowners with annual household incomes below $136,000 may file form HS-122 with the VT Dept. of Taxes before April 15 to be eligible to pay some or all of their Homestead property tax based on their household income rather than the assessed value of their "housesite" (dwelling and up to 2 adjoining acres). Last year residents that used this option paid 2.5% of their household income in property tax on their housesite rather than the 1.7175/$100 rate on its assessed value. For example, a household with an annual income of $50,000 and a housesite valued at $150,000 using this option would have paid $1,250 in tax on their housesite last year rather than the $2,576 tax based on their property's value. The savings for going this route are significant - in 2021 Cabot taxpayers received $484,294 in Homestead tax credits from the State of Vermont. More information about this option can be found at https://tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-credit. Vermont's current school funding system is based on the principle that all the state's residents share in the responsibility of providing a solid education for all of the state's children, regardless of the property wealth of the town they live in.

I hope the information above has made that system and how it impacts our school and community here in Cabot clearer than it was before. Please contact me if you have questions, and please remember to vote - on or before Town Meeting Day on March 1.

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***Cabot Chronicle Mission Statement: The Cabot Chronicle is a home-delivered newspaper devoted to telling the story of the Cabot community.***

# Cabot Listers: It's that time of year!

Listers are shifting into high gear, preparing for the statutory June 4 filing of the Grand List, from which all tax bills are derived. Between now and June 4, Listers are downloading Homestead Declarations and applying that information to each parcel (to ensure the correct tax rate is applied to your property), calculating Current Use benefits for enrolled land and penalties for land withdrawn, and updating parcel files to the best of our ability to reflect the current status of your property and improvements. 2021 was another HOT year for property sales, and all the transfers, acquisitions and subdivisions closed before April 1 must be properly recorded and ramifications calculated before June 4. (Sales occurring after April 1 may not be recorded until after the Grand List has been finalized because State law requires tax bills mailed in the late summer must be assessed to the owner as of April 1 each year.)

So, don't be surprised if you hear from your elected Listers for assistance:

- If you've sold or bought property in Cabot during the year, you should receive a sales verification letter. This is ***really important***, because your answers to those questions impact the Town's CLA (Common Level of Appraisal), which affects the property tax rate for all property owners, as well as when the Town needs to pay for another townwide reappraisal.
- You may hear from us by telephone or email, asking about progress on a zoning permit, requesting help correcting data we think may be incorrect, or following up on changes in your property that may affect its value – up or down.
- Occasionally, we might need your input identifying which structure you declared for business use on your Homestead Declaration or enrolled in Current Use – the information we receive from the Tax Department is often difficult to reconcile with our parcel data, and we want to get it right for you.

As always, Listers invite you to check your parcel data. You can do it without any personal contact: just call us at 802-563-3139, or email Lister@Fairpoint.net and ask for your Lister Card. We can scan and email it to you, and then we can review it together over the phone. We'd be glad to do that for you. The 2019/2020 townwide reappraisers did not have the usual access to important details due to pandemic safety protocols, so we would be very pleased to have the opportunity to correct any defects in the data. When you get your tax bill, you want to know it is assessed on the correct information.

REMINDER: APRIL 18 IS DEADLINE FOR FILING INCOME TAXES, HOMESTEAD DECLARATIONS AND PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FORMS; EVEN IF EXTENDING FILING INCOME TAXES, HOMESTEAD DECLARATION AND PROPERTY TAX CREDIT DEADLINE IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

Jeanne Johnson
Jacqueline Lumbra
Brittany Butler

# Chitty Returns!

**by Karen Mueller-Harder, Cabot Community Theater**

We've all been missing the opportunity to work and play as a community, but with the current trend in COVID numbers, Cabot Community Theater is hoping we will finally be able to bring "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" to the stage in the late spring or early summer!

If you missed out on being involved in 2020, when we were first rehearsing for the show, we'd love to have you join us! Many of the people who were in the original cast will continue in their roles, but some people have moved away, or are not continuing for other reasons, so we will be looking for new cast members for some lead roles and chorus parts, and for people to help with technical and backstage activities. Details are still in the works as of press time; auditions will be announced on Front Porch Forum and our Facebook page, or you can send a message to karen@praxisworks.org if you want to be on our direct email list.

Cabot Community Theater always welcomes performers of all ages and levels of experience, and our company includes folks both from Cabot and other towns. We plan (as always) to have flexibility in our casting in terms of age and gender, to offer performing opportunities to as many participants as possible.

Also: if you have a child in grades 1-6 who is serious or curious about theater, CCT is running an afterschool Theater Club on Tuesdays this spring, March 8-May 31, 3:30-4:45 p.m. If your child attends Cabot School, just look for the listing in the afterschool information the school will be sending home; if you homeschool or live in another town, email karen@praxisworks.org for more info!

# And Now for the Rest of the Story:
## Cabots CCIF Fund and Future Competitiveness to Gain Federal Grants

*(Continued from the Story on page 12 of the February Cabot Chronicle)*

**by Peg Elmer Hough, Chair,**
**Economic Development Workgroup**

Last fall, I requested an opportunity to speak with the Commissioner of Vermont's Department of Housing and Community Development, Josh Hanford. I worked with him years ago, so knew he's a helpful and accessible person. Not only does that Department administer a range of federal grant programs addressing housing and economic development, Commissioner Hanford sits on the Boards of other granting agencies outside that Department that our Cabot workgroup had talked about applying to for projects.

I asked: "What does Cabot have to do to clear the dark cloud of "what did you do with the $2 million"? What do we need to do to become competitive, to apply for funding from their programs, again? And, what would their guidance be on our current debate to disburse the Fund, to bring it to an end?"

I attached the "Cabot's CCIF History…" that made up last month's story in the Cabot Chronicle. That summary documented how the town was supposed to have provided an annual accounting to the U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and to "use, and not accumulate the revenue…in a timely fashion". But the accounting in the summary also demonstrated that Cabot had grown the $2 million responsibly and instead spent $4 million on solid community development projects over more than 30 years.

An appointment for a video chat came immediately. Commissioner Hanford had Nate Cleveland, program director for the Community Development funds, join in.

They had clearly read the attachments and had a great response! I learned the following:

- Their financial management staff knew there should have been an annual accounting to the federal funding agency. That was the reason for the barrier each time Cabot had applied since. Now they also understand that communication between the federal HUD office in Concord, NH, and Cabot had not been great, on either side.
- The Commissioner was clear that the documented history, created from the town reports, is sufficient to solve the "you have to tell us what you did with the money" question. The town has put the funds to good use. The Commissioner said, "We will never require an accounting."
- He noted the spending to pay off highway equipment loans and on Cabot School projects was never eligible under HUD but, again, the Town won't be penalized for its handling of the grant. The actual federal program from which Cabot received the grant, UDAG, is long gone.
- They offered, as another example, that Waterbury also had some UDAG money from years back, and finally used it up hiring a Community and Economic Development staff person after Tropical Storm Irene, so Cabot wasn't the only outlier holding on to the funds.
- They noted that, at this point, 2/3's of Vermont towns have some kind of Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) they've gained via federal grants, so there's more guidance available to towns, and that most are nowhere near the scale of the $2 million Cabot gained, in relation to the size of the town.
- They noted, instead, the question that will be posed to Cabot when applying for any funding will be: "What is the Town able to contribute to this project?"
- He advised NOT to wipe out the Fund completely, but to create a fund for that match - that seed funding – as simply good community development practice.
- I asked about applying the money to support the town's current interest in developing recreational trails. They were both studiously quiet, providing no answer! Point taken: that there are other grant sources outside of their Department available for that use, but they also won't tell us not to use this funding that way.
- I asked about existing mortgages and the Wastewater Treatment Plant bond. He exclaimed, "Yes – make sure that bond payment was set aside somewhere, somehow, before allocating all the remaining funds…Cabot will have to pay for that bond somehow!"
- Also, "Yes!" on whether Cabot should think about "forgiving" the mortgages on the Town Garage and the senior housing. They agreed that paying those loans off is just Cabot citizens paying Cabot. Affordable housing (which includes our Cabot Commons senior housing) "never anticipates paying its loans off…that's not generally even included in their budgets".

There you have it! The barrier of "You have to tell us what you did with the $2 million?" wasn't all that hard to clamber over. Our State partners are helpful, especially when communicated with regularly. We gained strong advice to set aside part of the CCIF fund as local match in applying for funds for projects we would like to get done in the future. We remain a very fortunate town, with a true pot of gold.

# OBITUARIES & MEMORIALS

## Ann Sable

Margery Ann Shefrin, 77, passed away with her children by her side on Friday February 11, 2022. She was born on August 12, 1944, in Women's Hospital in Manhattan, NYC, to Barnetta Shirley Sable and Sidney Woodrow Shefrin. She later changed her name to Margery Sable to honor her mother's maiden name. She attended Lynbrook High School in Lynbrook, NY, and then went on to receive her Bachelors and Masters in Education from Queens College of NYc. She taught Social Studies at Valley Stream North High School from 1966-1971.

After marrying John Walter des Groseilliers and starting a family, they moved to Hardwick, where they purchased a funeral home. Soon after moving to Vermont she earned her Vermont Funeral Directors License and enjoyed connecting with the community. In 1980, she returned to teaching at the k-12 school in Cabot. She taught Social Studies there from 1980-1986 and then went on to be the principal of the school from 1986-1996. Marge earned her PhD. in Education Leadership and Policy from the University of Vermont in 1998. During her time at Cabot she was a passionate educator and worked hard with a quality staff to achieve a high standard of education for all students. After divorcing, she moved to Washington, DC, and worked at the National Center for Education and Economy, reforming schools nationwide from 1996-2006.

Afterwards, she was Superintendent in a suburban school outside Pittsburgh, PA, and finished her career as a trainer of Principals and Superintendents at the National Institute of School Leadership. Driven by her independence, honesty, and compassion, Marge was known for bringing class and grace into her profession. She had the unique ability to help people realize their own potential. In 2008 she moved to the Chicagoland area to take on her next chapter as a Granny and spent her time with her children and grandchildren in both Chicago and Vermont. Above all else, she loved her family and friends fiercely.

She is survived by her daughter Jennifer des Groseilliers (Monique Maye) and their children: Crosby, Douglas and Riley; her son Douglas des Groseilliers (Nicole des Groseilliers) and their children: Abigail, Daniel and Julia, her sister Ethel Jesse Shefrin (Stephanie Perrin). Many Cousins and Dear Friends. She was predeceased by her parents and youngest sister Ronnie Inez Shefrin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in memory of Marge to Suncrest Home Health and Hospice, 5 Revere Dr Suite 130, Northbrook, IL 60062.

## George H. Twine, Jr.

George H. Twine, Jr., 83, of Plainfield, passed away on Saturday, February 5, 2022. George was born June 8, 1938, in Proctorsville, VT. He was the son of George H. Twine, Sr. and Margarette Blanchard. He attended southern elementary schools and then moved to Walden in the mid-1940s where he lived with his foster parents Jack and Ruth Burbank. From there he attended and graduated from Danville High School in 1957. George joined the United States Air Force in 1958 and was honorably discharged in 1963. On December 20, 1963, he married Gail Lamberton from Marshfield. They made their home in Marshfield before moving to Jefferson City, TN, where they resided for 23 years before returning home to Vermont in May of 2020.

George had several occupations from a youth up until he retired from Dollywood in 2012. His occupations included farming, truck driving for Cooley, assisting Buggy Morse at Lower Cabot General Store and later helping Hazel Jones early each morning opening Jones store in East Montpelier while logging and sawmilling independently. Then on to Tennessee and his favorite passion, cooking at Dollywood. He found the backroad way to Dollywood early each morning at 5:00 a.m. While in Tennessee he took the time to master gluten free cooking to help Gail with her migraine headaches and then for anyone who needed gluten free food. He loved cooking boiled dinners for all who came to visit and especially his sister-in-law Denise.

George was a quiet participant. He enjoyed rabbit and deer hunting and nature of all kinds as well as guns and coins. He was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and very proud of it. He belonged to the Masonic Temple in Cabot and enjoyed cooking for any event they had. He was the animal control officer in Marshfield for several years. He was known for feeding many little outside critters in Vermont and Tennessee. He enjoyed fine woodworking for others such as picture frames, belt buckles and scarf holders and anything someone requested.

He loved his family in his own special ways. Being 'Papa" was a role he welcomed with pride, saving all cards and notes from his granddaughter Seleste and grandson Corey as well as any publications regarding their achievements. He became known as Papa to many, including a lovely young lady in Tennessee named Crimson. He enjoyed visits with friends and story sharing. He would give anyone a helping hand who asked.

Survivors include his daughter, Dawn Twine-Johnson (Duanne Johnson), grandson Corey Johnson, (Madyson Martin), sister Donna Cross (Gary Cross) and family, Aunts Lucille Curtis and Elsie Wilder and Cousin Cindy (Twine) Wooten as well as many in-law family members that meant the world to him.

## William Edward Berminham

William Edward (Ted) Bermingham passed away January 18, 2022, at his home in Cabot where he had lived for 61 years.

Ted was born on April 28, 1927, in Rye, NY, to Rutledge and Grace Crow Bermingham.

He graduated from the Taft School in 1945 and enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in the occupying forces in postwar Germany. He entered Princeton University and received an A.B. in history with the 1951 graduating class.

Ted subsequently taught school, earned a B.S. in animal husbandry from Colorado A&M, and worked for several years in advertising and television in New York.

He came to Vermont in 1960 when he was appointed by Governor Stafford to be the director of the Vermont Development Commission.

Ted married Norma Canales of Barre on July 4, 1960, and they moved to Cabot. They had a daughter, Eden C. Bermingham DVM (Joseph Melchiorre Jr.) of Milton, DE, and a son, Erin R. Bermingham of Montpelier.

Ted served on the Cabot School Board and on the Planning Commission.

In 1961, Ted joined Sterling School, a boys' preparatory school in Craftsbury Common. Over a span of 14 years, Ted worked at Sterling first as a teacher and coach, then as the School's Headmaster.

He and Norma formed Farm & Forest Productions in 1979, providing media and consulting services to a variety of clients. Farm & Forest Productions made videos to assist businesses with marketing, recruiting, and safety; it also produced educational films for broadcast, with an emphasis on agriculture and forestry.

Ted had a lifelong passion for working with horses. He also worked with ranch horses in Colorado, raced Thoroughbreds in Maine and Montreal, bred Arabian and Percheron-Thoroughbred horses, drove Belgian draft horses, and with his family taught a one-week draft horse school for several summers on his farm in Cabot.

However, for almost 20 years, his focus was on the training and racing of Standardbred harness horses. Ted, Erin, and Eden earned licenses to train and drive harness horses professionally. During this time, they raced extensively at both fairs and commercial raceways in Maine, New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

Ted's brothers, Rutledge Jr. and Eldridge, sister Pamela Bermingham Nichols, and niece Anne Bermingham Allsopp predeceased him.

Survivors include his wife, two children, sister-in-law Sylvia Canales of Barre, and four nieces and five nephews.

Ted lived a full, wonderful life and cared deeply about his family, friends, and students. He had a genuine curiosity about animals and their contribution to life's joy.

There is no service scheduled; burial will take place this summer at the Cabot Plains Cemetery for the immediate family. Condolences can be sent to P.O. Box 38, Cabot, VT 05647. Donations may be made to the Central Vermont Humane Society, P.O. Box 687, Montpelier, VT 05601.


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.

***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.***

# ARPA Funds Allocated

**by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer**

The Selectboard is responsible for allocating and spending the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by the Town. The Selectboard has already allocated and spent a small fraction of the funds and has been talking over possible future allocations. At the January 18 meeting, the board allocated funds for a few small projects.

There had been discussion regarding a wastewater pump controller for a private residence at a previous meeting. Due to miscommunications over the years as to who is responsible for the repair and upkeep of the pump, and since there is nothing in writing, the board agreed to repair it this time. The Selectboard approved a motion to allocate ARPA funds for the pump controller, providing there is an understanding the property owner is responsible for any upkeep or cost thereafter. There was no amount designated for the allocation in the motion approved by the board.

The Selectboard then turned its attention to allocating ARPA funds toward improvements on the Willey Building. The board had already allocated and spent money for a color copier in the Town Clerk's office, and at this meeting they allocated another $3,000 for a copier in the Listers' office.

In addition to the copier, the board reviewed a proposal to replace the windows in the Town Clerk's office. They had been waiting for a complete list of items for the Willey building, but Betty Ritter noted windows orders have a long lead time and need to be ordered soon. The board decided to allocate $10,500 for windows. This was intended to cover the cost of seven windows, plus installation and paint.

The board also briefly discussed heat pumps for the Willey building, future requests from the recreation committee and the trails committee. Mike Hogan noted they have until 2024 to allocate the money, so there is plenty of time to manage the requests.

The board returned to ARPA funds at the February 1 meeting. The discussion started with Mike Hogan talking about a recent issue that involved the health officer inspecting a rental property. He said it would have been good for the town to own a digital camera, from which the memory card could be removed, and the picture loaded onto a town computer. He said the town should be able to purchase two for no more than $600, and it would be the property of the town.

Matt Nally expressed concern about the need for a policy regarding the storage of the camera, and how the pictures are recorded and disbursed.

Mike said the pictures would be property of the Town, and stored on Town computers, to which the public does not have access. Matt responded that before the Town has a potential problem, the Town should know how the municipality is going to deal with the pictures.

Jenn Miner, the Health Officer, said she appreciates the idea of having access to a camera, and agrees with Matt that "we should have a policy."

The board approved a motion to buy two digital cameras with ARPA funds, but Matt voted no since there is not a policy in place.

# Cabot Commons Land Donation

**by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer**

Over the past couple of years, the topic of a small piece of land situated behind the Willey Building owned by Cabot Commons had briefly been discussed at various Selectboard meetings. At the January 18 meeting, Judy Pransky presented an offer to the town on behalf of Cabot Commons.

Judy presented the idea of Cabot Commons donating the land to the library for use as part of a nature study program. She said the piece of land is about ¾ of an acre and that she has been paying the taxes on the land as a donation each year to Cabot Commons. She went on to indicate the library is interested, and she has spoken to Kathleen Hoyne and the board of trustees, and all are in favor of the donation.

Kurt Steinert, a Library Trustee, commented it is land that multiple town entities could benefit from, and it is nice to have some land adjacent to the library and the Willey building. He added the trails committee thinks it could be a place to start a trail that heads up to the old town center.

Kurt noted that, as part of the town, the library cannot accept the donation and they are asking the board to accept the donation for the library. Judy said it would make sense to produce a reasonable use plan, and it is only a small piece of land that goes up the hillside from the playground.

The board openly discussed several other uses for the land, such as an overflow parking area. But Judy said other uses like that would not be a beneficial use if it is being used as a nature study center. It was decided to leave this matter open for discussion by the board when it reforms in March, after Town Meeting.

# Dreaming of Spring

**by Elizabeth Vitale, Cabot Food Hub**

With the slightly warmer temperatures at the end of February, I've been busy in my greenhouse prepping for Spring. If you, like me, are dreaming of turning the soil and planting your gardens, you might want to consider planting a little extra lettuce, carrots, or fresh herbs, and selling them on the Cabot Harvest Hub! Or, perhaps you've spent the winter knitting hats, making soaps, perfecting your grandmother's apple pie recipe, or sugaring, and you'd like to share your products with a wider community. If you're ready to start (or expand) your business, the Cabot Harvest Hub may be the right place for you!

It's free to join as a Producer, and the only fees are a 10% commission on any item sold. This fee covers credit card processing fees, website hosting fees, and marketing. How do we keep our fees so low? The Cabot Harvest Hub is a not-for-profit program of Neighbors in Action (formerly Faith in Action). Our mission is to support our neighbors, sustain our farmers and artisans, and build a more resilient local economy!

You can support our mission as well by shopping online on the Hub, http://CabotHarvestHub.org, Monday thru Thursday, with pick-up in town Saturday mornings. The Hub offers a wide array of local products, from meat, bread, and milk to handmade cards, household items, herbal teas and more! Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to create a more sustainable local economy in Cabot. A dollar spent on the Hub, is a dollar that stays local!

# Helfands are Having More than Just a Moment—Helfands in the News

***Seven Days* February 9, 2022**

Seven Days' Ken Picard did a deep dive into the marriage counseling practice and highly personal experiences of Israel Helfand on the occasion of his plan to self-publish a memoir by his 69th birthday.

**The original print version appeared with the title "Coming Clean" in the February 9 edition. The February 13 "Sunday Best" online version is titled "A Sex Therapist Dishes on Four Decades of Helping Couples Hook Up". It is available at https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/a-sex-therapist-dishes-on-four-decades-of-helping-couples-hook-up/Content?oid=34847148,** or go to SevenDaysvt.com and search "Helfand".

Washington Electric Coop *Co-op Currents* January 2022

In the not-quite-monthly newsletter, the marriage therapy practice of Cathie and Israel Helfand and their Marriage Quest retreat is highlighted. Attracting couples from all over, the Helfands discuss videoconference and other online tools that haven't been available to them without high speed internet and what it could mean for their business.

The article is titled "For World-Renowned Marriage Therapists, High Speed Internet Is a Missing Piece of Business Operations", and is available at https://35coti2fdydv27b6wjrhdxq9-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/1-2022-WEC-Currents-for-web.pdf, or just go to https://www.washingtonelectric.coop/about-wec/newsletters/ and search "Helfands".

# LARRY GOCHEY

## *Write-In Candidate for Selectboard Three-Year Term*

☑ *Larry Gochey*

*Larry with great-grandaughter, a sixth generation Cabot resident. "She'd vote for me if she could!"*

**Experience:**

- Selectman and Road Commissioner for many years.
- Managed sewer facility during construction of Town Sewer Project
- Secured easements for every household on sewer line.
- Acquired first ten-wheeler for Highway Department
- Oversaw upgrade and replacement of bridge on Old Route 2.
- Guided improvements of Main Street culvert after flood of 2011
- Pursued grants to fund blacktop applications on Route 215 and South Walden Road
- Worked with VTrans to ensure maximum funding for town road repairs.


The Cabot Café

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

Breakfast Sandwiches, bagels, muffins and other baked goods made fresh daily.

*Specializing in grilled cheese and fried chicken sandwiches.*

*We use local breads, Cabot cheeses and local fresh eggs.*

**Wednesdays are burger days at the Café**

**HOURS:**

*Wed:* 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
*Thurs:* 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
*Fri:* 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
*Sat:* 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
*Sun:* 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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



LET'S GROW TOGETHER!

Organic seeds from High Mowing Seeds now available at http://CabotHarvestHub.org
Proceeds benefit the Cabot Harvest Hub!

Cabot Harvest Hub
an online market for local food & artisan goods

Become a Member today!

Use code:WINTER2022


Neighbors in Action
*Previously Faith in Action*
www.faithinactionvt.org
802-563-3322

# MARCH CALENDAR

**Cabot FREE Food Share (12:00 - 2:00)**
Wednesday, March 9th & Wednesday, March 23rd

**Community Dinner (4:30 - 6:30)**
Saturday, March 19th
Take-Out - Chicken Broccoli Alfredo

**Neighbors Book Club (1:00 - 2:30)**
Tuesday, March 22nd
Reading: *Where the Crawdad's Sing*
Let us know if you need a book!

**Foot Care Clinic**
Friday, March 25th
Sign-up Required!
Email smasland@faithinactionvt.org

**Soul Flow Yoga**
Wednesdays at 6:00


HARRINGTON REALTY
*Commercial ~ Residential ~ Land*
308 Elm St.,Cabot Vermont
802-563-6000 main office
802-595-1156 Beth
595-1167 David 595-9110 Ryan
*"Serving Central Vermont and Northeast Kingdom for over 30 years."*
REALTOR® MLS

# Warning– Cabot Town Meeting 2022
## Tuesday, March 1—Australian Ballot Only

*Ballots were mailed to all registered voters February 7. They may be returned by mail, dropped off at the Town office or drop box, or voted in person on March 1 at the Town office. All ballots must be* ***received*** *by the Town Clerk no later than 7:00 p.m. on March 1.*

*Below is the official Warning for Cabot Town Meeting 2022. The full 2022 Annual Report, which includes this Warning and a great deal more information, is available for pickup at the Town Clerk's office, Cabot Public Library, Cabot Village Store and Harry's Hardware. It is also posted on the Town of Cabot website (cabotvt.us). It will be on the home page until Town Meeting and available thereafter under the "Publications" tab, as well as previous annual reports and minutes of town meetings.*

### 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

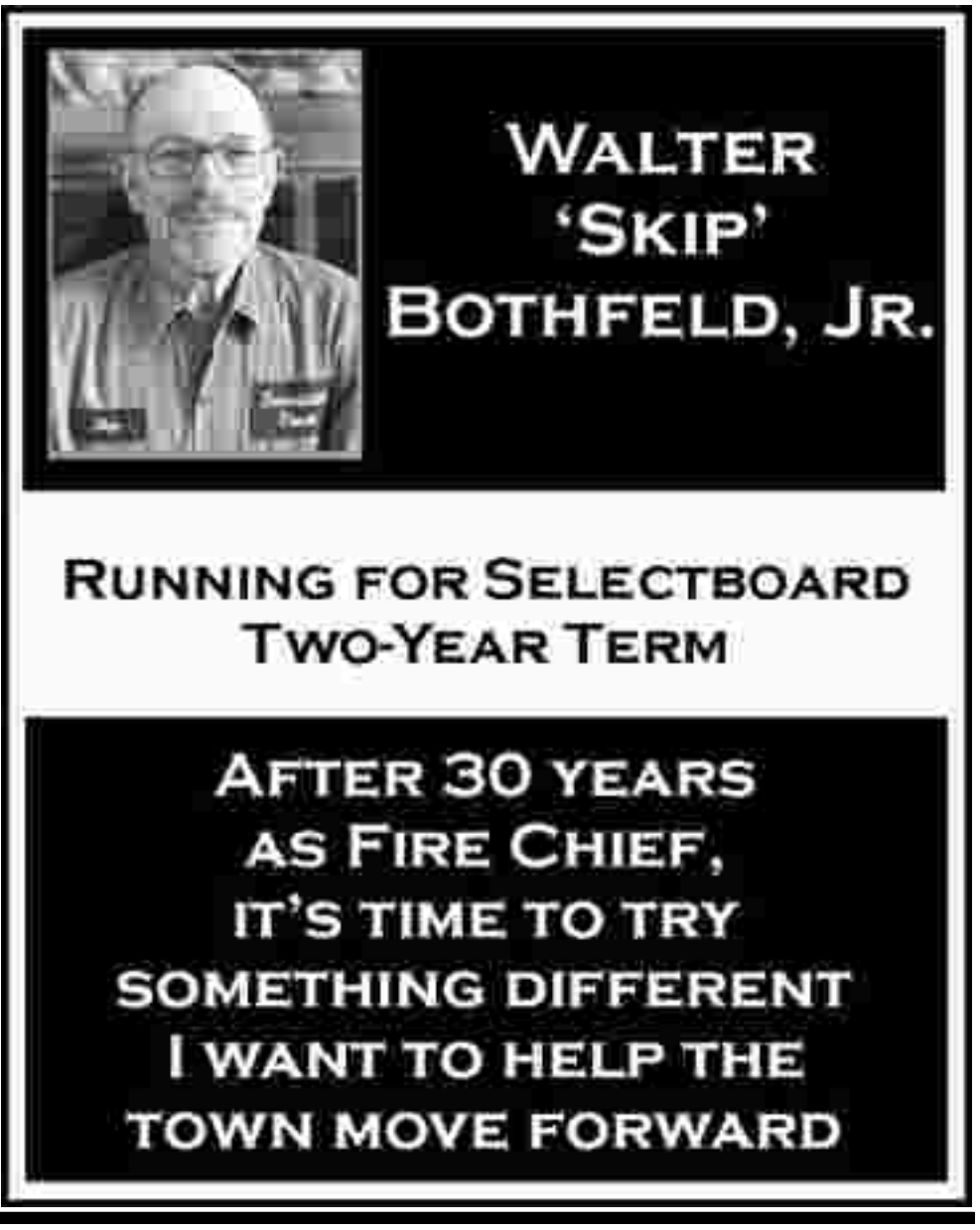
Ian Ackermann, Clerk

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



# Two Vacancies, Five Registered Candidates, Six Questions

**by Jeanne Johnson, Editor**

*In lieu of an in-person candidate forum for voters to speak directly with candidates for the two vacant positions on the selectboard,* The Cabot Chronicle *and Cabot Community Association (CCA) posed these six questions to each of the candidates for election. These answers will also be posted on the CCA website (CabotVermont.org) and the Cabot Connects Town Bulletin Board on facebook, as well as a link on Front Porch Forum.*

**1. What do you think is the most important issue facing the Selectboard?**

**Ruth Goodrich:** Planning for the future infrastructure of the town - putting $$ aside and seeking grants available.

**R. D. Eno:** Just when our local economy was revitalizing itself with new business, the pandemic struck. Our biggest challenge will be helping to restore economic momentum. I will devote myself to that objective, and I will do my best to reawaken volunteer enthusiasm as part of my effort.

**Skip Bothfeld:** The biggest issue facing the Select Board is looking forward for the future growth of Cabot. Pursuing funding, partnerships, and helping ensure this is a quality place to live, work and feel connected.

**Lisa Olson:** I believe that one of the most important issues facing the Selectboard and the Town of Cabot is the lack of affordable housing. We need to be able to attract more families with children to our town. The more children that we enroll in our school, the less expensive our per pupil costs become and this directly affects our tax rate. I want young families including our own grown children to be able to afford to buy a house and raise their own families in Cabot.

**Amy Hornblas:** The most important issue facing the Selectboard now is figuring out how to protect citizens from infringements on our ability to live here. We live in rural Vermont because we love nature, and enjoy living in harmony with it and each other. According to the town survey conducted for the Town Plan over a decade ago, a leading concern was our ability to continue living here. Too many nonsensical policies and rules can interfere with our ability to do for ourselves.

In 2014 the town of Cabot was about to implement a new set of zoning rules which would have made it more difficult for people to live here, by restricting our ability to share our land with our extended families, have a home-based business, or grow our own food. That's when I spearheaded a ballot question which returned zoning decisions to the voters. The ballot initiative passed with over 400 votes in favor, and only 50 against. Through the process, I met many of my neighbors and had great conversations. I've continued to participate in town activities, such as budgeting and planning meetings, and have promoted more transparency by recording meetings and making them available so people can be informed of decisions that are being made and their impacts.

**2. What strategies will you use to solicit opinions of Cabot residents?**

**Ruth Goodrich:** I highly encourage residents to tune in to the SB meetings via zoom, it's easy, no travel, and opinions are welcome

**R. D. Eno:** In addition to the "Public Comment" item on every Selectboard agenda, Cabot residents already have several platforms on which to voice their opinions – Cabot Connects, Front Porch Forum, and the columns of the Cabot Chronicle. Selectpersons should be monitoring these platforms and should respond to comments, if only to send the message: "We hear you." Selectboard attention to public opinion is the best way to encourage its expression.

**Skip Bothfeld:** I welcome conversations with anyone wanting to make Cabot a better place to live. Folks can email me to begin a dialogue: Bothfelds@gmail.com. I would encourage people to participate in the SB meetings to be a part of the governing process.

**Lisa Olson:** I would like to see the Selectboard do some of the same outreach that the school does to engage with the residents. There should be surveys sent out and public gatherings to discuss the issues that the board is dealing with. I would also like to see coffee and dessert nights or afternoons at the library where board members can informally meet with town residents and discuss the things that are on their minds.

**Amy Hornblas:** Based on survey results from the 2010 Cabot Community Planning Survey, the most valued feature were our working farms, with 78% of respondents rating them as "very valuable." When asked to guide the planning commission's work, "retention of farms" was listed as the top priority issue. Concerns about affordability, and being able to age in place, were also mentioned by many respondents. Through conversation with my neighbors, I know that these concerns are still present today. Over the next few weeks I will be calling and talking with as many people as possible, in order to understand what is important to them, and what our town can do to support each other. I want every voice to be heard, and none silenced. If you would like to talk, please let me know! You can email me at: amyhornblas@gmail.com.

**3. What has the pandemic taught you about how the Selectboard could better serve the needs of Cabot residents?**

**Ruth Goodrich:** the zoom capability is great but the SB needs to be mindful of those electronically asking questions. It has been hard not meeting with the board face to face, but on the flip side, it has made the meetings more civil.

**R. D. Eno:** While I agree with Mike Hogan that it was irresponsible – and, I would add, cowardly – for the state to pass the burden of mask mandates to the towns, I was outspoken in favor of the Selectboard issuing such a mandate for Cabot. It was a hot potato, but taking the heat is part of the Selectboard's job. As we learned during the state of emergency early in the pandemic, if masking is required, most people will comply without any need for enforcement. Happily, the latest wave of COVID infections seems to have peaked, but if another crisis occurs, I will advocate strongly for taking every measure recommended by public health authorities to keep our community – and our commerce – safe.

**Skip Bothfeld:** After reading about the masking issue in the Cabot Chronicle, I think that the SB is trying to hear what people think. This pandemic changes weekly and the SB is learning just like everyone else. We all need to work together on this issue.

**Lisa Olson:** I really appreciate the way that the Selectboard has started using Zoom during the pandemic. I have found that it is so much easier to keep track of what is going on, just by putting on my headphones and listening to the discussions as I am home making dinner or folding laundry. I also appreciate that the Selectboard solicited opinions regarding a mask mandate over the course of two meetings. I think that it has been helpful to post the agendas and Zoom links on Front Porch
Forum and I would like to see the approved minutes also be posted, so that the town can easily have access to what is happening at the Selectboard meetings. I have not always agreed with some of the
unanimous decisions made during the course of the pandemic and part of the reason for my candidacy is that I would like to see another point of view represented in their discussions.

**Amy Hornblas:** My favorite part about living in Cabot is participating in town activities. I attend Town Meeting faithfully, have helped mop the floors after Maple and Apple Festivals, and attend town and board committee meetings just for fun. (It's better than TV!) I love being around people, and working together.

The most important lesson I learned about the effects of COVID on our town was how quickly our connections with each other were severed. Not only did we not see each other, but suddenly people became very distrustful of each other. Insensitivity, isolation, and loneliness increased dramatically. Health issues related to food, addiction, and anxiety have most likely increased, as well. All of this stress increases the effects of pre-existing conditions. People are going to need more help than ever as we begin healing from this collective trauma.

In the face of all of the strife over the past few years, our Cabot Selectboard has maintained its humanity, staying open and responsive to the community's needs. I am running for selectboard so that I can help them continue this work. No matter what difficulties we face as a community, we need to stay united. Freedom and Unity is the Vermont motto- each generation is challenged to stay open and connected, even when threatened. Over the past few years, my faith in humanity and our ability to care for each other has grown tremendously. I believe our community is able to do this, and I am honored to help in any way I can.

**4. How do you think the Selectboard can engage local businesses and organizations to facilitate economic development?**

**Ruth Goodrich:** Get out and visit with business owners or set up a time to meet with them as much as possible to discuss concerns & ideas.

**R. D. Eno:** There are state and federal municipal planning and development grants that Cabot can seek out to support private initiatives and non-profit organizations, as well as municipal needs. In order for grant applications to succeed, and to better advocate for local projects, the Selectboard ought to be in regular conversation with Cabot's business community and municipal boards. The Selectboard can sponsor roundtable meetings of local officials, organizations and business owners and include both private consultants and representatives of the state Agency of Commerce and Community Affairs to devise new strategies for promoting Cabot as a visitor destination and a wonderful place to live. We can also publish marketing materials such as rack cards for distribution at Vermont Visitor Centers. The Selectboard needs to be a proactive participant in the in task of economic development throughout the Town.

Additionally, despite drastic mismanagement of the UDAG (CCIF) funds, Cabot still has a substantial UDAG capital reserve that it can apply to leverage additional grants for development projects. The assets of that reserve ought to be thoroughly and accurately accounted for and preserved for economic development purposes.

An important component of new business development will be high-speed internet service, which we expect CVFiber, the Communications Union District of which we're a member, to provide within the next two years. The Town can expedite the roll-out of this vital utility and help hold down future user costs by granting a portion of its ARPA funds, as other member town are doing, to CVFiber.

**Skip Bothfeld:** As a local business owner, I understand how challenging running a business can be. The SB could develop incentives for people to locate in Cabot, i.e. tax breaks, permit assistance, etc. Having thriving local businesses benefits everyone.

**Lisa Olson:** I think that we should be engaging with all of the different groups in Cabot, both coordinating with our local business owners, and also inviting the ideas and contributions of everyone in town. For example, I am interested in the trails committee's vision to connect the town center to the rail trails. Cabot is already well known for our Ride the Ridges event. I think we could easily market Cabot as an outdoor adventure

***(see Six Questions, page 13)***

# Six Questions

*(continued from page 8)*

destination, drawing more people here to create a larger customer base for businesses in town.

**Amy Hornblas:** In 2017 I participated in the Cabot Village Revitalization plan, and also the revision of the Cabot Town Plan. My goal was to bring the priorities I heard from my neighbors (concerns about affordability and agriculture) to these planning groups. The Cabot Town Plan is going to be reviewed again this year, in 2022, and I encourage people to get involved so that our priorities can be included.

As a representative on the Regional Planning Commission and chair of their Clean Water Advisory Council, I have continued to raise concerns about decisions that will affect us and our ability to live and grow food here. Many regulations are currently being implemented which will be affecting small farmers and rural residents in numerous negative ways, such as best management practices for farms and bans on woodburning. We need to stay aware of these, and proactive about addressing them when we can.

Residents and business owners need to be included when writing these plans so that the full implications can be understood and considered. For example, to me one of the most important statements in our zoning regulations is Section 3.4: *"No regulation herein is intended to infringe upon the right of any resident to use a minor portion of a dwelling for an occupation..."* As we continue to live and thrive in rural Vermont, these are the types of regulations we need to keep an eye on so that we can support ourselves and each other going into the future.

**5. How do you propose to ensure the Town uses ARPA funds in a fair and equal way to benefit all residents of Cabot?**

**Ruth Goodrich:** By following the guidelines and purposes of the ARPA.

**R. D. Eno:** The Selectboard should use Cabot's media platforms to invite applications for ARPA funds, and appoint an ad hoc ARPA Committee, consisting of representatives from the DRB, the Planning Commission, the School and the Town to sift through the requests (including from the Selectboard itself) and make recommendations.

**Skip Bothfeld:** The first step should be a community assessment to see where the community was hit the hardest by the pandemic. Help those entities, then consider organizations that benefit the largest number of residents, an example could be the emergency services. It could also be used to improve our infrastructure in town, such as roads and public buildings.

**Lisa Olson:** The regulations around ARPA funds allow them to be used only for certain
purposes, among which are water, sewer, and broadband Internet. I would like to see a strong discussion of using ARPA funds to help bring fiber to more of the town. High-speed internet is becoming more of a necessity, as people use computers for more of their daily tasks and increasingly work from home. Having better internet speeds will make Cabot a more attractive place for families to call home.

**Amy Hornblas:** I was in the room at the Cabot Selectboard meeting when the members signed the grant paperwork from the federal government for the town garage. I will never forget the amount of eyebrow raising, and concerns muttered under breath, for agreements they were having to make in order to secure the funding. Now that I've been a representative for the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and chair of their Clean Water Advisory Council, I can say with certainty that nothing is free. Funding has a purpose, and it always comes with strings attached. My motto, and that of my frugal neighbors, has been to keep expenses down as much as possible. Lowering the overhead frees us to avoid deals with strings. Not that we should turn down assistance, but we need to also consider the long-term costs, as many of these contracts can have the result of increasing our expenses in the long-term.

As for ARPA funds specifically, it is clear that the money released from the government in response to COVID-19 has resulted in creating clear economic winners and economic losers. This fact needs to be openly discussed and its implications weighed in the process of recovery.

**6. What would you suggest the Selectboard do to improve communication with the Creamery?**

**Ruth Goodrich:** Invite creamery representatives to come meet with us as a board, in the past SB members have met with creamery representatives at the creamery, and we need to open those lines of communication both ways.

**R. D. Eno:** One Selectperson should be designated the official liaison with the Creamery, and that liaison should find a correspondent within the Creamery management. Communication between the two should be reported regularly to the Selectboard. It should also be a Selectboard priority to return a Cabot Creamery retail presence to the village and to make provisions for renewed tourist traffic. And as the Selectboard becomes more engaged with the local business community, the Creamery will be an important participant in the conversation.

**Skip Bothfeld:** The SB should consider asking local business owners, big and small, to form a business group that could be given time to discuss relevant issues. To improve communication specifically with the Creamery, the SB Chair could have a set date every month to meet with Cabot Creamery representatives.

**Lisa Olson:** Many of the Creamery's employees are also residents of our town. Addressing the needs of this workforce will benefit the town as a whole. Among other concerns, the Creamery has voiced a need for more childcare options for their employees. This is an issue that I am committed to
helping the Selectboard facilitate.

**Amy Hornblas:** Improving everyone's communication with the selectboard has been my top priority all along. The selectboard needs to hear from all the members of the community, including youth, elders, farmers, homesteaders, loggers, businesses, commuters, parents, etc... The Creamery is probably the most common topic of conversation among folks in town, which unites us all. Jobs, roads, tourists- what is the Creamery up to and how will its actions affect us? Is the plant leaving? What is happening to the Visitor Center? What is the Creamery doing to help us maintain our agricultural landscape? These subjects are constantly on people's minds.

A Cabot resident contacted me last year with a concern about the Agrimark Biodigester project, since there did not seem to be any public process prior to its construction. After asking my contacts at the regional planning commission, I learned that this kind of project does not need public review or Act 250 approval because it is not in conflict with the regional plan, and does not affect "more than one municipality." It appears that, despite numerous regulations, public input around these kinds of developments is not routine, and the selectboard could be helpful in learning about and advocating for the town around such issues. Hopefully it can continue to improve in its role as a conduit between the various members of our community.

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Twin Valley Seniors, Inc.

4583 U.S. Route 2
P.O. Box 152
East Montpelier, VT
05651

**by Dyne Sapp**

**Twin Valley Seniors is delivering more than eight hundred meals each month to your neighbors in Central Vermont.** Volunteer drivers leave the Twin Valley Senior Center in East Montpelier on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with meals loaded in their cars to help feed high-risk older Vermonters. The in-person visits deliver more than nutritious meals, as they create relationships that helps decrease isolation and loneliness for people that are home bound.

Cabot resident Sandra Mennella has been a client of Twin Valley Seniors' Meals on Wheels program for over five years. When asked what her favorite benefit of the program is she exclaimed, "It relieves me of cooking, and I love the food". Sandra, like others, has certain nutritional needs and care is taken to prepare food she likes and will enjoy.

March 21 - 28, is national Meals on Wheels observation week and the volunteers and staff at Twin Valley Senior Center are proud to be part of this vital program, in conjunction with Central Vermont Council on Aging, to serve well-balanced, nutritious meals to those aged 60+ years that are unable to provide meals for themselves.

To be eligible for Meals on Wheels you must be experiencing a physical or mental condition that makes it difficult or unable to obtain food or prepare meals. This may be temporary or permanent. The spouse of an eligible person is also eligible. A disabled person of any age may qualify if they depend on a person receiving Meals on Wheels.

What is the cost? There is no charge, however donations are important to continue operating the program. Funding is partially offset by Central Vermont Council on Aging through the Older Americans Act. Money is raised by fundraising programs and donations. If you would like to donate, your help is always needed and appreciated, so please note MOW on your check. A suggested donation of $6.00 per meal helps to cover cost and no qualified person is turned away.

Twin Valley Seniors serve the communities of Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Plainfield, and Woodbury in Central Vermont. Our goal is to serve you and your neighbors by offering health clinics, meals, and exercise classes, along with other activities. Bus transportation to the center by GMT is provided three days a week for on-site lunch.

Please call 802-223-3322 with any questions or comments.

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## April 18 Deadline for Filing Income Taxes,
## Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit

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.***

For more information, see page 9 of the February Cabot Chronicle,
or go to tax.vermont.gov and type HS-122
or whatever topic you need into the search bar at the top right.

# R.D. Eno

## FOR SELECTBOARD

## Experience Integrity Vision

rdeno@fairpoint.net



Cabot Afterschool

## Grades 1-6

**Spring Session: March 7-June 10**

Sign up here:

SCAN ME

Or call 563-2289 ext. 203


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 15, 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 Roxbury 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

Rory Thibault, Chair

Frank Kampf

Michael Taub

Chris Tormey, Vice Chair

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

Chris Tormey

Frank Kampf

Michael Taub

Ellen Cairns

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

# Roz Daniels' Fiber Art

*Late Winter Quilt:*
*by Roz Daniels*

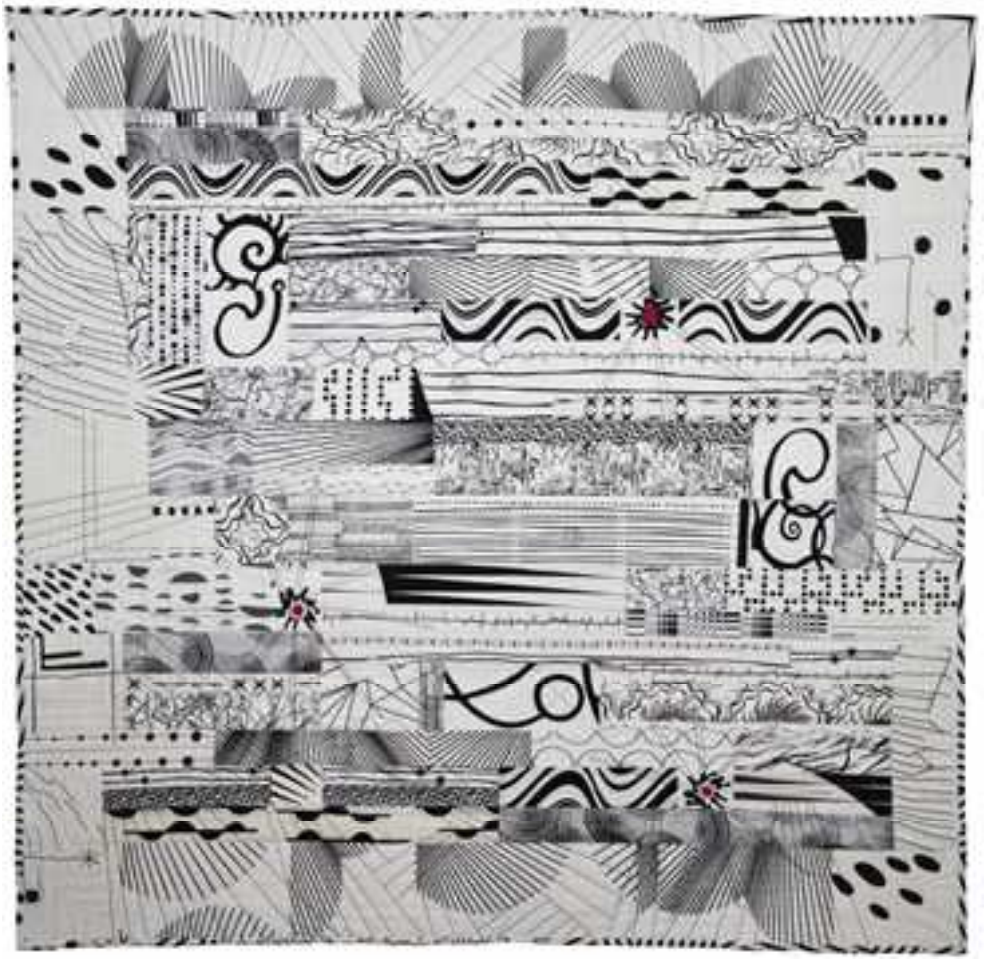
*The first quilt is called Late Winter. I made it in the winter of 2015, the year the snow was SO deep. I was inspired by the large drifts that were everywhere and the soft colors of the afternoon light on the snow. It is currently hanging in the American Embassy in Djibouti. The Department of State invited me to loan the piece through their Art in Embassies program at the request of the Ambassador, Jonathan Pratt. He wanted to take some of New England's winter with him as he headed for his post in the Africa.*

*Just a Little Rain:*
*Quilt by Roz Daniels*

*This second piece, Just a Little Rain, is currently hanging in the Statehouse in Gallery 9, which is the Committee Room for the House Education Committee. It's just off the main lobby. This piece was inspired by Malvina Reynold's 1960's song What Have They Done to the Rain?, which begins with those words. As I rocked my first grandchild on a very rainy day, I sang this song to her because it sounds like such a beautiful lullaby. But I remembered that the song is actually a protest against nuclear destruction and I then realized that I care a lot more about the world's future now that I have a grandchild! Website https://www.rosalindsdaniels.com*

*In the Mood:*

*My In the Mood piece is displayed in the Statehouse now. This piece was inspired by two fabrics. The polka dot fabric was found on a trip to the fabric store Mood, of Project Runway fame, in New York City and the other piece was from a 1970's full length dress of my mother's. She used to wear the dress to go dancing with my father. Their favorite song was In the Mood.*



*Joy from the Basement:*

*It was made to depict what I heard as our son, Clayton, practiced his drums in the basement. All of the sympathy I received when folks heard I had a beginning drummer in the family was completely unfounded. I loved every minute of that music making. Each note sounded like joy coming from the basement! But I could never hold on to the notes that flew up the stairs. This piece is my attempt to grab some of those flying notes and hold onto them visually now that the house is quiet. It is currently on exhibit at the Texas Quilt Museum in La Grange, TX, through May 7 as part of Studio Art Quilt Associates' exhibit called Musica!*

# Spring Rug Hooking

**by Sandra Ducharme**

The Vermont Rug Hooking Studio has spring rug hooking workshops scheduled as follows:

***Fine Shading Flowers and Scrolls***: **2 Saturdays, March 12th and March 19th.** This workshop will explore using value swatches, dip-dyed wool and techniques for creating depth and beauty in your work. Cost of workshop $125 plus materials.

***Creating Realistic Animals with wool:*** **2 Saturdays, April 9th and April 16th.** This workshop is open for beginners to advanced. We will explore using textured wool and values in creating realistic animals. It is amazing to watch your animal come to life before your eyes! Cost of workshop $125 plus materials.

***Finishing Your Rug:*** **Saturday, April 30th.** Bring your project and learn the different ways to finish your rug. You may bring rug binding, wool yarn for whipping and any other I tems you might use. Cost of workshop $60 plus materials.

***Open Hooking Workshop:*** **Saturday, May 7th.** You may bring a current project and get guidance on any problem areas you might have or start a new project. Open workshops are fun and relaxed! Join us for a day of learning new techniques, stepping outside your comfort zone with bright colors, using wonderful textures and more. Cost of workshop $60 plus materials.

For more information and to register for a workshop, please visit our website: www.vermontrughookingstudio.com.

# ADVICE FROM THE TREE WARDEN

**by Roland Payne, Jr.**
**Cabot Tree Warden**

March is here and sugaring season is under way. The snow will soon melt, and nature's wonderful display of trees budding, then leafing out into spring's vibrant green color. The emergence of spring ephemerals is short but provides an incredible display of beauty. Unfortunately, Invasive plants are also some of the first plants to grow new foliage in the spring.

Many of my past articles have described how invasive plants can outcompete and displace native plants in our forests. The control of invasive plants is usually done by manually pulling the plants and hanging upside down to dry out the roots or cutting them back with a scythe, depending on plant type.

An additional means of controlling invasive plants is Invasivorism, consuming the edible species of invasive plants as food. Conservation biologist and University of Vermont professor Joe Roman was the first to use the term Invasivorism about 20 years ago. Invasivorism is to consume invasive species, both plants and animals, to reduce or control their populations. There are many people who find the thought of invasive species on their plates unappealing, there are also many chefs working to change that perception of invasives species.

Some chefs, like Doug Paine, Executive Chef at the Juniper bar and restaurant in Burlington, are embracing the idea of Invasivorism by regularly including invasive species on their restaurant menus. For home cooks, invasive species recipes are readily available. A quick internet search for "invasive species recipes" will provide many ideas to create tasty dishes like garlic mustard pesto, apple and knotweed pie, and kudzu quiche. There are cookbooks devoted to preparing invasive species such as "They're Cooked - Recipes to Combat Invasive Species."

Purslane and garlic mustard are two commonly found plants easily harvested. Purslane is a weed that appears on many of North America's invasive plants lists. Purslane also happens to be a superfood that is high in beta carotene and heart-healthy Omega-3 fatty acids. The peppery flavor of purslane makes it a good addition to a salad. I have been pulling purslane as a weed in my garden for years, until last summer. It is now harvested with the greens for salads. Another invasive that makes a good addition to a spring meal is garlic mustard. Garlic mustard is a quick-growing European weed, an invasive plant notorious for pushing into Vermont's forest understories. Other commonly found plants that are edible include burdock, dandelions, Japanese knotweed, and kudzu. Burdock and dandelion are not listed as invasive plants, but certainly are nuisance plants in the yard and garden. Please do ample research on invasive plant identification, when to harvest invasive plants, and proper preparation methods before harvesting and consuming invasive plants. Some native plants commonly harvested in the spring, such as ramps and fiddleheads, can suffer from over harvesting.

With invasive plants, there is no concern of over harvesting. Invasive plant populations need to be kept under control by removing as many plants as possible. This spring, when foraging for edibles plants, give thought to trying something new.

# Dog Licensing Deadline April 1

**by Betty Ritter,**
**Town Clerk/Treasurer**

All dogs need to be licensed by April 1, 2022.

You can register your dog or dogs anytime by stopping in at the Town Clerk's Office or by mailing the fee to Town of Cabot, Post Office Box 36, Cabot, VT 05647.

- For dogs that are neutered or spayed the fee is $10,00
- For dogs that are not neutered or spayed the fee is $15.00
- You will also need to provide an updated rabies vaccination form if we do not have one on file.

Please do not wait until the last minute. This can be done anytime.

**Rabies Clinic**
Hardwick Veterinary Clinic
64 North Main Street
Hardwick
Every Saturday in March, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
$20
**802-472-8400**

**YOUR AD HERE!**
Advertising in
THE CABOT CHRONICLE
**For more information, contact us at inbox@cabotvermont.org**

Its a great way to reach up to 1900 households in Cabot, Marshfield, Plainfield, Hardwick, and Danville! Spread the word about your product or service while helping to support a great community resource.
***We can also design your ads for you.***

# Leave It to Beaver

**by Gary Gulka,**
**Conservation Committee**

Our native North American beaver, *Castor canadensis*, is probably one of the least appreciated and most misunderstood animals in our surroundings. Beavers are often seen as a nuisance species, blocking culverts, flooding roads, fields, and driveways, and taking down admired trees near our homes or yards. Often, a first reaction is, "Let's get rid of 'em!" In reality, we did get rid of them at one time, totally, in the 1800s, before we understood the benefits they provide to fish, wildlife, flood mitigation, and even agriculture. Beaver and the fur trade, which dates back hundreds of years, played a major role in influencing the settlement of North America by Europeans. Today, perhaps we have ten percent, maybe less, of the beaver population before European settlement, but they are making a comeback. They are now seen as a "keystone" species, which creates and maintains extensive and diverse wetlands which support numerous species that depend on this rich habitat, including fish, amphibians, birds, aquatic insects, and numerous mammals such as deer, moose, and bobcat to name a few. Aside from humans, it is the one species that modifies or engineers the environment to meet its needs – true ecosystem engineers.

Beavers seek areas of flowing water and areas with abundant trees for food and construction of their lodges and dams. Lodges and dams are built out of sticks, stones, leaves, grass, sod, and mud. Beavers swim up underneath the pile and hollow out a central living quarter above the waterline, connected to the outside by underwater tunnels. Favorite foods include aspen, cottonwood, and willow, but beavers will eat most any plant, and prefer the inner bark of deciduous trees, called the cambium layer. They pile waterlogged tree branches underwater, and this is their winter food cache. They will eat aquatic plants in the warm months.

Our concept of picturesque rivers and streams today being free-flowing, clear, neatly tree-lined, rocky substrate channels contrasts with what the early European settlers found – murky swamps with a messy collection of woody dams, with gnawed tree stumps, sludgy river bottoms, dying trees (from flooding) bifurcating stream channels jumping their banks, often as far as the eye could see - but at the same time, lush green riverbanks, abundant fish and wildlife, and an ecosystem in equilibrium. Extirpation of beaver and our encroachment of the flood plain for agriculture, industry, and homesteads put an end to this common occurrence.

Beaver wetlands are cyclic. They will move into an area and build a dam (which can be hundreds of feet in length). For the first seven to ten years, the ponds are very productive, but eventually the food source diminishes, and they will relocate upstream. The abandoned pond reverts to meadow, and as food sources in the form of willows, alders and aspen return, the process starts over again.

Beaver baffles or diversion fences around culverts, which include a hidden pipe to drain the beaver pond and thus tricking the beavers, can be very effective in eliminating conflicts like flooded roads. A Vermonter, Skip Lisle, and his company Beaver Deceivers, is known nationally and internationally for resolving beaver conflicts. Hundreds have been installed in Vermont and are cost effective as a permanent solution. Eradicating a beaver family often only leads to reestablishment by another.

The upper Winooski drainage from Coits Pond to Cabot Village (although not easy to see or access) provides an excellent example of the rich wetland habitat created by beavers that was so prevalent before European settlement. The meadow above the Cabot recreational fields on South Walden Road appears to be a good example of a beaver meadow adjacent to the Winooski River where sediment was deposited for an extended period to create these flat, rich deposits. Beavers are still active in the area today.

Learning to coexist with beavers when we can is a beneficial strategy to increasing biodiversity in our town. We now appreciate the value of wetlands much more than we did even a few decades ago. With only two to three percent of our Cabot land mass as wetlands, we can certainly benefit from a little more.

For more information, I would suggest consulting the following publications: *Eager: The Surprising Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter* by Ben Goldfarb (Note: this book is in the Cabot Library); *Best Management Practices for Handling Human Beaver Conflicts* (VT Fish & Wildlife publication*); Living in Balance with Beavers* – YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_W_Q92eZoQE&t=10s).

Twin Valley Seniors, Inc.
4583 U.S. Route 2
P.O. Box 152
East Montpelier, VT
05651

**FREE AARP TAX PREPARATION AT TWIN VALLEY SENIOR CENTER**

Twin Valley Senior Center in East Montpelier will once again be hosting AARP to provide free tax preparation for low to moderate income taxpayers, starting February 15. AARP volunteers will prepare and electronically file federal and Vermont state income tax returns, including the homestead declaration and property tax credit forms and renter credit forms for most taxpayers.

AARP Foundation TAX-AIDE

Please call the center at 802-223-3322 to schedule an appointment or with questions about this service. COVID guidelines will be followed and mask required.

Twin Valley Senior Center, located at 4583 US Route 2, East Montpelier, serves the social, emotional and physical well-being of senior age citizens of central Vermont.

Twin Valley Seniors, Inc.
4583 U.S. Route 2
East Montpelier
TwinValleySeniors@Myfairpoint.net
802-223-3322
Serving: Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Plainfield & Woodbury
Executive Director- Gene Troia

TWIN VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

- Free Door to Door Transportation
- Free Tax Preparation
- Health Clinics
- Medical Equipment to Borrow
- Monthly Newsletter
- Meals – Every Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9 am-2 pm
- Bingo & Games
- Exercise-Bone Strengthen & Tai Chi
- Entertainment, Parties and Celebrations
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Donations & Contributions always appreciated
- Gift Certificates
- Dietician-approved Meals on Wheels for homebound & disabled residents. No physician orders needed.

# Cabot Ice Rink - the End is Near!

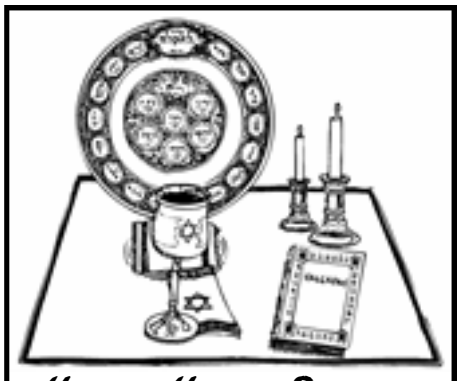
**by Susan Socks**

This season marks my 10th rink as lead volunteer for the Cabot Rink, and I think it's our best rink yet. Thanks to a cold December, we were able to set up earlier than normal. The rink was built and flooded on 12/18 and 12/19, and our first skate was 12/27. After the whopper winter storm in early February, our hardworking volunteers shoveled and scraped and resurfaced to save the rink. We have an excellent collection of loaner skates in the skate shed, as well as sticks, pucks, and goals. Thanks to our daily maintenance crew (Christy Aucoin, Shane Smith, Harper Smith, Mary Saggerson, Dana Robinson, Lynn Rockwell, Stef Burtt, Ry Hoffman, and the Cabot Leads middle school rink crew), we have someone checking the rink AM and PM, seven days a week. I'm happy to see so many people out skating this year, more than I remember in any other season.

The Cabot Rink received some excellent press this season, with articles in Seven Days, Times Argus, and the Caledonian Record. If you missed the articles, links are posted on the Cabot Rink facebook page. Rink closures and other updates are also posted on the facebook page.

By the time you are reading this article, the skating season will be nearly over. Historically, our final skate has been between March 6-26. Make some time for one last skate, before the sun and warm temps shut us down for the year.

If you have skates or hockey sticks to donate, or would like to join the volunteer rink crew, please contact me at cabotfarm@gmail.com or 563-2073.



*Have a Happy Passover*
*April 15-April 23*

# Selecting Seeds and Plants

**by Susan Socks of Garden Goddess Consulting and Gardening**

If you're anything like me, you've been spending your winter dreaming about green growing things. Visions of abundant vegetable gardens, bursting flower beds, and red ripe strawberries dance in your head. The glossy seed and plant catalogs filling your mailbox are dumping fuel on the fire. But before you drop hard-earned money on a wild shopping spree on either seeds or plants, here are some things worth considering.

**Where are these seeds coming from, and where are my dollars going?**

Most seeds are sold by a handful of very large, multinational corporations. Large corporations offer just a few high-yield varieties, while many locally-evolved varieties, developed over thousands of years, and sustained by generations of seed-savers, vanish. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, since 1900, around 90% of seed varieties have been lost. This loss of agro-biodiversity poses a real threat, since less diversity means a greater risk of loss to diseases, pests, and climate change.

But there is good news! Home gardeners and farmers still have access to heirloom seeds and locally-developed genetics. Fedco (a Maine cooperative) offers a diverse selection of seeds, as well as listing the size of the seed producer's operation, allowing you to choose what type of farmer you are supporting. High Mowing (Wolcott, VT) offers seeds specific to the Northeast US. Johnny's Selected Seeds (Maine) offers heirloom and organic seeds. The Seed Savers Exchange is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving heirloom genetics, offering heirloom varieties and helping gardeners save their own seeds. You can also purchase vegetable plants suitable for our area from several local growers in Cabot and surrounding communities. Purchasing from these suppliers helps support both our local economy, and our food plant genetics.

**Are these flowers/shrubs/trees a good choice for my yard?**

When selecting perennial plants, you'll want to check that it grows in your USDA hardiness zone (Cabot yards are 4A or 3B). But also consider the following:

- Is there enough sun? It's easy to think of a space as sunny when it's noon in June. But think about how the sun changes throughout the day, and throughout the growing season. Keep in mind how the sun will be blocked by buildings or trees. There are plants suited to full sun, partial sun, partial shade, and full shade. Know the conditions, and choose your plant accordingly.
- What is the seasonal soil moisture? Especially in Vermont, some areas are prone to spring flooding and saturated soil. Some plants thrive with "wet feet", but many do not. If you have very wet soil for any part of the year, check that your plant can tolerate it. If you have a rare Vermont yard that is very dry, be sure to select drought-tolerant plants, or be prepared to invest in an irrigation system.
- Is this plant invasive? While some invasive plants are banned from sale, large corporate nurseries still sell plants such as snow-on-the-mountain and burning bush that are considered invasive in Vermont. Before purchasing a plant from a large company located far away, check online listings for "noxious weeds" and "invasive plants" to be sure you aren't buying a huge headache for yourself and your neighbors. Better yet, buy from a small local nursery. We have multiple nurseries right here in Cabot.
- Is this plant native? Native plants are an excellent choice. They evolved here over millennia, and are well suited to our conditions. If the plant you are considering is not native, check if there is a native alternative. Just Google "native alternative to …". Do be sure you are looking at New England natives!
- What is the wildlife benefit? Plants can support wildlife in multiple ways: shelter, host plant for caterpillars (a crucial food supply for nesting birds), pollen, nectar, fruit, or nuts. To see what wildlife value your plant has, check the National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder tool. Note that exotic/non-native plants generally don't have much wildlife value.
- What is the human benefit? Whether it is beauty, fragrance, food, privacy screening, shade, or reminding you of someone special, your plant should be meaningful to you.

**Am I ready for these seeds and plants?**

Try to think ahead to what you'll need. Are you set for garden space, tools, fencing, water, mulch? Are you physically able to dig holes for shrubs or trees, or will you need to hire help? If you are starting seeds indoors, do you have containers, soil, light, and a place safe from pets? A little forethought goes a long way to reducing springtime stress. And if you're not ready, it's okay to wait, and use 2022 to prepare for good gardening in 2023.

*This garden article is brought to you by Susan Socks, aka the Garden Goddess. Stay tuned for upcoming articles on green lawn care, pruning, garden tools, edible landscapes, and more. For gardening help, visit* www.SocksFamilyFarm.weebly.com *or call 563-2073.*

## CABOT ARTS SHOW AND TELL

***~~~Taking a Break for March~~~***

Cabot Show & Tell is taking a break for the month of March.

Watch for updates in future editions of the Cabot Chronicle.

# CABOT PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

**by Kathleen Hoyne, Library Director**

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

**Youth Programs and Volunteer Opportunities**
Email amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com for more information or to sign up!

**Book Club and Outdoor Exploration Program (ages 7-11)**
**Thursday, March 10 - Thursday, May 26 - 3:30 - 5:00 pm**
The club aims to provide 7-11 year olds with a sense of adventure and discovery through reading and outdoor play. Space is limited to 8 participants. Sign up today!

**Graphic Novel Club (ages 11-14)**
**1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm through March 16**
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!

**Community Service Program (ages 15-18):** Fulfill your H.S. Community Service requirements at the library! Go to cabotlibrary.com for more details.

- **Shelve Books** - 1-2 volunteers needed starting immediately! Monday - Thursday afterschool for 1 - 3 hours
- **Program Assistant** -1-2 volunteers needed. Wednesday, February 16th - Wednesday, May 25, 2022. 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:00 - 5:00 pm.
- **Story Hour Assistant** -1-2 volunteers needed Tuesday, March 8 - Tuesday, May 31. Tuesdays from 10-11 am during your "crew block" at the Cabot Rec Pavilion.
- **Summer Reading Program Assistant** -1-2 volunteers needed March 9 - May 25. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:00 - 5:00 pm.
- **Mural Assistant** -2-3 volunteers needed March 9 - May. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:00 - 5:00 pm.
- **Program Assistant** -1-2 volunteers needed. Thursday, March 10 - Thursday, May 26, from 3:30 - 5:00 pm.

**Outdoor Story and Activity Time** is postponed for now. Visit cabotlibrary.com or Front Porch Forum for the most up to date information. We're looking forward to meeting with you again soon!

**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 book series is ***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 last session is: **Thursday, March 24 – Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston**

**Librarian's Book Picks**:
***Amanda's:***
**Making Comics** - Lynda Barry
This book is packed full of fun and exciting ways to create unique characters! I've been using a number of the drawing exercises during the Graphic Novel Club. I love both the process and outcome of the collaborative drawings - try them with a group of friends or the whole family! A.O.
**Be Prepared** - Vera Brosgol
"Funny, detailed, dramatic and beautifully illustrated" graphic novel about an elementary aged girl's unexpected experiences at summer camp – Lynn Ducas.

***Kathleen's:***
**Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty** by Patrick Radden Keefe
Same author of *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland,* Keefe writes another masterpiece of narrative reporting about the history of three generations of the Sackler family and how they manipulated the FDA, doctors, the public, courts, etc. on their way to unparalleled wealth by lying about the addictiveness of OxyContin. It is a fascinating story that will hopefully help to prevent such a thing from happening again

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.

Very special thanks to Jeannie McCallum and Linda Gabrielson for their many years of dedicated service to the library (8 and 6 years, respectively). Your contributions have been many and invaluable.

See you at the library!
Kathleen Hoyne – Library Director
Amanda Otto – Youth Librarian

**WE WANT TO SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY!**

# News from the Jaquith Public Library

**News at the Jaquith Library**
**Tues., Wed., Thurs., & Fri. 9-12 & 3-6**
**Mon. & Sat. 9-12**
**jaquithpubliclibrary.org 426-3581**
**jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com**

**Coffee, Chocolate, Cheese, Tea, Nuts and More: Just Food Hub**
**Order Anytime. Pick up is two days after you order or any time thereafter at the Jaquith during open hours!**
Jaquith Library is raising funds through Just Food Hub, a company that provides authentically fair-traded food sourced from worker coops in the Global South and small organic farms in Palestine and the US. Order online: jaquithlibrary.justfoodhub.us. The library will receive 30% of all sales. This is an ongoing fundraiser, order anytime.

**Come Explore Our Display About Murray Bookchin**
Murray Bookchin (1921-2006) was a philosopher and social theorist who lived in Burlington, Vermont from the 1970's until his death in 2006. In 1974 Bookchin and cultural anthropologist Dan Chodorkoff founded the Institute for Social Ecology, initially based at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont. His ideas about social ecology have had a profound impact on social theory and are more relevant than ever.

**Winter Festival Saturday, February 26th from 12 to 4 p.m.**
**Free Event! (Inclement weather date: February 27th)**
12-4 p.m. Create a snow sculpture or snow painting and receive a grab bag surprise & a book, have some hot soup & bread, storytelling and singing around the fire
1-2 p.m. Sing-a-long with Heidi Wilson
2-3 p.m. Breathtaking circus stunts with Brent McCoy

**Nature and Arts Enrichment Program**
**March 15th through June 9th 2:30 to 5 p.m.**
**For Kids ages 9-12 FREE!**
Each week we will have a different program and a different educator. Funded through a grant from the Association of Rural and Small Libraries. Call or email the Jaquith to obtain a program schedule and to register. PLEASE SEND US YOUR RESUME IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TEACHING A PROGRAM.

**Winter Story Time and Playgroup: Fridays at 10:30 a.m.**
**For kids Birth to Age 5**
Get ready for some fun with Sasha during story and activity time. Gather around a fire for songs and stories, hot tea and oatmeal and outdoor activities. Come dress for the weather. **Please sign-up in advance with your contact information so we can get hold of you if we need to cancel.**

**Chapters in History Book Group**
**Second Saturdays at 2 p.m. by Zoom or in person at the library**
**March 12th - *The Last Founding Father: James Monroe* by Harlow Unger**
**April 9th - *The Quartet* by Joseph Ellis**
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
**March 28 - *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke**
**April 25 - *Folklorn* by Angela Mi Young Hur**

**Snow Shoes, Computers, Makerspace Kits, Games and Puzzles and More Available for Checkout!**
STEAM-focused Makerspace kits catalogued and ready for checkout! Robotics kit, magna tiles, snap circuits electricity kit, friendship bracelets kit, microscope 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. ***Supported in part by the Vermont Humanities Council.***

*Caring and Cooperation*

**Amy Hornblas**

Cabot Selectboard
Independent Candidate

**Experience:**

Cabot Zoning Board
Regional Planning Commission Representative
CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Council Chair

Cabot School Health Teacher
Cabot Farm to School Coordinator

Independent Living Skills

Homesteader

**VOTE:**

*Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 1st*

# LOCAL DIRECTORY

## CONTRACTORS

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Everything for all your sugaring needs

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Pints $7.50 ~ Half Pints $5
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## SERVICES

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Hardwick, Vermont 05843
**(802) 472-8400**
info@hardwickvet.com
www.hardwickvet.com
Open Tuesday - Saturday

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**Seth's Computer Services**
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* Laptop Repair and Upgrades
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* PC Spyware and Virus Removal
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**Walden Heights Nursery & Orchard**
Certified organic nursery with a large selection of cold-hardy, fruiting plants, specializing in apple trees.
Consultations for orchard & homestead planning
120 VT Route 215, Walden, VT
802-563-3012
WaldenHeightsNursery.com

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**Sunwise Surveying**
*Specializing In Boundary Surveying*
Lisa M. Ginett, RLS & Uriah Paire
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## SERVICES

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**Sandy Pond STUDIOS**
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SandyPondStudios@gmail.com

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All insurances accepted
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**www.socksfamilyfarm.weebly.com**
Susan Socks, cabotfarm@gmail.com
**802-563-2073**

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**802-522-7570**

## SERVICES

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***Anita Kelman***
anitakelman2@gmail.com

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**Cabot Garage, Inc.**
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www.cabotgarage.net
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damien@dunhambrotherspainting.com
www.dunhambrotherspainting.com

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**Happy St. Patrick's Day**

# 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.

# CHIEF BOTHFELD

## Retires After 30 Years of Leading Cabot Fire Department

On behalf of the Cabot Fire Department, we would like to thank Walter “Skip” Bothfeld Jr. for 30 years of dedication to the Town of Cabot as Chief of Cabot Fire Department. He stepped down from the Chief position in January.

During his tenure, Skip has seen the department incorporate many and wide-ranging new technologies. The original method to notify members of an incident used to be a party line telephone tree. Currently, the method is a centralized modern dispatching center that now alerts members over an “app” on our cell phones, and when technology lets us down, the loud station siren can be heard in the fields across Cabot. He got the department a “T” tank to bring water to a fire scene, donated from Cabot Creamery. "I thought it was a good idea," a large tank strapped down by chains! And replaced by the present tanker for over 22 years. He also led the replacement of an old engine to a modern 6-man cab, with an integrated foam system in the pump. The foam unit was one of the first of its kind in this area and is used to greatly reduce water damage in structure fire applications. Cabot had an old military ambulance that was converted to carry gear and blocks of wood for stabilization for car accidents and was labeled “The Rescue Rat." This was replaced with the current modern rescue truck that is equipped with the Jaws of Life, as well as other heavy rescue and hazmat equipment. His most favorite moments have been “seeing new modern equipment for the safety of the members and town folks."

Skip shared that his most concerning call was a search and rescue for lost kids on the Cabot/Walden border, during the dead of a sub-zero winter night. He tirelessly led the Cabot Fire Department and multiple search teams until the kids were found deep in the woods, huddled together, cold, wet, hungry, and confused, but alive. “I was relieved when I got the radio call that the kids were found alive." His worst fire call was a barn fire. Three 100lbs propane tanks exploded during the fire, sending the tanks upward through the roof of the barn and landing out in a field several hundred feet away, “We saved the house, that’s somebody’s home, that’s all that mattered to me." “You never know what the next call will be," Skip said. He has been command for rescues like a horse that fell into a pool, or cows stuck in a manure pit, or serious car accidents with DART helicopter landings to pick up critically injured patients.

Skip was the first to apply for UDAG funds in 1993. These funds were used to add two bays to the station, to ensure the department could meet the growing emergency needs of that era. In addition to dedication for the growth in Cabot, Skip also has held the President position for Capital Fire for 20 years. Capital Fire is integral in supporting continued expansion in technology in dispatching services, with the goal to expedite response time and communication. For 20 years he also held a position in the Vermont State Fire Coalition, bringing valuable information to Cabot. “I’m proud of the town's safety level that I achieved."

Thinking of the members he commented “lots of good and dedicated people in the department." “I didn’t even bat an eyelash when a member grabbed a fire extinguisher during our annual pancake breakfast and ran back to the kitchen trying to get my attention. Sometimes the members like to have a little fun with me.”

Skip says, “I’m not slowing down” and plans on running for Select Board to continue to dedicate his time to the community and the growth of Cabot.

If you would like to send him a thank you, he can be reached at bothfelds@gmail.com.

Thank you Retired Chief Walter “Skip” Bothfeld for your 30 years of leadership and dedication!

Sincerely,
The Cabot Fire Department members past and present
And
Dean D. Deasy
Chief
Cabot Fire Department
Chief@cabotfiredept.com

*Ad paid for by Cabot Fire Association*