

THE CABOT CHRONICLE

Proudly Published by the



First Established 1920 ~ Re-Established 2008 ~ Cabot Chronicle available online at <http://www.CabotChronicle.org>

Vol. 19, No. 1

P.O. Box 245, Cabot, Vermont 05647

January 2026

FREE

Serving Cabot
& Surrounding
Communities

PRST STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Local
Postal Customer

Ask the Fire Department: ANSWERS



On page 3 of the December *Cabot Chronicle* we invited the community to **Ask the Fire Department** questions to provide accurate information in preparation for decisions ahead of us as a voting body. During the month a number of inquiries came in, and they are presented here with answers from the Fire Chief.

• **Fire Department Budget: why can't it be a separate line item on the warning?**

That is a question that is better addressed to the Select Board (SB). We do not control how our budget is presented to the community.

• **Cabot Emergency Transport gets by on \$50,000, why does the FD need \$131,586?**

Your comparison is incorrect. It is akin to asking why the Road Department, with a budget exceeding \$1 million, cannot operate within a specified financial limit, such as the Cabot Fire Department's (CFD) \$131,586. These are all entirely separate entities that serve the town of Cabot, each performing very distinct functions for the community.

Also, CFD maintains three different apparatuses, rather than one, with much more equipment and thirty active members. Unlike others, All of our budget is dedicated solely to operational expenses. Consider the funds saved from the 30 volunteer efforts my members contributed to, versus the cost of a paid department. We have approximately \$2,000,000 in equipment available to members for emergency calls. Our size, equipment requirements, and tasks requested to be performed vary significantly from those of the organization you mentioned. Depending on the incident, we could be at a structure fire, smoke within buildings, motor vehicle accidents, extrication, brush fires, hazmat incidents, search and rescue operations, elevated CO levels, confined space entrapment, lift assist, barn fire, mass evacuation, among others. The equipment necessary for life-saving purposes must be maintained and kept in excellent condition to ensure immediate response when required. For instance, a set of turnout gear costs over \$6,000, and (see, 'Fire Department', page 2)

Offices to be Elected at Town Meeting 2026

These positions will be elected in person or at the ballot box March 3. Checkmarks indicate petitions required, filed with Town Clerk by January 26 with minimum 12 registered Cabot voter signatures.

Moderator one year term

✓Town Clerk 3-year term

✓Selectboard Member 3-year term

✓Selectboard Member 2-year term

2 Listers 3-year term

Delinquent Tax Collector 1-year term

Grand Juror 1-year-term

Cemetery Commissioner 3-year term

✓School Director two 3-year terms

Library Trustee two 3-year terms

CCIF Committee 3-year term

Wiley Building Committee two 3-year terms

Meet New NIA Executive Director Cyndy Phillips

by Jeanne Johnson

Cabot Chronicle (CC): As a new face at Neighbors in Action, can you tell us a little about yourself and what you bring to the job?

(Cyndy Phillips (CP): I have a marketing company - I have a high-tech background - web development, commercial photography. I've lived in central Florida almost 40 years, moved up north in 2018 because we didn't have anyone in Florida anymore - why would you live there if you didn't have to? Most of the businesses I support are in Florida, but I can work anywhere. My husband was in Germany with the Army for twenty years in communication, now works for the Department of Defense. He loved Germany but now runs the largest educational program in the Veterans Administration for employees, but he can do that anywhere. We each have friends who encouraged us to consider moving to Vermont. Our daughter is an artist, and she chose to move with us. We came and visited - it took one trip to decide; five subsequent trips to find a house. We fell in love with the NEK - either it's for you or it isn't - it's what it was like to live in the 80s. I've lived in rural areas before, I know what it's like to travel an hour and a half to get groceries. The Kingdom is not rural; it is underdeveloped. We have technology, we just choose whether to use it or not. I really like it here.

I was born in New York in Huntington, Long Island; a new company named Signa took my parents to Florida. We lived in central Florida for close to 40 years. Now it's so populated you can't even move anymore. Forty years ago, I used to have cows stop me when I was trying to go to school. I was in high school in 1996 and I was late in my senior year three or four times because there were cows in the middle of the road. In the area where I grew up there are now 21 new home developments. And it's not just Disney - it's University of Central Florida, the largest college in the US. And what do we do when we go to college? We stay where we graduate. So companies started moving down because the talent pool is there. It just



grew and grew and grew. I used to pack out to the wilds of the Everglades for two weeks to hunt, hike and camp. That's all closed down now - it's not my Florida anymore. I was fine to leave. It's just not the same place. And catastrophic weather is getting greater and greater. I'll take a snowstorm.

We live in North Danville village - almost ended up in seven or eight other places in the NEK, but no one had high speed internet. North Danville is delightful, gorgeous, idyllic; I've roller-skated down the middle of the street in a moo-moo. My daughter moved up with us, now lives in St. J and works at Frame Dames. She's a townie.

CC: What prompted you to take time away from your business to do this?

CP: I'm part time. I was doing hospice work. I'm doing caretaking and I had a client that was food insecure, and so my friend Kerry said, "I've been working with this organization, Neighbors in Action, you should sign up and go get food boxes." That sounded great. My daughter works full-time, has her own apartment, has her own car, but in the past year has noticed more and more that she was buying - I never want to say the word "unhealthy" - but maybe food that wasn't the best choice for her because she couldn't afford anything else. Because she is right under the poverty line, I signed her up for a food box. So, I was going to Greensboro because we have a satellite out there. I was picking up food boxes and I kept telling them, "I love (see, 'Cyndy Phillips', page 3)

- - - DEADLINES - - -

Thursday, January 15 5 pm deadline to file petition with Town Clerk for Town Meeting Article, signed by 5% of registered voters (60 registered Cabot voters)
Monday, January 26 5 pm deadline to file petition with Town Clerk for election to Town Office, signed by 1% of registered voters (12 registered Cabot voters)

Features:
Senior News:

Pages 1-3
Page 13

Town Meeting Pages:
Library News:

Page 8-9
Page 12-13

Obituaries:
Business Directory:

Page 4
Page 15

Fire Department

(continued from page 1)

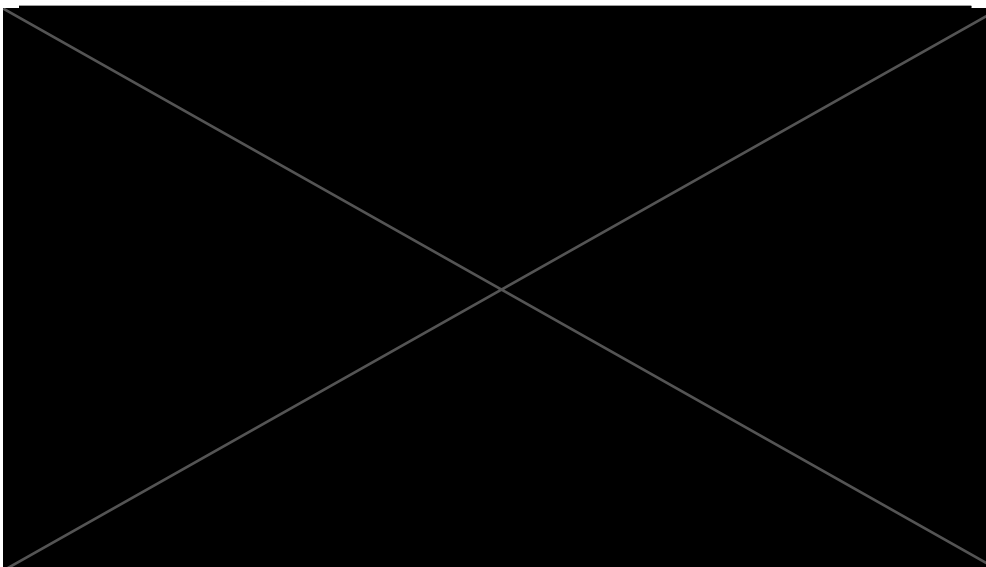
a single self-contained breathing apparatus exceeds \$10,000. When combined with other essential gear, an average firefighter's protective equipment would be valued at approximately \$20,000 before entering a hazardous zone to retrieve a life or extinguish a fire. Everything must work flawlessly, no exceptions.

• **What would it cost to make the temporary building a permanent building?**

The cost placed on the taxpayers would be astronomical. I wouldn't even want to guess at it. The existing building is temporary in nature and has never been outfitted with the necessary above and below-grade infrastructure to function as a permanent fire station. Furthermore, the structure would require additional square footage per NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) and is already located at the boundary of the permissible building area due to wetlands and stormwater runoff restrictions imposed by the state of Vermont. So going more floors upward would be the only option; however, the current framing was not designed to carry a second or 3rd floor load, only the calculated snow load for that GPS location. After all that, it would not be an efficient layout by any means. Additional infrastructure improvements would include installing a new 8-inch water main along South Walden Road to support a comprehensive sprinkler system. Even if funds were allocated for these enhancements by the taxpayers, the facility would still be considered inadequate for a firehouse on ribbon-cutting day. It's like putting a square peg in a round hole.

• **Could you please post a copy of the interior floor plan, with dimensions, for everyone to see?**

We have presented drawings at several SB meetings where the architect was also available to address questions. We apologize if you missed those opportunities. This is the proposed first-floor bay area (again). The building's design is mainly driven by the required layout and available funding from sources like FEMA and USDA, etc., leading to ongoing revisions of the second floor. Once funding is secured and options are thoroughly evaluated, finalized drawings will be made available for review. Sharing early versions of the second-floor plan could cause confusion, as the design may change. I want the public to see what will be there. As a municipal Public Safety Building, it is important to incorporate specific areas such as NFPA-compliant spaces, decontamination (DECON) areas, training rooms, incident command / Dispatch center, and spaces for the Town's Health officers, Fire Wardens,



and Constables, who currently lack dedicated operational spaces and often handle very confidential community records from their homes. The building is designed to accommodate both current needs and future projected growth for the Town of Cabot.

• **We have seen the street view of the building. Could we also see pictures of the other exterior views (sides and back views)?**

Options have been provided to view other sides of the building in the past. The focus was mainly on the front view, which most inquiries requested. This is all four sides. The exterior/ layout of the building has limited modification options due to external restrictions such as apparatus flow, parking, utilities, wetlands, driveway, headlight splash, etc. The exterior design won't change much. Limited windows and doors on one side are included in the design to help reduce noise and light pollution on that side that faces the homes. The building was also slightly rotated to ensure it stays a quiet neighbor, and setbacks and screening to provide "space" have been maintained to protect neighbors' privacy in their backyards further.

• **What architect group was used for the current plans? Did you consult with more than one group?**

Several architecture firms were considered initially. The primary objective was to identify a licensed firm with a proven track record of completing public safety buildings and fire station projects, along with sufficient staff to handle such a project. Additionally, the firm needed to be knowledgeable about current NFPA, OSHA, VOSHA, ADA, and State laws, as well as permitting processes and projected costs. Out of respect for the firms that SB chose not to hire, their names will not be disclosed. Scotts & Partners met all the necessary criteria. They also proposed effective cost-saving measures to maximize the available budget from the outset. Although the firm is sizable, SB maintains direct contact with one of

the owners, who is consistently willing to provide guidance regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the inquiry. Their relationship with the engineering team is exceptional, and they ensure that every detail is meticulously verified.

• **Does the state of Vermont mandate what needs to be in newly built fire stations that are "Volunteer fire departments"? If so, can you please post a list of their mandates.**

This is an excellent question. However, your assertion regarding "Volunteer fire departments" is misguided. Regardless of whether a fire department is "volunteer" or "paid", the requirements (and restrictions) are the same across the board. As a side note, members from both types often sit together side by side, in many of the State fire classes they attend for the same certification levels. To answer your question succinctly, yes, the Department of Fire and Safety has significant influence over what is incorporated into a "firehouse," and there is a lengthy plan review process that takes months to get through to make sure everything is in the structure, as do federal agencies, another lengthy review for requirements. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in collaboration with OSHA, enforces fire safety standards. The state of Vermont began to recognize and adopt NFPA regulations back in 1972. All codes since then have been continuously updated about every three years, and there are now over 300 chapters (books), including NFPA 1581, 1500, 1585, and over a dozen more pertaining to firehouses and firefighters. Items that are listed are wordings of "must" are "minimum requirements for safety programs, training, protective equipment, and facility design in fire departments." Covering decontamination, hazards of fly ash, carcinogens, and cancer studies, especially after 9/11, when all the studies from that event started coming out 4 years later. It began making projects like firehouses meet extremely high standards for the safety of the members. The

Honor Act, a Bill that passed the Senate on Wednesday, 12/17/25, was pushed by NFPA/OSHA and addresses specific job-related concerns (cancer) for firefighters. In the background, it started a firestorm of new regulations that are coming forth. I could really make this a 3-page answer, but I think you get the idea.

• **Is there a department at the state level that regulates the building of volunteer fire departments? If so, what department is that?**

Due to independent funding secured by Cabot for this project, approval from multiple Federal and State permitting agencies will be required.

• **Please post what the bottom line cost of the new building is proposed to be. FEMA? UDAG? Cabot taxpayers? How will it affect our tax rate? Thank you for your transparency.**

The Selectboard would be better positioned to provide an answer to this. We serve solely as an advisor to the Selectboard regarding the requirements for the operation of the Fire Department. To my knowledge, there is no UDAG funding specifically allocated for this purpose. I took the liberty of reaching out to the Selectboard to address your question and to ensure clarity, without overstepping. According to the Selectboard, "We know how much the USDA is giving us, \$5.1 million, and we also know how much more we need from FEMA to get to our 8+ million to actually build the building. We won't know any tax implications until we see all the funding numbers and what is left over to be paid by the town." (Selectboard) As I have stated for several years, my goal is to achieve a zero balance. I fully acknowledge that the residents of Cabot were significantly impacted by the recent floods; I witnessed this firsthand through over personally accumulating 1,000 documented volunteer hours while serving in the Chief position. I am not alone in this recognition.

• **The current building plan looks like a building that does not belong in a small town in Vermont. Have you considered a building that is more architecturally compatible with the rest of the town? If not, why?**

I understand that everyone has their own opinions regarding design taste, color, style, and architectural features. That's why people's homes are painted different colors. The building was designed using multiple photographs from different angles of existing structures along Main Street. These photographs included the Willey Building, the Yellow Building next to Harry's Hardware, the red building to the left of that, Harry's Hardware, the Church, Cabot School, and various residential homes on Main Street. Some of these elements were (see, *Fire Department*, page 3)

THE CABOT CHRONICLE

DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to production

Publisher: Cabot Community Assoc.

Coordinator: Jeannie Johnson

Design/Pagination: Todd Jones

Send Ads to: inbox@cabotvermont.org

The Cabot Chronicle is published monthly and is provided locally free of charge.

Phone: 802-279-6897 • Email: inbox@cabotvermont.org

P.O. Box 245, Cabot, Vermont 05647

Copyright 2025 by The Cabot Chronicle ~ Published by the Cabot Community Assoc.

All Rights Reserved 2008-2026 ~ The Cabot Chronicle ~ ISSN# 1942-0943

No part of this paper may be reproduced without express written permission from The Cabot Chronicle. Publisher is not responsible for typographical errors. Acceptance of advertising is contingent upon publisher's approval and agreement by advertiser to indemnify publisher from loss or expense on claims based upon contents of advertising. Publisher does not assume liability for errors in any advertising beyond the cost of space occupied by individual item in which the error appeared.

Subscriptions available \$25 per year ~ <http://www.cabotchronicle.org>

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



Cyndy Phillips

(continued from page 1)

what you do here,” and I loved their attitude and I loved how excited people were, and then one day a friend said to me, “You know, that organization where you get your food from, they’re looking for an ED.” “Really?!” I was just so - I’m not really sure there is a better word for it yet - smitten with what they do, I really am. I’m in love with it. I love what they do, and I love how they do it. I wasn’t going to throw my hand back into the ring with an organization unless the right organization presented itself, and the more I learned about Neighbors in Action, the more I loved them. You don’t find that that often. They are here to feed the kingdom. People ask all the time, “What is your role here?” and I point to our mission: We’re here to feed people, here to build community, and nobody has an additional agenda. Neighbors in Action helps ensure that food relief and social interactions have a more meaningful and enduring impact. They really live their mission, and I think that’s exciting. And, to be honest, this is the first organization that didn’t call me a flatlander and tell me they were looking for someone more local, which tickles me! It’s exciting to be with a nonprofit and be able to give back in so many elements.

CC: How do you define success for Neighbors in Action?

CP: For 2026, I think that’s very specific, and I would say it’s to meet the growth that we’re going to see - we don’t have an option. We know that it’s going to grow. We served 100 more children this year for Toys for Tots. We have new signups every single week at every single location, and we hear the same thing over and over: “I’ve never had to ask for help before.” So, we’re going to move into an environment, I think, in 2026 where people that have never faced food insecurity are going to think about, “Where am I getting the means, where am I getting the items, to feed my family? Where is that coming from?” One of the greatest things about the boxes that we put together and the work that goes into them is that they are so complete. There’s meat, dairy, eggs, there’s produce. When I show people our food boxes, they’re absolutely blown away. The other day I was taking food to my hospice patient. I was unpacking and putting things away, and there was smoked salmon inside and butter and rice and lentils and strawberry cups. Part of the thing I love about them is that they’re different. There’s got to be a fit for people, you know- we may not be a fit for you if you are elderly and you live alone. - A lot of times we see that they want things pre-made. “I just wanna pop something in and have a meal.” And that’s fine, there’s a lot of organizations that are doing that. What I find with our food boxes is they are for one-or-two, three-or-four, five-or-six, or greater than that (number of people). Those five-six boxes blow me away in what’s inside them: a huge block of Cabot cheese, three pounds of hamburger, full salad kits, loaves of bread, two dozen eggs. It is a substantial amount of food, plus we do pet food, dogs or cats, because everyone deserves to have a companion.

CC: This seems to be a change. Years ago, I remember hearing about people coming in, getting a box and taking out things that required preparation, real “cooking.” This seems different.

CP: A big sea change, yeah, I agree with that. We were also serving a different type of client, I think. At this point we’re serving more families. We do see with the one/two boxes, sometimes they say, “Do you have something more prepackaged? Do you have something that’s canned?” Because they want ease; and you know what it’s like - what does everyone always say? “I hate cooking for one person!” Tell me to cook for one person, I’m not going to, I can live on cereal! No one wants to cook for one person.

But when you’re looking at families, you want to sit down for a meal. What I love about Vermont is Vermont appreciates all the things that I feel are sort of fading away a little bit in the way of connection. We don’t connect with each other the same way that we used to. And don’t get me wrong. I adore technology. I’m not telling you don’t have your kids on their phone, that also is kind of peace and quiet, like when we used to gather around the TV and everybody had to be quiet until the commercial, then go ahead and make popcorn. I’m not telling anyone to abandon technology, it is 2025. But the idea of having a meal together is still important, the idea of cooking together, the idea of handing down recipes is still important, and I feel that our boxes help facilitate those things for people that are food insecure that weren’t doing them before. I think that’s beautiful.

CC: When leading through challenges, what values guide your decisions?

CP: You know, I am annoyingly optimistic. It’s not that I’m not a realist. I think that every challenge is an opportunity to lead with “yes”. I don’t know if they’re so much values, but there are things that I hold absolutely dear. Building strong communities is one of them. So whatever values it takes to build strong, strong local communities, those are the values I would say I embody. We’re going to get to a point, I think, in the next five years, where we’re much more reliant on each other locally than we’ve ever been before, and I would say that 48 out of our 50 states are not prepared for this: Vermont is. We are the cleanest, safest place to live right now. We always joke with everyone that when we first came up here, we were “oxygen drunk.” It actually wasn’t a joke, though. With 80% contiguous green land, our oxygen saturation level here is so different than Orlando that we literally were just laughing the whole time. We were just so happy about everything, and I was telling a friend, and was told - maybe it’s the oxygen - and I thought, maybe they were onto something! Do I miss certain things? Yeah: in Orlando I can go out at 3 o’clock in the morning and find French fries, that was cool; I could go wander around the mall during the day if I wanted to; there were water parks I could take the kids to. Sometimes I miss those things. But I value the ability to connect with people in a way that I haven’t been able to in a

decade where we were living. Vermont is incomparable to anywhere else we’ve ever been. If you want to build communities, if you want to get involved somewhere, if you want to feel like you’re making a difference for your neighbors, this is the state to be in.

CC: How do you build trust with volunteers, staff, donors and community members.

CP: That’s an easy one I have one sentence for: I model the way. I never ask you to do anything that I’m not willing to do. I keep promises. I was at Lyndonville this morning, because they’re trying to come up with a new process for food distribution, and they were like, yep, we’ve got this, and you know, I believe them. They’ve been doing this without me for years and years and years and years, but sometimes you just need a fresh set of eyes on it. So, while we’re building the process, I’m also cooking their volunteer lunch, I’m breaking down egg boxes. I’m seeing where we saved space over in this left quadrant, can we move the fridge? Can we do that? I’m using a predictive analytical mind and stirring the ziti. So, I think you have to be in the trenches. I think you have to be involved. I think you have to be willing to wear every single hat in an organiza-

Fire Department

(continued from page 2)

incorporated into the exterior design while avoiding the high costs of reconstructing certain features. The building is considered "timeless" due to its brick facade, which requires little to no maintenance and includes non-paintable surfaces such as aluminum window trims. Features borrowed from these structures on Main Street include a band just below the roofline and a ledger above the windows, as seen on many existing structures in Cabot. A flat roof was maintained to keep the overall height minimum and to allow placement of HVAC equipment out of sight and off the ground. There is also the option to include a roof-mounted solar system. Earlier conversations with GMP would enable the town to benefit from any existing solar credits after applying them to the Public Safety Building and applying the balance to another GMP town account (like the Town Clerk's Office), reducing or even eliminating their power bill. Full Disclosure: the solar system's idea is still under review to determine if its integration into this phase of construction is even possible at this time.

• I am aware of the nearby towns’ fire departments - namely Walden and Woodbury. I am wondering if there has been conversation about sharing some resources with them? We are such tiny towns and the modern infrastructure nowadays is so important and so expensive that it seems like it would make sense to share between the locations rather than each department having its own resources in entirety. Thanks for your thoughts.

This is an excellent question! However, the description of Cabot as "such a tiny town" is unfortunately inaccurate. The CFD was established in 1867, when farms in the area covered the landscape surrounding Cabot. According to town

tion, and if you’re not willing to do that, you’re not made for nonprofit, and you’re not made for the kind of organization that Neighbors in Action is. I mean, it’s in the title. Neighbors – in the NEK everybody knows everyone. In Action.- I just think they’re amazing. Specifically, I always follow what Vermonters do, I’m not here to change anything. I don’t want to bring Florida up here, there’s a reason I left, I’m not interested in that. But I also think that you’ve really got to be willing to learn and listen up here, because Vermont is not an easy place to live. So, these first couple of weeks I’ve been letting my volunteers tell me what to do. Tell me how to do it. If it makes sense, we’ll do it your way, if I think we can do it better, we’ll have a conversation about it, but none of it is just because I said so.

CC: Last question: How can the community best support you and the organization?

CP: I believe that true stewardship has three tenets: time, talent, money.

Money is the easiest one - if you have the ability to donate to us, I implore you. It is more important now, this year, than it has ever been before. We are seeing exponential growth within our program, (see, ‘Cyndi Phillips’, page 4)

records, CFD had at that time a 4-man, hand-pull hose cart and a small handful of members. Flash forward to 2005, the grand list has increased significantly, reaching \$83,976,110. To address the growing volume and complexity of calls at that time, in 2011 CFD, with its membership increasing, expanded from a two-person cab/engine to a six-person cab/engine equipped with foam capabilities, a larger pump, and jump seats preloaded with SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus). By 2015, the grand list had risen to \$168,194,277, and it has continued to skyrocket, as well as our call volume, with 2025 showing \$272,505,815 in total assets now needing protection. This figure does not include town- owned buildings, nor does it account for vehicles, barns, and home contents, which further increase the assets at risk. As I said, we are not a “tiny town” anymore. Cabot is growing. The key point is that the Cabot Fire Department must be prepared to respond to an increasing volume and a wider range of emergency calls. We go out on about 150 calls a year. We are members of the Capital Fire Mutual Aid Program, an organization comprising over 31 towns, and CFD is one of the largest departments in the area with 30 active members. The agreement implies mutual assistance: we respond to their needs, and they assist us when necessary. Our department occasionally responds to Barre with apparatus, and similarly, departments (such as East Montpelier Fire) send apparatus and personnel to take part in large structural fires in Cabot. Additionally, we collaborate with Woodbury on their airboat, and neighboring departments use our cascade system to refill self-contained breathing apparatuses, which are essential for firefighter safety. We also request assistance from Vermont Hazmat for use on certain calls, or swift-water rescues, or if Cabot requests the Hardwick fire department ladder truck, all of which allow (see, ‘Fire Department’, page 4)



OBITUARY

Jane E. Fitzpatrick



Jane E. Fitzpatrick passed away peacefully at home in Barre, Vermont, on Friday, November 21, 2025, after a long illness. She was 87.

Jane was born on April 11, 1938, in Northvale, New Jersey, to Douglas and

Dorothy Zabriskie. She attended high school in Closter, New Jersey, and upon graduation worked at Lederle Laboratories in Pearl River, New York. During High School Jane met her future husband, Brendan Fitzpatrick, at a local ice cream shop. After two years they married and started a family in Dumont, New Jersey. After relocating to River Vale, New Jersey, Jane owned a ceramic store in Park Ridge, New Jersey, where she provided personalized guidance for participants to create their own pieces. In 1973, Jane sold her ceramic shop, and the family left New Jersey and relocated to Cabot, Vermont.

While living in Vermont, Jane was employed at Cabot School as the school Secretary and later as the Docket Clerk at the Vermont State Supreme Court. After 17 years at the Supreme Court, Jane retired and she and her husband settled in Florida for 17 years before ultimately relocating back to Vermont.

Jane enjoyed all sports, but golf was her favorite. She was a member of the New Smyrna Beach Golf Club in Florida, where she celebrated her first hole-in-one. Jane also liked cross-country skiing, line dancing, traveling and took up rollerblading at age 62. Jane always loved a festive gathering and was often the life of the party.

Jane is survived by her husband of 69 years, Brendan, her four children, Tim (Lisa) of South Carolina, Tara (Tom Fontana) of Vermont, Sally of New Jersey, and Michael of Vermont. Jane was blessed with six grandchildren, LeeAnn, Jared, Dylan, Connor, Lindsay, Garrett and nine great grandchildren. She is also survived by her three sisters, Carol Knieriem and Donna Nead of Colorado, and Nancy Knapp of Florida, and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express their deep appreciation for all the help provided by Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice and special thanks to Dr. Robert Robinson for his commitment to Jane's well-being and comfort over the years. There will be no calling hours at this time, however, a celebration of life will take place in the Spring. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice. Arrangements are by Hooker Whitcomb Funeral Home, 7 Academy Street, Barre. For a memorial guestbook, please visit www.hookerwhitcomb.com.

Cyndy Phillips

(continued from page 3)

and we are the NEK's best-kept secret. We really are. When people find out what goes into the food boxes, the community dinners that we do, the way we support people in each of these areas, they're absolutely blown away. But because so many people on the receiving end of this don't have money to give, if you have money to give, even if it is five dollars a month, we would love that. Check with your employer, see if they have matching funds. If you want to make a one-time gift, that would be great. Unfortunately, we just need funding, and grants this year are disappearing at a faster rate than they ever have before, and the amount per grant is down about 50 percent from what it was.

Time is another option. We always have opportunities where you can come out and help. We put boxes together, or we run community dinners, or we have people that want food boxes but can't drive to get them. Maybe you want to be a runner for something, maybe you have the ability to drive around – it's beautiful driving around the NEK. Time is just as valuable as money.

Talent is the third one, this is my fa-

vorite, because people say, "I have nothing to give," and every single one of us has something to give. Are you really into yoga, do you want to run a class? Do you paint? Do you do storytelling? Are you an electrician? Do you know something about Vermont history? That would be a benefit to us. Do you cook? Do you make an old-fashioned recipe? Is there something fun you create that can go into each of our boxes? And I'm not saying it even has to be a tangible item. Maybe it's an insert that we put in the boxes, like a great recipe you know for hazelnuts (we've been giving out a **bunch** of hazelnuts lately!). We're going to be re-imagining the backyard at this building. I want to build a food-forward space that is ADA compliant so that everyone has the ability to hang out with us when they want. ADA compliant swings and seats, a little walking path back there, maybe an herb walk so that you have an edible landscape. Do you know about things like that? Do you know about horticulture? Those are talents.

And so, right now we are looking for one of those three things, and everybody's got one of three, so whatever your time, talent, or monetary funding is, we'd ask that you'd connect with us and help us build a stronger organization for the NEK.

can say that it is truly an ongoing balancing act happening daily without the Town folks even knowing it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you (Jeanne) for organizing this event, as well as all of you who submitted questions. Our focus stays on academic inquiry and transparency, particularly regarding the questions posed. Moving forward, WE have a strong, growing community, and CFD is proud to protect it! Be Safe! - Chief Deasy

Fire Department

(continued from page 3)

us to use resources Cabot does not retain. As Chief, I face a daily delicate balance: ensuring equipment is readily available for any possible Cabot life safety situations that may come in. Whether assets are received from neighboring departments, managing possible response times, or purchasing and maintenance costs, if Cabot owns such equipment. I

HAZEL M. GREAVES INCOME TAX & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE



802-563-2332
2010 BAYLEY HAZEN ROAD
EAST HARDWICK VT 05836

hazelgreavestaxservice@gmail.com



Neighbors
in Action



CABOT JANUARY Calendar

FREE Food Share

JANUARY 7th 12:00 - 2:00 pm

JANUARY 21st 12:00 - 2:00 PM



12TH NIGHT DINNER AT NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

JANUARY 3rd 4:30 - 6:30

CHICKEN & BISQUITS/By Donation

3339 Main Street
Downtown Cabot Village
Call: 802-563-3322

NeighborsinActionVT.org
www.facebook.com/neighborsinactionvt

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 selectboard 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 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. Digital Recordings of selectboard meetings are available on the Town website, CabotVT.US by clicking on "Selectboard Meetings."



SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Speeding Concerns

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

Public comment at the December 2 meeting turned into a discussion about speeding in the village. Dale Brown spoke up about speeding in a small town and noted that he lives directly across from the school. He said that people are doing 40 or 50 mph in the school zone.

Dale added that even when kids are crossing the street, people are not doing 25. He said that he watched kids step into the crosswalk while looking at their phones. Dale expressed gratefulness that no one has been hit yet, and added that he didn't know the answer. He relayed that he spoke with a friend at the Washington County Sheriff's office and they said they want to do more, but that funds are limited.

Mike Hogan stated that they have had a lot of discussions about speeding. Fred Ducharme said the bottom line is that they are not spending enough on the Sheriffs. He said the town needs to spend 4-5 times the amount they have budgeted, noting that the kids are spacing, looking at their phone and not paying attention to traffic. Fred then turned to Dale to encourage him to tell the board about the guy in the pickup.

Dale recalled that the other day he was sitting on his couch and heard the guy coming. He said the guy went by at 50, and later that day, the same rig went the other way. He said the guy was right on his neighbor's "ass" and then passed his neighbor.

He said his neighbor made a motion to get out his phone to take a picture and the guy turned around and confronted his neighbor. Dale said the guy asked if his neighbor had a problem with him and also said he had a gun. He said it's a white Tahoe, or something like that.

Mike said it's an issue the county is facing, there aren't enough deputies. He added that there is a shortage of state police too. He speculated that even if they doubled the budget for sheriff patrols, there wouldn't be any difference. Amy Monahan said that there was about \$8,000 in the budget for the sheriff's office.

Betty Ritter said the deputies don't see anyone speeding when they come out. She noted that they now have a vehicle that doesn't look like a police car. Frank Kampf asked about speed cameras, and Betty said they have been looking at that with the sheriff's department.

She added that they would have to coordinate with Creamery construction.

Site 4, Emily said, is relatively flat in several areas, but the edges get a little into the wetland area. It is located on Sawmill Road, by the water treatment plant. She pointed out that one of the detriments of the site is that it is the farthest from the village.

The next site, site 5, is also located on creamery land on Whittier Hill Road. Emily said the land is somewhat flat, and the soils are buildable, noting that it is close to town water and sewer.

Emily said that site 6, which is just outside the village on South Walden Road, is just outside the town water service area, and has hydric soils. She said that the site has challenges for building upon it, and it is right on the edge of a habitat corridor.

The last site, site 7, is located on Danville Hill Road, and Emily said it would need an Act 250 permit. She noted that it is flatter, but has a shallow depth to rock.

She then showed how they created a comparison matrix in their report to rate each site, describing that each site was scored on a scale of 1-5 in each category. Then the overall score was summarized to help rank the sites. Emily said they

presented the report to the task force, and the task force selected 3 sites for further research. Those sites are 2, 4, and 5.

Gary told the board that the task force met with the creamery and they expressed openness to the consideration of the Whittier Hill site. However, he added, they also expressed a jurisdictional opinion was needed regarding Act 250 since the creamery is governed by Act 250 for all of its land.

Fred Ducharme asked if Greg Moore, owner of Cabot Garage, had a preference on the sites. Gary said that Greg prefers the Whittier Hill site. He added that Greg has a lot of customers that work at the creamery, and they walk to/from his business. Gary added that the next step was to amend their contract with DuBois & King and do further analysis and narrow it down to one site.

Mike Hogan asked if the creamery has a price on the Whittier Hill property. R.D. Eno responded that they didn't have a price in mind, but they would be interested in a land swap. Mike expressed that a land swap would be a good approach.

The report of Dubois & King is available on the Town website: cabotvt.us.

Cabot Garage Buyout Progress

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

Gary Gulka, chair of the Flood Resiliency Task Force, and Emily Lewis, a representative of contractor DuBois & King, presented the results of the study to find relocation sites for the Cabot Garage at the December 16 meeting of the Selectboard.

Gary reminded the board that the task force had made the announcement that the town had been awarded the grant to replace the bridge across the north tributary. Then he noted that the project had been separated from the project to replace the culverts on the south tributary that run under Main Street.

He recalled that the town had received a grant from Vermont Emergency Management to buy out the Cabot Garage property, the first step in the project to replace the culverts with a bridge. Gary said that part of the buyout was for the owner of the building to be compensated for the appraised value. If the relocation is successful, he stated, then the bridge project could proceed. But he emphasized that the town has not received funding for that project. He noted that they have applied for FEMA funding and hoped that the subtraction of the north tributary bridge project from the request made it more likely it would be approved.

He then told the board that the task force hired DuBois & King to do a desk

top study of seven possible properties for the relocation of Cabot Garage. He said the next phase would be to select the most promising sites and do a more detailed analysis of how the facility could be built on the site.

Emily then took over the presentation and told the board that when they looked at the proposed sites, they analyzed the soils, water and wastewater access, wetland proximity, physical spacing, and access to the main road. She said their report shows how each site rated in each category, and then she reviewed the seven sites.

She said that site 1 was town property located behind the Willey Building. She said that site had some challenges because of the stream located behind the site, which creates buffering requirements. But she noted that it is very close to the current location of Cabot Garage. Emily added that the soil had a high water table, and it would also require relocation of the playground

Emily described site 2, located on Elm Street across from the cemetery, as one of the flattest sites, it contains no hydric soils, and has a deep water table. She said that one of the challenges was its distance from Main Street.

She then shifted to site 3, which is on Main Street, on creamery land where the yellow house used to be. Emily noted that it has a central location, but the land is very steep and has hydric soils.

Finalizing Town Budget

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

December 1

The Selectboard held several more meetings to finalize the draft budget. The first of these meetings was on December 1, where the board reviewed budget requests from the Highway Department, Emergency Management, the Conservation Committee, the Flood Resiliency Task Force, and the Cemetery Commission. The board also heard the appropriation requests from the CCA and the *Cabot Chronicle*.

First up was the highway budget. Mike Hogan told the board that Sid had met with Amy Monahan earlier in the day, and asked Sid to review the budget changes. Sid said that garage maintenance was raised from \$3,000 to just under \$13,000. He added that they got an estimate for the salt shed door to replace the canvas that is currently being used. Sid said the wind often blows the canvas aside and the salt gets wet.

Sid said he would prefer to build another salt shed, and noted that the original plans called for a 40' x 50' salt shed. He wasn't sure why they ended up with a smaller salt shed. He then mentioned that he and Amy had increased chloride to \$27,000. He said that the \$12,000 they had only takes care of spring grading.

Amy then reminded Sid they had talked about paving. Mike asked if there were any small projects in the coming year. Sid said he would like to pave Whittier Hill Road, from Main Street up and around the corner. Mike asked how much of the \$50,000 that would be used

and Sid said "all of it". He added that the price for one mile is over \$300,000.

Mike suggested the town establish a reserve fund for paving. But said they would have to look at the overall budget and how it affects taxes.

Sid and the board talked about sand and salt, and Sid mentioned that salt went up in cost, so they raised that line item from \$65,000 to \$70,000. Next they talked about the aging equipment, Sid listed off the ages of the various big pieces of equipment. Mike proposed an article to put before the voters that asks "shall the town of Cabot create a highway equipment reserve fund".

The board next reviewed the Emergency Management budget. Jenn Miner said there really hasn't been a budget before, noting that if they bought supplies there was no place to store them. Jenn noted the one item they really needed was radios. She suggested that Dean Deasy add two radios to the Fire Department order that would be allocated to Emergency Management.

Fred Ducharme brought up the subject of an emergency shelter, and said they need to look into generators to run the school. He said that was the only place they could reasonably house people in an emergency. Fred felt that the town keeps kicking the can down the road on that issue. There was more discussion regarding the issue, and whether the town or the school should be buying the generators. Dean said the town would need towable generators, one to run the wood chip plant, and one to run the gym. **(see, 'Finalizing Budget', page 6)**



SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Finalizing Budget

(continued from page 5)

Gary Gulka presented a level funded budget for the conservation committee, a total of \$1000. He also said the Resiliency Task Force was still asking for \$1500 for public outreach. Mike said that it was important for the town to be prepared for the next flood, and the board concurred.

Melvin Churchill told the board that he has been the chair of the Cemetery Committee for 19 years, and when he is finished with the current term it will be 21 years. He then presented a level appropriation request of \$25,000. He said that \$18,000 of the budget goes to pay Joe Mangan for maintaining the seven cemeteries.

Lori Augustiniak presented the appropriation requests from the CCA and the Chronicle. She said that the prior year the CCA had received an appropriation of \$15,000 and used that money to bring in another \$50,000 into the town through fees for events the CCA supports, and grants.

Lori told the board about the business directory being added to the CCA website, with 75 Cabot businesses listed to date. She also mentioned a continuing initiative of the Cabot Gift Card that was tested last year on a very small scale. Lori said they are moving slowly on the gift card program, and it basically works like cash at the business, then the CCA reimburses the business for the cashed gift cards.

Lori also mentioned the children's center operated under the auspices of the CCA, saying that it's closed right now due to staffing issues. She told the board they had been looking for a new home last year for expansion, but that it is now on hold until staffing gets back on board. The board and Lori then had a conversation about the 4th of July and potential use of the recreation field next year.

Next Lori talked about the *Chronicle's* appropriation request, the same amount as last year at \$20,000. She said they have been trying to increase the advertising, and Jeanne Johnson has raised more than \$6,000 in advertising sales. Lori showed them the budget sheet, noting that printing, postage, editor, layout, and writers line items. She added that postage has gone up more than \$150 a month this year.

Mike noticed that the \$20,000 appropriation and the \$6,000 in advertising sales doesn't cover the costs. Lori agreed that the *Chronicle* is operating at a deficit, and rates are only going up. She says they need to figure out where to cut costs. Mike told the board they need to decide how valuable a resource the *Chronicle* is to the town, and expressed that he thought it was important.

December 8

The board held another budget meeting on December 8 to review water and wastewater budgets, and the recreation department. Mike told the board that the previous board had numerous discussions about future funding of the wastewater plant, but the flood got in the way of planning. He recently reviewed the engineering report on the plant which lists repairs and maintenance that is needed. He said the report recommended a capital funding plan to cover expenses.

Mike said the town has been paying for a lot of the costs for the wastewater plant out of the general fund because user fees don't cover expenses. Amy shared the FY25 amounts, stating the income was \$178,900 and the expenses, without repairs, were \$268,969. She added that the wastewater fund owes the general fund over \$200,000, and it is increasing because the plant is operating at a loss. Mike said that they need to find some sort of solid funding source.

Mike then moved the meeting on to the Recreation Department agenda item. Jessica North spoke to the board about the coordination fee, she said she wasn't familiar enough to speak to other aspects of the budget like the pavilion bills and the ice skating rink. Mike asked why the fees are not being divided between Cabot and the other schools. Jessica said that she understands that fee is not in the school because it won't fit into the budget. She said that to play soccer, the kids pay a fee.

Jessica added that when she took over five years ago, it was only Cabot kids playing sports, but they didn't have enough to make a team. So they reached out to Twinfield and merged to have enough kids for a team. She said that Twinfield allows use of their gym for free, and they can't use the Cabot gym because of conflicts with other uses. Jenn Miner relayed that Cam North said Twinfield offers other types of support in place of financial support.

The board and Jessica discussed the time she spends coordinating sports and Amy noted that last year her time sheet showed she spent 210 hours. Mike proposed talking to the school to see if it could be moved into the school budget.

Jessica said the conversation may already be happening because the CCSU Athletic Director reached out to her to ask about the number of hours she works. Fred said that sports are important and he didn't think \$10,000 was too much. Jenn talked about the possibility of fund raising to offset some of the costs.

December 16

The board approved the budget at their December 16 meeting, the general budget being set at \$968,191, and the highway budget being set at \$1,130,766.

Fire Department Radios

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

At the December 1 Budget Meeting, the Selectboard heard from Dean Deasy regarding new radios for the Fire Department. Mike Hogan started the discussion by reviewing a draft article he was proposing to borrow \$60,000 from the bond bank for the radios.

Dean said he had talked to Motorola about their lease to buy program, and went over the options he received in a quote for 3, 4, 5 and 7 year terms. Mike asked what other towns are doing and Dean said some are going with the lease program. Jenn Miner asked about batteries, and Dean responded that a minimum supply was included.

Amy Monahan asked how many radios were needed. Dean, reading from the quote, listed a total of 6 mobiles, which have a life span of 18 years. Mike quickly asked about other aspects of the quote, before Dean finished listing all of the radio needs.

After a somewhat lengthy discussion about radios, Dean turned to an equipment forecast the board asked him to develop. He said the plan was laid for 20 years, but noted that he also did an immediate 5 year plan. Dean told the board that the self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) will be expiring in 2027, and that in 2028 the rescue truck will be at its 20-year mark. He added that in 2029 the extraction tools will need to be replaced. Dean also said the 20 year plan included a percentage cost increase.

Dean expressed concern that having the tank and the rescue truck replaced so close together in time, that it will create a hardship. Mike said that it "befuddles" him that Cabot keeps getting passed over for grants for the big ticket items. Dean said the granting authorities want to direct the grant money towards the biggest population centers.

Mike asked how crucial the rescue truck is to the Fire Department. Dean said that it holds everything they need for a car accident and chimney fires. He added that it is 4x4 and can get down small roads and driveways, when the engine stays on the main road.

Circling back, Peggy Miller noted that the budget shows the number of radios, reading off 6 mobile and 13 portable. Mike said they need to change it to 21 radios, with the two additional for Emergency Management.

At the December 8 budget meeting, the board discussed the Fire Department radios again. Mike noted that they need to either borrow money from the Vermont Bond Bank or go with the Motorola leasing program.

Fred mentioned that other towns with more money than Cabot are only getting a few of the expensive radios and getting cheaper radios for the rest. He speculated their theory was that when the cheaper radio breaks, they would just replace it. Peggy said they need to know how long the cheaper radios last.

Skip Bothfeld said there were 15 towns sitting around the table and he asked how they were all getting radios. He relayed that some of the towns have their own radio program and are not participating in the Capital Fire radio program. He added that in Waterbury, the chief and assistant had the expensive radios and everyone else had the cheap radios. Peggy said that sometimes you don't need the Cadillac.

Skip said the guys inside the building need the radios, the guys running the pump or directing traffic don't. He added that the chief and such are making the decision, the other guys don't need to be involved.

Dean joined the meeting and Fred told him that he had learned that other Fire Departments are only getting a few of the \$7,000 radios and more of the \$1,000 radios. He asked Dean how many high end radios does Cabot actually need?

Dean said there are several different models, and some are not sealed. He added that he is only supplying radios to the people that need them. Dean said the cheaper radios have a shorter life span, and issues with drop tests and water seals. He said the model he selected should provide 14 to 16 years of service. He thought the cheaper radio was only 5 to 8 years of service.

Fred speculated that the cost of the cheaper radios, even with a shorter life span, might be less overall. Dean said the lower priced ones are more susceptible to damage at a fire scene because they are not rated for the heat. He added that they picked the lowest cost ones of the field rated radios.

Amy told the board that she did get a new quote for 21 radios, which includes the two for Emergency Management. She said that it brought it up from \$111,000 to \$126,000. She also got a quote from the Vermont Bond Bank for \$125,000 for ten years, and said the highest payment amount was \$14,000 a year. The quote contained a guesstimate of an interest rate of 2.9%.

Peggy was worried about buying all the radios at the same time because they are all going to wear out at the same time. Mike proposed changing the budget to include the \$14,000 bond payment for the radios.

CABOT ARTS SHOW AND TELL

Cabot Visual Arts' Show and Tell folks will gather in the Willey Building on

January 25, 2026 , 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

YOUR AD HERE!

Advertising in

**THE CABOT
CHRONICLE**

For more information, contact us at
inbox@cabotvermont.org

It's 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.

SCHOOLBOARD UPDATES

School Behavioral Matrix

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

Jeanne Segretto, Vice Principal, addressed the School Board at the November regular meeting regarding the Behavior Matrix. She started by saying she renamed it the Behavior Tool, and said that she felt it needed to be rebranded. Jeanne said that the current iteration is a draft, and that she added that it is a departure from what existed before.

She went on to explain that she wanted the teacher to begin with managing issues in the classroom before pulling in administration. Jeanne also mentioned a consequence tool, which has set consequences for specific incidents. Her description of the biggest change from the past consisted of moving the behavioral incidents toward legal definitions. Jeanne added that they haven't done a great job tracking behavioral issues in the classroom, and that things are difficult right now without an elementary counselor.

Chris Tormey asked for an example of how the new matrix looked different than last year. Jeanne stated that the truancy policy is pretty clear now, and teachers know exactly what they need to do. Chris said that the board has heard from parents over the past several years about how the system wasn't clear. He asked if this document would change how things are handled.

Jeanne responded that their job is to educate, and that a lot of the behaviors require education. She added that there may be a process they are following which is hard to understand from the outside. Jeanne mentioned that a lot of people want a checkbox marked off, like a kid suspended. But she said that if she has to suspend a kid, then that means they failed to bring the kid along.

Chris asked about how the new tool would be made available to parents, and recalled that two or three years ago the

response of a survey was that the system seemed like a black box. He added that he understood there are confidentiality concerns, and obviously the school can't say what happened to a kid, but they could point to the options of consequences.

Jeanne said that often she hears "what happened to the other kid?," and said that she cannot answer that question due to confidentiality. Chris noted that people want to know there is a system that is operative.

Melissa Pratt suggested that once the tool is complete, it would be good to have in the handbook so people know what are the actual consequences. Jeanne said that the past matrix was abstract, and the new tool will be clear about where the boundaries are.

Alicia Heber said that the matrix was a huge step forward last year, and asked what are the major changes. Jeanne responded again that it is the move toward legal definitions. Matt Foster added that the definitions for a particular behavior are being made clearer.

Alicia Heber recalled that restorative conversations were an issue a few years ago. She said that one of her concerns, as she has seen, is when both parties are not willing and it becomes non-productive. Alicia added that if a student is pulled out of a learning environment, then a parent should be informed.

Jeanne added one last bit of information before the conversation moved onto the next agenda item. She said that she wanted to make the response to an elopement administrative. Jeanne said that taking off into a hallway is one thing, but when a six year old takes off into the woods it becomes a much bigger issue. She added that this is different than how other schools would handle it because of the structure of the Cabot School campus.

The Winter Garden

by Susan Socks of Garden Goddess Consulting and Gardening

The winter garden is an underrated joy. Even in the deepest part of winter, a garden can be full of interest and beauty, full of different heights and textures and colors. If you would like to enjoy your garden year-round, the key is to incorporate trees, shrubs, and stemmy perennials. These plants will stand tall above the snow, providing birds with seeds and fruit and perching places, and giving you something to look at while the rest of the world is blanketed in white.

However, it does take some advance planning. Annuals like marigold and petunias turn to mush by October, as do perennials with tender leaves, such as hosta, daylily, iris, and peony. And if you cut back all your tall, stemmy plants in fall, it will be late spring before you see them again. To have a garden with winter interest, think about a combination of the following plants, and leave your stemmy perennials standing.

Trees

There are a number of trees small enough to be used in a garden. When browsing the nursery catalog, look for "dwarf" or "weeping" as an indicator that it's a small form tree. And always check mature height and spread before choosing a tree, to make sure it won't overwhelm and outgrow the space. There are weeping cherry, crabapple, and birch varieties that stay very petite, and have a lovely form when the leaves drop. There are even dwarf and weeping Norway spruce, which will have really interesting shapes and stay green year-round.

Shrubs

There are many delightful small shrubs suitable for gardens. As with

trees, check the mature height and spread before planting any shrub. Red twig dogwood is a native shrub that rarely exceeds four feet and has brilliant red stems throughout winter. Winterberry, another native, holds onto bright red berries till the birds finally decide they are worth eating in late winter. Hydrangeas hold their spent dried flower heads, sometimes right up till their next blooming in late summer. There are many junipers and cedars that stay small and can provide a splash of green or gold. If you are looking for a true oddity, try the corkscrew hazel, also called Henry Lauder's Walking Stick, with wildly corkscrewing branches that really stand out when the leaves drop.

Stemmy perennials

There is a long list of perennials that have tall, cellulose-rich stems: coneflower, bee balm, aster, goldenrod, black-eyed Susan, goatsbeard, and phlox, to name some of the more common native plants. If not cut back in fall, these stems can stand right through to spring. These plants can be a winter seed source for birds and small mammals, and the stems can house stem-nesting bees. There are also non-native plants that, while having less wildlife value, still have great visual appeal, such as Autumn Joy sedum and astilbe.

Have a beautiful winter, and if you don't have a winter garden now, start thinking about one for next year!

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, email gardengoddess802@gmail.com, call 802.498.7785, or visit www.SocksFamilyFarm.weebly.com.

VT Department of Fish & Wildlife Declines to Support Joe's Pond Association Proposed Boat Wash & Watercraft Decontamination Station



The Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife (DF&W) has refused to allow the Joe's Pond Association (JPA) to construct and operate a boat wash and watercraft decontamination station (BWS) at the Joe's Pond DF&W access area.

Over the past year, and as a result of an infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), the JPA has been confronted with the tremendous social, financial and ecological costs associated with containment and control of this aggressive, resilient, and dominant non-native aquatic invasive species (AIS).

A fully equipped and staffed BWS is considered by the JPA to be a necessary and effective facility enhancing its ability to prevent introduction of additional aquatic invasive species (AIS) and, seemingly what should be most important to the DF&W, would help avoid export of EWM and other AIS to other currently AIS-free Vermont waterbodies.

The JPA intends to secure 100% funding for construction, operation and maintenance of this proposed facility from private sources.

After engaging a consultant to conduct a wetlands delineation and development of a preliminary project design, the JPA

submitted a proposal to the DF&W asking for its endorsement.

Citing the loss of parking spaces (two) and the encroachment into adjacent wetlands (3000 square feet in a wetland buffer area), Mike Wichrowski, Lands & Facilities Administrator for the DF&W stated in an email message to the JPA that its proposal "is not something the ANR (VT Agency of Natural Resources) is willing to support".

The JPA has argued that this decision by VT DF&W and the Department of Environmental Conservation (wetlands regulatory authority) has demonstrated misplaced priorities and rejects an opportunity to meaningfully and effectively collaborate with the local entity (JPA) most responsible for protection and stewardship of Joe's Pond. That concern for two parking spaces (for which a mitigation proposal has been offered by the JPA) and a minor wetland buffer encroachment would outweigh the potential degradation of all Joe's Pond-associated wetlands and aquatic resources due to AIS introduction seems, in the opinion of the JPA, to be ill-conceived.

At this time, the JPA is considering its options for next steps.

Barry Cahoon, JPA Water Quality Director
Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Coordinator

CABOT MENTORING

Mid-Winter Family Bingo
January 17th!!!

The Cabot Mentoring program is celebrating National Mentoring Month by hosting a family community bingo night on Saturday, January 17 from 4-6 pm at the Cabot School cafeteria.

This is an all ages event. We'll have popcorn and apple cider and there will be bingo prizes!

For more information please email: cabotmentoring@gmail.com
See you there!

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED

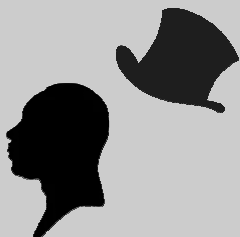
January 1, 2026

New Years Day

AND

January 19, 2026

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Town of Cabot FY 2027 Proposed Budget for Town Meeting Vote

Summary Notes from Selectboard for Budget Forum December 11, 2025
Recording of one-hour forum is available on the home page at the Town website: Cabotvt.us

Community Budget Forum Discussion

The Cabot Selectboard is proposing a draft budget for Fiscal Year 27 (July 1, 2026-June 30,2027)

The Town or Municipal Budget is comprised of the General Fund and Highway Fund appropriations, which fund all the services for the town for a full fiscal year.

General Fund

- FY26 \$946,044
- FY27 \$967,441
- Diff 2.2%

Highlights

• Fire Department radios are becoming obsolete with no software or hardware support. Most local fire departments are

replacing theirs and that is why this is an emergency expenditure.

- We are proposing a 10-year bond for \$125,000, which will raise the fire department budget by \$14,000 in FY27 and will gradually decrease over the life of the bond.

Highway Fund

- FY26 \$978,712
- FY27 \$1,130,766
- Diff 15.5%

Highlights

• \$25K Reserve Equipment fund for future large capital projects such as a new loader or excavator. This allows the town to have a reserve over multiple years with a lower impact for the tax-payers at the time of actual purpose.

Effect on Tax Rates for the Municipal Tax

2024 Grand List Tax Rate	
\$2,719,868.15	0.5658
2025 Grand List Tax Rate	
\$2,725,058.15	0.6425 (Draft)

Appropriation Requests				
Items of Business				
	FY26-2026	2026-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
American Red Cross	500	500	500	-
A.W.A.N.E.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	500	500	500	500
Central Vermont Council on Aging	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Central Vermont Economic Development Corp.		300	300	300
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice	3,650	3,650	3,650	3,650
Circle (Formerly Battered Women's Service)	400	400	400	400
Disaster Youth Service (Formerly WIC Youth Service Bureau)		300	300	300
Historic Museum and Planetarium			2,112	1,112
Family Center of Washington County	500	500	500	500
Friends of the Whitehall River	400	400	400	400
Good Beginnings of Central VT	300	300	300	300
Green Mountain Transit	770	770	770	770
Green Up Vermont	300	300	300	300
HomeShare Vermont		300	300	300
Joey Pond Association	750	750	750	5,000
Kingdom Animal Shelter	500	500	500	500
Muskie formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team	500	500	500	500
Proctor's Health & Wellness Clinic	200			
Green River Field Staff		1,000	1,000	1,000
Our House of Central Vermont		250	250	250
Twin Valley Senior Center	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Vermont Association for the Blind	300	300	300	300
Vermont Center for Independent Living	165	165	165	
Vermont Family Network	250	250	250	
Water Damage Community (Duck Lake Pond Assoc.)	500	500	500	500
TOTAL	16,885	18,735	22,567	25,202
2025 Cabot Appropriations/Requests				
Cabot Arts	750	750	750	750
ICA	10,000	13,000	13,000	15,000
Cabot Cemetery	10,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Cabot Chronicle	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Neighbors in Action (Formerly FWA) Senior Citizens	2,500	2,000	2,500	2,500
TOTAL	48,250	67,750	63,250	68,250
Total Appropriations	65,135	86,485	85,817	93,452

Selectboard Summary of Proposed FY27 Budget

At the recent public forum regarding the draft budget numbers for the FY27 budget I made the following comments to frame the direction for the upcoming fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2027.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Selectboard is to produce a fiscal budget for the Town to vote on at Town Meeting. Those duties are outlined in VSA 24 and are mandated by all municipalities.

The Budget is comprised of two different funds that cover all the municipal needs of a town such as Cabot. The General Fund encompasses many town functions. Those included would be the employees who work in the Town Clerks Office, Treasurer, Listers, Library, and other miscellaneous positions.

In addition, Special Service Appropriations, Fire Department Operations, Emergency Transport Services, Village Expenses (see the list of all expenses covered in this edition of the Chronicle).

One item to note is the need to replace the radios in the Fire Department that have become obsolete with no hardware or software support. We are asking the town to approve an article that will allow the Selectboard to borrow \$125,000 from the Vermont Bond Bank and extend the loan for over 10 years, thereby reducing the one-time cost of this purchase. These radios are critical to the mission of the Fire Department in its role of public safety and firefighting.

The overall General Fund Budget will increase 2.2% over the previous year. (see, 'FY27 Budget', page 9)

Town of Cabot - FY27 Budget				
General Fund Expense				
	Approved	Actual	Proposed	Proposed
	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Payroll	156,890	207,284	203,264	196,710
Payroll Taxes	21,500	30,520	24,000	22,000
Cabot Appropriations	62,500	62,350	63,250	63,250
Special Service Appropriations	18,735	18,735	22,567	25,202
Audit	13,000	3,219	13,000	28,500
Legal	10,000	10,160	10,000	10,000
Computer - IT & Cyber Security	20,000	18,671	18,000	18,000
Conservation Commission	1,500	20,495	2,000	1,000
Flood Resilience Task Force	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Constable	1,000	100	500	250
County Tax	15,500	14,642	13,992	14,000
Development Review Board	600	594	600	800
Dues and Subscriptions	11,500	24,269	15,000	16,000
Emergency Management	500	-	500	-
Emergency Transport Services	40,000	40,000	45,000	50,000
Fire Department Operations	122,900	102,159	123,042	131,586
General Expense	3,000	3,758	3,000	3,500
Grants Management	-	-	5,000	-
Health Insurance	12,200	33,500	47,218	42,128
Health Officer	500	-	-	-
Insurance	15,000	15,897	17,243	18,000
Interest Expense	6,000	-	6,000	-
Library Expense	116,543	117,685	122,234	118,015
Lister Expense	6,200	4,352	6,000	9,000
Meetings/Elections	5,000	3,595	3,000	3,500
Office Expenses	7,000	12,000	8,500	12,000
Office Supplies	2,000	2,772	2,000	2,000
Planning Commission	2,650	167	2,000	2,000
Pound keeper	500	2,275	500	500
Rec. Committee Ops	10,000	7,151	10,000	10,000
Selectboard Misc.	4,000	4,571	4,000	4,500
Sheriff	8,000	6,303	8,000	17,000
Recycle Center	10,000	11,607	9,000	11,000
Tax Sale	-	2,481	-	2,500
Tax Map	18,000	-	-	-
Trails Committee	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,750
Trees - Ash Bore	7,000	5,512	10,000	13,000
Village Expenses	41,000	39,561	41,000	41,000
Wiley Building Expenses	50,000	62,188	87,500	75,000
Zoning Admin.	1,000	980	1,000	2,000
Total General Fund Expense	825,218	891,553	953,410	968,191

Town of Cabot-FY27 Budget				
Highway Expense				
	Approved	Actual	Approved	Proposed
	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Payroll	212,588	194,131	217,240	245,235
Payroll Taxes	28,000	24,104	29,000	32,000
Bond Interest	3,261	-	1,910	-
Bond Principal	50,000	40,000	40,000	-
Bridges	1,000	-	1,000	-
Bridge Rental	-	-	3,516	-
Equipment Bond	43,308	41,661	-	-
Legal	500	-	500	-
Garage Maintenance/Repairs	3,000	730	3,000	12,985
Chloride	21,000	16,302	21,000	27,000
Clothing Allowance	4,000	2,318	5,000	5,000
Class 4 Roads Maintenance	10,000	4,377	10,000	10,000
Cold Patch/Sealer	9,500	1,789	12,000	12,000
Culverts	15,000	13,896	15,000	15,000
Equipment Lease - 2023 Western Star	71,237	71,902	29,237	29,237
Equipment Lease - 2026 Western Star	-	-	-	43,680
Equipment Repair	40,000	102,704	40,000	50,000
Fuel Expense for Equipment	55,000	46,222	55,000	55,000
Garage Supplies	9,000	6,510	10,000	10,000
Garage Repairs	-	1,415	1,500	-
Gravel	90,000	69,794	90,000	90,000
Highway Grants - Match in-kind	-	21,549	-	12,000
Health Insurance	55,000	59,728	79,354	58,874
Highway Propane	10,000	5,157	8,000	8,000
Hired/Rented Equipment	8,000	3,775	8,000	8,000
Insurance	35,000	29,921	35,000	35,000
Miscellaneous	2,000	666	2,000	2,000
Paving Projects	40,000	39,875	50,000	50,000
Paving Loan	47,000	49,316	28,456	26,880
Paving Loan Interest	6,000	4,952	6,000	1,576
Permits stormwater	2,000	1,350	2,000	1,500
Salt	65,000	60,958	65,000	70,000
Sand	50,000	73,814	50,000	80,000
Equipment Fund	10,000	20,000	10,000	25,000
Signs & Guardrails	10,000	2,001	15,000	15,000
Tires	20,000	12,878	20,000	20,000
Tire Chains	8,000	8,559	8,000	9,000
Truck Refurbish	-	-	-	63,800
Utilities	7,000	4,884	7,000	7,000
Total Highway Expense	1,041,394	1,037,238	976,712	1,130,766

FY27 Budget

(continued from page 8)

The Highways Fund is 15% higher than the previous year's budget. The Town is mandated by statute to maintain our roads and highways. Depending on the severity of a winter, a budget can be higher than approved. Cabot has done a very good job in maintaining its roads, and that was very evident how we responded in two consecutive floods in 23-24.

Two items are worth mentioning in the highway budget. The Town wants to set up a Reserve Equipment Fund for purchasing future highway equipment such as a new grader and loader. They are usually large dollar purchases with the financial impact lessened with a reserve fund to lower the overall cost to the town. It's a recommended practice that most towns are doing in the aftermath of the recent floods. That amount will be \$25,000 in this budget.

The other item is very important as it pertains to the Highway Trucks that plow our roads and sand them on days like we are currently experiencing. Most trucks cost over \$300,000 and take one-to-two years after they are ordered to be put into service. Our foreman found an outfit that will refurbish one of our trucks for basically half the cost. This will lengthen the life of our truck without asking the town for a large purchase in difficult economic times. With the resale of a replacement truck and the refurbishment costs, the town is budgeting \$60,000 to take care of this important piece of equipment for its mission of maintaining the roads.

We appreciate the Towns support in our budget discussions and ask that they approve both the General Fund and Highway Fund Articles on Town Meeting 2026.

Michael J. Hogan-Chair Selectboard

As reported in the December 2025 *Cabot Chronicle*, Town Clerk Betty Ritter is retiring at the end of her term after Town Meeting 2026. She has committed to closing out the responsibilities of Town Meeting 2026 and has agreed to train a new Town Clerk. Deadline to file a petition to be on the Town Meeting ballot is January 26 with a minimum of twelve certifiable signatures of registered Cabot voters submitted to the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m.

TOWN OF CABOT JOB DESCRIPTION: TOWN CLERK

Nature and Scope of Position

This is a comprehensive, administrative position that serves as an independent elected Town Clerk for Cabot with all the applicable Vermont State Statutes (24 Appendix V.S.A. Chapter 114E).

The town clerk performs technical, administrative, and management work and is responsible for overseeing town functions in the following areas: municipal record keeping; issuance of licenses and official documents; and conduct of local, state, and federal elections.

This position includes a variety of highly responsible duties that require considerable judgment, discretion, and initiative in the interpretation and application of laws, regulations, and procedures. This is a full-time, exempt position and subject to the Cabot Personnel Policy.

The clerk is responsible for the discharge of all duties assigned to the town clerk's office by state and federal law.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Serve as chief election officer of the town. Conduct all elections in accordance with state and federal laws; manage registration of voters and direct activities of election volunteers.
- Serve as clerk to Boards of Civil Authority and Tax Abatement.
- Ensuring recording of all deeds and official documents.
- Manage issuance of necessary documents for, and recording of, all vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages, etc.); serve as registrar of all vital records.
- Provide public with accurate municipal information.
- Serve as custodian of town records; ensure safety and preservation of all records.
- Ensure accuracy and attention to detail in the issuance of licenses, and legal documents; maintain associated records of documentation.
- Manage the collection of fees and the proper recording of business and financial instruments, working with the town treasurer.
- Ensure good customer service for all professionals and members of the public accessing the services provided in the Cabot municipal office.
- Prepare town report and website.
- Process Property Transfer Tax Returns and associated revenues for the state tax department.
- Perform other duties as necessary or requested to ensure the proper functioning of the town government.
- Oversee functions of the Willey Building (including scheduling and accepting contracts for renting space for various functions), and making sure the proper fees are collected.
- Ensuring the Willey Building is properly maintained.
- Maintaining the public calendar.
- Posting all Select Board meetings as required by statute.
- Record and take minutes of all Selectboard Meetings and post on Cabot website.
- Work with E911 to provide current addresses for any new building site as needed.
- Maintain Town Website
- Maintain functions to enable the Town of Cabot offices to run as efficiently as possible.

Work Requirements

- Outstanding people skills and genuine enjoyment in serving the public.
- Ability to work in typical office setting and use equipment such as computers, copiers, fax machines, etc.
- Knowledge and training in best practices and procedures for recording documents and preserving records.
- Thorough knowledge of state statutory provisions relating to the duties and responsibilities of town clerks.
- Ability to maintain accurate and detailed records.
- Knowledge of basic computer applications such as Microsoft Word and Excel, as well as NEMRC modules.
- Must be able to accept constructive criticism and the ability to communicate and work well with others.

This is an office-based job in a dynamic municipal office. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is required to communicate frequently with the public and other staff members, operate office equipment, and move throughout the municipal offices.

The above information is intended to describe the general nature of the Town Clerk position and should not be considered a comprehensive statement of duties, activities, responsibilities, and requirements; the position expectations are subject to change, with or without notice, at any time. This job description is neither an employment contract nor a promise of work for any specific length of time.

The Town of Cabot is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES FOR TOWN MEETING 2026 DECISIONS

DEADLINES:

- ◆ **Thursday, January 15** 5 pm deadline to file *petition for Town Meeting Article*, signed by 5% of registered voters (minimum 60)
- ◆ **Monday, January 26** 5 pm deadline to file *petition for election to Town Office*, signed by 1% of registered voters (minimum 12)

EVENTS:

- * **Thursday, February 12** 6:30 p.m. CCA./Cabot Chronicle-Sponsored Town Meeting Articles discussion and Meet the Candidates Night, Willey Building—light refreshments available. We hope to have candidates for Town Clerk, Selectboard and School Board.
- * **Monday, February 17** Legislatively-mandated Formal Public Information Hearing on Town Meeting Articles as printed on ballot – presentation by selectboard – for informational purposes to understand what we are voting on, no changes may be made.
- * **Tuesday, March 3** 10:00 am Town meeting, 7 am – 7 pm Australian Ballot voting, and last day to register to vote on Town Meeting Articles
- * **Tuesday, March 24** 6:00 pm Selectboard Meeting where town appointments will be made
- * **Wednesday, March 18** 5:00 pm Last day a voter may contest Town Meeting election with Washington Superior Court
- * **Friday, March 20** 5:00 pm Last day a losing candidate or voter may request recount
- * **Thursday, April 2** 5:00 pm Last day voters may file petition for reconsideration of Articles voted on Town Meeting Day

GOOD TO KNOW:

- ◇ **Thursday, January 22** Town Meeting Warning Available on Town Website
- ◇ **Wednesday, February 11** Town Meeting Ballots printed and available for BCA delivery and early or absentee voters

Cabot Receives 1.25 Million for Bridge Replacement

by Gary Gulka

We received good news in December that we have been awarded a Community Development Block grant for our north tributary bridge project by the rec field. We've been awarded \$1.25 million through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (the funding source is federal HUD monies that the State administers). Cabot voters approved ten percent matching funds in November that will be applied to this project. There are a lot of details to be worked out before we get started on this project, including some necessary historic preservation and environmental impact reviews before we are officially awarded grant funds. The next step will then be final engineering design, working with landowners whose property is

impacted (easements), and permitting. If this can all be accomplished in 2026, the earliest that construction would start is 2027. We do have six years to complete the work under the grant, but we want to move much more quickly.

The south tributary project in the center of the village is much more complicated, requiring relocation of Cabot Garage and acquiring funding to construct a bridge with much greater headspace to allow for water and debris movement. We have applied for FEMA funding, but our project was ranked as an "alternate" for funding – meaning, unless a highly ranked project drops out or more FEMA federal funding becomes available, we will not be funded. The Flood Resiliency Task Force will continue to look for a solution.

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

The views, opinions and information expressed in the Community Commentary (LTE), are solely those of the writer and not necessarily those of this newspaper or its affiliates.

Fire Department Radios

Dear Editor:

I hope people understand the value of the radios the fire chief is asking for in the FY 2027 Budget. I believe the request is reasonable because what they have are dinosaurs, and it is important they have this equipment so they can communicate onsite and be safe.

I asked Dean twice to justify this purchase. If I feel I have the information I need, I can support an appropriation. We can't expect people to go into these fires without dependable equipment. This isn't 1965, we need these radios for our volunteer firefighters.

I may not always support the fire department's requests, it depends on what issues we're talking about, but when it comes to the radios, I am convinced this is the right thing to do.

Fred Ducharme
Cabot Selectboard Member

Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service

by Ruth Goodrich

Quick response can be vital for emergencies. Having your 911 location number on your mailbox or a reflective sign at the end of the driveway can save precious time when we are responding to emergencies. Unmarked houses or drives can cost precious time for everyone. Please mark your house number in visible letters so we can avoid delays!



VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
Windham Unit
30 Putney Road 2nd Floor
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-2800
www.vermontjudiciary.org



PROBATE DIVISION
Case No. 25-PR-05624

12/1/2025

PROBATE NOTICE OF HEARING AND ORDER FOR PUBLICATION

Estate of: Ronald Colgrove

A petition to open an estate of the above-named person was filed in this court by John E. Colgrove.

An Intestate Estate Commencement Hearing will be held on:
Petition to Open an Estate and Appoint Fiduciary

Date	Time	Duration
January 15, 2026	1:00 PM	30 Minutes

IF YOU DESIRE TO BE HEARD ON THE ABOVE MATTER, YOU MUST APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

You are advised that the requested person may be appointed as administrator if no interested person appears to object to this action at the hearing.

If you wish to receive notice of all future events or motions which may occur in these proceedings, you must notify the court by entering your appearance by filing a Notice of Appearance form. If you have questions about the nature of this proceeding or the purpose or content of this notice, you may inquire by calling the court.

This hearing will be held by WebEx only. For instructions for participating by WebEx and for the WebEx login information, please contact the Court.

Any individual with a disability requiring assistance accessing the services, programs, and/or activities at the Courthouse should contact the Clerk's office at the above address for further assistance.

It is hereby ORDERED that the notice of hearing as set forth in this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Cabot, Vermont area

Electronically signed on December 1, 2025 at 9:33 AM pursuant to V.R.E.P. 9(d).


Jodi French, Judge
Windham Unit, Probate Division
Electronically signed by delegation pursuant to V.R.E.P. 9(d)(1)(D)

NEW YEAR
RESOLUTIONS
THE TOWN
WISHES YOU'D MAKE

2026
Happy New Year!

- ✓ Vote at Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 3
- ✓ Register your dog before April 1
- ✓ File your Homestead Declaration (HS-122) before April 15, even if you file for an extension
- ✓ Secure a Zoning Permit before making changes to your property (cabotvt.us/802-563-2041)
- ✓ Vote in the Primary Election, Tuesday, August 11
- ✓ Mark August 20 and November 19 for property tax payment due dates
- ✓ Vote in the General Election Tuesday, November 3

Alfred Hitchcock's
Connection to Cabot



On the Burt farm, Winton Walbridge helps to locate the filming scene location for the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock movie, *The Trouble With Harry*. From back to front: Winton Walbridge, Winton's daughter, Gail, Greg Burt, and Gary Gulka.

by Gary Gulka

After the Trails Committee worked with the Burt family to establish a trail at the orchard, we became aware that part of Alfred Hitchcock's film, *The Trouble with Harry* (1955), was filmed in Cabot on the Burt property, which at the time was the Walbridge farm known as Maple Glen Farm. In actuality, the majority of the movie was filmed in Craftsbury in 1954, but one very important and funny scene involving digging the grave for Harry's body was filmed here.

The person with the best recollection of the filming is 95-year-old Winton Walbridge, who had lived on the farm. He now lives in Barre but often visits the farm, and the Burt's have heard the stories about Alfred Hitchcock and the filming crew being at the farm. Winton has a pretty good idea where the filming took place, and it is in close proximity to the Burt's Orchard Trail. Hoping to preserve a little history, the Trails Committee has been curious to locate the filming spot and marking it with a commemorative plaque.

Greg Burt invited Winton over to the farm recently to scope out the area, and drove him and his daughter, Gail, along the trail to see if the actual spot could be pinpointed. We haven't yet nailed down the location, but we know the general vicinity and we are looking for landmarks. The vegetation has changed a lot, many large maples have died, some of the cleared land has grown over and the scenic vistas have changed. Winton recalls the film crew being in Cabot for about a week. They excavated the grave, then neatly filled in the hole and replaced the sod when they were done. He recalls Alfred Hitchcock visiting the Burt farmhouse to make phone calls. Why they came to Cabot to film one scene is unknown. In 1955, Winton recalls going to see *The Trouble with Harry* in Barre, and he enjoyed it. The Craftsbury Historical Society, which has documented the filming activity, showed the film at a presentation last year. The film is available on Amazon Prime and is worth watching, as are many of Hitchcock's great classics.

CHRISTMAS DINNER THANKS

Thank you everybody for coming together to create a really friendly community event. So many people contribute to the effort that makes it happen – making delicious food, donating money and produce, joining us for good company, and my Shirley, who does the squash, the calling back, keeps me on track. Couldn't do it without you!

People think its special, and it's the people of our community that MAKE it special, so that we can do this.

Thank you all.

*Fred
Ducharme*



CABOT VERMONT ANNUAL EVENTS 2026

**Friday & Saturday,
January 2 & 3, 2026
CABOT 6TH ANNUAL CABOT VILLAGE
12TH NIGHT CELEBRATION**

**Monday, March 2, 2026
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Sunday, April 5, 2026
CABOT UNITED CHURCH
EASTER DAWN SERVICE**

**Saturday, May 2, 2026
GREEN UP DAY**

**Saturday, June 27, 2026
TOWNWIDE YARD SALE**

**Saturday, July 4, 2026
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, September 12, 2026
CABOT UNITED CHURCH
HARVEST SUPPER**

**Sunday, September 13, 2026
RIDE THE RIDGES**

**Saturday, September 19, 2026
CABOT BULK DISPOSAL DAY**

**Saturday, September 26, 2026
CABOT FALL FOLIAGE, CHEESE &
CULTURE FESTIVAL & TURKEY DINNER**

**Wednesday, November 11, 2026
CABOT VETERANS DAY LUNCH**

**Sunday, December 6, 2026
CABOT COMMUNITY MEMORIAL TREE**

**Friday, Saturday & Monday
December 11, 12 & 14, 2026
TOY AND WARM CLOTHING SHARE**

**Friday, December 25, 2026
CABOT COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS DINNER**



January Auditions for



by Karen Mueller-Harder
Cabot Community Theater

Cabot Community Theater is seeking performers for our May 7-10 performance of Quest! We need adults, teens, and kids for parts of all sizes--this play has lots of lead roles, including wizards, elves, demigods, and assorted unlikely heroes, as well as smaller parts, and ensemble roles with no solo lines. We will (as always) be flexible in our casting in terms of age and gender, to offer performing opportunities to as many participants as possible. Everyone is welcome to audition, whether you're from Cabot or a nearby town, and everyone who auditions will be included in the cast.

Auditions will be held in the Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road, Cabot (just behind the main school building) on:

- Sunday, January 18: 1-4 pm
- Tuesday, January 20: 7-8:30 pm
- Saturday, January 24: 1-4 pm

Sign up for ONE 45-minute slot (please give the name of the person auditioning, not the parent!) at: tinyurl.com/Questauditions.

Everyone in the same group will do a warm-up activity, and then we'll read various scenes from the play, with auditioners trying out a variety of roles. Younger children who are only interested in a very small or non-speaking role should sign up for one of the design-

nated slots at 1:00-1:45, where we will play some theater games to get to know the kids' personalities and skills, but they will not be asked to read from a script. Make sure kids have all parental contact information with them if auditioning without a parent there to provide the info! We will send a list of roles and a link to the script to everyone who signs up to audition.

Rehearsals will take place February through April, and be largely in the daytime on weekends plus Tuesday evenings (though no evenings for younger kids until show week). Larger roles will generally have one or two rehearsals a week, while small roles might rehearse once a week or less; the rehearsal schedule will be determined after casting. Be sure to bring to auditions a complete list of your commitments and conflicts through early May--we can probably work around your availability, but only if we have all the information at the outset!

If you have questions, or are unable to make any of the available slots, or are interested in helping out with sets, costumes, or props, email us at: info@cct.aroundvt.org

P.S. Be sure to catch the 2025 CCT Mommers' Play in the Willey Building at the Cabot Twelfth Night Celebration, on Saturday, January 3, after the twilight lantern parade! The full schedule of family-friendly, free activities can be found at: cabotarts.org.

Community Contra Dance on January 9

by Karen Mueller-Harder

On Friday, January 9, come celebrate the new year at the Cabot Community Contra Dance, featuring the friendly calling of Erin Smith! The dance takes place in the lovely third floor space in the Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main Street), from 7-9:30 pm. Live music is provided by Franklin Heyburn, Susan Reid, Kenric Kite, Pam Bockes, and David Van Houten, on fiddles and guitars--feel free to just come and listen if you prefer!

If you can walk, you can contra dance! This is a traditional New England dance form that welcomes people of all ages and abilities, and everyone dances together. We use gender-neutral terminology, and generally change partners throughout the evening. The dances are easy to learn and Erin will teach you everything you need to know.

Admission is on a sliding scale, \$5-10 suggested, but nobody is turned away for lack of funds! Water is provided, or bring your own water bottle. We ask that you bring clean, dry shoes to change into during the winter months!



CABOT
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Now Hiring

2 positions available

Lead Teacher & Director

Join our team of teachers to provide safe, fun, and educational care for infants and young children in our Cabot village location.

Benefits include:

• Health Insurance

• Dental & Vision

• Retirement Plan

• Paid Planning Time

• Gym Membership

Full job description at CabotVermont.org/cabot-childrens-center/



To apply, contact:

CabotChildrensCenter@gmail.com

802-473-2772

Upcoming January Events at the Jaquith Public Library

Upcoming Events for January 2026
All events are free and held at the Jaquith Public Library unless noted otherwise. For more info: 802-426-3581 or visit our website: www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org

The Jaquith is holding a series of events about the Vermont Reads 2026 book, *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton. *The Light Pirate* considers climate change and the dissolution of the human-made world, and helps us see how human connection, adaptability, and a little bit of magic might guide us to a new future.

Catching up on Climate Change
Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 pm
Join meteorologist Roger Hill for a climate-change update.

Book Discussion of *The Light Pirate*
With facilitator Rachael Cohen
Thursday, January 29 at 6:00 pm
(Snow date Saturday, January 31 at 2 pm)
Free copies of the book are available at the library.

Film Glimpses of a Maybe Future
Film Series on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the Month at 6:30 pm
January 22 - A populist Presidential candidate quickly rises to the top and is elected. In the background, a monolithic global corporate donor quietly arranges for the Vice President to take control of the country.

Sunday Afternoon Poetry at the Jaquith Library
January 25 from 2 to 4 pm
Poets Scudder Parker and Judith Janoo will each read for 30 to 45 minutes. There will be an opportunity for participants to share one of their favorite poems.

The Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library are excited to announce *Sunday Afternoon Poetry at the Jaquith*. This monthly poetry reading series will feature two poets starting on January 25th, 2pm-4pm with featured poets, Scudder Parker and Judith Janoo. In addition to the Jaquith Library Staff, hosts for the Sunday afternoon poetry readings will be PSOV board members, David Hartnett and Elizabeth McCarthy.

Scudder Parker grew up on a family farm in Danville Vt. He has been a Protestant minister, a state senator, a utility regulator, a candidate for Governor, a consultant on energy efficiency and renewable energy and as he enters retirement, a poet. *“Throughout my life I have found in poetry a place of reflection, investigation, and sometimes, healing...”*

Now it feels that poetry is the lens through which I see and experience the world.” Scudder’s collection, *The Poem of the World, 2025* and his first volume of poetry *Safe as Lightning, 2020* are autobiographical.

Judith Janoo is a long time member and contributing editor for the Poetry Society of Vermont. Judith is an award-winning poet, and Pushcart Prize nominee. Her poetry has appeared in journals including *Pedestal Magazine*, *Fish Anthology*, *The Pierian*, *Euphony*, *Sow’s Ear Poetry Review*, and *The Bangalore Review*, as well as her poetry collections; *After Effects*, (Finishing Line Press, 2019) and *Just This*, Kelsay Books, 2023.) Judith’s work is deeply informed by her life in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

Friends Pastry Party and Meeting
Saturday, January 24 at 11 am
Help us plan our 2026 events to support the Jaquith Public Library.
Sign up for a 2026 Friends membership (suggested donation \$10) and take home a keepsake designed by a local Marshfield artist. Open to all current and prospective Friends.

Jaquith Public Library’s Annual Invitational Group Art Show Opening Reception
Sunday, January 18 from 2 to 4 pm
Join us in a celebration of Marshfield’s local art scene with local artists. All these artists have previously exhibited at Jaquith Library. This eclectic exhibit is representative of each individual’s personal subject matter and choice of medium. **You can view the exhibition at the library during regular hours from mid-January to mid-April.**

Monthly Book Group for Adults
Fourth Mondays at 7 pm
Join us for the Jaquith book group. For copies of the book, please stop by the library. New members are always welcome, and it is only one hour a month!
January 26- *Northwoods* by Daniel Mason

Winter Story Time and Playgroup
Fridays from 10:30 to 12:30 a.m.
For children birth to age six and their grown-ups. We follow the Twinfield Union School calendar and do not hold the program the days Twinfield is closed.

Baby & Caregivers Meet-up
Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am
Join us for our weekly gatherings where caregivers can relax and connect while their babies play and explore in a calm, supportive setting. Geared toward babies ages 18 months and their caregivers. Siblings can come along as well.

2025 Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

United Church of Cabot

For a number of years, the people of Cabot have purchased light bulbs for the Christmas tree in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. This year's bulbs shine brightly for the following people:

The Ackstone Family

Jule Ackermann

Kenneth and Jacqueline Adams

Paul Andrews

Ted Birmingham

Annika Barth

Theodore and Viola Borkfield

Walter and Roberta Borkfield

Krysti Bowen

Bicky Bowen

Johann Burgerhoff

Gustav Burgerhoff

Hermann Burgerhoff

Mary Margaret Hare Barker

Barbara Carpenter

David Carpenter

Wilfred and Lorenia Chalours

Walter "Bugsy" Churchill

Dawn Cookson

Logan Cookson

Chloe Copping

Val Covell

Kelman "KC" Craig, Jr

Chris Curschmann

Mary Lou & Donald DeLaey

Betsy Dickmann

Wilhelm Dickmanns

Dorsey Family members

Sandy Ducharme

Janine Laffree Elford

Patsy Foster

Fred Garbey

Larry Garbey

Leslie Garbey

Pearl Garbey

Virginia Garbey

Kenna Pike

Rudolph Pike

Anna Grosvenor

Marvin Grosvenor

The Goodrich Family

Ed Gould

Gould family members

Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery Hare

Patrick Hobart Hare

Mary Meredith Hare Barker

Lorraine Arthurs Hare

Barclay Hood

Wallace "Wally" Hood

Those who have passed on in the Housham and DePach families, and friends.

Mera Houston

Barbara Goodbridge King

Anast Kokodimsk

Justyna Kokodimsk

Walter and Dorothy Laffree

Barbara Kunes

Rennie and Judy Laffree

Blanche Lantieri

Robin Lapan

Nellie Lyford

Robert W. Mayer

Russell Mayfield

Michael Maxwell, with love from his family.

M & C McEliff

Jane & Ferguson McKay

Karleen Mareck

Eva Morse

John and Florence O'Sourke

Cecile and Roland (Slim) Payne

Emma and Gus Perry

Leon & Beatrice Perry

Mario Perry

Paul "Pop-It" Perry

Richard Perry

Roger Perry

Mason & Cyrena Persons

Emma Pike

Rudolph Pike

Spencer Allen Pugh

Anthony Goodbridge Pugh

Barbara Rockwell

Ben Rockwell

Logan Sells

Willey Sells

Cheri Searf

Eric Scholz

SELECTBOARD MEETING REPORTER SOUGHT

Our intrepid reporter, Frank Kampf, is looking for a break. Even for just a few meetings. Stipend available.

The selectboard meets twice a month on Tuesday evenings, more frequently during budget season, October-December. Would you be willing to cover a few meetings a year to give Frank a break?

Call 802-279-6897 or email Inbox@CabotChronicle.org if you'd be willing to take on this flexible, occasional task.





CABOT PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY HOURS:

**Monday noon - 6 pm,
Tuesday 10 am - 6 pm,
Wednesday 11 - 6 pm,
Thursday noon - 6 pm,
and Saturday 9 am- noon.**

Curbside library service is still available during regular library hours.

The library will be closed from 12/22 - 1/5 for the holidays and to get the floors refinished.

Thank you for your patience - we look forward to seeing you soon!

Upcoming - All programs and events are free and happen at the Cabot Public Library unless otherwise noted - all are welcome! Visit our website - cabotlibrary.com or check FPF for added programs. If you have a program suggestion or question, please email amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com

Intro to Drawing- (adults & youth ages 12+) - **2nd and 4th Tuesdays - January - March, 2:30 - 4:00 pm** - In this 6 session course, participants will learn the basics of drawing. Topics include: gesture line, contour line, positive and negative space, sight measurement techniques, value and shading, and composition. All materials for the class will be provided. Come learn to draw in a safe and inclusive space!

Dungeons and Dragons (ages 11+) - Ongoing, **Tuesdays - 3:30 - 5:00 pm** - Join Losada Stoddard as DM. Learn how to build a Dungeons and Dragons character and then set out on your Adventures. Come for the mysteries and magic, tails and talons, puzzles and prophecies! **Snacks provided**

Mah Jongg Meetup - Ongoing, **first Wednesday of the month, 10 - Noon** - Play the ancient tile game with friends and neighbors. Game sets will be available for use, no equipment is needed. Both fun and challenging, the game of Mah Jongg is said to improve memory, decision-making skills and patience.

Story & Activity Time (birth - age 5+) - Ongoing, **Wednesdays - 10:30 -**

11:30 am - Willey Building - Join Amanda Otto for stories, songs, crafts, snacks and open play. Visit the library afterwards to discover our new selection of picture books, take-home kits and more. All are welcome!

LEGO Club (ages 5+) - **Wednesday, January 21 - 2:30 - 4:00 pm** - This club offers a fun, hands-on environment where kids can develop their problem-solving skills, foster their creativity, and collaborate with their peers through engaging Lego-based activities. **Snacks provided**

Cabot Book Group - Thursday, January 22 - 2- 3 pm - January's book selection is *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valérie Perrin. Violette Toussaint is the caretaker at a cemetery in a small town in Bourgogne. Her life is lived to the predictable rhythms of the often funny, always moving confidences that casual mourners, regular visitors, and sundry colleagues share with her. Violette's routine is disrupted one day by the arrival of Julien Sole—local police chief—who has come to scatter the ashes of his recently deceased mother on the gravesite of a complete stranger. It soon becomes clear that Julien's inexplicable gesture is intertwined with Violette's own complicated past. Copies of this book will be available in the library for you to borrow. Email cabotlibrary@yahoo.com for more info and to be added to the book group email list. All are welcome!

Many thanks to Losada Stoddard for running our D&D program on Tuesday afternoons and to student volunteers, Katy Kowalk and Molly Paire! Additional thanks to Burt's Apple Orchard for donating apples for our programs. We are so grateful to our Library Trustees who provide support and direction: Angela Ogle, Leah Sare, Kurt Steinert, Erin Ruddell, and Taeryn Robbins.

See you at the library!
Kathleen Hoyne - Library Co-Director
Amanda Otto - Library Co-Director
Christina Sacalis - Assistant Librarian

Cabot Public Library - Annual Holiday Workshop



On December 13th, the library held its annual *Holiday Workshop* in which participants of all ages enjoyed decorating cookies, making wreaths, and crafting star ornaments – many thanks Sandy Atkins, Taeryn Szepi and Luke Robbins for their help making this a wonderful event and to Beth Wade and Erin Ruddell for donating icing and cookies and to Payne's Christmas Trees for donating evergreen boughs. Additional thanks to Cabot School students, Katy Kowalk and Molly Paire for serving hot cocoa and tea.



Twin Valley Senior Center

P.O. Box 152
East Montpelier,
VT 05651
802-223-3322
irector@twinvalleyseniors.org

TWIN VALLEY SENIOR UPDATE

**Monday, January 26,
following lunch at noon:**

GENETIC TESTING FRAUD – What You Need to Know

Did you know that Medicare covers genetic testing only when it is deemed medically necessary? Unfortunately, scammers and disreputable companies are taking advantage of this benefit—billing for testing that is not needed or sometimes not even conducted.

Join Jean McDermott from the nonprofit Senior Medicare Patrol Program for an important and informative discussion covering:

- ◆ How genetic testing scams work
- ◆ How to detect red flags
- ◆ Who to contact if you are concerned
- ◆ How to know if you may be a legitimate candidate for genetic testing

This is a must-attend presentation to help protect yourself and others from fraud.

VT-ALERT
www.VTALERT.gov

Receive emergency, weather, traffic, and other alerts from state and local responders.

Two easy steps!

- 1** Scan QR code or go to **VTALERT.GOV**
- 2** Create an account to receive alerts by app, phone, text, email, or TTY/TDD devices.

Scan here!

Alert examples:

- Evacuation information
- Chemical spills
- Shelter-in-place orders
- Severe weather
- Boil water advisories
- Roadway interruptions

VT-511 Traffic Alert: Windham County

Please click here to confirm receipt

VT-511 Traffic Alert - Windham County

Traffic Description: Incident - New

TRAFFIC ALERT: A rolling roadblock will be employed between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on I-91 southbound Westminster between exits 6 & 5. Motorists should expect minor delays.

Traffic Alert Start Time: Nov 10 2023, 10:00 AM

Anticipated End Time: Nov 10 2023, 2:00 PM

Note: Anticipated End Time will not always be known. Click here for all State of Vermont road closures

For assistance with your account please contact the VT-Alert Administrator via email at: DPS.VTALERT@vermont.gov

Powered by:

Call Dig Safe® before you dig!



*It's smart, it's free,
it's the law.*

Call **811**

digsafe.com

Signs of Renewal at the Center of Town

by Jane Brown

During the first Old Home Week held in Cabot in 1901, there was a special ceremony at the site of Cabot's first meeting house and congregational church at the geographic Center of Town. The "Center" had been abandoned for some 50 years, and by the turn of the century, most of the old-growth timber had been harvested to make room for fields and pastures. High on a ridge east of Cabot Village once known as "Shepherd's Hill," by the turn of the century the Center was barren and exposed to the elements. The remains of a once-thriving community

were few: A stone wall defined the old pound where stray animals were kept until claimed by their owners, usually for a fee; and across the road, Cabot's first cemetery remained with its rows of roughly engraved stones mined from local ledges.

The eight-acre parcel deeded to the town for public use in 1790 includes a level area at its point which is known to be the site of the first Congregational Church and meeting house. Records show that the stocks and whipping post brought from the Plain in 1796 were placed in this "public space" below the meeting house.

During that first Old Home Week celebration in 1901, a large boulder was put in place to mark where the Congregational Church meeting house had stood. A time capsule containing notes and significant items of the period was placed in a cavity under the boulder, to be opened in 50 years. There were speeches, a band concert, and the day concluded with a picnic spread out in the grove of maple trees near the cemetery.

The time capsule was opened in 1951 with great ceremony. The items were examined and new ones added before it was returned to the vault beneath the boulder where it would remain for another 50 years.

This area was carefully maintained as a park for many years. Fourth of July celebrations, Old

Home Week gatherings, and other community events were held there. However, interests changed with time, the introduction of automobiles, and the demands of World War II. Gradually, the remnants of the former vibrant Center community became blurred by vegetation. Aging memories dimmed, the park was seldom visited, and its historic significance faded.

At some point, markers were placed at the site of the old pound, whipping post, stocks, meeting house, school, and cemetery – possibly in the 1930s by the caring ladies of the Judith Lyford Women's Club. The last community gathering held at the Center was when the capsule was opened again in 2001. By then, Old Home Week had been reduced to Old Home

Day, and massive pines flourished in the once-open spaces at the Center. Moss and grass overtook the ledges, underbrush and dead wood cluttered the old pound and eroded its stone wall. The south end of the road from the Center to Whittier Hill had long since been thrown up by the town, mostly lost in the underbrush. The remaining section, known as Old Center Road that leads from Danville Hill Road to the Center, was just a path through a farmer's field. The road west, that once connected the Center with the Village in the valley below, was mostly gone, overtaken by the forest. Hardly anyone ever visited, and few knew or cared about the once thriving community at the geographic center of Cabot.

Over time the old field stone markers in the little cemetery tipped and fell, dislodged by bushes and young trees. In the late fall of 1992, Ruth and Glenn Goodrich spearheaded a group that began clearing brush and opening up the cemetery space. The following spring Velma Urban Smith became town sexton and rallied the community to join the cemetery commission in reclaiming the little cemetery. Volunteers, including some eager high school students, worked diligently, clearing debris and righting markers. Every stone was carefully cleaned and reset in its proper place, following an old cemetery map found at the town office. The little graveyard is now well main-

tained, a peaceful resting place for those early settlers who were instrumental in laying the foundation of our town, and a serene spot to visit.

Velma also cleaned up the park area, exposing the old pound and straightened signs. Old Center Road has been improved and is now well defined. Sadly, a few years ago vandals stole or destroyed the green and white signs marking historic sites there. They also pried the big meeting house boulder off its foundation to find the hidden capsule. However, they were disappointed because when the capsule was opened in 2001, it contained only a few newspaper clippings—nothing of value—so it was decided then not to continue the custom. The empty capsule was consigned to the historical society for safe keeping and the boulder was replaced over an empty vault. Apparently, in frustration, the vandals spray-painted graffiti over the ancient

granite marker. The boulder remained dislodged and disfigured for several years, but it has now been cleaned of graffiti by Ruth Goodrich, and was re-set in its proper place.

Once again, the Center of Town is re-emerging as a beautiful, quiet space for public use. The Cabot Trails Committee

maintains a walking/

biking trail that follows the old road west from the Center to the Village, and an attractive kiosk is set in the park area near the cemetery. Volunteers are working to reclaim the park area, cutting brush and repairing the walls of the old pound.

The Cabot Oral History Committee recently collaborated with the Cabot Cemetery Commission to replace the missing and vandalized signs, and a large new Palladio-type sign with a brief history of the area was added.

There is a remarkable calm at the Center. Tall evergreens whisper in the wind, and dappled sunshine filters through the canopy overhead. History was made here. Our ancestors toiled here, carving a space in the wilderness for those who came later. In the quiet of the park, one imagines the sounds of sermons and hymns from the unfinished church on the hill, voices of children reciting in the school, or solemn processions to the quiet cemetery below. It is a place for quiet reflection, a place to honor many of our first citizens, including a dozen or so Revolutionary War soldiers buried here along with their wives, children, and neighbors.

The Center deserves to be recognized, respected, and enjoyed as part of our town's early history.



(first graveyard sign)
This photo, taken in 1975 by Wayne Alexander, shows an early sign in place at the Center Cemetery. There is no record of who placed it there or what happened to it. Photo courtesy of Cedric Alexander.



(Former Sign, Ctr. Cem. 2024)
This photo was taken in October of 2024. It was the only remaining sign at the Center, badly damaged by what appear to be bullet holes. Photo by Jane Brown



(1801- 1st congo church)
This sign marking the spot of the first meeting house at the Center disappeared several years ago. A new sign is now in place near the large boulder that has marked the site since 1901.



(Cen. Of Town Pound remains, 2024)
The stone walls of the old Town Pound are still visible at the Center of Town in this photo taken in the fall of 2024. Photo by Jane Brown



((Congl. Church marker, 2024)
The big boulder marking the first church and meeting house, damaged by vandals spraying graffiti, was removed, cleaned, and returned by volunteers to it's proper place in October, 2024. Photo by Jane Brown

40th Anniversary of the Space Shuttle



January 28, 2026, is the 40th anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. I watched it live from my Florida Tech. college campus...a friend of mine took these photos.

Rollin Tebbetts photo contribution



LOCAL DIRECTORY

CONTRACTORS



"Our Goal Is 100%
Customer Satisfaction"
471 Hollister Hill
Plainfield, Vermont

Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ~ Sat 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Or by appointment (802) 454-7301
www.countryfloorsvt.com



Green Mountain Eco Floors

Quality • Affordable Local
Dustless Sanding Refinishing
Natural Finishes
Prefinished/Unfinished
Oliver Flooring Sales Installations Cyrus
Welters Free Estimates Pond
802-595-5049 KeepVermontGreener.com

LOCAL RETAIL

■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■

RHAPSODY
NATURAL FOODS
Tempeh - Miso - Natto
plant-based protein
■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■

GOODRICH'S Maple Farm

2427 US Route 2, Cabot, VT 05647
802-426-3388
Maple products-holiday gift baskets,
sugaring supplies, tanks
Everything for all your sugaring needs



Blaisdell's Maple Farm

802-563-6060
2 Gallons and 1 Half \$100 ~ 1 Gallon \$40
Half Gallons \$25 ~ Quarts \$15
Pints \$10 ~ Half Pints \$6

SERVICES



Countryside Childcare

Tristan & Mariah Dunbar
211 Walbridge Rd
Cabot VT 05647
802-563-2011
dunbar.countrysidechildcare@gmail.com

MIKE'S LIGHTS LLC



LAMP REPAIR AND RESTORATION
REPAIRING ALL LAMPS LIGHT FIXTURES AND
SMALL ELECTRICAL ITEMS GOOGLE MIKE'S LIGHTS
MIKESLIGHTS@GMAIL.COM
TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10 AM - 5 PM
802-279-1545

SERVICES



Andrea Gilbert, D.V.M
64 N. Main St., P.O.Box 760
Hardwick, Vermont 05843
(802) 472-8400
info@hardwickvet.com
www.hardwickvet.com
Open Tuesday - Saturday

GREEN MOUNTAIN DRONE SETH'S COMPUTER SERVICES

COMPUTER REPAIR SERVICES
REFURBISHED COMPUTER SALES
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY
INFO@GREENMOUNTAINDRONE.COM
802-793-1650
Located down the stairs to the left of the Cabot Village Store

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

Cabot Garage, Inc.

3102 Main Street, Cabot, VT 05647
Phone: 802-563-2270
www.cabotgarage.net
Family Owned & Operated Since 1955

HILLTOP SELF STORAGE



Paul & Kristine
Stecker
785 Menard Road
Cabot, VT 05647
802-563-2646
Maple, Beef
& PYO
Strawberries,
& Raspberries



MAPLE LANE FARM

paul@maplelanefarmvt.com
www.maplelanefarmvt.com

Christina Ducharme, L.Ac., MAOM

Blue Heron

Acupuncture, LLC
34 Patchen RD, South Burlington, VT 05403
87 Bailey Pond Road, Marshfield, VT 05658
802-595-2248
www.blueheronacupuncturevt.com
www.innerpathschoolofhealing.com



SERVICES

CENTURY 21

Farm & Forest

Derby, VT 802-334-1200
East Burke, VT 802-626-4222
Your dreams ~ Our job

Whether you're looking for a place to live,
work, or play in or around Vermont's
Northeast Kingdom, you've come to the right
place. With two convenient locations,
our talented team of full-service agents would
be honored to assist you in your real estate
endeavors! Our firm handles Residential,
Commercial, Land, Farms, Waterfront,
Rentals, and Auctions. Visit us online at
FarmAndForest.com

Sunwise Surveying

Specializing In Boundary Surveying
Lisa M. Ginett, RLS & Uriah Paire
802-426-3025
193 McKinstry Rd. Cabot, VT

HILLTOP AUTO BODY

Tim and Jennifer Gochey
Professional collision repair.
All insurances accepted
including rental cars
Call: 802-426-3738 or 802-522-7570

Garden Goddess

Design, Installation, and
maintenance of gardens,
landscapes, and homesteads
Specializing in native and edible plants
Susan Socks 802.498.7785
cabotfarm@gmail.com
www.socksfamilyfarm.weebly.com

www.SacredConnections.Earth

Camping
Pottery
Massage
Gardens
802-917-8883
Back Roads Farm, Cabot, VT



TREE DOG KENNELS

Fenced in-home boarding
on 100 acre farm
Safe year-round walking trails
Retired vet-tech of 25 years
CHERYL MCQUEENEY
(802) 535-6730

SERVICES



HARRINGTON REALTY

Commercial ~ Residential ~ Land
802-563-6000 ~ www.harringtonvt.com
"Serving Central Vermont and the
Northeast Kingdom since 1989"

Onion River Well & Spring Service

Drilled Wells • Springs • Pressure Tanks
UV Systems • Pump Service
Water Conditioning
EMERGENCY SERVICE
(802) 426-3670



P.O. Box 166, Cabot, VT 05647
Office : (802) 563-2112
damien@dunhambrotherspainting.com
www.dunhambrotherspainting.com

FULLY LICENSED
AND INSURED

YOUR
RESIDENTIAL
SERVICE
EXPERTS
802-633-0246
CallLloyd.com

**DERRICK DUNBAR
& SON LOGGING**
~ FULLY INSURED ~
~ HARVESTING STANDING TIMBER ~
802-535-5460
211 WALBRIDGE RD., CABOT, VT 05647

SIMPLE INNOVATIONS VT LLC
NATHAN SMITH
802.917.1662 Cabot, VT
Certified & Insured
#000\$000%0000000'0000
'00000000000000000000

**CABOT
VILLAGE
STORE**
802-563-2438
Open 7-7 Mon-Thru, 7-8 Fri & Sat, 8-5 Sun
Flour, soups, produce, meats,
frozen and full service deli, bakery,
homemade soups, and much more!

**MARTIN
LUTHER
KING
DAY**

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 19**

The Cabot Village 12th Night Celebration

January 2nd & 3rd 2026

ALL 12TH NIGHT EVENTS ARE FREE!

FEATURING

MODERN TIMES THEATER • KEITH MURPHY AND BECKY TRACY
TOM (BANJO) MARTIN • CRANKIE SHOW
SANDGLASS THEATER • HEARS CROW • FIFTH BUSINESS
THE MIDNIGHT CARERS • CABOT COMMUNITY THEATER
CABOT TRAIL SCAVENGER HUNT • ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOPS
WASSAIL COMMUNITY SING • SUNSET LANTERN PARADE
NEIGHBORS IN ACTION COMMUNITY PUSH
HOT BEER STATION AND MORE!

CABOTARTS.ORG



THE 12TH NIGHT CELEBRATION IS SPONSORED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL, THE CABOT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS, AND MORE.

SPONSORS: BEN & JERRY'S, CABOT ARTS, SATIS, rb, CABOT GREENHOUSE, VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL, COOP, EDEN, VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL, VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL

©CABOT ARTS IS DEDICATED TO MAKING MUSIC AND ARTS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL. LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP.



Neighbors
in Action

**BIGGEST
YEAR
YET!**

**560 CHILDREN
CELEBRATED**

**DONATE HERE:
NEIGHBORSINACTIONVT.ORG**



**Free
popcorn,
apple cider,
& prizes!**

**Celebrate National Mentoring Month
with Mid-Winter BINGO Fun!**

**Saturday
January 17th
From 4 to 6pm
at the Cabot School Cafeteria**

This is a family event and all ages are invited!

For more information please email: cabotmentoring@gmail.com



Plainfield
ARTS

**VERMONT
CELLO DUET**

**SUNDAY
JAN. 11** | **PLAINFIELD
TOWN HALL
OPERA HOUSE** | **4:00
P.M.**

PLAINFIELDARTSVT.ORG

Tickets are by suggested donation, available online and at the door.