

THE CABOT CHRONICLE

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P.O. Box 245, Cabot, Vermont 05647

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March 2026

FREE
Serving Cabot
& Surrounding
Communities

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Postal Customer

Is It Time for That Ice to Go?

by Diane Rossi, Joe's Pond
Ice-Out Committee Chair



A highly technical and sophisticated piece of engineering made up of cinder blocks, pallet, ski rope and fishing line.

Well into a long, cold, snowy winter we are looking forward to having the ice on Joe's Pond leave! This will be the 38th year of the Joe's Pond Ice Out Contest, and tickets are still \$1 apiece. At the moment, there are multiple shanties and it's snowing, but it is finally staying above 0. Our latest report is 27 inches of mostly white ice, not the hard, clear kind. The ice thinkers here at Joe's Pond think that whiter kind might melt more quickly. The past three years the ice has officially "gone out" in mid-April. Past ice out times and dates are all on the Joe's Pond Association web site, joespondvermont.com, as well as a complete history with pictures and the opportunity to buy tickets online.

Last year's winner was John Vincent of Wadsworth, OH, who took home \$7,790! John's brother has a long distance truck driver and stops often at Hasting's for snacks and lunch. For fun, he buys ice out tickets, which he gifts to family members.

Ice out tickets are available at multiple local places: Cabot Village Store, Walden Corner Stop Inn, Marshfield General Store, Bentley's bakery, Hasting's Store and Marty's, as well as Aubuchon, Center Tower, and the Elk's Club in St. Johnsbury. Barre and Montpelier both have several locations. It's also easy to just purchase and enter tickets online - joespondvermont.com - go to the ice out pages.



Wishing sugarmakers well. Rollin Tebbetts photo.

Think About It Offices to be Elected at Town Meeting 2026

It takes many hands to accomplish the business of running a town. Significant dedication and problem solving is required. According to the 2025 Annual Town Report, the following positions will be voted on in person at the next Town Meeting and in the ballot box in March. Consider how you may be able to serve fellow community members:

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE:

Town Clerk 3-year term
Selectboard Member 3-year term
Selectboard Member 2-year term
School Director 3-year term
School Director 2-year term

ELECTED FROM THE FLOOR:

Town Meeting Moderator 1-year term
2 Listers 3-year terms
Delinquent Tax Collector 1-year term
Grand Juror 1-year-term
Cemetery Commissioner 3-year term
Library Trustee 3-year terms, 2 positions
CCIF Committee 3-year term
Wiley Building Committee 2 3-year terms, 1 1-year term

Contact the Town Clerk for information on where to find details about position responsibilities.

Town of Cabot Annual Report is Available in Print and Online

Included are the Town Meeting Warning, proposed budget for Australian Ballot vote on March 3, and reports to the community from town organizations.

The printed Annual Report is available at the Town Office, as well as the post office, general store and hardware store while supplies last, as well as Marshfield and West Danville stores. Copies are available at Town Hall (Wiley Building) during office hours or call or email to have it mailed: 802-563-2279/tc@cabotvt.us. Voters agreed several years ago to save postage dollars and not automatically mail the report to every property owner, but the Town Clerk will be happy to mail it to any interested resident.

The Annual Report is also available on www.Cabotvt.us.



NEKCV Awarded Federal BEAD Funding to Expand to High-Speed Internet Access

By Julia Vallera,
Marketing Director NEKCV



NEK Community Broadband (doing business as NEKCV, NEK Broadband and CVFiber) announced that it has been awarded federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding, allowing it to accelerate its mission to (see, 'NEKCV', page 8)

CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2026

6:30 p.m. at the

Cabot School Performing Arts Center

(See School District Warning inside)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

10.00 a.m. at the

Wiley Building Auditorium

(See School District Warning inside)

SELECTBOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Selectboard appointments decided

Features:
Senior News:

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Sample Ballots:
Library News:

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School News:
Business Directory:

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

by Representative Gregory Burr, Caledonia-Washington District



Finally, a little bit of sun and above freezing temps! I think the political climate is similar in Montpelier. I've been pushing hard for adjustments to be made to Act 181 of 2024 (an act relating to community resilience

and biodiversity protection through land use) and the consensus in the Statehouse is growing. The changes that Act 181 will make to development in our region (if left unchecked) will be drastic. Large swaths of Cabot and every town in Vermont will fall under Act 250, so that single family dwellings and accessory buildings like sheds and barns would require an Act 250 permit. In a recent exclusive meeting with the executive director and the chair of the Land Use Review Board, I was reassured with some good news. At this time I am not able to share as they asked me to wait until it is public information given at their next board meeting. What I can share is that much of Act 181 will be delayed by a year. To illustrate the consensus, the Rural Caucus and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns are both pushing for delays and VLCT is pushing to repeal the Road Rule which would trigger Act 250 on land that is over 800 feet away from a public road. Myself,

many other legislators, and various political groups are pushing for Tier 3 areas to be minimized. This has become a non-partisan issue. The Senate now has bill S.325 that will help make these changes. My hope is that by the end of the 2027 session that most of the kinks will be worked out. It's more than a little frustrating that legislation that was passed so recently is needing this kind of overhaul.

Act 73 (an act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems) continues to be a bit of a quagmire. In recent talks with legislators on the House Education Committee, there seems to be little consensus on where to go next. Choice towns have more recently voiced their opposition to a redistricting map proposed by Chair Peter Conlon. With 80 towns or so having some form of school choice, their support will be necessary going forward. In my short tenure in Montpelier, I have come quite easily to see that redistricting is a mistake. If you would like to know more about my stances on education, feel free to email me at gburr@leg.state.vt.us.

On the Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Resiliency Committee, we are working on updating statute regarding the role of municipal bylaws and agriculture, heavy metals in baby food and formula, the pesticide paraquat, and farm employee pay rates and housing. My main goals on the committee and in the legislature generally are to reduce taxes, boost our economy, bolster public safety and health, provide our kids with excellent education, and preserve our core values as Vermonsters.

Please show me any studies with improved social, emotional, physical and mental wellbeing from:

- Lack of sleep
- Excess stress
- Longer time away from caregivers
- Going to school far from home
- Less individual attention to student needs
- Less community interaction and socialization

Vermont schools have a nationwide reputation for Inclusion and meeting the needs of children with a wide range of disabilities. Small rural schools in Vermont have historically demonstrated excellent academic outcomes, by addressing individual strengths and needs. In small schools everyone knows everyone else. Principals, teachers, support staff, maintenance and custodial staff, bus drivers, food service staff, all know each child by name and truly care about every child.

Things have only gone downhill, when budget drives staffing decisions and standardized computerized testing (as low as kindergarten), analyzed by bureaucrats, judges learning, instead of highly trained teachers with intimate knowledge of each individual student.

Please stop this effort to destroy our small rural schools and communities. When you close small rural schools that are the heart of the community, you not

only destroy the emotional and social heart of a town, but you also destroy a significant economic driver.

- Parents and teachers who work out of town will no longer frequent the local village store, the local garage, the local hardware store, the local post office on their way to work.
- Local teachers and support staff will lose their jobs.
- Working parents will lose pay and possibly their jobs to attend parent conferences and school events, when they must take time off to retrieve a sick child, or drive an hour each way to take them to the doctor or dentist.

Small schools have been pinching pennies for decades, because of the source and formula for funding. That is the problem that needs to be solved. We need to address budget items that have nothing to do with education: health insurance, energy costs, crumbling infrastructure.

What we need instead is a total overhaul of how we pay for education. Those who have more, should pay more.

These are our children; they are our investment in our future. We need to put the children first.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Gulka, Cabot



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.

Letter to Governor Scott

Dear Governor Scott, Secretary Saunders, and Vermont State Legislators:

I am a retired educator, with 40 years' experience in teaching and leadership roles.

I don't understand how you can continue this absurd push for school consolidation: creating huge districts, closing small schools, mandating class sizes, imposing spending caps: all for the purpose of saving property taxes.

Show me the studies indicating improved academic performance when you:

- Deprive young children of adequate sleep (because they must get up earlier to get to school)
- Subject children to the stress of long bus rides in the cold and dark, snow, rain and mud
- Subject children to the ever-present risk of getting stuck, landing in a

ditch or having a more serious accident. I cannot imagine the emotional scars we will impose on whole busloads of small children after sliding off the road or getting mired in mud.

I still have a vivid memory from 20 years ago of driving home on an icy, wind swept hill; of my extended cab pickup truck sliding off in slow motion, turning on its side in the ditch and stopping just before it hit a big old maple tree on the side of the road; of my two young children hanging from their car seats and me wondering how the heck I was going to get them out and back home 2.5 miles away.

We live in a beautiful, sparsely populated, rural and mountainous state. It is what draws people to live here and raise a family, visit, and start small businesses: the natural beauty, the peace and quiet, the lack of the hustle and bustle, crowds and stress. And the quality of education that small schools provide.

A Love Letter to the Cabot Ambulance

On January 21, through all fault of my own, I fell in my bedroom and broke my right humerus (trust me, it's not that funny).

Somehow, I managed to get to the phone. When I dialed 9-1-1, I got absolutely no response. I tried again – same. Then I tried on my cell phone and again – NOTHING. No dial tone, no busy signal, no static – nothing – just dead air.

Knowing where the Cabot Ambulance lives, I called Ruth Goodrich at the sugarhouse. I told her my dilemma. Ruth immediately said, "Hold on." I could hear her calling Jean, her daughter, and then she said, "Give us a few minutes."

They were at the door in less than 15 minutes, with slings and cloths in hand.

I was swaddled and set in the ambulance and we were on our way, with Jean driving and Ruth performing vitals and chatting with me, in the back, her by my side and me on the stretcher.

They brought me right into the Emergency Department into a room and in the good hands at CVMC.

I will be forever grateful to the Cabot Ambulance Service and the excellent service they provided to me and to the community. We should do whatever we can to secure their place in the community, whether they become part of the municipality or not. If they can provide better service by keeping the ambulance on their property, then I say let's pass the hat, to help them out.

Sincerely,
Maria Acchione-Goodrich

CABOT ARTS
SHOW AND TELL

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

March 22, 2026 , 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

THE CABOT
CHRONICLE

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



Decon Concerns

Letter to the Editor

We buried the former Chief of the West Newbury Fire Department on Sunday, February 1. Dennis Ross was a close friend and important member of the Marshfield community; my husband Will and I built his casket, and Ben Ackermann dug his grave. Dennis had served on the West Newbury Fire Department for 18 years, the last five as Chief. An aggressive brain tumor correlated with the carcinogens that rise from burning houses -something called a glioblastoma- killed him within five weeks of diagnosis.

Glioblastomas also claimed the lives of two firefighters in East Montpelier last year; Alex Boguzewski died in May and Sandi Conti died in August. Larry Clark, who was Chief in Bellows Falls, died of cancer in October. Sandy Ladd, former Chief in Colchester died of cancer that same month as did Albie Lewis, former Chief in Berlin, and Peter John, former Barre City Chief. I was recently at a training with Stowe's Assistant Chief - Scott Reeves- who told a room full of firefighters just beginning their careers that he is "sick of going to cancer-related firefighter funerals".

It is important to note that, with the exception of Alex, who was just 33 years old, all the men mentioned above were in their sixties and early seventies when they died, and all became firefighters before there was general understanding of the toxic carcinogens that are released when a home full of modern materials burns. We know now-in ways that we did not in the 80s, 90s and early 2000s- that the black oily smoke that we see over a structure fire, or that which leaches out of an extinguished burn site (we should remember 'The Pile' in New York which smoked for weeks after 9/11) is strongly correlated with what the State of Vermont now calls 'job related cancers'. We know now, as reported by the Legislature in 2024, that "firefighters have a 9% greater risk of cancer and a mortality rate that is 14% higher than the general population due to occupational exposure to carcinogens." The leading cause of death for firefighters is not burning or crushing accidents, it is cancer. We know now what communities in the 80s and 90s and early 2000s did not: that firefighters must have ac-

cess to decontamination equipment and practices for both their persons and tools, and that consistent and rigorous use of decontamination equipment can mitigate the risks of cancer.

It's important to note that the question of whether communities should make investments to protect firefighters from cancer, or help them if they become ill, is it is no longer just a moral one (when we ask unpaid volunteers to risk their lives for us, do we have a responsibility to care for them if they get sick or hurt?) - it's a matter of State Statute with direct impact on local finances. Act 26 passed the Legislature in July of 2023. In a nutshell, it says that any Vermont firefighter who has served for five years or more, whether volunteer or professional, is entitled to Workers Compensation through their communities if they are diagnosed with cancer up to ten years after retirement. Most of us have had a relative or friend who has battled cancer, most of us know how expensive that treatment is. The Town of Cabot is subject to Act 26.

I have heard some community members suggest that the pricetag for decontamination facilities and practices in the new Public Safety Building design is too high for a Town the size of Cabot, and that such things were not necessary in the past. I would offer a clear-eyed and brutal truth: the older generation of firefighters did not know that their service might give them cancer, and an unacceptably high percentage are now dying of horrifying and likely service-related cancers. If we do not want to shoulder the enormous cost of caring for firefighters with cancer- there is only one way to mitigate that: provide robust equipment, decontamination spaces, and decontamination practices for our current firefighters. Providing decontamination infrastructure now in the new Public Safety Building will save us money in the future.

When we know better, we do better....and we need to do better by the younger generation; the law requires it and cost management demands it. As for the question of morality and care - how we care for those who care for us - I would respectfully suggest that this too should remain a centering question as we make decisions about whether and how to minimize cancer risks for our firefighters.

Karen Larsen

Vermonters Encouraged to Support Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery with Nongame Tax Checkoff

Vermont's Nongame Wildlife Fund is essential to the conservation and restoration of some of Vermont's most at-risk wildlife, from bumblebees to butterflies, and mussels to mammals. The Nongame Fund checkoff option on the Vermont state income tax form makes donating to the fund easy and impactful.

"Responding to biodiversity loss is as important as ever right now, and we're fortunate that here in Vermont we have strong state laws designed to protect species, and we work hard to safeguard the wildlife and plants we all care about," says Rosalind Renfrew, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Wildlife

Diversity Program Manager. "Every dollar donated to Nongame Wildlife Fund makes this possible, and Vermonters' donations through the Nongame Tax Checkoff are doubled or tripled when they leverage matching federal grants, securing even more resources to benefit Vermont's wildlife."

Vermont's Nongame Tax Checkoff helped to recover species that were once on the brink of extinction in Vermont, like the common loon, osprey and peregrine falcon. are taking action for species of turtles, snakes, bats, plants, and other birds that now all need our close attention."

Tire Piles in Lower Cabot

I would like to appeal to Cabot voters to vote yes on Warned Article 12 on the Town Meeting ballot. This article requests up to \$10,000 from CCIF funds to enable Cabot Conservation Committee to remove 1000-1200 tires from the former Spencer property in Lower Cabot. The project would gather up these tires from where they were dumped in and near a tributary of the Winooski River off Route 215, and send them to an approved facility out-of-state for safe and effective recycling. By properly disposing of these tires, we accomplish two things: 1) cleaning up an illegal dump in the wetlands of the Winooski River and 2) removing a breeding ground for mosquitoes which

have plagued the area for years with numbers far in excess of normal levels. The expanded mosquito population constitutes a public health threat not just to the nearby residents but to the community as a whole.

According to the CCIF Plan, one of the goals of the fund is to protect and enhance the quality of life and the character of the Town of Cabot by preserving and protecting the environment and abating pollution. We feel this project meets these goals-so please vote yes on Article 12.

Thank you,
Gary Katz
Resident of Lower Cabot

Tire Dump Cleanup

On Town Meeting Day, Cabot voters will be asked to approve the use of up to \$10,000 of CCIF funds to remove and properly dispose of between 1,000- 1,500 used tires that have been dumped on private property along a stream and wetland in Lower Cabot. As voters consider whether to approve this request, here is some background information.

Origin: The tires were accumulated over the years by the property's previous owner, who used a large portion of them for animal fencing. There was illegal dumping of tires by previous tenants of the property and the Department of Environmental Conservation initiated an enforcement action for cleanup. However, after the death of the property owner (Spencer) the enforcement action was not pursued.

Concern: Filling over time with snow-melt and rainwater, the tires have become an extensive breeding ground for mosquitoes. According to recent research from California, the tires may also release chemicals toxic to fish as they gradually decompose.

Remedy: Cabot's Conservation Committee has researched the costs of removing these tires. They estimate that it will cost approximately \$3,000 for the equipment and labor to remove and haul away the tires over a two-day period, and approximately \$6,000 for their proper disposal. Their hope is to do the work in April before plant regrowth makes it harder to remove the tires.

Funding: During the past year, the Conservation Committee reached out to several state agencies for grant funding for removal of the tires (VTrans, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Agency of Natural Resources). After finding out in mid-January this year that their last requests for state funding were unsuccessful, members of the Conservation Committee asked if it would be possible to use CCIF funds to move ahead with the cleanup this year.

One of the goals of the Cabot Community Investment Fund is to, "Protect and enhance the quality of life and the character of the Town" by "Preserving and protecting the environment and abating pollution", among other means. The general fund portion of the CCIF has grown by over 40% during the past three years, (to \$773,496 as of 12/31/2025), and last November, Cabot voters approved using \$250,000 of it to support flood mitigation efforts in Cabot Village. Once again, a portion of CCIF funds are available each year for "Town Meeting Grants" to community organizations in Cabot. Over the years these grants have supported a wide range of community investments: from improvements to town and school buildings, to new equipment for the Fire Department and Cabot Ambulance, and to support organizations like Neighbors in Action and the "Cabot Connects" mentoring program.

After reviewing the CCIF goals and the Fund's financial status, the CCIF Committee unanimously approved putting the request from the Conservation Committee to fund the tires' removal and disposal on the Town Meeting Day warning for voters to consider. At its special January 22 meeting, Cabot's Select Board also unanimously supported adding the request to the warning.

The article states, "Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Conservation Committee a sum of up to \$10,000 for the removal and proper disposal of an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 used tires that have been dumped into and along a stream and wetland in Lower Cabot from CCIF funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2026?"

Please remember to vote (on this and other Town and School questions) on or before Town Meeting Day, Tuesday March 3.

Chris Tormey
Chair, CCIF Committee

Time for Fishing Shanties to Go

Vermont state law requires that ice fishing shanties be removed from the ice before the ice weakens, according the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

The shanty must be removed before the ice becomes unsafe or loses its ability to support the shanty out of the water, or before the last Sunday in March -- the 31st this year -- whichever comes first. All contents, debris, wood, and supports

must also be removed so they do not become a hazard to navigation in the spring.

The fine for leaving your ice fishing shanty on the ice can be \$1,000, and shanties may not be left at state fishing access areas.

State Game Wardens are available for questions via the Vermont State Police radio dispatcher.



OBITUARIES

Irving F. Robbins



Irving Francis Robbins of Cabot, Vermont, age 85, died in his home with his family by his side on February 11, 2026. Irv lived an active and fulfilling life, and he often spoke of how truly fortunate he was. He took great pleasure in family, friends, teaching and coaching, travel, the forest, and UConn basketball.

Born in May of 1940 in Torrington, CT, to John and Dorothy Robbins, Irv grew up beside the Weigold dairy farm near Winchester. The youngest of four children, Irv's early education began in a one-room schoolhouse. A childhood spent fishing and hunting sparked his lifelong interest in the forest and self-sufficiency. Baseball games and jaunts through the woods with his siblings were balanced with work at home and on the farm. As a young man, Irv worked at the Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk, where his interest in the forest grew.

A member of the Army National Guard and a graduate of Western Connecticut State University and the University of Hartford, Irv's teaching career spanned several decades. He was a stalwart figure at Sharon Center School, where he taught for twenty-nine years and coached multiple sports. An advocate for youth athletics, he helped organize the first Region One track meet for elementary students, an event he championed for many years. Above all, he enjoyed the students and staff of SCS. While on sabbatical in the early 1990s, Irv taught English at a language university in Wroclaw, Poland for a year, an adventure he relished.

Irv married Cindy in 1965. After several years in Oregon and Vermont, the couple returned to Connecticut and chose Cornwall to raise their children. A kind and patient father, Irv was supportive of Leslie's and Luke's education and interests. His huge run provided hours of fun every winter, and his maple syrup was a household favorite. Irv's many extra jobs, from lawn care to security at Lime Rock Park, ensured his family's educational opportunities.

After retiring from teaching, Irv built two homes in Cabot: one atop a hill, off the grid, on a Class IV road, and the other, easily accessible, at the bottom of that hill. He and Cindy enjoyed Vermont living, with Irv working the land with his tractor and backhoe. He developed vegetable and flower gardens, meadows, and forest paths. He planted firs for Christmas trees, harvested wood, and maintained and plowed the long road to his home.

Irv was an involved grandfather, lucky to live near both of his children and their families in retirement. A good neighbor, Irv liked to visit and was always ready to lend a hand. He was open to meeting new people and took interest in their experiences. Ever the advocate for independence and self-reliance, Irv tutored newcomers to the United States in English and encouraged people of all ages to pursue their education. He will be missed dearly by those who knew and loved him.

Irving was predeceased by his wife, Cynthia Robbins; his sister, Shirley Pedone; and his granddaughter, Madeline Robbins. He is survived by his daughter, Leslie Robbins (Nick); his son, Luke Robbins (Taeryn); his grandchildren, Crawford, Hudson, Silas, and Alaina; his brother, William Robbins; his sister, Patricia Bodmer; as well as many nephews and nieces.

A Celebration of Irv's life will be held later this year. To receive updates about the service, please email: lukecrobbs@gmail.com.

Contributions in Irving's memory may be made to the *Irving and Cindy Robbins International Studies Fund*, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which Irv established to support immersive international travel experiences in cultures outside of North America for students, teachers, and alumni of Region One school district in Connecticut. Contributions to the fund may be made by visiting www.berkshiretaconic.org/donate, or by mailing a check made out to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, with the fund name on the memo line, to 800 North Main Street, Sheffield, MA 01257.

Memories and condolences may be shared with family at CaledoniaLifeServices.com.

Photo by Sarah Kenyon, courtesy of BTCF.

selling advertising for the Falmouth Enterprise.

Music was a major part of David's life, playing first with the Boston Youth Symphony, then playing on the Cape for many school programs and various local entertainments and plays. He was also a skilled organist, playing at local churches in Falmouth and St. Joseph's in Woods Hole. He also taught piano locally.

After working for the Falmouth Enterprise for several years, he got both his real estate and broker's licenses and worked at his mother's firm, Mary Kay Realty in Falmouth. The big city called, David moved to Boston. He was employed by State Street Bank in the Secu-

rities Services Department, retiring as an Assistant Vice Treasurer in 2002.

In retirement David served as fill-in church organist at St. Mary's, St. John The Evangelist, Lakeshore Methodist, the former Central Congregational Church in Lynn, Cabot United Church in Cabot, and First Congregational Church in East Hardwick.

He was predeceased by his great aunt Kathryn Buckley, who lost her life on the RMS Titanic, his grandparents, and his parents. He is survived by his brother, J. Kevin Kay of Falmouth, cousins in Franklin MA, Chicago, IL, and FL, several nephews and a niece, and friends in the Lynn, Swampscott and Marblehead areas.



Please join us for a
CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Ellen Bryant Voigt

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2026
1:00 PM

ALUMNI HALL, 15 COLLEGE ST.,
MONTPELIER, VT 05602

Reception to follow

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TOWN MEETING 2026 DECISIONS

- * **Tuesday, March 3** 10:00 am in-person Town meeting, 7 am – 7 pm Australian Ballot voting, and last day to register to vote on Town Meeting Articles
- * **Tuesday, March 10** 6:00 pm Selectboard Meeting where non-elected town appointments will be made (change of date from March 24)
- * **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:

- ♦ Town Meeting Warning is available on Town Website: cabotvt.us
- ♦ Town Meeting Ballots are available at Town Hall for early or absentee voters
- ♦ BCA delivery of ballots is available to those who cannot access Town Hall (call 802-563-2279)
- ♦ Early or absentee ballots must be dropped off at office or outside drop box next to Willey Building rear entrance no later than 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3; do not mail at this late date.

David Kay



David Kay passed on to Eternal Rest October 29, 2024, at Salem Hospital. Born August 2, 1940, in Roslindale MA, the son of Mary (Dowd) and Arthur Kay. David attended the Robert Gould Shaw grammar school. In 1954 the family moved to West Falmouth Mass where he attended Lawrence High School graduating in the class of 1958. David went on to study at Boston University, returning to the Cape to work in the sales department

of the Falmouth Enterprise for several years, he got both his real estate and broker's licenses and worked at his mother's firm, Mary Kay Realty in Falmouth. The big city called, David moved to Boston. He was employed by State Street Bank in the Secu-

RE-ELECT ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WALTER "SKIP" BOTHFELD JR.

2-YEAR TERM - CABOT SELECT BOARD



Dear Cabot Residents,

I, Walter "Skip" Bothfeld, Jr., am running for my third 2-year term as a Cabot Select Board member. Please consider my nomination. I have lived in Cabot my whole life and appreciate everyone who volunteers to make this community a great one. I am a partner in a multi-generational farming operation, formerly dairy and transitioned recently to beef cattle and turkeys. I served as the Cabot Fire Chief for over 30 years, and got a taste of local government in that role. The responsibility as a Fire Chief—getting up at all hours to help others—is much different than serving on the Select Board! As a Select Board member I realize the weight in helping plan the future for the wide ranging residents who call Cabot home. When an issue arises I look at it from the perspective of Select Board member, community member, taxpayer, fire fighter, business owner, and try to be fair to all views.

In the past 4 years I have learned a lot more about how town government works. The process of organizing a budget, reviewing and scrutinizing costs is essential to our responsibilities. Listening to people's concerns, views and making tough decisions to problem-solve as able. Making sure every department of the town has the funds to work properly, as well as cost-effectively.

One major project that the Select Board will be organizing in 2026 is a new Public Safety Building, following the floods of 2023. The board and the department have been getting grants to build this station and further work is necessary. As a person with unique knowledge of the fire service, and standards and fire coalitions, this is an exciting task to undertake. I approach this not only as a Select Board member, but a fire fighter, and as a taxpayer.

Along with the needs of the Cabot Volunteer Fire Department, the needs following the 2023 flooding across the community—bridges, roads, flood resilience mapping, multifaceted funding streams are all on the to-do list of the Select Board. My first term began just before the major flooding event, so getting up to speed on how to best help this community respond, rebuild and thrive has been very rewarding. I look forward to those continued efforts.

Please consider voting for me, Walter Bothfeld Jr, so we can continue to help the town move forward in positive and meaningful ways.

Respectfully yours,

Walter Bothfeld Jr.

Please vote for Walter "Skip" Bothfeld Jr. on/before March 3rd, 2026

Pruning: Do My Trees Need It?

by Susan Socks of Garden Goddess Consulting and Gardening

If you have trees or bushes in your yard, you may have wondered if you are supposed to be pruning them. The answer is: it depends. Not all woody plants need pruning. For those that do, there are multiple reasons why you prune them: safety, plant health, food and flower production, and plant shape.

Safety

Dead or damaged limbs on a tree or bush can be a safety hazard. They can fall, damaging power lines or property, or people unlucky enough to be in the path.

Plant Health

Dead or damaged limbs are also a danger to the plant itself. Weak limbs, cracking under wind or ice, can rip off live limbs below as they fall, or peel bark and vital living tissue from the trunk. Some diseases of woody plants, especially fungal problems, can be controlled by removing the infected branches, preventing the disease from spreading to the rest of the plant.

Flower and Food Production

Some flowering bushes (such as lilac and forsythia) will flower more prolifically when pruned on a regular basis. Pruning reduces crowding and lets in more light, stimulating better flower bud production. Fruit trees and berry bushes also produce better when more light reaches each branch. An apple tree with a very dense, thicket-like crown will produce a few apples on the outside of the crown, whereas the same variety of apple tree with a sparse, open crown will produce very heavily.

Shaping

Some bushes, such as boxwood, eastern white-cedar, and yew, respond well to shearing, allowing those with the time and energy for such pursuits to create manicured hedges, round or square or pyramidal bushes, or even topiary animals.

Note that size control is **not** listed among the pruning purposes. With a few exceptions (the "shape-able" shrubs just mentioned), you should not expect to limit the size of a woody plant by pruning. You cannot make an oak tree shorter by removing branches. Attempts to limit the size of trees and shrubs by pruning often result in a disfigured or dead plant. Plan for the mature size of trees and shrubs before planting. If a previous landowner put in a woody plant that is too large for its location, either remove it or find a creative way to live with it.

So, do all trees and shrubs need pruning? No, only prune if there is a good reason. Pruning is similar to surgery; there are inherent risks, no matter how careful you are. If a tree or shrub in your yard is healthy, undamaged and is not being managed for food or flower production, then you can just sit back, relax, and enjoy the company of your leafy friend.

Enjoy the last weeks of our winter wonderland, and soak up extra sunshine! *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, or visit www.Socks Family Farm.weebly.com.*

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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

Flood Recovery Loan Renewals

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

Under Vermont State statute, the Selectboard can borrow money without voter approval for only up to a period of one year. Any loans or bonds that are for a duration longer than a year must be approved by the voters of the town. At the February 3 and 17 board meetings, the Town Treasurer presented several loan documents, related to the flood recovery expenses, to the Selectboard for their approval and signature.

Amy Monahan explained that there were three loans, and she had been able to pay down some of the principal on the loans that were maturing on the 3rd. She announced that they would be renewing one for \$300,000, which had been \$399,000. Amy added that the third loan that was maturing in two weeks was for \$600,000 and she would be able to pay it down so the town only needed to finance \$500,000.

She also told the board that they were receiving the paperwork for the money the town would be getting for the old fire station demolition. Amy added that she was still waiting for the process to complete for the temporary fire station. She reminded the board that the town received a \$999,000 insurance payment for the old fire station which was used to help pay for the temporary fire station.

Amy said the total cost of the temporary fire station was \$1,400,000 and the paperwork submitted to FEMA was for the cost minus the insurance payment. She stated that FEMA provides 90% of that amount, and if the money is received before the next loan comes due in

August, then the town will only have \$800,000 in outstanding flood recovery loans.

Mike Hogan said that after everything nets out in 2027, the town will have a line item in the budget for the percentage of the expenses that is the responsibility of the town. Amy added that she got an email that day about the 2024 flood recovery expenditures, and all of the projects except for Lovely Road have been paid out. She stated that FEMA has obligated \$1,600,000 for the Lovely Road project, which is more than it will cost.

Amy mentioned that once all those projects are paid out, the town can put in for category Z. Mike explained that category Z pays for all the hours that he and Dean put into the flood recovery. Amy told Mike that she needs more information to do that, and noted that the email said the amount would be \$90,000 for the 2024 flood based upon 5% of the total cost. She added that if they wanted to put in for the actual cost based upon hours, they needed to do that by the following Friday.

At the February 17 meeting, Amy notified the board that the third loan was renewing for \$500,000, after being paid down from \$600,000. Doug Cooke, attending as a member of the public, asked about the duration and rate of the loan. Amy said it was for one year at 4.9%. Mike added that FEMA would pay for the interest. Doug asked if they would pay, or if they promised to pay. Mike stated it was the same thing to him. Doug disagreed.

Cabot Garage Relocation Search

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

Gary Gulka was present at the February 3 Selectboard meeting to request approval for which sites for the Cabot Garage location would receive further evaluation. Mike Hogan asked Gary to explain the importance of the project, for the record.

Gary recalled the 2023 flood, and how the two culverts proved ineffective. He added that it happened again in the 2024 flood. Gary added that two businesses had to be rebuilt twice, and the engineers have come up with a design that could virtually eliminate future floods. He said that they still needed to do something about the debris. Gary told the board that the proposed project would cost \$1,900,000 for construction, and expressed hope there would be funding for it in the future.

Someone from the public asked if the town had gotten any money for the fire station relocation yet. Mike responded that it was in the works. Gary said that the town has funding for the Cabot Ga-

rage relocation project, but it will end soon. He stated that there were seven sites under consideration, and they are finalizing the two sites which will be evaluated further. He articulated that the primary site was Creamery property located on Whittier Hill Road, and the secondary site was town property on Elm Street.

Gary then mentioned that Greg Moore had emailed a proposal to relocate the garage onto Willey Building property. He then yielded the floor to Greg Moore and Mike Cookson.

Greg told the board the proposal was to basically swap sides. He added that parking would probably be opened up on the side where the garage is currently located, and stated that there are currently about 15 parking spots on the garage property. Greg told the board that he felt that all of the seven proposed relocation sites are unacceptable. He emphasized that it was important for his business to remain in the village center, and noted that all of the proposed sites are on dirt roads. He added that the Whittier

Hill Rd site also has limited accessibility.

Mike Cookson expressed that it made sense just to switch sides. He presented a map to the board with a proposal of where the garage could be located on the Whittier Hill side of the Willey Building. He added that he didn't want to impact the amount of parking available to the other businesses at the Willey Building, but he also didn't want to take the garage out of the village center.

Gary proposed to the board that they could have the contractor perform further studies on this location in place of the Elm Street site. Mike Hogan added that since it is town property, the voters would have to approve the sale of the town asset. Gary also told the board that he wasn't sure if the buyout of the garage property would allow for parking since it would be federally funded.

Fred Ducharme speculated on whether they really needed to put in a bridge. He said that the problem was really the debris. He felt the culverts could handle the water during the flood, but it was the debris that caused the water to flood into the village when it

blocked the culverts. Gary disagreed, and said the modelling showed that if there wasn't any debris it would still happen. He added that debris racks were still a good idea, but the landowner isn't allowing further exploration of that approach.

Mike Hogan said that the project is just at the evaluation stage, and Gary said this was just to be prepared in case they do get funding for the overall project. Gary said the study of the two sites would come up with a fairly detailed site plan and cost estimates of relocating the garage.

Fred expressed concerns about the amount of parking should the garage be located on the other side of the Willey Building. He added that they need to figure out if they are going to turn the town land behind the play structure into parking.

The board approved contracting Dubois and King to perform detailed studies on the Whittier Hill and the Willey Building sites for potential Cabot Garage relocation.

Australian Ballot Information Meeting

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

The Selectboard held the required Town Meeting informational meeting after their Selectboard meeting on February 17. The meeting covered the Australian ballot articles number 8 through 13. Mike Hogan started the meeting by telling those in attendance that the meeting was required by state statute, and reminded everyone that the articles can not be changed.

Article 8 General Fund

Mike read the article to those in attendance, which stated that the general expenses of the town were projected to be \$968,161. Mike stated that the budget is the same as presented at the board's budget meetings and amounted to a 2.2% increase. There were not questions from the public.

Article 9 Highway Fund

Mike read the article which stated the proposed highway expenses were \$1,130,766. Fred Ducharme told those in attendance that the budget hasn't gone up much, but everything has gone up a lot. Fred described how they were looking to refurbish a truck for half the cost of a new truck. He added that they are looking at leasing trucks with a warranty to save money. Fred also talked about paving, and said that the sinking fund cannot keep up. He mentioned that the town is talking to the state about taking over the summer maintenance of Route 215, and then the state would pay for the paving. Mike added that it costs about \$300,000 to pave one mile.

Article 10 New Radios

Again Mike read the article which asks for authority to borrow \$125,000 to buy new radios. Amy Monahan told those in attendance that she has been

working with the Vermont Bond Bank to get a good rate for the proposed loan. She added that if they used a conventional bank loan, the rate would be much higher.

Kerri Moll spoke about her disappointment on how the article is worded, pointing out that two of the radios are for the town's emergency manager and the West Hill Pond Dam coordinator. She also talked about the condition of the current radios used by the Fire Department, and about how much better the new radios would be.

Will Ameden read from a prepared statement about the radios, and spoke of the qualities of the new Motorola radios that would be purchased. He also mentioned how the new radios would help with dead spots they currently experience. Mike added that other towns are facing the same issues with their current radios.

Dean Deasy talked about the radio protocol in the past, and how it was too expensive. He said he was changing the protocol to minimize the number of radios needed by the Fire Department. Dean described the two types of units, mobile and portable, stating that the mobile goes in the vehicle and the portable is carried on the person.

He said there would be five mobile units, one for each apparatus, one for the chief's vehicle, and one for the assistant chief's vehicle. Dean also said that there would be seven units that would only go to the officers. He also talked about mounting portable units on the trucks so they can be grabbed at the scene.

It was asked and confirmed that the total of five mobile and nine portable units was the planned purchase. It was (see, 'Ballot Information', page 7)



SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Ballot Information

(continued from page 6)

also asked about the life span of the radios, Dean stated was 14 years. He added that the current radios, in use for about 20 years, only had a lifespan of six years. Dean also talked about the need to support digital channels since Capital Dispatch is planning to switch from analog channels to digital channels in the future.

Dean also answered a question about the warranty, and said the radios should last several years before requiring any maintenance. He added that the first maintenance would be replacement of batteries around five to six years. Dean also talked about the power of the new radios and said that the mobile units will be powerful enough to help with the dead spots. He also pointed out that some of the radios will have the ability to talk directly to Vermont State Police, a capability they don't currently have.

Doug Cooke asked about a sinking fund for the radios and Dean agreed that it would be a good thing. Dean added that he tried to start one in the past, but was not successful. Doug also asked about the possibility of a rolling replacement. Dean's response indicated that would not be possible because all of the existing radios are obsolete and need to be replaced.

Article 11 Business Personal Property Tax Exemption

Mike read the article about raising the business personal property tax exemption from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Jeanne Johnson, the head lister, described what was meant by business personal property by giving examples like coolers, cash registers, and other non-inventory items owned by the business. She recalled that in 1999 the town set the current exemption at \$5,000, adding that long ago the town chose to exempt inventory from property tax.

She emphasized that the change would be small business friendly, and would only remove seven businesses from the current 30 that pay personal property tax. Jeanne said this change would only decrease the amount collected by about \$500, and pointed out that the creamery paid \$89,000 in personal property tax last year.

Article 12 Tire Removal

Mike read the article about granting \$10,000 toward tire removal on the former Spencer property in Lower Cabot. Gary Gulka provided the background of the request, which originated with Gary Katz. Gary Gulka explained that there is a major tire dump consisting of 1,000 to 1,500 tires, near or within a wetland and a perennial tributary to the Winooski. Gary Gulka added that they approached various parts of the state to find money for the cleanup, to no avail. He explained that the estimate to clean up the tires is about \$7,000, and when accounting for additional costs of transporting the tires the total is estimated to be about \$10,000.

Chris Tormey provided the background on how the CCIF committee analyzed the request and quoted the part of the CCIF plan that provided for use of

CCIF funds to "preserving and protecting the environment and abating pollution".

Gary Katz explained that he lived next door to the site, and spoke about how the mosquito population has exploded. He added that he was unaware until a family member of the late Leonard Spencer mentioned the existence of the tires.

Gary Gulka had mentioned that April was the best time to remove the tires because there would be no spring growth yet. Bryanne Russillo asked if there would be a better time of year since that was wildlife mating season.

Karen Larsen asked if this project would set a precedent of allocating public dollars to clean up a site that is actually a private concern. Chris agreed that past CCIF grants have not been associated with private property.

Ben Moll pointed out that Leonard Spencer is dead and can't be held accountable. He speculated that the current owners have some responsibility and asked if they intended to live there. Gary Katz said he talked to the owners and relayed that their plans are "up in the air".

Kerri Moll stated that it is known the property sold for a good price, and the buyers knew the tires were there. She asked about their responsibility. Frank Kampf asked if it was possible to put a lien on the property for the cost of the cleanup. Mike Hogan stated he didn't want to go there.

There was further discussion about the current owners paying for anything if it exceeded \$10,000 but Mike Hogan stated that the article is written and the voters can vote yea or nea.

Article 13 New Fire Station (non binding)

Mike read the article about voters approving the construction of a new fire station, and recalled how several months ago the article was submitted by petition. He said that he had contacted the town's attorney with whom he concurred that the article was non-binding.

Mike described the history of the old fire station, the impact of the 2023 flood, the construction of the temporary fire station, and how the town bought 2466 Main Street for the site of a new fire station. A pamphlet was handed out providing details of the entire timeline, and he told everyone it would be available online.

Mike added that the town had received a USDA grant for part of the costs of a new fire station, and the town is expecting to hear back from FEMA in the next couple weeks regarding the remainder of the cost.

Dean Deasy asked everyone to please read the pamphlet. He described how decontamination was a big thing now, and how there are new National Fire Protection Association standards that need to be met with a new fire station. He talked extensively about the contaminants that result from structure fires and the carcinogens contained by the contaminants. Karen Larsen read from a prepared statement about the effects of the carcinogens on fire fighters.

Mike asked Dean to talk about the limitations of the temporary building and

Dean explained extensively why the building was placed where it is located, and why the building cannot be enlarged.

Attendees of the meeting clarified that there was no financial commitment from the town, but asked if FEMA didn't come through with funding, what was plan B. Mike said they would have to ask the state to stay in the temporary building.

SCHOOLBOARD UPDATES



School Facilities Update

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

The Facilities Director, Tommy Brico, gave the School Board an update on current projects and problems at Cabot School during the January 26 board meeting. He let the board know that two weeks after the last meeting, the main boiler went "kaput". Tommy said that the water jet on the combustion chamber had cracked and it was going to be a \$32,000 repair. The main boiler is the back up to the wood chip plant and is located within the same building.

Tommy told the board the cost of the fob installation on the satellite buildings and the boiler repair would put them over budget for facilities. He mentioned that he reached out to the contractor that was installing the fob system and told them to focus on the three elementary buildings. Tommy described how the school had a second backup system which involves tying the two boilers in the upstairs of the gym to the main line.

Principal Search

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

The School Board discussed the process of hiring a principal for next year at the January 26 meeting. Currently, Cabot School has a part time interim principal filling in after the previous principal, Jennifer Blake, resigned in her position back in September of 2025.

Matt Foster shared that the position is currently posted on SchoolSpring, a job posting website specifically for education. He added that there isn't a search committee yet, but one person has reached out to express interest. He posed to the board that some questions need to be answered, like what type of person are they looking for?

He postulated that there is a limited number of qualified people in the job market for this position, and an even more limited number of people that would fit in at Cabot School. He suggested surveying the students and staff to try to figure out what kind of person would be the best fit. Mike Moriarty, assistant superintendent, mentioned that someone had reached out to him as well.

Chris Tormey agreed they should put out a survey. Ellen Cairns suggested that when they have the top five qualities needed for the position, they should send it out to the applicants to rate themselves.

Matt responded to Ellen's suggestion, noting that they want to have the widest net possible, and once there are candidates, then it can be determined if they meet the criteria. Chris expressed that it would be valuable to get the criteria from

He expressed there wouldn't be a choice without the funding. Mike stated that if the federal government gives the town the money, then it would build the new fire station.

Doug Cooke asked if all the Selectboard members were in agreement that the project should go forward, and Mike responded without a clear answer.

He added that the boiler contractor is going to postpone the boiler repair until June so the school will get billed in FY27. Tommy emphasized that they are working to mitigate going over budget for this fiscal year, FY26.

Matt Foster, the superintendent, reminded the board of how much money was spent in the past when the wood chip was down and they had to rely on the boiler to heat the school. Jason Monaco asked if a comparison of fix versus replacement was done on the boiler. Matt said it had not, but noted that the backup is a luxury, and Cabot has two backups.

Tommy then talked about all the work that was done last summer digging up the underground pipes to fix the leaks. Chris Tormey noted that the guys who did the excavation couldn't believe the amount of corrosion on the joints. He added that the pipes were installed in 2008. Matt told the board that they need to have inspections in the future to make sure work is done correctly.

the staff and the board. He also suggested fine tuning the language in the job posting.

Matt again pointed out that there are so few people applying for these positions that he doubted rewording the posting will make a difference. Chris suggested having the staff review the job posting and respond if there are any concerns. He noted that getting and keeping a good principal is very challenging, and staff input would help keep it on target.

Alicia Heber agreed with Matt, saying that if the funnel is too narrow at the top, they will have too few candidates. She worried about making Cabot look like too challenging of a place for a principal. Ellen agreed that they should keep the funnel at the top wide.

Alicia spoke to how Act 173 is creating uncertainty, and they need to find someone who can adjust to whatever the state mandates for graduation requirements. Jason Monaco recalled the lack luster academic reports and suggested that maybe the lower grades should cease project based learning (PBL) and make sure kids can read and write.

Chris asked everyone if the survey should be for the school community (i.e. parents) or the larger community (i.e. residents of Cabot). Ellen said the larger community isn't necessary. The rest of the board agreed.

Matt set a timeline to create the committee in early February, and have the application deadline set for the end of March. Steve Ownes, interim principal, noted that they need to move fast to find a candidate.

Town Meeting: Cabot Candidate Compendium

by Jeanne Johnson

Town Clerk Three-Year Term - Brittany Butler (unopposed):

My name is Brittany Butler and I am running for town clerk. I hope to bring continued transparency and efficient public service for the town of Cabot. I hope to be a friendly, knowledgeable face to answer any questions residents or visitors have and keep meticulous records for the town of Cabot. I appreciate your vote and look forward to serving as Town Clerk.

Selectboard Three-Year Term – Fred Ducharme (unopposed):

I am running for re-election to a three-year seat on the selectboard because I see much important work still to be done:

- Fire Department building
- Our firefighters deserve a facility that supports their work and contributes to their safety and effectiveness. I am committed to guiding the town through the process of developing an appropriately-sized fire department building that taxpayers can afford and that meets modern fire facility standards. I will do everything in my power to ensure this is done with transparency and respect for the views of all citizens.
- More parking downtown and at the Recreation Field Pavilion

We are fortunate to have vibrant businesses in our village, and they need adequate parking to be viable. Every effort must be made to develop adequate parking in support of those businesses, village residents and town government.

- Emergency Shelter at the school
- Mother Nature has made it clear we are not immune from disasters. We need a location to shelter residents where we have emergency power, heat, lights, water. With a relatively small investment, those things are available at the school, a building we already own. There is a commercial kitchen, walk-in freezer, dining space and sleeping space, and an option for showers. This is not a school problem; it's a town problem. It's a public safety problem. And we can solve it. We've kicked it down the road for years. It's time we had this backup plan in place.

I am asking for your vote to continue this work.

Selectboard Two-Year Term - Michael Walbridge (Challenger):

My name is Michael Walbridge and I would like to ask for your support in the upcoming select board election. I am a longtime resident of Cabot. I have worked farms, fields, trees and restaurant kitchens in many locations in Vermont, and Virginia, as well. My goal is to find sensible, fiscally responsible solutions for our current local issues. I would like to offer the experience I have gained in daily leadership positions to achieve that end. I am a working man with a listening ear, and am affected by these decisions, as well. I encourage you to feel free to speak with me any time about your ideas and feelings pertaining to these local decisions. I believe community participation makes us stronger. And so I encourage folks to come see a

meeting, you can Zoom it if you wish. This is how you will know if members are thinking on your behalf, or if any don't have a clue, or are just there to be there. I thank you for your time, consideration and vote of confidence.

Selectboard Two-Year Term – Walter Bothfeld, Jr. (Skip) (Incumbent):

Thank you for considering me, Walter "Skip" Bothfeld Jr, for the 2-year term on the Cabot Select Board. I have served in this capacity for two terms, learning quite a lot about how to listen to residents' views, government procedure and precedent, and working as part of a leadership team to problem-solve the issues facing Cabot. As a life-long Cabot resident who has volunteered in multiple capacities, this role has been a rewarding way to help this town move forward.

Looking to 2026, the Select Board must address the need for increased village parking for events and shops, continue the rebuilding efforts after the devastating floods in 2023, prepare for the next disaster in anticipating damage zones and potential financial impacts, expect current increase in cost of living to impact the local economy, and make Cabot a welcoming place to call home. There is no shortage of work required of this governance board. My goal is to be an open-minded Select Board member who residents feel comfortable sharing their views with and being able to work efficiently and transparently with the other members to do what is best for the short and long-term future of Cabot.

School Board Three-Year Term – Ellen Cairns (unopposed):

My name is Ellen Cairns and I am running for re-election to a three-year seat on the School Board. I'm running because I would like to be of service to the town and school and serving on the school board seems to me the best way I can do that. I have a background in education, having been an elementary school teacher, and I currently work at the Agency of Education. I've been asked if that presents a conflict of interest with serving on the board, but my work is in pre-service education, mostly working on educator standards. I don't work on anything having to do with PK-12 schools, but I do think my job helps me understand what's going on in the field. I also understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and strive to find that balance between making sure the school has what it needs to be successful while keeping our tax rate as low as possible.

The job of the board is not to run the school, but to ensure the school is run well. We've had quite a lot of turnover in the administration over the last couple of years, so one goal is to find and retain the right candidate to lead our school with consistency. Another goal is to continue to provide transparency and have regular communication and collaboration with people in Cabot even if they don't have kids in the school. There are a lot of great things happening at Cabot School - and also room for improvement - and the more the whole town is aware of what's going on and involved with the school, the more it benefits both the

school and the connection of the broader community.

I am grateful for the town's support of the school, and if you have any questions for me, please feel free to reach out: ellen.cairns@ccsuvt.net.

School Board Two-Year Term - Jason Monaco (unopposed):

I have three kids in school right now and live in town, and I think stability is a

key issue and one of my main goals. Being a dad, living here, I can be more informed by being on the board, and help make the school as good as it can be.

Ballots are available for early voting at the Town Clerk's office, and the office will be open on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. In-person Town Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on March 3.

Two Community Dances in March!

by Karen Mueller-Harder

The Cabot Community Contra Dance will host TWO dances in March, to (hopefully) welcome the approach of spring! Both will be held in the Willey Building auditorium, at 3084 Main Street in Cabot.

Our regular second Friday dance on March 13 will feature the friendly calling of Adina Gordon, a popular caller from Burlington. Live music is provided by a great group of local musicians-you can just come and listen if you like! All ages and abilities are welcome, and we all dance with each other. We use genderless terminology and all dances are taught, and easy to learn. The dance is 7-9:30 pm; if you've never been to a contra, you are encouraged to arrive right at 7:00, as we will start with the simplest dances, and then we'll build upon what you learn throughout the evening.

And we will be holding another Family Dance from 3-4:30 pm on Sunday, March 15! This is for families who find evening dances too late for them, and anyone else who would enjoy some daytime frolicking with people of all ages. While all our events are family-friendly, this one will feature active dances especially well-suited to the youngest members of the community. Our teacher will be Erin Smith, who loves leading family dances, and we'll have the same great live music we enjoy for the second Friday dances!

Admission is on a sliding scale, \$5-10 suggested, but nobody is turned away for lack of funds! We ask that you bring some clean, dry shoes to change into for dancing to keep snow and mud off the dance floor.

Hope to see you at a dance!

NEKCV

(continued from page 1)

deliver reliable, affordable, publicly owned high-speed internet to some of Vermont's most rural and least connected communities.

BEAD funding will extend fiber optic coverage to addresses along more than 1,400 miles of roadway, ultimately helping NEKCV reach 7,441 unserved and underserved addresses. All addresses in Cabot with electric utility service, including those in Cabot Village and along and east of Route 215, will be served under this grant.

Said Christa Shute, NEKCV Executive Director, "We began laying the strategic groundwork for BEAD in 2021, when the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was passed by Congress. We are so grateful for the support of the Vermont Legislature, the Governor, our Congressional delegation, our strategic

partners, the work of VCUDA, and over 130 volunteers who serve and have served on our board for the contributions they made over the last four years."

NEKCV also credited the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) and state and federal legislators for championing broadband expansion and ensuring that rural communities and communications union districts were well positioned to compete successfully for BEAD funding.

Cabot residents interested in obtaining fiber optic service are urged to pre-register by going to <https://cvfiber.net>. You will find western Cabot listed as "In-Service" and eastern Cabot listed as seeking funding. Pre-registration does not obligate you in any way, and you may pre-register even if you are currently receiving internet service from another provider. But the more residents pre-register, the higher the priority of their neighborhood, road and town.

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Andre' duPont

OFFICIAL BALLOT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF CABOT, VERMONT MARCH 3, 2026		
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS		
- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL. - To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person. - To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use black ink and stay within the lines marked for write-ins. - Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN 1" for an office. - If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and request another ballot. DO NOT REUSE.		
FOR SELECTPERSON Vote for not more than ONE WALTER (SKIP) BOTHFELD ☐ MICHAEL WALBRIDGE ☐ (Write in) ☐	FOR TOWN CLERK Vote for not more than ONE BRITANNY BUTLER ☐ (Write in) ☐	FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR Vote for not more than ONE JASON MONACO ☐ (Write in) ☐
FOR SELECTPERSON Vote for not more than ONE FRED DUCHARME ☐ (Write in) ☐	FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR Vote for not more than ONE ELLEN CAIRNS ☐ (Write in) ☐	
TOWN ARTICLES		
Art. 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$968,191 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$164,793 to come from income and \$773,398 from local taxes?		
YES ☐		
NO ☐		
Art. 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$1,130,766 to repair and maintain the Highways of the Town including summer, winter, and special treatment, of which an estimated \$180,000 is to come from income and \$970,766 from local taxes?		
YES ☐		
NO ☐		
Art. 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot give the Selectboard and the Town Treasurer the authority to borrow up to \$125,000 through the Vermont Bond Bank at approximately 2.9% interest for 10 years for the purpose of purchasing new radios for the Cabot Fire Department to replace current radios which are outdated and are not supported by any current vendors of software?		
YES ☐		
NO ☐		
Art. 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot give the Town Voters the authority to increase the exemption from \$5,000 to \$25,000 of value of business personal property of all taxpayers subject to such tax?		
YES ☐		
NO ☐		
Art. 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Conservation Committee a sum of up to \$10,000 for the removal and proper disposal of an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 used tires that have been dumped into and along a stream and wetland in Lower Cabot from CCIF funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2026?		
YES ☐		
NO ☐		

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING MARCH 3, 2026	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS	
- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL. - To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person. - To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the written line. Please use BLOCK letters and only within the box provided for writing the name. - Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN" number shown. - If you make a mistake, tear, or deface this ballot, return it to the election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.	
Article 1	
To elect one member to the Central Vermont Career Center School District Board for the ensuing term commencing March 3, 2026 as follows: One at large director from Municipal Secondary Public Schools to serve a term of three years.	
LYMANCASTLE	☐
 	☐
Article 2	
Shall the voters of the Central Vermont Career Center School District approve the school board to expend \$5,472,457, which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the support of the Central Vermont Career Center for the ensuing fiscal year?	
YES ☐	
NO ☐	

TOWN ARTICLES CONTINUED	
Art. 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve construction of a new Volunteer Fire Department building at 2496 Main Street (between 2506 and 2454 Main, the old Clough/Marcode property, Cabot, Vermont.) <i>"Non-binding advisory only"</i>	YES ☐ NO ☐
SCHOOL ARTICLES	
Art. 5. Shall the voters of the Cabot School District approve the school board to expend \$4,792,620, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Cabot School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per-pupil education spending of \$14,609, which is 2.1% higher than per-pupil education spending for the current year.	YES ☐ NO ☐
Art. 6. Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?	YES ☐ NO ☐
Art. 7. Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Cabot School Board to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2026, in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?	YES ☐ NO ☐

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT



Request Bid for Lawn Maintenance for 2026 Season

The Town of Cabot is looking for someone to mow, weed whack, and maintain the Town of Cabot Properties through the mowing season of 2026. The person will provide their own equipment and insurance. A list of all areas to be maintained may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office. The person would report directly to the Cabot Select Board. Please submit your resume and references and bid to tc@cabotvt.us or dropped off at the Town Clerk's Office by Monday, March 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.



Walden Heights Nursery & Orchard

Workshops - Sunday, March 29

Pruning Fruit Trees

Learn all you need to know to successfully prune for tree health and increase fruit production.

Fruit Tree Grafting

Learn various grafting techniques & take home 2 or more trees.

For more information or make a reservation, visit WaldenHeightsNursery.com or call (802) 563-3012

Cold hardy fruit trees & plants

More than 350 varieties of apple trees

Consultations & Orchard Mentoring

Fruit CSA & Farmstand



ADVICE FROM THE TREE WARDEN

by Roland Payne, Jr.
Cabot Tree Warden

March 2026

Days are lengthening, and temperatures have finally climbed above thirty degrees for the first time in months, hinting at the arrival of Spring. You may be planning projects for your forest or yard this year; consider also learning about invasive plants and insects. Over the past thirty years, global commerce has introduced many new species to our region through shipments from Asia. Insects often hitchhike in merchandise, while ornamental plants come intentionally. Both quickly become widespread problems once established.

Invasive plants that have been introduced and spread significantly in our region include:

Japanese Barberry, Border Privet, Buckthorn, Giant Hogweed, Goutweed, Bush Honeysuckle, Giant Knotweed, Japanese Knotweed, Purple Loosestrife, Multifloral Rose, Tree-of-Heaven, Wild Chervil, and Wild Parsnip.

Invasive insects that have been introduced and spread to our region include:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Jumping Worms, Pear Thrip, Sirex Wood wasp, Spongy Moth, and Spotted Lanternfly

These are some of the invasive plants and insects that spread to our region. Every year, the list grows with the arrival of a new plant or insect species. It is important to become informed about both invasive plants and insects, as well as the native species present in local forests and yards. This knowledge helps promote a healthier landscape and ecosystem. Identifying invasive species that require removal and distinguishing them from native species that may need care to thrive—especially when challenged by invasives—is essential. Native pollinator species are typically well adapted to indigenous plants; enhancing the health of these native plants strengthens the ecosystem that supports them. Below is a list of sources for more in-depth information on invasive species in our region, if you are interested in further reading on invasives:

Invasive Species Resources:

Vermont Invasives: www.vtinvasives.org

USDA, National Invasive Species Information Center: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/what-are-invasive-species>

US Forest Service: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/invasive-species>

Stay rooted,

Roland Payne Jr. Cabot Tree Warden

Quest: One Play to Rule Them All

by Karen Mueller-Harder

Mark your calendar now for the weekend of May 7-10 to see Cabot Community Theater's amazing performance of "Quest!" Featuring a number of your friends and neighbors onstage and backstage, this comic tale weaves together 9 smaller stories full of misadventure and unintended consequences. Here's the full cast list of 50 actors, 22 of whom are Cabot folks:

Luciana Abare-Rossi - Mystery Woman
Erin Barry - Dr. Muzon
Tommy Brink - Crudilus
Coraline Brooking Metcalf - Loreth
Ellen Cairns - Mystelon
Ariabella Clayton - villager
Jessica Della Pepa-Clayton - Fortimar
Tristan Dill - Hoarding Dragon
Lily Dunbar - Villager
Luna Dunbar - Haruspex
Thomas Dunbar - Gorgondolous
LaShelle Easton - Stranger Ranger
Macks Frisby - Skater Grrl, Joy
Elfi Goldenrose - Scribe
Luzsa Hadik - Lemondil
Enid Hammond - Riddling Dragon
Fern Hammond - Arcumitta
Alice Hannan - Grundy
Amara Hansen - Natalie
Izzy Hatch - Genie
Ariella Helfand - Danwyn
Silas Irwin - Skater Boi
Althaea Irwin - Kyle
Rue Jacobs - Wind
Katy Kowalk - Ludwig
Simone Kulsick - Veritas
Cora McIntyre - Aurora
Kate McIntyre - Villager



Sean McIntyre - Xephus
Karen Mueller-Harder - Bowendir
Penelope Otto - Bird
Ellie Otto - Bird
Molly Paire - Rhiannon
Gwenyth Pare - Dennisivon
Ruthie Podolin - Scribe
Tobin Purdy - villager
Nora Rader - Predicting Witch
Reagan Rich - Sharondo
Mary Rogerson - Bowendir
Lucille Sewake - Bird
Henry Torres - Antony
Moirah Usinowicz - Speaking Bird
Darren Usinowicz - Herlemachus
Lucas Vitale - Micah
Spencer Vitale - Jamie
Elizabeth Vitale - Cassia
Orion Vitale - Cashier
Clare Waterman - Crossing Guard
Liam Waugh - Topper

Watch for ticket information in the April Chronicle and on Front Porch Forum!

Wouldn't It Be Great if the Cabot Chronicle had a Sports Reporter?



Would you be willing to cover Cabot sports for the Cabot Chronicle on a monthly or occasional basis? We'd love to have your contribution to the paper. Email Inbox@CabotVermont.org or call 802-279-6897 and let's see if we can make it happen.

Hello, my name is Michael Walbridge.

I am a longtime resident of the Cabot area, having spent much of my youth here. And though I have also lived off and on in Virginia, this is my home, this is where I have property, and that is why I am here today. I am running for the two-year seat on the selectboard.

In my 26 years of culinary work (mostly as head chef), and countless hours around the barn, the tree fields (both maple and Christmas), and many other outdoor jobs, I have come to know the value of teamwork and organization. To get through those tough 'on the spot' moments, both management and problem solving skills are required to achieve the best outcome for the majority involved.

Not everyone gets to be happy every time. And I feel that has led to much of the inability, in many levels of government, to move resolutions forward. The problems remain and fester. I'd like to take my 'in the field' problem-solving experience to try and move important concerns into the direction of resolution. If that costs me some of that so-called 'free time,' then so be it. Here I am, ready to take a look at issues, learn the tools at hand, and find reasonable solutions.

I thank you for your time.

Michael Walbridge

Upcoming March Events at the Jaquith Public Library

All events are free and held at the library (unless noted otherwise)
For more info: 802-426-3581

or email:
jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com
or visit our website:
www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org

Celebrate PI Day with Sweet and Savory Pies Saturday, March 14 from 3:14 pm to 6 pm

Friends of the Jaquith Public Library in Marshfield will be celebrating Pi Day with their second annual Pie Sale and Pizza Pie Celebration. Sweet and savory whole pie and slices will be available for purchase at the library from 3:14 pm to 6 pm (or while supplies last!). In addition, we have two community partners in our Pi Day Celebration: The Marshfield Village Store and Positive Pie Plainfield! The Village Store will donate twenty percent of pizza pie sales all day on March 14 to The Friends. Positive Pie Plainfield will donate 20 percent of all food sales, including pizzas, on March 14 to any patrons mentioning the Jaquith. Volunteers to bake pies may contact the library to sign up.

Sunday Afternoon Poetry at the Jaquith Third Sundays of the month from 2 to 4 pm

March 15 – Poets Buffy Aakaash & Bethany Ann Barrett Bohall

The Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library are excited to announce *Sunday Afternoon Poetry at the Jaquith*. Each monthly poetry reading will feature two Poetry Society of Vermont poets, with the exception of a special reading by Nadine Budbill on May 17. In addition to the Jaquith Library Staff, hosts for the Sunday afternoon poetry readings will be PSOV board members, David Hartnett and Elizabeth McCarthy. The readings are free and open to the public. A collaboration between the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library.

Bethany Bohall writes poetry, plays, and fiction under the name Bethany Ann Barrett. Recent publications include *The Soliloquist Magazine*, *Progenitor Art & Literary Journal*, *The Mountain Troubadour*, and *The Rio Grande Review*. Her play "Our Girl" was presented at NYC's 2025 EstroGenius Festival, and she is looking forward to an upcoming commission at Vermont Stage.

Buffy Aakaash has appeared in numerous journals and online poetry pages both in the US and abroad. His chapbook *Untangling the Knots* was published in 2022, and his full-length book of poetry, *Breaking*, in November of 2025. He actively serves on the board of the Poetry Society of Vermont.

The 1998 Hurricane That Transformed New England Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 pm

A hurricane will never surprise us again. But that's what happened to the people of New England on September 21, 1938. Without any warning, the

most destructive weather event ever to hit the Northeast pummeled the coast and blasted its way to Vermont and New Hampshire with torrential rain, flooding, and sustained winds over 100 miles per hour. **This is one of 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. Come to the Jaquith Library and pick up a free copy of the book.

Film Series: Glimpses of a Maybe Future 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the Month at 6:30 pm

March 12: In a spare-no-quarter election, two opposing campaign strategists use every trick in the book to ensure that their own chosen candidate wins. The leading candidate makes appealing promises to gain the hearts of the people, promising a brighter future for idealistic youth. (2015).

March 26: The billionaire owner of the largest search engine experiments with A.I. and android robotics on his private estate, ultimately creating the most humanlike of his creations...an Eve who he tests against his chosen Adam. (2014)

Tree Grafting with Donna Hisson Saturday, March 21 from 12 to 2 pm

If you've wanted to learn how to graft fruit trees, join us for a hands-on workshop as we graft fruit trees for Marshfield's food forest. Led by Donna Hisson, we'll cover rootstock selection and how it impacts tree growth, scion selection, and tools that help make grafting successful. Some rootstock and scion wood will be available. Grafting supplies will be available for you to use, but feel free to bring your own if you have them. Please call the library at 802-426-3581 or email Marshfieldrh@gmail.com to RSVP. Sponsored by the Marshfield Resilience Hub & the Jaquith Public Library.

How to Best Support Unhoused Neighbors with the Folks from Good Samaritan

March 27 from 5:30 to 7:30pm

Join us for an evening of communing and discussion as we learn from representatives from Good Samaritan Haven on how best to support our unhoused neighbors. There will be time for resource advising as well as questions, refreshments served. Please call the library at 802-426-3581 or email Marshfieldrh@gmail.com to RSVP. Sponsored by the Marshfield Resilience Hub & the Jaquith Public Library.

Winter Story Time and Playgroup Once a Week on Fridays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Join us for story, song, snack, craft, and free play! Outside unless the weather is frightful! For children birth to age six and their grown-ups. We follow the Twinfield Union School calendar and do not hold the program on 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 0 to 18 months and their caregivers. Siblings can come along as well.

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!
March 23 - *Properties of Thirst* by Marianne Wiggins

Chapters in History Book Group Second Saturdays of the Month at 2 pm

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

March 14 - *The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State* by Lisa McGirr

Just Food Hub Fundraiser for Jaquith Library

The Jaquith Library is raising money by collaborating with Just Food Hub, a profit-free, volunteer-run Coop in Marshfield that helps raise funds for organizations and groups. To order items such as coffees, teas, chocolate, hot sauces, Palestinian olive oil, nuts and dates etc. go to justfoodhub.us/jaquith-library. You can ask Just Food Hub to put together a gift basket for you or you can make your own.

There is so much more to borrow at the Jaquith Public Library! We just added a Tool Lending Library!

In addition to tools, we loan computers, DVD players, makerspace kits, games, puzzles, snowshoes, wood moisture meter, air tester, all are available for checkout!

CABOT VERMONT ANNUAL EVENTS 2026

**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**



CABOT MENTORING

Bingo Night a Great Success!



Edwin Ciemicki, Margerat Currier, Ingram Ciemicki, Katherine Currier, Willem Ciemicki and Mark Christensen checking Katherine's numbers on the grand prize game

On a cold January evening, Cabot Mentoring held a community bingo event at the Cabot School cafeteria. This was a free event and there was a great turnout that included Cabot mentors and mentees, members of their families, local kids and their families and some folks from the community with no specific connection to the program or the school, which was fantastic! There were small prizes for winners of each game, with a grand prize of a \$25 gift card to the Cabot Village Store, which was won by second-grader Katherine Currier, who diligently filled her entire card!

Popcorn and cider was served. It seemed that a good time was had by all,

and it was a great opportunity to promote the program.

Thanks to volunteers Mary Ann Tormey and Theresa Lay-Sleeper and to Neighbors in Action for the use of their bingo game set.

The Cabot Mentoring Program has Cabot youth waiting to be matched with a volunteer adult. The commitment is for a minimum of one year, meeting with the mentee for four-to-six hours a month.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about the program at:
Phone: 802-595-1130, Mark Christensen, Cabot Mentoring Coordinator
Email: cabotmentoring@gmail.com

Website: cabotmentoring.org



Mentoring match Lynn Rockwell and Damon Savage taking a break from their bingo game



19 Henley and Shawn Everhart concentrating on their bingo game



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
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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 westbound between Exit 9 & 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

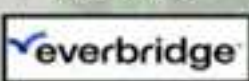
Note: Anticipated End Time will not always be shown. [Click here](#) for all State of Vermont road closures.



VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
ROADWAY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Powered by:





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.

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 - February - March, 3:30 - 4:45 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! **This class is full.** Please email to be put on the waiting list or to express interest in future classes.

Tech Literacy Series with Seth O'Brien - 3rd Tuesdays of the Month - 10:30 - Noon - Join Seth from Seth's Computer Services in this 3-part hands-on series. **Tuesday, March 17 - Password Management and Basic Cybersecurity** - Learn how to protect personal information with simple, secure habits; **Tuesday, April 21 - Avoiding Scams and Online Safety** - Identify and avoid common digital threats, fostering safe online habits. **Bring your digital devices!**

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.

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!

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.

Children's Clothing Swap - (birth - age 5+) - **Wednesday, March 11** - Check our website, FPF and Cabot Connects for more information.

LEGO Club (ages 5+) - **Wednesday, March 18 - 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.

Knitting Group - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the Month - 10:30 - 11:30 am - Whether you've been knitting or crocheting for decades or days, join this welcoming group of stitchers at the library. This program is for any skill level - even absolute beginners! If you're a beginner, we will teach you some basic stitches to get you started; if you already knit or crochet, bring a current project to work on. Feel free to bring your own materials, but we will also have needles and yarn for your use. Tea provided. Snacks welcome. **No registration required.**

Cabot Book Group - Thursday, March 26 - 2- 3 pm - March's book selection is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. The bestselling author of *The Marriage Portrait* delivers a deeply moving novel about the death of Shakespeare's eleven-year-old son, Hamnet, and the years leading up to the production of his great play. 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.

Bluebird Nestbox Workshop for the Cabot Trails - Saturday, March 28 - 10 - Noon - The Eastern Bluebird is one of Vermont's most beloved birds. Let's work together to bring these birds to our beloved trails for all to enjoy! This is a hands-on workshop. Completed houses will be added to the various trails throughout Cabot. All materials and tools provided. Special thanks to the Cabot Trails Committee and Larrabee's Building Supply for their collaboration and donation. Registration required - please email or call the library to sign up.

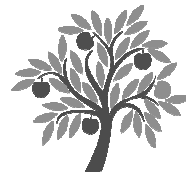
Thanks so much to our library volunteers: Vicky Palmer, Marianne Robotham and Beth Wade. Additional thanks to our program volunteers: Losada Stoddard, Katy Kowalk, Niall McCallum, Kay Ghose and Katherine Chatot. We are so grateful to our Library Trustees who provide support and direction: Angela Ogle, 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

ADVERTISE IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

THE CABOT CHRONICLE

Reach up to 2000 households by the first of each month in Cabot, Marshfield and West Danville
Plus households in Hardwick, Plainfield, Danville and beyond!
Full year for one low price! E-mail for more information:
inbox@cabotvermont.org



Twin Valley Senior Center UPDATE

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

Gelli Plate Printmaking

When: Sat. March 14 10:30am - 2:30pm
What is Gelli Plate Printmaking? Gelli Plate Printmaking allows you to make monoprints without the need for a large, expensive press. Supplies provided at the workshop. RSVP to Nancy at (802) 272-7940 or naiko7@yahoo.com. Maximum 14 students, RSVP quickly! Ages 12+.

Cribbage Tournament on Sat., March 28, Registration 9 -10; games begin at 10 am. Call 802-223-3081 or LTMCGIB-NEY@YAHOO.COM for more information. Morning snack and lunch provided.

Immunization for Adults presentation Friday, March 6, at 12:30 with Dr. Rob Penney (retired doctor and CVCOA Board member).



Highlands View Chamber Ensemble United Church of Cabot April 10, 6:00 p.m.

Director Kathy Charlestream of Cabot
Featuring Piano Soloist Lucas Vitale of Cabot
Players from Cabot, Walden, Danville, St. Johnsbury, Kirby, Fairlee, New Hampshire and Canada.



Moose on the Loose! at the Tebbetts farm from Chris Campbell's game camera. Rollin S. Tebbetts photo contribution

The Vermont Homestead Declaration

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the Vermont "homestead" definition must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April due date. If eligible, you must file so that you are assessed the correct homestead tax rate on your property. This fact sheet will provide the information you need about filing your Homestead Declaration as a property owner.

What is the Vermont Homestead Declaration

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either homestead or nonhomestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile. Domicile is a legal concept that has implications for Vermont income tax, the statewide education tax, and property tax adjustments. See the *definition of "domicile"* (tax.vermont.gov/regulations).

Properties are considered "nonhomestead" unless declared as a "homestead." The education property tax rate levied on nonhomestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. It is your legal responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:

- You are a Vermont resident.
- You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, 2026.

Note: If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2026, you may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2026 calendar year.

What is Not a Homestead

Property is considered nonhomestead if one of the following applies:

- Your property is leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year.
- The property is used exclusively for commercial, including rental purposes.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

If Your Homestead is Used for Commercial Purposes or Rentals

As long as the property meets the requirements of a Vermont homestead, a part of the homestead property may be used for commercial purposes or as a rental. If more than 25% of the dwelling is used for business purposes, then that portion must be reported as nonhomestead on the Homestead Declaration. However, if any part of the dwelling is a rental, then the actual percentage that is a rental must be reported. Outbuildings used for business or rental purposes are considered nonhomestead.

The Homestead Declaration for 2026 is due April 15 and no later than October 15. If you file after the October due date, the property will not be added to the municipal grand list as a homestead for that year, however you may still be subject to any penalties and interest that apply.

Disclaimer: The information provided here is intended to be an overview only. Vermont tax statutes, regulations, Vermont Department of Taxes rulings, or court decisions supersede information presented here.
Revised November 2025 | Publication FS-1051



When Homestead Declarations are Due

Homestead Declaration is due annually by the April income tax due date. After the April due date, if you have not filed, the municipality may assess a penalty of up to 3% of the education tax on the property if the nonhomestead rate is higher than the homestead rate, or up to 6% if the homestead rate is higher. If you file after the October due date, the property will not be added to the municipal grand list as a homestead for that year, and you will be subject to any penalties and interest that apply.

How to File the Homestead Declaration

The Homestead Declaration is filed using Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and the Property Tax Credit Claim (tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration). The easiest and quickest way is to file electronically through myVTax (myvtax.vermont.gov). If you file a paper form, it is important to remember to sign the form at the bottom of the reverse side (below the Property Tax Credit Claim).

Many people file their Homestead Declarations when they file their Vermont income tax returns.

If you apply to extend the time to file your income tax return, the declaration is still due on the April filing due date. Even if a person is not required to file a Vermont Income Tax Return, the declaration must still be filed by the April filing due date. See 22 V.S.A. § 9702 (legislature.vermont.gov).

What You Will Need to File

In addition to the property owner's basic information, you should have the following available when filing:

- The property's School Property Account Number (SPAN) printed on the property tax bill
- The property owner's Social Security Number (SSN)
- The three-digit school district code found on the property tax bill

How to Withdraw a Filed Homestead Declaration

There may be a situation in which the Homestead Declaration was filed between January 1 and April 1 but needs to be withdrawn. The following are a few common reasons for withdrawal:

- The homestead was not owned by the person declaring it a homestead on April 1. The property no longer qualifies as a homestead.
- The Homestead Declaration was submitted in error (for example, it was not the owner's primary residence).
- The homestead is leased to a tenant for more than 182 days in the filing year.

To withdraw the homestead declaration, use Form HS-122W, Vermont Homestead Declaration or Property Tax Credit Withdrawal (tax.vermont.gov/all-forms).

Administrative Order Clarifies the Movement of Ash Logs and Firewood to Minimize the Spread of EAB

Rules regarding movement of firewood and logs from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infested areas have been simplified to allow for movement of wood under certain conditions. Since it was first detected in Vermont in 2018, the number of areas infested with EAB has increased steadily. As of October 2025, 90% of the state's municipalities are within 10 miles of at least one known EAB detection and nearly 140 Vermont municipalities (~55%) have at least one known EAB detection.

The Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation have jointly issued an administrative order modifying the recommendations regarding the movement of potentially infested ash logs and firewood in Vermont.

The order aims to address forest health concerns by minimizing the risk of spreading EAB to un-infested areas while simplifying the rules to enable limited movement of potentially infested ash logs and firewood.

Under the new order, the following requirements apply:

- **EAB flight season (June 1 – September 30):** The movement of ash logs and firewood during flight season is now allowed if the transport occurs within and between adjacent EAB-infested towns. However, ash logs and firewood originating from infested towns should *not* be moved through un-infested towns during flight season.

Non-flight season (October 1 – May 31): The movement of ash logs and firewood is now allowed within and between adjacent infested towns. The transport of ash wood through un-infested towns is allowed *if* there are no stops within un-infested towns and the ash wood is received and stored at the same destination within the infested town.

"This order takes advantage of seasonal differences in the insect's behavior," said Josh Halman, Forest Health Program Manager at FPR. "We want to facilitate movement of ash wood when risks are low while preventing new infestations."

For the full text of the joint executive order, visit Joint Order Regarding the Movement of Ash Wood Infested with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (<https://fpr.vermont.gov/document/joint-order-regarding-movement-ash-wood-infested-emerald-ash-borer-eab>).

Ash wood sourced from towns that are not infested should still be handled as outlined in Vermont's Slow the Spread Recommendations (<https://www.vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/images/SLS/SlowSpreadWoodVT%20FINAL.pdf>).

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation offers [Emerald Ash Borer and Ash Tree Management](#) resources tailored to homeowners, private forest landowners, professional forest managers, and municipalities (<https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/forest-health/emerald-ash-borer-and-ash-tree-management>).

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CABOT COMMUNITY FUND

Funds Available for Community Organizations

The Cabot Community Fund (CCF) allows the CCA to support community-based projects and events that further the mission of the CCA. The CCF is funded by the generous support of the Cabot Creamery and other donors.

Funds are awarded to non-governmental organizations. Examples of previous awards include expenses of Cabot Arts-sponsored community performances, Cabot Night at Mountaineers games and Little League uniforms.

Guidelines and application form is available at
<https://www.cabotvermont.org/community-grant-fund.html>

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CABOT MARCH Calendar

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