

THE CABOT CHRONICLE

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It's Sugaring Season! Town Clerk - Changing of the Guard

by Jane Brown

Cabot has had a long-standing relationship with the process of making sweet edibles from the sap of maple trees. Our first settler, Benjamin Webster, came with his wife, two-year-old daughter, Hannah, and a hired man, to the Plain in March 1783. They traveled on snowshoes, hauling their goods on hand sleds "through snow four feet deep on the level," according to John M. Fisher in Hemenway's *Vermont Historical Magazine*. When they arrived at the cabin that Benjamin had constructed on an earlier visit, they found it filled with snow. Once the cabin was cleared and the family settled, Benjamin returned to Newbury for supplies. The weather warmed and Mrs. Webster and the hired man tapped some maple trees, making forty pounds of maple sugar that year, thus ushering in Cabot's long-standing maple production.

The process of extracting sap and boiling it to make syrup or sugar was learned from the Native Americans who hunted this region and spent winters in Newbury, Vermont. They made vee-shaped cuts into the bark of trees and used a wooden "spout" or sometimes a piece of sumac to guide the sap into a birch bark bucket, or sometimes a clay container. The process of removing water from the tree sap was by boiling, or, if cold enough, the water in the sap froze and could be removed, leaving a more



Lucia (Taylor) Hill, wife of George E. Hill, tending the evaporator in their sugarhouse, probably around 1900. Their "sugar house" didn't afford much protection from the weather, but it no doubt kept her from getting overheated. Mrs. Hill died in 1957 at age 93. Photo from the Oral History Collection.



New Town Clerk Brittany Butler is sworn in the day after Town Meeting by Sue Carpenter, Board of Civil Authority Chair. Betty Ritter chose not to run again, and was recognized at Town Meeting by the Selectboard for her service. (See photo on page __) Photo by Shirley Ducharme.

concentrated liquid that could then be "boiled" in a hollowed-out log by placing heated stones in it. When available, they used clay pots over an open fire to boil the sap. Either way was labor-intensive and it took a long time to get the approximate 40 gallons of sap reduced to a gallon of syrup. Then, for easier storage and transporting, the thick syrup was further boiled and stirred until it crystalized and became solid when cooled.

Nearly every farm in Cabot had a maple sugaring operation. Maple orchards were preserved when land was cleared of other trees, and "sugaring season" became a rite of spring. The process was soon refined to holes bored into the trees so wooden spouts could be inserted. The sap was caught in wooden buckets and boiled in big iron kettles over open fires, usually by women.

By the mid-1850s, large, shallow pans were suspended over three-sided brick or stone "arches" over outdoor fires, and then eventually indoor "evaporators" designed with an enclosed firebox under an open, shallow pan were common. In the late 1800s, metal pans with baffles keep the sap flowing from cold, raw sap to steaming, hot syrup.

Other sugaring equipment was also being invented and improved. Metal spouts and tin buckets replaced the wooden ones around the time of the Civil War. Cabot's "Maple Glen Farm," now owned by the Burt family on Cabot Plains Road, was well known for its maple production when Alonzo M. Foster owned the farm. In 1894, Alonzo patented a new sap spout that became well

known as the "Foster spout." It was made of metal and had a hook on the underside to hang a bucket and another hook on top to attach a cover to keep rain, snow, and debris out of the bucket. It was described in the patent as being "both useful and ornamental."

Other early and long-time maple producers in Cabot were the Abbott-Goodrich farm in East Cabot, still operating as Goodrich Maple; the Fisher and the Kimball farms; and for many years the Bolton family made syrup in the same orchard that Benjamin and Nathaniel Webster had used on Cabot Plain.

Maple products have been an important commodity over the years. Early settlers depended on it as a pantry staple and for barter, and during the depression years, farmers sold their syrup from the back of farm trucks for as little as a dollar a gallon in Montpelier or Barre.

After WW II there was a decline in dairy farms due to a shortage of manpower. Cabot's maple industry declined like others all over the state, but in the 1950s, plastic tubing was introduced that used gravity or vacuum pressure to move sap along the lines into the sugarhouse. This, and new, highly efficient processing equipment, was less labor-intensive and more cost effective. Production of maple products began to increase and thrive once again. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Vermont is now the top maple producer in the country, producing over three million gallons from over eight million taps in 2025. (See, "Sugaring Season", page 2)

Cabot Chronicles

by Amanda Legare

Cabot has many sugar making operations and they are hugely diverse, ranging from Rollin Tebbetts who has 80 taps and boils in his sugarhouse to give syrup to friends, to a business that taps 160,000 trees on more than 7,000 acres.

Goodrich

Glenn and Ruth Goodrich, who operate Goodrich's Maple Farm, started by tapping 25 trees in their backyard in 1979. They used a two-by-two-foot arch and made about six gallons of syrup. They currently tap 160,000 trees, about 20,000 of which are in Cabot, and the rest are on 6,000 acres of land rented from a timber company in Eden. From the gathering house to the farthest tap in (Eden, it's about five miles.

"We have one of the most technically advanced systems in the US," Ruth said. "We design sugaring equipment for several major maple equipment manufacturing companies."

Like so many other people who are sugaring in Cabot, the Goodriches come from several generations of sugar makers. "The things we are doing now would have been unimaginable for my grandfather," (see, the *Cabot Chronicles* on page 2)



This is Rollin Tebbetts boiling down sap (courtesy photo). Part of the door is made from an old sugarhouse on the farm.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Sugaring Season Salutations

by Representative Gregory Burt, Caledonia-Washington District



Boy did the sap run last night! I think we have enough to crest 3500 gallons of syrup.

During the last month legislators have been busy working to get bills out of committee before the cross over date.

Cross over is the deadline when a bill needs to pass out of the House in order to have time for the Senate to properly review the bill (and vice versa). On Friday the 13th, the House agriculture committee that I sit on passed out five bills just before the deadline. I will detail two.

We came to an agreement on municipal regulation of farming activity, ensuring that farms are regulated by the State through Required Agricultural Practices and that backyard farming is regulated by municipalities, but in a manner that does not restrict the right of citizens to grow their own food or food to donate.

We passed out a bill that would require baby food manufacturers to include

a QR code on the label to direct customers to a website that details the levels of heavy metals in the baby food. The EPA has standards for maximum allowable levels but also states that they have not determined “safe” levels for heavy metals. This is because all food contains trace amounts of heavy metals due to their presence in soils. For that reason, the bill simply requires companies to regularly test its products and post the results online. Customers can then choose for themselves which baby food they choose to purchase.

Tracking Act 73 and “education reform” in the legislature, the Senate Education Committee has recently developed a proposed district map. The map currently has Cabot in the far right corner of a large “grey zone” that includes portions of Washington, Chittenden, and Franklin counties. Essentially, this grey zone needs further deliberation to decide how to divvy up the schools into smaller districts. I will advocate to have Cabot included with Danville, Peacham, and Walden in the Caledonia county district. The Senate version of Act 73 allows towns like Peacham and Walden to remain choice towns, unlike the House version.

GBurt@leg.state.vt.us.

Sugaring Season

(continued from page 1)

Cabot has certainly kept the tradition alive over the years, with both small and large maple producers contributing.



Right - The Wheeler children getting a drink of cool, fresh sap—one from the wooden bucket and the other directly from the spout in the tree! (Photo from the Oral History Collection.)

Below - George Walbridge gathering sap with a team of oxen. (Photo from the Oral History Collection.)



Some of the Bolton siblings head home from the Webster sugar lot on Cabot Plain, probably around 1930. Standing are Aaron, Jr., and his younger brother, Bill; and seated are Jack (back to camera), Robert, and Mabel. There is an unknown person hidden behind Bill. Schools closed so youngsters could help with the sugaring. Photo from Jane Brown.

Cabot Chronicles

(continued from page 1)

Glenn said. “On a good day in Eden, we handle 250,000 gallons of sap and turn it into 5,000 gallons of syrup. In the best of circumstances, we could now make six gallons in 36 seconds.” They hope to produce 60,000 to 80,000 gallons of syrup. “A good majority is sold to large packers before we make it,” Ruth explained. “We save the best for retail sales and for our wholesale customers.”

Tebbetts

At the other end of the production scale is Rollin Tebbetts, who boils sap in an eight by 12 foot sugarcane that he built with Will Ameden in 2017. His goal is to make around six gallons, which he gives away to friends. His arch is six feet by 18 inches and he has 80 taps on pipeline. His fuel is wood.

Rollin’s great-grandfather sugared on the farm and he patented “the Tebbetts spout” in 1899. His father, Arnold Tebbetts, sugared with horses. A Vermont

Life’ photo from the 1960s of Arnold driving the team with Max Ducharme was used for many years on syrup cans. This will be the third year that Rollin has used his small sugarcane.

Blaisdale

Tammy and Brian Blaisdale tap 4,500 trees, and in their best year, they made 1,200 gallons of syrup. “You never know what kind of year you’re going to have,” Brian said. “This year, we worried about the effect of the drought.” They used to sell to the Littleton, New Hampshire, market, but now sell bulk and retail from their home.

Burt

Greg and Stefanie Burt tap 30,000 trees and sell most of the syrup in barrels to Butternut Mountain Farm in Johnson. Greg said his father bought the farm in the 1980s without realizing it is the same land used for sugaring by the first settler of Vermont, Benjamin Webster. The Burt family started sugaring 24 years ago. They are now known more for their pick-your-own apple and fruit farm. (see, the Cabot Chronicles, page 3)



This is Inez Abbott, Goodriches' relative, around 1910.

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.



(continued from page 2)

"The harvest seasons are basically just opposite each other," Greg said. "So it works out perfectly."

He has also been elected to serve in the Vermont legislature, which he continues to do during the sugaring season. "We made 15,000 gallons of syrup last year," he said. "I can stay up all night and still go to work the next day. I got it done and kept going to the State House." "What I like most about sugaring," he added, "is the adrenaline rush to it, when things really get going." He said it would not be possible without his wife Stefanie, who taps trees, fixes the pipe lines and does all the accounting.



Glenn Goodrich speaking to visitors, also from their website.

by 32 feet. They go through 30 cords of wood a season, boiling with a six-by-16-foot evaporator. "We Can make 120 gallons an hour if we really get going," Caitlin said. "It depends on how sweet the sap is." They sell a lot of their syrup in smaller containers at farmers' markets in the Boston area and through their website. Caitlin said she spends May through October rebottling syrup into retail containers.

Talbert

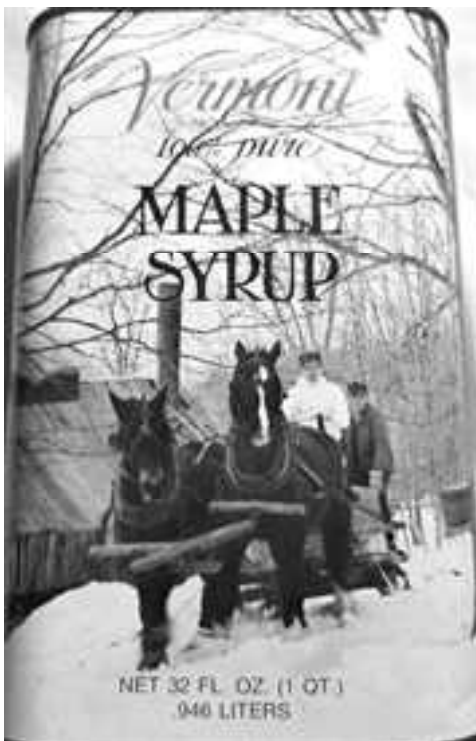
In a good year, Chuck Talbert will produce about 1,000 gallons of syrup. "This used to be thought of as a large operation," he said, "But now we're more like small producers. I guess I'm almost considered a back yarder." Chuck owns a



And this is an adorable picture of a sugar-on-snow party at the Carpenter farm from around 1970. Sue Carpenter, Anson Tebbetts and Rollin Tebbetts

skidder and three chainsaws and "lots of land." So, he boils the sap down with wood. He also spends one day a week packaging syrup for stores. He has a number of dependable wholesale accounts, including White's Market in Lyndonville.

Due to time constraints, not every sugarmaker in Cabot was interviewed for this article. Three who will not be tapping this year are the Bothfelds, Sue Carpenter and Caleb Pitkin. All three hope to resume in 2027.



Arnold Tebbetts with Max Ducharme on a syrup tin, which was used for many years by Maple Grove in St. Johnsbury

Ackermann

Ian and Caitlin Ackermann started sugaring in 2013. Ian had worked for the Burtt's, sugaring as a youngster. They now put out 17,000 taps, half on their own land and half on land leased from neighbors. "We hope to produce maybe 8,200 gallons in an average year," Caitlin said. "One year we made all the way up to 9,800 gallons," she added. "Our worst year was 6,500."

Their original sugar house was built by Ian, the lumber coming from trees he had cut down from their land. With an addition, the sugarhouse now stands 80



This is Rollin's tiny sugar house (courtesy photo). Inset Tebbetts spout.



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.

THANK YOU

I, Walter (Skip) Bothfeld, would like to thank everyone that voted for me for the two-year seat for select board. If you have any questions, feel free to call me. Thanks again.

Walter (Skip) Bothfeld.
802-563-2715

CORRECTION

I would like to make a one-word correction to my letter to Governor Scott in last month's *Cabot Chronicle*.

As I mentioned at the school meeting, I meant to say abilities, not disabilities, in the third column, second paragraph.

The first sentence should have read: "Vermont schools have a nationwide reputation for inclusion and meeting the needs of children with a wide range of abilities," not "disabilities". Thanks.

Cecilia Gulka

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Mortal Bloom

Hannah Carpenter Pitkin

April 10th through August 1st

Opening Reception: Friday, April 10th
from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

CUTLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY - cutlerlibrary.org

Cutler Memorial Library to Host
Opening Reception for *Mortal Bloom*
a Photography Exhibition by Hannah Carpenter Pitkin
Thursday, April 10, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

The exhibition features work created through the historic wet-plate collodion process, including tintypes and other forms of alternative-process photography. Developed in the nineteenth century, wet plate collodion requires each image to be made and developed by hand while the photographic plate is still wet, producing singular images marked by tonal depth, physical texture, and subtle unpredictability.

In *Mortal Bloom*, Pitkin uses this early photographic method to explore themes of transience, fragility, and the fleeting nature of form. The title suggests both flowering and impermanence—an apt pairing for a process in which chemistry, light, and timing all leave visible traces on the final image.

Pitkin, a Vermont artist whose work spans photography, painting, and mixed media, is drawn to analogue methods that foreground the material life of an image. Her wet plate work invites viewers to slow down and consider photography not simply as representation, but as object: each plate carrying the marks of touch, process, and time.

The opening reception is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Angela Ogle at angela.m.ogle@cutlerlibrary.org.

The exhibition will remain on view through August 1.



OBITUARIES

Amelia Bothfeld



Amy Bothfeld (Amelia Jones) passed peacefully in her home in Cabot, Vermont surrounded by family and friends on Friday, February 27, 2026.

Amy was born June 13, 1953, in Eureka, KS. She is survived by

her husband Stephen Bothfeld, brother Ted Jones, children Danelle Hollyer, Fawn Willey, son in laws Drew Hollyer, Nicholas Willey, grandchildren Cassio-

peia, Kiana, Caitlin, River, Corben, Owen, Elikai and Gwynnevere. Amy is predeceased by her grandmother Alice Faulkner.

Amy loved being surrounded by family and friends, she enjoyed hosting dinners and holidays, always going above and beyond for those around her. She enjoyed spending weekends going to yard sales, antiques with friends and spending time with family during the holidays.

The family is planning to hold a celebration of life, date and time to be announced. Condolences and memories of Amy may be shared with her family at dgifunerals.com.

Cecil R. Metcalf

Cecil R. Metcalf, Jr., of Cabot passed away January 21, 2026, peacefully at home. He was born on September 9, 1941, in Danville to Cecil R. Metcalf, Sr. and Josephine M. (O'Keefe) Metcalf. He

was predeceased by his wife, Elaine, in 2023 after 50 wonderful years. They built a home from the ground up in Cabot, where they resided. No further information has been released by the family at this time.

Clotilde W. Pitkin

Clotilde Whitney Pitkin, 94, of Marshfield, died peacefully at her home on February 26, 2026. Clo was born in Providence, Rhode Island January 16, 1932, the daughter of William A. Dorman and Marjorie B. Heilborn. Her father and older brother Billy both died when Clo was an infant, so she was raised an only child by a single mother. Clo was a graduate of Brockton High School in Brockton, MA, and received her undergraduate degree from Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, where she met and married Belmont Pitkin in 1952. Belmont and Clo lived for several years in Cobleskill, NY, Hartford, CT, Ann Arbor, MI, and Brooklyn, NY, before settling on the Pitkin farm in Marshfield in 1961, where she has remained since. Belmont died in 2004.

While a student at Goddard, Clo worked at the Boston Nursery for Blind Babies, and at the Plainfield Nursery School. She was hired by Tim Pitkin to help survey the Upper Winooski Valley as part of a Title I grant, evaluating the educational needs of low income students in the area. She worked several years for the Schoharie County 4-H in Cobleskill, NY. She helped organize and taught a nursery school in Marshfield Village in the old Knights of Pythias hall. Clo was active on the Marshfield Recreation Committee, the town Democratic Committee, the Marshfield-Plainfield Parent Teacher Association, and volunteered with the American Red Cross Swimming Program and the Twinfield Learning Center. She loved discussion of current affairs and late in life enjoyed weekly meetings with like-minded friends who called themselves the "Thursday Breakfast Group." For several years she enjoyed performing in productions with the Plainfield Little Theatre.

Clo helped run the Current Educational Issues Conferences at Goddard College. For several years she was Associate Director of the Commuting Adult Program. Other positions at the college included Admissions Director, faculty member, and ten years as a member of the Goddard Board of Trustees, where she worked successfully at fundraising and program development. She was a member of the Goddard Renaissance

Committee, which formed coalitions with other like-minded institutions, including the Vermont Peace Academy, of which she was a co-founder and enthusiastic supporter. In 2013, Clo received the Goddard Award for Excellence in recognition of her lifetime of service to Goddard College.

Clo earned a M.Ed. in counseling from the University of Vermont, and started a private counseling practice, which she carried on part-time for about thirty years. She served briefly as the New England coordinator of the Tough Love Program, founded by her friends Phyllis and David York. She became an administrator, teacher, and counselor at Community College of Vermont during its early development. While there, she helped design and launch the advising and degree programs, and worked with low-income students to help them continue their education.

One of Clo's proudest accomplishments was the establishment and leadership of Woman Centered, an organization for the support of women in the Central Vermont area, which continued for nearly twenty years offering counseling services and referrals for women in crisis. In recognition of this work, she was honored in 1990 as Vermont Woman of the Year by the Organization of Montpelier Business and Professional Women. She was named by the Vermont Department of Employment and Training to the Displaced Homemakers Policy Council. Later, she worked for seven years as a Director of Community Services at Central Vermont Community Action. She also for a time served as chair of the Education Committee of the Vermont ACLU.

Clo is survived by her sons Caleb and Seth, both of Cabot, daughters-in-law Mary Carpenter and Susan Pitkin; granddaughters Lydia (Brock Miller), Hannah (Maddie Clark), Molly (Eric Clark), and Rachael; great-grandchildren Bella Miller, Owen Miller, and Atlas Clark. Her sister-in-law Ellen Pitkin also survives, along with nieces and nephews Gemma Yamamoto (Grant McLellan), Paul Yamamoto (Lisa North), Jiro Yamamoto, Sarah (Mark) Roos, Aaron Pitkin (Hope Nichols); many grand-nieces and grand-nephews, and many dear friends. She is also survived by her devoted care-

givers, Joanne Brooking, Belynda Lussier, Soledad Herrera, Caitlin Conn, Jen Boucher, Ruby Proulx, Shelby Budziak, and Brooke Nunn, to all of whom the family will be forever grateful.

Donations in her memory may be made to Planned Parenthood of Vermont,

Dennis C. Searles



Dennis C. Searles, 76, a longtime resident of South Walden Road, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at his home. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Born on December 8, 1949, in St. Johnsbury, he was the son of Robert Searles and Marion (Nunn) Meigs. He attended elementary school in Barre and graduated from Spaulding High School in 1968.

Following his schooling, Dennis enlisted in the United States Army, where he served in Germany before being honorably discharged as a Specialist in 1971. On October 24, 1974, he married the love of his life, Evelyn Keith, at a ceremony held in Cabot. The two made their home there, where they raised their children. Dennis worked for many years at Price Chopper in the Meat Department. Some of his favorite hobbies

Owen Bradley



Owen Bradley of Plainfield, VT, former Twinfield School Principal, passed away on March 16, 2026, in Boston, MA, at the age of 65. A full obituary will be

Harriet A. Gaffney



Harriet Amy Fisk Gaffney died from metastatic breast cancer on Feb 23, 2026, at the Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin, Vermont. She was 96 years old. She was living independently in her home with some assistance until November of this past year, when she learned she had breast cancer.

She was born on the Fisk Farm in Barton, Vermont, on January 12, 1930, the daughter of Earl and Amy Fisk. She lived there with her family of two brothers and three sisters until they sold the farm and moved into town. She attended Lyndon Teacher's college, graduating in 1950. Later, she received her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Vermont in 1976.

She married Roy Nelson Gaffney from Lyndonville, VT, in 1952. He died previously on April 13, 2019, of cancer after 66 and one-half years of marriage. They had three children; JoAnne Gaffney Sweeney of Scarborough, ME, Daniel Wilson Gaffney of Wentworth, NH, and David Roy Gaffney of Sanbornville, NH, who predeceased his parents in 2008 of a pulmonary embolism. She also leaves two grandsons, Benjamin William Sweeney and wife, Crystal of Falmouth, ME, and Michael Jon Sweeney of Somerset, CA; and three great-grandchildren, Emerson, William and Elliot Sweeney of Falmouth, ME. Her siblings predeceased her; a brother,

the American Civil Liberties Union, or Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice.

A gathering of remembrance will be announced at later time at the convenience of the family.

were hunting, fishing, woodworking, archery, playing horseshoes and playing cribbage.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Searles; his children Michael Searles (Bill DelGaudio) and Jody Lee Searles; his siblings Tina Dindo (Mike), Bobby Searles (Stephanie), Jason Searles (Candace) and Chrissy Searles (Annette). He also leaves his sister-in-law Lisa Searles, his brother-in-law Robert Leblanc, as well as eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his siblings Edwin Searles, Paul Searles and Sherry Leblanc; and his stepfather Arthur Meiggs and stepmother Mary Searles.

A graveside service to honor and celebrate Dennis's life will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Hope Cemetery in Barre. Followed by a gathering at his home in Cabot. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are by Hooker Whitcomb Funeral Home in Barre. For a memorial guestbook, please visit www.hookerwhitcomb.com.

available at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Guare and Sons Funeral Home in Montpelier, VT.

A moving and detailed account of his life, contributions and dealing with his illness can be found in a White River Valley Herald April 20, 2023, article at <https://www.ourherald.com/articles/bradley-to-leave-legacy-of-love/>.

Earl Owen Fisk in 1997 and William Fisk in 2024, and three sisters, Marion in 1992, Helen in 2006, and Florence in 2012. She also leaves many nieces and nephews.

After graduation from Lyndon Institute, Harriet taught school in South Cabot, VT, in a one-room schoolhouse for two years. After their marriage, Roy and Harriet lived briefly in the Northeast Kingdom in St Johnsbury, VT, where JoAnne was born. They then moved to Wilmington, DE, for five years, and their son David was born. Roy worked at DuPont in Wilmington, and Harriet stayed at home. They returned to Henniker, NH, where Harriet supported her husband to get his engineering degree while she taught school in Newbury with two children for three years. They settled in Waterbury, VT, and purchased a house on Wissell Mountain, and Daniel was born in

1961. Roy worked for the State of Vermont, and she taught school in Duxbury, VT, for nine years and in Waterbury, VT, for fourteen years, retiring in 1989.

Burial will be private at the convenience of the family at the Welcome O. Brown Cemetery in Barton, VT. Perkins-Parker Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Waterbury are assisting the family. To send online condolences, visit <https://www.vtfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?page=1>. In lieu of flowers, people can send donations to the Waterbury Senior Center in Waterbury, VT: <https://wasca.org/>.

Applications are now open for The Love of the Game scholarship in honor of Coach **Michael Maxwell**. visit www.fortheloveofthegamevt.com for further details or to apply.



Basketball Summer Camp

Applications are now open for the 2026 For The Love Of The Game basketball camp scholarship, created in memory of Coach Michael Maxwell. Four Vermont youth will receive up to \$800 to attend basketball camps or clinics of their choice, building skills, confidence, and love for the game. Apply by May 2. Learn more at fortheloveofthegamevt.com today and share with families across Vermont now.

www.fortheloveofthegamevt.com fortheloveofthegamevt@gmail.com



Neutered or spayed fee is \$12,
un-neutered ro un-spayed fee is \$17.

Fee increases after April 1 \$17 and \$21.

Be sure rabies certificate is current and on file in Town Clerk's office. All fee's include a required \$3.00 fee for the State of Vermont Rabies Control Program and for the administration of State animal welfare laws, as well as a required \$4.00 State of Vermont Spay/Neuter Program fee; this \$7 total per license goes to the State.

Where in the World is the Cabot Chronicle?



The Wades in Spain are mainly on the plain.- Wade family and Spanish friends at the European Space Agency Deep Space Antenna 2 in Cebreros, Spain. The 35 meter diameter dish antenna is used to track and receive data and pictures from NASA and other spacecraft.

CCT Presents: Quest!

by Karen Mueller-Harder

Coming soon! Cabot Community Theater presents a full-length comedy-adventure: Quest! One Play to Rule Them All. In this show, heroes with the most questionable choices, most ridiculous excuses, and the most dubious motives each share their stories of adventures in the Imaginary Realms.

The play, featuring a multi-generational 48-person cast of community members, will be performed one weekend only: Thursday through Saturday, May 7-9, at 7:00, and Saturday and Sunday matinees on May 9 & 10 at 2:00. Performances will be at the Cabot School Performing Arts Center, located behind the main school building at 25 Common Road.

Cabot Community Theater is dedicated to keeping our ticket prices low, to make live theater accessible to the whole community. General admission is \$10 for everyone; you can pay with cash, check, or Venmo at the door. If that's more than you can easily afford, just ask for the \$5 sliding scale option at the door (you don't have to give a reason). Most of our performances do sell out, especially

the matinees, so we recommend making reservations: <https://tinyurl.com/Questreservations>.

Seating is not reserved, unless you need special accommodations.

The theater and bathroom are wheelchair accessible; there is designated accessible parking by the school cafeteria.

If plays had ratings, it would probably be PG for a few scary characters, some onstage poisoning and offstage falling off cliffs, possession by an evil power, and a couple of loud sound effects, so may not be a good choice for quite young kids. The play is made up of nine different Tales, with the more nuanced plots and most of the scarier characters being in Act 2, so attending just Act 1 might be a good option if you have a child in the 5-7 year old range (feel free to opt for the \$5 sliding scale). And if you have a child who may need to leave or take a break, you can request easy-exit seating on the reservation form; re-seating is allowed!). Email info@cct.aroundvt.org if you need more information.



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



SCHOOLBOARD UPDATES



Boards Reformed

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

At the first board meeting after Town meeting, the Selectboard and the School Boards reformed their boards and elected officers. This is an annual process, where the board elects or appoints people to positions that need to be filled.

The Selectboard was first to reform on March 10, and the board unanimously elected Jenn Miner as chair. Mike Hogan told those in attendance that it would be his last year on the board, as his term ends at Town Meeting in 2027 and he will not be seeking reelection.

The Selectboard elected Mike to be vice-chair, and he said he would help Jenn come up to speed as the new chair of the board. The board elected Peggy Miller as the clerk, a role that no one seems to understand.

Then the board went through the long list of positions in the town printed in the town report and mostly re-appointed people to the same positions. In some cases, they re-appointed people under the condition the person could be contacted and agreed to continue in the role.

There were some changes to the appointments. Jenn Miner stepped down from the emergency management director role, and Doug Cooke was appointed to fill the position. Doug asked what the role entailed and Jenn provided a brief description and said she would help him take over the position.

The board also decided not to do anything about the zoning administrator position since it was a three-year term that didn't expire until July.

A significant change did occur with the Conservation Committee when it was announced that Gary Gulka, a long-time member and chair, was stepping down from the role. The board did not have any volunteers to fill his seat on the committee and assumed the committee would elect a new chair.

There were also positions on the Trails Committee left vacant since Kris Schmitt, Gary Gulka, and Paul Wade all stepped down from the committee and the board did not have anyone to appoint in their stead. Mike suggested they might want to reduce the Trails Committee from seven seats to five seats due to the vacancies. He speculated they didn't need as many people on the committee now compared to when they were getting started.

The board then discussed the recreation committee that has had many vacancies for a long time. There had been confusion at Town Meeting on Cam North's position on the board and Betty had spoken to him. She relayed that he was only vice-chair since his wife, Jessica, was the coordinator. He said the chair approved purchases for the committee and wanted to avoid any conflict of interest. The committee remained with just Cam and Jessica as the only members.

The School Board went through a similar process on March 12; Chris Tormey was re-elected to the position of chair, but Ellen Cairns stepped down as vice-chair and Melissa Pratt was elected in her stead. The board also wasn't sure about the position of clerk and its responsibilities, and Matt Foster said that it was a rarely used position that only had duties when the board acted in a quasi-judicial role. Alicia Heber was then elected as the board clerk.

The School Board only has a few positions that need to be filled by appointments, and mostly those positions are roles taken on by individual members of the School Board. The school board does have one outside position to which they appoint someone which is the Vice-Chair of the CCIF committee. Chris told everyone that it does not need to be a board member, and he has yet to find a volunteer. The position was left vacant until someone expresses interest.

Johanna added that the House map, which only has districts and no supervisory unions, combines Cabot with Twinfield, U32, Spaulding, etc. She expressed that her feel of the community was that everyone would want to be placed with districts to the north (i.e. Danville).

She added that she thought the Senate map was going to change a lot, and that if Cabot wants to stay with CCSU, then they can get moved out of the "grey area". Chris Tormey wondered if the board should ask if Cabot should be placed in the Caledonia area. Matt reminded him that he serves at the pleasure of the district board.

Jason Monaco expressed that he feels there is a fair amount of people that want to go with Danville, and Ellen expressed a similar thought.

Johanna asked if it is something we need to get to the state legislature now,

or does the board have time to ask the community? She pointed out that the regular board meeting was scheduled in two weeks. Matt said he thought they should do it earlier than later, since the legislature was currently in cross-over.

Chris said that being in an SU would be better than being in the "grey area" which may become one big district. He expressed that they didn't need to survey the community because he thought there wasn't enough detail to ask a coherent question.

Johanna asked if Twinfield had made up their mind, and said that a regional high school comes off the table if Twinfield isn't part of the equation. Matt told the board that Twinfield had a meeting with U32 the following week for an exploratory conversation. He expressed that Twinfield is very willing to reach out to someone else for a merger.

New Principal Hired at Cabot School

by Chris Tormey,
Cabot School Board Chair

On March 12, the Cabot School Board unanimously approved the hiring of Darin Carney to begin working as Cabot School's new Principal starting July 1, 2026.

Both finalists for this position are veteran teachers and administrators who have worked at both large and small schools. After a Zoom interview in February with a Search Committee composed of teachers, students, community members and a school board member,

both finalists spent a full day at the school during the first week in March meeting with students and staff.

Originally from Colorado, Mr. Carney has served as School Principal in his home state and also in Minnesota. More recently, he organized and led schools in Singapore and Panama. During his visit here he expressed strong interest in guiding our small community school while building strong relationships with teachers, families and students. We look forward to Mr. Carney's arrival this summer, and to the skills and experience he'll bring to Cabot School.

Dance in the Spring!

by Karen Mueller-Harder

On Friday, April 10, come celebrate the arrival of spring (hopefully!) at the Cabot Community Contra Dance, featuring the delightful calling of Luke Donforth! The dance takes place in the lovely third floor space in the Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main Street), from 7-9:30 pm. Live music is provided by a great group of local musicians—feel free to just come and listen if you prefer!

Bring a friend, or come alone, to enjoy a great sense of community and reconnecting with others after a winter of hi-

bernation! 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, but if you've never been to a contra, you are encouraged to arrive right at 7:00 to learn the basics, and then we'll build upon what you learn throughout the evening.

Admission is on a sliding scale, \$5-10 suggested, but nobody is turned away for lack of funds! Water is provided, or bring your own water bottle. We encourage you to bring some clean, dry shoes to keep mud off the dance floor.

Hope to see you there!

SCHOOLBOARD UPDATES



Statewide School District Reorganization

by Frank Kampf, Staff Writer

After the School Board was reorganized on March 12, the board moved on to a discussion about the state legislature and the possible school district reorganizations that are being proposed. Matt Foster told the board that he wanted Johanna Thibault to give an update about what was going on in the legislature. He then talked about the Senate proposal that was in front of the Senate

education committee.

Matt said that in the Senate proposed map that came out the prior Tuesday, there was a large chunk of districts that go all the way to the western edge of Vermont. He told the board that both Twinfield and Cabot were in that "large grey area". Matt reminded the board that Twinfield had expressed interest in being merged towards Montpelier, but it appeared that Cabot was also being put into the same area.

CABOT ARTS SHOW AND TELL

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

April 12, 2026 , 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

TOWN OFFICERS

ELECTED ON TOWN MEETING DAY

OFFICER	Term	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator	3 yr	Jeanne Johnson	2027
Town Clerk	3 yrs	Brittany Butler	2029
Assistant Town Clerk	N/A	Shirley Ducharme	Non-Term
Town Treasurer	N/A	Amy Monahan	Appointed by Selectboard
Selectpersons	3 yrs	Jennifer Miner, Chair	2028
	3 yrs	Michael Hogan, Vice Chair	2027
	2 yrs	Peggy Miller, Clerk	2027
	2 yrs	Walter (Skip) Bushfield, Jr.	2028
	3 yrs	Fred Ducharme	2029
Listeners	3 yrs	Brittany Butler	2029
	3 yrs	Jeanne Johnson	2028
	3 yrs	Jacqueline Lumbra	2029
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 yr	Susan Carpenter	2027
Grand Juror	1 yr	Dave Pike	2027
Cemetery Commissioners	3 yrs	Melvin Churchill, Chair	2027
	3 yrs	Cedric Alexander	2028
	3 yrs	Deb Bushfield	2028
	3 yrs	Ruth Goodrich	2029
	3 yrs	Angela Ward	2028
School Directors	3 yrs	Chris Tormey, Chair	2028
	2 yrs	Melissa Pratt, Vice Chair	2027
	3 yrs	Glenn Cairns	2029
	3 yrs	Alicia Heber	2027
	2 yrs	Jason Monahan	2028
Library Trustees	3 yrs	Kurt Steinert, Chair	2027
	3 yrs	Taeryn Robbins	2028
	3 yrs	Leah Saxe	2028
	3 yrs	Angela Ogle	2029
	3 yrs	Erin Ruddell	2029
Recreation Committee	N/A	Jessica North, Coordinator	Non-Term
Cabot Community Inv. Fund	N/A	Chair: TBD	Appointed by Selectboard
	N/A	Vice-Chair: TBD	Appointed by School Board
	3 yrs	Melvin Churchill	2028
	3 yrs	Jack Daniels	2027
	3 yrs	Jason Monahan	2029
Wiley Building Committee	3 yrs	Brad Alexander	2029
	3 yrs	Fred Ducharme	2027
	3 yrs	Dan Dunham	Appointed by Library
	3 yrs	Dana Robinson	Appointed by Selectboard
	3 yrs	Paul Wade	2028
	3 yrs	Betty Ritter	2029
	1 yr	Aaron Celley (fulfilling Connie Hare term)	2027

APPOINTED BY SELECTBOARD

First Constable	3 yrs	Stephen Hogan	2029
Second Constable	3 yrs	Vacant	2029
Water/Wastewater Administrator	N/A	Fred Ducharme /Treasurer	Non-term
Pond Keeper	N/A	Cheryl McQuibney	Non-Term
Animal/Dog Control Officer	3 yrs	Ruth Goodrich	2029
	3 yrs	Cheryl McQuibney	2029
Fence Viewers	3 yrs	Laura Knowlton	2029
	3 yrs	David Pike	2029
Inspector of Coal, Wood, Lumber, Shingles	N/A	Anson Tishbetts	Non-term
Tree Warden	N/A	Roland Payne, Jr.	Non-term
Fire Warden	5 yrs	Andrew Luxe	2027
Health Officer	3 yrs	Jenn Miner, Interim	2027
Emergency Management Coordinator	1 yr	Doug Cooke	2026
Town Energy Coordinator	N/A	Michael Socks	Non-term
Zoning Administrator	3 yrs	Brittany Butler	2029 (only appointment)
Planning Commission	3 yrs	Bobby Seerles, Chair	2029
	3 yrs	Harrison Martin O'Brien	2028
	3 yrs	Sam Welters	2028
	3 yrs	Glenn Goodrich	2029
	3 yrs	Kate Chatot	2029
Development Review Board	3 yrs	Jeanne Johnson, Chair	2029
	3 yrs	Brad Alexander	2029
	3 yrs	Susan Carpenter	2029
	3 yrs	Kempton Randolph	2027
	3 yrs	Wolfgang Krunak	2027
	3 yrs	Stephen Hogan	2029
	3 yrs	R. D. Eno	2027
Conservation Committee	3 yrs	Chair vacant	
	3 yrs	Dawn Andrews	2026
	3 yrs	Cedric Alexander	2027
	3 yrs	Chris Duff	2029
	3 yrs	Michael Delaney	2027
Trails Committee	3 yrs	Chair vacant	TBD
	3 yrs	Dana Olsner	TBC
	3 yrs	Lynn Rockwell	2027
	3 yrs	Kris Schmitt	2029
	3 yrs	Chuck Talbert	2027
	3 yrs	Vacant	
Recreation Committee	N/A	Chair - Vacant	Non-term
	N/A	Cameron North, Vice Chair	Non-term
	N/A	Jessica North	Non-term
	N/A	Vacancy	Non-term
	N/A	Vacancy	Non-term
Master of the Colors	1 yr	Will Walters	2027
CVRPC Transportation Advisory Committee	N/A	Sid Griggs	Non-term
Town Attorney	N/A	Tarrant, Giles & Sherris, LLP	Non-term
Legislative Representative	2 yrs	Greg Burt	District election 2027
CVRPC Representative	1 yr	Brittany Butler	2027
CVRPC Alternate Representative	1 yr	Harrison Martin O'Brien	2027
Newspaper	N/A	Times Argus, Caledonian Record	Cabot Chronicle
NEKWMU Representative	1 yr	Betty Ritter	2027
NEKWMU Rep. Alternate	1 yr	R. D. Eno	2027



Representative Greg Burt addresses Cabot Town Meeting



Betty Ritter was surprised at Town Meeting 2026 when Jenn Miner, on behalf of the entire selectboard, presented her with a plaque honoring her service as Town Clerk and Town Clerk/Treasurer to the Cabot community since 2015. Betty chose not to run again when her term of service ended with Town Meeting 2026, but she has agreed to help newly-elected Town Clerk Brittany Butler in the transition of responsibilities, as well as finishing up tasks involved with the \$500,000 energy resiliency grant Betty was able to secure. Brittany Butler photo.

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

THE CABOT
CHRONICLE

Did you enjoy reading about the Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball prowess on page 9? There are other Cabot residents who share your passion. 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.

Homestead Declaration Due - April 15 No Extension for Filing HS-122

The **Homestead Declaration** must be filed each year by Vermont residents for purposes of the state education tax rate. The Declaration identifies the property as the homestead of the Vermont resident. A Vermont homestead is taxed at the homestead education property tax rate, while a different education property tax rate applies to nonhomestead property (previously known as the "nonresidential" rate). Nonhomestead property is property used for commercial purposes or property not used as the principal (primary) residence, such as a second home, camp, or summer cottage. A property may be classified as both homestead and nonhomestead. This occurs when a part of the home is used for commercial purposes or as a rental. The property tax bill will show a homestead education property tax rate and a non-homestead education property tax rate. For more information on the Homestead Declaration, please visit our website tax.vermont.gov for our quick reference guides and statutes.

You must file a declaration by April 15, 2026, if you meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

1. Own the Vermont property as your principal residence as of April 1, 2026, and
2. Expect to physically occupy the Vermont property as your domicile.

The declaration must be filed even if it is late. **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 calendar year. Other ownership circumstances include the following:

OWhen there is more than one owner (joint ownership), only one owner occupant should file.

OOwners with a life estate interest who occupy the dwelling as their principal residence must file.

OCertain trusts may qualify as a homestead. For more information, read Reg. § 1.5401(7) Homestead on our website. Please note that changes to this regulation are being proposed to conform to amendments made to this statute.

OAn estate holding a residence that was the homestead of the deceased person at the time of death may file a homestead if the residence is not rented.

When the residence is owned by the estate of the deceased spouse, the widow or widower may file a homestead declaration as long as it is likely that the residence will pass to the widow or widower when the estate is settled.

Homestead Declarations filed by **April 15, 2026**, are considered timely, classified as homesteads on the grand list, and taxed at the homestead education property tax rate.

Homestead Declarations filed **after April 15, 2026**, are classified as homesteads but may be assessed the following penalty by the town:

- Up to 3% if the nonhomestead rate is higher than the homestead education property tax rate.
- Up to 8% if the nonhomestead rate is lower than the homestead education property tax rate.

Homestead Declarations filed **after Oct. 15, 2026**, will be classified as non-homestead. The owner will be charged the higher of the two rates, assessed a penalty, and must pay any additional property tax and interest due.

What if you SELL your property before April 1, 2026? If you filed a Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim before April 1, 2026, you must withdraw the declaration and claim using Form HS-122W, Vermont Homestead Declaration and/or Property Tax Credit Withdrawal, available on our website.

What if you rent your homestead on April 1 and occupy it yourself for fewer than 183 days in the calendar year? You must withdraw the declaration using Form HS-122W. Form HS-122W is available on our website. If you occupy your home fewer than 183 days, you are disqualified from filing both the Homestead Declaration and the Property Tax Credit Claim.

32 Days Til Green Up Day, But Every Day Makes a Difference

by **Kate Alberghini,**
Executive Director, Green Up Vermont

I am asked over and over why Green Up is just one day. For the committed, every daily walk includes a bag and some amount of clean up. There are groups that meet weekly to do amazing work - huge shout out to the Trash Tramps of Montpelier who scour the City of Montpelier every Tuesday afternoon no matter the weather, cleaning the streets and sidewalks of thousands of cigarette butts. There are communities that do include a fall clean up in their annual regime. Daily, weekly, monthly, bi-annually or annually, every

effort matters. Green Up *Day* celebrates and nurtures a state-of-mind, a way of life, and habits that make Vermonters special and yet, not special. Humans who litter *should* be better than that, care more for our natural spaces, and simply take care of their own refuse. The fact that many make the effort, embrace the action, and have learned to not ever litter in the first place is what makes us special and this is the lesson we need to pass on to family, friends, and future generations. Consider for a moment the consequences if we do nothing.



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VT-511 Traffic Alert: Windham County

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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-89 southbound westbound between exits 8 & 5. Motorists should expect minor delays.

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

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

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

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

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Election Results - Town Meeting Day 2026 - Total Voters: 434

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 block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT CHANGE.

FOR SELECTPERSON	FOR TOWN CLERK	FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR
FOR 2 YEARS Vote for not more than ONE	FOR 3 YEARS Vote for not more than ONE	FOR 2 YEARS Vote for not more than ONE
WALTER (SKIP) BOTHFELD 256 ☐	BRITTANY BUTLER 347 ☐	JASON MONACO 303 ☐
MICHAEL WALBRIDGE 101 ☐	(Write-in) 33 ☐	(Write-in) 14 ☐
(Write-in) 4 ☐		
FOR SELECTPERSON		FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR
FOR 2 YEARS Vote for not more than ONE		FOR 3 YEARS Vote for not more than ONE
FRED DUCHARME 382 ☐		ELLEN CAIRNS 326 ☐
(Write-in) 5 ☐		(Write-in) 6 ☐

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 \$194,793 to come from income and \$773,398 from local taxes?

318 YES ☐
105 NO ☐

Art. 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$1,130,796 to repair and maintain the Highways of the Town including summer, winter, and special treatment, of which an estimated \$160,000 is to come from income and \$970,796 from local taxes?

367 YES ☐
62 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 obsolete and are not supported by any current vendors of software?

245 YES ☐
176 NO ☐

Art. 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot give the Town Listers 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?

284 YES ☐
119 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?

146 YES ☐
277 NO ☐

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

TOWN ARTICLES CONTINUED

Art. 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve construction of a new Volunteer Fire Department building at 2466 Main Street (between 2506 and 2454 Main, the old Gochey/Marcotte property, Cabot, Vermont.) *"Non-binding advisory only"*

176 YES ☐
246 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 \$14,829, which is 2.1% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

226 YES ☐
203 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?

264 YES ☐
154 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?

290 YES ☐
131 NO ☐

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

Twinfield-Cabot Boys Make Deep Playoff Run in Division 4 Basketball

by Rory Thibault

In a usual year, a trip to the Barre Aud for a playoff game would be viewed as a great accomplishment, but this was not a usual year for the Twinfield-Cabot boys varsity basketball team. After a hard-fought loss to Danville in the 2025 semi-finals, Twinfield-Cabot came into the 2025-2026 season with a singular focus of winning it all at the Aud this time.

On the way to the playoffs, the team recorded a nearly perfect season – with the only regular season loss being a narrow one to rival Danville. The Twinfield-Cabot boys closed out the year strong with statement wins over teams including Richford, Williamstown, Oxbow, and Stowe. The team also celebrated the milestones of Twinfield seniors Eli Russell and Tej Stewart breaking the 1,000-point threshold.

As the playoffs began, the team recorded a decisive win over the Long Trail School, 96-20, and another victory over Richford, 73-39. The semi-final game, held on March 3, 2026, was against Twin Valley – a game that held special meaning, given many of the boys were on the field for the heartbreaking loss (as Caledonia United, with Danville) to the school during the boys soccer final last fall. Twinfield-Cabot prevailed this time, winning handily 77-57. The win over Twin Valley set up a final game against Williamstown at the Aud.

The day prior to the final, the team was treated to a pep rally at Twinfield Union School, and the morning of the final the team was given a send-off that included an escort by the Washington County Sheriff's Department and a roadside rally on Route 2 that included friends, family, community members, and fire trucks from the Plainfield and Cabot Fire Departments.

At the Aud, the energy and sound was electric – a full Twinfield-Cabot student section and sold-out seating provided a backdrop of intensity. The team went into the game knowing Williamstown well – having faced off twice in the regular season. Williamstown came into the final known for their stout defense and size in the paint. In contrast, Twinfield-Cabot's strength was in its depth, multiple three-point threats, and league leading two-way players.

Williamstown took an early lead in the first quarter, however, Twinfield-Cabot came back and held a narrow 17-15 lead at the end of the quarter.

Twinfield-Cabot went on a run in the second quarter and opened a larger lead of 36-30, with Williamstown chipping away at a spree of unanswered points just before the half.

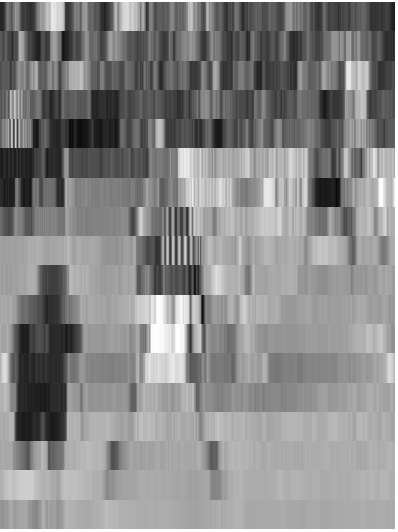
During halftime, fans were treated to a great performance by the Caledonia United Cheer Team. The Cheer Team, in its inaugural year, supported the boys throughout the season and their playoff run.

As most will know by now, the amazing season came to an end, not with the joy of victory, but with the disappointment of defeat. Twinfield-Cabot's second half saw some players in foul trouble, and a Williamstown side that took advantage of their free throws and being in bonus in the fourth quarter. The final score of 71-64 doesn't tell the full story of how close the game was until nearly the end. The boys left everything they had on the court.

It is tough to single out the performance of any one player during the close of the season and playoff run. While Russell and Stewart had amazing years, the same must be said of the entire team. At different moments, a revolving crew of players contributed to the team's near-perfect record. Twinfield's Zepherin Hebert provided a consistent spark off the bench, Cabot's Sam Churhill provided tenacious, physical defense in the paint, often drawing the toughest matchups, Twinfield's Thomas Gouge's timely offensive rebounds and second chance points often made the difference when the three-point shots wouldn't hit, and Cabot's Ben Monaco made the most of his minutes with smart defense and steady rebounds.

This year's team featured eight seniors, including Cabot's Churchill and Monaco. The run to the Division 4 championship was the culmination of years of work and dedication by these boys – from the days of 3/4 basketball through the Cabot Rec Committee to the merger of Twinfield-Cabot sports for middle and high school athletics. This year's playoff team also included Oliver Searles and River Thibault, both of Cabot, who spent most of the season with the junior varsity squad, but served as reserves for the playoffs.

The combined Twinfield-Cabot community has much to be proud of – the team played with heart, class, and confidence all season. With a surge of young players coming from the middle school, the future of boys basketball in our community is bright.



CABOT MENTORING I f

by Mark Christensen

For this month's article, I've asked one of our volunteer mentors, Tammy Cookson, to share about her mentoring experience. Here is her submission:

Mentoring a student in our community has been one of the most rewarding things I've chosen to do with my time. I found myself with a little free time and was hoping for a meaningful way to give back to our small community. When I learned about the opportunity to mentor a school-aged child—from grade school through high school—it felt like a simple way to make a difference.

The commitment is very manageable: we meet just twice a month for a few hours at a time. Those few hours, however, can mean a lot. The focus isn't on doing anything elaborate—it's really about spending time together, talking, and sharing everyday activities.

So far, we've enjoyed simple things like playing card games and board games, and even collecting eggs from my chickens. Sometimes the best moments come from just chatting and laughing while doing something ordinary. It's been fun getting to know each other and watching confidence and comfort grow over time.

We're especially looking forward to the warmer months ahead, when we can spend more time outdoors—maybe having a picnic or going swimming. Having those things to look forward to together makes the experience even more special.

you've ever thought about mentoring, I would encourage you to consider it. It doesn't take a huge time commitment, but it can make a meaningful impact—for both the student and the mentor. In a small community like ours, those connections really matter.

Tammy Cookson

The Cabot Mentoring Program has Cabot youth waiting to be matched with a volunteer adult. The initial commitment is for one year of meeting with the mentee 4-6 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



Youth mentor Tammy Cookson and her mentee Katherine Currier



ADVICE FROM THE TREE WARDEN

by Roland Payne, Jr.
Cabot Tree Warden

Spring Yard Cleanup and Planting Considerations

Spring has arrived, and as the snow melts in April, many of us begin preparing for yard cleanup, lawn repairs, and spring planting. When planning work projects for the upcoming summer, it is important to consider birds, insects, pollinators, and aquatic organisms when choosing seeds, soil amendments, and pest control products. Be sure to carefully check the ingredients of any products you plan to use for the presence of Neonicotinoids (Neonics) if not labelled Organic. Any products found containing neonicotinoids should be disposed of in a proper manner, such as the landfill or a hazardous waste collection for pesticides.

Understanding Neonicotinoids and Their Impact

Neonicotinoids, often referred to as "neonics," are systemic, neuro-active insecticides derived from nicotine. They are commonly applied to seeds to protect them from insects, but unfortunately, these chemicals are highly toxic to beneficial insects, birds, pollinators, and aquatic organisms. Neonics affect insects by binding to their nicotinic acetylcholine receptors, leading to paralysis and ultimately death. The consequences are significant, with major declines in insect populations, especially aquatic insects. Bee species are particularly vulnerable to Neonicotinoids, and even a single seed coated with neonics can be fatal to a

songbird. These disruptions also impact bird species by reducing their food sources. Moreover, Neonicotinoids persist in the environment and are highly soluble in water, resulting in contamination of streams and wetlands.

Legislation and Environmental Responsibility

Vermont follows New York, which passed Neonicotinoid restrictions under the Birds and Bees Protection Act in 2023. In June 2024, Vermont passed the Pollinator Protection Act, restricting the use due to the risks. Both states are at the forefront of efforts to protect birds, insects, pollinators, and aquatic organisms from the harmful effects of Neonics. In 2026, many other Northeastern state legislatures are working on similar bills to restrict the use of Neonicotinoids. Please read the packaging carefully for any seeds, pesticides, or soil amendments you purchased before 2025 that are not labeled organic, as they may contain Neonicotinoids. It is essential to check these products before use. If you find neonics present, please dispose of them properly and choose a safer, more environmentally friendly option, preferably an organic solution.

As always, in April and May, I recommend selecting native plants for your spring plants. Choosing native plants is ultimately beneficial for both the environment and the local ecosystem. Whenever possible, buy locally to support the local economy.

Stay rooted.

Dark Skies: Easy Ways to Protect Our Night Sky, Our Health and Our Environment

by Susan Socks of Garden Goddess Consulting and Gardening

The dark sky, spangled with stars and the glorious sweep of the Milky Way, is an amazing and awe-inspiring sight. But did you know that dark skies are also vital to the well-being of humans and other animals?

For example, birds migrating at night base some of their navigation on visual cues of the moon and stars. Artificial lights, especially in densely illuminated urban areas, can cause confusion for birds, leading them to collide with buildings, or circle light sources till they are exhausted.

Birds will also be nesting soon. Nighttime lighting interferes with their main food source for hatchlings: insects. An incredible 96% of land birds feed their nestlings insects. There's a good reason for this: insects are excellent food, rich in protein, fat, and carotenoids. Among the most nutritious are caterpillars, and many bird species prefer them for their babies. According to Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, chickadee parents need about 7500 caterpillars to raise ONE nest of young. These caterpillars are the immature forms of moths, most of which are active at night, and very susceptible to outdoor lighting.

And humans? We operate on a day/night pattern called the circadian cycle.

Millions of years of evolution have shaped us to this steady pattern. Our bodies need dark to produce melatonin, which helps regulate our metabolism and immune systems. When our natural circadian cycle is disrupted (overly bright indoor lights, glare from outside light sources, or working night shifts), there is a rise in health problems. Higher rates of obesity, diabetes, cancer, and mental health issues have all been linked to light pollution.

But what about lighting needs for safety? Fortunately, with modern technology, we have a number of ways to protect dark skies, while still having outdoor lights.

- Install outdoor fixtures with shielding, which directs light down where it is needed, not up.
- Put security lights on motion sensors.
- Use timers, if you need outdoor lighting at just a specific time (for example, farmers who are up and working before dawn).
- Only install the lights you need, rather than lighting everything.
- Use lower intensity LED lighting in warm colors, 3000K color temperature or lower. Color temperatures above 3000K emit harsh bright white "blue" light, while lower color temperatures are warmer and mellow, and affect humans and other animals far less.

(see Garden Goddess, page 11)

CCA

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

Funds Available for Community Organizations

The CCA Community Grant Fund allows the CCA to support community-based projects and events that further the mission of the CCA. This 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 Mountain-eers games and Little League uniforms.

Guidelines and application form is available at:

<http://www.cabotvermont.org/community-grant-fund/>

Upcoming March Events at the Jaquith Public Library

Upcoming April 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

We are closing the library from April 6 to April 12 to paint and repair the walls, have the rugs cleaned and do general maintenance.

Cooperative Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 at 11 am

Join us for a free cooperative egg hunt open to all kids! Kids will hunt for six eggs. Any leftover eggs will be divided equally among the kids! Holland Lop bunnies will be there to amuse and delight!

Soil Blocking Skill Share with Sarah Graves

Saturday, April 4 from 12 to 2 pm

Join Sarah Graves of the Magic Bean Farm to learn about the supplies needed for soil blocking, the benefits of starting seedlings in soil blocks, tips and tricks for seedling success, and resources for supplies. Participants will get to try different soil blockers and help us start seedlings for the community garden & food forest. This skill share is messy, so be sure to wear your gardening clothes! Sponsored by the Marshfield Resilience Hub & the Jaquith Public Library.

Concert with Iain MacHarg and Ian Gauthier Playing the Scottish Bagpipes

Sunday, April 12 from 2 to 4 pm

Iain MacHarg is one of the region's leading pipers. His reputation as a teacher and performer has gained widespread acclaim. He is a founder of the Celtic rock bands *Whiskey Before Breakfast* and *Prydain* and the Catamount Pipe Band, four-time finalists at the World Pipe Band Championships, and current Northeastern Pipe Band Champions.

Ian Gauthier is also a member of Catamount Pipe Band, and the Children's Librarian at Aldrich Library in Barre, VT.

This is a fundraiser and the proceeds will go toward youth services. Suggested donation: \$10 for adults, children are free.

Hills of Home

This program was inspired by the Vermont Reads Book *The Light Pirate*

Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 pm

Vermonters have strong ideas about the importance of their mountain topography. Where did our pride in Vermont's landscape come from, and why is it that we see our shared identity as rooted in the land? The story begins with the state's founders and moves forward through Vermont history to explain how environmental understandings changed over time. This lecture by historian Jill Mudgett is timely and relevant in its relationship to current interdisciplinary

scholarship, and offers us tools to understand the origins and meaning of our own strongly-held attachments to the Vermont landscape. Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Vermont Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or Vermont Humanities. Presented by the Marshfield Historical Society in collaboration with the Jaquith Public Library. Free and open to the public. For more information call: 802-454-1680.

Zen Doodles Skill Share with Nancy Chapman

Saturday, April 18 from 12 to 2 pm

Join local artist Nancy Chapman for a meditative afternoon at the Jaquith Library as we learn the art of Zen Doodling - a simple drawing method that uses repetitive patterns to create beautiful designs while promoting mindfulness and focus. Inspired by techniques similar to the Zentangle Method developed by Rick Roberts and Maria Thomas, Zen Doodling encourages creativity without pressure or the need for advanced drawing skills. The focus of the class is relaxation, self-expression, and creative exploration, no prior experience required! Sponsored by the Marshfield Resilience Hub & the Jaquith Public Library.

Art and Author Event

Sunday, April 19 from 2 to 4:30 pm

Artist Joy Spontak: "My exhibit is a retrospective of my work from my teen years to the present day. I have studied art from high school through graduate school. During this time, I have explored numerous ideas, mediums and subjects informed by my intention, feelings, and my wish to stir emotion in the viewer".

Poet Bob Messing: Bob has been writing for about 50 years. He self-published about 100 poems about 20 years ago and in the interim, the last 20 years, wrote many more. This is a selection from those poems.

Poet Tim Mayo's third collection *The Saurus of Separation* was a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Award and the Montaigne Medal. His next book *Muscle Memories of Love and Disaster* (Bainbridge Island Press) is forthcoming in April 2026.

Poet Kim Ward is a poet, playwright, dancer, theater producer and visual artist from Montpelier VT. Her first book of poetry, *Fire on a Circle*, was released from Rootstock Press in April 2023.

Hosts for the Sunday afternoon poetry readings will be PSOV board members, David Hartnett and Elizabeth McCarthy and Jaquith staff. The readings are free and open to the public. A collaboration between the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library. Refreshments will be served including Jasper Hill Farm cheese and baked goods from the Friends of the Jaquith Library.

Movie: The Librarian

Friday, April 24 at 6:30 pm

When Texas lawmakers seek to review

a list of books, librarians find themselves on the frontlines of a national battle. Across the U.S., librarians face the impact of uniting against library collection standards that include restrictions on race-related and LGBTQIA+ content. Drawing on historical context, *The Librarians* explores the broader implications for education and public life. (NR, 80 mins., 2026).

Film Series: Glimpses of a Maybe Future

2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm

For movie titles please contact the Jaquith Public Library

April 9: A Modern state demonizes and blames its problems on immigrants, forcing them into squalid camps and out of the country, while suffering its own population collapse caused by infertility. Lawless bands of insurgents roam the margins while the state tightens its grip and foments race war. (2006)

April 23: A universally-connected internet world of avatars seduces most of the population to live online entirely, in an invented society of luxury and pleasure while their bodies lie almost unattended...wearing headsets. A murderer enters and manipulates this fake world to gain power and control. (2009)

Night Sky Event

Saturday, April 25 (Cloud date April 26)

Meet at the Jake Martin Road parking lot at 7 pm

Join local expert George Springston to look up at our night sky from the Stranahan Town forest Moon Field. George will have a telescope to look at planets and stars. Please dress warmly, wear sturdy shoes and bring a head lamp. The trail is bumpy. It is about a 10-15 minute walk uphill to get to a good viewing spot. A thermos with hot cocoa or tea might go well too!

Bringing Up Beaver with John Aberth

Thursday, April 30 at 6:30 pm

John Aberth, a licensed volunteer wildlife rehabilitator, will present on his book, *Bringing Up Beaver*, about his raising and release of an or-

phaned beaver kit. On May 10, 2020, a beaver kit—BK—was found in St. Albans, Vermont, and handed over to John Aberth, a rehabilitator who specializes in beaver. Over the next two years, John raised BK and prepared him for release back into the wild. During that time, John and BK developed a special and unique bond, which John documented in a daily diary. That diary became the basis for *Bringing Up Beaver*, a lively and engaging account of one human's relationship with a wild animal. This presentation will use both video and photos to augment and flesh out BK's story as told in *Bringing Up Beaver*.

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.

Chapters in History Book Group

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

April 4: *Brave Companions: Portraits in History* by David McCullough

* Please note: usually the group meets the second Saturday of the month but this month it is the first Saturday.

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!

April 27: *The Good Wife of Bath* by Karen Brooks

Garden Goddess

(continued from page 10)

- Encourage local government and businesses to use these "dark sky" lighting practices.

Of course, the most effective protection of dark skies is to keep artificial lights off at night. The best part is the price tag: it's zero dollars to turn off the lights! If you can, turn off outdoor lights entirely, especially during bird migration season (March and April in our region). It is remarkable how much light is cast by just the moon and stars; you might be surprised by how much you see, when

the glare of artificial light is off.

If you would like more information on dark sky science, technology, and policy, check out the Dark Sky Society at www.darkskysociety.org.

Enjoy the stars, and happy spring!

This garden article is brought to you by Susan Socks, aka the Garden Goddess. Stay tuned for upcoming articles on green lawn care, pruning, garden tools, edible landscapes, and more. For gardening help, visit www.SocksFamilyFarm.weebly.com or call 802.498.7785.

The Cabot Chronicle Submission Guidelines



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

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

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

Where in the World is the Cabot Chronicle?



Shirley and Fred Ducharme
in Puerto Vallarta for the
wedding of their son Knight.

Safety Minute: Make Like a Tree and Leave it Be

by David Young

Reprinted with permission from February-March WEC Co-op Currents, the newsletter of Washington Electric Cooperative

When there is an outage, WEC crews are in the field restoring service until every last household has power. On several recent occasions, our crews have encountered members attempting to clear fallen trees from power lines themselves. In multiple cases, the lines were still energized. These members may have been well-intentioned, but their actions could have been lethal, and also put line crews and other first responders at risk.

This is the ultimate Safety Minute topic: Never approach a downed, pinned, or dangling power line. And never touch a tree or other items in the vicinity of a downed line. Even if the line is not sparking or humming, it may still be energized. A tree touching a live wire has enough water in it to conduct electricity. If you touch an energized tree with a body part or a metal implement, you will close the circuit. A downed power line can even energize the ground — that's why it's important to stay at least 50 feet away.

Repairing power lines is a professional job. Lineworkers and contractors are trained and certified to handle lines

and debris safely and responsibly.

This is a life-and-death safety issue, and I hope that's enough. But I'll make one last point about practicality: electricity flows downstream, and each fault, or outage location, on the line prevents electricity from flowing further. So removing the tree that's pinning a line will not restore your power. Upstream outages need to be repaired first. And if the line is de-energized—which it is, if you survive removing the downed tree—then crews will still need to come check the line and reset tripped safety mechanisms.

If you see a downed power line or a tree on a line, here's what you need to know:

- If it is an emergency, call 911.
- Maintain a safe distance: at least 50 feet away.
- Call WEC at 1-802-223-5245 or 1-800-932-5245.
- Please provide your location and a description of the situation.

The safety of our members and our line crews is our top priority. Thank you for staying safe and staying away from power lines.

Members can recommend Safety Minute topics and request safety presentations from David Young for their school, organization, or community group. Contact him at 802-224-2340 or david.young@wec.coop.



Walden Heights Nursery & Orchard

Schedule a consultation to plan your fruit plantings or care

Order bare root trees & plants for spring planting

Shipping available until June 1
Local orders can be picked up by appointment

Sign up for our Fruit CSA

WaldenHeightsNursery.com or (802) 563-3012

Cold hardy fruit trees & plants

More than 350 varieties of apple trees

Fruit tree propagation supplies



You are invited to help prepare for Cabot's

4th of July

Saturday, July 4, 2026

Planning meetings are scheduled on the following Thursday evenings, at 5:30 pm in the Wilbey Building meeting room:

- ★ April 16
- ★ May 21
- ★ June 18

Contact the CCA to RSVP or volunteer, 802.424.2633, Info@CabotVermont.org






Neighbors in Action

CABOT APRIL Calendar

FREE Food Share

WEDNESDAYS APRIL 8th & 22nd

BINGO!!

DOORS OPENING AT 5PM, STARTS AT 6PM

Every Thursday April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN WITH PRIZES

\$10 FOR 10 GAMES WITH 4 FACE CARDS EACH

Community Supper Saturday APRIL 18, 4:30-6:30

CHICKEN & BISCUITS, DESSERTS AND BEVERAGE

All welcome, come and enjoy some good food! Music by Senior Moment!

Senior Adventures

Tuesdays APRIL 7th & 21st

3339 MAIN STREET

DOWNTOWN CABOT VILLAGE

CALL: 802-563-3322

NeighborsinActionVT.org

www.facebook.com/neighborsinact



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

Thank you for voting on Town Meeting - we are so grateful for your support!

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.

Spring Into Healing with Chinese Medicine: Understanding the Wood Element, Thursday, April 2, 6 - 7:30 pm - Join acupuncturist Christina Ducharme for a discussion about Chinese Medicine, the Wood element, and how to use these energies to build resiliency and healthy growth this spring. In this talk we will explore how to work with the energy of growth, visioning for the future, and the importance of flexibility during these rapidly changing times. Participants will learn acupressure points to use at home for help with irritability, feeling stuck, anger, resiliency, and decision making. We will discuss the Chinese five element system, the correlation with the seasons, organs, and our emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

Reading with Rudy! (ages 5+) - Thursday, April 9, - 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Discover the joy of reading to a furry friend through a Read to a Therapy Dog program. By reading aloud to a gentle, attentive dog, young readers can gain fluency and enjoy a supportive experience that makes books come alive. Rudy is a specially trained therapy dog who has years of experience with children and the Cabot community. Bring a book, or borrow one from the library. **Space is limited.** To sign up for a 10-minute slot, please email amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com.

Japanese Fish Printing (ages 5+) - Wednesday, April 15, 2:30 - 4 pm - Join us and the Lake Champlain Basin Project to learn about Gyotaku, also known as Japanese Fish printing. Gyotaku printing is a well-practiced art form and way of documenting notable characteristics of different fish species. Using rubber versions of largemouth bass, yellow perch, and bluegill, you can make your own prints of fish found in our local waterways.

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!

Avoiding Scams and Online Safety

with Seth O'Brien, Tuesday, April 21 - 10:30 - Noon - Identify and avoid common digital threats, fostering safe online habits. This is a hands-on workshop - bring your digital devices!

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! We will move outdoors to the Cabot Rec Field Pavilion sometime during April - check FPF and our website for updates.

Robotics Class (all ages) Wednesday, April 22, 1:30 - 2:30 pm - Please join us for hands-on engineering fun with the St. Johnsbury Academy Robotics Club. Participants will rotate through interactive stations featuring LEGO building challenges, button robots, and other creative problem-solving activities. This program is designed for kids and families to explore, build, and learn together. No prior experience is needed. This is a wonderful opportunity to spark curiosity, encourage collaboration, and experience the excitement of robotics in an approachable way.

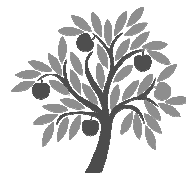
Cabot Book Group - Thursday, April 23, 2 - 3 pm - April's book selection is *Heartwood* by Amity Gaige. *Heartwood* is a suspenseful literary novel following the 12-day search for Valerie Gillis, a 42-year-old nurse who goes missing while hiking the Appalachian Trail in Maine. Told through multiple perspectives, the story explores themes of survival, motherhood, and loneliness. At the heart of the investigation is Beverly, the determined Maine State Game Warden tasked with finding Valerie, who leads the search on the ground. Meanwhile, Lena, a seventy-six-year-old birdwatcher in a Connecticut retirement community, becomes an unexpected armchair detective. Email cabotlibrary@yahoo.com for more info and to be added to the book group email list.

Owls Talking to Each Other - Tuesday, April 28, 6 pm - Join local photographer Elinor Osborn for a discussion and slide show that features photographs of owls found in Vermont, audio of their vocabularies and interesting facts about them. A long-time nature photographer, Osborn explains: "Photography enables me to see details of nature which remain hidden from casual observation." Bring your curiosity and questions.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Library for purchasing a beautiful new rug for our Children's Room and to Aaron Celley for installing new lights throughout the library. Thanks so much to our library volunteers: Vicky Palmer, Marianne Robotham and Beth Wade. Additional thanks to our program volunteers: Losada Stoddard, Katy Kowalk, Dana Glazier, Niall McCallum, Kay Ghose, Katherine Chatot, Alia Clary and Anna Helfand. 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



Twin Valley Senior Center UPDATE

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

Friday, April 10 following lunch:

Dr. Rob Penney MD (Family Physician and Central Vermont Council on Aging Board Member) presentation to provide information about immunizations that are recommended for adults and children. This is appropriate for all ages, and attendance is encouraged for everyone who may find it of interest. This presentation will include a bit of history about immunizations in general and individual vaccines specifically. It will include some description of a disease in question, what it might cause in an infected individual, treatments if available, and specific vaccine recommendations. Dr. Penney will touch on what we might expect in the future. This will be a 40-45 minute presentation. Questions and discussion are welcome during and after the talk.

Monday, April 13 following lunch:

Concerned and confused about nefarious actors using artificial intelligence (AI) to steal your private information?

Join Jean McDermott from the nonprofit federally-funded Senior Medicare Patrol program, where she will lead a discussion on how scammers are using advances in technology such as AI in their fraud schemes and educate on ways we can prevent, detect, and report these scams targeting our personal information.

Coming in April

Enjoy a delicious bowl of soup or chili (vegetarian options available); purchase a handmade pottery bowl for \$25 and fill it up and enjoy a hearty meal while supporting Twin Valley Senior Center - includes bread and dessert. Eat in or take out.

Beginning May 1 for 6 weeks (skipping 5/29) Fridays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Watercolor Class with Nancy Chapman \$60 per person supplies included (except paper). Space is limited to 12 participants. Call Denise at 223-3322 or email director@twinvalleyseniors.org.

CABOT VERMONT ANNUAL EVENTS 2026

**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**

**Tuesday, August 11, 2026
STATE PRIMARY ELECTION**

**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**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2026
STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION (mid terms)**

**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**

**Saturday, December 12, 2026
CABOT HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
& OUTDOOR MARKET**

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

Historical Society Building Report

by Jane Brown & Amanda Legare,
Cabot Historical Society Publicity Committee

One of Cabot's most important historical buildings, the Cabot Historical Society museum next to the church, is in serious trouble. Situated at what is the lowest elevation on Main Street, the crawl space under the building remains constantly wet, causing the supports and critical beam structures to deteriorate to the point that a completely new foundation must be installed. Additional structural damage will need to be addressed after the foundation is in place, but according to a structural engineer, the critical work is the foundation. The estimated cost of from \$150,000 to \$250,000 is daunting for a small organization.

This building was constructed in 1845 as a schoolhouse and community building. It then served various civic groups until it was sold to Robert (Bob) Brimblecomb for his plumbing business. His sons sold the building to the Cabot Historical Society (CHS) in 1978.

The building has electricity, but no plumbing or insulation, and there is only a wood stove for heat. This has been by design to preserve the historic integrity of the structure. The Historical Society closes the building during winter months, and over time, weather, temperature changes, and insects have taken a toll on the all-wood structure.

There were warning signs of problems, and steps taken. The foundation was repaired in the early 2000s, and pest control and mildew problems were addressed repeatedly. However, the supports under the building remained wet and rotting. Being closed for many months during the COVID-19 pandemic was probably a large contributor to the old building's undoing.

Glenn Goodrich, Fred Ducharme, and Chuck Talbert did emergency repairs in the fall of 2024, installing new central support beams. Until they took action, the building was closed to the public. Now, a group of dedicated Cabot residents – members of the historical society building and grants committees and others who appreciate the importance of preserving the town's history, are meeting regularly to take steps to save the old building.

Artifacts from before the town was even lotted, such as the big black iron

kettle used by General Hazen's army when they camped on the Plain during the winter of 1779-80, are in this museum. There are tools, furniture, photographs and letters among the thousands of historic items on display. There are medical instruments used by Dr. Wiswell and Dr. Burbank, hinges from the old "Smuggler's House" on the Plain, a sleigh, butter churn, a wooden washing machine, lanterns, costumes, paintings by Ruby Tebbetts, albums containing family photos, news items, and other memorabilia – all donated by Cabot families wanting to preserve the memory of their loved ones and Cabot's colorful history.

The building is historically significant, being remarkably preserved inside with a beautiful stage and original woodwork on the second floor. Slight renovations were no doubt made to the first-floor space, but it still has the original windows, woodwork, stairs and flooring. For those who have worked hard over the years to collect and preserve the thousands of items on display spanning 250 years, it is unthinkable that it could all be lost if the building is not saved.

A certified engineer was brought in last fall to assess the structure. His report left the CHS facing a staggering figure (\$200,000 to \$250,000) required for the building to be deemed structurally sound and safe.

Dawn Andrews and Brittany Butler are in the process of applying for a Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant through the Preservation Trust of Vermont, and Brittany is working on a grant from AT&T. If they are successful, CHS will still need to raise at least another \$100,000. Fred and Chuck have pointed out that the building needs to be raised considerably to protect it from increasing flooding. All agreed that work should continue to save the building and its precious contents.

There will be regular updates to the community about the progress being made, both on fixing the building and on funding the repairs. We hope that having this rich resource of town history available for research, and so many artifacts from Cabot's past kept safe and available for all to admire, our friends and neighbors will feel inspired to help save this historic treasure.

bad for the bear, it's also illegal.

If you see a bear in a residential area or you encounter an aggressive bear, please contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Protecting Your Home and Property

Vermonters must take reasonable measures to protect their property from bears before lethal force can be taken. Some of these measures include:

- Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an electric fence or other bear-proof enclosure.
- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally.
- Feed your pets indoors.
- Feed birds from December to March only.

Store trash in a secure place. Trash cans alone are not enough!

The Fish & Wildlife Department will not reimburse claimants for bear damage to livestock, fruit, or bees. Farmers will be reimbursed as long as their land is not posted against hunting.

Persons suffering bear damage should contact the nearest Vermont Fish & Wildlife office or local state game warden (www.vtfishandwildlife.com/contact/contact-a-warden) prior to taking any control action on their own. Fish & Wildlife personnel will recommend appropriate measures or control strategies that can lessen the problem.

It is your responsibility to avoid attracting bears. Bears are wild animals that belong in their natural habitat-the forest.

More information is available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/Living-with-Black-Bears

Cabot Creamery Cooperative Wins Five Best of Class Titles in International Competition

Cabot Creamery and Agri-Mark took home 17 awards at the World Championship Cheese Contest in Madison, Wisconsin last week. Since 1957, the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association has hosted this premier technical cheese, butter and yogurt competition biennially.

"Delivering the exceptional taste consumers expect from Cabot and Agri-Mark starts with high-quality milk from our farmers and comes to life through the hard work and commitment of our employees," said Jason Martin, SVP of Operations at Cabot Creamery and Agri-Mark. "These awards reflect the dedication and passion of everyone involved. We're proud to be recognized by our peers in the most competitive dairy contest in the world."

A team of 56 expert judges from all over the world evaluated 3,375 entries across 150 entry classes and 25 countries on flavor, body and texture, salt, color, finish, packaging and other attributes.

One of those judges was Ted Brown, Manager of Inventory Control and the cheese grading team at Cabot Creamery and Agri-Mark. The cheese grading team monitors and evaluates each batch of Cabot's naturally-aged cheddar on its texture, taste, and smell to ensure it meets quality standards. Brown recused himself from evaluating any categories in which Agri-Mark and Cabot had entries.

"There is a lot of collaboration and comradery in the dairy industry, and you can see that on full display at the World Championship Cheese Contest," said Ted. "Everyone came together with one common goal—to pick the best dairy products in the world."

Cabot Creamery and Agri-Mark won the following awards,

- Best of Class**
- Cabot Creamery, Alpine Cheddar
 - Cabot Creamery, Crème Fraîche (Food Service Only)
 - Cabot Creamery, Medium Cheddar
 - Agri-Mark, NFDM Low Heat
 - Agri-Mark, Whey Permeate
- Second Place**
- Cabot Creamery, Monterey Jack
 - Cabot Creamery, Muenster
 - Cabot Creamery, Sour Cream
 - Cabot Creamery, Colby Jack Cracker Cuts
 - Agri-Mark, WPC80, Grade A
 - Agri-Mark, Whey Permeate
 - Agri-Mark, NFDM Low Heat
- Third Place**
- Cabot Creamery and Jasper Hill Farm,



09
APRIL 2026
8AM-4PM

**Vermont's First
Reuse Conference**

REUSEAPALOOZA!

**Vermont State University
Randolph, Vermont**

Registration: \$25

**Keynote Speaker
Alex Eaves**

Founder and
Director of
Escape the Waste

**Electronics Repair
Event**

On-Site Repair
Fair hosted by
VSU Students

**Exciting discussions
and workshops**

Meet fellow reuse
and waste reduction
enthusiasts

SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:
OR VISIT [DEC.VERMONT.GOV/REUSEVT-CONFERENCE](https://dec.vermont.gov/reusevt-conference)

Thank you to our Sponsors:

HIGHLANDS VIEW CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

SPRING CONCERT

Friday April 10 6 PM
United Church of Cabot

*Featuring music by Rachmaninov,
Handel, Bach, Vivaldi and more!*

**Plainfield
ARTS**

SAM ROBBINS

**FRIDAY
APR. 24**

**PLAINFIELD
TOWN HALL
OPERA HOUSE**

**7:00
P.M.**

PLAINFIELDARTSVT.ORG

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

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Know the signs. Take Action.
Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly toxic gas.

Why Carbon Monoxide is Dangerous

Can't be seen

Can't be heard

Can't be smelled

Carbon Monoxide is Toxic

- Damages brain, heart, and oxygen-dependent tissues
- Disrupts neurotransmitters
- Can mimic Parkinson's and dementia symptoms
- Seniors, pets, children, and pregnant women develop symptoms faster than healthy adults

Brain Function
 Cardio Tissue
 Nervous System
 Unborn Child

CO affects all of these

How Exposure Happens

Common Symptoms of Exposure

Symptoms depend on the level and duration of exposure.

Headache	Nausea	Shortness of breath	Confusion	Neurological symptoms	Blood changes
Dizziness	Fatigue	Chest pain	Memory problems	Skinne problems	Death

Common Sources

Furnace
 Generator
 Vehicle
 Water heater
 Stove
 Fireplace
 Paint Remover

When an alarm sounds, act fast!

If a CO alarm goes off, dangerous levels may be present. Get outside to fresh air immediately and call 911 for help.

Purchase a portable CO monitor at: www.1800.CO.ALARM

Install carbon monoxide alarms.

Travel smart. Bring a portable CO monitor with you on the go.

Call a professional to inspect fuel-burning appliances annually.