



**Serenade in French**  
Eric Wallace-Snaft plays his French horn on a cloudy Friday afternoon in the park next to the Gazette.

photo by Doug McClure

## Select Board votes to consider Grant for Extra Law Enforcement Officer

By Michael Bielawski  
HARDWICK — At a recent select board meeting, Police Chief Aaron Cochran detailed how the Hardwick Police Department's growing work load prevents the hiring of an extra police officer.  
Cochran was absent from last week's meeting, but the board voted 3-to-2 in favor of applying for a grant that would provide funds to support hiring an additional officer.  
The federal recommendation for law enforcement to cover an area the size of Hardwick and Greensboro in eight officers. Hardwick Police Department is one short, with seven. Cochran had also detailed how the number of police incidents has been increasing year by year.  
The board asked if it is possible to back up the Federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant, once it is approved. The grant

would cover three-quarters of the cost of the new hire for the first three years. The consensus was that backing it would not go over well with the U.S. Department of Justice, which funds the program.  
"I'd like to see us move forward with the grant without thinking we will go through with it," said Board Member Henry Hale.  
This said that, looking forward, applying for the grant makes sense. "We will surely need this officer in four years," he said. "In 2009, the board voted to have this officer. It's just looking at the big picture as far as what the needs of the town are."  
Cochran's presentation stated that the force is not properly structured for its current work load. Investigations are often left with patrol officers, which takes them away from their regular duties. Cochran's proposal includes the hiring

of a detective, who would assume responsibility for investigations and field patrol officers to concentrate on their normal priorities.  
Board chair Eric Bernick and board member Kerry Barthey voted in dissent. Bernick calculated that with the additional salary, vehicle costs and equipment factored in, the department's budget would rise approximately \$100,000, minus the initial grant support. None disputed that estimate.  
The motion to move forward with the grant application passed 3-2.  
The board also voted to have Town Manager Jon Jewett write up a job description for an economic development position. The grant which this position would help Hardwick businesses expand, recruit new businesses to locate in town, and help companies find grants and other resources.  
According to Jewett, interest money collected by the town from its economic development loan and the economic development loan fund the position. That would make it revenue neutral. Once the board receives the job description, it will consider the proposal further.  
Elizabeth Dow wants the job description to include making Hardwick an official Designated Downtown. Designated Downtowns is an official status that the State of Vermont promotes, which would give the town priority consideration for state development grants.

The town is still considering the best approach for reaching an agreement with Burlington-based resident Robert Paulson regarding public use of the trail without trespassing. Paulson has denied trespassing with the trail.  
"All the trail folks want a designated trail that is safe and harassment free," said Hale, who is also representative of the Vermont Sportsman's Association and has been dealing with this matter for years.  
Hale reminded the board that the town's right of way is twenty feet each way from the center of the trail and was debate over whether pursuing legal counsel is necessary at cost-effective at this point. For now, the board decided to work on a list of agreement points without consent.  
"From Hyde Park to Lowell just about anywhere," said Hale. "Route 114 from here to Franksburg just about anywhere. There's really not a good way to get out of town without crossing the border."  
The board agreed that pavement prices are at a low and they should be aggressive about paving wherever it is convenient.  
Mike Sullivan, general manager of the Hardwick Electric Department (HED), gave an update on its work on the South Main Street project to replace utility poles. He reported that

## New Principal for Cabot Elementary to Start July 1

By Michael Bielawski  
HARDWICK — Patrick Demrock, Danville School's Dean of Students, has been named the new principal of Cabot Elementary School.  
Demrock taught science at U-32, Lamont, and Haver for twenty-three years. He attended Syracuse University and the State University of New York.  
His official start date is July 1, but he is getting involved with the school early to get a jump on things. "It's exciting to me that (Vermont) Superintendent Jeanne LaBane recommended (Jeanne LaBane) to me. I'm excited about going principal," Edie Dunn, said Hardwick Town School Board chair Jennifer Flanagan. "It's already working on hiring people. We have open positions and he's ready to hit the ground running."  
Flanagan said that Demrock, who lives in Cabot, has expressed a great deal of interest in Hardwick's

rustic school program.  
"We've heard great things about this community. We are looking forward to having him back," she said, adding that his colleague at Danville spoke very highly of Demrock.  
"People really enjoy working with him. He tackles problems head-on and gets things done," said Superintendent Nancy Thoms, Cabot Elementary School's principal.  
"I'm very happy to have Patrick on board," she said. "I know him because he was the science teacher at Haver a few years ago. He wants to play the community together. I think he brings a lot of unique qualities to the position," LaBane added.  
She said that Demrock involved in dealing with bullying and harassment using a "multi-tiered system of

support" that OSSU encourages.  
"LaBane said that Patrick has a good grasp on the local community. I think that, with his knowledge of the area and its strengths and the weaknesses, he will be able to lead the school in a very positive direction."  
One of the first orders of business for Demrock will be mentoring major upgrades to the school's aging 1970s infrastructure.  
"We will finally be fixing the parking lot and there will be a new front entrance to the school," LaBane said. "There are other things we're working on in the school. I would say it's an exciting new beginning."  
She noted that outgoing principal Edie Dunn leaves on positive terms for her new job in Bennington. "She is very excited about her new position," said LaBane. "I think she does a great job about the work she

## Act 46 Merger Proposal Fails, 699 to 435

By Will Waters  
CABOT — The Act 46 merger vote to combine Danville, Dummerfield and Cabot school districts into the new Cabot Unified Union District failed in voting yesterday, delaying a final decision, possibly until November.  
Ballot returns: Cab. Marshfield, Dummerfield and Danville voted for seats on the proposed new district's school board, as well.  
Cabot voted against the merger, 699 to 435. Danville and Dummerfield voted for the merger, 435 in favor. In total, 435 in favor, 699 in dissent. Superintendent Nancy Thoms noted that "It will be back to the drawing board for all three districts."  
Cabot had 98 absentee ballots returned; the times the poll opened and closed were 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. respectively.  
In an email announcing the hat results, 435 in favor, 699 in dissent, the candidates who were elected to sit on the new board of school will take office, since no new board was approved.  
A re vote could be called by petition if the new board of school vote failed. According to Superintendent Jennifer Flanagan, the vote will be See MERGER Page Four

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Other School Board Proposal  
Superintendent Nancy Thoms, who is retiring June 30, said that Mark Tucker will transition to the Superintendent position. Tucker is See ALTERNATIVES Page Four

## Church Street Project on Target For Late July Finish

By Michael Bielawski  
HARDWICK — Better water pressure and water quality are on track for Church Street and Vermont Avenue. The contractor, Munson Earth Moving Inc., has indicated that the work is on pace to wrap up the water line upgrade by mid-summer.  
"I think that's the best news, half of the road has been torn up. Town manager Jon Jewett gave an update on the latest at the June 15 select board meeting.  
"Munson still expects to be completed by the end of July. They are already at the top of the hill on Vermont Avenue," he said. "They are going to come back down and do all the in-and-out there. It'll be done. The town's going to have to decide when to finish off the paving."  
"I think they'll do paving right around the end of July, it will just be a concrete parking lot," he said. "I will have better September, when it will go back to better and last longer."

Munson Earth Moving's president and chief estimator Lindsay Vincelle also said that the work is going well.  
"The project is progressing on schedule. All of the 8-inch PVC water line was recently installed, and we're currently in the process of testing and observing the man. Then we'll start connecting the services."  
"I print interviews, Jewett had said that the purpose of the project is to increase the diameter of the water lines that pressure can be increased, which will bring the pressure for the Vermont Avenue line to creating a loop, rather than the dead-end system that exists now. This will increase water quality and reduce the whole loop, according to Vincelle.  
"Vincelle said that Munson is connecting the new line at several points to existing lines. She agreed that the looped lines are likely to provide better water quality than dead-end lines.  
"Vincelle said that it does seem like infrastructure projects, especially concerning water lines, are in good luck here."  
"Every year there seem to be projects that are in good luck, project-to-till," he said. "It's hard to say for the state as a whole, but we are going to be starting another project in Bristol next week. Those original plans were installed in the

of a detective, who would assume responsibility for investigations and field patrol officers to concentrate on their normal priorities.  
Board chair Eric Bernick and board member Kerry Barthey voted in dissent. Bernick calculated that with the additional salary, vehicle costs and equipment factored in, the department's budget would rise approximately \$100,000, minus the initial grant support. None disputed that estimate.  
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"It all started on Thursday, June 8, in a fenced in area at the Newport location of a friend of mine's justice," Mike Gloggett, 60, said.  
"He pepped the latches to get out of the truck, and he was out. I was on his journey," said Gloggett to the dog for the first time.  
"There were two dogs of the dog for more than 12 hours, until dawn at West Woodstock. I saw one his at 7:30 p.m., Thursday evening. But I was a short night for me," said Gloggett, who now all over the region looking for Atos after the dog went missing.  
Gloggett thought Atos might be heading Greensboro.  
"We often drove that way over the last nine years," said Gloggett. "He had another four or five more years and he would have ended up back here."  
Janice Hill found Atos in Greensboro on Friday, just before 8 p.m., about 100 miles from home and thirty miles later. He was in a rough shape, since he needs medication for Lyme Disease, which affects his joints.  
"I was having an accident where when I picked him up, but he'd be going to the vet," she said.  
Gloggett wants to thank everyone who has helped him on his journey. He has offered support and help for search for Atos, including other Hardwick Police Department officers and other people from as far away as Burlington.  
"I had a chance to see him in each other," he said. "When they found out he was in Greensboro, I called him from Gatland and I'm happy to help look for him."  
Gloggett said he'll normalize for police work and he'll be retiring in the fall. He said he is often standing at the door when he thinks it is time to start the work day.

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Retired Hardwick Police K-9 Atos, 12, poses for a picture after his 37-hour journey, walking over 30 miles from Newport to Greensboro, before someone recognized him and picked him up. Though very tired, he was found. Atos is content to be back home with his partner, Sgt. Mike Gloggett, at his partner for the past 10 years.

photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Gloggett said. "My grandkids and I were going to be going to their stops."  
"Atos' presence is very helpful during his adventures but he has generated, including posts on Facebook and a WCAW News report.  
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Hardwick Elementary School 4th grader Max Fournier poses for the picture slide during the school's 1st & Wild Day, held June 13 on the school's ballfield.

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