

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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## Caledonia Spirits Event Continues Efforts to Support Pollinators

by Ray Small

HARDWICK — On the back of the well-received Hardwick Pollinator Fest, Caledonia Spirits is helping to support pollinators by hosting its own Pollinator Festival.

The Pollinator Fest will be held May 13 at the Farm Inn in Hardwick. It will feature educational displays and family fun activities, as well as a look at the environmental threats faced by bees, butterflies and bats.

That's where Caledonia Spirits is hosting its Power to the Pollinators Festival at the Hardwick Millery. Additional to the festival are facility tours and tastings. A small portion of the proceeds from Caledonia Spirits and related local vendors.

A main stage will host presentations and entertainment. Todd Hirsch, the founder of a company that breeds bees at their Thorndell Farm, will give an introduction to honey bees and their importance.

John Hayden, who runs an organic farm and is an adjunct faculty member at UVM, will speak about pollinator awareness. In between, local duo Jeannie and Jim will perform.

Funds for pollinator support activities will be raised through a sale of cocktails using local produc-

ts and ingredients. Cocktail tickets cost \$6, of which \$1 will be donated to the Hardwick Pollinator Festival. There is a limit of 4 tickets per person.

Beekeepers are critical to making Caledonia Spirits products.

According to Sophie McCarroll, Vermont Spirits Event and Tourism Coordinator, "the distinguished Vermont spirit is made from honey, raw honey is raw honey. We process about 65,000 pounds of honey annually and we are the largest producer in the state."

The festival is free and open to the public.

Other Pollinator News

Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife will receive a grant of \$30,000 to support its work to combat chytrid, a fungal disease that has devastated wild populations in Vermont and elsewhere.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, chytrid is a disease that causes frogs' skin to become too dry; frogs rely on their skin for respiration.

White Nose Syndrome was first identified in 2006 in New York and New

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photo by Ron Wiesen

## Getting His Bearings

*A young bear has been seen wandering around Bunker Hill, West Hill, Wapanaki, and Tucker Brook in the past few days.*



*(photo by Vanessa Fournier)*  
*An excavator from Munson Earth Moving Corp. of Williston is working on installing a new fire hydrant Friday. This was the last of the main waterline installations for Church Street, Maple Street, Stagg Hill and Vermont Avenue. Spot paving is scheduled to begin this week.*

## Church Street Project On Home Stretch

by Michael Bielski

HARDWICK — The big Church Street waterline upgrade project has an end in sight. Contractor Munson Earth Moving Inc. plans to be out of the street by Aug. 1.

The project's goal was upgrading water line pipes from 4 inches in diameter to 6 inches to help increase water pressure and quality. It also involved laying new manhole dead-end lines, which should also improve water flow.

A Munson representative had previously said their target was to finish by July 15.

Town manager Jon Jewett said that now they are finishing out sections by the day, including patching up sections of road that were dug up, and fixing some damaged areas of sidewalks. They will also replace

hydrants along the line.

"They plan to be out of here by the 15th," said Jewett.

Later in the summer, the contractor will pave the whole road.

Jewett said the project "is kind of a nail biter."

An impatient driver there was caught by a police officer driving through the town parking lot next to the intersection of Church Street, often host to elderly patrons and families with small children.

A driver who was an impatient

driver and one child slipping away from their parents for a moment, ran over a child's hand. And while it hasn't happened yet, plenty of people have been talking about it.

Just last week, a small trailer truck heading a small trailer truck heading down Main Street hit a child.

There were kids and families standing around. And that time, no one got hurt.

More recently, a local woman reported that she had been hit by a car while walking her dog across the way of a driver who cut through the parking lot to avoid the stop sign at the intersection.

Town Manager Jon Jewett said that the town board will discuss options for the intersection at their next meeting.

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"We would like to decide if we

should put a gate at one end, or put a sign up," said Jewett.

He said the town may not de-

rivers drivers from the dangerous

practice of cutting through, but

they are considering other options.

Another project making pro-

gress is the paving of South Main Street. The contractor for this job will be in town next week, and crews

will take water off the street and

the river.

Before the water gets in the riv-

er, it flows through a swirl separator, which takes out the sand. That is to comply with state and federal regulations.

Later in the summer, the contractor will pave the whole road.

According to the Vermont Avenue connection, "Jewett and his son" are paving the last of the sidewalk back and ultimately paving the rest of the street.

The new pipe is made from polyvinyl chloride, which is non-metallic and therefore cannot corrode. These PVC pipes are engineered to withstand high pressure.

After all the lines are off the utility poles, the contractor can push the sidewalk back and ultimately pave the rest of the street.

At the end of the project, the contractor will lay asphalt over the new street.

Another part of the project is the

sidewalks, which are being replaced.

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