

## Caledonia Spirits Event Continues Efforts to Support Pollinators

by Ray Small

**HARDWICK** — On the heels of the well-attended Hardwick Pollinator Fest, Caledonia Spirits is helping to support pollinators by hosting its first annual Flower to the Pollinator Festival this Sunday.

The Pollinator Fest held May 13 at Atkins Field in Hardwick, featured educational displays and family activities to raise awareness of the environmental threats faced by bees, butterflies and bats.

This Sunday, Caledonia Spirits is hosting its Flower to the Pollinator Festival at the Hardwick distillery. Admission to the event is free, as are facility tours and tastings. A marketplace will host booths by Caledonia Spirits and related local vendors.

A main stage will host presentations and entertainment. Todd Hardie, the company's founder and a brewer at his Thruway Distillery Farm, will give an introduction to honeybees before showcasing local beekeeper John Hayden, who runs an organic farm and is an adjunct faculty member at UVM. He will give a talk on pollinator awareness. In between, there'll be wine and fun will perform.

In addition for pollinator support activities will be raised through the sale of cocktails using local produc-

ers' products. Cocktail tickets cost \$6, of which \$1 will be donated to the Vermont Beekeepers Association. There is a limit of 4 tickets per person.

Honeybees are critical to making Caledonia Spirits' products.

According to Sophia Barabow, Caledonia Spirits' Event and Tourism Coordinator, "The distinguishing ingredient in all of our craft spirits is raw honey. We process about 65,000 pounds of honey annually, so we care very much about honeybees. Through this event, we want to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators, to support local pollinators, and encourage people to get into honeybees. Taking up beekeeping is the best way to support pollinators locally."

**Other Pollinator News**

Vermont's Department of Fish and Wildlife will receive a grant of \$30,000 to support its work to control and manage White Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease that has devastated bee populations in Vermont and will affect the United States.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, about 500 species of flowers rely on bats for pollination. It is first identified in Vermont and New

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**Getting His Bearings**

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

photos 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.

## Downtown Parking Lot A Public Safety Threat

by Doug McClure

**HARDWICK** — It is a busy summer afternoon. As usual, someone out of state has gotten confused by the intersection of Highways 14 and 15 and now several cars are trying to avoid an accident by not moving forward. Some drivers gesture at the disoriented driver to "just go." An impatient driver three cars back takes a shortcut through the town parking lot next to the Village Restaurant, which is often host to elderly patrons and families with small children.

All it will take is one impatient driver and one child slipping away from their parents' attention and disaster is bound to happen. And while it hasn't happened yet, plenty of other drivers are covered that it might.

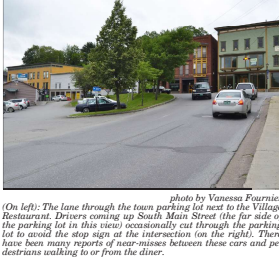
Just last week, a full-sized pickup handling a small trailer sailed right through the parking lot. There were kids and families standing around. And that time, no one got hurt.

More recently, a local woman reported that she needed to jump over the way as a driver cut through the parking lot to avoid the stop sign at the intersection.

Town Manager Jon Jewett said that the select board will discuss options for the parking lot at its next meeting.

"We're trying to decide if we should get a stop sign on one end, or put a sign up," said Jewett.

Putting a sign up may not deter drivers from dangerous practice of cutting through, but it does mean police can take action if they do. Getting one end might help, but the problem if there is a congestion in that spot that cars might get stuck in the winter, if they have to stop.



*On left: The lane through the town parking lot next to the Village Restaurant. Drivers coming up South Main Street (for the sake of the parking lot in this view) occasionally cut through the parking lot to avoid the stop sign at the intersection on the right. There has been many reports of near-misses between cars and pedestrians walking to or from the diner.*

According to 2012 data reported in the Hardwick Town Plan.

The unusual configuration of having outboard drivers on Vermont is not stop in its part due to the hill just before the intersection. It is steep enough that cars might get stuck in the winter, if they have to stop.

Previous studies included creating an alleyway stop at the intersection. See THREAT Page Four

## Host Families Needed for Visiting Chinese Students

by Michael Seltzer

**HARDWICK** — SPIRAL International Chinese Cultural Camp is coming to Hardwick. Thirty Chinese middle and high school students and three teachers will be in the Hardwick area from August 14-31 for an immersive summer program designed to expose them to American culture and improve their English skills. A group of Hazen Union students will join them to learn more about Chinese culture and language.

According to Cynthia, the program's director, said that she is still looking for the most suitable family for the students, who range in age from 13 to 16. The teens will stay with their own set of rooming partners. This includes their living quarters of 4,900 vehicles per day.

The parking lot problem is just one side-effect of the "systemic intersection" as described by Select Board Chair Eric Bonick. At least one study has been performed and identified the whole street. Jewett said this area of South Main Street has been a trouble spot for cars trying to break out from the parking spaces in front of the elementary school.

"It's an excellent opportunity to meet somebody from a different culture without having to leave your home," Cynthia said.

At the start of the program, the visiting students will attend three days of classes at Hazen Union.

According to Cynthia, this summer language teacher Anja Pfet-

**Hazen Union Board Hires Interim Principal**

by Ray Small

**HARDWICK** — The Hazen Union School Board has announced the hiring of an interim principal for the 2017-2018 school year to replace outgoing principal Mike McCarthy. McCarthy resigned in June to pursue graduate studies.

The choice for interim principal is John "Jack" McCarthy. McCarthy originally served as a teacher, principal and director of secondary education in Delaware.

After moving to Vermont, he served as Principal of Mansfield Valley Union High School in Highgate, and as Superintendent of the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union, in Swanton. He holds a BA in Business Administration from MA and Decorator from the University of Delaware.

McCarthy retired in 2013 - for two months. "I couldn't stand it. I was out of retirement. He returned to teaching as a substitute teacher and then worked for the school district in Human Resources and other areas."

Then, he heard about the Hazen Union principal position.

"I heard about the position from the Vermont Superintendent's Association. I always had a lot of fun working with students, teachers and staff and an interim position seemed perfect for me."

In a statement, Steven Freinhofer, Chair of the Hazen Union school board and the board sought an interim principal to allow time for a more extensive search for a full-time principal, a search that will include input from students, teachers, parents and community members. Mr. McCarthy is the right candidate to lead Hazen Union through this transition period.

Asked about his priorities, McCarthy cautioned that he has only been through the interview process and needs to learn about Hazen and its most pressing issues first-hand. At this stage "school climate comes to be an issue. But it always is (in a transitional period)," McCarthy said.

"I don't know yet what the main issues are. I need to listen and observe and to form my own opinion. But it is already clear to me that the students, teachers and staff are ready to make progress and get things done."

McCarthy says that he is "very excited about the interview process and in the business for 47 years. I'm excited to get to know the principal, I want to help the board as needed while I'm in the status quo phase in the interim period."

But I do want to see what the most important initiatives at the school."

Freinhofer added that McCarthy has considerable educational administration experience, including 19 years as the Superintendent of Schools of the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union and 4 years at the principal of the Mansfield Valley Union High School. He is looking forward to working with students again.

McCarthy lives in St. Albans with his wife, Pam. They have four grown children and five grandchildren.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

An excavator from Munson Earth Moving Corp. of Williston lowers a trench box for working on installing a new jet hydrant Friday. This was the last of the main waterline installations for Church Street, Maple Street, Slapp Hill and Vermont Avenue. Spot paving is scheduled to begin this week.

## Church Street Project On Home Stretch

by Michael Seltzer

**HARDWICK** — The big Church Street waterline upgrade project has an end in sight. Contractor Munson Earth Moving Inc. plans to be out of town in just over a week.

The project's goal was upgrading water line pipes from 4 inches to 12 inches in diameter to 8, which would increase water pressure and quality. It also looks up with replacement of an old, underground line, which should also improve water quality.

A Munson representative had previously said their target was to finish by mid-summer.

Town manager Jon Jewett said that now they are finishing construction by the Town House, jacking up sections of road that were dug up and facing some damaged areas of sidewalk. They will also replace

sid hydrants along the line. "They plan to be out of here by the 26th," said Jewett.

Later in the summer, another contractor will pave the whole road, all the way to the Vermont Avenue connection.

Jewett said "suburbanization" accelerated the removed pipes in quality. Tuberculosis is a kind of rust that builds up inside the iron pipes' water flow.

The new pipes are made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which is non-metallic and therefore almost corrosion-free. These PVC pipes are engineered to last longer than the pipes they are replacing.

Another project making progress is widening of South Main Street. The contractor for this job will install stormwater pipes to take water off the street and into ditches.

Before the water gets in the riv-

er, it flows through a swirl separator, which takes out the sand. This is to comply with state and federal water quality control regulations related to stormwater runoff from roads.

The utility pole replacement has almost been completed by FairPoint Communications still needs to meet their commitment of removing their poles and equipment. Jewett said FairPoint knows of the desired time frame, so that they would remove them, the town may need to have someone else perform the work.

Once all the lines are set of the utility poles, the contractor can push the sidewalk back and ultimately widen the whole street. Jewett said this area of South Main Street has been a trouble spot for cars trying to break out from the parking spaces in front of the elementary school.

jalapeno and kalamata olives, as well as prepared salsa using, small Smoke And Cure Peppers, Chipotle, Fresno Cheddar, pineapples, and kalamata olives.

For those nervous about raw fish, there's no need to worry — all the rolls are cooked. For those who only for Vermont Sushi.

This Friday, they are bringing something new. They plan to be at the Hardwick Farmer's Market to show off their product to a hungry crowd.

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