

Willey Building Rates Up, Library May Be Charged For Use

by Will Walters

CABOT — There are two public hearings set for February 27, one for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and another for Town Meeting 2017. With the town voting on all of these articles by Australian ballot, there will be more articles for discussion at the hearing. The select board will provide further information on the time and place as the date draws closer, but the public should mark their calendars for this important date.

The Town Meeting article for the zoning and planning commission will have an amendment on securing rates to houses. The select board will be asking the Planning and Zoning Committee lead by Karen Deacy to add an amendment to the proposed amendment. The amendment will allow handicapped entryways, ramps, and other necessary access improvements to be approved without a variance in certain situations. Currently, especially in the village, required accessibility modifications need a variance which can be a lengthy process. In

situations where a project does not impact the road right of way and can minimize impact to the select board, it should be approved with out a lengthy process. The planning commission voted at its December meeting.

Deacy said the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission will do an inventory of the town's roads which will be a digital program on a tablet.

The select board approved a two-percent increase for Utility Partners to operate the water and wastewater systems.

There should be better lighting in the auditorium of the Willey Building with the replacement of 22 lights. The building had new storm guards installed on the roof. The reconstruction of Town Clerk Betty Ritter, the rates for the Willey Building were increased from \$75 to \$100. The refundable cleaning deposit increased from \$150 to \$300. The best first which can be a lengthy process. In

SEE RATES, 2



Photo by Vanessa Fournier
 Hardware experienced zero or below zero temperatures from December 26 to January 7. The coldest actual temperature recorded was -30 on January 7. Chimney smoke could be seen throughout town as homes and businesses stayed warm. This photo was taken on Cottage Street.



Photo by Vanessa Fournier
 The studio of the Vermont Glass Workshop on Mainville Road caught fire on December 29. Co-owner Harry Besett's work rack exploded with a bang, blowing the roof over the fire. Friends and neighbors have set up a GoFundMe campaign to assist them in rebuilding their business.

Vermont Glass Workshop Studio Catches Fire

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — The studio of the Vermont Glass Workshop on Mainville Road caught fire on December 29. According to co-owner Harry Besett, he was doing year-end accounting and trying to keep the studio warm using a space heater. He went to get a coffee and when he returned, the studio was in flames. "It wasn't anything related to glassmaking," he says. "I called 911 and Hardwick Fire was here in 10 minutes on an incredibly short amount of time. Things like this

you lose track of time, but they were here very quickly. Thanks to the well-trained response of Hardwick Fire, we didn't lose the entire building." All of their inventory was lost in the blaze, but only half of the building burned. No one was hurt in the fire. Besett says that insurance should cover a good bit of the damage, but won't cover everything and cannot make up for the loss of inventory. Most of their equipment is salvageable. Harry and Wendy Besett have been in business since 1984. Besett says he is overwhelmed by

Photo by Doug McClure

the support they've received since the fire. "We are incredibly grateful for the supporting of support," he says. "Someone in our rebuilding, we would like to honor them. It would be in form of very good people, and that's something you don't find everywhere else." Besett says their next steps are to "re-group and rebuild." Friends of the Besetts from New Hampshire have organized a GoFundMe campaign to help with that process. For information, search for "Vermont Glass" at gofundme.com.

Alternative School Structure Proposal Garners Little Input

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY — School District 3 is proposing an Act 46, Section 9 alternative school structure, instead of meeting with other districts, won't know the outcome of their plans until November. The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) is proposing an alternative school structure under Act 46, Sec. 9. A section of the report deals with Craftsbury as a part of that alternative structure.

for the December 26, 2017, deadline. In its response, the AOE stated, "Finally, note that the State Board has for decades had full authority to redraw SD boundaries — although it would not divide members of a union elementary/high school district."

the U.S. Marshal Service, the U.S. Attorney General, and the United States Attorney. Police have yet to determine how Davis got to Barret, and say he did not have a "notable history" with law enforcement. At this point, authorities do not believe the murder was random. Anyone with information is asked to contact authorities.

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Road Conditions Raise Temperatures

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO — Winter delights some but brings misery for others, leading to a heated select board meeting at the closing of the year. A tractor trailer stuck at the intersection of Garvin Hill Road and Jasper Hill Farm Road and a mail to town officials about sanding routes set the stage for a contentious exchange.

the amount of sand applied to roads." "I got stranded," Garvin Hill Road was hazardous for much of the day and we had an 18-wheeler stuck at TH41 for two hours, waiting for a sander. Chuck Willey finally arrived to sand the Town Road.

A rumor that the board was retaining sand usage on roads was adamantly refuted by Vice Chair Peter Romano. Chair Susan Wood said the board is trying to coordinate with business owners of Jasper Hill Farms (JHF) and Hill Farms. However, when deliveries by tractor trailers are made, which accommodating town residents and school buses.

Remains posted on the e-mail. The select board has made no such change in policy or suggested anything of that nature to the road crew. "We included our foreman, Tom Camara in this message." At the board meeting in December, discussion focused on the competence of the driver of the tractor trailer driver who had gotten stuck. It was noted the tractor truck didn't have winter tires. The driver, who was unidentified, had the assistance of someone from JHF to get the vehicle unstuck.

In a phone interview, Wood said, "We are working with Jasper Hill and the crew to come up with solutions that work for everyone. We are making sure we are taking care of our roads for everyone."

Remains noted in a phone interview. "We have fuel trucks, grain trucks, milk trucks, and delivery trucks come and going and I've heard only one time there was a problem. It is not like our roads are not negotiable if you have people

SEE INPUT, 8

Photo by Vanessa Fournier
 Chris McElroy and Dan Bailey of Morgan Construction in Bennington work on the new Green Mountain Technology and Center (GMTCC) signposts for week. The crew of five will have the 82 x 23-foot building, which is located on the Hazen Union campus, finished by September 11.

In Sports

Hazen Girls Win Hockey Tournament

Winfield Boys Get Their First Win

Wildcat Boys Win Two in a Row

Town Buildings Struggle to Keep Heat on

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — According to town manager Jon Jewett, the town and local businesses have struggled to maintain sufficient supplies of heating fuel and avoid damages to infrastructure amid the latest deep freeze.

Hardwick and they were using seasonal drivers who may not be as familiar with the buildings and where the tanks are, and some tanks were skipped a few times.

"That's a major issue and I think the fuel dealer companies know that," said Jewett. "They were very apologetic to us. We are on automatic delivery." In addition to the Memorial Building and The Granite building, Jewett said there was another building by the North Main Street bridge that was having issues with the cold and the Depot, home to the

"A lot of people have been struggling through this cold weather to keep up," Jewett said. "I think the fuel companies have been struggling and I think people have been struggling to pay for this, too."

Presently, there is no significant threat when maintaining adequate heating fuel levels is a challenge. Water pipes will freeze and then burst when the heat goes out, resulting in further flooding and water damage. Jewett said one way to avoid this is to get an auto-refill plan set up with the supplier.

Frozen

by Doug McClure

STANNARD — After a frigid end to 2017, 2018 began with brutally cold temperatures. The official reporting station in Morrisville broke records for four consecutive days on December 27 to 30 and nearly broke it for the 31st. Lights flickered as the strain on the electric grid grew straining as people trying to stay warm; parts of Wolcott and Ferrisburgh experienced outages. Even Camara was not immune; a company technician explained that freezing water

SEE HEAT, 8



Photo by Vanessa Fournier

Gagnon's Video, on Mill Street in downtown Hardwick, is closing after serving the community for 25 years. Mayor Alan Gagnon gave control of the "book" in his window. They plan to close the store for good at the end of January, unless a buyer can be found. The business has been described as an "anchor" and as having had a "wonderful impact on the community."

Gagnon's Video Packs Up Shop After 25 Years

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — After two-and-a-half decades as a corner-store destination for entertainment, game nights and friendly discussion on current events, Gagnon's Video Store is closing.

they would really appreciate that the community returns rented movies and cost outstanding balances. "One remaining question is what to do with all those DVDs. She said they are currently looking for a buyer and remain hopeful to "find the right match in someone, or some organization, that will see the use in helping the collection intact and work to keep it as a resource in this area."

Owner Mary Gagnon said the decision was related to the difficulty of obtaining affordable health insurance as a small business. They could no longer run the store enough hours and her husband, Alan Gagnon, took a new job in human services to provide for health insurance coverage.

She said they are looking forward to some of the extra time off, especially to participate more in community organizing and activism.

Officially, the store shut at the start of the week. The Gagnons are now in the process of moving out, which is expected to be done by the end of the month. On that note,

"We both feel this community has treated us with such love and respect, and we will never be able to fully express just how grateful we are."

SEE GAGNON'S, 3