

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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## Group Rallies in Craftsbury to 'Save the USPS'

by Doug McClure

CRAFTSBURY — A group gathered across from the Craftsbury Post Office on Saturday, joining a nationwide effort to "Save the Post Office from Trump."

People who participated in the demonstration stated they were concerned that President Trump's newly-appointed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy "has reassigned or displaced dozens of postal executives" and "called for hiring freezes, slashed hours, and created long delays, even stopping delivery in some places."

Recent media footage shows USPS workers removing equipment and there are reports that mail is being delayed, which some fear will impact the upcoming election. The disruption has also impacted New England farmers: some discovered their postal deliveries of live chicks had arrived dead.

"It just feels like something is being jeopardized that should never be touched," said Peggy Sapphire of Craftsbury. "It's personal because of our continuing relationships with



photo by Doug McClure

On Saturday, August 22, a group of people gathered across from the Craftsbury Post Office as a part of a National Day of Action to "Save the Post Office from Trump." People were concerned about cuts made to the USPS by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, which have impacted service and may impact the upcoming election.

people, and with our country and with institutions. We want to know that the mail we write, the letters we write are going to get there. It's against the law to interfere with an envelope that's been sitting in your box, and here we have somebody who's looking over the entire

country and he's interfering in all our lives."

Michelle Gueanard, of Stowe, said people from larger towns and cities may not understand the impact changes to the USPS will have on small rural communities.

"We don't have the option of just going to Wal-Mart or a local store, we depend on the Post Office," Gueanard said. "We can't just hop in our car and go two minutes and pick something up. A lot of things have to be delivered

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## West Church Street Residents Tired of Speed, Shortcuts

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — At the August 6 Hardwick Select Board meeting, West Church Street resident Scott Merrill brought a petition signed by numerous residents concerned about vehicles speeding on West Church Street. The residents also expressed concern that the street is being used as a "cut-through" from North Main Street to Wolcott Street.

In response to the petition, Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Chief Aaron Cochran deployed a cruiser to periodically monitor the street and HPD installed a driver safety sign with a speed readout display. Some residents reported they have been watching the sign. Rev. Dr. Evelyn Lavelli said that after returning from a walk "I was partway down West Church, and I heard this car come whipping around the corner. And as he got right about where you live, that sign started flashing: 47 [m.p.h.] And literally, he slowed down. I started applauding." Lavelli said she appreciated the sign, but feared it might only be a temporary measure.

Resident Michael Haveson said he has observed the sign flashing in response to speeding drivers multiple times.

Merrill said he believes the town should install "three to four more" signs as Woodbury and Craftsbury have done, but

added that without enforcement the signs may not be effective. "I can't believe the police can't enforce it," he said.

Haveson said that while he applauds the town for installing the sign, "enforcement is never going to happen."

"This has been an issue for West Church Street residents for decades," Haveson said. "I believe speed bumps will be the only remedy." Haveson added that statistics support the idea that speed bumps slow traffic down.

"The town finally installed them at the diner," Haveson said. "Some will argue that they make it difficult to plow in the winter, so, remove them in the winter."

As of the August 19 select board meeting, Cochran said he had not yet retrieved data from the sign for the HPD to review.

"If you stand by watching cars drive by you, you're not able to accurately judge the speed of the vehicle," Cochran said, adding that speed can only be accurately observed "from head on."

"We get a lot of people that say vehicles are speeding, when in fact the data doesn't show that's the case," he said.

Cochran described law enforcement as a "trained eye" and said the average layperson "isn't trained to judge speed."

Chief Cochran said 25 m.p.h. is "the lowest enforceable speed in the state of Vermont.

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photo by Doug McClure

In response to residents' concerns over speeding on West Church Street, Hardwick Police installed a driver feedback sign to record data and vehicles' velocity on that street.