

Apolo to the Library Board Still in the News

by Will Walters

CABOT — Apollo received a stay of execution. The select board postponed changing the town's dog ordinance at Friday's meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the board is August 15.

Chair Ted Donney put off deciding whether to change the town's dog ordinance at the request of Librarian Kathleen Hoyne because she was on vacation this week. Apollo is Hoyne's dog and accompanies her to the library, where he mingles with patrons and sits in on Tuesday morning story hour.

The librarian reads stories to the youngsters and Apollo is right there, quick to nudge them for a pat, as dogs do.

The board wants to amend the dog ordinance to add the rules for dogs in apartment buildings in the village and to ban dogs from the library unless they are service or aid dogs.

Hoyne, Apollo's owner, first learned of the proposal to change the dog ordinance from The Gazette five days after the board first discussed the issue. She was extremely unhappy that she was not informed by the board, because the change would affect both her dog and the library.

Neither she nor the library trustees were directly informed that the select board was considering an issue that, under state law, may not be within the board's jurisdiction.

Policy decisions such as limiting someone's access to a public place may be at the sole discretion of the library's board of trustees. According to the April, 2010 edition of The Law of Libraries, a booklet that is "a joint publication of the Office of the Secretary of State and the Vermont Department of

Libraries," a public library's board of trustees "shall have full power to manage the public library, make bylaws, elect officers, establish a library policy, and receive, control, and manage property... 22 V.S.A. § 143(a)." The law gives library trustees wide authority over the services provided to the public.

The stated reason that the select board is addressing the issue is a concern over liability if there were an incident between Apollo and a library visitor. Based on feedback from library patrons, it is a solution looking for a problem.

Hoyne said that for her dog has been coming to the library for eight years and has yet to even growl or bark at anyone. She said that if there were any sign that could be an issue, she would not bring Apollo with her.

She added that the library trustees would step in if they were concerned about any liability issue in the library's activities.

One young regular patron of the library, William Talbert, said that he liked Apollo and got along well with him, even though he's allergic to dogs. He assessed the board's proposed action as "dumb."

Another patron checking out a book asked: "Do they have better things to do?" He offered to bring the board members up to inform them and put them through "the usual liturgy for the dog."

Such incidents are common around the state's libraries, though they are rarely certified as service or therapy dogs.

Burham Memorial Library, 14 Colchester Street in Westbury, is scheduled to hold readings sessions on Tuesday, August 15. Contact Kelly McCagg said that there See APOLLO, Page Four



Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) firefighters demonstrate how to extract an accident victim from a vehicle at the Wolcott VFD Open House. Back, left to right: Firefighter Nate Farnham, First Captain Steve Perkins, and Firefighter Eddie Kish; front, left to right: Firefighters Jason Truf and Jacob Jones.

Open House Extraction

photo by Doug McClure

Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) firefighters demonstrate how to extract an accident victim from a vehicle at the Wolcott VFD Open House. Back, left to right: Firefighter Nate Farnham, First Captain Steve Perkins, and Firefighter Eddie Kish; front, left to right: Firefighters Jason Truf and Jacob Jones.

New Fines for Village Parking Lot Speeders

By Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — Motorists who cut through the public parking next to the Village Restaurant to avoid the flashing red light at the town's main intersection have some concerned residents wondering how long it will take before a disaster. Soon, those drivers will pay for their poor judgment.

Drivers that cut through the parking lot "are not really paying attention to the cars backing out of their parking spaces, or the people walking in the parking lot," said Hardwick Town Manager Jon Jewett.

According to Jewett, the danger gets worse when drivers speed up while attempting to beat cars coming down Wolcott Street.

The town is putting up a barrier to block cars from entering the parking lot from Main Street, in addition to passing an ordinance. The traffic ordinance update will occur sometime in August, according to the town.

"We put it in our driving ordinance that drivers can't enter from that side anymore," he said. "One that ordinance goes into effect, they'll get a ticket."

South Main Street Project After several years of planning, the South Main Street project is in high gear. Storm water infrastructure, new sidewalks, moved utility poles, and LED street lights are all in the works.

The board felt uneasy about how high the bid from Landier's Excavating was at \$5,775. Lambert's installed the Nelson Road culvert last year and did "excellent work," according to Gray.

"I was concerned about the difference between the two bids, I was a little worried that maybe they (Natural High) didn't know quite what they were getting into, but it sounds like they've been doing this work for a while." The board chose Natural High.

Desroches Construction Services of Jeffersonville continues to install drainage pipes and catch basins on South Main Street. The project also includes new sidewalks and paving (see story at right).

Town Signs Purchase, Sale Agreement for Old Country Store Despite Unanswered Question

by Michael Bielawski

WOODSBURY — On Friday, the select board accepted the purchase and Sale Agreement from sellers Kirk Gollant and Kim Samples for the decaying country store, despite questions about an 11th-hour contingent of the owners proposed.

Board chair Michael Gray and board member Guy Bonelle signed off on a letter stating that, if a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Program grant for purchase and demolition of the store does

not go through, the town must refrain from any attempts to take the property via legal means.

Board member Tom Lindsay directed his support for the letter. He agreed with other residents at the meeting that he "felt it was a compromised two deals."

Gray was an attorney, Paul Gillies, any attempt to obtain the property without financial aid is likely not workable.

All three board members voted for the purchase.

Without a signed agreement by the 31st of July, a \$40,000 grant from the Central Vermont Brownfields Program for a site contamination study would expire. This component is mandatory for the FEMA program to continue.

Resident Norm Elkind was in the audience and voiced his support for the passing of this important checkpoint.

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Natural High, LLC, from Hardwick bid the lowest, at \$26,500. They included an \$1,800 option of placing filtering fabric in the soil for erosion prevention. Regional road crews recommend Natural High for their work.

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Wolcott Fire Department Presents New Truck at Open House

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT — On a sparkling Saturday morning, the Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) held an open house to give the town a first-hand look at the new truck the town bought for them.

"We want to show them where their money went," said Chief Jim Holton.

The truck in question is a fire-tender Volvo pump with lots of technology that will help the VFD fight fires more effectively.

It has a generator to power the firefighters' tools, such as metal saws. The truck also comes with an array of adapters, because the connectors for the hydrants vary in diameter between the cities. It can pump water from ponds and rivers, if need be. Because the area they serve is rural and due to the freezing temperatures in winter, most of the hydrants they use are "dry hydrants". These are pipes that pull water from the bottoms of rivers or ponds when pressurized. The earth around the pipes is frozen, so they can't be used as major freezing.

The new truck joins two other trucks. The VFD is selling its 1990-era converted ambulance and wants to replace it with an off-road vehicle. They have to do this because the injured hikers up Mount Elmore sometimes, Chief Holton said.

Wolcott residents also came out to check out the new truck. The fire burgers were very popular and a bounce house kept the kids distracted. A lot of folks wanted to thank the VFD for their forty-one years of keeping Wolcott safe.

Firefighter Nate Farnham was busy showing a woman a TIC, or thermal imaging camera. A fire effective fire extinguisher use. A Volkswagen Jetta used by the fire department was on display. Old-timers attended the open house and exchanged fire stories. No one could recall anything bigger than the fire at an old grist mill that the town's Furnace didn't know. Chief Holton recalled running him his wife's hair salon in a flaming two-foot square object dropped out of the sky right next to him.

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lived on Mory Hill Road. One day, fire trucks came speeding by his house and he chased after them on his four-wheeler to watch the firefighters in action. The next day, he made his mom take him down to the Fire House to sign up as a junior firefighter.

The VFD has programs for cadets (aged fourteen to sixteen) and junior firefighters (ages sixteen to eighteen) which provide the training and skills necessary to become volunteer firefighters.

Through the cadet program is new, two candidates have already expressed interest. The cadets mostly observe, though VFD teaches them CPR.

Junior firefighters go out on calls, except for special cases such as those that might involve hazardous materials. Most of the work they do is handling tools for the firefighters. The main event of the open house was a demonstration of extracting a victim from a vehicle. Vehicle extractions are the most common types of calls for fire departments, not because fatalities are common, especially prone to crashes, because it has a high rate of 36 mph road work within two ten-mile stretches of 50 mph highway.

Vehicle extractions are not only educational and entertaining for the open house, but also an additional training for the firefighters. Assistant Chief Mike Shedd is Wolcott's fire training officer. He is also an emergency personnel, the better. The Fire Department trainees on Monday night and gets HazMat (hazardous materials) training from the state. Shedd is scheduled for the Wolcott School to schedule CPR training sessions for teachers. Classes start this fall. VFD has already trained school personnel on fire extinguisher use.

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Kingdom Farm an Food Days in August

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — This August, the ninth annual Kingdom Farm and Food Days will celebrate agricultural practices across the region, with various hosts offering up anti-hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) testing, while opening their facilities to the public.

The dates are August 18, 19, 20, and 20th. There will be 19 different booths from across the Northeast Kingdom.

From Island Pond to Craftsbury, Newport Center to St. Johnsbury, locals and visitors can take workshops and farm tours with lambs and honey bees, taste smoothies made of local yogurt, and craft cheese and blacksmithing demonstrations, try local beers and spirits and kick up their heels to local music and the event's press release states.

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shops. Activities include "A Polin'ator Safari" with John Hayden of A Farm Between, "Organic Not Production" with Keith Morris of Project Farm, and "Hug Production" with UVM's Scott Levine, and more.

Sophia Barnawell of Caledonia Spirits said that they will have their own craft beer, "Hug Production" with UVM's Scott Levine, and more.

Hardwick's Center for an Agricultural Economy will also do its part. They'll have a free tour of the Thorn Hill Farm in Greensboro, where winter ryegrass and barley grow.

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