

# The REPORTER

Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland  
Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Whiting, Sudbury, Gosben

Vol. 27, No. 26

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

75¢



## BRANDON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Brandon has a full slate of events planned for its July 2 Independence Day festivities

PGS. 1 & 7

## PROCTOR SELECT BOARD

Proctor sets water and sewer rates, and okays VAST bridge.

PG. 3



## PIZZA BY THE POND

Pizza by The Pond: Blueberry Hill Inn is serving some of the best pizza around during its summer concert series.

PG. 12

## BRANDON SELECT BOARD

Brandon takes a closer look at ongoing signage and zoning issues.

PG. 3



## SAFER SOCIETY

Safer Society celebrates 40 years of publishing, prevention, and education on sexual and social violence.

PG. 2

## Kimble eager to headline Brandon's Independence Day celebration, parade

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — For more than 40 years, the town of Brandon has held a parade and celebration in honor of America's birthday. This year's Independence Day celebration will take place on Saturday, July 2 — America's 246th.

This year's Grand Marshall, Warren Kimble, has long been a fixture of those parades, dressed customarily as

Uncle Sam. At 87, this year will mark Kimble's first time serving in an official capacity.

"I guess I've just been in the parade for too long," he said

when asked why he thought he'd been chosen for Grand Marshall duties.

Kimble, who first moved to Brandon from New Jersey in 1970, said he's got too many memories to recount. "We've done it in the pouring rain and got soaked, and when it was so hot, we'd get overheated," he said. "It's always been one of the best parades in the state."

*"The parade is so old-fashioned and traditional. It really portrays the warmth and character of this town."*

—Warren Kimble

"One year, we tried doing the parade twice through downtown, but that didn't work out so well,"

he said, telling the story of an

(See Brandon 4th, Page 7)



INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE Grand Marshall Warren Kimble.

Photo by Mat Clouser

## OV Principal Avery reflects on his years of service

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON — Jim Avery has been at Otter Valley for so long that his first students are old enough to be grandparents. He can honestly say that he's dedicated his career to the Otter Valley community. But next year's graduating class will receive their diplomas from a different hand: Jim Avery is leaving after more than 30 years.

Avery seemed at peace with his decision in his office on a beautiful summer day. The last

few years have been tough. His beloved wife, Mickey, passed away in 2019. She'd been by his side throughout his time at OV.

"Mickey was part of the community. The love I felt when I came back [after her death] was unbelievable," he said. "But the guy who was here in 2018 was changed." Avery paused momentarily as if hearing himself admit something for the first time. "It's probably fair to say I lost my mojo."

"Mojo" is something Avery

seemed to have in abundance throughout his career. Words you don't normally associate with school principals — kind, goofy, fun — are routinely offered whenever Avery's name is mentioned.

He's worn a kilt in rowdy faculty field hockey games and a fedora in a theater production of Guys & Dolls. Avery's participation in student theater became a hallmark of his tenure. "I was a jock. I'd never done it before. But I realized that the theater

(See Jim Avery, Page 8)



JIM AVERY

## SolarFest announces permanent Brandon home

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — For over 25 years, SolarFest has acted as a kind of traveling troubadour, utilizing art to inspire and educate about solar and other forms of renewable energy via its music-and-art festivals throughout Southwestern Vermont.

As of Wednesday, June 22, the nomadic portion of that existence was all but over. The non-profit organization formally announced its intention to put down permanent roots in Brandon at the old Steinberg Farm site on Steinberg Road.

SolarFest's search for a home

began in early 2021 following a generous donation from Tiffany and Kevin Bailey of High Peaks Solar in Wynantskill, New York. According to SolarFest's Mike Bailey (no relation), the group sent out over 140 letters to various select boards throughout the region, gauging their interest in

partnering on a new home.

They received about a dozen responses, of which Bailey said (See SolarFest, Page 15)





# Safer Society: working to prevent sexual and social violence for the past 40 years

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — For many, walking along the idyllic sidewalks of Park Street feels safe and cozy. The street exudes a nostalgic, wholesome quality—the kind one might find in a Norman Rockwell painting.

Nestled amongst the other homes, the large maple trees, and the radiant gardens is the big white house at 32 Park, with its modest Safer Society sign hanging on the porch. It hardly has the feel of a business, and by the looks of the street, the idea of a ‘safer society’ might seem like it’s already come to fruition.

And yet, anyone who’s dug deeper into Safer Society’s purpose realizes that the work behind the scenes is critical and far from over.

For 40 years, Safer Society has published “leading-edge, evidence-based books for the prevention of sexual and social violence.” Their books focus on aiding both the survivors and the enactors of these forms of violence. Most are workbooks for clinicians and their clients to utilize as part of their rehabilitation and reformation efforts.

“We’re the only publisher that would like to put ourselves out of business,” said Director of Safer Society Press Stephen Zeoli.

Safer Society’s founder, Fay Honey Knopp—quaker, pacifist, and former Orwell and Shoreham resident—began working as a prison visitor in the 1970s and quickly became convinced that significant changes were needed to the system. In 1975, with backing from the New York State Council of Churches, she founded the Prison Research Education/Action Project (PREAP).

By 1979, most of PREAP’s work had shifted toward society’s responses to sexual violence. Knopp sought a more appropriate response to that violence than, as she wrote, “warehousing the perpetrators in prison, neglecting sexual assault victims, and abdicating our responsibility to prevent such assaults.”

Throughout the 1980s, Knopp published her and others’ work under the Safer Society Press imprint. As PREAP became increasingly focused on sexual violence prevention and treatment, it was decided to replace the PREAP name with Safer Society Press and Program. Following Knopp’s death in 1995, Safer Society separated from the New York State Council of Churches, formed an independent 501(c) non-profit, and relocated to Brandon.



**SAFER SOCIETY FOUNDATION** staffers pitch in to help combat sexual and social violence. From left: Michelle Schubert, Stephen Zeoli, Sarah Snow Haskell, and David Prescott.

Photo by Mat Clouser

Their original offices and warehouse were destroyed in Tropical Storm Irene, after which they relocated to offices at The Granary for a time before moving onto Park Street about seven years ago.

These days, they also publish “The New Circle” magazine, which they describe as “a free digital magazine that reaches out to all those working with children and adolescents who are at risk across a range of environments, including the community, school, family, and peer group.”

In recent years, Safer Society has expanded its focus into a continuing education center that provides free and accredited online training and webinars. Though the programs began modestly, they are now one of only a few COVID success stories. The push towards telehealth sessions has allowed them to increase the number of event attendees from single digits into the 500-1000 range.

“It has been a great success to help clinicians stay in touch and not feel isolated,” said Zeoli.

Speaking about the treatment process, Director of the Continuing Education Center David Prescott said, “Research shows that punishing people doesn’t actually get them to change, but treatment does.”

“To be clear,” he continued, “it is about holding people accountable. But the question becomes, ‘what’s going to stop them in the future?’ And the answer is treatment.”

For many, it’s easy to demonize those who’ve perpetrated sexual violence, particularly against children. But Prescott says that

we can’t lose sight of these people’s humanity and that it is often through a human connection that they can make lasting change.

“We want to help people develop a lifestyle where hurting others is undesirable and unnecessary,” he said, “a lifestyle that is incompatible with offending.”

Prescott pointed to the good lives model (GLM) as a newer clinical development with good results. Essentially, the GLM is a strengths-based approach whose main idea is to minimize the bad people might do by building up the good.

The GLM website, goodlives-model.com, says the following about their approach: “It assumes that all individuals have similar aspirations and needs and that one of the primary responsibilities of parents, teachers, and the broader community is to help each of us acquire the tools required to make our own way in the world. Criminal behavior results when individuals lack the internal and external resources necessary to satisfy their values using pro-social means.”

According to Prescott, many of these offenders are often victims themselves. “We learn these violent lessons,” he said. “We learn that our transgressions are okay as long as you don’t get caught.”

He mentioned PTSD via exposure to violence and the related moral injuries that come from experiencing, witnessing, and committing acts of violence as a prevalent factor among the kinds of people he and the clinicians he educates are trying to help.

(See Safer Society, Page 22)

GOLD SPONSORS:

Heritage Family CREDIT UNION

Stewart's Shops  
DAKE FAMILY

SEASON SPONSORS:

CARRIS

FOLEY

SAMESUN

Vermont COUNTRY STORE

VELCO

**CAITLIN CANTY & NOAM PIKELNY**

W/ SPECIAL GUEST  
**VSO STRING QUINTET**

Presented at Pittsford Village Farm

**FRIDAY, JULY 8 | 7:30 PM**

THE PARAMOUNT PLAYERS and GRACE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH present

SHREK

THE MUSICAL

FRI, JULY 15 & SAT, JULY 16 | 7:00 PM  
SUNDAY, JULY 17 | 2:00 PM

POSTMODERN JUKEBOX

THE GRAND REOPENING TOUR

FRIDAY, JULY 29 | 8:00 PM

WELCOME BACK

2022 WORLD TOUR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 | 7:30 PM

I LOVE THE 90'S TOUR

VANILLA ICE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16 | 7:00 PM

LEWIS BLACK

OFF THE RAILS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 7:00 PM

KIP MOORE

FIRE ON WHEELS TOUR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 | 8:00 PM

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT:

ONLINE BOX OFFICE

PARAMOUNTVT.ORG

30 CENTER ST. | RUTLAND, VT | 802.775.0903



# Brandon select board jostles with signage, zoning issues

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — Several Brandon Zoning and Planning Department issues — including the administrator’s report, the addition of an alternate Planning Commission board member, and issues surrounding the Brandon Farmer’s Market’s request for additional days to their temporary signage permit — led a sprawling line of conversation that dominated the

proceedings in Monday night’s select board meeting.

Zoning Administrator Jeffrey Biasuzzi said it had been a better than average fiscal year for the department, citing forward progress regarding commercial zoning — particularly with the Solar Fest development of the old Steinberg Farm location on Steinberg lane. (See the Solarfest story on Page 1).

During the select board’s last

meeting, the board voted to shrink the Planning Commission’s board seats from seven to five to make it easier for the board — which has seen dwindling numbers — to reach a quorum at its meetings.

Biasuzzi, noting the potential to do business, volunteered as an alternate who could fill in if the board was short-staffed. After some conversation, it was determined that the board’s

preference would be to have someone else serve as the alternate as Biasuzzi is not a Brandon resident, at which point Sue Gage stepped up to volunteer. She was subsequently voted in unanimously.

Biasuzzi then moved the conversation toward the Farmer’s Market’s request for an extension on their permit for temporary signage from 42 days to 120. Several issues were raised

with the signage, including the board’s lack of authority to extend past 42 days based on state laws and ongoing non-compliance issues with the Farmer’s Market and a number of other downtown businesses.

At the heart of the matter were safety concerns, with the board noting that the town is under obligation to enforce state laws pertaining to right of (See Brandon select board, Page 7)

# Proctor sets water/sewer rates, VAST gets OK to build bridge

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — In a short but fast-paced meeting, the Proctor Selectboard approved water-sewer rates for the new fiscal year, renewed its contract with the Rutland County Sheriff’s department, appointed a cannabis control board, and granted the Chittenden Dammer’s VAST club permission to build a new bridge on a section of the Proctor Water Trail.

Doug Todd, of the Chittenden Dammers, made a presentation to the board describing the proposed bridge replacement, which will be done this fall. Because

the trail is on land owned by the town of Proctor, the selectboard had to OK the work. The selectboard told Todd they were all in favor of the proposed fix, and of the work the VAST clubs do to maintain the system’s trails. Todd thanked the board and said he’d keep them up to date with photos of the bridge replacement.

Town Manager Michael Ramsey briefed the selectboard on the town’s right of way situation with trees along the roadsides, noting that they had discovered several lots where trees were growing on the town right

of way, rather than on residential property. Because this could impact potential road activities in winter or summer, Ramsey said the town would be sending out notices in the near future to discuss possible solutions with those residents.

As part of the manager’s report, Ramsey noted that the Beaver Pond Committee is planning to make a chainsaw-carved statue of a beaver out of an 8-foot-tall tree stump at the pond, and also work on etching a more noticeable wooden sign (similar to state or national parks) identifying the picnic area at Beaver

Pond. Local resident Jim Moore has agreed to do the wood carving of the beaver.

Board discussion also focused on the southern end of the pond, which has a sandy beach for swimming. Because the pond is also a popular place for fishing, a current sign suggests that people

who are fishing near the beach move elsewhere when people are there to swim. “There’s just 10 degrees of the lake dedicated to swimming and the other 350 degrees of the shoreline can be used for fishing,” Selectman Tom Hogan said of town’s direc- (See Proctor select board, Page 22)

## Correction

**CORRECTION:**  
In last week’s story about the upcoming Davenport Electric Fest we incorrectly

named Green Mountain Energy as one of the main sponsors when it should have been Green Mountain power.

# Addison County’s Hometown Dealer



36 Boardman St.,  
Middlebury VT 05753  
802-388-6718  
gstonemotors.com

2149 Rt 7 South,  
Middlebury VT 05753  
802-388-9961  
stonecdjr.com





BRANDON REPORTER

# Editorial

Day 4 and more

## Trump's continuing travesty

Seemingly, the troubling aspects of the Trump drama never end. After the fourth day of testimony by the House committee looking into the Jan. 6 Capitol riot inspired by ex-president Donald Trump, those Americans paying attention now fully realize how callous and premeditated Trump's "big lie" has been.

This Tuesday, Cassidy Hutchinson, a former aide to Mark Meadows, the final chief of staff for ex-president Trump, testifies to what went on inside Trump's office on Jan. 6 when rioters were storming the Capitol, beating police, killing one at the scene and wounding over 100 other policemen and women defending the Capitol.

It's important to remember that most Americans, including former Republican Vice President Mike Pence, knew President Biden had fairly won the election by that time. They believed in the validity of the election and the validation provided by the numerous court challenges (over 60) of election results.

But because of a cowardly Republican Party, which at first recoiled at Trump's lie (that the election had been stolen from him) and then embraced it out of concern for their electability, the lie took hold, and those citizens with blind loyalty to Trump — rather than truth — fell in line like lemmings to Trump's piper.

The first consequence of that lie, and Trump's callous disregard of the truth, was the assault on the nation's Capitol. An assault in which the assailants chanted, "Hang Mike Pence," and came within seconds of the vice-president's exit from the building

— all while Trump watched approvingly from the safety of the White House. It's important to remember that Trump said of the mob's anger with Pence that perhaps he "deserved it." It's important to remember that four police officers would die from suicide shortly after the event, that another died during the battle after being beaten by the mob, that four pro-Trump rioters died (one of an overdose, and one being crushed by the mob), and that more than 150 police officers at the scene suffered injuries.

It was a full-fledged assault on the Capitol—an insurrection—which Trump encouraged the mob to commit, then weaseled out to hide in the White House as he watched gleefully on TV.

Whether Trump's role was a criminal act in which he could face prosecution is what these hearings are about. But more has come out of the hearings than many of us expected.

We knew Trump and his team had shown callous disregard for the truth and that his actions were potentially criminal. But we weren't so aware of how premeditated it had been and how his actions threatened the lives of the individuals he and his team singled out and/or pressured to illegally change election results on Trump's behalf.

The first three days of testimony laid out a solid case that Trump pursued his "big lie" even though he knew he had legitimately lost the election. We have learned that he shamelessly sought the lie for monetary gain and in the hope that he could overthrow the  
(See *Trump's travesty*, Page 23)



### Peek-a-boo

THIS YOUNG PORCUPINE was seen on a recent hike at Half Moon State Park.

Photo by Sue Wetmore



## Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

### End of session wrap-up part II

Through much hard work the Vermont House passed legislation to address our housing crisis, stabilize the public pension system, support young families through a child tax credit, continue universal free school meals, invest in clean water and our climate, and improve the health care system. I have highlighted these bills, so that you can better understand our work for Vermont. I am proud that all parties came together to support these important issues.

#### EXPANDING SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Bolstering our housing stock is a top priority. Through federal COVID relief funds, over \$42 million was earmarked this year in S.210 and S. 226 to help renters and homeowners:

- \$20 million - forgivable loans to property owners to bring rental properties back online, plus incentivize the construction of new Accessory Dwelling Units to expand rental housing stock.
- \$22 million - subsidize construction to lower costs for middle-income homebuyers, plus \$1 million to the Vermont Housing

Finance Agency for down payment grants for first-generation homebuyers.

- Reform zoning laws, expand tax credits, and create pilot projects to encourage denser development and more vibrant town centers.
- Create Advisory Land Access Board, composed of representatives of groups that have faced historic discrimination in land and home ownership.
- Extend additional protections from discrimination and harassment for renters and homebuyers.
- Create a statewide contractor registry to protect against consumer fraud in residential construction projects valued over \$10,000.
- Use federal relief money to increase the capacity of the Department of Fire Safety to conduct rental inspections.

#### FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR OUR PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEM

The General Assembly has put the state's public pension system on a path towards long-term sustainability, so that teachers,

troopers, and all state employees can rely on a funded, solvent system when they retire. Legislators balanced commitments — in the face of a \$5.6 billion unfunded liability that would have continued to grow without action.

The state will contribute \$200 million in one-time surplus revenues. Meanwhile, teachers and state employees will increase and restructure their contributions — and accept a small adjustment to cost-of-living increases. The governor vetoed the bill, but the House and Senate voted unanimously to override the veto.

#### SUPPORTING VERMONT FAMILIES/SOCIAL SECURITY AND MILITARY RETIREMENT

The Vermont Child Tax Credit will give \$1,000 per year to parents and guardians for every qualifying child five years of age or younger. The bill increases the Child and Dependent Care Credit to 72% of federal CDCC. It creates a deduction for all interest paid on student loans, increases income thresholds for existing Social Security benefits exclusion by \$5,000 and creates new  
(See *Legislative Wrap*, Page 15)

## The Reporter

Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland  
Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Whiting, Sudbury, Goshen



Angelo Lynn  
Editor/Publisher



Christy Lynn  
Director of Sales,  
Associate Publisher



Mat Clouser  
News Editor



Tom Van Sant  
Marketing Account  
Executive



Sepi Alavi  
Graphic Designer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

Postmaster, send address change to The Reporter,  
58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753 • Phone: 802-388-4944  
Email: news@brandonreporter.com, ads@brandonreporter.com

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by the Addison Press, Inc., 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753.  
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$45.00 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$55.00  
The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur.



# Letters to the Editor

## Could Brandon be first to hit state's energy goals?

BY JIM EMERSON

The Brandon Energy Committee is in the process of setting goals for the coming fiscal year. To start, we are reviewing our vision and motivation. We want this conversation to be public and transparent, and we welcome community input as we determine how we can best serve our town.

We are a committee charged by the Select Board with the mission of assisting the residents, businesses, and government of the Town of Brandon in achieving the goals that the state has set for transitioning to renewable energy (to 90% by 2050) and decreasing generation of greenhouse gases (by 75% from 1990 levels by 2050).

While these goals are worthy, they provide no inspiration to act. An old adage suggests that "people perish for a lack of vision." We are looking to formulate a vision that inspires our community to unite in this goal of clean, independent energy.

We have accomplished several important goals in this past year, including supporting SolarFest in choosing Brandon as their new permanent home. Another we are announcing soon is a survey to help us understand the baseline emission Brandon

generates now, as well as how much renewable energy is being generated.

Brandon is already a uniquely attractive and desirable town with many special characteristics, as we all know. We have a responsive and forward-thinking town government, a thriving artistic community, and an attractive, vital downtown. We believe the addition of SolarFest, with its emphasis on the arts, family fun, and education will be a great fit for the town.

The Brandon Museum and our committee will be bringing more and more focus to our town as the home of the first patented electric motor in the world. One could say that we are the home of electric power in the world!

Why not be another first? Why not be the first town to reach the state goals in Vermont? Our nation has already passed the point where converting to renewables and cutting greenhouse gas emissions makes economic sense, on top of the environmental advantages. Now the cost savings are about double what they were even six months ago.

Electric vehicles, while slightly more expensive up-front, show huge savings in fuel and repair costs. Heat pumps and improved insulation save on those

surprise winter propane bills, and renewable energy like residential solar allows both to be subsidized by electricity you can generate right on your roof.

What would Brandon be like with a 90% reduction in road noise, a 75% reduction in polluting emissions from our homes and on our streets? What if, by maximizing our solar potential, we could produce enough energy to power our town? What cumulative savings might we all achieve?

This latter question we will try to answer in the coming year, as we recognize cost savings as the major driver of the change the state advocates. We will strive to provide information that will assist you in improving your finances, your health, and your community. We intend to inspire you as best we can, and to serve as a model for towns around Vermont and the nation. Look for our monthly articles published here in *The Reporter*, and we'll put them on the Reporter's website and town website as well.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions. For openers we ask, why not be first?

Feel free to contact me at [sirjimes@gmail.com](mailto:sirjimes@gmail.com).

*Jim Emerson, for the Brandon Energy Committee*

## VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region partners with Stratton Foundation

RUTLAND — The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region is pleased to partner with the Stratton Foundation, a community-based non-profit organization caring about the health and welfare of children and families in Southern Vermont. Through the Stratton Foundation's "Feed the Community" initiative and outreach in times of crisis, the agency received \$2000 in gift cards for groceries and gas. The cards will be distributed to patients served in Arlington, Danby, Dorset, Manchester, and Sunderland.

"Our care teams see firsthand the effects of poverty, the pandemic, and inflation," said Sara C. King, CEO. "This generous gift for our patients who face financial challenges and hardships will provide some relief in these challenging times."

"We are pleased to partner with community agencies like the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region," said Tammy Mosher, Executive Director of The Stratton Foundation. "By partnering with agencies on the frontlines of serving the community, we know this gift will help those in need."

The Stratton Foundation is providing \$120,000 worth of grocery and gas cards throughout southern Vermont, working closely with schools and organizations for distribution.

The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region is one of the State's largest home health and hospice service providers. Last year, 3,900 individuals received services from the agency, from newborns to individuals over 100.

# EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

## VERMONT-GROWN ORGANIC CANNABIS PRODUCTS



**LOTIONS**



**OILS**



**PET PRODUCTS & PRE-ROLLS**



**GUMMIES**



**VERMONT TERPS CANNABIS ORGANIC FARM**

(802) 483-6503 • 4270 VERMONT ROUTE 7, PITTSFORD

[WWW.VTTERPS.COM](http://WWW.VTTERPS.COM)

# 4TH OF JULY SPARKLING SALE!



**2018 SUBARU OUTBACK**  
Premium, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, Only 72k miles  
**\$24,995**



**WIMETT TRADING COMPANY**  
USED CARS AND TRUCKS  
**802 465 4688**



**2014 TOYOTA 4-RUNNER**  
SR5, V6, Auto, 4x4, 3rd Row Seats, 133k miles  
**\$24,995**



**2015 TOYOTA TACOMA**  
DB Cab, SR5, Long Bed, V6, Auto, 4x4, 112k miles  
**\$27,995**



**2019 TOYOTA TACOMA**  
DB Cab, SR5, Short Bed, V6, Auto, 4x4, 40k miles  
**\$37,995**



**2011 TOYOTA TACOMA**  
Access Cab, SR5, 4-Cyl, 5-Speed Manual, 4x4, 180k.  
**\$14,995**

**AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS**

We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments  
*Call Dave for an appointment*

**Wimett Trading Company**  
*at the Big White Barn in Leicester*

David Wimett, 35 Years Experience  
C. Michael Jackman, 40 Years Experience  
**802-465-4688**  
2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • [wimetttradingco@gmail.com](mailto:wimetttradingco@gmail.com)

More than a decade of delivering Quality!



# Obituaries

## Elenita Ann Jennings, 89, Brandon

BRANDON — Elenita Ann Jennings, age 89, passed away Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at her home in Brandon surrounded by family after a seven and a half year battle with dementia that she fought with courage, grace and dignity.

Elenita was born in Brandon on September 25, 1932. She was the daughter of Walter and Florence (Bashaw) Hayes. She was a lifelong Brandon resident, who grew up here and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1951.

In her earlier years she had worked as an operator for New England Telephone. She later was employed by Brown's Pharmacy. She was a past member of the Neshobe Golf Club, where she enjoyed playing golf with family and friends. She enjoyed gardening and was an avid hockey



**ELENITA ANN JENNINGS**

and baseball fan.

She married the love of her life Duane (Skip) Jennings October 8, 1956 in Leicester, Vt. They met in high school when Nita was 15 and Skip was 16 and it was love at first sight. However, at nine years old Nita would watch out the window

to see Skip delivering milk with his uncle to the store next door and one day told her mother, "I'd like to marry that little boy someday" and 15 years later she did.

They had 65 wonderful happy years together having not spent one day apart. Wherever they went or whatever they did they were always together. Of all her jobs the one she loved the most was caring for and nurturing children. Family was everything.

She is survived by: her husband, Duane, of Brandon; one son, Kevin Jennings and his wife Debbie; a daughter, Luanne Merkert, and her husband Bob; grandchildren Allison Devino (Shawn), Dan Jennings (Brittini), Kyle Merkert (Becca), Chad Merkert (Sevelin) and Mariah Merkert (David); two great-grandchildren Jady and Carson Devino; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.



**ELENITA ANN JENNINGS**

She is also survived by special friends that became family: David and Rene Rubbins Breen of Goshen and their daughters Sarah, Callie, Julianna and Emma, who Elenita loved like grandchildren; and a very special brother-in-law Bertram (Bud) Coolidge.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Thomas Hayes and Walter Hayes, and two sisters, Alice Quesnel and Patricia Martin, and her wonderful sister-in-law Jane Coolidge.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in the family lot at Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to: Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT. 05733.

The family would like to extend special thanks to VNA and Hospice of Southwestern, Vt., who provided Nita with wonderful compassionate care throughout this long journey. "You girls are great."

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

## Leo Omer Larocque, 70, of Brandon

BRANDON — Leo Omer Larocque, age 70, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

Leo was born in Middlebury on Sept. 20, 1951. He was the son of Omer and Yvonne (Quenneville) Larocque. He grew up in West Salisbury where he received his early education and graduated from Middlebury Union High School, class of 1970. He farmed from his early days through high school. In the early 1970s he took a position at CVPS as a lineman. After a couple years he was propositioned to be a farm manager at a local farm. He eventually transitioned to become owner and operator of his own farm in Monkton for a decade.

As times changed, Leo secured a position at Co-operative Insurance Companies in Middlebury, Vt., where he worked for over 30 years. While working at Co-op Insurance in the 90s, he also opened and maintained several businesses — Carefree



**LEO OMER LAROCQUE**

Maintenance and Middlebury Sew N Vac. After retirement, he spent his days searching for "a good deal" — not to keep for himself, but to share his findings with others in his store, Upscale Resale. He has been a Brandon resident since 2012 moving here from Cornwall.

He enjoyed farming, yard sales, auctions, playing cards, traveling and meeting new people to chat with. Leo was a kind-hearted

man with a great sense of humor. He provided unconditional love and support to all his family, friends and anyone he met.

On May 22, 1971, Leo married his high school sweetheart, best friend and love of his life Penny Stevens. Together they raised four children.

He is survived by his wife, Penny (Stevens) Larocque of Brandon; three sons, Jason Larocque (Michele) of East Middlebury, Joshua Larocque (Lisa) of Leicester and Judson Larocque (Sarah) of West Salisbury; one daughter, Renee Porter (Tim) of Middlebury; four sisters, Jeannette Jackson of New Haven, Anita Larocque of West Salisbury, Susan Homick (Steve) of Middlebury and Pauline LaPlant of Ripton; three brothers, Marcel Larocque (Jean Rossier) of St. Albans, Paul Larocque of Middlebury, and Morris Larocque (Vivian) of Zephyrhills, Fla. Eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Roger Larocque and Harris Larocque.

A celebration of life will be held on July 10, from 1-4 p.m., at the VFW in Middlebury.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Brandon Fire Department or Brandon Rescue. Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

## Sheriff Peter Newton arrested

BY JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Vermont State Police arrested Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton this Tuesday, June 28, on charges of sexual assault, second-degree unlawful restraint and domestic assault, stemming from a months-long investigation into allegations of abuse reported by a woman with whom he was in a relationship.

Meanwhile, Addison County High Bailiff Dave Silberman became acting sheriff while Newton was in custody, and in a statement (below) to the Independent, called for Newton to immediately resign from office.

State police initiated their investigation into Newton on March 3, when detectives were assigned to follow up on a domestic disturbance reported to the Middlebury Police Department. The disturbance involved Newton, 50, and a person with whom he was in a relationship, according to a press release issued by state police. The disturbance had been reported during the early morning of Feb. 26 at Newton's Middlebury home.

State police investigators conducted multiple interviews with the 35-year-old woman at the heart of the case and developed "probable cause for the offenses" for which Newton has been charged, according to the press release. The case's lead investigator, Detective

Sgt. Angela Baker, was assigned from the VSP's Bureau of Criminal Investigations out of St. Albans in order "to avoid any potential conflicts of interest in pursuing the matter," according to state police.

The state police investigation was reviewed by the Washington County State's Attorney's Office for a determination on the appropriate charges, state police said. The Addison County State's Attorney's Office recused itself from the case.

Newton was taken into custody Tuesday morning while he was conducting contractor work at a construction job site in Middlebury. Troopers involved with the arrest said Newton did not resist. Two police cruisers could be seen in front of his Middlebury home early Tuesday afternoon while an investigation of his place took place.

Newton was expected to be arraigned in Burlington on Tuesday, though details remained unavailable as of this writing. More details in the case will be revealed in the investigatory affidavit that will be released following Newton's arraignment.

Newton announced this spring that he would not be running for re-election to a second, four-year term as Addison County sheriff. Currently, Republicans Michael Elmore (See Newton arrested, Page 21)

## Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to news@brandonreporter.com.

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.



# Brandon select board

(Continued from Page 3)

way guidelines. In particular, all class one roadways in the state must not have any signage within 24.5 feet of the centerline.

Both Biasuzzi and the board admitted the guidelines were not being met by many businesses in the downtown area.

In the end, it was decided that Town Manager Dave Atherton and Mr. Biasuzzi would explain in detail the laws to all the varying businesses downtown before making any moves to enforce them, with the thinking being that once everyone understands the state's position it will be easier for the town to seek compliance.

Board member Tim Guiles

made a point to clarify that he was in support of all businesses having the ability to display signage, but that they must do so legally to maintain safety in what is already a somewhat difficult downtown area.

In other business, the select board:

- Approved Town Manager Dave Atherton's ability to move forward with plans for a stormwater chamber project at the park on West Seminary Street that will be designed to catch more sediment and release cleaner water into the Neshobe River.

- Approved Lollie Hoxie as a new member of the Energy Committee to replace Lowell Rasmussen at the end of his

term.

- Agreed to write a letter in support of the Brandon Free Library's perusal of a VCHB grant for its upcoming renovations, contingent on Dave Atherton's ability to review the letter to determine that it suits the town's needs.

- Voted unanimously to forgo the enforcement of any late homestead filing fees.

- Approved the reassignment of the following budgeted funds: \$30,000 in travel and expenses, clothing allowances, professional development and fuel for BPD, \$5,262 in excess fundraising dollars for BPD's K-9 program, and \$8,000 in fuel for the buildings and grounds budget.

# Brandon Independence Day

(Continued from Page 1)

ill-fated Howard Dean float. "He was running for governor, I think. A pregnant woman was on the float, and on the second pass, she had the baby."

Kimble has long been a proponent of all things Brandon, including championing the arts—forming the Brandon Artist's Guild—and helping build Green park. He's lived in 19 different Brandon houses over the years and calls moving to town one of his most significant life decisions.

"Brandon's got good bones," he said. "I think we've changed [over the years] for the better."

"It's a real Vermont town. People fall in love with this town," he continued, "It's been my mission to make it a good place to live—for everybody."

As for the parade itself, "It's so old-fashioned and traditional," he said. "It really portrays the warmth and character of this town."

## PARADE HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to Mr. Kimble, this year's parade will feature a wide array of local participants, including several politicians eager to gain visibility ahead of the upcoming elections, and a unique electric-vehicle display courtesy of the Brandon Energy Committee.

Drivers in the area should expect road closures during the parade and can expect to be detoured along Country Club

Road, eventually reconnecting to Route 7 via Lover's Lane.

After the parade will be a full day's worth of activities, including food, music, games, town fundraising efforts, and a host of other activities for the whole family—a all culminating in the traditional fireworks display above downtown, with the best views typically in the Central Park area facing west.

The complete list of events is as follows:

- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. — The parade will run from the intersection of Park Street and High Street, through downtown along Route 7/Center Street, ending at Brandon Lumber.

- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — The Runnin' Wild jazz band, led by Gene Childers, will perform at the Central Park gazebo.

- 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The annual silent auction will be held in the Congregational Church's Fellowship Hall to help raise funds to cover the cost of the Independence Day festivities.

- 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. — The Brandon Inn will host family activities in the green space behind the inn. The activities—sponsored by the Brandon Area Toy Project, Heritage Credit Union, and the Neshobe PTO—will include lawn games, trampolines, and a mechanical bull.

- 12 p.m. — World-Record Holder and Swiss Roll Eating Champion Arturo Mendiola will attempt to defend his title in the

Little Debbie Swiss Roll eating contest at the Gazebo behind the Brandon Inn. Attendees are encouraged to arrive promptly as the contest was won in only 93 seconds last year.

- 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. — Red Clover Ale will host a beer garden in Green Park, directly across Center Street from the brewery.

- 3 p.m. — The annual Duck Race will be held at Neshobe Falls. Prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 will be awarded to the top three finishers with the remainder of the proceeds going to cover the cost of the fireworks and festivities.

Anyone interested in purchasing a duck may do so directly at the sales booth adjacent to the farmer's market at Central Park on July 1, or on race day, July 2, at one of the tables set up in Kennedy Park and on the lawn behind the Brandon Inn.

Those unable to attend either the farmer's market or the event itself and who would like to purchase an entry into the race may make arrangements to do so remotely via Facebook messaging @BrandonVTDucks.

- 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. — Moose Crossing will perform high-energy rock, blues, and funk-tinged jazz at Red Clover's beer garden in Green Park.

- 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. — The annual Street Dance will be in front of Bar Harbor Bank, featuring Jam Man Entertainment with DJ Mandy.

- Dusk — The fireworks display will be above downtown Brandon with the best views in the Central Park area facing west.

**Celebrate Independence!**

THE BOOKSTORE

802.465.8009 • 8 CONANT SQUARE • BRANDON, VERMONT

**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**

See page 17

**INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing**

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE EVERYTHING. MAKE YOURS COUNT.**

**Independent Digital Marketing Services:**

- ✓ Post to your company's social media pages
- ✓ Monitor & respond to customer reviews
- ✓ Update your business info across dozens of channels
- ✓ All in one easy-to-use platform!

Scan me to learn more!

DIGITAL@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM 802-388-4944



# Jim Avery

(Continued from Page 1)

kids work just as hard as the athletes. I got hooked.”

When asked about Avery, Bobbie Torstenson, a former member of the School Board, wrote, “My fondest memories are of watching Jim onstage. He was very good.”

Devon Fuller, an OV Nordic skiing coach, currently serving on the Board and father of two recent OV grads, added, “Jim gave a lot of support for sports, but it helps round out a school when someone pushes art and theater in addition to athletics.”

Avery smiled when he showed off a photo of himself with the cast of Guys & Dolls, sporting a ‘40s gangster costume (with the aforementioned fedora.) “You have to make yourself vulnerable.”

“Jim is an authentic, good human being,” said Devon Karpak, the tech education teacher.

In a video tribute that Karpak produced, now available on YouTube, scores of students, teachers, and staff say goodbye (sometimes in song) to someone they clearly viewed as a friend.

“Jim has a big heart,” said Jeanné Collins, OV’s most recent Superintendent and Avery’s boss for the last several years. “He believes everyone has good intentions.”

“I trusted him,” said Josh Hardt, outdoor education teacher and founder of the innovative Moosalamoo program. “He went out on a limb for me many times. He had my back.”

The Moosalamoo program, which teaches problem-solving

through outdoor exploration in the vast woods behind the school, is one of the unique offerings that Avery championed at OV. Having started his career in alternative education and the school-to-work movement, he

said he’d wanted to “shatter preconceived notions of what we call student success. Family background or finances shouldn’t dictate outcomes.”

Avery added, “I was lucky to have some all-star superintendents above me: Bill Mathis, John Castle, Jeanné Collins. I wouldn’t have been able to do much without their support.”

With characteristic understatement, Bill Mathis returned the compliment: “Hiring Jim was one of the better things I did.”

Before Avery assumed the role of Principal by himself in 2010, he shared the position with Nancy Robinson for several years. “We had different skills, but were beautifully yoked,” Avery said of Robinson. And Robinson, for her part, said that Avery was as dedicated to his “OV family” as he was to his own. “He was committed,” she said.

Vermont isn’t known for its ethnic diversity, and Avery wanted to expose kids at OV to different cultures. So, he worked with Superintendent Collins to establish an exchange with China through the Vermont International Academy. Chinese scholars came to teach Mandarin at OV at little cost to the school until COVID stopped international travel.

In the past couple of years, COVID forced Avery to reconfigure much of what he thought he knew about running a school, “even down to how to take attendance.”

And OV still hasn’t fully recovered on a practical level. There are staffing shortages across the board, from teachers to bus drivers. Avery himself spent much of this year back in the classroom, filling in whenever necessary. Instead of seeing substitute teaching as a burden, Avery saw it as a chance to reconnect with students.

*“Jim gave a lot of support for sports, but it helps round out a school when someone pushes art and theater in addition to athletics.”*

— Devon Fuller



JIM AVERY SITS at his desk during his finals days as OV principal.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

“The gift is I get to talk to [them],” he said.

Connecting with students comes up over and over again in conversations both with Avery and about Avery. Kevin Thornton, a current member of the school board, recalled, “I once asked him how he kept his patience with the most annoying kids. He said, ‘I try to treat each one of them as if they were my own.’”

That attitude colors his reaction to the tragic spate of school shootings over the years, a societal development he watched with horror throughout his career. “Kids need to feel like there’s an adult they can talk to. Building sincere relationships makes them more likely to tell you what’s going on,” he said.

Yet, he’s clear-eyed about where things stand: he beefed up security measures at the school. “Anyone used to be able to just walk in. Not anymore. The fear is real.”

Avery pointed out that the divisions that afflict American culture eventually find their way into school. “We’re a reflection of society. Whatever’s out there

shows up in here.”

His voice caught when asked about his biggest regret as principal. “Did I do enough to move the needle [for marginalized kids]?” Did I have the courage to have that conversation? The last couple of years, I may not have had the strength.”

Retirement will afford Avery more time to take care of himself and enjoy his leisure, but he also needs an intellectual challenge. “I want to bring something exciting home to the dinner table,” he said.

He might continue his work with China. He will work as a mentor in the Vermont Principals Association. He will be involved in a grief counseling group. “Doors have always opened for me...do I go through that door? If it scares me, I have to find out why.”

There were slips of paper pinned to the corkboard above Avery’s desk.

“These are from a suggestion box we had,” he explained. “I kept my favorites.” One enthusiastic student gushed, “You’re doing great, Avery!” But a less satisfied kid said, “Read the suggestions.”

The latter may seem like an odd choice to hang onto, but anyone who speaks with Avery about his time at OV will understand: “I wanted every kid to feel loved.”

*“Kids need to feel like there’s an adult they can talk to. Building sincere relationships makes them more likely to tell you what’s going on,”*

— Jim Avery

Enjoy 2022 at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center

Saturday, July 2, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

## Independence Day Celebration

Come visit your Town Hall as Brandon Celebrates Independence Day! Cold drinks and snacks will be available at the upstairs concession area and the bathrooms will be available while the hall is open. Find out what is in store for the 2022 season. Bring a cushion & watch the Great Brandon Parade from the best seats in town, the front steps of the Town Hall.

Saturday, July 9, 7:30 pm

## “Moose Crossing” Classic Jazz Band

Hailing from Poultney, VT, “Moose Crossing” plays classic jazz tunes from Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, and more! They also perform fun tunes from the Beatles, Stevie Nicks, and more!

**Rescheduled to September 17!**

Event sponsored by American Legion Post 55, Brandon, KY. Hosted by Kayne Rausenberger, Lyn & Jim DesMarais, Nifty Thrifty, in memory of Martha Thurston, Peter and Louise Kelly.

Saturday, July 23, 7:00 pm

## Silent Movies: “Sherlock Jr.” and “Battling Butler” (1924)

A Buster Keaton double feature movie night featuring the stone faced comedian. In “Sherlock Jr.” Keaton plays a detective who dreams himself into a movie plot, while in “Battling Butler” he enters the boxing ring to impress the family of his would-be girlfriend.

Free Will Donation Event Sponsored by Bill & Kathy Mathis in memory of Maxine Thurston.

Saturday, July 30, 7:00 pm

## L.C. Jazz Dance Band

This 17-piece volunteer Big Swing Orchestra is back for another night of music, singing and dancing. Come dance the night away or just sit back, tap your feet and listen to some fantastic music. This is a fundraiser for the band’s scholarship fund and the Town Hall for the continuing renovation of our Town Hall

Tickets: Couples \$14, Adults \$8, Students and Seniors \$7.

Sponsored by Pam & Steve Douglass, Fyles Bros. Inc., Donald & Dolores Furnari, Dick & Debbie Kirby, Andrew & Linda Suntut.

## Friends of Town Hall

Handicap Accessible...501(c)(3) organization • brandontownhall.com



# Calendar of events

## July

1 9:

### 34th annual Chamber of Commerce: Great Brandon Auction

6 Park St. next to Bar Harbor Bank. Fri July 1: 2-7 pm; Sat July 2: 8 am-9 pm (this is Brandon's 4th of July Festivities Day!); Sun & Mon July 3&4: 11 am-5 pm; Tues July 5 thru Fri July 8: 11 am-7 pm; Sat July 9: 8 am-2pm- Auction Closes Sun July 10-10 am-2 pm for item pickup. Our indoor location will be staffed by volunteers for 9 days, and items will be set up for silent auction bidding and Ebay Buy It Now format so you can walk out the door with your treasure! For more info and pictures visit [www.brandon.org](http://www.brandon.org), call 802-247-6401, or email [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org).

### Opening Reception for Jude Danielson's "Unseen Rhythms" at Epsilon Spires

An exhibit by the Oregon-based textile artist Jude Danielson (<https://judanielson.com/about.html>) will run in the gallery of Epsilon Spires for the months of July and August, with an opening celebration on Friday, July 1st, featuring a musical performance by Intangible Shirt Company. The show, titled "Unseen Rhythms," features Danielson's large-scale quilts based on pixelated abstractions of human faces. The reception is free to attend and begins at 5 p.m., with Intangible Shirt Company performing at 8. Danielson's quilts will be available for purchase in a silent auction which runs for the duration of her show. Winners will be announced at the closing reception in August. For more information, please visit [www.epsilonspires.org](http://www.epsilonspires.org) (<http://www.epsilonspires.org/>) or contact Jamie Mohr at [jamie.mohr78@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.mohr78@gmail.com).

2:

### Brandon's Independence Day Celebration

Starting at 10am with a parade through downtown, followed by music, activities, food and festivities throughout the day. Street dance with Jam Man Entertainment and DJ Mandy in front of Bar Harbor Bank from 6:30-10pm. Fireworks at Dusk. More information can be found in the ad on the back page of this newspaper, or keep your eyes out for a flyer in the Reporter on 6/29.

### Independence Day Open House at the Brandon Town Hall

Join us from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to watch the parade from the steps of the hall which starts at 10:00 am, Cold drinks and snacks will be for sale inside the hall.

### Fair Haven Rotary's 5k run

This 5k is fast & flat. Prizes in each age group as well as overall winners. Registration is from 7:30-8:15 at the park.\$20. Kids 12 and under are \$10.00. This race supports local charities. Register at the race or online @ [active.com](https://active.com)

### Beer & BroadSides

The Ruth Stone House will host an open house with drinks, snacks, poetry, letterpress printing, an open mic, and an informal conversation with poets Matt L. Roar, Marissa Crawford, Ben Fama, and Meghann Voltz — on Saturday, July 2, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Ruth Stone House, 788 Hathaway Road, in Goshen. The event is free and open to the public.

3:

### Sunday AMP Afternoon: Art, Music, Poetry in Putney

The Sundog Poetry Center is thrilled

to announce a summer afternoon of art, music and poetry, our signature AMP event, featuring poetry by Rage Hezekiah, Kerrin McCadden, and Partridge Boswell, music by Los Lorcas, and visual art by Liz Hawkes deNiord.

5:

### Heritage Family Credit Union Presents: Castleton Summer Concerts at the Pavilion – Mile Twelve

Castleton University, in partnership with Heritage Family Credit Union, presents Mile Twelve as part of the 27th annual Castleton Summer Concerts at the Pavilion series. Mile Twelve is a modern string band from Boston, Mass. with a focus on indie bluegrass tunes. Heritage Family Credit Union Presents: Castleton Summer Concerts at the Pavilion features a premier lineup of bands and musicians from late June through early August. The Castleton Pavilion is an indoor/outdoor facility, which allows concerts to be held rain or shine. At each performance, we'll collect non-perishable food items to support the Castleton Food Shelf.

7:

### Pittsford Outdoor Yoga

Kripalu Yoga is a gentle practice, a compassionate approach; moving at your own pace, self-acceptance, adaptability; increases strength and flexibility, improves circulation, breathing and digestion. Please contact Petra directly with questions. You must register to get to the meeting area. Donation-based. Please bring your own equipment: A yoga mat, a beach towel for under the mat (grass can be dewy), props, and water. Enjoy the beautiful Pittsford Recreation Park by adding a hike in the Pittsford trails or a refreshing swim. <https://www.PetrasWellnessStudio.com>

7 10:

### The Basin Bluegrass Festival

The festival will be held in Brandon and features a number of family-focused events, including food, music, and camping. Artists on this year's bill include Poor Monroe, Cedar Ridge, Seth Sawyer Band, Larry Efav and the Bluegrass Mountainers, Canaan's Land, Bloodroot Gap, Serene Green, Kevin Prater Band, Atkinson Band, and Smokey Greene & Sons. 3-day advanced tickets can be purchased for \$60 per person or at the gate for \$70. Day passes are \$30 or \$15 after

4 p.m. For a complete list of details, please visit [www.basinbluegrassfestival.com](http://www.basinbluegrassfestival.com) or email [basinbluegrass@yahoo.com](mailto:basinbluegrass@yahoo.com).

9:

### Davenport Electric Fest


Come celebrate the 220 birthday of Thomas Davenport, inventor of the electric motor and Brandon, VT native! Celebrate the history and future of electric motor technology with electric vehicles and equipment on display. Food, music and more! 11am-6pm Estabrook Park, Brandon VT.

"Moose Crossing" concert at Brandon Town Hall has been rescheduled to Sept. 17.

10:

### French Voices at Rochester Federated Church

Beginning at 4:00 pm join us for the Champlain Trio: Letitia Quante, violin; Emily Taubl, cello; Hiromi Fukuda, piano Cécile Chaminade, Gabriel Faure, Lili Boulanger Memorial Concert in memory of Joanna Gillespie and Joan Landis Rochester Federated Church, Masking and Vax Card required Info visit <http://www.rcmsvt.org> or call 802-767-9234



Inside, Instead!!

## GREAT BRANDON AUCTION

34th

Friday July 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Saturday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>

6 park St. - future home of National Bank of Middlebury!  
In Brandon's beautiful new downtown!

OPEN HOURS

Fri July 1: 2-7 pm; | Sat July 2: 8 am-9 pm  
(this is Brandon's 4th of July Festivities Day!);  
Sun & Mon July 3&4: 11 am-5 pm;  
Tues July 5 thru Fri July 8: 11 am-7 pm;  
Sat July 9: 8 am-2pm- Auction Closes  
Sun July 10-10 am-2 pm for item pickup.

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND A GREAT AUCTION THIS SUMMER, MAKE IT THIS ONE.  
Come to Brandon for the Annual Great Brandon Auction INSIDE, INSTEAD!

Our indoor location will be staffed by volunteers for 9 days, and items will be set up for silent auction bidding and Ebay **Buy It Now** format so you can walk out the door with your treasure!

The Auction offers antiques, collectibles, new merchandise, surprises and treasures from attics and barns. Also lots of gift certificates to dozens of local businesses incl. restaurants, brew pubs, fuel oil, massages, services and much more!

Other donations include new New England Woodcraft ebony bedroom set, tools, art, 2 elegant dining room sets, dressers, beds, chairs, trunks, lots of beautiful dishes and depression glass. Original art by some of Brandon's most famous artists: Warren Kimble, Dolores Furnari, Medana Gabbard, Robin Kent, Liza Myers plus art from Judith Reilly, Edward Loedding and others. And our usual selection of interesting and eclectic items, including a brand new Bosch warming drawer that retails for \$1500!

Nine days to bid and buy at 6 Park St- downtown Brandon!!  
Resellers-You will be required to sign an exemption form -  
Bring Your Number! Terms:cash or good check.

802-247-6401 [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org) and  
[www.brandon.org](http://www.brandon.org) for more info and pictures.

## HUGE YARD SALE

AT THE BRANDON SENIOR CENTER  
JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9am - 4pm

Lots of good stuff.

Antiques, household items, electronics, handmade items,  
homemade donuts, fudge and grilled Mackenzie hot dogs.

Great prices!  
Come see us.  
No early birds please.



Brandon Senior Center  
1591 Forestdale Road • Brandon



# Sports

## Triathletes kick-off series at Branbury State Park

SALISBURY — Saturday's beautiful early summer weather welcomed more than 150 athletes to Branbury State Park in Salisbury

for two Vermont Sun triathlon races — a sprint triathlon and Olympic distance triathlon, which were designated as state championship races.



BRANDON'S ERIC MORGANO cruises through the 10K portion of Saturday's Vermont Sun Sprint Triathlon at a 7:26 per mile pace. He finished 10th in the race. Photo courtesy of Pat Hendrick

Burlington's Abe Rogers, 49, won the Olympic distance Lake Dunmore Triathlon in 2:13:53. He was followed almost a minute later by 27-year-old Alexander Kramer of East Northport, N.Y., in second in 2:14:48. Rachel Waller, 36 of Burnt Hills, N.Y., claimed the women's crown in 2:32:10. Katy Dolbec, 39 of South Burlington took second in 2:34:51.

The Olympic race consisted of a 1,600-yard swim, 28-mile bike and 6.2-mile run.

The Vermont Sun Sprint Triathlon was a 600-yard swim, 14-mile bike, 3.1-mile run. Julia Koch, 33 of Taftsville won the women's title in 1:18:27. Ripton's Kelsey Shelofsky, 25, was the runner-up in 1:19:39.

On the men's side, Kris Freeman,

42, of Campton, N.H., claimed the crown in 1:02:16. Sean McLoughlin, 51, of Burlington, was second in 1:04:11.

It was a perfect day for triathlon racing, temperatures were in the low 60s at the start of the race then rose into the middle 70s by the end, with light winds and a clear sky. Many racers and spectators commented on how beautiful and perfect the area was for a triathlon.

In the Olympic-distance race, Rogers took a commanding lead with the fastest swim (21:13.2) followed by the fastest bike time (1:11:23.1). Going into the run he held a commanding lead over Kramer of seven minutes. It turned out he needed almost all of that as Kramer ran at a 5:20-per-mile pace,

over a minute faster than Rogers' 6:28 pace, to close to just 55 seconds.

"I dropped my chain on the bike that cost me about a minute but I still thought I had a comfortable lead until I saw how well he (Kramer) was running at the turn around," Rogers said. "Glad the race wasn't a mile longer."

Charlotte's Sean Fleming, who won a sprint triathlon in New York the previous weekend, placed third in 2:18:41.

Two Middlebury men had strong efforts in the relatively small but talented Olympic field, placing 12th and 13th overall. Joseph Powers took third in the men's 35 to 39 age group (2:40:03). Powers ran (See Triathlon, Page 21)



## Muzzleloader antlerless deer permit applications available

MONTPELIER — Vermont's muzzleloader season antlerless deer permit applications are available online at Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website and from license agents. A link to the information and online applications is on the home page.

The muzzleloader seasons on October 27-30 and December 3-11 will have antlerless permits available for 19 of Vermont's 21 Wildlife Management Units.

Landowners who post their land may not apply for a landowner priority muzzleloader antlerless deer permit. They are eligible to apply in the regular lottery for an antlerless deer permit.

"In recent years, the department has successfully reduced deer numbers in many parts of Vermont to bring populations into balance with their habitat," said Nick Fortin, deer and moose project leader for the Fish and Wildlife Department.

"As a result, the goal is now to maintain current deer numbers in most of the state."

Deer populations in five wildlife management units, primarily in the Champlain Valley, remain above their respective population objectives. The goal is to reduce deer numbers in those areas."

The deadline to apply for a muzzleloader antlerless deer permit is August 3.

**Gagnon Lumber**

**Native Vermont Lumber**

Bark Mulch – Delivery Available

Hemlock Framing Stock • Pine Shiplap Siding  
Pine Tongue & Groove • Custom Cut Timbers

89 Stevens Road Pittsford, VT | 802-483-6550  
Mon-Fri: 7AM-4PM & Sat: 8AM-12PM | www.gagnonlumber.com

**We do Trees!**

Planting • Pruning • Removing • Repairing  
Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood

Educated, Experienced and Fully Insured Professionals

Thad Poremski  
(802) 345-2815



# DELIVERING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY

Dr. Kleeman-Forsthuber is an expert in orthopaedic surgery and joint replacement after training at some of our nation's top academic medical institutions. She and her colleagues at Vermont Orthopaedic Clinic, one of the top 100 joint replacement programs in the country, deliver their expert care right here in Rutland, VT.

---

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP.  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH.  
INNOVATIVE SURGICAL CARE.  
NURSING EXCELLENCE. IT'S ALL HERE.

| [RRMC.org](https://www.rrmc.org) |



LINDSAY KLEEMAN-FORSTHUBER, MD  
Orthopaedic Surgery







PIZZAIOLOS HANNAH CALLAWAY and Cavan Curran cheese it up in front of Blueberry Hill Inn's wood-burning oven.

## The romance of cheese pie

# Blueberry Hill thrills with Pizza by the Pond

BY MAT CLOUSER

GOSHEN — The intrepid one-time chef and full-time bon vivant, Anthony Bourdain, who would have turned 66 years old over the weekend, once said, “you have to be romantic to invest yourself, your money, and your time in cheese.” If he’d ever had the good fortune to make it to the Blueberry Hill Inn in Goshen, he’d likely have amended that statement to include cheese pies, as well.

Sitting in the shade beside a cool pond nuzzled by trees and a flowering mountain meadow sounds romantic—and it is. It shouldn’t be too hard to imagine music in the air, maybe even from a band with a poetic-sounding name, such as Bread and Bones. Nearly everything in Goshen during the summertime is romantic, it seems. But it’s not exactly the place one thinks to find a wood-burning oven delivering some of the finest pizza anywhere.

And yet, this summer marks the second year in a row that killer pies have flown alongside

the hawks and dragonflies atop Blueberry Hill. What’s more, the musical acts accompanying the show-stopping pizza feature Vermont musicians who are show-stoppers in their own right—artists like Bloodroot Gap, Matt Flinner, and—yes—Bread and Bones, among others.

Running from June through September, Pizza by the Pond offers all-you-can-eat pizza and a concert every Thursday and Friday night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (music from 6 to 8)—weather permitting—for a tax-inclusive fee of \$35 per person (free for kids under five).

The menu features a rotating array of pizza—including options for vegans, vegetarians, and the gluten-averse—and complimentary lemonade and ice tea, as well as salads and desserts for an additional charge.

Even those raised at the altar of the holiest American pizza parlors like Frank Pepe’s of New Haven, Conn, think Blueberry Hill’s pie is divine. “The pizza is some of the

best around,” said current Leicesterian and New Haven native Tom Russell, wiping a festuiche of cheese from his mouth during Friday’s event.

Most ingredients come from local farms, such as Middlebury’s Elmer Farm and New Haven’s Misty Knoll. Even Republic of Vermont’s maple syrup is used in their salad dressings.

Some ingredients are hyperlocal, coming from Ripton’s Mountain Yard Farm and Goshen’s Icehouse Farm (the Inn is on Goshen-Ripton Road, after all), and the herbs were snipped from the Inn’s garden.

Two of this year’s pizzaiolos, Hannah Callaway and Cavan Curran, take their work and lifestyle seriously. The self-described vagabonds have been traveling recently throughout the Northeast trying different pizzas, picking grapes with local vintners, and engaging in that most romantic pastime—making cheese.

Curran, who has a history of making pizza in less romantic

settings such as State College, Penn, said that experience taught him to make pizza well—or else. “Drunks don’t have much patience,” he said, laughing.

Innkeeper Shari Brown, no stranger to romance herself, said she showed up at the inn around 1986 as a guest and hasn’t left. Though the inn has long held special dinner events, Brown said the current outdoor food and music programming began during the pandemic. Not only has it been more fun than their traditional 4-course meals, she said, but it’s also held to a higher purpose.

“Folks were looking for something to do outside,” she said. “Our [other] offerings had been so specific to travelers. It was nice to reconnect with the community.”

Brown said the installation of the wood-burning oven was something she’d been thinking of for years because she’d finally been able to do it via grant money that she’d obtained through an anonymous donor in Middlebury who specialized in helping fund small

restaurants. As for the decision to make pizza, Brown said, “Pizza is just popular. It brings people together.”

The inn limits its Pizza by the Pond attendees to 80 guests per night, and while Brown says they will accept walk-ins as space allows, guests are strongly encouraged to make reservations through the website as the dinners frequently sell out. The ticketing process for each week opens on the Monday prior to the event.

Brown, whose gentle dog Remy can be found patrolling the grounds, lazing in the grass, and taking the occasional dip in the pond, says other dogs are welcome to attend the dinners. However, she says, unlike Remy, they must always remain on a leash, lest too much added commotion spoils the romance.

\*A complete list of Pizza by the Pond’s performers and a link to reserve tickets can be found online at <https://www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza>

PH  
M







Photos by  
Mat Clouser



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP left:** Blueberry Hill owner Shari Brown and her son Oliver Clark; Bread and Bones play to the crowd; a group of patrons enjoying music and pizza in the shade; Shari Brown's Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, Remy, basks in a quintessential Vermont evening. Photos by Mat Clouser.

**CENTER:** THE POND at Blueberry Hill Inn.

Photo by Carly Roseman



# Arts & Culture



FOUNDER OF THE Creative Nest, Karen Trayah poses in her recently opened crafting space in downtown Brandon.

Photos by Steven Jupiter.

## The Creative Nest gives crafters a happy home

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON — Vermonters are crafty folk. It often feels like everyone makes something—some work with fiber, some with wood, and some with metal. Karen Trayah, who recently opened The Creative Nest on Center Street in Brandon, knows this firsthand. An avid crafter, she's been running craft fairs in the area for years.

COVID brought her seasonal cycle to a screeching halt in

2020. She and her fellow crafters were left without their usual outlets. But the impulse to create never subsided, and their homes started bursting at the seams as inventory piled up. Trayah's kitchen became a workshop for crocheting and handmade farmhouse signs, driving her husband, Kelly, a little crazy.

She knew she needed to find a space for herself and all the crafters she's worked with over the years. Thus was born The

Creative Nest.

Occupying half of the former Aubuchon storefront in the Smith Block, next to Across the Street antiques, Trayah's new venture is part salesroom, part classroom.

The front half of the space is filled with booth after booth of crafts made by local artisans whom Trayah has known for years. Jewelry, textiles, candles, woodworking—whatever craft you can imagine, you can find it there. "Everything has to have a handmade element. And most of the crafts are functional as well as beautiful," she said. The store currently houses twenty vendors. The demand from crafters was so intense that Trayah had a waitlist within eight hours of announcing her plans on Facebook.

The back half of the space functions as a classroom and workshop, with two crafting tables large enough to accommodate a dozen people. Planned classes include stained glass, painting, macrame, jewelry, knitting, crocheting, and even astrology.



Children's classes are already underway. "There are so many things we used to learn in Home Ec, like sewing, that kids don't really learn today. But making things by hand isn't just fun; it also helps develop fine motor skills," Trayah said.

Finding the right space wasn't easy. Trayah grew up in Vermont and knew Brandon well (her grandmother lived on Rossiter Street when she was a kid). "I watched Brandon go up and down over the years. It's at a high point right now, and I knew I wanted to be here."

She considered a few possible

locations around town but felt strongly that she needed to be right in the heart of things. Her husband knew the owner of the Smith Block, Matt Bonner, so she reached out to ask about the still-vacant half of the Aubuchon storefront. Bonner was receptive and willing to work with the Trayahs to turn the raw space into something suitable. The Creative Nest opened its doors on May 1st.

"I've been very encouraged," Trayah said. "The community has been really supportive. I live by what I preach: buy local."





# SolarFest

(Continued from Page 1)

only a handful were deemed serious. As for the decision to pick Brandon, “It was one of those things that just came together,” he said.

“The arts and energy awareness in Brandon is high,” said the president of SolarFest’s board of trustees, Bill Laberge, discussing some of the reasons they felt Brandon was a good fit.

Bailey and Laberge were quick to point out the efforts of three Brandonites—Energy Committee Members Jim Emerson and Jack Schneider and select board member Tim Guiles—as influencing their decision.

“Brandon came through loud and strong,” said SolarFest’s head

of workforce development Joanne Coons—who was also a part of SolarFest’s search-and-acquisition task force—echoing the sentiment as she gave a public tour of the grounds.

In addition to the music-and-arts festival, the group has big plans for its new home. One of several projects is a year-round technology demonstration center that will feature “the latest renewable energy, green buildings, and regenerative agriculture and other practices for sustainable energy,” pollinator gardens and wetland trails, and a community solar field.

Another major initiative is workforce development training and mentoring focused on career-changers looking to re-skill — a

program that the organizers say they plan to extend to students at OVUHS.

“The state [of Vermont] needs 40,000 people for weatherization,” said Laberge, discussing the potential workforce benefits of a training center. “Where will they come from? Maybe they’re already here.”

According to the organizers, COVID and the search for a new home delayed the planning for this year’s event — now slated for September 10. Organizers acknowledged that this year’s event would be more of a celebration of things to come than the multi-day parties of the past that drew nearly 7,000 attendees at their peak.

Yet, they’re not going to let that diminish their goals. “Our purpose is to help spread info and encourage people to switch [to renewables],” said an upbeat Laberge.

“We don’t just want to be a weekend festival,” he continued. “We want to teach you things you didn’t even know you didn’t know.”

“We’re not rich people,” said Laberge’s wife, Jill, speaking of their switch at home to renewable energy. “We did it, and we want to help others do it.”



**BRANDON RESIDENTS GET a tour of the future concert space above the wetlands off Steinberg Road courtesy of SolarFest’s Joanne Coons.**



**AN SILO AT the old Steinberg Farm will be a part of SolarFest’s permanent home in Brandon.**  
Photos by Mat Clouser

# Legislative wrap

(Continued from Page 4)

exclusions for \$10,000 of retirement income from military, Civil Service Retirement System, or other states’ noncontributory retirement systems.

It also increases funding for an existing housing tax credit to increase access to manufactured home purchase and replacement, the Aid for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled program, and the Child Care Worker Retention Grant Program. H.510 will provide more than \$41 million in tax relief affecting at least 70,000 Vermonters.

## FREE UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS

Vermont made huge strides in combating food insecurity during the pandemic. With federal support, public schools provided free breakfast and lunch for all students during the last two school years. To maintain this critical program, the legislature passed S.100, a bill to continue universal school meals through the 2022–2023 school year with \$29 million from the Education

Fund surplus.

## CLEAN WATER

The legislature continues to support clean water for Vermonters. This includes investing in water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure and programs that improve community resilience to climate change impacts, such as flooding. Vermont received \$1.2 billion from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. In the FY 2022 budget, \$100 million of that amount was designated for water and sewer investments. In the FY 2023 budget, an additional \$104 million is allocated.

## CLIMATE ACTION

The FY2023 budget includes \$129.8 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. These funds are allocated for weatherization and other climate change mitigation investments. In Vermont, transportation and thermal (building heating) are the sectors that pose the greatest challenges in reducing greenhouse emissions.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE THROUGH

## TELEMEDICINE

Early in the pandemic the legislature recognized that telemedicine was going to be a crucial tool in keeping Vermonters connected with their health care providers. The state loosened its telehealth licensing requirements to ensure that Vermonters had access during the pandemic to out-of-state providers. H.655 has created a telehealth registration and licensing process that balances healthcare access, continuity of care, and the protection of Vermonters.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, July 2 at 10 a.m. at Brandon’s Independence Day Parade. Feel free to reach out to me if I can assist you or answer your questions about state government.

Take care,  
Rep. Stephanie Jerome (Brandon, Pittsford, Sudbury)  
Commerce and Economic Development Committee  
802-683-8209  
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us

## Tuesdays

### Summer Concert Series

JUNE 21 - AUG. 16, 2022  
EVERY TUESDAY @ 6PM  
42 Elm St., Pittsford, VT  
across from Kamuda’s




Concerts are outside on the Village Farm grounds, weather permitting.  
Rain venue is Lothrop Gym, 3447 US-7, Pittsford, VT 05763.  
This event is free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.

## July 5 — Phil Henry String Trio

FOOD TRUCK ONSITE

PHIL HENRY along with bassist Mitch Barron and fiddler Jimmy Kalb bring Phil’s creative songwriting and masterful folk compositions to life in this beautiful outdoor setting.



PITTSFORDVILLAGEFARM.ORG

## Blueberries • Raspberries

## Thornless Blackberries

## Apple Trees • Annuals and Perennials

## \$10 off peony bushes and fruit trees & bushes



# Vergil AND Constance

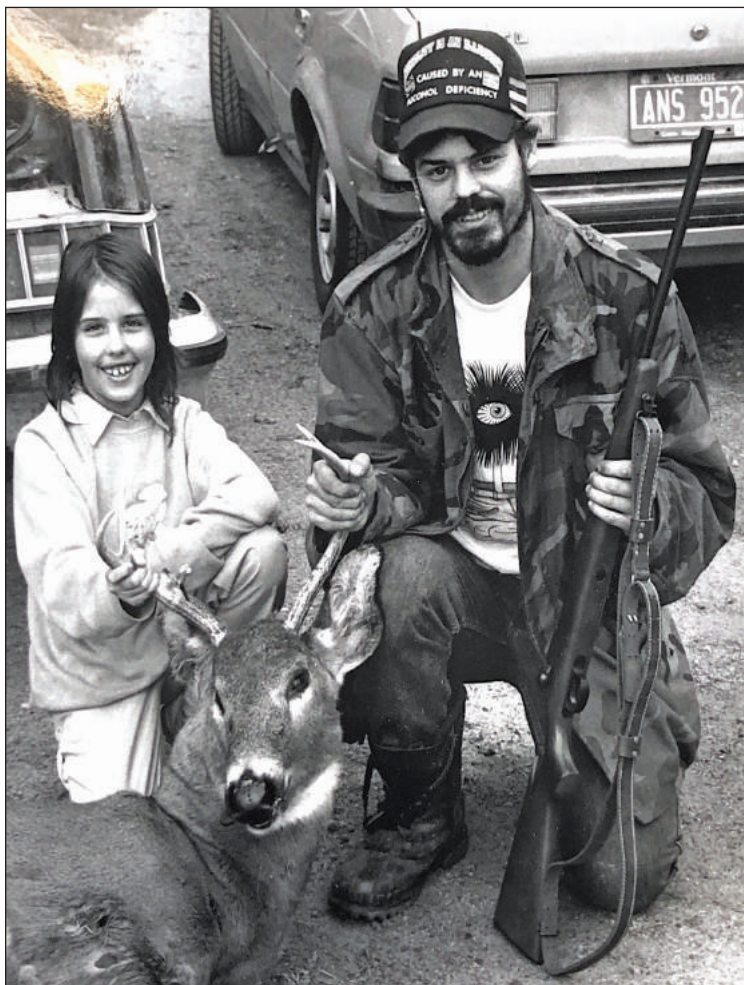
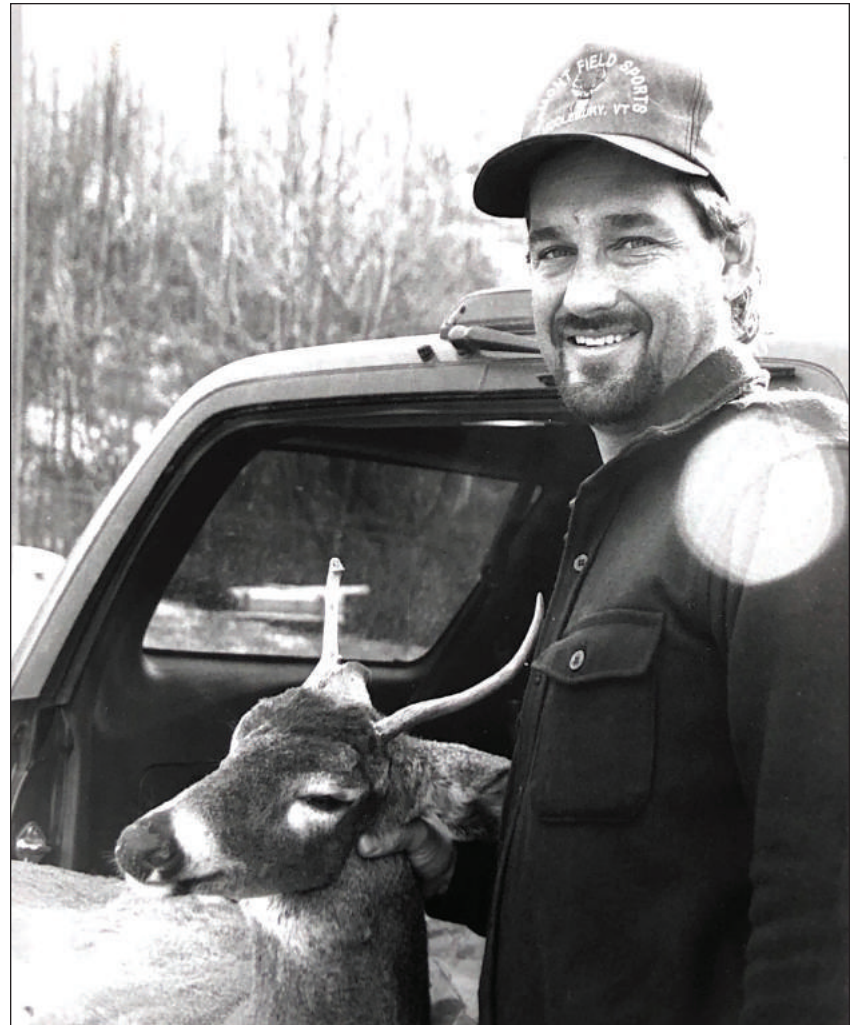
**Home and Garden**  
2473 Franklin Street  
(Rt. 7 South) • Brandon  
802-247-0062 • Cell 324-0613  
Tim and Mary Shields, owners





# Mim's Photos

Can you identify any of the people in these vintage photos from Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon newspaper archives? Let us know!



## Recognized



Fatima Johnson emailed to identify herself and her two sisters, Jasmin and Faith Johnson printed in the 6/22 edition of the paper.



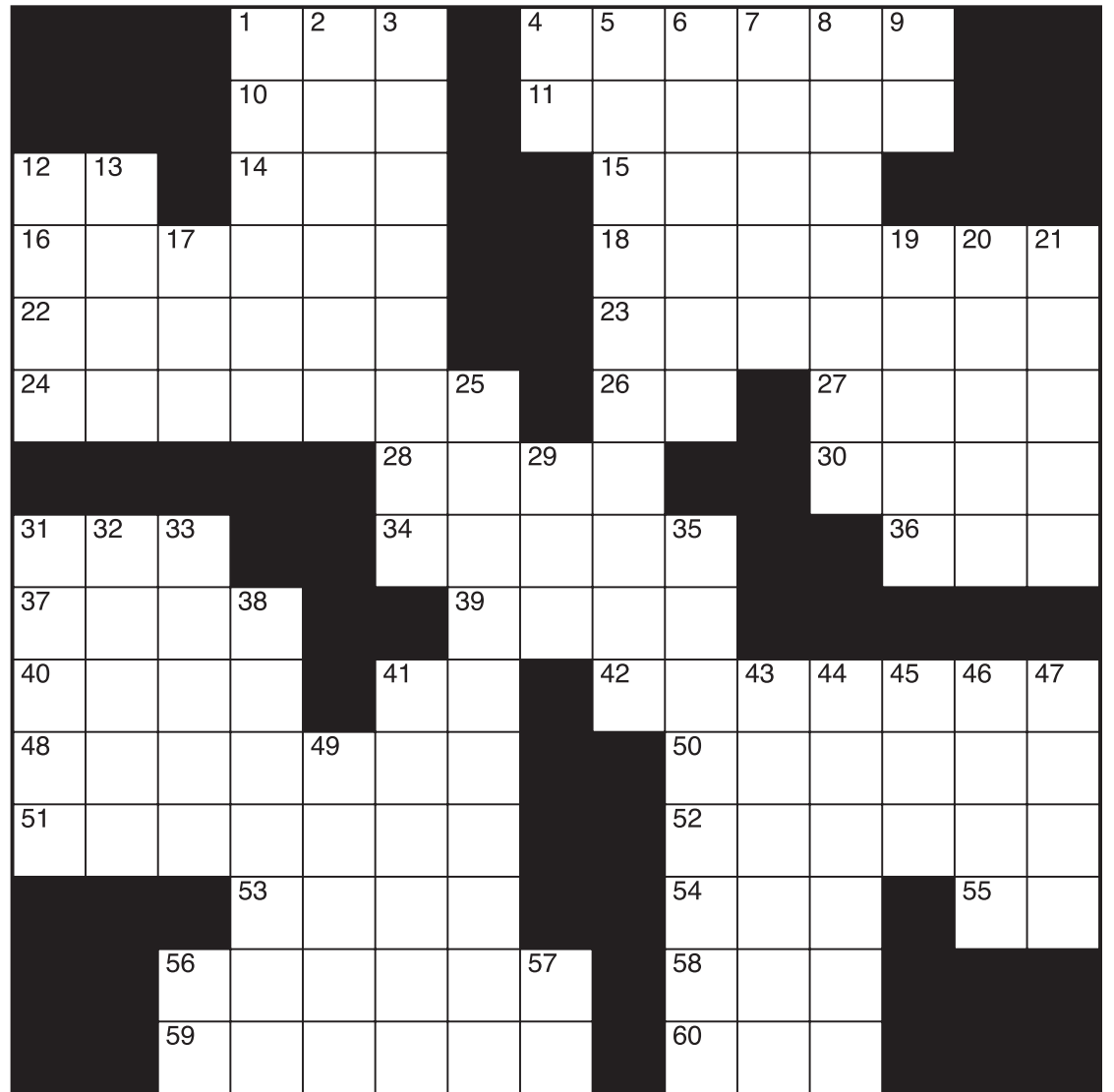
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. In a new way
10. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
11. Jailhouse
12. Expresses surprise
14. Trigraph
15. A small stream
16. Dissimilar
18. Promote
22. Gives a boost
23. Lawmaker
24. Orthodox Jews
26. Actor Harris
27. Wild cherry
28. Participate in democracy
30. Opposite of begins
31. A Brit's mother
34. Set of moral principles
36. Very fast airplane
37. Czech river
39. Private school in New York
40. Israeli dance
41. Electron volt
42. Adjusting
48. Duct by the bladder
50. Small burger
51. Begin again
52. Unstuck
53. Jai \_\_\_, sport
54. Get free of
55. For instance
56. Hotel chain
58. A team's best pitcher
59. Extracts from various sources
60. Indefinite period of time

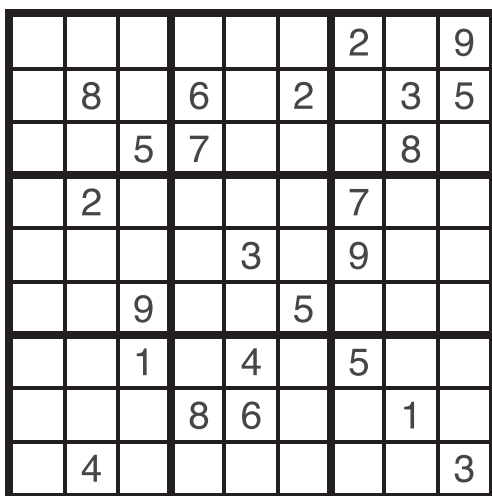
## CLUES DOWN

1. St. Francis of \_\_\_
2. Supported
3. United in working
4. It cools your home
5. Predicting
6. Irritated
7. Popular talk show host
8. Fabric edge
9. A resource for employees
12. Broadway's Jackman
13. Small water buffalo
17. City of Angels: \_\_\_ Angeles
19. Asteroids
20. Tailless amphibians
21. German expressionist painter
25. What drives you
29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
31. Gold coin used in British India
32. Have deep affection for
33. Ponds
35. Breaks between words
38. Hairstyle
41. Print errors
43. Family of iron alloys
44. Sidelined in bed
45. Many couples say it
46. Brazilian hoopster
47. Allman Brothers late frontman
49. German city
56. One hundred grams (abbr.)
57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)



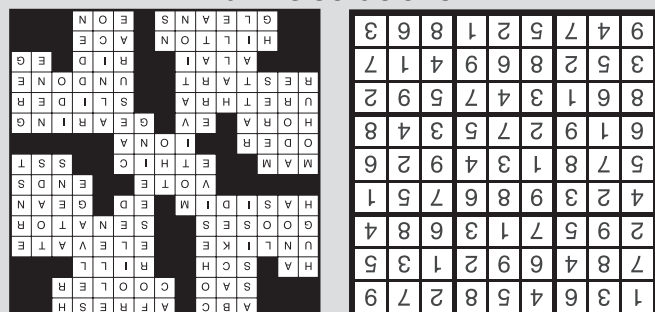
# Sudoku

Here's how a sudoku puzzle works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number must appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out where to fill in the missing numbers by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers that are filled in, the easier it gets to solve.



Level: Intermediate

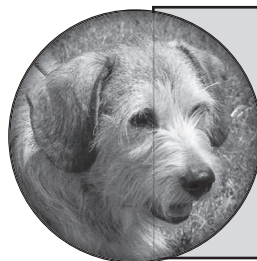
## Puzzle solutions



## Rockets Red Glare – July 4th Tips from the Rutland County Humane Society

With the 4th of July comes picnics, parades and fireworks. The 5th of July usually brings more stray animals than usual to the shelter. The noise and flash of fireworks scares even pets that are used to being outside. Since fireworks are becoming more common the best advice we have is to keep your pet indoors. For many pets, the most natural reaction to a scare is to run. If, despite your best efforts, your dog or cat gets free and runs, you want to have a good ID on the pet. Microchips work best because collars and tags can get pulled off. Make sure you have informed the microchip company of any changes to your contact information. Call the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) at 802.483.6700 to let us know your pet is missing. Please be assured, even if your pet is brought in after hours by law enforcement, they are in a safe, comfortable place until you can retrieve them. Even if we don't answer the phone we are staffed 7 days a week. Wishing you and your pets a safe fourth of July.

### I COULD BE THE NEW FRIEND YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

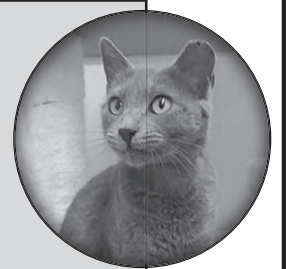


**MEET BENJI - 2-YEAR-OLD. MALE. BERGER PICARD/CHINOOK MIX. TAN WITH BLACK.**

Benji is a very sweet boy who has a lot to say. He does like to be where the action is and can be vocal when left alone, or when he gets really excited. He loves attention and going for long walks. He does enjoy the bi-weekly medicated baths that he gets for his skin. Benji is waiting for his neuter appointment, so he is available for a foster-to-adopt

**MEET MORNING STAR - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. GREY.**

Morning Star was a stray found in a city feral colony. Our colony caregiver noticed she was quite easygoing and found her a wonderful foster home where she got to finally take a breath. Morning Star is a beautiful girl who loves to play and is known to be quite affectionate. There are plenty more wonderful things to say about Morning Star, but perhaps it would be best to cover it in person. Call to make an appointment soon.



**RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY**

802-483-6700 • WWW.RCHSVT.ORG  
765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



**ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**





# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

## Adult Fiction

### The Ballad of Perilous Graves by Alex Jennings

Nola is a city full of wonders. A place of sky trolleys and dead cabs, where haints dance the night away and Wise Women keep the order. To those from Far Away, Nola might seem strange. To failed magician, Perilous Graves, it's simply home. Then the rhythm stutters; a battle for the city's soul brews between two young mages, a vengeful wraith, and one powerful song. Even if they capture the songs, Nola's time might be coming to an end.

### Elsewhere by Alexis Schaitkin

Vera grows up in a small town, removed and isolated, pressed up against the mountains, cloud-covered and damp year-round. This town, fiercely protective, brutal and unforgiving in its adherence to tradition, faces a singular affliction: some mothers vanish, disappearing into the clouds. It is the exquisite pain and intrinsic beauty of their lives; it sets them apart from people elsewhere and gives them meaning. When motherhood comes for Vera, she is faced with the question: will she be able to stay and mother her beloved child, or will she disappear?

### Did you know?

We'll be discussing *The Flight Attendant* by Chris Bohjalian during the next book talk on July 5 at 6 p.m. We still have copies available, so stop by and pick one up!

## Adult Non-Fiction

### Get Out of My Head: Creating Modern Clarity with Stoic Wisdom by M. Andrew McConnell

Drawing on ancient Stoic philosophy, modern science, and remarkable stories of contemporary innovators in business, sports, and more, *Get Out of My Head* demonstrates how to effectively allocate your mental resources, set mental boundaries, and overcome challenges by seizing ownership of your own mind and channeling adversity as a vehicle for growth.

## Picture Books

### Uncle John's City Garden by Bernette Ford, illustrated by Frank Morrison

Visiting the city from her home in the suburbs, an African American girl sees how a few packets of seeds, some helping hands, and hard work

transform an empty lot in a housing project into a magical place where vegetables grow and family gathers. It's the magic of nature in the heart of the city!

## Biographies

### Left on Tenth: A Second Chance at Life by Delia Ephron

Delia Ephron had struggled through several years of heartbreak. She'd lost her sister, Nora, and then her husband, Jerry, both to cancer. She channeled her grief the best way she knew: by writing a *New York Times* op-ed. The piece caught the attention of Peter, a Bay Area psychiatrist. Recently widowed himself, he reminded her that they had shared a few dates fifty-four years before. With Peter and her close girlfriends by her side, with startling clarity, warmth, and honesty about facing death, Ephron invites us to join her team of warriors and become believers ourselves.

## DVDs

### Dog

Two former Army Rangers are paired against their will on the road trip of a lifetime. Briggs and Lulu (a Belgian Malinois) race down the Pacific Coast to get to a fellow soldier's funeral on time.

## Officers locate "missing" man who was sitting on porch, enjoying weather

BRANDON — Police responded on June 22 to a report that a male had just assaulted a female with a knife at an apartment on Mulcahy Drive. The male was reported still on the scene while the victim took shelter in a van. Prior to the police arriving at the apartment, the suspect fled on foot. After an extensive search of the area, officers could not locate the suspect. The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was evaluated and treated at the scene by Brandon Rescue.

An arrest warrant will be sought for the suspect, identified as 55-year-old Jesse Terry (unhoused), for the crimes of aggravated assault (two counts) and unlawful restraint in the first degree. This assault appears to be an isolated incident between two acquaintances with no danger indicated to the general public.

Officers conducting a foot patrol on Center Street on June 23 located an elderly female with suspected Dementia and helped her find her way back to her nursing home. The next day they were asked to check on an elderly Mulcahy Drive resident who was not responding to phone calls from his family. The responding officer located the subject sitting outside his apartment, enjoying the weather. He told the officer that he forgot his phone in the house and didn't realize that people were trying to reach him.

Later in the day, police were advised of a male with a history of mental health issues who said he wanted to burn his house down. The subject

## Brandon Police Report

spoke with his guardian and an additional crisis social worker and denied that he was going to harm himself and others or set fire to his property.

In other activities, Brandon Police:

### On June 20

- Assisted in a juvenile problem on lower Franklin St.
- Notarized documents at the police department.
- Conducted drone deployment training.
- Responded to an untimely death on West Seminary Street. No further details were given.
- Assisted a resident on Town Farm Road who came into the Brandon Police Department to speak with an officer about ongoing harassment by his neighbors. The complainant was given his options for relief through legal action.
- Made traffic stops on Union Street and Grove Street and issued two warnings.

### On June 21

- Advised a caller who had a complaint of two females following them from Rutland to Brandon.
- Responded to a call from Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union reporting a suspicious black pickup truck that had been reportedly parking in the area and acting suspiciously in the vicinity of Court Drive. The responding officer made contact with the vehicle and

(See Police report 19)

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### ARIES 21-April 20

Aries, you can expect anything to happen this week, which makes it an ideal time to fall in love – or fall back in love. Throw caution to the wind and welcome romance.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, don't be surprised if a former romantic partner or close friend reconnects with you this week. It may be possible to rekindle this connection if you so desire.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

Don't hesitate to try something new this week, Gemini. You'll likely be surprised at what you discover you enjoy. You may even meet some interesting people.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Spiritual matters are on your mind, Cancer. You are increasingly drawn to them as you get older. Do not hesitate to ask questions in your pursuit of enlightenment.

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Optimism about life is in full force for you, Leo. Others will notice you are smiling more and moving about with a spring in your step. Channel that energy into a fun project.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, this week is full of possibilities. You may strike up a new friendship or decide to try a unique hobby. Travel may be the name of the game as well.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, even though you may be feeling positive and looking well, you're simply not drawing that special attention you desire. Don't be too hard on yourself; it will come.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, communication channels have been blocked lately, so you have been facing challenges getting your point across. Employ a little more patience.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, there have been days you have felt better. Don't let a minor illness derail your plans. Before you know it, you will be back on your feet.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Try an activity that strays from your usual routine, Capricorn. Change the time or the location to get a fresh perspective on your experiences. It can be the boost you need right now.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Don't be surprised if you have a desire to redecorate or change up your living space in some way, Aquarius. A new look can refresh your mindset as well.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Some interesting news is likely to come your way, Pisces. It's important to answer your phone, read your texts and check your emails.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- June 30 Stanley Clarke, composer, bassist, jazz musician (71)
- July 1 George Sands, novelist, memoirist (d)
- July 2 Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (d)
- July 3 Tom Stoppard, playwright (85)
- July 4 Edmonia Lewis, sculptor (d)
- July 5 Megan Rapinoe, soccer player (37)
- July 6 Dalai Lama, spiritual leader (87)

A 44-Year Middlebury Tradition of Trusted & Caring Dental Excellence!

\$0 Cleanings!

For most insured patients. Call for details.

Further Heightened Sterilization Standards



1330 Exchange Street, Suite 107  
• Middlebury •

802-388-3553

MiddleburyDentalVT.com

Welcome Before & After Work or School!



# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

spoke with the operator. The operator worked at a nearby business and frequently parks in the area to have lunch.

- Conducted a background investigation for a BRAVO applicant.

- Conducted a directed patrol at the intersection of Franklin Street and Park Street in response to vehicles in the area with loud/backfiring exhaust systems.

- Made seven traffic stops, including speeding, improper passing, tailgating, stop sign violation, and defective equipment. Stops were made on Franklin Street, Grove Street, Champlain Street, and Center Street.

- Took five sets of fingerprints, four for school employees and one for adoption.

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

## On June 23

- Assisted Fair Haven Police in attempting to locate a suicidal male.

- Investigated a motor vehicle complaint on Country Club Road concerning speeding vehicles in the area. Extra traffic patrol was dedicated to the area due to the complaint.

- Assisted Rutland City Police in attempting to locate and cite a suspect for an abuse prevention order violation. The suspect was not found.

- Received a call from the owner of the Brandon Inn on Park Street, who reported that a bicycle was stolen from the lobby of his business.

- Received a walk-in complaint at the Brandon Police Department regarding a female that was being stalked by the girlfriend of her co-worker. The investigation is ongoing.

- Responded to a traffic hazard involving a trailer partially blocking the roadway on Franklin Street. The trailer was subsequently removed.

- Responded to a call from Franklin Street for a medical emergency. CPR was performed but proved to be

insufficient. An untimely death investigation was completed.

- Documented damage sustained to a garage door at the Brandon Police Department by a cruiser backing up for insurance purposes.

- Made traffic stops on Arnold District Road and Grove Street for speeding and issued two warnings.

- Took two sets of fingerprints, both for school employment.

## On June 23

- Assisted with a dog bite incident on Carver Street.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Franklin Street.

- Made traffic stops on Forest Dale Road and Franklin Street and issued multiple tickets.

- Patrolled Center Street and downtown on foot.

## On June 24

- Responded to an alarm activation at the American Legion on Franklin Street. It was later determined that the delivery person dropping off an alcohol shipment accidentally set off the alarm and left before police arrival because he didn't have the proper code to deactivate the alarm.

- Responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Basin Road. Officers will increase patrols in that area.

- Conducted a directed patrol on Grove Street.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Franklin Street.

- Made traffic stops for speeding on McConnell Road and faulty taillights on a boat trailer on Franklin Street. A speeding ticket and a warning were issued.

- Patrolled downtown on foot.

## On June 25

- Made a welfare check on an older woman with dementia. She was contacted and appeared to be in good spirits and not in distress.

- Responded to a report of a female nearly struck by a vehicle on Forest Dale Road. The female was located but

refused to ID herself or receive any assistance.

- Received a report of an untimely death on Sandy Meadow Drive.

- Responded to an overdose at the Smoke Rise Campground on Grove Street. One male was treated with Narcan, and suspected drugs were seized.

- Made five traffic stops, including speeding on Franklin Street, suspected DUI on Route 7, obstructed windshield on Park Street, and equipment violations on Franklin Street and Conant Square. Police issued one ticket and three warnings.

- Took fingerprints for employment purposes.

## On June 26

- Responded to a mental health issue on Mount Pleasant Drive and advised those involved.

- Received a report of a citizen dispute on Carver Street. The dispute was a civil issue involving water damage to property, so no police response was given.

- Assisted with a medical issue on Fox road.

- Issued a ticket on Frog Hollow Road for littering.

- Responded to a report of a fawn that had been struck by a vehicle on North Street. The fawn, which had extensive injuries, was later euthanized.

- Responded to an alarm at Blue Seal Feeds in Alta Woods. Nothing suspicious was found upon securing the outside and inside perimeter of the building.

- Responded to a domestic disturbance on Union Street. Citizens were screened and advised

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Franklin Street near the downtown area.

- Conducted speed enforcement along Franklin St.

- Made traffic stops for speeding on Franklin Street and parking in the roadway on Center Street. Warnings were issued.

# REAL ESTATE



Impressive 2-story commercial building with 6,614 sq. ft. This meticulously maintained building was entirely renovated in 2007. Features a spacious commercial kitchen, office space, conference room, and a yoga/pilates room. All rooms are large and bright with ample lighting and natural light. The building is well insulated, with a state of the art heating system with radiant heat and 3 separate Buderus Logamax furnaces. ADA compliant with a lift/elevator, 4 restrooms, ample paved parking, 3 bay garage and a spacious backyard. There are a multitude of potential uses for this building. Located in Historic Brandon Village. A great investment opportunity offered at **\$425,000**



**802-236-9112**  
**Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com**  
**RoweRealEstate.com**



Make the dream of home ownership a reality.  
**We can help. Contact us today or apply online.**  
 Beth Buckman | Community Lender | NMLS #41062



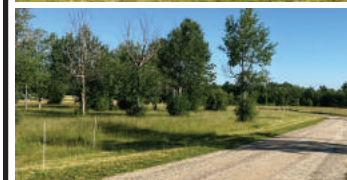
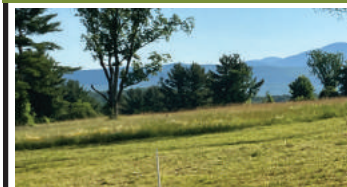
**National Bank**  
**of Middlebury**

Serving Vermont Communities Since 1831



nbmvt.com • 1-877-508-8455  
 Bank NMLS #403372

## Views in All Directions



**BRANDON: Mt. Pleasant Building Lots**  
**Fiber Optic Cable Available**  
 Plan for tomorrow by securing your future home site now. 17 lots ready for your new 'energy efficient' home. 3/4 to 1 A± with all utilities & enjoying gorgeous mountain & pastoral views. Located in the quaint village of Brandon with art galleries, shops, shopping & professional services. Convenient to Middlebury & Rutland & 45 min. +/- to Killington, Pico & Middlebury Snow Bowl. Ski, hike, bike & enjoy nearby lakes. Owner/Broker/Developer. Prices starting at **\$49,000.**



WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633  
 (802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)  
 Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com  
 Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

**We've Moved to**  
 14 Mt. Pleasant Dr. Brandon  
 Same phone: 802-247-6633  
**Same People - Same Expertise**  
 802-236-9075 (C); 802-236-9076 (T)

**CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE**

# ADVERTISE WITH US



Tom Van Sant



Christy Lynn



Angelo Lynn

**CONTACT US TODAY!**  
**SALES@BRANDONREPORTER.COM**



# Get your business noticed! ONLY \$10/week!

Ad design included in price.

Call The Reporter today at 802-247-8080 or email ads@brandonreporter.com

# Business & Service Directory

## Accounting

**Laurie L. Bertrand**  
Certified Public Accountant

Bookkeeping & Payroll Services  
Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation  
**Experience You Can Count On**  
4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only  
465-8362 • fax 465-8438



## Accounting

**Sharon L. Stearns, CPA, PLLC**  
Accounting, Tax & Consulting Services

Individuals, Small Business & Non Profits | Bookkeeping Payroll Quickbooks | Tax Planning & Tax Return Preparation

P. O. Box 22, 900 Pearl Street, Brandon, VT 05733  
sharon@stearnscca.com • www.stearnscca.com  
(802) 247-8300 • By Appt. Only

## Auto Body Shop

**Certified Collision Experts**



All Makes and Models  
Working with all  
Insurance companies

(802) 388-9961  
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm  
2196 Rt 7 South,  
Middlebury  
stonecdjr.com



## Auto Repair

**Hometown Service from  
Your Hometown Dealers!**



Factory-Trained Technicians  
Servicing all makes and models



**G Stone Motors**  
36 Boardman St.,  
Middlebury  
(802) 388-6718  
gstonemotors.com

**Stone**  
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram  
2149 Rt 7 So., Middlebury  
(802) 388-9961  
stonecdjr.com

## Beauty Salons



**Delilah's Hair Studio, LLC**

Full Service Hair Care  
for Men, Women and Kids.



Cuts • Color • Highlighting • Tanning  
Manicures • Artificial Nails • Lashes  
Skin Treatments with Kim  
from Brunswick Medical Aesthetics

802-247-3345 • 25 Center St., Brandon VT 05733

## Contractor



F J C  
802.310.1986

fjcbuilders.com

- Full service general contractor
- Turn key construction
- Kind knowledgeable staff

**One call does it all**

**Christopher Netelkos**  
cnetelkos@fjcbuilders.com • Sudbury, Vt.

## Events, Meetings & Functions



One Stop for your Unique and Memorable Events  
Family Reunions • Baby Showers  
Wedding Shower/Rehearsal Dinners/Receptions  
Celebrations of Life • Pool and Theme Parties  
Full Catering and On-Site Liquor License

"Make A Little History of Your Own"

20 Park Street, Brandon, Vermont • (802) 247-5766  
email: events@brandoninn.com • BrandonInn.com



## Excavating

1963 — Celebrating Over 50 Years — 2022

**Markowski**  
Excavating, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
Dozers. Excavators. Heavy Hauling.  
Top Soil. Gravel. Sand.

P.O. Box 69 Florence, VT 05744  
Phone: (802) 483-6469 Fax: (802) 483-6978

## Home Care

**Wintergreen**

Residential Care Home  
Level III • ERC Care • State Licensed  
Keep Your Loved Ones Close to Home

Please call for info 802-247-5987  
3 Union Street  
and 360 New Road  
Brandon, VT

Owners, Mary and Mike Jensen

- 24 Hour Personal Care
- Home Cooked Meals
- Private Rooms
- RN Overviewed
- Exceptional Staff
- Medication Management
- Daily Activities
- Transportation & Hospice Care Provided

## Massage

*Charlotte Bishop*  
MASSAGE THERAPY

Destress your body and rejuvenate  
with the gift of touch.  
Therapeutic ♦ Soft Tissue  
Swedish/Esian ♦ Cupping  
Certified and registered.

28+ years of experience. (802) 247-8106

## Plumbing & Heating



Heat Pumps  
and Heat Pump  
Water Heaters

Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels  
New Construction • Outdoor Faucets  
Family-owned and operated.

**We return phone calls!**

Tony Johnson  
Brandon, VT (802) 345-1110 • (802) 345-3201

## Restoration

**Disaster Recovery, Inc.**

24/7 Emergency Services Covering Vermont  
www.DisasterRecoveryInc.com



- Water Damage Drying/Clean Up
- Mold Remediation
- Carpet Cleaning & Deodorization
- Smoke and Sewage Cleaning Service

877-765-6340  
Fully insured & certified

## Storage Containers

**STORAGE CONTAINERS**  
Rentals & Sales

Delivered To Your Location  
Safe & Secure • Water Tight  
Great for Seasonal Storage,  
Renovation Projects  
or Job Sites



483-9900 • Pittsford, VT



## Water Delivery



**Wyman's**  
Water  
Delivery

Residential Water delivery  
for Swimming Pools and Wells

Call (802) 247-5748



# Newton arrested

(Continued from Page 6)

of Addison and Ron Holmes of Middlebury are slated to face off in an Aug. 9 primary for the sheriff's post. It remains to be seen whether the job will attract minor party candidates or independents, who have until Aug. 4 to file.

Per state statute, the county's high bailiff must step in for the sheriff if that person is unable to fulfill their duties. Silberman issued the following statement about Newton's arrest:

"This morning, Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton was arrested on charges of sexual assault, unlawful restraint, and domestic assault. Sheriff Newton is currently in police custody pending arraignment, scheduled for later today. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §333, I will serve as Acting Sheriff so long as Sheriff Newton remains in custody.

"Earlier this afternoon, I spoke with lead Deputy Sergeant Michael Elmore, whose duties include general administration of the Addison County Sheriff's Department. Sgt. Elmore assured me that the ACSD will continue to provide all necessary services to the county during this difficult time.

"I anticipate that Sheriff Newton will be released from custody this evening after his arraignment, at which point, under state law, he will automatically resume his elected office.

"Like all people charged with crimes, Sheriff Newton deserves



**PETER NEWTON**

a presumption of innocence pending trial and conviction. However, it is simply impossible for Sheriff Newton to continue serving the community in a law enforcement capacity under the cloud of these very serious charges.

"Accordingly, I am calling for Sheriff Newton to immediately resign from office."

Anyone with information that may be relevant to the VSP investigation of Newton is asked to contact the VSP Bureau of Criminal Investigations at 802-524-5993. Tips also may be submitted online anonymously [vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit).

The Independent and Reporter will have more on this story as details become available.

# Triathalon

(Continued from Page 10)

past race founder and director Steve Hare in the final mile. Hare has had both his hips replaced in the past year and a half. He was the oldest competitor in the Olympic triathlon, winning the 65 to 69 age group (2:40:45).

"Running has been a challenge, I still love participating in our events," Hare said. "Seeing others enjoy their fitness keeps me motivated to putting on the races."

Eric Morgano, 31, of Brandon ran a decent final leg of the race passing a New York runner to earn 10th place in the sprint triathlon

In the women's sprint race, Shelofsky trailed Koch by three minutes after the bike, but had the second-fastest run to get to within 1:12 of the win. Shelofsky's mother, Alison, also of Ripton was second in the 55-59 age group placing 10th overall in 1:24:47. Kelsey beat her mom out of the water by two min-

utes but Mom nearly caught up to her with a 1:30 faster bike. Kelsey's run was 4:30 better.

Bristol's Nick Pierce, 43, was fifth overall in the men's sprint and second in his age group (1:11:11). He was passed by James Underwood of Woodstock (1:11:10) while passing Burlington's Mark Mulder (1:11:16) both in the last 100 yards.

The sprint race saw 101 individuals plus two teams line up at the starting line; 51 individuals and three teams started the Olympic-distance event.

The day's competitions also included aquabike versions of the sprint and Olympic-distance events, which consisted of just swimming and biking. Five competitors took part in those events, none from Addison County.

Complete results and splits can be found at [vermontsun.com](http://vermontsun.com).

## HELP WANTED

### RESORT SPA & SALON MANAGER

Central Vermont's premier 4-season destination wedding & vacation venue is looking to hire a Spa & Salon Manager!  
email resume to [hr@mountaintopinn.com](mailto:hr@mountaintopinn.com)

### SPA & SALON MANAGER

Looking for an exciting career in the resort spa & salon industry? We've got the role for you! Responsibilities include reception, guest interaction, appointment scheduling, team scheduling & hiring, product ordering, menu development &, if licensed, service provider role. Ideal candidate is a licensed practitioner and/or has previous office experience (But training is also available). Looking to pursue your license while working? Tuition/continued education reimbursement opportunities available.  
Full-time, Year-round. Competitive Wages.



## MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

195 Mountain Top Rd Chittenden, VT • [www.mountaintopinn.com](http://www.mountaintopinn.com)

## MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT IS HIRING!

Central Vermont's premier 4-season destination wedding & vacation venue is looking for a key team member.

email resume to [hr@mountaintopinn.com](mailto:hr@mountaintopinn.com)

### HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR

This role combines the housekeeping duties of ensuring clean, orderly & attractive conditions for both our guest rooms & common areas at the resort, with a supervisory role providing direction & management to a portion of our Housekeeping Team. This position reports in to our Director of Housekeeping and is responsible for identifying resource, staffing & material needs for delivering a guest experience that meets our Resort standards. Full-time / Year-round. Includes benefits.  
9am - 5pm schedule & highly competitive wages.  
Relevant experience in team management &/or housekeeping is preferred, however on-site training is also available.

## MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

195 Mountain Top Rd Chittenden, VT • [www.mountaintopinn.com](http://www.mountaintopinn.com)



# Safer Society

(Continued from Page 2)

“What do people do with their pain?” he asked.

Much of the work in the field has been rightfully dedicated to working with survivors, says Prescott, “knowing that not far away people are still perpetuating abuse. But a big part of prevention is working with abusers.”

He cited the societal fear of the “monster” abuser, saying it’s rarer than some might think. “The average convict is only arrested once, he said. “That’s where we come in. Recent studies have shown that the treatment lowers recidivism by 30%.”

Of course, that does not mean that Safer Society isn’t interested in working with survivors.

Since 2017, Safer Society has been running a local program called New Circle Mentoring. The program, which began explicitly for children dealing with the absence of incarcerated parents, now pairs children who’ve dealt with abuse in the home—whether drug abuse or physical or sexual abuse—with guidance from a caring adult.

“Over the past few years, we’ve had 13-15 total kids in Addison County,” said the program’s director, Erika Linksey. “But it’s about

quality, not quantity.”

The program requires a minimum three-year commitment from its mentors due to the time needed to build trust with the children. Mentors must be established in the community, be community-minded, possess a great deal of patience, and be able to pass a background check. Experience working with children is essential, but professional experience is not required.

Recruitment efforts are ongoing, and Linksey says a full-on recruiting campaign is forthcoming.

“We’re very careful about whom we choose,” said Linksey. “We want the pairings to be successful.”

“The pandemic has added layers of difficulty,” she continued. “We’re hopeful of expanding into Brandon in the fall of 2022, but the onboarding process for a mentor takes about three months.”

In terms of Safer Society’s broader, ongoing work, Prescott acknowledged that more always needs to be done. “We have a long way to go in terms of evening the balance between resources allocated to offenders vs. survivors,” he said.

As for the crimes themselves, he left very little up for interpretation. “We want to obliterate the crimes,” he said. “But we need to look past the anger and grief to determine a solution. How can I help the abusers get safely back into society?”

*Reporter’s note: Anyone interested in becoming a mentor or in learning more about Safer Society’s ongoing efforts, training and webinars, or interested in making a donation can find more information online at [www.saferociety.org](http://www.saferociety.org)*

# Proctor select board

(Continued from Page 3)

that will hopefully be satisfactory so more explicit measures don’t have to be put in place.

Ramsey also updated the board on town water delinquencies noting that about 70 households were currently 120 days or more delinquent in an amount over \$750. That totaled about \$140,000, Ramsey said. That represents about 10 % of the town’s approximately 700 households.

Ramsey said he has been researching how other communities handle such delinquencies, noting that Rutland just shuts people off when they are past due, “but I know we’re not Rutland, we’re Proctor, and we can do things differently,” he said.

Board Chair Judy Frazier said she thought part of the town’s problem is that in the past when agreements were broken, they were just rewritten, rather than having the town take stronger measures.

“I think the weakest part of this past arrangement is that in the past when an agreement was broken, nothing was done,” Frazier said. “We need to make agreements (to help), but if they (homeowners) break it, that’s it.”

Ramsey noted that state aid was available for eligible residents who can’t afford to make utility payments, and while some residents have taken advantage of that help, not everyone who qualifies has applied. He talked about

various possibilities of helping residents with that process, but no concrete plan was pursued.

In other action, the selectboard:

- Discussed paving of Florence Road in coordination with the town of Pittsford, which should happen sometime toward the end of July.

- Discussed a sewage backup on South Street, with Ramsey noting that while it was a complicated project that went across a number of individual residential lots, he thought there was a fix that wouldn’t be too expensive and would like to pursue options.

“Anything we can do to get sewage backups down is a good thing,” Hogan said, a general board comment giving Ramsey the go-ahead to pursue action.

- As part of the town’s hazardous mitigation plan, Ramsey also got approval to apply for a grant to fund a generator that would temporarily power the pump at the Field Street well, which is the town’s water source, if there is a power failure. The fund would be a 90-10 split, with the town only picking up 10% of the cost, which is a “real good deal for the town,” Ramsey said.

- Heard from Ramsey that he had submitted an invoice based on reimbursement for the Railroad Bridget Water Line work the town had done prior to Ramsey’s hiring. The invoice would be for \$15,000, which would flow (See Proctor select board Page 23)

## Maple Meadow Farm

is looking for

# A Few Good Eggs



Full time year around **General Farm Labor** position available. Experience with farm equipment, basic mechanical & electric knowledge preferred. Must have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Pay commensurate with experience.

Also looking for a person to work in fast paced **Egg Processing** room 15-20 hours each week. Applicant must be a reliable, responsible self starter with good references and reliable transportation.



**Apply in person at**  
**Maple Meadow Farm,**  
**518 Maple St.,**  
**Salisbury, VT 05769.**



**Now Hiring in Middlebury!**

- Full or Part-Time Ride Coordinator/Dispatcher
- Full-Time Fleet Maintenance Technician
- Full & Part-Time Drivers

## \$1,000 SIGNING BONUS

Competitive pay & excellent benefits including:

- 24 paid days off to start (Holidays & PTO)
- 100% employer paid health insurance for employee
- \$1,200 toward medical expenses
- Retirement plan w/ employer match
- Long & short-term disability insurance
- Life insurance
- Access to low-cost dental & vision insurance
- Employee Assistance Program

**To find out more information:**  
[www.trivalleytransit.org/job-openings/](http://www.trivalleytransit.org/job-openings/)  
**email: [kirstie@trivalleytransit.org](mailto:kirstie@trivalleytransit.org) to apply!**

TVT is an AA/EEO Employer



## Brandon Inn Job Fair

**“Make Some History of Your Own”**

**Job Fair – June 30, 2022 - 5:00p-7:00p**  
**Front Porch of the Brandon Inn**

*We’re being asked to host a lot of events! Need staff to do this.*

Taking applications for all Positions  
 Barista • Front Desk • Kitchen • Wait Staff • Housekeeping  
 Don’t wait to apply; email: [mail@brandoninn.com](mailto:mail@brandoninn.com)

**Brandon Inn • 20 Park Street • Brandon Vermont**



# Trump's travesty

(Continued from Page 4)

regular transfer of power through devious means.

Among the testimony on Day Four of the hearings were two stories of how the lives of two election workers from Georgia and a GOP leader in Arizona were threatened and turned upside down by Trump's reckless behavior.

Arizona House Speaker Russell "Rusty" Bowers, a diehard conservative Republican, testified on Wednesday that as much of a conservative, life-long Republican, and ardent Trump supporter that he was, he couldn't bring himself to disavow the oath of office he was sworn to. Bowers testified that Trump and his team pressured him relentlessly to throw the state's electors to Trump even though he knew President Biden had carried the state by an undeniable margin.

For Bowers' honesty and sticking up for America's democracy, Trump threw a tantrum, called him unfaithful to his cause, and, consequently, Bowers suffered the misguided wrath of Trump's clueless and amoral supporters.

According to an account in the New York Times: "Bowers had voted for Trump, campaigned for Trump, but would not violate the law for him — and, as a result, his political future was jeopardized, his character was questioned, and his family was harassed as his daughter was dying.... In the weeks that followed, Bowers' neighborhood in Mesa, a suburb east of Phoenix, was practically occupied at times by caravans of Trump supporters. They screamed at Bowers through bullhorns, filmed his home, and led parades to ridicule him that featured a civilian military-style truck. At one point, a man showed

up with a gun and was threatening Bowers' neighbor."

And that was for a fellow Republican.

More troubling was the mother-daughter duo, Wandrea "Shaye" Moss and her mother, Ruby Freeman — Georgia election workers. Trump and Rudy Giuliani targeted them because one passed a mint to the other during the vote count, and Trump, having no evidence but good optics, used the moment to falsely allege it was a USB drive (supposedly, Trump surmised, to somehow cast unsolicited votes for Biden, which isn't how votes are cast but Trump created this fiction and for a few days his followers fell for it without question.)

It was because Trump's supporters were so eager and willing to believe Trump's big lie that they also jumped at every false allegation Trump made. Trump and Giuliani were relentless in their assault, explicitly attacking the mother-daughter duo 20 separate times, even as they knew they were spreading more of the same lie.

The consequences to the mother and daughter were devastating. "A lot of threats," Moss told the committee, "wishing death upon me. Telling me that, you know, I'll be in jail with my mother, and saying things like, 'be glad it's 2020 and not 1920.'"

In a taped deposition, Moss's mother, Ruby Freeman, told the House committee that she's now afraid, 18 months later, to have her name said in public. "For my entire professional life, I was Lady Ruby," Freeman told the select committee. "My community in Georgia, where I was born and lived my whole life, knew me as Lady Ruby.... Now, I won't even introduce myself by my name

anymore. I get nervous when I bump into someone I know in the grocery store who says my name. I'm worried about who is listening. I get nervous when I have to give my name for food orders. I'm always concerned of who is around me. I've lost my name, and I've lost my reputation. I've lost my sense of security all because a group of people, starting with number 45 and his ally Rudy Giuliani, decided to scapegoat me and my daughter, Shaye. To push their own lies about how the presidential election was stolen.... There is nowhere I feel safe. Nowhere. Do you know how it feels to have the president of the United States target you? The president of the United States is supposed to represent every American. Not to target one. But he targeted me, Lady Ruby, a small-business owner, a mother, a proud American citizen, who stood up to help Fulton County run an election in the middle of the pandemic."

It's stuff none of us want to read, watch, or even think about. We're all sick from it and sick and tired of it. For most of us, we'd instead tune out.

But for our democracy's sake, we can't.

As the committee has demonstrated time and again, the actions taken by Trump and key members of the Republican Party to subvert the constitutional transfer of power were a serious challenge to the nation's democracy. It was more than just ensuring the election results were accurate; it was a deliberate attempt to keep Trump in power despite his loss.

Ignoring those acts and failing to prosecute is setting the stage for democracy's demise.

Angelo Lynn

# Proctor select board

(Continued from Page 22)

back into the town's water fund, Ramsey said.

• Heard that Proctor's swimming pool was "hopping" this past weekend, and Ramsey noted the article in the Reporter last week on the pool that drew lots of local attention. The "pool," which is a man-made pond that's about 20 feet at its deepest, is seeing a lot of vegetation growth, Ramsey said, suggesting that the select-board might want to consider strategies in the next budget cycle to curb some of that growth.

• Heard from Ramsey that he had been getting a lot of calls about mosquitoes, and noted that the mosquito district's spray trucks have seemed to be spraying more than usual, according to comments he has seen.

• Renewed the annual sheriff's contract for \$87,360, which would provide 40 hours of weekly coverage for the year.

• On a motion by selectman Benjamin Curtis, named the selectboard as the town's cannabis control board, just as it is the liquor control board. "It's something we should do," Curtis said, noting that state statute dictates most things, so the local control board just has to deal with the local formalities.

• Set the town's water and sewer rates for the upcoming fiscal year at \$525 annually for each equivalent user in a household for water, and \$475 annually for sewer rates per equivalent user. That rate was slightly down for the sewer and remained the same for water as the current year.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Is accepting bids for a purchasing a structure constructed by Otter Valley Union High School Students. The structure is sold as is, with no warranties.

The structure's base is constructed of 2x6's with 2x4" walls. The footprint is 14'x 8' with 8' walls. There is also a roof system that has a loft already framed out.

Bids should be submitted to  
RNESU Central office by July 10th at 1:00PM  
49 Court Drive, Brandon, VT 05733  
Fax: 802-247-5548  
Email: bflaming@mesu.org

Please call Otter Valley at 802-247-6833  
to schedule a visit to see the structure

## HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF PROCTOR Employment Opportunity

The Town of Proctor is seeking a qualified individual to serve as the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer – Assistant to the Town Manager.

**Job Description:** A degree in accounting, public administration, or similarly applicable experience is preferred, or at least two years' practical experience in the area of municipal, public, or private accounting including experience managing payroll, employee benefits, accounts payable and receivable. A working knowledge of Word and Excel is required. Experience with NEMRC accounting system is a plus.

This is a full-time, year-round hourly position with a competitive benefits package. Proctor residents will be given priority. A detailed job description is available at <https://proctorvermont.com>.

Letters of Interest and resumes should be addressed to:

Town of Proctor, 45 Main Street, Proctor, VT 05765  
attention Celia Lisananti, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.  
Review of applicants will begin immediately.

The Town of Proctor is an equal opportunity employer.



### Addison County Parent/Child Center

We are seeking a staff person to join our dynamic outreach team, providing support to young families through Center and home-based services.

Abundant professional development and individual and group supervision opportunities, as well as collaboration with other community agencies and home visiting.

MSW preferred, a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a related field is required.

Great working environment and generous benefits  
Total hours negotiable

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to Donna Bailey at [dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org](mailto:dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org)





# DAVENPORT ELECTRIC FEST

Celebrating the inventor of the electric motor,  
Thomas Davenport, on his 220th Birthday  
in his home town of Brandon, VT!

*This event will showcase the future of sustainable transportation and equipment.*

**July 9, 2022  
11am - 6pm  
Estabrook Park,  
Brandon, VT**

Come celebrate the  
history and future of  
electric motor technology  
where it was invented!

Electric vehicles and  
equipment on display.

Food, music, and more!

Thanks to our Sponsors:



Mean Green Mowers  
Green Mountain Power  
VSECU  
Segway Sprockets LG  
Carbonate Media  
BYD  
Stone Chrysler Dodge  
Jeep Ram  
G. Stone Motors

