

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 4

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

\$1



RECORD SHOP

Vinyl records may seem nostalgic, but to many they never faded away. Mountain Music in Rutland keeps the tradition alive.

PG. 8

'ZINE MAKING CLUB

Teenagers with unresolved creative urges will love the new workshop at the Brandon Free Public Library. Come learn how to produce your own 'zines! These funky, DIY magazines are a perfect way to express yourself.

PG. 19

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

The RNESU and OVUU School Boards met on January 18. Read what's new in the district administration.

PG. 4

TREE WARDEN UPDATE

Tree Warden Neil Silins explains his proposed Shade Tree Preservation Plan. The preservation of trees along our streets is crucial to our quality of life, he says.

PG. 23

TRACING HISTORY

Local residents have deep roots. Read about Erastus Laird, Civil War veteran, and his great-great-grandson Mike Rowe.

PG. 3



PG. 10



Winter finally arrives

OTTER CREEK IN Brandon after a recent snowfall.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Brandon Town Manager resigns

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—After the public portion of its meeting on Monday evening, the Brandon selectboard went into executive session to discuss a “personnel matter.” By Tuesday morning, that matter was no longer a secret: Dave Atherton,

Brandon's town manager since 2015, had announced his intention to resign, effective February 21.

In an email sent to The Reporter, Board chair Seth Hopkins stated, “The selectboard regrettably accepted Mr Atherton's resignation with deep appreciation for his

dedication to the Town and with real admiration for all that he has achieved for Brandon, first as a selectboard member elected twice and then as our professional town manager since 2015. His record as town manager has been truly transformative, and he leaves a positive legacy

which will benefit the community for long years into the future. The selectboard congratulates Mr. Atherton on all he accomplished for Brandon and wishes him every success in his future endeavors. He will be greatly missed.”

(See *Brandon T.M.*, Page 11)

Brandon SB talks shade trees, class 4 roads, and solar funding

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In its regular meeting on Monday, the Brandon selectboard addressed several issues, including the Tree Warden's shade-tree preservation plan, the designation of Briggs Lane as a Class IV highway, and the Brandon Energy Committee's request for ARPA funding for a community solar array.

Shade Tree Plan

Tree Warden Neil Silins was on hand to address questions from the board regarding the shade-tree preservation plan that he submitted after the last selectboard meeting. The board's questions focused mostly on the plan's provisions regarding trees in the town's right-of-way on private property.

The town maintains a right-of-way (r.o.w.) on the first several feet of private property alongside public roads. This generally means that the town can access that land for the maintenance, installation, or removal of underground water and sewer lines, curbing, and trees. The town has the authority to remove trees in the r.o.w. without the property owner's consent, for example.

The board's concern was that many property owners are unaware of this and assume that they control the trees growing in that section of their land. Board member Tim Guiles questioned whether the penalties outlined in the plan for the unauthorized re-

(See *Brandon SB*, Page 2)



New England Woodcraft takes woodworkers on a tour

BY STEVEN JUPITER

FORESTDALE—To a certain kind of person—someone as fascinated with woodworking as kids are with candy—the machine shop at New England Woodcraft (NEW) must seem like Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory: a place of endless bustle and wonder. The build-

ing, on North Street in Forest Dale, is a veritable village unto itself, humming with activity, both human and machine.

On Friday, January 20, the company opened its doors to about 30 members of the Vermont Wood Works Council (VWWC), an in-

(See *New England Woodcraft*, Page 15)

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)
removal of shade trees in the r.o.w. were too strong, given that the legal status of that land is unclear to many people. It might also surprise people that the plan authorizes the Tree Warden to plant trees in the r.o.w. without the property owner's consent.

Silins cautioned against softening the language and stated that the unauthorized cutting of a tree in the r.o.w. carries a maximum penalty of \$500. Silins agreed to distribute his preservation plan for input from various state agencies that might want to weigh in on it.

TOWN MEETING WARNING

The board moved on to approve the warning for Town Meeting, which will be held on Monday, March 6, with voting on Tuesday, March 7. Town Clerk Sue Gage asked that the warning be amended to suspend the 8% penalty currently levied against property owners who miss the due date for their property taxes. Gage stated that she believed the penalty was too steep and asked for a grace period for late payments instead.

Board Chair Seth Hopkins countered that such an accommodation would simply create a new effective due date rather than compel people to pay on time. "Taxes

are what we owe to each other," he said.

The motion to amend the warning did not pass. The board subsequently approved the unamended warning.

SALE OF SWAMPLAND

The board also approved a motion to supply a letter to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to support its efforts to purchase a 30-acre parcel of private land in Brandon for inclusion in the Brandon Swamp Wildlife Management Area. Representatives from DFW attended the meeting via Zoom to explain their interest in acquiring the land for preservation and recreation.

STATUS OF BRIGGS LANE

Briggs Lane resident Linda Grace asked the board to clarify the legal status of the street. The issue is whether Briggs Lane is a Class IV highway, which means that the town owns but does not maintain it. Grace contends that all the available evidence demonstrates that the town has never designated Briggs Lane as Class IV and is obligated to maintain the street.

Town Manager Dave Atherton, however, insisted that Briggs Lane is indeed a Class IV highway, and invited Grace to visit the Town Of-

fice to view maps and documentation supporting that position.

ARPA FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR ARRAY

Jim Emerson, Chair of the Brandon Energy Committee, asked the board to consider setting aside \$300,000 of the \$1,000,000 it received in ARPA funding to establish a town-owned solar array. Emerson stated that government programs and incentives would result in a refund of 30-50% of the cost.

The board expressed support for solar energy in general but was skeptical about the financial obligations that owning a solar array would entail. Board member Tracy Wyman was concerned about "decommissioning costs" that would be incurred down the road when the solar panels had to be removed and/or replaced. Board member Tim Guiles assured Wyman that technology had improved to the point where it was reasonable to expect an array to last 50 years or more.

Attendees suggested that the town had to do its part to produce renewable energy and that perhaps the array could be made large enough to produce surplus energy which could be sold to offset the initial costs.

Of the overall \$1,000,000 ARPA grant, approximately \$250,000 has already been earmarked for infrastructure projects around Bran-

don, with another \$200K - \$250K requested by various entities.

Board chair Hopkins asserted that the ARPA money was best used for projects that would not be suitable for public bonds. A solar array, he thought, could be achieved through bonding.

No further action was taken.

OTHER ITEMS

Town Clerk Sue Gage reminded attendees that while town ballots would be mailed, school ballots had to be requested from the Town Office or obtained at polling sites on voting day.

A warrant in the amount of \$174,507.62 was approved to pay the town's bills, including a bill for \$258.86 for veterinary care for Guinness the police dog. Dr. George Fjeld, in attendance, was able to determine from the bill that the dog must've received treatment for a scratched eye. Sue Gage stated that the money spent on the dog would ultimately come

out of the large pool of donations the police received for the dog's care.

The town received a Bylaws Modernization Grant from the VT Dept of Housing and Community Development to revamp its zoning regulations to encourage the development of more housing.

The town received approval from FEMA to move forward with plans to establish a disaster shelter.

The North Street bridge replacement project received three proposals. A firm will be chosen by the end of the week.

Board member Wyman questioned why the Fire District budget isn't subject to town-wide Australian balloting like the town and school budgets. Bill Moore, former chair of the Prudential Committee, stated that such a change would have to be made by attendees at the Fire District's annual meeting.

Corrections

The Brandon Idol photograph on the front page misidentified a contestant. The contestant third from the left is Gunnar Tinsman, not Baker Larock.

The article on Winter Blues misstated the recommended

dosage of vitamin D. The units should have been in IU not mg.

The article on Beaver Pond incorrectly stated that the new marker is on the Stone Trail. It is on the Valley Trail.

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Erastus Laird: Vermont Civil War soldier

BY GEORGE FJELD

FORESTDALE—Erastus Laird re-enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War, after a 2-year stint and some time home. He had been home long enough that he and his wife, Priscilla, were expecting their first child. Present Middlebury and former Brandon resident, Mike Rowe, is glad they were: Erastus was Rowe's great-great-grandfather. Erastus was also the great-grandson of Wm. Laird, who emigrated from Scotland.

Laird was a private in Company B of the 11th Vermont Regiment. In 1864, his regiment was involved in the Battle of Cedar Creek in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. According to Rowe, "field officers were thinned out and Laird took control of the men around him. He rallied them to charge over the hill. Laird took a Minie ball (bullet) in the forehead." Rowe relates that upon hearing of his death, "Priscilla found 2 men willing to retrieve his body. She paid them \$100 for train tickets, a pine coffin, and a new suit to dress him in. Upon returning, Priscilla insisted on seeing the body of her husband. She was surprised to find him naked. Apparently, the 2 men gambled away some of the money and didn't have enough for the suit."

Priscilla and Erastus Laird were residents of Forestdale, liv-



THE HEADSTONE OF Erastus Laird, Civil War veteran, in Forestdale Cemetery.

Photos by George Fjeld

ing just south of the Forestdale cemetery, where they are buried side by side. The headstone

of Erastus was replaced by his family a few years ago because it had fallen into pieces and was being held together by some iron strapping.

The Lairds' son George was named after his uncle and was a blacksmith in Forestdale. He ran the livery for the Silver Lake Hotel. He had 2 children, Karl and Elizabeth or "Lizzy," as she was commonly known. Lizzy was Mike Rowe's grandmother. She worked as a waitress at the Silver Lake Hotel. Her brother, Karl, drove the stagecoach from the railroad in Brandon up to the hotel. Karl was the progenitor of the Lairds in Rutland. Carleton Laird, sportswriter, is Karl's grandson.

Erastus had a brother, George, who died from wounds suffered during the Civil War. Both of their names appear on the prominent monument to the Civil War in the center of Brandon. Interestingly, a 10'x 20' painting of the Battle of Cedar Creek hangs in Vermont's State House, although neither brother is specifically depicted.

We look forward to hearing more about our veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Please let us know if you have any information. News@brandonreporter.com



MIKE ROWE OF Middlebury (formerly of Brandon) at the Brandon Civil War memorial that bears the name of Erastus Laird, Rowe's great-great-grandfather.

In Provenance, it's all about the Romance



Saturday February 11th, and

Sunday February 12th 5pm-9pm

\$79/person (plus tax & gratuity)

Menu will also be available a la carte and take out

Soup

Clam Chowder
Roasted Red Bell Pepper Cream Soup

Appetizer

Caesar Salad with Sautéed Shrimp in a Cheese Cup
Oyster Crêpe with Champagne Cream Sauce
Escargot in Red Bliss Potato Cup with Garlic Butter & Swiss Cheese
Pâte de Campagne with Cranberry Chutney & Mesclun Greens

Main Course

Salmon Wellington with Confetti Couscous, Tomato Tarragon Lemon Butter
Beef Bourguignon with Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Maine Lobster on Red Beet Risotto ~ \$10 surcharge
Cavatelli with Red Pepper, Asparagus, Mushroom, & Pesto Cream Sauce

Dessert

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Ganache & Fresh Raspberries

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READER COMMENTS



A reader from Pittsford writes:

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The **REPORTER**

School Boards discuss student experience

BY WILL ROSS

PITTSFORD—On Wednesday, January 18, the RNESU School Board met at Lothrop Elementary School in Pittsford. The meeting opened with a discussion about community feedback regarding food service. The district is currently offering free breakfast and lunch; however, parents have brought up that kids are unsatisfied with the quality of food being provided. Superintendent Kristin Hubert informed the board that each school has been asked to appoint a robust food service advisory committee. As a 3-year contract with the Abbey Group is up for renewal, the board is waiting for a bid to go out to see who the possible contractors will be. Chair of the board, Laurie Bertrand, said that the district will be very clear about what they expect of the food-service company they hire.

The district plans to introduce new administrator evaluations in the 2023-24 school year. Superintendent Hubert pointed out that although teachers are supervised and evaluated, there is still a need for that process for the administration and building leaders. Hubert felt that just as they have the responsibility to support teachers, so too should they offer the same service for administrative staff. A comprehensive evaluation has been brought forward for the 23-24 school year that will enable these staff members to receive feedback, reflect on their performances, and identify goals.

Several policies were up for adoption, including one that applies to the RNESU staff chain of command. The policy is intended to help support the avenue of communication between parents or guardians and staff members and provide parents with a place

to address their concerns.

The RNESU Board meeting adjourned and was followed up by an OVUU school board meeting. The meeting began with a presentation from principal Michael Ruppel to inform the board about state policies that support flexible learning pathways. Ruppel went on to explain the pathways that are currently in place at Otter Valley. OVUU offers in-house programs such as Moosalamoo, tech education, extended learning opportunities, internships, and work-based learning. Ruppel noted that the current pathways are being expanded to include a career pathway program. They are also beginning to implement pathways such as STEM and world language into middle-school programming to encourage students to explore passions at a younger age.

There was a discussion about a list of requests made by a group of Vermont teenagers who were involved in a local production. Listen Up is an original musical inspired, written, and performed by Vermont teens. The group responsible for the musical compiled a list of changes that these teenagers hope to see in their lives and communities. Board members noted they were impressed with the candid nature of the requests and the scope of the list, which covered many different areas. They agreed it is clear that these kids want to feel supported and heard. The board felt it would be pertinent to keep this list in mind when implementing new policies and discussed the potential to give students a chance to plan opportunities alongside the board.

OTHER NEWS:

RNESU board accepted a policy regarding class-size revisions. The guidelines ensure
(See School Boards, Page 5)



Sing a song of love

THIS PLUMP BLACK Throated Blue Warbler male was captured looking serene in the woods around Brandon. Males of this species sing to defend their territories. Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Waterfowl Blinds must be removed

Waterfowl hunters who did not remove their hunting blinds from the waters of the state earlier must do so before February 15 on Lake Champlain or May 15 on inland waters according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

State law requires removal of the blinds before these deadlines to protect natural areas and to prevent boating accidents after the ice melts.

“Removal of the blinds and any posts that may be below the surface of the ice is important because of the danger they present when boaters are on the water in the spring,” said State Game Warden Colonel Justin Stedman.

Stedman says wardens annually record names and addresses of blind owners and will follow up with inspections.



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REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary.

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Cecil Reniche-Smith announces Select Board run

I am writing to announce the official start of my campaign for a one-year term on the Brandon Select Board. I also want to introduce myself to readers who may not yet have met me and are wondering, "Who the heck is Cecil, and why should I vote for her?"

I am a graduate of Vermont Law School, and I moved to Brandon in 2019 after working for many years as a Senior Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oregon, where I represented state agencies in state and federal courts. Before I was appointed to that position, I worked in private practice, where I represented cities and counties in various stages of litigation.

I am 61 and come from a family of public servants. For many years,



CECIL RENICHE-SMITH

my mother was active in the civic life of Bethel, Vermont, where among many other things, she coordinated the clean-up efforts after Hurricane Irene. She has been a huge influence on my life. So, it was probably inevitable that, upon moving to Brandon, I threw myself into the life of the town.

In addition to working part-time at The Bookstore, I am the current chair of the town Planning Commission and I serve on the Board of Trustees of the Brandon Free Public Library.

My past volunteer history includes serving on the Board of Directors of REACH Community Development in Portland, Oregon, where I worked to develop and promote equitable access to quality, affordable housing, supportive

services, and community. I also spent thousands of hours volunteering for the Oregon Humane Society, where I did everything from counseling potential adopters to caring for dogs seized from neglectful and abusive owners. I led the OHS's Technical Animal Rescue Team (OHSTAR) and deployed multiple times with the ASPCA to work with animals affected by natural disasters and seized from criminal dogfighting rings.

I am running for Select Board because I love Brandon. Brandon is wonderful place to live, work, and play. But like many Vermont towns, it is facing challenges. The economy is shifting, with Brandon losing many of the farm and

manufacturing jobs that had formed the backbone of its economy. Housing, energy, and childcare costs are rising, and the available workforce is shrinking as a result. I am running for Select Board because I believe my knowledge, skills and experience will be a valuable addition to the Board and the town as it navigates those challenges. I want to help Brandon grow and prosper, while retaining the small-town magic that makes Brandon so special.

If you would like to find out more about me, feel free to contact me at cecilforbrandon@gmail.com. I'd love to hear from you!

*Thank you so much,
Cecil Reniche-Smith
Brandon*

Brandon Energy Committee



Editor's note: This is one article in a series of monthly articles submitted by the Brandon Energy Committee.

Neighbors working together to warm our homes and save money, too!

Just a dusting of snow an ice outside the Brandon Town Hall was a reminder of the value of simple, and free weatherization supplies and training to help

make our homes and apartments more comfortable while also cutting energy costs. On January 21st, local energy experts, community members, and volunteers from the Brandon Energy Committee and SolarFest came together at the second "Button Up Brandon" event to share information about how installing different types of weatherization materials can produce immediate benefits and savings for tenants.

The event was made possible with funding from generous local contributors, plus grants secured by SolarFest from the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund of the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Grass Roots Fund.

In addition to the free do-it-ourselves kit of weatherization materials, there was plenty

of advice for renters to easily get started finding grants and rebates for larger projects and upgrading inefficient appliances. BROCC Community Action's energy efficiency coach Jason Downs explained the many programs available just by completing their simple application at www.broc.org/ weatherization. Bekah Kuster, Community Engagement Manager at Efficiency Vermont, identified the many free resources designed to help renters that are available just by calling their customer center at 888.921.5990, and Melanie Paskevich spoke about how NeighborWorks HEAT Squad can help renters and landlords qualify for weatherization projects and affordable building improvements.

If you're interested in finding ways to button up your rental property, including the latest on tax credits and grant programs, email brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com to learn about the landlord event in February.

School Boards

(Continued from Page 4)

compliance with state or federal requirements related to student-teacher ratios, special education, technical education, and English Language.

The OVUU school board is

preparing its budget statement for the year.

A grant came through that will allow improvements to the Lothrop campus sidewalks including increased wheelchair accessibility.

The town of Pittsford has requested reconsideration of the 2022 equalization study because of outlying sales influencing municipal and educational property taxes.

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Obituaries

Lillian Victoria Thomsen (nee Olson), Brandon

BRANDON—Lillian Victoria Thomsen (nee Olson), of Brandon, Vermont, entered the Church Triumphant on Tuesday January 17, 2023. She was a kindergarten teacher at Neshobe Elementary School for many years

Earl Albert Thomsen, her husband of 50 years, preceded her in death on March 17, 2005.

She is survived by two sons, Marcus W. Thomsen (Margaret N. Thomsen) and Karl J. Thomsen (Lisa Thal), two very special grandsons, Stephen H. Thomsen (Amanda R. Kennedy) and Michael R. Thomsen, and great granddaughter Lucy J. Thomsen.

One brother, Merwin Olson, also survives.



LILLIAN VICTORIA THOMSEN

A memorial service of celebration of Lillian's life will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. at St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church in Bran-

don, Vermont. Visitation will begin at 1:00 P.M. prior to the service. Private graveside committal services and Interment will take place at a later date in the family lot in the Forest Dale Cemetery, Forest Dale, VT

"Peace, Love and Joy to my family and friends."

In lieu of flowers memorial donations in her name may be given to ELCA World Hunger, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 or The Pittsford Food Shelf, 4181 Route 7, Pittsford, VT 05763

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

Jean Harvie Beatty

PITTSFORD—Jean O. (Giddings) Stevens Harvie Beatty, 93, formerly of Pittsford VT, passed away peacefully on January 17, 2023, at The Meadows at East Mountain in Rutland, VT, where she has resided for the past five years.

Jean was born July 30, 1929, and raised in Quincy, MA, the daughter of two native Vermonters, Clarence and Hilda (Sherman) Giddings. After graduating from Burdett Col-



JEAN HARVIE BEATTY

lege, in Boston, she married Bruce Stevens in 1949. Jean married Fred A. Harvie in 1953 and together they raised their family in Hingham, MA. While in Hingham she worked as the business manager for Fred's carpentry and building business. The family relocated to Pittsford, Vermont in 1975.

For full obituary, visit www.barnardfuneralhome.com.



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Investing in Vermont families

BRANDON—We are starting our third week of work in the Legislature and some of the priorities are clear. Vermont needs to build its economy and workforce through improved childcare, housing, and paid family leave. These issues (among others) were addressed in the Governor's budget address this past Friday. The Legislature is continuing its work to create a Vermont that works for everyone, not just a select few.

Thank you for attending my Constituent Coffee Hour and for reaching out to me these past few weeks. I have had meaningful discussions with constituents about the high cost of living in Vermont and our lack of affordable childcare. I will take your concerns with me to Montpelier. In addition, I have heard from many local retired state employees who are worried about the proposed change in their health-benefits plan. I have been listening and have also encouraged these retired workers to call the Governor's Office (802-828-3333) to voice their complaints. I am hoping that the legislature can have some influence, but our role is uncertain. Last week, Speaker Jill Krowinski and Pro Tem Phillip Baruth, released a press release with this statement:

"We are deeply concerned about the Administration's stated intention to move Medicare-eligible state retirees from the State of Vermont's insurance plan into Medicare Advantage plans without the support of state retirees. We are particularly concerned about the potential legal, financial, and health implications and believe this shift undermines collective bargaining rights."

Here is a summary of some of our recent work in the Legislature:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT ACT:

The FY2023 Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) involves a reassessment of the state revenues and expenditures halfway through the fiscal year. BAA provides the opportunity to address critical needs that cannot wait for the budgetary process. Proposed adjustments include a \$11.2 million increase to the Department of Mental Health to cover traveling nurse contract increases and \$8.6 million to address caseloads at the Department for Children & Families - Reach Up. In the

Commerce committee we are looking at additional funding for brownfields, administrative assistance for small rural towns to access ARPA grants and funding opportunities, unemployment insurance, regional business technical assistance, and workforce training for recent immigrants.

PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE:

Supporting families through a universal paid family leave insurance (FMLI) program is a top priority for Democratic legislators - H.66 was introduced with support from 103 bill sponsors. This bill is building on a promise to help all families thrive in order to create healthy and resilient communities. The creation of an FMLI program assists Vermont businesses in recruiting and retaining employees to support a strong and equitable economy.

CHILDCARE:

The much-anticipated RAND Child Care Financial Study was released this week. Financial and organizational models to provide quality early-childhood education were presented in the report. The cost is estimated between \$179 - \$279 million for high-quality care, wages, and benefits for the early childhood education workforce. The study indicates that Vermont can expect up to 2,800 people to enter the labor market, anticipate up to \$218M more in gross state product, and generate \$18M in additional state and local tax revenue with an improved childcare system. It is important to note that the study does not account for the long-term benefits to children and society from these investments. It is anticipated that a child-care bill will be released by the Human Services Committee in the next couple of weeks.

OUTREACH:

I will hold another Constituent Coffee Hour at the Brandon Free Public Library on Saturday February 18th at 10:00am - please drop by to talk about your concerns or discuss the Legislature. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me at 802-683-8209 or sjerome@leg.state.vt.us.

*Take care,
Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
Vermont House of Representatives (Brandon)
Vice-Chair, Commerce
and Economic Development
Committee*

Local scholars receive recognition

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL STUDENTS WERE NAMED TO THE PRESIDENT'S LIST AT CASTLETON UNIVERSITY, FALL 2022:

Emily Bennett of Proctor
Kathryn Coolidge of Florence
Molly Fisher of Brandon
Timothy Kittler of Brandon
Kristin Markie of Pittsford
Miranda Martin of Proctor
Mallory McGuinness of West Rutland
Maggie McKearin of Proctor
Cole Michael of West Rutland
Alexander Polli of Brandon
Miranda Stoutes of Brandon
Leo Therrien of Proctor

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL STUDENTS WERE NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST AT CASTLETON UNIVERSITY, FALL 2022:

Kelsey Adams of Pittsford

Justin Aker of North Chittenden
Elizabeth Bailey of West Rutland
Devon Bathalon of West Rutland
Brooke Bertrand of Whiting
Jordyn Bessette of Leicester
Lauryl Blanchard of Pittsford
Ashley Coltey of Proctor
Noah Crossman of North Chittenden
Emily Doty of Brandon
Alia Edmunds of Brandon
Emma Falquero of Brandon
Audrey Knapp of Sudbury
Isabell Lanfear of West Rutland
Morgan LaPorte of Leicester
Kyle Laughlin of West Rutland
Julia Lee of Brandon
Madison Lee of Proctor
Brandi Leno of Whiting
Conner McKearin of Proctor
Jocelyn Noble of Whiting
MacAlyster Perry of West Rutland

Adia Polli of Pittsford
Janaya Richardson of Proctor
Katherine Ripley of Leicester
Morgan Seward of West Rutland
Maevae Sheehy of Proctor
Katelyn Storey of Proctor
Alanna Trudeau of Salisbury
Sarah Wallis of Pittsford
Phillip Wedin of West Rutland
Morgan White of Whiting
Alexandra Williams of Brandon

OTHER LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVING COLLEGE HONORS, FALL 2022:

McKenna Ludden of West Rutland was named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire.

Madeline Fuller of Brandon was named to the President's List at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

2023 Rebates for Your Home



If you're planning on improving the efficiency of your home or apartment this year, take a look at Efficiency Vermont's residential offers, including:



Air Sealing and Insulation

- 75% off weatherization project costs, up to \$5,000 (completed by an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor)
- DIY weatherization: \$100 back on select do-it-yourself projects



Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating

- Air-source heat pumps: discounts starting at \$350 + income bonus
- Ground source heat pump: up to \$2,100/ton + \$500 income bonus
- Smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Water heaters: \$300-\$600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$200 income bonus
- Window air conditioners: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Wood pellet furnaces & boilers: \$6,000 rebate
- Wood and pellet stoves: \$400 discount at select retailers



Electric Vehicles

- Up to \$6,500 in local incentives and up to a \$7,500 federal tax credit



ENERGY STAR® Appliances

- \$200-\$400 rebates on heat pump clothes dryers, \$25-\$40 for dehumidifiers



Lighting

- \$100 rebate for qualifying LED fixtures for indoor growing, plus discounts on select ENERGY STAR® LED fixtures at participating retailers
- Free Energy Savings Kit full of LEDs and water-saving devices while supplies last!



Income-based Assistance

- Free lighting, appliances, energy consultations, and more — visit efficiencyvermont.com/free-products to see if you are eligible.

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility.



Not sure where to start?

Sign up for a **FREE** Virtual Home Energy Visit!
Call **888-921-5990** to learn more

All rebates are subject to availability and eligibility.
Visit www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates for the most up-to-date information.



Vinyl still spins its magic in Rutland

BY SUSAN JOHNSON

RUTLAND—A few taps on a smart phone can play our choice of music in your headphones, car, or home. These days, on-demand audio streaming is by far the most popular way to get tunes. Yet vinyl is alive and well, and nothing else compares.

The needle (stylus) descends on a record album, and after a few comforting crackles your music begins, warmer and more life-like than any digital format. Sure, one has to get up (or stop dancing) and turn it over. We all need to move around more anyway.

Most of us of a certain age fondly remember afternoons spent flipping through albums in the local record store. As a teen, I worked at Harmony Hut, a now-defunct Baltimore-Washington area chain. With a poster of Juice Newton's debut album behind me at the cash register, people would swear they were transacting with the artist herself, as apparently there was a strong resemblance between us. While not a Juice fan, I loved records and still do, having lugged around heavy particle-board boxes full of records for 40 years.

Neighborhood record stores took a hit when CDs entered the market in the early 1980s, and big-box stores (ick) took up the slack, at least for major labels and popular music. However, vinyl albums have been slowly but steadily coming back since the late 2000s, and indepen-

dent record stores have made a comeback along with them. Last year alone, while both digital and CD album sales declined, vinyl album sales were on the rise.

There are several reasons for this resurgence, according to Meshach Tourigny, owner of Mountain Music on Center Street in Rutland. "Records are collectible, and they sound good," he said as the bitter-sweet sound of Tom Petty, who passed in 2017, covering "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" played. "It's a tactile listening experience unlike the digital formats."

The pandemic fueled the trend, as people sat at home with more time on their hands, Tourigny noted. And it's not just us "mature" people driving the trend. Gen Z (born 1997 – 2012) music listeners are 27% more likely to purchase vinyl records than the average listener. Along with Millennials, they will continue to drive the trend. Perhaps younger people seek the comfort of the hands-on experience as the world seems uncertain and we increasingly live our lives online.

Mountain Music, in business for a decade, sells used and new vinyl. "Old stuff is being re-pressed," Tourigny continued. "You can get everything on vinyl now." The store has also has a good selection of vintage audio equipment, in addition to jewelry (made by Tourigny), clothing, and CDs.

"We're really happy when



MOUNTAIN MUSIC ON Center Street in Rutland is a vinyl lover's paradise.

Photo by Susan Johnson

new people are getting into the hobby and are happy to help them get started with equipment and records," Tourigny

said. "We have dollar bins full of records and audiophile pressings for \$150—there's something for everybody."

Record Store Day, a national event celebrating independent record stores, will be coming up in April and again on Black Friday after Thanksgiving. New records, limited editions, represses are released that day, according to Tourigny.

Whether you're new to vinyl and like the novelty or you're a seasoned owner and nostalgic, the trend continues. "It's a tangible thing that people are realizing that they miss," Touri-

gny mused. So, go spin some vinyl. Just remember, wired speakers sound better than wireless. But that's for another day.



OLD-SCHOOL TURNTABLE TECHNOLOGY still has plenty of fans.

Photo by Sepi Alavi



MESHACH TOURIGNY OF Mountain Music. "Records are collectible and they sound good," he says.

Photo by Susan Johnson

Who they were

Remembering Brandon's Veterans

BRANDON VETERANS WAR MEMORIAL							
HONORING THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY							
WORLD WAR I APRIL 6, 1917 - NOV. 11, 1918		WORLD WAR II DEC. 7, 1941 - DEC. 31, 1946		WORLD WAR II DEC. 7, 1941 - DEC. 31, 1946		KOREA JUNE 27, 1950 - JULY 27, 1953	
... Leland B. Parmelee Gale B. Parmelee Edwin H. Phelps
WORLD WAR II DEC. 31, 1946 - DEC. 31, 1946		WORLD WAR II DEC. 31, 1946 - DEC. 31, 1946		WORLD WAR II DEC. 31, 1946 - DEC. 31, 1946		KOREA JUNE 27, 1950 - JULY 27, 1953	
...

A REPORTER READER has written in to tell us about the veterans circled in red: Leland Parmelee, Gale Parmelee, and Edwin Phelps.

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Claire Pate (nee LaPorte) of Brandon wrote in to let us know that Leland B. Parmelee and Gale B. Parmelee, veterans of World War I and the Korean War, respectively, were members of her family. According to Claire, Gale Parmelee was married to her father's sister and Leland Parmelee was Gale's father. Additionally, Edwin H. Phelps, who served in World War I, was a relative on the LaPorte side of her family.

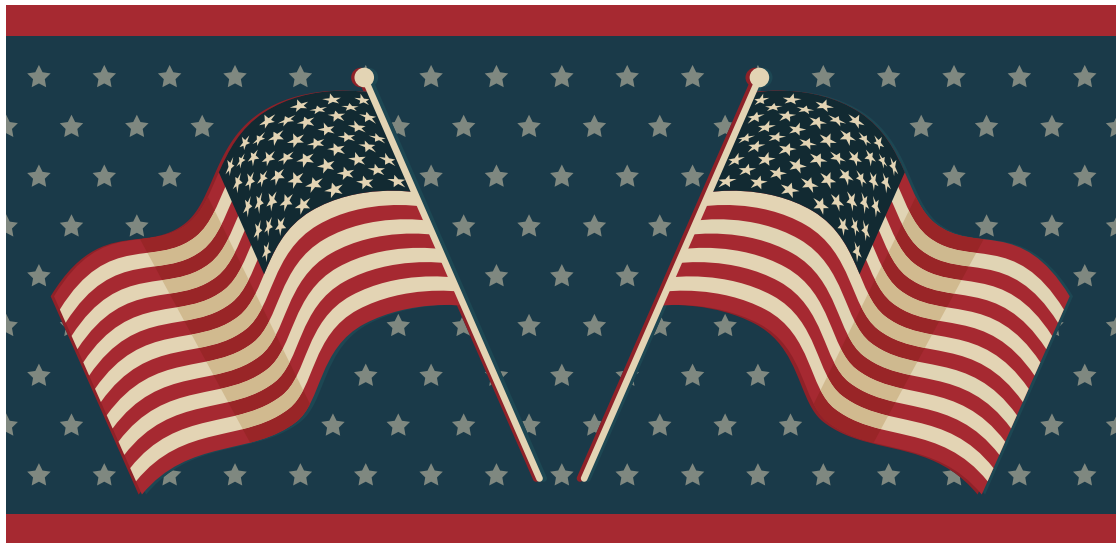
Claire sent along the following obituary for Gale, who passed away last year:

Gale B. Parmelee, 87, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 12, 2022 surrounded by family in Brandon, VT. He

grew up in Brandon and graduated with the class of 1954 from Brandon High School. Following high school, Gale enlisted in the US Army and was stationed in Germany. Upon his return to the States, he attended Vermont School of Agriculture (now Vermont Technical College) in Randolph, VT. He married Elaine LaPorte on February 23, 1957. Following a short time dairy farming and breeding cows for Curtiss Breeding Service, Gale would spend most of his working life in the bulk milk hauling business while raising beef cattle to graze the family farmland. He formed Gale B. Parmelee, Inc. and was well known and loved by farmers in Rutland and Addison counties. Gale hauled milk

for several major dairies including HP Hood, Seward's Dairy, and Agri-Mark. He also built a very successful bulk water hauling business that he would transition to full time after stepping back from the milk business in the late 80's. He formed many wonderful friendships through the water business; he was very fond of his regular customers. Gale had an amazing sense of humor in addition to his incredible work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit. He was always there to lend a hand to friends and neighbors.

Thank you, Claire, for helping us understand the lives behind some of the names.



THE WEST RUTLAND Marsh in the early 1900s. Though protected wetlands today, it was the scene of industry and worker housing back in the day. Photos provided.

Refurbished West Rutland Marsh boardwalk debuts

Through a generous donation, Rutland County Audubon has been able to successfully refurbish nearly the entire boardwalk on Marble Street at the West Rutland Marsh. Our carpenter, Dennis Duhaine, did a wonderful job of making the well-worn, oft-used, (and unfortunately, vandalized) structure look fresh and new, as well as making it safer for all to use. Please come out and see it for yourself and enjoy the view and the birds at our feeding station there.

Rutland Historical Society, there were several tenement houses near that spot before 1930. There was a one-family house, probably the cellar hole that is still visible. There was also a 3-family tenement facing Water Street. There were also two tenements on the narrow strip in front of the old lime plant and a tenement just beyond the marble wall, all facing Marble Street.



According to the West **THE REFURBISHED BOARDWALK in the West Rutland Marsh.**

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brandonreporter.com

WE NEED U

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Sienna Many

GRADE: 6

SCHOOL: Neshobe Elementary

HOMETOWN: Forestdale

TITLE: Black & White Doodle

MEDIUM: Marker on Paper

TEACHER: John Brodowski



STATEMENT FROM SIENNA:

"I spent four and a half hours on this piece. It started as a small doodle and slowly grew."

STATEMENT FROM JOHN BRODOWSKI:

"Among the many things I like about this drawing is that it shows what can be accomplished when you stick with an art project and work through its

challenges. Students often think of art as fun and easy, which it can be, but to make a work of art really shine you often have to do a lot of work! Sienna really dedicated herself to this drawing and I'm glad she did because she created something special that people will enjoy looking at!"

Brandon T.M.

(Continued from Page 1)

A special selectboard meeting has been called for Monday, January 30 at 7:00 in the selectboard meeting room in the Town Hall. The appointment of an interim town manager will be discussed. The meeting is public, though the selectboard will go into executive session at the end.

Hopkins continued, “Residents of Brandon who wish to contribute their views on process or qualities they would like to see in the next town manager are invited to share their comments with any selectboard member. The board will consider all public input as it undertakes the most important decision assigned to it by Vermont law.”

Atherton held his office through one of the most tumultuous periods in recent Brandon history: the

multi-year Segment 6 project that reconfigured Brandon’s downtown and raised drivers’ blood pressure on heavily-traveled Route 7.

“The Route 7 project was a monster that got kicked down the road for 30 years and [Dave] followed it through,” said Town Clerk Sue Gage. “When anyone leaves a position, you hope that you were able to leave it better than you found it. Dave was able to do that and he leaves the town in a better place.”

Atherton’s tenure wasn’t without controversy, however. Back in the summer of 2021, Atherton found himself at the center of a very public conflict with Peter Newton, who was then Addison County Sheriff. The conflict involved claims by Newton that Atherton had improperly

used his town position to try to influence the outcome of a traffic citation received by Atherton’s son. Conversely, Atherton accused Newton of intimidation and withholding potential evidence of police misconduct in the case. The Brandon selectboard ended up filing a complaint against Newton with the Vermont Criminal Justice Council.

Newton was later arrested and arraigned on unrelated charges of sexual assault. He did not seek reelection.

Selectboard member Tim Guiles stated in an emailed comment, “It’s important to note that Dave Atherton left on a positive note, at the top of his game. The town is in great shape—and Dave has decided to move on to a new opportunity. The selectboard will now start a deliberative process to find our next town manager.”

When reached for comment on his departure, Atherton said simply, “There really isn’t much for me to tell. Just time for a change.”

“It’s important to note that Dave Atherton left on a positive note, at the top of his game.”

— Tim Guiles

Brandon parent seeks to establish statewide alternative prom

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Harmony Van Eaton moved to Brandon from Florida a few years ago with her children, Leo and Rowan. A homeschooler, Van Eaton understood the importance of providing social opportunities for her kids, seeking out other homeschooling families and finding activities around town where her children could meet their peers.

Now, with her kids in their teen years, Van Eaton has set her sights on an alternative prom.

“There’s no religious basis to it,” Van Eaton says. “It’s for kids who are either homeschooled or just don’t feel comfortable at their schools’ proms. Anyone from 12 to 19 years old can come.”

“In Florida, there was a home-school dance for the entire state in Orlando. I’m hoping we can do the same thing for the whole state of Vermont.”

Van Eaton has secured Brandon Town Hall for the event, scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 29

at 7:00. The plan is to keep the event free and so Van Eaton is looking for other parents to volunteer to chaperone. She’s still looking for a DJ, as well.

“We want it to be an open event. Show up if your kids are well that day. It’s just dancing and fun.”

So far, around 70 people have expressed interest based on Van Eaton’s posts on Facebook. Anyone who wants more info or to help in some way can contact Van Eaton at harmonyjvaneaton@gmail.com.

NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

62 years in business in Brandon



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CONTACT US TODAY!
SALES@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

DIGITAL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD

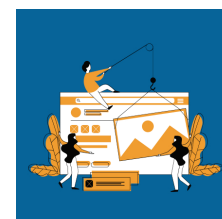
Here at the *Addy Indy* we have always seen it as our job to help connect your business with its clients.

As times change and technology evolves, pairing digital services with your print advertising campaigns is the best way to quickly & efficiently connect with the community.

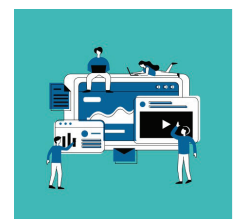
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DIGITAL DIRECTORY MANAGEMENT



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Stafford Technical Center ATE

COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE TRAINING PROGRAM

A high-paying and in-demand career as a professional truck driver is waiting for you just down the road in West Rutland. Convenient, in-person Saturday classes and flexible behind-the-wheel scheduling time lets you keep your current job while turning winter training into a new professional career. And we now offer an online classroom-theory option for students who want to complete this FMCSA requirement completely online. Seats fill quickly, so act now to reserve your spot in our professional driver training program. We have rolling admission so students can go from application to enrollment in just ten days!

FOR REGISTRATION MATERIALS CALL (802) 770-1178 OR GO TO STAFFORDONLINE.ORG FOR COURSE DETAILS



Calendar of events

January

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2–5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!

The club has begun play on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, call club representative Ronald Lewis at

802-247-5913, or visit our club's website at www.gmttc.com.

Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

Free math tutoring is available in downtown Brandon on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-4 p.m. at Fellowship Hall — the smaller brick building next to the Brandon Congregational Church.

Larry Rowe is offering help to any Otter Valley students who have questions or difficulties with mathematics or would like help with their math homework. Rev. Sara Rossigg will be in her office — 20 feet away from the worktable — during these sessions to ensure everyone feels comfortable and is safe.

Call 802-236-9130 for more information. (Please note that Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Wednesday, Dec. 7 are days Larry has other commitments and will not be available.)

Goings on around town

in class!

Lina (Parvati) has 20 plus years of experience teaching and a lifelong personal practice.

To stay tuned if there are any cancelations, follow on Facebook and get on email list.

\$15/class

Fridays

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

Come join us weekly to share projects from noon – 2:00 p.m.

Chaffee Arts Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3–5

From 11am–Noon...FREE! Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more!

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

Friday 27th:

Sparrow Art Supply's first exhibition of 2023 is an electrifying display of the color magenta!

Showcasing works by over 50 audacious artists, Magenta celebrates this vibrant hue across monotone pieces, and it appears as a pop of color to bring focus in others. This energetic all-media show exudes joy, optimism, and bravery, some inspiring qualities to carry throughout 2023.

Magenta will run from January 27–March 11, with an opening reception on Friday, January 27 from 5pm – 7pm, free and open to the public with complimentary light refreshments.

52 Main Street
Middlebury

Saturday 28th:

Movie Matinee at the Maclure Library

Join us downstairs for a showing of a family friendly movie with popcorn and lots of fun! Call 483-2972 for movie title.

Build a Quinzhee with the Middlebury Area Land Trust

BYO Shovel and learn how to build a classic, simple snow shelter.

From 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM (drop in whenever you'd like) at Wright Park, park at end of Seymour St. Extension. This event is appropriate for families and people of all ages. Wear clothing for being outside in winter. There are no bathrooms on site. Please plan accordingly. BYO shovel.

Free, but please register at MALT.VT.ORG/EVENTS to stay informed of weather-related cancellation.

"Hey this is Simon here – Education Manager at MALT. I'll be totally honest: I've never built a Quinzhee before. But it looks very cool, and I think we can work together to figure it out. In the morning, we'll use shovels to build a



Sip N Dip at the Chaffee Art Center January 26

From 6–8 p.m.
Instructor: Heather Wilson
Are YOU ready for some fun!

Perfect for a date night or just out with friends!
Attendees follow along with an instructor and leave with a finished painting

\$35 per person includes all supplies
Min: 5
Must RSVP to reserve your spot
Contact: info@chaffeeartcenter.org
802-775-0356

*Note: Sip n Dips are offered monthly
Private classes available. We can also host your friends and family for a special event (bridal shower, birthday, etc.)*

people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

We spend a fair amount of the time exercising in a seated position in the chairs but if possible, we also do exercises standing, using the chairs for support. The exercises can be adjusted for individual needs and we move at a comfortable pace. I think will soon notice a difference once you start. Looking forward to seeing you

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Tomasio: Abstractions of a Metaphorical World at Castleton Bank Gallery through March 11

CASTLETON, VT—Thomas Hacker, aka Tomasio, creates robust energetic acrylic paintings that explode off the canvas in every imaginable hue. These multilayered works ask the viewer to look into themselves to find the organization and abstract forms shifting in the pigment.

Tomasio's work is on display at the Castleton University Bank Gallery from Jan. 21 - March 11. An artist reception

will be held at the gallery on Feb. 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tomasio's creative work ranges from music, poetry, sculpture, and fashion. Working at Spring Lake Ranch as a peer support specialist, Tomasio helps people in the wood shop, collaborates on artistic endeavors, helps ranchers unravel problems, and plays piano for the community of Shrewsbury.

"Painting is a process where-

by I channel sensory information leading to internalization, retention, interpretation, analysis, and finally abstraction. I am able to then reintroduce this stimulus back onto a canvas in creative form," Tomasio said.

View Online: <http://castleton.meritpages.com/news/Tomasio-Abstractions-of-a-Metaphorical-World-at-Castleton-Bank-Gallery-Jan-21-March-11/32472>

Lafayette-Narramore-presents-Black-and-Brown-Vermont-a-Castleton-University.

Tuesday 14th:

Maclure Library True Story, Theme: Love

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., True Story is a storytelling event based on the popular NPR program "The Moth."

We invite all storytellers to sign up at the the library. your story must be true, told in the first person, without notes, have a beginning, middle, and end and follow the theme. Your story can funny, sad, exciting, emotional or all in one!

Not a storyteller, but love to listen? Join the audience!



The Rutland Extension Master Gardener Group presents author Martha Molnar

At 7:00 P.M. at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St, Rutland, VT 05701

Martha Leb Molnar has a certificate in Botany from the NY Botanical Gardens. She is a freelance writer and commentator, and this is her third book. Martha will talk about her new book, *Playing God in the Meadow: How I Learned to Admire My Weeds*, in which she and her husband, having found their dream acreage in Vermont, try to stave off the non-native invasives. This is not just for gardeners! You can buy the book from Phoenix to read ahead of time, or just come and enjoy Martha's compelling rendition.

February

Thursday 2nd

Jerome Lafayette Narramore presents Black and Brown Vermont at Castleton University

Jerome Lafayette Narramore, a biracial descendent from west Castleton's little-known Black community, presents the recently excavated Black History of his mother's town of birth at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2, at Jeffords Center Auditorium.

Narramore will speak about the challenges of mixed-race identity, genealogical discovery, and how the conditions his ancestors lived in prevented him from fully knowing his own familial legacy.

Historian, genetic genealogist, author, and producer of the documentary "A Whiteman Walks Into a Bar", Narramore also oversees several DNA projects and is the lead curator of several DNA projects and curator of the Facebook group, "Black & Brown Vermont," which is dedicated to crowdsourcing data about the Black and Brown history of Vermont.

This event is free to the public. Sign-up is required and can be found on the Castleton website.

View Online: <http://castleton.meritpages.com/news/Jerome->

Monday 29th:

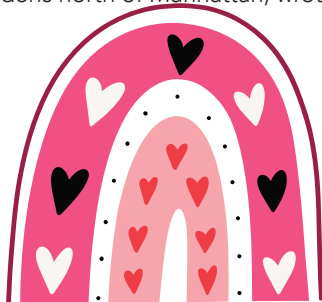
Next Stage Arts Project, Gordon Hayward: & the Gardener

From 4:00-6:00 p.m. Gordon Hayward will give an illustrated talk for just over an hour on the design elements shared by painter and garden designer.

His talk comes out of Hayward's 2008 book *Art and the Gardener* (Gibbs Smith). Admission is by donation, and all proceeds will directly benefit Next Stage Arts and Sandglass Center. Tickets may be purchased at the link provided or at the box office on the day of the event.

By superimposing an image on the large screen of a fine painting (Gogh, Monet, Magritte, Derain, Renoir, Klimt, Rousseau, etc.) next to a garden image, Hayward will explore a variety of elements of composition: straight lines vs. curved lines in paintings as well as paths and planted beds; the itinerary of the eye; positive and negative space (as in the positive space of planted beds and the negative space of adjacent paths); color, light and shadow, the role of background, placement of elements to paint as being akin to placing garden chairs to

Hayward's goal is to help you see your garden and paintings in a new way, no matter how big or small your garden might be. And if you're not a gardener, this is also a talk about how to look at a garden (and a painting) more consciously, with a deeper understanding. In the end, it is about conscious seeing, not just paying attention with your eyes. Hayward has given lectures in several art museums and for garden clubs across the country over the years, and in late February will give this revision for the garden club of La Jolla, California. Garden curator Marco Polo Stufano, past curator of the extraordinary Wave Hill Gardens north of Manhattan, wrote, "The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue."



Show your sweetheart some Valentine's sugar



We're running a Valentine's Day special feature in Feb 15th issue of *The Reporter*!

For only \$10, you can take out a 2.25" x 3" ad with a message of up to 20 words and your choice of vintage, modern, floral, or playful graphic.

Please send your message and a check to **Brandon Reporter, 294 Wheeler Road, Brandon, VT 05733**. You may drop off your message & check at that address as well. Please include a phone number or email where we can reach you if we have questions. **Or you can scan the QR code below to pay online.**

Messages received after 2/13 will not be included. Messages without payment will not be included. Messages with profanity will not be included. Keep it wholesome, folks!



LOVE
LOVE
LOVE
LOVE

Dearest Pookie,

My favorite place to be is together with you.



Wherever you are is where I want to be.



Love,
Schmoopie



Sample valentine



Vintage sample

Floral sample

Modern sample

Playful sample

Let it snow! (finally)

Photos by
Steven
Jupiter
and Dale
Christie



New England Woodcraft

(Continued from Page 1)
 industry organization that promotes “communication, prosperity, and visibility” for woodworkers throughout Vermont, according to its current board president, Charlie Shackleton of Shackleton Thomas. NEW offered a tour of its facilities, the largest of their kind in Vermont, to members of VWWC who were interested in seeing how a company of this size operates.

“I came to see how other shops

how the company works. Most of what NEW produces is for large orders: military bases, college dormitories, and hotels. “We do some onesie-twosies,” said Bresette, referring to requests for just one or two items, “but a lot of our orders are for hundreds of pieces.” Some of their work will end up overseas; some as close as Middlebury College and Castleton University.

As we worked our way among the various stations—sawing, trim,

at full tilt everywhere, there was an impressive orderliness to the operation. Components that completed their time at one station were wheeled over to the next.

“How do you keep track of workflow?” asked a member of our tour group. “It’s hard!” laughed Bresette.

Though a good chunk of the work is still done by hand, the manufacturing process at NEW is heavily automated. In fact, machines take up the bulk of the floor space.



MACHINERY DOMINATES THE shop floor at New England Woodcraft in Forestdale. The company is Vermont’s largest woodshop.

Photos by Steven Jupiter, and George Fjeld.

do things,” said Jon Natkin of Stark Mountain Woodworking in New Haven, a 22-person outfit specializing in architectural millwork. “New England Woodcraft is the largest shop in the state.”

Jared Williams and Catharine Emil, directors of the Vermont Woodworking School (VWS) in Fairfax, were there to “connect with the broader woodworking community.” VWS offers training in traditional and contemporary woodworking techniques to roughly 30 students. “A lot of our students end up looking for work at places like New England Woodcraft,” said Emil.

The members of VWWC were greeted by Shackleton and Gary Marini, president of NEW, and then broken into smaller groups for tours of the immense shop floor. My group was led by production manager Jordan Bresette, a 12-year veteran of NEW whose father recently retired from the company after 40 years.

Bresette led a group of 10 people through the various shop departments, explaining along the way

assembly, staining, sanding, finishing, upholstery, packing—we saw the myriad components of a large purchase of bedsteads for a casino in Illinois. It was a custom order, designed in-house specifically for the client rather than picked out of the company’s catalog, and worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. “We’ve been working on this order for months,” said Bresette.

Last August, NEW did \$3.6 million in sales, an especially busy month in which the shop had to make a big multi-shift effort to fulfill its many orders. Bresette explained that even as NEW’s volume of business waxes and wanes over the course of the year, they try to keep their employees busy, to avoid having to lay anyone off. If orders have dwindled a bit, they’ll make popular catalog items and warehouse them.

“A lot of local families work here,” said Bresette. “We try to retain everyone. When you lay good people off, they find other work and don’t come back.”

Despite all the hustle and bustle, with people and machines going

The series of machines in the finishing station, for example, is surprisingly long. The entire sequence of spraying, sanding, and baking, all on a single U-shaped conveyor belt, takes about 20 minutes, according to Bresette.

“How do they keep all these machines adjusted?” wondered Bob Gasparetti, an independent fine woodworker from Mt. Tabor. The sheer number of machines made quite an impression on the group, most of whom operated much smaller shops where the bulk of the work is done manually.

New England Woodcraft was founded in the early 1960s by Harmon and Maxine Thurston. The company moved to Forest Dale in the early 70s and is still owned by Harmon and Maxine’s son, Charlie. It’s one of the area’s largest employers: 114 employees overall, of whom 80 to 90 work on the shop floor.

NEW offers bi-yearly profit-sharing bonuses, 401K, and health care. “If we make money, they have no trouble giving it back [to employees],” said Bresette.



80 TO 90 people are working on the shop floor on any given day, some operating the machines, some finishing pieces by hand.



GARY MERINI, PRESIDENT of New England Woodcraft.



JORDAN BRESETTE, OPERATIONS Manager at New England Woodcraft.

“They give you the opportunity to grow,” said Bresette, who worked his way up from assembly line to management. “Sometimes young guys come in and want to make a lot of money right away, but that’s not how it works. Keep your head down and keep going, you can grow here.”

The tour ended in the packaging department, where completed orders get wrapped and boxed in anticipation of shipment to clients or company warehouses. Chairs,

desks, dressers, headboards were all stacked and awaiting protective wrap. The group thanked Mr. Bresette and found the other members of VWWC who were finishing up as well.

The next stop of most of the members was the Brandon Inn for VWWC’s annual meeting. For me, stepping outside into the cold snowfall was like leaving a hidden realm and re-entering the gray reality of a winter’s day.

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Jim & Liz McRae



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!



E-mail
ads@brandonreporter.com
if you can identify someone in
these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080

Recognized



Terry Ferson recognized this man as Bernie Delphia of Brandon, who is now deceased.



Terry Ferson was also able to identify the man on the right as Donnie Houle of Brandon.



Marielle Blais recognized the woman holding the present as Lisa Fraiser; a paraeducator at Neshobe Elementary School.

Sandford Rouse of Neshobe House recognized her as Lori Mumaka.

Can anyone else help confirm a name for us?

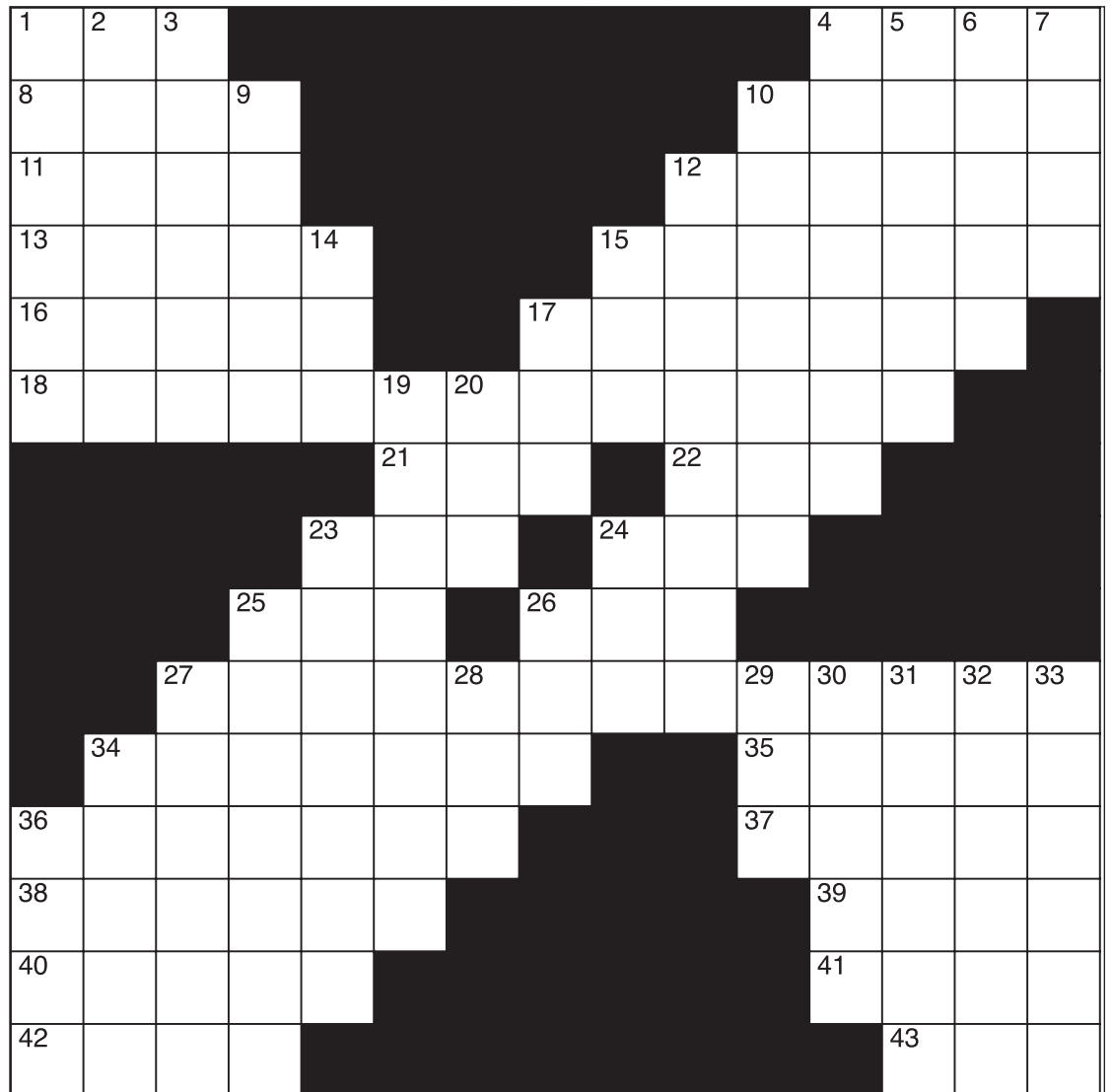
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tax collector
4. Fishes without the line touching water
8. Brooklyn hoopsters
10. Actress Lathan
11. A metric for athletes
12. Food storage location
13. Colossus
15. Desolations
16. Accustom to something unpleasant
17. ___ Kubrick, filmmaker
18. You might ask this at Thanksgiving
21. Arkansas city
22. Gave food to
23. Request
24. V-shaped open trough
25. Make lively
26. It accompanies feather
27. Blonde bombshell
34. One who revolves
35. Bluish greens
36. Charity
37. Having the shape of a cube
38. Unwind
39. Believed by some to be the supreme being
40. Checks or guides
41. Leak slowly through
42. Top-quality
43. Midway between south and southeast

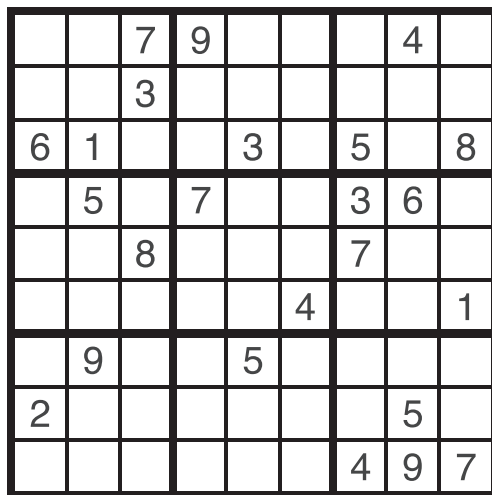
CLUES DOWN

1. Part of your foot
2. It's at the back of the eyeball
3. Where things stand
4. Offered
5. Contains pollen
6. Boisterous get-together
7. Asserts out loud
9. They're in the sky
10. Canonized
12. A politician's official stances
14. It can catch fish
15. British thermal unit
17. Helps little firms
19. Where patients go for treatment
20. Large red deer
23. Pokes holes in
24. "Star Wars" hero Solo
25. One in a hospital
26. Scandinavian god of battle
27. Famous cat
28. ___ Angeles: City of Angels
29. Type of drug (abbr.)
30. City along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Rare species of rodent
36. Suppress



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

February is Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit Month!

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to remind you that February is Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit month! Did you know that rabbits are the third most likely animals to find themselves looking for a new home? Rabbits make excellent companions. They can live eight to ten years and bond closely to their adopters. Quiet but inquisitive, rabbits can also be trained to use a litter box. To learn more about the rabbits at RCHS that are looking for new homes, call the Adoption Center at 802.483.6700 or visit www.rchsvt.org.

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

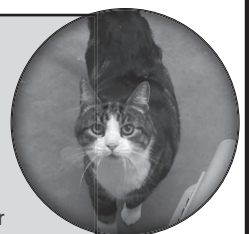


MEET GRIZZLY - 6-YEAR-OLD. MALE. BEAGLE MIX. TRI-COLOR.

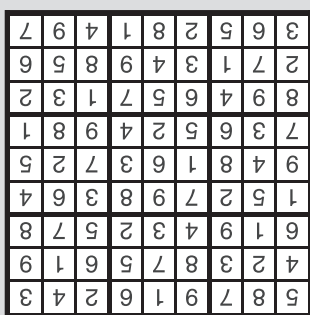
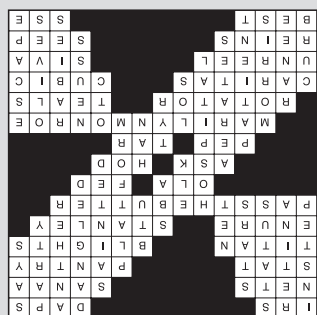
He is not only a total cutie, but he is the sweetest pup! He loves everyone he meets, can easily entertain himself with toys, and will zoom around and throw them in the air. He may be 6, but he is 6 years young! This sweet boy was found in Rutland as a stray and brought to RCHS on December 26. He is patiently waiting for his forever home where he can crash on someone's couch and take a nice long snooze after a good walk outside. Although we don't have any history with him, he would do fine with other dogs and kids because of his very affectionate and sweet demeanor. He is currently waiting for his neuter, so he is looking for a foster until then.

MEET RUGER - 10-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TIGER WITH WHITE.

Ruger was brought to RCHS on December 31 because his previous owner could no longer care for him. He may be 10 years old, but he has so much love left to give (and receive). He loves other cats and is doing very well in our Community Cat Room. He has also lived with children, and dogs, and has done well with them. He likes to hide under things, but as soon as you enter the room, he will run up to greet you and ask for pets. He can never have enough love! Although he doesn't seem to play much with other cats, he is so good with them, even younger ones who try to get him to play.



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Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

Other upcoming events

TAG Book Making part 2, Friday, Jan 27th from 3:30-5:00 pm. TAG for teens, Feb 3rd, 3:30-5pm. Slingshots with Sue Wetmore- Feb 23, 2pm; Advanced Directives with Becki Lund of La Dimora. Feb 25th, 1-3pm.

We've had a number of large-print donations from Brenda Whittaker

"Suspect" by Scott Turow, donated in memory of "Judge" Chet Ketcham.

Detective Clarice "Pinky" Gramum investigates career-ending allegations filed against Chief Lucia Gomez

"Going Rogue" by Janet Evanovich, donated in memory of Meryl Sawyer.

Stephanie Plum goes rogue to track down the kidnapper of her friend and manager of the bail-bond office.

"Desert Star" by Michael Connelly, donated in memory of Charles H. Whittaker.

LAPD detective Renée Ballard and Harry Bosch team up to hunt the brutal killer who is Bosch's "white whale"—a man responsible for the murder of an entire family.

Did you know?

We have a number of events coming up in the next month, including Teen Zine- a comic making club. See details and link to register on our site.

"Treasure State" by C.J.Box, donated in memory of Marion C. Sawyer.

Private Investigator Cassie Dewell has her hands full between two cases. One client has her chasing down a conman, and the other client has challenged Cassie to find him- the man supposedly behind a cutthroat treasure hunt that's ended up with five people dead.

"Harvest Moon" by Denise Hunter, donated in memory of Yvonne Churchill.

Laurel and Gavin find a second chance at love when they are named guardians of a young girl whose parents died in a plane crash.

"The Couple at the Table" by Sophie Hannah, donated in memory of Mary Blackmer.

An ominous warning at dinner, a murdered woman discovered

the next morning, and everyone has an alibi.

"Wyoming Homecoming" by Diane Palmer, donated in memory of Marie Butterfield.

A small-town sheriff attempts to reconcile with the woman he erroneously blamed for his wife's death several years before. But has time healed their wounds and opened hearts to new possibilities?

"Livid" by Patricia Cornwell, donated in memory of Maxine Sawyer.

On the heels of a sensationalized trial involving the death of a former beauty queen, Chief Medical Examiner Scarpetta finds herself investigating the death of the judge's sister.

"The Boys From Biloxi" by John Grisham, donated in memory of Tom Whittaker.

Childhood friends end up on opposite sides of the law as adults.

"No Plan B" by Lee Child, donated in memory of John Trimmer.

Jack Reacher returns to investigate a murder that the cops deemed a suicide on the word of another witness who claimed she jumped. His investigation leads to other similar murders with seemingly no connection.

Dialing 911 is not child's play

Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — A passing motorist contacted Brandon Police on the morning of Jan. 16 to report a woman sitting on a guard rail on Route 73 in the area between the Junction Store and the Goshen line, and having some type of mental health crisis. Upon locating the woman, the responding officer did find that she was having some mental health issues, but did not indicate that she wanted to harm herself or anyone else. The subject refused mental health services, but the officer provided her a courtesy ride to a friend's apartment so that she could get out of the cold weather

Shortly afterward police responded to Olivia's Croutons on Forest Dale Road for a 911 hang up call. Apparently some children were on the premises and one of them had been playing with the phone and accidentally dialed 911.

The following day, Jan. 17, police began investigating a past altercation between some female students at the Otter Valley Union High School. The investigation involves possible multiple counts of aggravated assault. Charges will most likely be filed at the investigation's conclusion. Later in the day K-9 Guinness was called in to do his work on a suspicious package containing several bags of an unknown substance sent to a Brandon resident from an unknown person from California.

Neshobe Golf Club staff called police on Jan. 18 to report that someone was illegally dumping trash in their dumpster. The caller could not identify the culprit, so police advised the business manager was to call the police department if said culprit returns in the future.

A domestic disturbance on River Street drew police attention on Jan. 19. A husband and wife were having a verbal argument. With police assistance, the couple agreed to sleep separately for the night so that there would not be any further issues between them.

Early in the morning of Jan. 20 police received at report of a missing person and stolen vehicle from a Franklin Street residence. The car is believed to have been taken by the individual that was reported as missing by his family. The investigation is ongoing.

In other activity, Brandon Police:

On Jan. 16

- Aided with a mental health issue on Route 73.
- Responded to an accidental 911 call on Forest Dale Road.
- Investigated a suspicious event on Grove Street.

On Jan. 17

- Responded to an altercation between some female students at the Otter Valley Union High School.

- Checked the welfare of a bus driver stopped on Park Street.

- Took fingerprints done for an out-of-state concealed carry firearms permit and for BRAVO volunteer.

- Deployed K-9 Guinness to conduct a narcotics search.

- Made a welfare check on someone who wasn't answering texts.

- Assisted a family with a custody transfer.

On Jan. 18

- Received a report of illegal dumping on Town Farm Road.

- Took fingerprints for Florida conceal carry permits.

- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street..

On Jan. 19

- Mistakenly received suspicious activity complaint for Bradford constable.

- Took fingerprints done for school employment and nursing license.

- Responded to domestic disturbance on River Street.

- Responded to a series of 911 hang up calls at a residence on Sunset Drive.

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a Life Alert alarm activation on Mulcahy Drive.

On Jan. 20

- Began an investigation in a missing person/stolen vehicle on Franklin Street.

- Responded to a report of a swerving vehicle on Union Street.

On Jan. 21

- Received report of a car operating in an unsafe manner near Conant Square.

- Made traffic stops on Conant Square for speeding; Franklin Street for tailgating, defective equipment and no registration; Grove Street for defective equipment and McConnell Road for expired registration and defective equipment All drivers were issued warnings and one also received a ticket.

- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street and Franklin Street.

On Jan. 22

- Stopped drivers on Conant Square, Center Street and Grove Street for speeding, issuing three warnings.

- Received report of a possible drug deal on Grove Street.

- Patrolled Center Street.

- Conducted a Property property watch at Union Street Grocery on Union Street.

- Enforced speed limit on Franklin Street, by Otter Valley Union High School.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, someone in your life is looking for a pep talk and you are just the person to provide one. Listen to the problem at hand and offer this person some solid solutions.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, you could be at a crossroads in your life. You are pondering many different scenarios, and now is the time to solidify plans for the next few weeks.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

If you made a career change recently, you may be discovering that the payoff isn't quite what you expected. Fulfillment is essential, so give some thought to new pursuits.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, it is not like you to feel adrift, but that could be the situation right now. Latch on to one activity or person that brings you joy. Focus on the positives in life.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, family members want to spend more time with you, so plan for the extra company. Have a few extra snacks on hand and make sure the house is orderly.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Your tendency to want to tackle things all on your own could have you pushing others away, Capricorn. Accept others' willingness to pitch in.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, there has been a lot on your plate and many thoughts swimming through your mind. A quick getaway could be what is needed this month.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, you have a few offers on the table, but could be having trouble narrowing down your preference. Bring in a third party to help.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 26 W. Kamau Bell, comedian (50)
- Jan. 27 Guillermo Rodriguez, talk show personality (52)
- Jan. 28 Colette, novelist (d)
- Jan. 29 Oprah Winfrey, talk show host, actor, icon (69)
- Jan. 30 Olivia Coleman, actor (49)
- Jan. 31 Ernie Banks, baseball player (d)
- Feb. 1 Langston Hughes, writer (d)

ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, it's important to focus on progress and not necessarily on money that can be made. See what you can learn along the path you choose.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

You have high hopes that your efforts will be well received this week, Taurus. Before you move full speed ahead, run your ideas by a trusted group of confidantes.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

You don't learn by getting things right all of the time, Gemini. A few mistakes along the way provide an opportunity to grow and figure out new ways to do the job.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, distractions seemingly abound this week and your head isn't in the game. While you can get away with a few oversights here and there, too many can be problematic.



JOHN BRODOWSKI'S PERSONAL collection of 'zines. Who among us has not asked "What is hair?"

Photo provided

Teen 'Zine workshop at Brandon Free Public Library

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Are you between the ages of 11 and 16 and feeling like you've got a lot to say but nowhere to say it? If so, come learn how to make a 'zine at the Brandon Free Public Library!

'Zines are very simple, homemade "magazines," filled with drawings, stories, comics, poems, collages, random thoughts, random words, long ramblings on your personal obsessions, short word-blasts on

weird topics...really, whatever is in your head that you want to get down on paper and share with your friends (or even with the entire world). There are no rules and no grades. Let your imagination run free. They can be as basic or as wild as you want them to be.

You'll make your content, lay out your pages, and assemble the finished 'zine with the aid of a copy machine and a stapler.

The workshop will be run by Neshobe art teacher John Brodowski and experienced comic artist Ethan Nelson.

"Zines made a big impression on me when I was 15 or 16," said Brodowski. "They're a platform for alternative ideas outside the mainstream. I thought I had weird

ideas and zines showed me there were other people doing weird things, too."

"Zines are 'punk,'" added Nelson. "I'm a punk rediscovering this about myself. I want to reconnect teens to printed media. I believe we have more than our share of creative energy in Brandon."

This workshop, and the self-publishing workshop BFPL ran in the fall, were made possible by a \$15,000 "civic imagination" grant from the American Library Association.

Brodowski and Nelson considered the fall publishing workshop a success. More than 25 people from the Brandon area participated, working on children's books, gardening, music, fiction, poetry, and memoirs, among other myriad topics. Some of the workshop is available as recordings at the library for those who missed the event.

The Teen Zine Workshop will begin on Thursday, February 2 and run every Thursday through March 2, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at the Brandon Library.

The workshop is free for all participants, but pre-registration is necessary. Space is limited to 15 people (must be 11 to 16 years old).

You can sign up at brandonpubliclibrary.org/teen-zine/

There are no rules and no grades. Let your imagination run free.



MORE 'ZINES!

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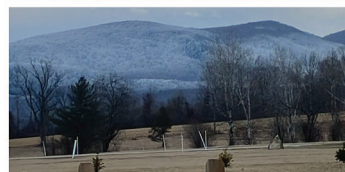


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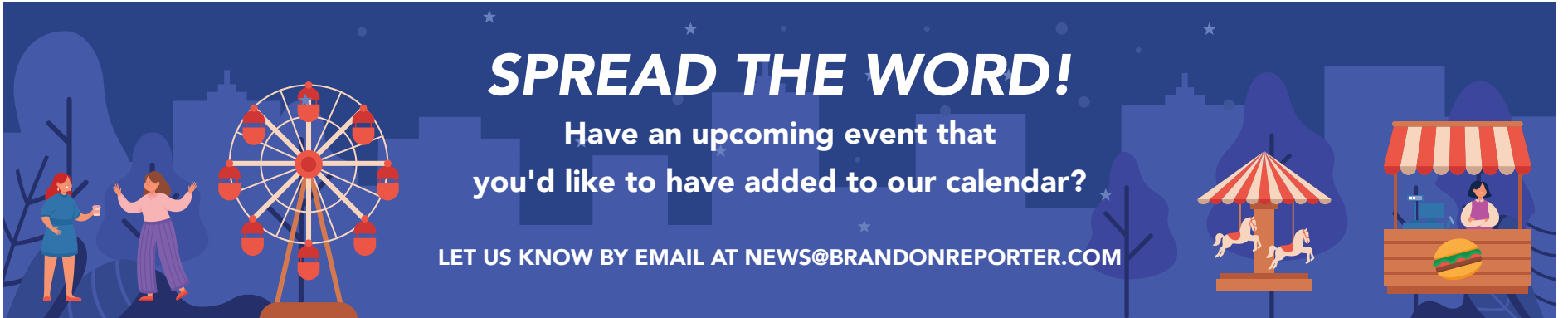
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- JIFFY MART - Grove St
- JIFFY MART - McConnell Rd
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SINGLE SENIOR, 68, - looks younger, seeks female with room to rent. Have income. Enjoy karaoke. Rutland area. albertgilberti33@gmail.com.

OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL

is actively seeking coaches for the following positions:

Spring 2023

7/8 Baseball Head Coach (1)

***It is Otter Valley's intent to establish long-term commitments from all Varsity coaches, allowing the successful candidate to build and develop strong feeder programs.**

Applicants must be able to develop a solid rapport with student athletes, work cooperatively with the athletic program, provide positive leadership, and model the ideals of good sportsmanship. A strong knowledge of coaching principles is required. Previous coaching experience preferred. Position opened until filled.

If interested, please submit resume and references online on schoolspring.com. Any questions please contact:

Steven Keith, Activities Director
skeith@rnesu.org

Otter Valley High School
2997 Franklin Street | Brandon, VT 05733



Like all things vintage?

Mim's Photos

are on
page 16!

K. A Bagley inc.

**Full-Time Positions Available
including snowplowing, light shop work,
equipment operation, & landscaping**

**Immediate positions available working
Monday - Friday and some Saturdays.
Schedule is weather dependent.**

Paid Holidays, partial uniforms, and competitive pay.

**To apply, call 802-352-9088 or stop by
at 307 Kelly Cross Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769**



Congratulations!!!

SHANNON AND DEREK Quesnel await the arrival of their first child due on April 7. A baby shower was held at Café Provence. All the best to your growing family!



White wash

THE STORM WASHED the scenery away, leaving it soft and beautiful.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Tree Warden's report on the Shade Tree Preservation Plan

BY NEIL SILINS, BRANDON TREE WARDEN

At the January 23, 2023 Select-board meeting, I took questions about the Shade Tree Preservation Plan that I had submitted for their review. I wanted to make sure the community understood the purpose and scope of it, as well as how each individual might be affected when the Plan is adopted.

Removing a tree is never a lightly-made decision. Trees contribute a lot to our community and take a long time to grow, so removal of a tree is a last resort. This brings up a complicated question. What is the best way to manage our town trees? The Shade Tree Preservation Plan is a first step in maintaining the vibrant tree canopy that helps to make Brandon a desirable community for residents, visitors, and tourists.

Statutes regulating the position of tree warden were amended and

create a hazard to public safety, impact a disease or insect control program, or must be removed for another specified reason.

An inventory of our trees was started in 2021 by volunteers working with the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program. The inventory is a wonderful tool to use to keep track of size, condition, and species. Also, please note that the inventory will pick up again as soon as we have leaves. Volunteers always welcome.

Brandon does have an inventory, but we frequently don't have records that indicate who planted a tree, making the first half of the shade tree definition difficult to determine. (We do have records for the trees planted as part of Segment 6). That makes determining a tree covered by the statutes rather more complicated.

According to the regulations:

the tree warden shall control all shade trees within the municipality.

the tree warden may remove or cause to be removed from the public spaces trees that are infested



updated effective November 2020. The statutes limit municipal control of trees, via the tree warden, to "shade trees". According to Vermont Title 24, Chapter 067, various sections (I'll just call these "the regulations" from now on) a "shade tree" is defined as a shade or ornamental tree located in the public way or public place, provided that the tree was planted by the municipality or designated as a shade tree through a municipal Shade Tree Preservation Plan (STPP).

Again, from the regulations, with some interpretation. The STPP shall:

- describe a program for planting new trees and shrubs
- provide for the maintenance of shade trees via feeding, pruning, and protection from disease and pests
- determine financial considerations for services to other municipalities
- determine whether tree maintenance or removal requires approval of another municipal officer or body, and
- determine the process for the removal of diseased, dying, or dead shade trees and any shade trees that

or infected or that constitute a public hazard.

The tree warden may also determine that the town or an owner or lessee of abutting property has sufficiently controlled all insect pests or tree diseases upon the trees within a public space and may determine that it is not necessary to remove the trees.

Additionally, a shade tree shall not be cut or removed in whole or in part, except by a tree warden of his or her deputy, or by a person having the written permission of a tree warden.

den. There is also a notification and hearing process when a removal is deemed necessary. If these steps are not taken, there is a penalty for "Whoever shall willfully mar or deface a shade tree without the written permission of a tree warden or legislative body..." or who "willfully and critically injures or cuts down a shade tree without written permission..."

It's important to keep in mind that the town maintains a right-of-way on either side of a public roadway. Trees growing in this zone are under the jurisdiction of the town. Anyone wishing to remove a tree in the right-of-way should consult the tree warden. Unauthorized removal of such trees may result in fines.

The purpose of the regulations is to make sure that shade trees maintain a special position, that individuals can't cut them down for any reason without "checks and balances".

The purpose of the Shade Tree Preservation Plan is to make sure that the Brandon tree canopy remains vibrant and lush. Trees can be injured, have parasites that kill them, receive injury from storms, lightning, and errant drivers. And, even if everything goes well, they have a natural life span. We'd like to make sure that the trees we have diversity in species and age. We need to diversify species because invasive pests tend to focus on specific species of our native trees (think Emerald Ash Borer), and age because if all of the trees are the same age, they'll be more likely to become hazards at the same time (think of all the ancient maples recently taken down on Park Street).

I know that regulations of any sort are hard to read, and even harder to make sense of. Hopefully this will help sort out what the Shade Tree Preservation Plan is supposed to do. It's slow going, but it I think we're making great progress towards having a tree-management program that will protect the entire tree canopy in Brandon for generations to come.

TOWN OF GOSHEN - INVITATION TO BID CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR CURBSIDE OR DROP-OFF COLLECTION OF GARBAGE, RECYCLING & FOOD COMPOST

The Town of Goshen is seeking sealed bids for weekly curbside and weekly drop-off collection of garbage, recycling, and food compost. Interested parties should visit www.goshenvt.org to download a bid packet. Questions may be addressed to the board, selectboard@goshenvt.org. Bid proposals are due February 22, 2023. The bid award is contingent upon voter approval for either drop off or curbside collection, which will take place at Town Meeting on March 6, 2023. Bidders may submit one or both bids.

Mail sealed bids to:
ATTN: SELECTBOARD
Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen, VT 05733.

Clearly mark SEALED BID-GARBAGE on the exterior of the envelope.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF PROCTOR VERMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT PROSPECTIVE BIDDER'S INFORMATION

FOR A NEW COMMERCIAL CHASSIS PUMPER/TANKER

Prospective Bidders;

The Town of Proctor Vermont Fire Department is seeking Bids for a New Commercial Chassis Pumper Tanker.

There will be a pre bid meeting at the Proctor Fire Department 41 Main St Proctor, Vt at 6:30pm on 2/01/2023. Bid specifications will be available until 4:00pm on 2/10/2023 by contacting Proctor Fire Chief Joshua Webb at 802-345-8413.

Bids are to received by 4:00pm on 3/20/2023. The bids must be delivered with the specifications, drawings, engineering information, and truck information in one packet, and the bid price in a separate packet. The bid packets are to delivered to the Proctor Town Hall at 45 Main St Proctor, Vt 05765. They need to be marked FD Truck Replacement Bid.

The specifications, drawings, engineering information, and truck information will be reviewed. Any bids not meeting our bid specifications will automatically be rejected. The bid opening for the price will be on 3/27/2023 at 6:00pm.

The Proctor Fire Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Proctor Fire Department also reserves the right to negotiate with bidders after the bid opening.

TOWN OF PROCTOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Proctor is/are considering making an application to the State of Vermont for a VCDP Planning Grant 2022 under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at 6:05 PM on 02/13/2023 at 45 Main Street, Proctor, Vermont 05765 to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected use of these funds.

The proposal is to apply for \$60,000 in VCDP funds which will be used to accomplish the following activities: To produce a site feasibility study, architectural/engineering plans, code compliance review, and an environmental analysis for light industrial use activities at 52/56 Main Street.

Copies of the proposed application are available at the Proctor Town Offices/45 Main Street, Proctor, Vermont 05765 and may be viewed during the hours of 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Should you require any special accommodations, please contact Michael Ramsey at 802-459-3333 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) #1-800-253-0191

REQUEST FOR BIDS TO REPAIR TOWN HALL ROOF SEALED BIDS DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd

The Town of Goshen is seeking bids for the repair of a leak in the Town Hall roof. Additionally, there may be flashing issues contributing to the leak around the chimney.

Please include itemized bid numbers for:

1. Materials
2. Labor
3. Scope of Work
4. Any Other Costs

If you would like to schedule a time to meet for an assessment at the Town Hall, please call (802) 345-9399 or email, selectboard@goshenvt.org.

All bids must include a copy of their contractor liability insurance.

SEALED BIDS DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd

The selectboard has the authorization to reject any or all bids.

Mail or Deliver to:
ATTN: GOSHEN SELECTBOARD
Goshen Town Office
50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen, VT 05733
MARK ENVELOPE: SEALED BID

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

BRANDON TOWN HALL EVENTS

VERMONT'S HOTTEST
DANCE BAND

the grift

SATURDAY

February 4 • 7PM

Brandon Town Hall

**Tickets
\$10**

Brandon Idol Snow Boots

SATURDAY

Feb. 18 • 7PM

ONLY \$5
for a great night

of music at the
Brandon Town Hall!

The Talent is ENDLESS!