

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 16

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

\$1



SARAH KING

Sarah King will perform at Brandon Town Hall on Saturday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

PG. 3



WEEKEND HIJINKS

Read about this past weekend's wild activities in downtown Brandon.

PG. 6

OVUU SCHOOL BOARD

OVUU school board discusses child safety after incidents at Neshobe and on Facebook.

PG. 2



GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais talks gardening with Ellen Walter.

PG. 22



Seth Hopkins to be Brandon town manager

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—After a months-long search, the Brandon Selectboard announced on Monday night that it had offered the position of town manager to Seth Hopkins. Hopkins is currently the Chair of the Selectboard and will resign from that position to assume his new role when he has signed a contract with the town. Because Board member Cecil Reniche-Smith was unable to attend Monday's meeting, the Board postponed final contractual negotiations until



SETH HOPKINS

the next regular Selectboard meeting on April 24.

Interim Town Manager Bill Moore, who was the other finalist for the job, will remain in that position until Mr. Hopkins officially assumes the role. Even after Mr. Hopkins becomes town manager, however, Mr. Moore will continue to have an as-yet-untitled position in "town management," according to Board member Tim Guiles.

"I am humbled to be chosen," said Mr. Hopkins in an email to The Reporter. "I feel that it was not so much that
(See Seth Hopkins, Page 2)

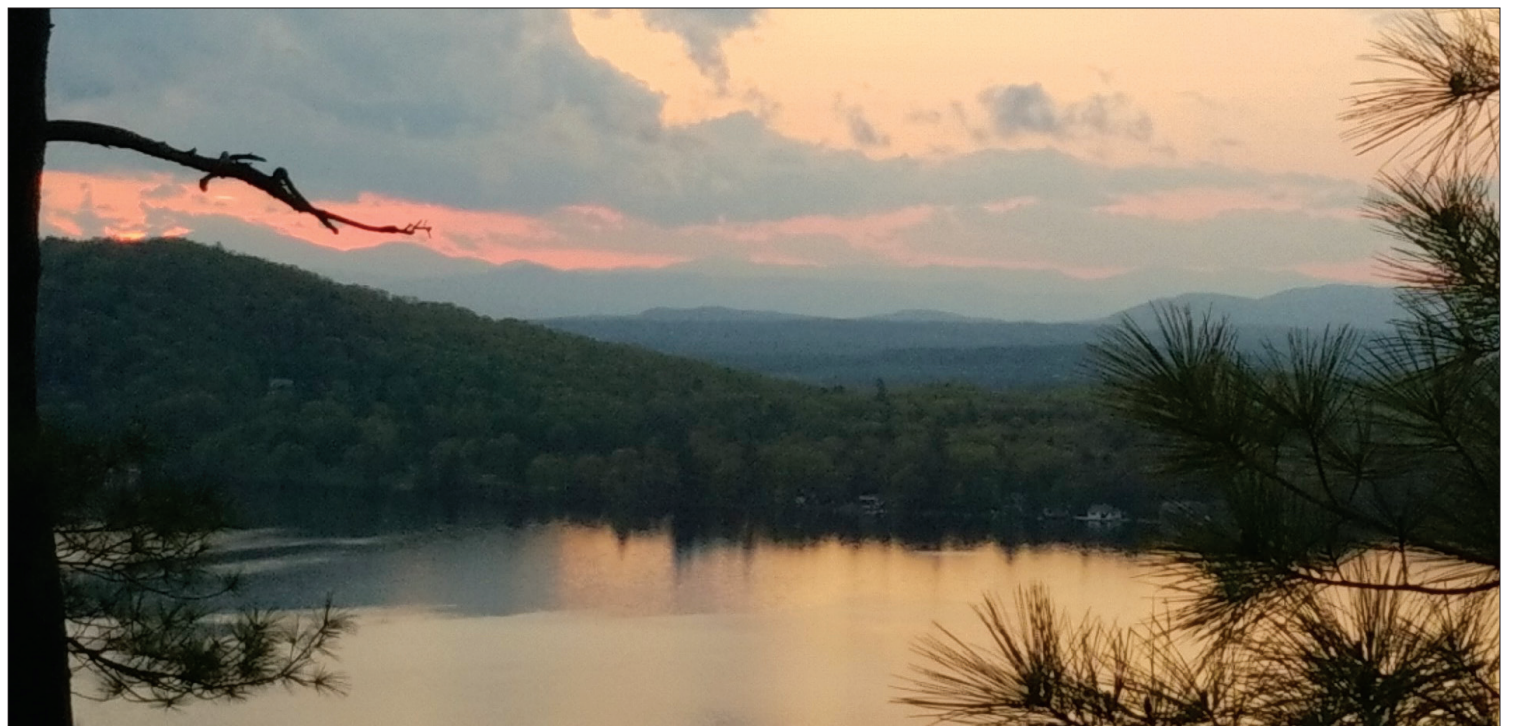
Brandon SB focuses on water & warrants

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard met on Monday evening, having postponed its scheduled meeting on April 10 for a week because the agenda had not been posted online in time to properly warn the public.

After approval of the evening's agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting, Interim Town Manager Bill Moore gave his report, starting with an apology for the oversight that caused the postponement of the meeting.

Mr. Moore then recounted the efforts of the highway, buildings, and grounds crew to prepare the
(See Brandon SB, Page 9)



A SUNSET OVER Lake Dunmore from the overlook at the top of the falls of Lana Loop trail. In the distance is Addison County below a silhouette of the Adirondacks.
 Photo by Will Ross

Let's go for a hike: local trails worth exploring

BY WILL ROSS

BRANDON—The perennials are beginning to sprout, the grass is returning to a lush green, and rivers are rushing with melting snow. The sights and sounds of spring are upon us, and with them come warm sunny days perfect for getting outside and exploring the many natural areas and trail systems in our local area.

Our forests, rivers, lakes, and meadows offer a wide variety of terrain to traverse, and there are many trail systems to accommodate folks hoping to get out for a hike. The Green Mountains are truly an ideal place for recreation and have plenty of opportunities for people of all skill levels to get out and play in nature. Whether you're curious to try hiking as a

new hobby, are just looking for a peaceful walk in the woods, or are a seasoned thru-hiker, Vermont has plenty to offer.

Let's explore some of the trail systems that surround our area, provide some tips on navigating the forests, and touch on how to get out and explore nature with minimal impact.

The first trails we explore will

be the easiest. They are shorter in distance without too much elevation gain. Perfect for a leisurely stroll, these trails are not too physically demanding and are very approachable for folks of all ages and ability levels. They will get progressively more challenging as we continue, so think about which ones would be ideal for your skill
(See Local trails, Page 8)

OVUU Board deals with parental anger on child safety

BY GEORGE FJELD

with portions excerpted from unapproved minutes

BRANDON—Another large crowd filled the Otter Valley library on the evening of Tuesday, April 11, when multiple parents came to ask questions and voice fears about threatened violence in schools and others came to speak out against anti-transgender Facebook memes by a school board member. It was a meeting that had to be extended twice beyond the 2-hour time limit and lasted 4.5 hours.

During the public comment period, Andrea Quesnel spoke first and reported that her 8th-grade daughter heard

her frustrated teacher say “I’m going to kill someone” and walk out of the classroom. After stating she had little trust in the system and that there are lots of risks, Quesnel asked “What can be done?”

Neshobe parents were alarmed about two incidents when students made threats of violence. Emily Poro, parent of a Neshobe student, found out about the threats from social media before any communication from the administration. She stated, “Lack of action is the issue.”

Colby Hutchins, parent of a 5th grader, asked “Why were teachers told to keep quiet?” He called the police when he heard of the threat.

Robin Douglas spoke of being “terrified dropping her child off” and “cried on the way home,” after learning of the threats.

Barry Whitney asked followup questions from the meeting in March when parents complained about lack of privacy in the boys’ changing room. He found that 9 out of 10 showers were without shower curtains when he checked in the afternoon before the board meeting. Later the board approved an engineering study of up to \$10,000 to investigate updating the changing rooms at Otter Valley.

Superintendent Kristen Hubert stated “We take student and staff safety very seriously. Unfortunately we can’t discuss student or staff/personnel matters publicly.” Later in the meeting, she spoke more directly, stating that there were three things that happened that created this situation. First, a lock-down drill was held around the time the language of threats happened. When drills are done, it is hoped that schools will let families know. Then there were two separate incidents of verbal threats. Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian is

not bound by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and put out a press release containing information that the district couldn’t legally release. Both incidents were reported to the Police Department and received from families first. The police investigation is separate from the school’s investigation. For a point of information, it was in fact a miscommunication or wrong for

“Help kids feel safe! Kids are listening, how would you feel if a student committed suicide after hearing such comments?”

— Amy Nathan, OV ‘91 graduate

Chief Kachajian to assert that he had not had conversations with the staff over the weekend. Ms. Hubert spoke with one officer at least three times. She also talked with Doug Norton over the weekend of the Vermont State Police. On Monday, they learned about the second incident and made sure the incident was reported. The police did not believe that the Neshobe community was in danger.

She has heard from the community, parents and the Neshobe principal that there were missteps. Neshobe needs to do better around safety and supervision around school hours, provide better communication between school and parents, between school and law enforcement, and better about disseminating communication. Other outcomes include a new safety-planning focus and the district has been engaged in a safety audit. There will be a community-safety forum and a tabletop drill with local police and emergency groups in May. The Vermont Safety Department will assist with the forum and give the community another opportunity to provide comments.

Attention then switched to anti-transgender Facebook posts by OVUU board member Brent Scarborough. Ryn Gluckman, emergency room nurse and sexual abuse evaluator, was appalled by these comments. Mari Cordis, nurse and gender queer person said that the suicide rate is 4x higher for LGBTQ and transgender teenagers than the general population. She encouraged the board to support action against such public comments. Amy Martone, MBA, BSN, RN, NPD-BC, interim executive director of the American Nurses Association-Vermont stated that the transgender comments of a board member were targeted and hurtful. Amy Nathan, OV ‘91 graduate, spoke out against those same comments, “Help kids feel safe! Kids are listening, how would you feel if a student committed suicide after hearing such com-

(See OVUU board, Page 19)

Seth Hopkins

(Continued from Page 1)

the person was seeking the position, but that the position was seeking the person. Bill and I have talents and skills which complement one another, and I’m eager to get to work with him and the town staff, elected and appointed boards, and so many selfless volunteers, all doing our part for the betterment of Brandon.”

“Seth has been a tremendous asset to the town in his various volunteer roles and his life and work experience coupled with my own will provide a synergy that will see Brandon grow in an exciting and financially stable manner,” said Bill Moore. “It has been my honor to fill in as interim town manager in a positive direction during the prior 2 months. This was only possible because of the strength and competence of our amazing municipal staff. This is a watershed moment for our town; there is an excitement and energy around volunteers and staff doing transformative positive things to improve our lives. As a public servant, I look forward to working with Seth to make sure Brandon reflects the current and future needs of all our residents.”

The town manager position became vacant when David Atherton unexpectedly resigned at the beginning of this year. Several special Selectboard meetings were held to solicit input from the community as to how best to search for Mr. Atherton’s replacement. At these meetings, many community members made clear their desire that the search not be limited to applicants already in Brandon and that diversity be considered. To that end, a 5-person “citizen advisory committee” was formed to help guide the Selectboard’s decision. The committee had no authority to vote on any candidate, but it participated in the interview process and gave its assessments to the Board.

One member of that committee was Town Clerk/Treasurer Sue Gage: “They interviewed four worthy candidates and Seth certainly has the skills,

commitment, and vision for the town that everyone has been hoping for. It will be an easy transition. I look forward to working with him on a day-to-day level.”

In an email to The Reporter, Board member Tim Guiles expressed his support for the creation of a “management team” composed of Mr. Hopkins as town manager and Mr. Moore in a position whose title will be determined:

“Over the last 10 years, Seth, as an elected Board chair, and Bill, as rec director and economic development officer, worked closely with our past town manager to guide our town to the admirable position we find ourselves in today. We are fortunate that Seth and Bill like the idea of working together. To me, local knowledge of our community and a deep understanding of how we got to our currently successful posi-

tion was more important than other applicant skills and credentials. If we had not had Seth and Bill in the applicant pool, I would’ve been very satisfied to have chosen another qualified candidate...there were several to choose from. But I’m grateful that Seth and Bill came forward, and I’m confident that Brandon

will be well served as they work together in our town office.”

Board member Cecil Reniche-Smith was not present at Monday night’s meeting because of illness. But, according to Mr. Guiles, she agreed to let the Board go ahead with the decision in her absence. She did ask, however, that final negotiations of Mr. Hopkins’s contract be postponed until she was able to participate.

“The Selectboard put a lot

of thought into this selection,” Ms. Reniche-Smith wrote in an email. “We had several qualified applicants for the position, and there were a lot of issues to consider in making the best choice for Brandon. I am particularly grateful for the input we received from the citizens committee appointed to assist in the interview process. I look forward to working with Seth and Bill as our new town management team.”

The selection of Mr. Hopkins as town manager will open a seat on the Board. Moreover, the role of Chair will need to be filled as well. The remaining 4 Board members will now have to appoint someone for both of those positions. Since Mr. Hopkins was re-elected in March, his replacement will spend the better part of a year—Mr. Hopkins’s term—on the Board before having to face voters.

Last fall, when Michael Markowski resigned from the Board, letters of interest were solicited from anyone in the community who wanted to be considered to replace him. Presumably, the same process would be used to replace Mr. Hopkins as well.

Though Mr. Wyman is Vice-Chair, it was not clear that he would assume the role of Chair.

Mr. Guiles stated that it was still an open question.

And according to Mr. Guiles, the Board will at its next meeting, on April 24, make clear its reasons for selecting Mr. Hopkins.

“We know that many people are appropriately interested in the town manager selection, so we are sharing as much information as possible along the way,” Mr. Guiles wrote in an email.

“The Selectboard put a lot of thought into this selection,” Ms. Reniche-Smith wrote in an email. “We had several qualified applicants for the position, and there were a lot of issues to consider in making the best choice for Brandon.”

— Cecil Reniche-Smith, Board member

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WE NEED U THE BRANDON REPORTER

Sarah King to perform at Brandon Town Hall

BY STEVEN JUPITER

RIPTON—Why do people love songs about loss? Why do people luxuriate in a singer's sorrow? Is it because it's cathartic, allowing us to purge our own pain through someone else's?

Singer/songwriter Sarah King is building her career on the need people have for release of their own burdens. All the pent-up pain, anger, and frustrations of life come pouring out in the gritty soulfulness of her music. She latches onto a tune, twisting her voice around it like a boa around its prey, tightening her grip, then letting it go...

"Maybe a weight has been lifted," she said. Her goal is to take the listener on a journey, to stir something inside them, to get them to give up a little bit of their hurt.

King has lived a nomadic life: Maine, New York, North Carolina, Georgia. She moved to Vermont in 2018 after a year on the road with her husband. They landed in Ripton and King began taking her music-making more seriously.

"I started writing songs in high school," she said. "I knew it was what I wanted to do but the adults in my life told me it wasn't a career path. I believed them for too long."

When her mother passed in 2018, it was in some ways a liberation.

"I didn't have to live up to anyone else's expectations anymore," King said. "I didn't have to justify myself."

In early 2020, King had tickets to see a favorite band, The Lumineers, in Saratoga. Looking at the credits on a promotional CD she received at the concert, she decided to "take a shot in the dark" and email a demo track to the band's producer, Simone Felice. To her surprise, not only did she receive a reply, but she also received an invitation to come record her music in the same studio The Lumineers used.

"If people at that level are seeing something in me..." King mused. By April of 2020, she was recording her music with Felice.

King's sound could best be categorized as "Americana," a darker, sharper-edged cousin to Country music, with strong influences of blues, folk, and rock. Her influences include Chris Stapleton, Nathaniel Rateliff, Elle King, Al Green, Alabama Shakes...the common thread being a willingness to go deep and raw to get a song across. Her lyrics tackle the emotional and psychological conflicts within us all. Her song "Not Worth the Whiskey," for example, is a slow, angry burn, lashing out at someone who hurt her so badly that they're not even worth

the whiskey to forget them: "Misdeeds are the fodder/on which your guilty conscience feeds."

"I like to say my music is by the people, about the people, for the people," King offered. She doesn't sanitize life. Temptation, drinking, death... they all find their way into her music.

"But my show is a journey," she said. She takes the audience on a voyage through the ups and downs, the beauty and ugliness, of life. "It's not all dark. I saw on Spotify once that someone had a playlist called 'Sunshine and Struggle' and I thought that was a perfect way to describe my music. I want to shine a light on the darkness."

King's show at Town Hall in Brandon (on Saturday, April 22 at 7 pm) will be the last of her "Listening Room" performances for a



SARAH KING WILL bring her raw soulfulness to Brandon Town Hall on Saturday, April 22.

while. These intimate sessions are a direct connection between her and her audience. There's no backing band or singers. Just King and her electric guitar. She's currently recording an album to be released in the fall and will go out west to tour this summer.

Despite some of the subject matter, King insists the show will have a "feel-good vibe." The goal is to provide a "safe space" to feel the emotions she aims to stir with her music.

"There's genuine emotion in everything I do," she said. "I want to give people something to engage with."

Please visit King's website www.sarahkingsings.com to read more about her and hear samples of her music. Her show is at Brandon Town Hall on Saturday, April 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Red Clover will be selling alcoholic beverages and Nyam Bai will be selling Cambodian food

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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

Old hands in new jobs

BY STEVEN JUPITER

The Brandon Selectboard announced after its executive session on Monday that it intended to offer the position of town manager to current Board Chair Seth Hopkins. After a search process that netted 14 applications, from as far afield as Tennessee, the Board winnowed down the field to four candidates and then to two finalists: Mr. Hopkins and Bill Moore, who has been acting as interim town manager ever since Dave Atherton's resignation. The Board has not yet made public its reasons for choosing Mr. Hopkins instead of Mr. Moore, but Bill will still be part of the "town management team" in some capacity that has not been fully fleshed out yet.

The choice of Mr. Hopkins is sure to irk some folks in town, not because he isn't qualified for the position, but rather because his candidacy has always seemed the most obvious and, perhaps, preordained. There was a lot of discussion during the initial public meetings about the need to look outside the Brandon community for candidates who might represent a more diverse pool than what is locally available. We have yet to hear from members of the citizen advisory committee about whether their assessments of the candidates aligned with those of the Board, but the selection of Mr. Hopkins, as well as the retention of Mr. Moore, points to something that matters in a small town: familiarity.

Board member Tim Guiles said it himself: at the end of the day, a primary criterion was "local knowledge of our

community." No one can argue that Seth and Bill don't know Brandon. They've both been involved in town affairs in myriad ways for years. It's certainly possible for someone from outside the community, even someone from Tennessee, to come to Brandon and do a top-rate job as town manager in many respects, but what takes years to build is the network of personal relationships that allow us to defuse tense situations, to de-escalate conflicts, and to resolve seemingly intractable problems. That network of relationships is one of the things that made Dave Atherton, another "in-house hire," such a successful town manager. Seth and Bill come equipped with relationships and knowledge that would take a new resident years to develop. I recall a resident of Pittsford expressing something close to contempt for their last town manager because she consistently mispronounced Lothrop as Laythrop. She was also a terrible town manager, so no one was willing to cut her any slack, but these things matter.

The creation of a new management position for Mr. Moore is a creative way to tap into his strengths, and he himself seems satisfied with the outcome. It remains to be seen how the Board defines his role, and the more specific they can be, the better. The new position would create more problems than it solves if it's unclear to town residents and employees whom to approach in what situation. Not to mention that many an optimistic partnership turns contentious if boundaries are

(See *New jobs*, Page 15)



Sweet nectar of life

TIME TO GET ready for the return of ruby-throated hummingbirds in early May. They make an amazing migration from Central America flying nonstop over the Gulf of Mexico to the US mainland. With heart beats between 500-1,200 times a minute, and their wings beating an average of 53 times a second, these amazing birds visit hundreds of flowers a day to keep their energy up. Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backward. Photo: Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Why should we celebrate Earth Day?

BY KATHY CLARK

Earth Day is just around the corner on Saturday, April 22. It's a time to remember all the blessings "Mother Earth" gives to us and to consider what we can do to preserve and nurture her. Even though you may not be planning to buy an electric car or install solar panels anytime soon, there are a myriad of little ways to preserve and conserve resources. Insulate your home to cut back on heating costs, turn off the lights when leaving a room, hang up clothes rather than use the electric dryer, compost vegetables,

drives only as often as needed and absolutely never idle the car, to list just a few of them.

An idea for a small celebration was born during a discussion of the town Energy Committee. To that end, we have secured wildflower seeds native to Vermont from American Meadows in Burlington, which is a contribution to our town. The seeds are a mixture of annuals and perennials, so we will have to wait a year or two to see the full, gorgeous effect of the whole garden.

Two places will be ready for planting by Earth Day. We

found a sunny spot at Kirk Park, a small park at 17 Franklin St. The second location is in front of the temporary library space and Brandon Town Hall.

You are invited to come to either location on Saturday between 12 and 2 to scatter some seeds. There will also be people to talk to about tree planting, saving energy, and generating energy without the use of fossil fuels, all with live music in the background. Most activities will be held at the Town Hall location.

See you on Earth Day!

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Town of West Rutland open to vendors for town wide yard sale

The Town of West Rutland has scheduled its annual Town-Wide Yard Sale for Saturday, May 13 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. West Rutland residents

can register their sale with the town by May 9, to be included on the town wide map. Vendor space is also available for rental on the Town Hall lawn - a

10'x10' space is \$20.00 (bring your own tables).

For more information or to register, call the Town Office at (802) 438-2263.

Leicester News

Green Up Day is coming soon!

Bags are available at the Town Office and will be available at the town shed the morning of Green Up. The annual volunteer lunch will be held Sat, May 6, from 11:30 to 1:00, in front of the Senior Center. Lunch tickets, that double as raffle tickets, will be available at the trailer at the Town Shed the morning of Green Up. The goal is for 100% of the roads to be cleared; we did it last year and hope to repeat the feat this year. A map of town roads has been prepared to highlight the areas that are currently being done and will be posted at the Town Office. For an update or to find out where you can volunteer to clean up, contact Diane at 247-3786 or 458-7234.

Ready to win at Prize Bingo?

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., May 13, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Refreshments served and all are welcome.

Register your dog to avoid penalties

Animal Control Officer Rob Devold has begun the task of locating owners of yet unregistered dogs. To avoid possible civil penalties, please get your dog registered as soon as possible.

Brandon Historic Preservation Commission receives grant

The Town of Brandon Historic Preservation Commission has recently received a 2023 Certified Local Government grant to perform an overall scoping survey of the important historic areas, industries and people associated with the Brandon area. The study will focus on areas outside the existing historic districts and integrate current information into a more cohesive historical perspective. The funding is

provided from the State of Vermont by the US Department of Interior, National Park Services for the Certified Local Government Program. Brandon has a historical importance with the early days of Vermont through its industrial, educational and residents' activities. This study will assist the Brandon Historic Preservation Commission to focus and prioritize its future activities.

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Letters Policy: *The Reporter* will only print letters to the editor that are signed with the author's full name, address and a phone number so the author may be reached for verification or questions. Only name and town will be printed.

Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage area. We will also consider letters from

former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

The editor reserves the right to approve or reject any letter to the editor. Any letter considered slanderous or libelous will not be printed. Letters written locally endorsing candidates for office will be accepted without charge.

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m.
Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@brandonreporter.com

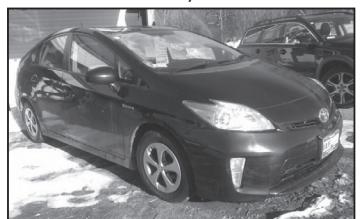
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THE SILVER BELLS of the Brandon Area Toy Project held their Poppy Pageant to raise money for the Brandon American Legion Auxiliary. Front row (l to r): Korbin Laughlin, Autumn Ketcham, Tristyn Laughlin, Ashlynn Ketcham, Maggie Hooker, Ivy Renaud with mom Cloey Bell, Ainsley Gelseighter with mom Merceded Shackett. Back row (l to r): Deborah Hough, Peggie Sue Rozell.

Pageant photo provided

Photos by Steven Jupiter



A I N S L E Y GELSEIGHTER LIGHTS up the room with her smile.



THORN THE ANCIENT porcupine.

It was a wild weekend in Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Brandon was hopping this past weekend, with packed events scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

On Friday evening, Derek Small of Wildlife Encounters enchanted the audience at Town Hall with a fascinating array of wild animals. He had a camouflaged Malaysian frog, which looked exactly like a dried-up old leaf; a sleek and beautiful Arctic fox; a vocally expressive Moluccan cockatoo, with a beautiful salmon-pink crest; a stunning yellow python (see photo); a delightfully horrid monitor lizard; and a surprisingly cute porcupine, appropriately named Thorn, whom Small called his “ancient ambassador.” Small has been bringing his animals to Town Hall for years from his

sanctuary in New Hampshire. If you didn’t get a chance to see them this time around, be sure to check them out next year.

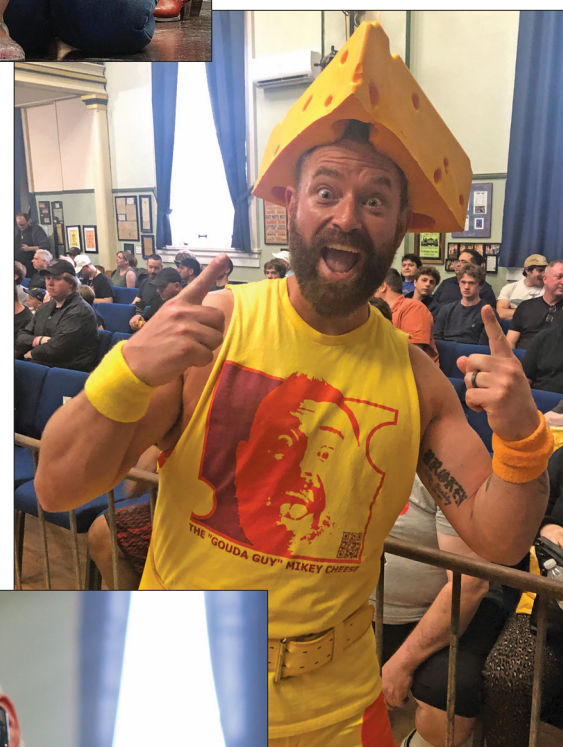
On Saturday evening, Town Hall was thronged with folks eager to see some stompin’ and hear some trash talkin’: World of Hurt Pro Wrestling took over the main floor and gave the crowd quite a show. Champion Pierre “The Beast” Vachon and “The Gouda Guy” Mikey Cheese were on hand (see photos), along with a dozen other rowdy wrestlers. Through seven individual and group matches, the wrestlers slammed each other against the mat and ropes. Bodies were flipped and flung. The crowd went wild, cheering on the heroes and booing the villains, such as the Russians who opened the show with the Russian national anthem, prompting a boisterous chant of “U-S-A!” from the room. The evening was hosted by emcee Bill Moore and Colleen “Shiraz” Wright.

Across Seminary Street from the wrestling event, Sister Wicked hosted a video release and artist showcase. Brandon-based singer/songwriter Breanna Elaine premiered the video for her song “One Another.” The lyrics are about “interconnectedness to and spiritual entanglement with our loved ones, including those who have passed,” according to Breanna Elaine. The video depicted the singer becoming more and more colorful as she painted the message “We’re here for one thing and that is loving one another.” After the video, local artists presented their own work, in-

cluding glass by Monique Monette, pen-and-ink drawings by Caber Wilson, and original songs by Melissa Moorhouse. Matt Viscido, of local band Bodenbender, ended the evening with a group jam that got everyone moving and singing. Sister Wicked hosts frequent Saturday-night open mics. Follow them on Facebook.

On Sunday, Town Hall was the setting for the Poppy Pageant by Silver Bells of the Brandon Area Toy Project. The Silver Bells are a community-service organization that raises money for and donates food, books, and clothing to the elderly and veterans. This pageant raised \$821 for the Brandon American Legion Auxiliary. Everyone looked fantastic and had a terrific time, all for a great cause.

As always, Brandon keeps things lively and the season is just getting started!



THE “GOUDA GUY” Mikey Cheese.



DEREK SMALL OF Wildlife Encounter with his yellow python.



SID THE MOLUCCAN Cockatoo.



PIERRE “THE BEAST” Vachon.



Legislative Report

Arduous weeks on the floor yield results

BY BUTCH SHAW

After two furious weeks of grueling floor sessions of long hours and bill after bill coming before the body, the past week has seen 15–20-minute floor sessions. This is typical after the push to crossover and gives the members time to regroup and recover from the previous week’s schedules.

Vermont is a “Dillon’s Rule” state which means local governments (our towns) have three sources of governing power: 1) Those granted in express words; 2) Those granted in powers expressly granted; or 3) Those essential for the purposes of the corporation. Many municipalities in Vermont have a municipal charter granted by the state and that charter becomes the primary source of power and structure for the local government. This principle is a legislative enactment and therefore it has the same status as a state statute. Municipalities choose to adopt or change their charters (which is a lengthy process) to give them flexibility to design a system of self-governance best suited to their community. That said, if a municipality wants to extend its authority beyond

what is granted by state law, it must obtain permission from the legislature. Dillon’s Rules are extremely specific, as opposed to “Home Rule” states which can change their municipal charters at will, if the local governments stay within state and federal laws. To that effect, the work of The House has recently centered on charter-change requests from municipal bodies. The House has unanimously approved no fewer than 15 municipal-charter changes in the past two weeks.

My time these past several weeks on the House Committee on Transportation has been centered on Senate Bill S.99, which is a bill relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles. This proposed legislation is usually a cleanup of various laws to adjust to the changing ways we regulate areas such as the “Lemon Law,” weights of vehicles and their cargo, permitting of large loads, excessive vehicle noise and the like. However, this year’s edition of the “Misc. DMV Bill” is quite different. The Department of Motor Vehicles is ready to launch a \$50 million core system

computer software modernization project with the objective of providing better and smoother experience for Vermonters dealing with the Department. We have learned that Vermont DMV engages in over one million transactions annually, with almost half transacted online.

With this new system, should this bill make it to the finish line, you will be able to receive an electronic copy of your driver’s license and/or registration on your portable electronic device (think cell phone). You will also receive a hard copy of these documents should you not want to use your device for the above stated purpose. The law-enforcement community approves of this electronic documentation, but the law will prohibit an enforcement officer from accessing other contents of your device. Another proposed change will be the elimination of the white validation stickers that you place on your license plate. This sticker will no longer be necessary as when the new system goes live a law enforcement officer using a secure law enforcement application on their portable electron-

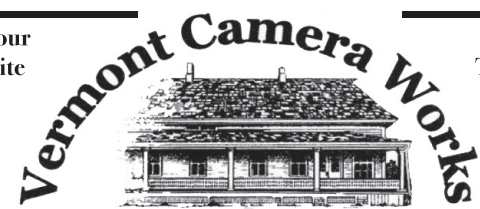
ic device and will be able to retrieve the vehicle registration information by scanning the bar code on the vehicle’s inspection sticker. The committee has been scouring Title 19 and Title 23 of Vermont Statutes to make necessary changes to bring current law up to date on the new electronic age of motor vehicle regulations!

I can be reached by email at bshaw@leg.state.vt.us, by phone, 802-483-2398 or by mail at P.O. Box 197, Pittsford, VT 05763.

I am always available to have a conversation concerning our Legislative District and your Vermont state government.

*Representative Butch Shaw
Pittsford-Proctor*

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and many others.**

3200 US RT 7, Pittsford
(802)483-9357 vcw@vermontcamera.com Jim & Liz McRae



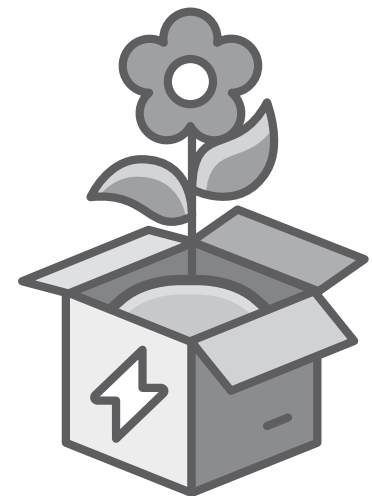
HAPPY EARTH MONTH

Want to save energy and reduce your carbon footprint at home?

For a limited time, get a **free energy savings kit** full of efficient lighting and water-saving devices:

- 10 LED bulbs (40 / 60 / 75 watt equivalents)
- 1 low-flow showerhead
- 2 faucet aerators
- PLUS a bonus smart bulb -or- wildflower seed packet*

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Exclusive IBD merch for sale beginning Saturday

HELP US CELEBRATE

INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023

Bookstore-themed Trivia Night at Red Clover Ale Friday 4/28 at 6:00

Storewide 15% off sale - one day only!

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Sharpen your mind with our puzzles. Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

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The Brandon Area Food Shelf has moved to the United Methodist Church

For the convenience of its clients, the Brandon Area Food shelf had moved to the center of Brandon. We will be open on Tuesdays from 12-3 beginning March 21st, for anyone who needs assistance. Walk-ins are welcome.

Tuesdays 12-3 PM
1 Franklin Street
Brandon, VT

If you have any questions, please call Kathy Mathis (802-247-3121) or Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman (802-282-7532).



Local trails

(Continued from Page 1)

level.

First, we have Lefferts Pond in Chittenden. Lefferts Pond is a 1.5-mile out-and-back trail that follows a footpath through the woods of Chittenden. The trail winds beneath the canopy and ends up at the northern tip of Lefferts Pond, giving a great view of the Green Mountains reflecting across the water. This hike usually takes around 30 minutes to complete. To reach the trailhead, just follow Wildcat Road in Chittenden until the junction with NF Road 412, and you will reach the Lefferts Pond overnight parking pull-off.

The Pittsford Rec Trail System is another great place for a nice walk. This 2.1-mile out-and-back begins alongside Sugar Hollow Brook and then departs to wind its way through the woods. There are some hills to climb along the way, but nothing too strenuous. This hike will take anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour. While there is no stellar overlook, it is a great way to casually immerse yourself in the natural landscape. You can reach the trailhead by parking at the Pittsford Recreation Area and crossing the bridge on foot.

Another approachable trail is the Robert Frost Loop, located in Ripton. This 1-mile trail meanders through a mix of forest and meadow, and there are signs featuring some of Frost's poems along the way. This is a great hike for people of all ages: much of it is boardwalk or crushed stone. The trailhead is located in a lot off VT Route 125, just across from the Frost wayside.

Now let's get into some moderately challenging trails that are perfect for an excursion into the forest. First up is the Falls of Lana. This trail system is located in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area and provides many different places to explore. Whether you hope to climb all the way to Silver Lake, explore the river down by the waterfalls, or reach a scenic lookout over Lake Dunmore, the Falls of Lana has it all. The

official Falls of Lana loop is 4.5 miles and has a decent amount of uphill trekking, though the views are certainly worth it. It typically takes between 1-2 hours to complete, and the trailhead is located in Salisbury on Route 53, just before Branbury State Park when heading north.

Falls of Lana is not the only local trail with a great view however, Bald Peak in Pittsford is another moderately challenging trail. This 1.5-mile out-and-back climbs up a steep hillside through the forest to the top of Bald Peak and features two vistas that overlook Rutland, Pittsford, and north Chittenden. The hike typically takes just over an hour, but it is easy to relax at the top and take in the view for just as long. The trailhead is located just across from the parking area on Barnard Road.

If you are hoping to find a longer hike, look no farther than the Chandler Ridge and Leicester Hollow loop. This 10-mile loop provides more challenging access to Silver Lake. It follows a gentle incline through the forest, with a handful of nice views along the way. Eventually, you reach Silver Lake and circumnavigate the perimeter before heading back down the hill. This hike typically takes upwards of 4 hours. The trail begins at the Minnie Baker trailhead, located on Lake Dunmore Road in Forestdale.

Another trail that is on the challenging side is Gillespie Peak via the Long Trail. This 5.8-mile out-and-back climbs over several peaks and traverses along a ridge-line in the Joseph Battell Wilderness. The first peak is Mount Hor-

rid, and though it is not technically part of this trail, it is well worth it to venture off and take a break on top of the great cliff to overlook the valley to the west. There are not too many views beyond this; however, you can certainly catch glimpses of the surrounding landscape through the trees. This trail typically takes around 4 hours to complete, and the trailhead is located just across the road from the parking lot at the top of Brandon Gap.

As hikers, it is our responsibility to ensure that these areas stay pristine for future generations, so make yourself familiar with leave-no-trace principles, carry out what you carry in, and abide by the regulations of the local trail system.

When hiking, no matter the difficulty, it is always important to know before you go, so look at maps, have a good idea of what to expect, and know your limits. It is also important to bring supplies for longer hikes,

such as water, snacks, lunch, and extra layers. Keep in mind that trail conditions change seasonally; the spring is mud season, so some trails may be very thick with mud or washed out entirely.

Also, keep in mind the impact that you have on these locations. As hikers, it is our responsibility to ensure that these areas stay pristine for future generations, so make yourself familiar with leave-no-trace principles, carry out what you carry in, and abide by the regulations of the local trail system.

The few trails listed here cover only a fraction of all the trail systems in the greater Brandon area, so there are plenty more to discover for yourself. You can find additional trail systems online, at a local ranger station, or by talking with other hikers. So, go exploring! Enjoy the transition from winter to spring, and always keep your eyes peeled for your next scenic stroll, epic discovery, or great adventure!

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

town and parks for spring and summer, cleaning up the parking area at Estabrook Park and adding dirt to the softball diamond. Repairs have been made to the town's wood chipper and Mack truck.

The Wastewater Department has been fixing pumps, though there remains one at Newton Road that needs repair. At the wastewater plant itself, the influent pump needs to be replaced or repaired. Replacement of the pump was slated to be done during the upcoming upgrade, so the need to repair it now is poor timing. The Selectboard had spent the hour before the meeting at the wastewater plant receiving updates on the progress of the work there.

A nonprofit called Brady's K-9 Fund has donated a bulletproof vest to Brandon's police dog, Guinness. The donation represents a savings of roughly \$1500 for the town and will help ensure the dog's safety while on duty.

Brandon has been awarded a \$40,000 Transportation Alternatives Grant for a scoping study to assess the feasibility of a Brandon-Forestdale Connector Path. The grant was applied for through the Rutland Regional Planning Commission and will require a \$10,000

match from the town. The grant was applied for in December.

The Rec Department will soon release details for its summer camps at Estabrook and Branbury.

Please see the complete Town Manager Report in the packet for the April 10 meeting for more details about all the above.

During the public-comment portion of the meeting, an attendee asked why the Town Office had stopped sending out the meeting agendas via email, as had been the practice for many years. Mr. Moore explained that the agenda is available on the town's website but that a sizeable number of people had complained about the decision. Board member Tim Guiles suggested that if the agenda is sent out via email again, that it be publicized so that any town resident who wanted to be on the list to receive it could sign up.

Jim Emerson of the Brandon Energy Committee reminded the Board that there will be an all-day music festival at SolarFest on May 13 to raise awareness for renewable energy. Mr. Emerson also reminded the Board of his previous requests that ARPA money be used for town-owned solar arrays, stating that he was getting quotes from suppliers.

The Board then welcomed Andres Torizzo of Watershed Consulting for an update regarding the stormwater catchment system proposed for West Seminary Street. The plans are 60% complete and show a system of underground chambers that would abut the playground and basketball court. Funds would need to be obtained to implement the project, but Mr. Torizzo believed that such projects are not difficult to fund these days as grants are readily available for environmental protection.

The project would require that West Seminary be excavated and Mr. Torizzo suggested that the basketball court would likely need to be resurfaced, but once construction is complete, there would be little need for maintenance.

The project, if implemented, would begin in summer of 2024 and require partial closure of West Seminary.

Mr. Emerson of the Energy Committee then requested permission from the Board to apply for a \$4,000 grant from the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, which would be used to fund books on energy conservation for the library, a Town of Brandon energy survey, and energy-related mailings. The grant would not require a match from the town. The Board approved the application unanimously.

The Board also approved an



THE BRANDON SELECTBOARD meets with the crew at the Brandon wastewater plant.
Photo by Bill Moore

update to the Emergency Management Plan, to ensure that all necessary information was current. Mr. Hopkins, who is the town Emergency Management Director, discussed the possibility of creating an "emergency management committee" composed of town residents, and of perhaps dividing the town into emergency management "zones."

Larry Stevens was appointed Brandon Health Officer while the position of Deputy Health Officer was left vacant for the time being.

A proposal was set forth by the Board to authorize a Board member to sign payroll warrants ahead of Board meetings. Because payroll must be met every two weeks, but the Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month, it often occurs that the Board ends up approving war-

rants for payroll that has already gone out. The proposal would allow a Board member to authorize the warrants before meetings in weeks when the payroll and meetings don't align. The concern, as expressed by Board member Tim Guiles, was that the Board's approval of completed payroll was simply "performative" and perhaps not in compliance with statutory obligations. After some debate about the practicality of the change, it was decided to table the proposal until the full Board could be present for the motion.

A warrant for \$632,424.88 had been approved at a special meeting after the postponement of the April 10 meeting.

The Board then went into executive session to discuss the selection of town manager (see article on page one).

SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023
check in is at 7:00 a.m.

Shotgun style tournament 8:00 a.m.
Banquet dinner post round
50/50 raffle
Prizes

**To register your team,
sponsor a hole**

**4 person groups—\$100/person
Sponsor a hole—\$250**

**At the Neshobe Golf Course,
224 Town Farm Rd., Brandon, VT 05733**

**FIRST ANNUAL
RAY MIRO**

**WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Register by contacting: Stacey S Coburn (802) 282-9261
ottervalleywrestlingalumni@gmail.com
richkepner@aol.com (518) 209-6955



OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Asta Gamba

GRADE: 4th

SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle School

TITLE: Gratitude

MEDIUM: Pencil

TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz

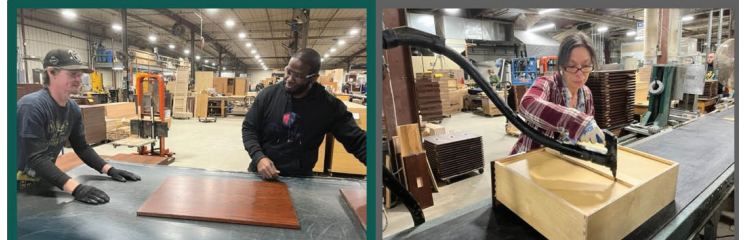


STATEMENT FROM DASHA KALISZ:
The project was called "Gratitude." The assignment was to create something you are thankful for. Asta created a drawing of her father and the things he likes—Star Wars and a camera because he's a photographer.



Falls of Lana trailhead parking to close for a week

Construction work will necessitate temporary closure of the parking area for the Falls of Lana. Closure will begin on Monday, April 24 and last approximately a week. The Goshen/Silver Lake parking lot will remain open.



NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT



SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

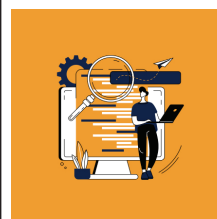
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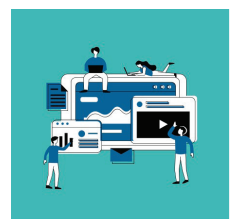
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The glory of spring

THESE SNOW GLORIES were positively humming with joy (and bees) this weekend.

Photo by Sepi Alavi

Calendar of events

April

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.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

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

The club has begun playing 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.

Yoga Prana Shakti Zoom & Studio Chair Yoga, Gentle, Wednesdays

From 10:30-11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most 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 in class!

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

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on email list. \$15/class

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12-1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register. There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

Attendees will be led through specific sheet music by musician Steven Wilson. All levels are welcome.

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

Join us starting at 6 p.m. for a rousing good time!

Goings on around town

Chamber of Commerce s kick-off with OV

The weather is warming and activities are heating up as we prepare for a busy summer here in Brandon. The Chamber and other organizations are planning the many happenings that will fill our summer days and nights. The Chamber website, Brandon.org, is where you can always find more information about our events and activities, all of our member businesses, and links to other organizations happenings..

The Chamber of Commerce is once again offering its annual Otter Valley \$500 Prize Award. The Prize Award is open to Junior Class or Senior Class OVUHS students. The Chamber Prize Award will be presented to students who are well-rounded, have participated in school and outside activities, who are pursuing or plan to pursue higher education through college or technical school, and have participated in activities that make the Brandon community a better place to live, work and play.

We would like students to answer these questions:

- What idea(s) do you have to improve the quality of life in the Brandon community and strengthen the vitality of the area?
- What are your proposed ideas to help achieve these goals?

Students can use any form of media, such as an essay, artwork, video, poem, etc.

The application deadline is May 25th. Interested students should contact the Otter Valley Guidance Office for applications. You may also download the application at Brandon.org. Enter "Prize Award" in the search box.

We are embarking on our eighth season of free-to-all summer concerts. And we have been growing every year! It is that time of year again - when we start looking forward to warm evenings, gathering with friends and neighbors, and listening to great music. The Brandon Summer Concerts are our weekly chance to celebrate together and en-

joy the won throughout excellent lin variety. The place behind day in July a are an even lawn chairs River and ac children run popcorn beir out this year information, The Brandon will again p our headline to contribut

the past. Bu this possible that we have great music tining to bu

We welco who've join Campground lery at Six- l nancial Serv Consulting- Organics- N Ben Hsiung



The Brandon Museum hosts Artifact Roadshow with Castleton University Archeology Department April 27

Have you ever found an artifact in your garden and wondered how old it is? Do you have objects that date to the early history of Brandon? If so, bring them to the Artifact Roadshow provided by Castleton University Archeology from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall. While there will not be financial appraisals, Castleton archaeologists Matthew and Ellen Moriarty and their students will help identify your artifacts and

determine their age and function. If you have no artifacts, come anyway to see this unique event. Information from the roadshow will become part of a local project documenting the history of Castleton and surrounding areas. Time permitting, they will also take photos and create 3D models of the artifacts.



The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hzfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Wednesdays

Ping Pong



Fridays

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.



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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center
By request, we will have drop-in cornhole

in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

Play with whoever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

Going up the Country, A musical playing April 28–May 7



Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents *Going Up The Country*. The play has been adapted from Yvonne Daley's book of the same name. Yvonne was a Vermont journalist who died this past August, and who wrote about the hippie invasion of the 1960's and 70's into the lives of native Vermonters and how each group transformed the other. Play and music written by Eric Peterson and John Foley.

Length of show: Approximately 120 minutes including intermission

West Rutland Town Hall
35 Marble Street
West Rutland, Vermont
Cash or check only at the door

This is a handicap accessible venue.

Face masks and social distancing are encouraged.

free. Contact Linda Olson, Director of the Center for Social Justice and Trauma Informed Care at 802-353-1965 with questions related to the event.

View Online:
<http://castleton.meritpages.com/news/Castleton-University-Center-for-Social-Justice-and-Trauma-Informed-Care-Panel/35011>

Spring and summer news and events UHS contest due May 25th

Wonderful talent of musicians from Vermont. 2023 brings another line-up of old favorites and new concerts will once again take place at the Brandon Inn every Wednesday and August at 7 PM. The concerts are a mix of family fun for all ages - spread out next to the Neshobe across the Inn's beautiful grounds, playing through the lawn, and free for all to enjoy. You can check out the band lineup, as well as more information at brandon.org under "Events." The Area Chamber of Commerce provide foundation funding, and sponsors have been approached as they have so generously in

our Chamber website. We are lucky to also have new individual members joining us: Ken McFarland & Beate Ankear-Jensen; Chris & Trish Brickell; and Courtney Satz. Join us as a business or individual as we continue to move forward supporting our businesses and the town we all love so much.

THE WORLD CHANGED IN BRANDON VERMONT

In 1837 Thomas Davenport of Brandon was awarded the world's first patent for an electric motor, or indeed any device powered by electromagnetism. Davenport devoted the rest of his short life to experiments with electrical devices. Were his patents still in effect, his descendants would be the world's richest family. Davenport was a pioneer in one of the most important technological changes in world history. What would your life be like without the electric motors in your phone, your laptop, your car, your kitchen and your workplace? It all started in Brandon, the birthplace of the electric motor!

Come learn our story at the Davenport Fest on July 8th at Otter Valley. Watch for more info.

EARLY tickler- We have lots of plans for the 99.4% total solar eclipse coming on Monday, May 8!!! Plan on joining us for "A small town experience of a BIG time event".

Reminder: The Great Brandon Auction will be open from June 30 through July 8 for bidding and purchasing in our beautiful town hall. It's that time of year and with spring cleaning right around the corner please keep us in mind for donations. The Chamber is accepting donations now, and throughout the auction days. We can arrange to have things picked up now, or you can drop them off at Carr's Gifts. Just call Bernie and he'll set up a time to meet with you. (802) 236-8120 or info@brandon.org

Keep up to date on all the happenings at Brandon.org.



It is really all of us that make our community. It is with your financial support we have been able to continue to bring life to our community. We are proud to build community through music! Welcome our new business members joined in 2023: Country Village - Chris & Mark Grant; The Gallop - Edward Loedding; Primerica Fences - Patrick Dunn; Otter Creek - David Roberts; and Pine Grove - Kate Reitman, Greg Yelnosky and more. Be sure to check them out on

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

"The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue."

\$5 donation suggested.

Thursday 20th

Castleton University Center for Social Justice and Trauma Informed Care Panel

The Castleton University Center for Social Justice and Trauma Informed Care, with funding from the Bowse Health Trust Fund and the Castleton Lecture Fund, is hosting an art banner display and panel presentation for Sexual Assault Awareness month - "Against My Will" by Traci Molloy.

The banners will be on display on Castleton University campus until May 5th. There will also be a panel discussion "Against My Will: Cultivating Empathy around Sexual Violence" on April 20 at 12:15 p.m. in the 1787 room of the Campus Center.

According to an Association of American Colleges Survey (2020), 1 in 4 college aged women will be the victims of attempted or completed rape. "Against My Will" is a public installation featuring 20 double-sided banners created in partnership with individuals that have experienced trauma due to sexual assault. The images were made in collaboration with Brooklyn, NY based artist Traci Molloy, 10 former students from Alfred University, and 10 former students or staff from University of Maine.

All are welcome and admission is

Friday 21st

Bomoseen State Park Bird Walk

We will meet in the state park parking area. 8:00 am. We should see waterfowl, bald eagles and the first birds of spring. This will be an easy 3 mile bird walk open to all. All are welcome!

Contact

birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for more info.



Earth Day Audubon marsh walk – April 22

Rutland County Audubon will hold a special Earth Day walk around the West Rutland Marsh including a scavenger hunt and snacks at the halfway point.

Meet at 8 am at the parking area near the boardwalk

kiosk on Marble Street. Go halfway (about 2 miles) or all the way (4 miles) with us. Questions or info: 802-287-9338. Young attendees should be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 22nd

Sarah King at Brandon Town Hall

Ripton-based Americana singer/songwriter Sarah King presents a solo listening-room performance on Saturday, April 22, 7 p.m., at Brandon Town Hall. Saturday's solo performance will blend her poignant songs with humor and background stories not always shared on larger stages. Known for her powerhouse voice and "fiery, vulnerable songs," Sarah King creates thought-provoking, versatile Americana music. Her genuine stories about real-life emotions and situations also draw on classic folk-blues themes, balancing songs about the devil and booze with hard-won moments of reflection and acceptance.

An audiobook app gives Vermont libraries a one-stop digital collection

KATE O'FARRELL/
VT DIGGER

The Vermont Department of Libraries has a new way for patrons to access materials from libraries across the state — the Palace Project app — and some librarians think the app has the potential to expand their digital collections even further.

Seventy libraries in Vermont currently use the app, which is intended to consolidate e-book and audiobook titles in one digital location for patrons through Lyrisis, a nonprofit company that works to support libraries.

“The Palace app, we feel, is

sort of the next step for ebooks and audiobooks for libraries, in that it allows other content from other companies to come in through a single app,” said Tom McMurdo, the assistant state librarian for information and access.

The free app gives anyone with a library card the ability to virtually check out materials on their device, and eliminates the need for patrons to use multiple apps to access the library, according to the department’s recent announcement.

The department initially began rolling out the app last year with 30 libraries around the

state and added more libraries through two further growth phases. The goal is to eventually reach all of the 185 public libraries in Vermont, according to McMurdo.

At the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, the app has been in place since last year, but the library’s co-director Carolyn Brennan still hopes for more from the service.

“I think one of its advantages is that it is kind of currently in development and has some potential for expandability,” Brennan said.

Joanne Pariseau, director of the Goodrich Library in Newport, also hopes for a bigger selection from the Palace Project app as it continues to develop.

“Unfortunately, the collection is not as vast as the previous program we had,” Pariseau said.

The collection of titles in the Palace App currently numbers 3,100 e-book titles and 3,300 audiobook titles, all of which are available to library card holders at any one of the 70 participating libraries, according to the department’s website.

The app also provides materials in languages besides English, such as French, Spanish, Arabic

and Farsi, according to McMurdo.

“We are trying to be more inclusive and also trying to build up the value of the libraries for people who may come from places where the public libraries and libraries are not organized in the same way,” McMurdo said.

In Vermont, libraries have had access to a different app — Overdrive — for several years through the Green Mountain Consortium. Overdrive later became the Libby app. Some libraries are facing challenges with learning the ins and outs of yet another service.

“It has been a bit of a slow roll-out because I feel like a lot of our folks kind of just got used to Libby after Overdrive was sunset,” Brennan said.

The opportunity to access library collections online is a key resource for Vermonters in rural areas, according to the department. In Montpelier, Brennan agrees that a digital library

is important, but also raises the issue of equitable access, as internet access is not universal across the state.

“I think digital access in Vermont is also still a little bit of a dual-edge sword because you have to have an internet-capable device,” Brennan said.

The issue of a “digital divide,” as McMurdo calls it, is significant within the Vermont

library system, but it’s an issue the department is well aware of.

“It’s a question of the digital divide and it goes beyond just access; it can also be your device. Do you really want to read a book on a phone? It can be daunting in that respect. But many of our libraries do lend out devices to read things,” McMurdo said.

“Offering this service for free underscores the Department’s commitment to equity across communities, regardless of population, location, or the size of their local library,” McMurdo said in the announcement.

The Palace app, we feel, is sort of the next step for ebooks and audiobooks for libraries, in that it allows other content from other companies to come in through a single app.

—Tom McMurdo
assistant state
librarian for
information & access



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Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



Area student honored for academic performance

Anthony C. Garner of Brandon

Anthony has made the Honor Roll at Oregon State University. He's a Junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations, Anthony!

New jobs

(Continued from Page 4)
not drawn and respected.

Seth and Bill are smart men with a wide range of talents and skills. Having both at our disposal, rather than only one or the other, should be seen as a boon. As with anyone learning a new job, there will surely be stumbles as well as triumphs. Whichever of the two men we may have backed initially, we owe them both our support. Brandon is in a good place in many ways and our town manager(s) will be no small part of maintaining that success.

The selection of Mr. Hopkins also leaves a vacancy on the Board that will be filled by an appointment by the remaining members. I doubt anyone wants to relive the experience we had after Mike Markowski resigned

last year, when the Board's opacity created a lot of unnecessary resentment and public conflict. The Board needs to approach this appointment with utmost transparency and open communication. Whoever they choose will be on the Board for the greater part of Mr. Hopkins's elected term—it's not a "temporary" patch. The same is true for the selection by the Board of a new Chair. The public may not have any input into that process, but the Board should keep in mind that Mr. Hopkins was quite adept at leading meetings and whoever takes his place should aspire to maintain that standard.

Congratulations to both Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Moore. We look forward to seeing where this team takes us.

Help the bees and join 'No-Mow May'

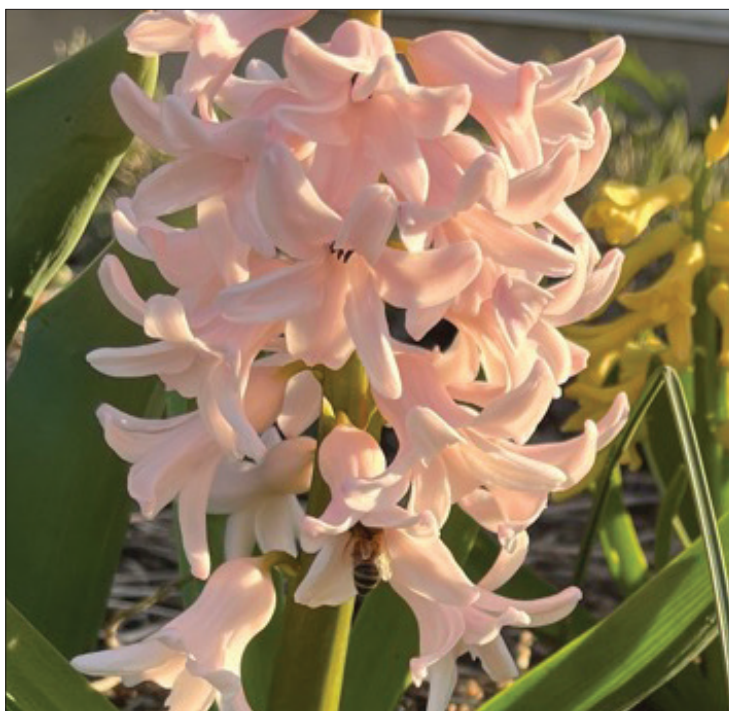
BY CAROLYN VAN VLECK

BRANDON—Join bee lovers everywhere! If you don't mow your lawn during the month of May, this will help feed the declining bee population get an early start on pollinating our world.

Why are bees important? Well, honey, of course! But bees pollinate crops all over the world. Without them, our food crops will diminish drastically. They pollinate your garden's flowers, your trees' flowering buds, and your garden veggies. When your garden sprouts with delicate wildflowers, the bees go directly for them when they come out of hibernation.

Pesticides and herbicides are deadly to all types of bees and are the main cause of the bees now being endangered. Get rid of your Round Up, no matter how quick and convenient it may be. Consider using all-natural alternatives to get rid of veggie and flower bugs; there are many alternatives commercially available now, or you can go on-line and ferret out all-natural home mixes.

Plant and grow bee gardens:



gardens that will attract bees for pollinating and for their survival. Google for plant suggestions. (The grass also stands a much better chance of surviving through droughts if only chopped off at 1/3 of its height and when mown less often. Apparently, mowing at night is much better

for the lawn's roots, as well.)

Please help keep our bees and butterflies and birds alive. Our lives will be changing a lot with climate change, so let's help our fellow creatures to exist beside us for as long as possible. We don't want to have a Silent Spring...

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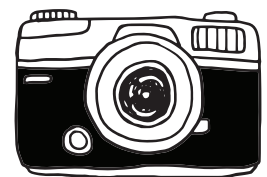
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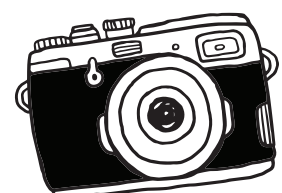
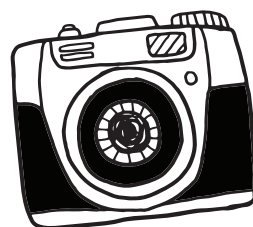


Mim's Photos

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



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Dylan and Marley are two
5. Makes healthy
10. The Who's "O'Riley"
14. Side sheltered from wind
15. Flat-bottomed sailboats
16. Egyptian supreme god
17. Advice
18. Mass of small, loose stones
19. Online learning services provider
20. "Lords" in Northwest Semitic languages
22. Of she
23. A place to relax
24. Critical and mocking
27. Consumed
30. You get one in summer
31. Bath
32. Luxury automaker
35. Spiders spin one
37. Guy (slang)
38. Greek personification of Earth
39. Large instruments
40. Domestic cattle genus
41. Appetizer
42. Oil group
43. Where to put groceries
44. Speak incessantly
45. Popular color
46. A place to sleep
47. Make fun of
48. Former CIA
49. Salts
52. Bleated
55. Never sleeps
56. Sword
60. Water (Spanish)
61. Cyprinids
63. "Dark Knight" actor Christian
64. Fictional demon
65. Old World lizard
66. The content of cognition
67. Makes a mistake
68. A way to make wet
69. Tide

CLUES DOWN

1. One-liner
2. Evergreen genus
3. College in Rome
4. Prevents from seeing
5. Cycles/second
6. Mischievous child
7. Less common
8. Honorably retired
9. Midway between south and southeast
10. A confusion of voices and other sounds
11. Bony fish genus
12. Type of pear
13. Egyptian cross
21. Satisfies
23. Founder of Babism
25. Bar bill
26. Chicago ballplayer
27. Performer
28. Hairpiece
29. Partner to flowed
32. Aircraft formation
33. You have 3 per day
34. Goes into
36. College athletic organization
37. Wet, muddy ground
38. Talk
40. Witty conversation
41. Gurus
43. "French Price of ___ Air"
44. Sports equipment
46. Try to get
47. Flower cluster
49. Sea dwellers
50. Palmlike subtropical plant
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. Baseball's Ruth
53. Gelatinous substance
54. Hungarian violinist Leopold
57. Offered
58. Ancient Greek City
59. A way to derive
61. Touch lightly
62. Witnessed

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49					50			51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61				62		63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

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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.

9		4		3	6			
3	1							5
			4					
7	5					6		1
					8			2
			9					
		6		4	8			
	3				2	7		
	8			3	1			

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

P	A	V	E	N	W	E	D	B	S	R	H	E	R	E
V	E	D	I	D	W	V	G	V	L	E	V	B		
E	T	L	E	B	S	E	S	C	V	D	U	V	G	V
B	E	B	V	S	O	A	N	D	E	B				
S	E	T	V	C	I	L	I	S						
S	S	O	G	V	H	D	D	E	R	D	D	E	R	
E	L	B	V	B	G	V	B	C	E	D				
D	V	T	V	S	S	O	B	S	V	B	N	T		
V	E	V	G	B	U	B	B	W	B	O	C			
W	M	B	T	U	N	I	V	T						
H	C	V	E	B	W	H	S	T	V	V	B			
X	S	I	B	E	H	C	S	E	O	E	B			
N	O	W	V	S	W	V	P	E	L	V				
B	V	B	S	E	U	C	S	B	O	B				

4	9	1	3	6	2	7	8	5
6	7	2	5	9	8	1	3	4
3	5	8	4	7	1	9	6	2
7	3	5	9	1	9	2	4	8
2	4	6	8	5	7	3	9	1
1	8	1	6	2	4	3	9	7
6	9	2	3	1	8	4	5	7
5	9	4	7	2	6	8	1	3
8	7	1	9	3	5	4	2	6

Learn About Being a Foster Parent at the Rutland County Humane Society

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a homeless animal? Do you have the time and space to care for animals in need of temporary foster care? If so, the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to meet you! RCHS depends on the volunteer time of many foster parents to help throughout the year, especially during "kitten season" when we have many kittens and/or moms with kittens, who need to spend time in foster care before they are ready for adoption. Please contact Becky at RCHS at 802.483.9171 ext.206 or email Becky@rchsvt.org with any questions or interest. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

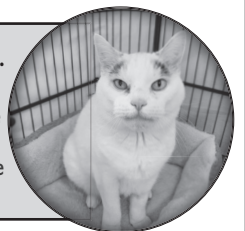


MEET WILLOW - 5-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. BLOODHOUND. BLACK/RED

Bloodhounds make such great family pets as they are very affectionate. This is definitely true for sweet Willow. Willow is very affectionate and loves to be around people. She has lived with kids and seems to do well with other dogs, making her a great family companion. She is happy to tag along everywhere you go, or nap during the afternoons.

MEET MARSHMELLOW - 13-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. WHITE/BLACK.

Have you seen a real-life grumpy cat? This girl sure puts some effort into this face. But she is 13 years old, so I think she has every right to. She came to RCHS on February 28 because she was shedding and her family was unable to care for her anymore. Marshmellow is very sweet but is set in her ways. She doesn't like other cats, and at her age, she deserves to be the center of someone's love and affection. If she seems like the girl for you, give the Adoption Center a call at 802-483-6700.



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ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Golden Dome award nominees are in! Here are a few of the titles below:

The Clackity by Lora Senf

Evie Von Rathe lives in Blight Harbor—the seventh-most haunted town in America—with her Aunt Des, the local paranormal expert. Des doesn't have any rules except one: Stay out of the abandoned slaughterhouse at the edge of town. But when her aunt disappears into the building, Evie goes searching for her. There she meets The Clackity, a creature who lives in the shadows of the slaughterhouse. The Clackity makes a deal with Evie to help get Des back in exchange for the ghost of John Jeffrey Pope, a serial killer who stalked Blight Harbor a hundred years earlier. Evie embarks on a journey into a strange otherworld filled with hungry witches, penny-eyed ghosts, and a memory-thief, all while being pursued by a dead man whose only goal is to add Evie to his collection of lost souls.

The Language of Sea Birds by Will Taylor

The prospect of spending the summer with his dad and his uncle in a seaside cabin in

Oregon has Jeremy less than thrilled. It's the first summer after his parents' divorce, and he hasn't exactly been seeking alone time with his dad. He doesn't have a choice, though. On his first day he takes a walk on the beach and finds himself intrigued by a boy his age running by. Eventually, he and Runner Boy (Evan) meet -- and what starts out as friendship blooms into something neither boy is expecting.

Odder by Katherine Applegate

Odder spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning quirky stories. She's a fearless daredevil, curious to a fault. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself—and about the humans who hope to save her. Inspired by the true story of a Monterey Bay Aquarium program that pairs orphaned otter pups with surrogate mothers.

The Sheep, the Rooster and the Duck by Matt Phelan

In 1783, the very first passengers to ride in a hot-air balloon were a sheep, a rooster, and

a duck. Ten-year-old Emile is too busy being the fastidious caretaker of Ambassador Benjamin Franklin's chateau in Paris to think much about the balloons. But soon, young Emile finds himself right in the middle of a sinister plot. And right in the middle of the secret headquarters for France's undercover guardians—the very same sheep, rooster, and duck that piloted the first hot-air balloon. If Emile can muster his courage and be bold, he may be the key to helping the heroes save both Benjamin Franklin and the world.

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat

As assistant to Mangkon's most celebrated mapmaker, twelve-year-old Sai plays the part of a well-bred young lady with a glittering future. In reality, her father is a conman—and in a kingdom where the status of one's ancestors dictates their social position, the truth could ruin her. Sai seizes the chance to join an expedition to chart the southern seas, but she isn't the only one aboard with secrets. When Sai learns that the ship might be heading for the fabled Sunderlands—a land of dragons, dangers, and riches beyond imagining—she must weigh the cost of her dreams.

The Brandon Police and the mystery of the 911 calls

April 10

Background investigation conducted for part-time officer position.

Fingerprints taken for school employment and real-estate license.

Brandon Police received a report of a threatening comment made by a teacher at Otter Valley Union High School. The incident was investigated, and no crime was found to have been committed. It was determined that the comment was made out of frustration by a teacher when her class became unruly and would no longer listen.

A juvenile was located on Center Street in relation to a domestic assault the night before. The juvenile was placed into custody.

April 11

Fingerprints taken for foster parenting, coaching, school employment, and teaching licensing.

Brandon Police responded to a two-car collision in front of Carr's Gifts on Center Street. An investigation showed that one car parked in front of the business backed out and collided with a car that was stopped in the roadway. No injuries reported and damage to the vehicles was minor.

A complaint was received regarding a vehicle failing to stay in its lane of travel on Grove Street near Arnold District Road. Officers stopped the vehicle and determined that the operator was simply tired and was not intoxicated. No ticket was issued.

April 12

Officers responded to a citizen dispute, possibly involving a handgun, on Grove Street. Investigation determined that no criminal charges were warranted.

Two catalytic converters were stolen from work vehicles parked at Vermont Protective Coatings on Franklin Street. An investigation is ongoing. Any witnesses are encouraged to contact the Police Department.

An officer responded to a burn pile on Franklin Street. The fire was extinguished, and the homeowner was issued a warning for the violation.

Staff from the Neshobe Elementary School reported that a student had threatened to "beat up" another student. The threat did not escalate to physical violence. The student was disciplined in school and no law enforcement action was taken.

Fingerprints were taken for foster care.

April 13

Fingerprints were taken for school chaperone, school contractor, school employment, and nursing license.

Brandon Police Report

Multiple 911 hang-up calls were received from a home on Marble Street. The homeowners met the officers at the scene and searched the house themselves.

Two flags were stolen from a home on Rydon Acres. The matter is under investigation.

April 14

Brandon Police responded to a panic-button activation at Neshobe Family Practice on Court Street. It was later determined that a patient had accidentally pushed the button and there was no emergency.

A resident on Forestdale Road was burning brush without a permit. A warning was issued.

Several juveniles were detained for throwing rocks from a retaining wall into the Neshobe River near Center Street in Brandon. Charges may be forthcoming because of damage to the wall itself.

Officers patrolled downtown Brandon on foot.

Vehicle stopped for speeding on Grove Street. Warning issued.

April 15

An officer responded to reports of gunshots during the night and early morning on High Pond Road. No suspicious activity was detected.

A vehicle was stopped for running a stop sign at the intersection of Champlain Street and Grove Street. A warning was issued.

Directed patrol was conducted on Union Street and Ella Dean Road. No violations were observed.

There was a rear-end collision at the intersection of Franklin Street and Park Street. No injuries to the operators but one car had to be towed.

A break-in occurred on Jones Drive. Items inside the building were moved around but nothing was reported missing. The lock on the door was damaged. An investigation is ongoing.

Brandon Police assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad on Mulcahy Drive. A male fell and injured his head. The patient was taken to Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Vehicles illegally parked on Center Street. They were ultimately moved by their owners.

April 16

Male who had fallen out of his wheelchair on Mulcahy Drive requested help getting back into the chair. No injuries were reported.

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION



Coming soon...

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

at the Franklin St. building. Stay tuned for details!

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LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday 10 am–7 pm
 Wednesday 10 am–7 pm
 Thursday 10 am–6 pm
 Friday 10 am–6 pm

OVUU board

(Continued from Page 2)

ments?" Caitlin Gildreau who has 2 children at Otter Creek Academy, feels unsafe after seeing Mr. Scarborough's comments.

State Representative Mari Cordes stated that she is an advocate for transgender youth in Vermont. She has been working in the State House to provide protections. Transgender youth and LGBTQ youth are vulnerable and are aware of the attacks and she would like to believe that this is because of lack of information, misinformation, and not being willing to step outside of one's point of view to do some research. She asked as someone who lives in Vermont and cares for transgender people that there be some action by the school board around education. She hopes the board can lead the community and be good models for welcoming, supporting, and having solidarity with transgender youth.

Jessilyn Dolan, RN, CMT, CLD, president of the Vermont chapter of the American Nurses Association, wants to see the board take action against anyone on the board who makes such statements publicly. She called for "the board to remove any member who makes public statements like these." Alex Hilliard from Poultney, came to speak out against Mr Scarborough calling his 3 memes on Facebook "both hateful and harmful."

Shifting topics, Marsha Bruce, Director of Special Services, gave a presentation about the breadth of services provided by her team, in-

cluding early essential education, a centralized evaluation team, school-based mental-health services, and special education K-12. Bruce described the great variety of services and supervision under her guidance for the last 20+ years. She described programs such as the Common Connection at Sudbury which has been very successful in educating students who have sensory impairments which make the trip to a regular school very difficult. They are happy and thriving there and not needing expensive placement outside the school district.

Bruce also oversees a block grant that allows teachers, special educators, and others to treat children without having to worry about which federal or state monies are going to pay for it. This allows the team to collaborate with each other and not have to limit what they do with an individual child. School-based mental-health supports are provided through Rutland Mental Health provided licensed mental-health clinicians and case managers.

Attention then shifted to Joanie Wisdahl, MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) Coach and Susannah White, Equity Engagement Coach, who provided a presentation on social emotional learning (SEL). Joanie Wisdahl stated this is a process of acquiring the knowledge and skills to achieve positive goals, provide empathy and make responsible decisions. SEL aligns with proficiency towards graduation and is part of the students'

learning and will provide the skills for the students to be successful. SEL can be observed throughout the school day in morning meetings, through recess and through small-group activities to learn how to problem solve and work together. SEL opportunities go beyond the classroom. The role of the school counselor in K through 6th grades is to help students with emotions, support academic planning and goal setting, and provide short-term counseling. They also collaborate with families and advocate for students at meetings. The role of the guidance counselor in the past was reactive but is currently more proactive and data driven.

The board then heard a presentation and had a discussion of the summer facilities plan including work at all the schools in the district. Laurie Bertrand noted the Board would be approving the \$545,500 and spending cannot go over that amount without coming back to the Board. Ms. Fleming noted this is a very aggressive list and in addition to the \$155,000 from the Facilities fund, there is \$1.2 million in ESS-ER covid-related construction. Ms. Fleming noted she and the Facility Manager met with all principals to determine the priorities. \$545,500 was appropriated for this work.

The board held an executive session for student discipline and a personnel matter from 9:11 to 10:31pm with no action taken after.

REAL ESTATE

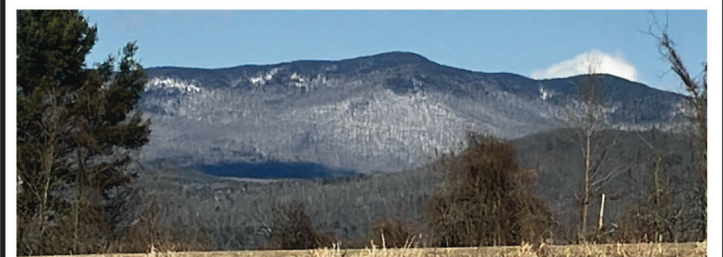


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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



slowly and build up as you get enough energy and motivation to move along. what you actually may be able to transfer to real life.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Leo, rather than being ready to roar at the world, you can barely let pass a meow. You're more than happy to roll back over in bed most days. Search for an energy boost.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

You may be tempted to butt heads with authority figures in the days to come, but you'll catch more flies with honey, Capricorn. Get your frustrations out another way.

ARIES March 21–April 20

Aries, figure out where your priorities lie, then position yourself in the right corner to get things done effectively. It could take some time before you see progress. Remain patient.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, early on in the week you may feel disorganized and out of sorts. But soon enough you will find your stride. Once you're in a groove it will be smooth sailing.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Relationship issues come to the forefront, Aquarius. This can be any relationship, be it personal or professional. Sit down with this person and flesh things out.

TAURUS April 21–May 21

It's best if you can keep tight control of your emotions and not let others see what is brewing behind your stoic demeanor, Taurus. This will give you an advantage in negotiations.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Libra, if someone at work has been holding you back or seems to be standing in your way, it's justifiable to feel resentment. Take the high road and remain pleasant and positive.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

The current cosmic climate has you a tad restless, Pisces. You're ready to stretch your fins, so to say. Set off on a grand adventure.

GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, if you're too pragmatic this week, you may miss the opportunity to do something spontaneous and really enjoyable with friends. Don't think; jump in this one time.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, don't ignore your responsibilities, no matter how mundane they may seem. Completing small tasks will help you set the course for more success.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- April 20 Tito Puente, musician, (d)
- April 21 Charlotte Bronte, writer (d)
- April 22 Charles Mingus, jazz musician and composer (d)
- April 23 Chloe Kim, snowboarder, Olympic gold medalist (22)
- April 24 Barbara Streisand, singer (81)
- April 25 Edward R. Murrow, journalist (d)
- April 26 Jet Li, actor, martial artist (60)

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Your judgement may be clouded by some lofty dreams you have been having, Sagittarius. Separate the whimsy from

CANCER June 22–July 22

The week may start off sluggishly, Cancer. Give yourself permission to start off



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MILLER HILL FARM in Sudbury is awash in daffodils this time of year. Be sure to visit them when they open May 12. Photo by Lyn Desmarais

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We're excited to offer a wide range of plants & garden embellishments in an extraordinary setting. Check out the daffodil display!

RENAISSANCE FARM:

Arnold District Road, Brandon, VT
Open now for Tulips when the

sign is out. See the gorgeous tulips on their Facebook page.

VIRGIL AND CONSTANCE:

Route 7 South, Brandon, VT
Opening May 6 th Wednesdays through Sunday.

We're excited about our unusual annuals, veggie starts, and a large selection of clematis and fruit trees.

WOODS MARKET GARDEN:

Route 7 South, Brandon, VT
Opening May 6

We are excited about our tomatoes (end of May), sweet corn (July), and our diverse flower varieties.

We have a CSA available for purchase on our website: www.woodsmarketgarden.com

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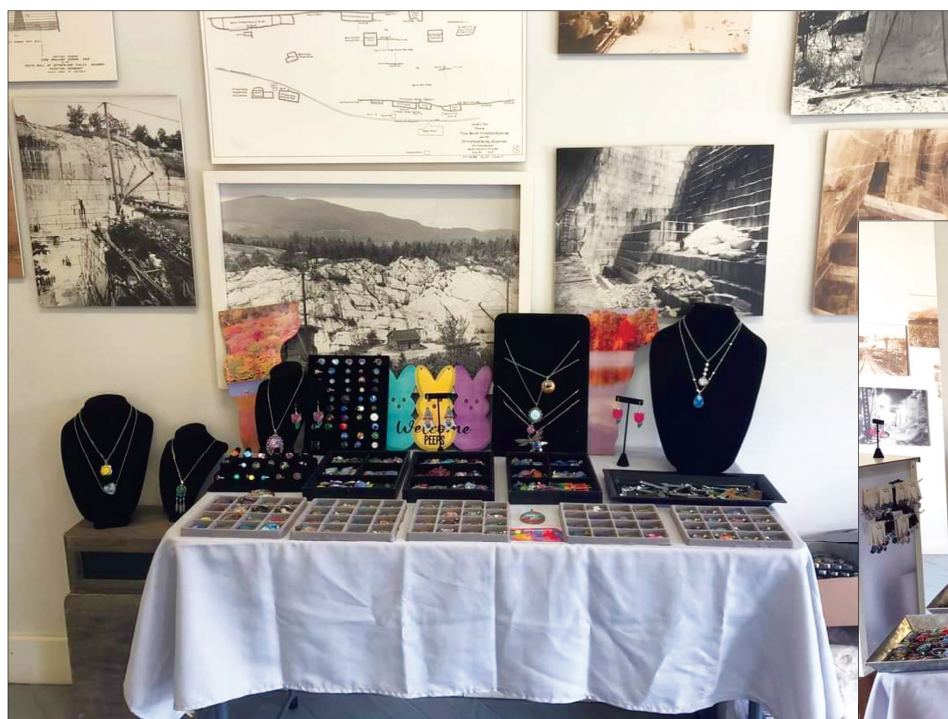
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Beauty all around

SAMPLES OF THE wares on offer at the Proctor Spring Craft Sale that happened last Saturday at the Vermont Marble Museum.



Photos by Sherry Bates



GARDENING CORNER

Beyond the garden gate: a visit with Ellen Walter

BY LYN DESMARAIS

I love to ask gardeners how and when they first felt they truly started gardening. Our next gardener, Ellen Walter, has a fun story to tell.

“I was at college in Boulder, Colorado and was spending my

freshman summer there. I had an eccentric neighbor across the street from me. He was a UFO enthusiast. He also had a gorgeous garden. I wanted a garden like his. I went to a nursery and ran into him there. I had already begun digging out

a garden at my rental and was there ready to buy some plants. When my neighbor saw what I was buying, he said, ‘no no no’ and had me buy dahlias, purple and white petunias, and red sal-

via (an annual sage with lovely red color).”

For Ellen, that summer and that neighbor were pivotal and taught her so much. “A woman walked by me one day while I

was working in my garden and she stopped and said to me, ‘I walk home from work and I walk out of my way just to see your garden. Your garden makes my day. It’s just so beautiful.’”

“That was a ‘light bulb’ moment,” says Ellen. “I realized that I could make people’s lives a little bit happier through my gardens. The pots outside Blue Moon [Boutique in Brandon] are there to do the same thing. I want to spread a little happiness through the magical beauty of flowers.”

Today, her daughter Allie continues planting and caring for the flower pots outside Blue Moon. “I’m the fourth generation of gardeners in my family,” says Ellen. “I’m not sure I’m the best though. I believe that my grandmother had, and Allie has, a better eye than I do for color and texture. My grandmother, although very poor, had a gorgeous garden in Waterbury center. She had red geraniums, white petunias, and purple iris. Every flower she grew was gorgeous and healthy. The Worcester Mountain range and her wonderful old farmhouse were the backdrop for her gardens. I remember the



THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS Ellen Walter created at her former residence on Arnold District Road and in Kennedy Park in downtown Brandon. Photos by Lyn Desmarais.

(See Gardening corner, Page 23)

Gardening corner

(Continued from Page 22)
smell of Maypo (maple flavored oatmeal cereal), the radio commercials, and the creaking floor. My grandmother's house even had a charming old cemetery next door which I loved and loitered in. My mother was also an amazing gardener. She was an artist. She put the most unlikely combinations together and they just worked. Even in her 80s she had a balcony with ferns and grasses and nasturtiums! They sprawled everywhere and blew in the breeze."

Ellen transferred colleges after two years and came home to UVM.

"I love Vermont," she says. "I love to travel and I love an adventure, but my heart's here. I don't mind moving house but I do miss my gardens. She has built at least 8 gardens in Vermont. Her mantra is to leave all properties better for her having been there. Ellen designs, measures, digs, amends the soils, and plants everything.

After college, Ellen worked at Rocky Dale Garden in Bristol for 7 years. It was an exciting place to work and a great time to be gardening, she says. Bill Pollard and Holly Weir bought that property and transformed it. Bill and Holly bought and sold unusual perennials and adapted cutting-edge garden designs. At that time, the late 1980s, Rocky Dale was promoting Allan Bloom gardens. Allan Bloom was born in England in 1906. The Guardian (UK newspaper) eulogized Allan thus: "Allan left school at 15 a headstrong and impetuous youth with a love of digging holes and a passion for plants inherited from his father, an innovative market gardener... By the age of 24 he started his own nursery, ... Bloom Nurseries.... It became one of the largest nurseries of its kind in England... He was always at the center of horticultural innovation." Allan created over 170 new varieties of perennial plants. He also started the island garden craze, which was to create a small garden in the middle of a field or space. His gardens were kidney or oval shaped and full of textures: grasses and foliage plants in addition to flowers. Bill and Holly met him in England and visited his gardens.

Allan Bloom wanted to make beautiful gardens smaller and more affordable. Ellen takes his ideas one step further:

Container Gardens

Many of us look forward to the gardens outside Blue Moon every year. Ellen's contain-

ers are miniature island garden beds. She says, "My go-to plants start with creeping Jenny, Lysimachia, with its chartreuse color and soft leaves. It's like a little waterfall. Then I put in tufts of grass to blow in the wind. Petunias are my pop of color. I love the yellow and apricot ones. I add sweet alyssum, lobularia maritima, because it can handle the intense sidewalk heat, and if I can get it, lavender pinnata."

Ellen's Tips

"Water is absolutely critical to container plant gardens.

The soil in the pots can get extremely hot. I feed them ¼ teaspoon of blossom booster for every 2 gallons of water once the plants begin to bloom. I believe in less fertilizer but more frequent. I water the pot until it runs out the bottom. I have 6 pots of different sizes and I pick what plants look healthiest and what will handle the heat and sun. Once I get a combination I love, I keep with that grouping. I purposefully don't want each to match the other but instead to look like a bouquet of flowers."



BRANDON, VT, MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER 12 V.S.A. SEC 4952 ET SEQ.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust

v.

**Andrew Montroll, as administrator of the estate of
Bobbi-Jo Piscopo a/k/a Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom a/k/a Bobbi-Jo Sundstrom a/k/a Bobbi Jo Sundstrom
occupants of: 45 Carver Street, Brandon VT**

In accordance with the Judgment Order and Decree of Foreclosure entered December 22, 2021, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Bobbi-Jo Sundstrom to Summit Financial Center, Inc., dated May 25, 2005 and recorded in Book 175 Page 439 of the land records of the Town of Brandon, of which mortgage the Plaintiff is the present holder, by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Summit Financial Center, Inc. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated May 25, 2005 and recorded in Book 175 Page 454; (2) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated March 19, 2010 and recorded in Book 206 Page 462; (3) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated April 2, 2012 and recorded in Book 215 Page 753; (4) Assignment of Mortgage from Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity, but solely as Trustee for NRZ Pass-Through Trust VI dated April 1, 2016 and

recorded in Book 231 Page 612; and (5) Assignment of Mortgage from Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity, but solely as Trustee for NRZ Pass-Through Trust VI to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust dated February 15, 2022 and recorded in Book 253 Page 792, all of the land records of the Town of Brandon for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 45 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont on May 4, 2023 at 10:30 AM all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

• **Being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom by Quitclaim Deed of Richard C. Sundstrom, dated March 3, 1998 and recorded in Book 131 at Page 39 of the Town of Brandon Land Records, described as follows, viz:**

• **Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom and Richard C. Sundstrom by Warranty Deed of Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom dated April 17, 1992 and recorded at Book 110, Page 163 of the Brandon Land Records and in which deed said lands and premises are described as follows:**

• "The premises conveyed

herein are known as 45 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont.

• **Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo by Warranty Deed of Bernard T. Greene and Melanie A. Greene dated July 7, 1991 and recorded in Vol. 107 at Page 335 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.**

• **Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bernard T. Greene and Melanie A. Greene by Warranty Deed of Charles E. Greene, Jr., and Bonnie L. Greene dated November 10, 1977 and recorded in Vol. 83, Page 364 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.**

• **The premises are more particularly described by the deed in the record chain of title recorded in Vol. 75, Page 436 as follows:**

• **The brickyard house and lot, so-called, situated on the westerly side of Carver St. in the Village of Brandon and being bounded as follows: on the north by lands of Thaddeus A. Denton, on the east by said Carver Street and on the north and west by the so-called brickyard pasture now owned by George Knapp. It is believed that the "north" in the last quoted line is a typographical error, and should read "south".**

• **Reference is hereby made to the aforesaid deeds and their record and to the reference therein contained and their records. All in further aid of this**

description."

Reference is hereby made to the above instruments and to the records and references contained therein in further aid of this description.

Terms of sale: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a bank wire, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date the Confirmation Order is entered by the Court. All checks should be made payable to "Bendett & McHugh, PC, as Trustee".

The mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

DATED : March 28, 2023
By: /s/ Rachel K. Ljunggren
Rachel K. Ljunggren, Esq.
Bendett and McHugh, PC
270 Farmington Ave., Ste. 151
Farmington, CT 06032

Green Mountain Conservation Camp hosts 'Work-cation' weekends

Vermont Fish & Wildlife is asking for volunteers to help at its conservation camp work weekends —May 6–7 at the Bomoseen camp and May 20–21 at the Buck Lake camp

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is looking for volunteers to join them for fun-filled weekends to get the camps ready for the 2023 season. This year, the GMCC Kehoe 'workcation' weekend will be May 6-7 and the GMCC Buck Lake workcation weekend will be May 20-22.

"We look forward to workcation weekend all winter long," said Education Specialist Hannah Phelps. "With the help of local volunteers,

we spruce up both camps in preparation for the summer and enjoy being outdoors knowing it's for a good cause -- environmental education for today's youth."

Volunteers can participate for as long as they are able to; one hour, one day, or both days. They are welcome to stay overnight in on-site cabins or they can bring their own tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided.

The Buck Lake camp is located

in Woodbury and the Kehoe camp is on Lake Bomoseen in Castleton. This is an excellent community service opportunity for boy scout and girl scout groups, as well as high school and college clubs. The Conservation Camps are looking for help with general repairs, construction, landscaping, painting, cleaning, firewood, and gardening. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tools, but the camps will have some available.

For more information and to register as a volunteer for one of these weekends, please email Hannah.Phelps@vermont.gov or call 802-249-4199.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by the Fish and Wildlife Department professionals who conserve Vermont's fish and wildlife species. Working biologists, foresters, wardens, and conservation educators teach

young people about their role with Vermont's forests, wetlands, wildlife, and fish through interactive activities.

The Green Mountain Conservation Camp program's greatest strength is connecting young people to the outdoors. The camp program is sponsored in part through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.



VTF&W photo by Alison Thomas



VTF&W photo by Alison Thomas

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