

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

A community supported newspaper

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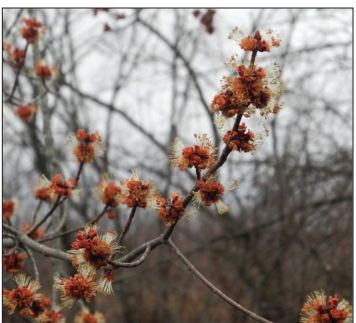


CONCERT FOR THE EARTH
Imagine Zero Music Fest showed that entertainment and sustainability are absolutely compatible.
PG. 3



SAFETY DAY IN BRANDON
The day brought the town's emergency services together with Brandon Rec to teach kids about bicycle safety and recruit new volunteers.
PG. 13

MEMORIAL BASEBALL GAME
Baseball coach Wade Mitchell honored at OV.
PG. 14



HELP THE POLLINATORS
Pollinators are essential to our environment. Learn how you can create home gardens that will nourish them.
PG. 22



GOSHEN TOWN HALL on a beautiful spring day. Goshen has a new sense of purpose and possibility after recent changes to the town's Selectboard.
Photo by George Fjeld

Goshen revels in its long awaited revival

BY GEORGE FJELD

GOSHEN—There is a new Selectboard in Goshen! Since Town Meeting in 2022, the entire board has changed. First, Thomasina Magoon was elected and started her term in March of 2022. She immediately made waves by asking questions and looking for answers. On October 5, 2022, Jeff Cathcart resigned, stating in his resignation letter that he “does not agree with the direction the town is heading or the directions and ideas of other board members.” Tammy

Walsh was appointed at the October 25th meeting. That next week, Diane O’Classen resigned and Bill Mathis was appointed to the open seat and subsequently elected chair. The 2023 election was contested. Ex-board member Dave MacKinnon and his running mate Marci Hayes lost to Tammy Walsh and Bill Mathis. According to one local, the election was for the future of the Town of Goshen, whether to look forward or to the past. These 3 “newbies” were now running Goshen. All have been

elected to their positions as of the town meeting in March of this year and have been working on transforming Goshen policies and procedures since.

Then, in a surprise move on March 13, 2023, road foreman Jim Hayes abruptly resigned. As stated in the Goshen Selectboard minutes, “Jim stated he feels that at this time he is unable to work for the current three Selectboard people. Jim feels that there are going to be changes and he stated he is old-fashioned in his ways, the

board is new. After 50 years of doing this job, he has learned a few things, thus he feels that he and the board are going to go head to head and he does not want that.”

So, now what? Well...Mathis, Magoon, and Walsh rolled up their sleeves and have been hard at work. Two temporary town employees have been hired. The town roads have all been graded and will be graded again this spring. The Selectboard, which acts as the road commissioner, has authorized
(See Goshen revival Page 5)

Four Winds is hoping for its second wind to arrive

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Kids are born curious about nature. They love to be outside, looking at bugs and worms and bones and all the fascinatingly gross stuff nature is made of. They’re new to the world and they want to understand it. The Four Winds Nature Program (“Four Winds”) has spent decades trying to harness that natural curiosity in order to teach science in a way that 3rd and 4th graders can both comprehend and enjoy.

Four Winds is an educational program that trains and sends community volunteers into local elementary schools to teach

about various aspects of the natural world as a supplement to the children’s other classroom learning. It was begun in the early 80s by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), which people today may know primarily for its raptor program in Quechee.

VINS created the Environmental Learning for the Future (ELF) program, sending staff out into communities to train volunteers. The volunteers would then take their new knowledge and materials—some provided by ELF and some gathered or made by the volunteers themselves—
(See Four Winds, Page 9)

Lunar Eclipse: Blue Moon Boutique in Brandon to close

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The end of an era in Brandon: Blue Moon Boutique on Center Street will be closing this summer so that owner Allie Walter can devote her energies to a new full-time position at Safer Society, also in Brandon.

Blue Moon was opened by Walter’s mother, Ellen, in Bristol back in 1993, specializing in unique gifts and artisanal women’s clothing. The boutique moved to Middlebury, then to Brandon, where in 2015 it found a home in one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in
(See Blue Moon, Page 24)



ALLIE WALTER STANDS in front the store she and her mother, Ellen, have run since 2015 at 31 Center Street in Brandon. Photo by Steven Jupiter

Cruise Night at Ripton Mountain Distillery features Classic Cars and Custom Bikes

Every other Thursday evening from May until September, Ripton Mountain Distillery and Brandon Rec will be hosting a Cruise Night in the parking lot in front of the Distillery for connoisseurs of classic cars and custom motorcycles to come together, show off their prized possessions, and see what everyone else is riding. Anyone with a vehicle they want to share is encouraged to bring it down. The public is welcome to come check out all the vintage vehicles and souped-up hogs.

For Distillery co-owner Rick Carroll, it's a way to "get the community going" during the summer

and give people a reason to stroll downtown on a Thursday evening.

Last Thursday, a number of beautifully maintained classics and impressively customized bikes filled the lot.

Dave Anthony of Cuttingsville, VT brought his 1970 Chevy Nova in a stunning color called Cheyenne Red. Anthony knew he wanted to paint it red, but finding the right shade was key. We say he nailed it!

Ken Napiorkowski of Brandon showed off his unusual 1989 Chrysler TC Maserati, a car that was jointly developed by Chrysler and Maserati in the late 80s. Only

7,300 of these cars were produced in a bid to win over customers looking for something more luxurious than the typical Chrysler of the era. The model never really clicked with the public, but we were happy to get a glimpse of a car we'd never seen before. Thanks for bringing it down, Ken!

Dick Rouse of Brandon came by to share his 1931 Ford Model A "woody wagon." The car had been in Rouse's family, and he ended up buying it when its owner passed away several years ago. These were among the first station wagons ever

manufactured. Rouse's excellent example has been restored but still retains many of its original components, including much of the wood siding that gave the model its affectionate nickname.

Stephen Commo of Milton, VT rode in on his customized hybrid hog: a 2008 Road King that he transformed with components from a 2011 Road Glide, all painted a lustrous burgundy red. Commo did the work himself over the course of 3 years. The bike even has a built in iPad. It's no wonder his bike turned out so well: Commo operates his

own shop: SC Customs.

If you love old cars and custom bikes, check out the Cruise Night at Ripton Distillery, every other Thursday at 6 p.m.

The dates for summer 2023:

May 11 & 25

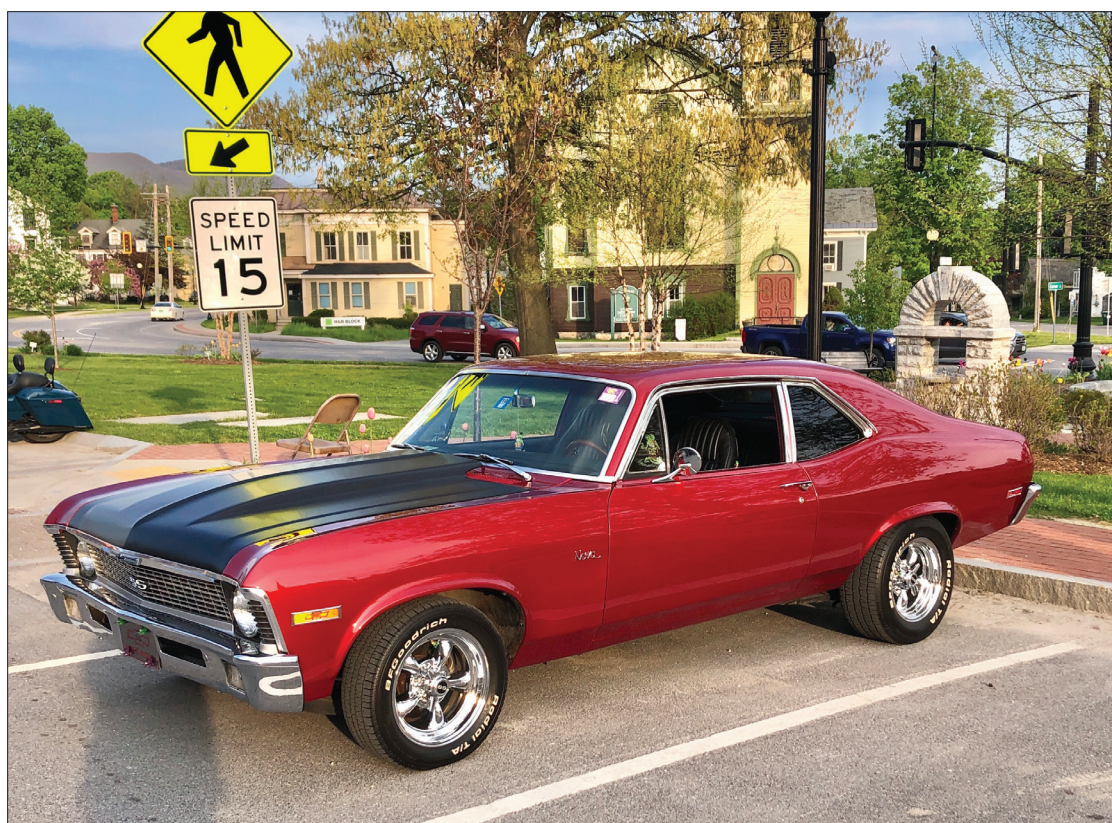
June 8 & 22

July 6 & 20

August 3, 17, & 31

September 14 & 28

There is no charge to participate or to view. The Distillery will be open for drinks & food.





KAT WRIGHT CAPTIVATES the audience with soothing vocals accompanied by tight instrumentals.

Photos by Will Ross

Imagine Zero Music Fest sets the bar for sustainable fun

BY WILL ROSS

Over the years, music festivals have been a hotspot for hippies, freethinkers, and music lovers alike, but they often come with an unseen cost that leaves a sour note hanging in the air for days after the festivities. When hordes of people pack into the gates of a venue hoping to leave with memories that will last a lifetime, they often leave behind a heap of waste, not to mention the emissions that are associated with mass transit, stage electricity, and vendors.

On Saturday, two friends from Woodstock held a festival in Brandon in hopes of breaking this norm. In a field off Steinberg Road, the first-ever Imagine Zero Music Festival kicked off. With help from the Solarfest team and many other local organizations, the festival showcased the power that eco-friendly initiatives can bring to music venues.

The two co-organizers, Ben Kogan and Cliff Johnson, hatched the idea for a sustainable music festival in 2022 and set off to work, knowing the task ahead would present many challenges but still facing the looming logistics head-on in hopes of creating a brighter future in the music industry. The two approached the problem scientifically, identifying any sources of waste or

carbon emissions associated with music festivals and determining which of those could be reduced or eliminated entirely.

The result was a festival free of trash, powered entirely by a 5-kilowatt portable solar array, complete with reusable cups and plates, compost bins located on site, and solar-powered food vendors. During the show, the pair took the stage to discuss which different aspects of music festivals create the most waste and how they could address them. Johnson discussed how the venue itself usually contributes a third of overall carbon emissions for things like heating, cooling, lights, gear, and electricity; another third is associated with band travel; and the final third is audience travel.

Johnson noted that audience travel is the biggest obstacle in something like this, and while they encouraged carpooling and electric vehicle transport, there is only so much that can be done as the audience needs to get to the show. He says they hope to

sign a pledge for the organization Musicians for Sustainability, founded by Kogan with the goal of getting bands to push for sustainability at the venues they play. When addressing the eco-friendly initiatives of the festival, artist Kat Wright said, "We are just really proud to be from Vermont, where we are making events like this a reality." Additionally, all profits from the event will go to the organization One Tree Planted, which is dedicated to reforestation, increasing biodiversity, and creating a positive social impact.

The tents were set, the sun was shining, and the crowd was beginning to roll in when Earthworm, a band of UVM students, opened the show in an upbeat performance full of harmonies, funky rhythms, and righteous guitar solos. The opening act

was followed up by Brandon Heisler, who, along with Andrew Bayard, put on an acoustic folk set with melodic harmonica and plenty of twang to spare.

Michael Daves was next in the lineup, and he put on a stellar solo bluegrass performance showcasing his ability to capture the audience with only a guitar and his voice. Ben Kogan himself was next to take the stage alongside a band that grew from four members to six, complete with standup bass, sax solos, and a ripping fiddle.

The latter half of the concert began with Billy Wylder, who put on a high-energy performance, capturing a sound that transcended categorization. Wylder was followed up by Myra Flynn, who kept the crowd moving with a gospel-inspired, soulful performance alongside her bandmates. Kat Wright was next up, and she blew the audience away with stellar vocals and grooving melodies. The big name of the night was Dawes, a band based out of LA that came all the way to our humble little town for the festival. As the sun set, Dawes brought the audience to their feet in an epic set, at one point leading the crowd in a birthday serenade to bassist Wylie Gelber before closing out the

(See *Imagine Zero*, Page 8)



BEN KOGAN BAND mid-set with a wide range of instruments that let the band's sound traverse from honky-tonk bluegrass to more contemporary alternative and back again.

provide more public transportation in the future to cut down on waste.

All the artists involved were passionate about the mission, many of whom would go on to

beginning to roll in when Earthworm, a band of UVM students, opened the show in an upbeat performance full of harmonies, funky rhythms, and righteous guitar solos. The opening act

BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Notes from the Pulpit

Greetings!

It is a joy to join you as a neighbor in our broader community as the new pastor at Brandon Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. One of the things that initially drew me to shared ministry with folks at Brandon Congregational was their vision statement. That statement clearly lays out the character of the faith community they want to continue to foster in hopes of being a benefit to our broader community: “Brandon Congregational seeks to be an inclusive, diverse, Christ-centered community of faith; open to and affirming of all God’s children. We are called to walk humbly with God in fairness, kindness, love, peace, and joy. We seek to follow Jesus in worship and music, outreach, in-reach, and fellowship. We welcome all who seek a spiritual home where love prevails.”

As I endeavor to support our church in this vision, and as our hurting and complex world can feel ever-more challenging these days to negotiate, I am especially mindful of the enduring importance of choosing kindness. Intentional choices to offer kindness are key in making way for that prevailing power of love to be fully experienced. I have a sign clearly posted in my office that reads, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.” My plaque attributes this statement to the ancient Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria. I find its instruction and key follow-up observation to be a powerful reminder to us all. We might think of Jesus’ own instruction, “In everything, do

to others as you would have them do to you.” This teaching is shared as foundational in so many of our world’s faith traditions as well, pointing to its fundamental importance as we seek to live together in community.

One doesn’t have to live long to have experienced the fact that your day can be transformed significantly for the good through a single act of kindness. Conversely, an unkind, callous word or action can adversely affect us or our community in surprisingly significant ways. I find it helpful in moments when choosing kindness doesn’t come so easily to remember that we are all facing struggles of one kind or another. Some of those struggles are readily visible, and others are not, but we are all in need of kindness. Indeed, it’s helpful to remember that when someone may not appear at first glance to “deserve” kindness is actually when they may need it the most. We are indeed all fighting a great battle! The act of kindness we choose today may be a positive transformative turning point for its recipient...and for the one who offers it as well.

My prayer is that you will experience the Spirit’s kindness and the kindness of those you encounter this day. May we all be strengthened as we find ways to choose kindness to strengthen our community and world together.

Peace,
Rev. Sara Rossigg
Brandon Congregational Church



Peek-a-boo!

THIS VIRGINIA RAIL has taken up residence in the same cattail marsh on Pearl St. as the green heron in last week’s photo. The saying “thin as a rail” refers to this family of birds.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Relay for Life started by Neshobe School and Friends

BY HELEN WILLIAMS

BRANDON-In 1997, the Neshobe School Relay for Life Team was started by Kerry Clifford, a paraeducator at Neshobe Elementary School, long time Brandon resident, and a Survivor (someone who has had or is currently battling cancer). Relay for Life is an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Kerry fought her breast cancer with courage and determination until January 7, 2014. Her legacy team continues.

In the first year of the team, Kerry invited co-workers at the school as well as family and friends to walk with her, the object being to have a team member on the track at all times. She had a lightsaber to be carried while you were walking. Rutland County Relay for Life was then held on the Rutland High School athletic field. Teams put up tents to gather under to get out of the sun, or sometimes rain, when not walking. The event started Saturday morning and continued until

(See *Relay for Life*, Page 15)



SCENES FROM A past Neshobe School Relay for Life. It was started by Kerry Clifford before her passing in 2014. You can join this year to help fight cancer.

The REPORTER

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A community supported newspaper

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

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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Goshen revival

(Continued from Page 1)

monthly grading of the dirt roads, all 14 miles of them. Fay Road hadn't been graded for 5 years according to Selectboard member Thomasina Magoon. Plans to rebuild/repave Town Hill Road are being developed. There has been a plea from townspeople for years to fix this potholed ribbon of black-top from Route 73 to the Town Office and Hall. Two years ago, the former Selectboard brought an article to Town Meeting to spend \$625,000 on rebuilding the road. Voters decided they could not afford it. The present board has been looking at funding through state grants and monies saved in the paving fund. They believe there is a way to accomplish this in 2025 without a huge tax burden.

If you drive by the town garage, you'll notice the old V plow has been repainted red and is soon to be lettered "Town of Goshen," as it had previously been for decades. Seven yards of trash have been removed from the town garage

and a lot of necessary cleanup has been done. Will Mathis cleaned "so much garbage from the town garage, including \$62.50 in returnable bottles and \$100 in scrap metal. There were over fifty 55-gallon empty drums in the shed."

This spring there was a spill of approximately 2,000 gallons of chloride solution (used to keep down road dust in summer) on the town green. An unidentified person opened the valve on the back of the old truck, letting the solution drain onto the ground. An EPA report was filed and an investigation occurred. It was not considered a toxic spill. According to Mathis, there is no long term danger to the environment. The lawn was replanted and there are "plans to plant a balsam fir tree on the green replacing the Charlie Brown tree that's there now," according to Magoon and Mathis. The new tree is being donated by local residents Elsie and Stephen Sherrill.

Magoon states that the board is looking to update the technology

in the town office as well as replace some furniture to keep it in line with the historic building, using some remaining ARPA funds. The board would like to upgrade the Town Hall with new windows, heating systems, a generator, and other energy-efficient measures, as well as make the main floor ADA accessible. They're seeking grants for most of that money and believe that the town is likely to get it in the next fiscal year. Mathis said it will have multiple functions, including as a safe haven for residents to shelter in case of a disaster.

There is a renewed feeling of community according to all three Selectboard members. Most of Goshen's volunteer positions have been filled and people are taking on projects that interest them. This is important for this rural (most of the land is National Forest) and sparsely populated community (172 individuals in 20+ square miles as of the 2020 census).

Letter to the Editor

Thanks for all the years of support

Dear Blue Moon community, Thank you for your support through the many iterations of "Blue Moon" over the past thirty years. As many of you remember, my mom, Ellen, opened the business in Bristol when I was nine months old. The business then moved to three different locations in Middlebury, before coming home to Brandon. In Brandon, we started at 43 Center Street before moving into what will always be known as the "old LaDuke's building," at 31 Center Street, expanding to include 27 Center Street and settling into just one spot at LaDuke's. As you can tell, we are a fan of change and you've stuck with us through it all!

When my mom was ready to retire and close the store during the pandemic, I wasn't ready to let the store go and I couldn't picture my

life without it. I've since been balancing running the store, and with the help of my truly amazing employees, exploring other options for my future. I'm happy to announce that I'm looking forward to expanding into a full-time position at a local non-profit to help with their efforts, starting in July. It has been a very difficult decision and one that I have gone back and forth on many times, but I will begin closing the store starting today. I will miss the festive Moonlight Madness nights and seeing everyone in the shop, but I look forward to being on the other side of things. Please help me send off Blue Moon in the coming weeks and celebrate a new chapter!

All my thanks,
Allie Walter
Brandon

Letters to the editor

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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Wing Night

May 28th is National Hamburger Day!

To celebrate, Neshobe is hosting the National Hamburger Burger Bash to determine the best hamburger recipe!

Anyone can submit their most creative burger recipe to be voted on. The top 4 burgers will be selected for the Burger Bash!

On May 28th Neshobe will be hosting the Burger Bash where the top 4 burgers will be served. Patrons get to cast their vote for the BEST BURGER!

June 3 & 4 NGC Founders Tournament

NGC Founders Tournament on June 3 and 4. Saturday play is 2 man best ball. Sunday play is 2 man scramble. Flighted by handicap. Carts not included in price. Cost: Member - Member \$125, Member - Guest \$160, Guest - Guest \$200. **FOOD AND PRIZES INCLUDED.** Signup by May 21st.

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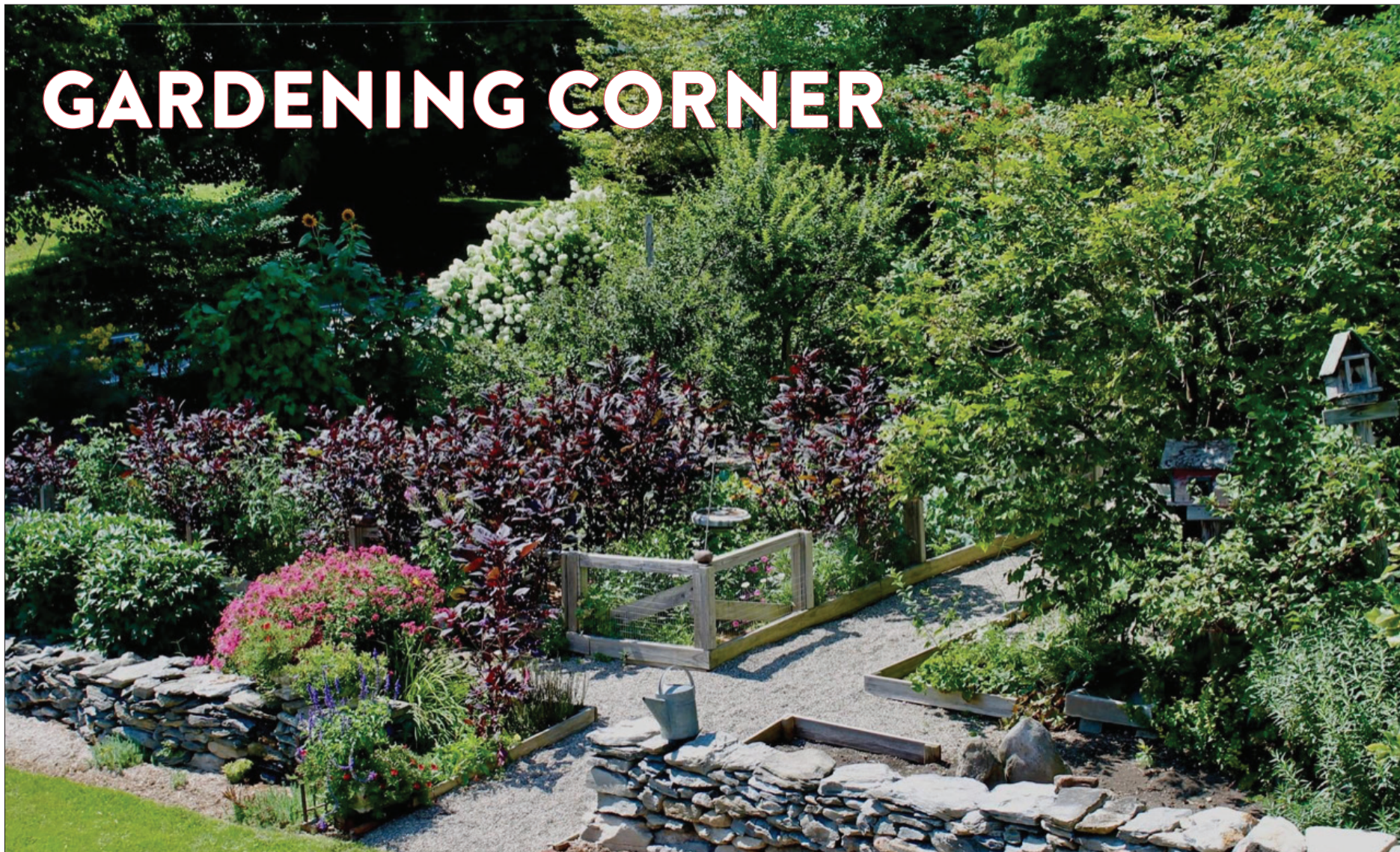
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GARDENING CORNER



THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS at Miller Hill Nursery in Sudbury. Carl Phelps and Nan Jenks-Jay create interesting spaces within their gardens, using rocks and containers. They prefer to plant native species that appeal to pollinators. Photos provided

Miller Hill Farm, where the marsh meets the mountains

BY LYN DESMARAIS

SUDBURY—Miller Hill Farm, Nursery, and Gardens is where Otter Creek and its marshland meet the Taconic Mountains. This is a farm dedicated to conservation, farming, preservation, and beauty. Carl Phelps and Nan Jenks-Jay have been running it for over 25 years.

Carl: “Nan has been an environmental educator all her career, including at Middlebury College. Therefore, an important part of what we do is education. We host and lead educational programming of all kinds. We have a series of bird walks lead by Sue Wetmore. Sue identifies and talks about the birds we’re seeing. At the

end we’ll talk a little bit about how important plants are to the local fauna and why to include native plants in your landscape as well as ornamental plants to keep healthy populations of animals, especially birds. We also host gardening talks to groups and garden clubs. We’re still lining up our summer programs so watch our Facebook page

for details.”

Nan: “We have a three-pronged approach to our work here: growing, selling, and educating. We grow our own plants right here and know them really well. They’re adapted for this area. What we can’t grow, we get from other Vermont growers. We are wholesale and retail sellers. We care about our

customers and want to see them happy. We want our plants to thrive in your gardens. Carl has such a deep knowledge of plants which he generously shares with every customer. Our approach is different from other plant sellers, but it works for us.

We display the plants to enhance the natural beauty of this old farm - repurposing old buildings and incorporating the stone walls to enrich our customer’s experience. Woven altogether it becomes quite magical.

We love being part of this community. We love seeing our plants in local gardens. I’m all about ecological, environmental, and biodiversity issues and how they tie together. I’m fascinated by what one can do with one’s property to transform it for the benefit of the environment.

In addition to being an experienced and exquisite grower, Carl has a vivid imagination. He loves to make things beautiful. He brings joy and fun to everyday work here and adds it to everything we design. He is (See Miller Hill Farm, Page 7)



NAN JENKS-JAY AT the Farm.

Miller Hill Farm

(Continued from Page 6)
incredibly creative and encouraging.”

Carl: “Warren Kimble gave a talk years ago that sticks with me. He said, ‘If you think that something’s artistic or imaginative, and you like it, it doesn’t matter if anybody else likes it. Just do it.’ That got me thinking. Why do the same old kind of gardening every day when you can experiment and do different things? Actually, I think in every talk I’ve given since, I always bring up what Warren said. He is so inspiring. Don’t judge yourself. Don’t waste your time. Do something that

makes you happy. I think that gardeners need to have more confidence in themselves; be daring, experiment.”

Nan and Carl together: “People are gardening differently. We are seeing a surge of young gardeners. Whether it’s an interest in pollinators, native plants, growing food, or raising wild edible plants, these gardeners are doing a lot of research about plants before buying them. It’s an exciting transformation in what was a pretty traditional industry. We love meeting them. Their energy is fantastic.

In addition to annual plants

for containers, we’ve got some new ideas: bonsai, pollinator, and native containers. Bonsai is the art of growing miniature trees in containers. Carl has been experimenting for many years. Look for them while you are here. We’re also creating containers with pollinator plants and ones with natives, like ferns. Not everyone has the space for a native or pollinator plant garden, so here’s something you can have on a smaller scale that will have the same impact.

For our hanging baskets and containers, we mix colors and varieties of plants: fillers, spillers, and height. Look around what do you have you could use for containers? We use old ceramic pots, wooden con-



tainers, even stones. Choose something that drains well. Use good quality potting soil. We make our own mixture. Keep it as light and fluffy as possible. You don’t want your container soil to turn to mud when watered. Once planted use your container gardens to draw you from place to place. We might use a container with a 3-foot-tall plant at the end of a garden pathway to draw you there. We use subtle cool colors as you enter our shade house. A beau-

tiful big planter on a giant marble stone pulls you around that corner. Containers can be used so creatively.”

Carl: “So what do I tell people who want to get into gardening? Do a little research. Find good people to talk to. Read good articles and books on gardening including Douglas Tallamy’s Nature’s Best Hope.”

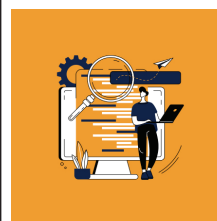
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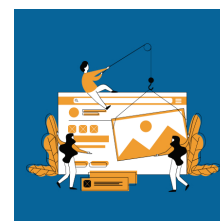
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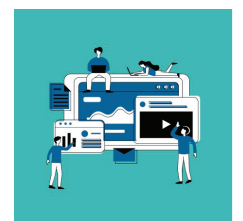
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Imagine Zero

(Continued from Page 3)

night with two of their big hits.

When reflecting on the show, Earthworm guitarist Daniel Bouvier said, "We've never been a part of something like this, so it's really cool to see and to be involved in the community within the greater Burlington area." The mission of the festival is reflected in Earthworms own songwriting, as lead singer and bassist Rachel Zieff pointed out: "This Thursday, May 18th, we have our first single, Tears of God, coming out. It's a little bit about climate anxiety, so I think it suits this event well timing-wise."

Kat Wright echoed this sentiment, stating, "Events are so wasteful, and all of our waste is kept out of our sight, and that is really disturbing." Adding, "We are just so proud that this happened, and now it can be improved upon, built upon, and replicated."

The vendors were all focused on sustainability as well. Reusable cups and plates were provided by a company out of New York City called Cup Zero. The company brings reusable cups and plates to different venues, preventing the need for single-use materials.

Among the vendors were Mach's Woodfired Pizza from Pawlet, VT, dedicated to providing all organic gourmet, locally sourced, and foraged pizzas. Sustainable Eats was another food truck on site that focuses on using clean foods from a combination of local, all-natural, antibiotic-free, and organic sources. Alongside these two were Taco Truck All-Stars, who arrived with a solar system already in place mounted on the hood of their truck. Anna's Empanadas and Blue Pig Ice Cream were also there, both of which focus on organic, locally sourced foods. Black Flannel Brewing out of Essex had a tent set up serving adult beverages, one of which was a session IPA brewed specifically for this event.

There were also tents dedicated to organizations that are striving to spread the word about other sustainability initiatives, including Keep Vermont Cool, a climate campaign with the goal of helping Vermonters take action against climate change. Casella Waste had a tent set up to share information about their new partnership with TerraCycle dedicated to resolving issues with sorting recycling.



BRANDON HEISLER (RIGHT) strumming out a tasty lick, accompanied by **Andrew Bayard (left)** on lead guitar.

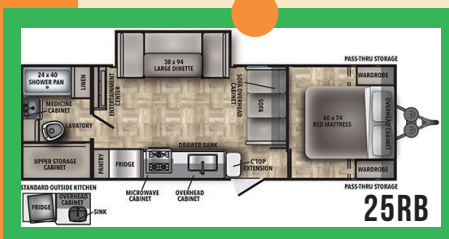
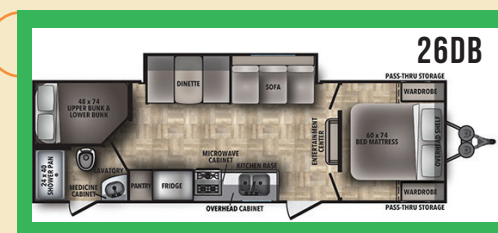
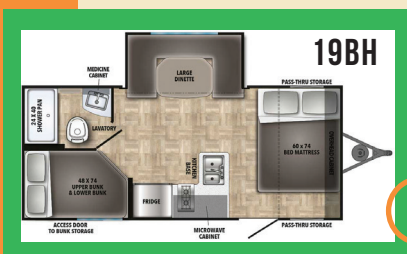
There were around 600 audience members in attendance at the festival, which goes to show that even in a small community, people are passionate about music and sustainability alike. As Johnson pointed out, they knew

they wouldn't be able to completely remove emissions from this event; however, it is important to change what we can now and continue to look to the future. If we can take the first step in a small community like Bran-

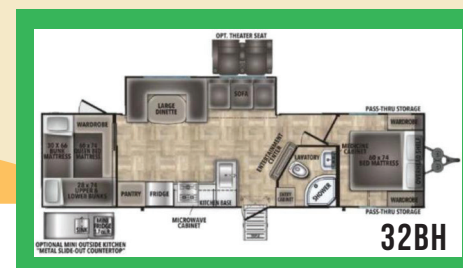
don, there are sure to be great changes coming down the pipe. Hopefully, we will continue to see festivals take this approach to ensure our planet stays healthy and music lovers stay happy.



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Four Winds

(Continued from Page 1)

into classrooms once per month during the school year. In 2006, some staff from ELF broke away and formed the nonprofit Four Winds, which has continued the program throughout Vermont and neighboring states.

In Brandon, the program was run by Sue Wetmore and Mary Lou Jenson pretty much from the start in the 1980s. They were eventually given the first-ever Jenefer Lingelbach award for their service to the program.

"I was brought into it by Kathy Dick," said Wetmore. Dick was married to a prominent local doctor. "She said, 'You like nature. What do you think of doing this?' She got me hooked."

Wetmore does indeed like nature. An accomplished birder, she won the Julie Nicholson Citizen Science Award from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies in 2019. She and Jenson brought that love of science and the natural world to Four Winds for 38 years—until Wetmore retired from the program—teaming up for puppet shows that made even potentially sensitive subjects, such as reproduction, silly and fun.

"We had a puppet routine with Peter Pollen and Esther Egg," recalled Jenson with an impish laugh. "Sue played Esther like Mae West. I wasn't as good as Cary Grant."

There are five concepts in the Four Winds program—ecosystems, patterns in nature, earth, structure and function, and cycles in nature—each of which is taught in monthly sessions over the course of a year. The sessions often include exploration of the school grounds to identify examples of the concepts learned in the lessons.

Over the years, thousands of Neshobe 3rd and 4th graders have participated in the program, some growing up to become volunteers themselves, like Courtney Satz, who grew up in Brandon and now runs the show with Jenson.

"Mary Lou and I share responsibilities," said Satz. "But the past few years have been really hard with not enough volunteers."

In addition to Jenson and Satz, the program relies on volunteers to attend the trainings and conduct the sessions at Neshobe. Though many volunteers over the years got involved because they had kids in the targeted grades at Neshobe, there's no requirement that a volunteer have kids in the program or even any children at all.

"You just have to like kids,

science, and nature," said Jenson. "You just go into the classroom and do the fun stuff."

"They give you everything," added Wetmore, referring to the copious materials that Four Winds provides. Volunteers are free to create their own props as well, as evidenced by the array of wonderful hand puppets—including a delightfully realistic porcupine—that Wetmore and Jenson created to supplement their lessons.

Because of the shortage of volunteers, as well as COVID restrictions in recent years, the Neshobe program has been trimmed from monthly sessions to five sessions per school year, each lasting 1.5 hours. The program has been designed to dovetail with state and federal educational standards and is included in the annual school budget.

And both Jenson and Satz have been eager to pass the baton to a new leader to coordinate the program for Brandon. Just this past week, Jill Doody, a paraeducator at Otter Creek Academy in Leicester, has agreed to take on the task. Even with a new local coordinator, however, the program is still in dire need of volunteers for the actual classroom work.

Wetmore, Jenson, and Satz have all worried that without additional volunteers, the program will simply end at Neshobe.

"It died out in Shrewsbury," noted Jenson. "We don't want



(L TO R) Mary Lou Jenson, Sue Wetmore, and Courtney Satz have been collectively running the Four Winds program at Neshobe since 1981. Here they show off the array of puppets they've created over the years. Photo by Steven Jupiter

that to happen in Brandon."

Anyone who might be interested in volunteering for the program should contact Courtney Satz at courtneysatz@gmail.com.

Naylor and Breen would like to congratulate the Valley Elite for their tournament win last weekend!

This team, made up of all Otter Valley Athletes showed incredible athleticism, but even more impressive, an incredible display of sportsmanship and class that isn't always prominent in sports today. We applaud DJ Keith and Alia Dick for their dedication to this program and the role models they are for our local student athletes.

If you enjoy watching basketball, we strongly recommend catching a Valley Elite game!



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ARTIST: Paxon

GRADE: 6

SCHOOL: Neshobe

HOMETOWN: Brandon

TITLE: My Favorite Characters

MEDIUM: Pencil and colored pencil on paper

TEACHER: John Brodowski



STATEMENT FROM PAXON:

I got the idea from wanting to make a big project. This drawing is two feet wide and one and a half feet tall. It started out with just Iron Man and then I added more and more things. I am proud of how it looks. I freehand drew the entire thing using photos but no tracing.

STATEMENT FROM MR. BRODOWSKI

Becoming a good drawer is no different than becoming good at anything else. It takes many, many hours of practice and experience. Paxon is a student who has put in the hours and become a confident and talented drawer. His enthusiasm for drawing impresses and inspires me and the other students at school.

Our Creative Kids Poetry Corner

Maple Creemees

By Ben Brett

Maple creemees
Maple-y, soft
Melting, eating, gulping
Crunchy cones are heaven.
Dairy treat

Submitted from Ms. Mol's
4th grade class at
Otter Creek Academy



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Wrap-up for the 2023 Legislative Session

On May 12, the Vermont House of Representatives started the last day of the Biennium at 10am with a devotional of live bagpipe music and ended at 11:30 pm with a speech by the Governor recognizing the work we have done this legislative session. With the musical devotional and final speeches, I was reminded of the responsibility that we have to uphold the ideals of democracy in Vermont. Here are a few highlights of the last week in the General Assembly:

H.494 BUDGET BILL:

The last bill of the biennium is always a vote on the budget. The \$8.4 billion budget is the culmination of months of work that reflect the commitment of the legislature toward building a better Vermont. It addresses critical areas, such as housing assistance, healthcare, education, workforce development, and infrastructure. The House and Senate conference committee worked together to agree on the best budget for 2024. The budget meets pension, transportation, and clean-water obligations, fills all statutorily required reserves, and makes essential investments in

housing, childcare, workforce, economic development, human services, and the environment. Total unduplicated spending in this budget is \$8.45 billion.

My work in the Commerce committee focused on the workforce and economic development portion of the bill. The budget provides about \$40 million to create or enhance programs to increase workforce participation – it funds programs that educate, train, and help businesses hire and retrain workers. It funds forgivable loan programs, scholarships, and certificate programs. In this budget we make financial commitments to our teacher workforce, adult education and training, graduates of Vermont colleges and universities, the trades, upskilling certifications, criminal justice, technology, critical occupations, mental health practitioners, EMT, nurses, human services, the arts, and rural economic development.

S.5 AFFORDABLE HEAT ACT BILL:

The House voted to override the Governor's Affordable Heat Act veto on a roll call vote of 107 - 42. This cli-

mate legislation is designed to lower Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions from the thermal sector and to help low- and moderate-income Vermonters transition to cleaner heating. The bill now becomes law. The Public Utilities Commission will develop clean-heat standard rules through a public process. These rules will come back to the legislature in 2025 for consideration along with the results of studies including cost analyses. This information will help guide us on the best path for implementation of the clean-heat standard.

S.100 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MADE FOR EVERYONE BILL:

This bill addresses several goals to help alleviate the housing crisis, including increasing the availability of affordable housing, promoting homeownership, and expanding housing opportunities. Five changes were made to municipal zoning and Act 250 in the bill:

Requires towns to allow density of 5 units per acre in areas served by municipal water and sewer

Reduces excess parking re-
(See Legislative wrap, Page 21)

Restaurant guide

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Calendar of events

May

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Come to Brandon Town Hall for Youth classes at 5 p.m., and adult classes at 6 p.m. Beginners and spectators welcome. Visit www.aikidovermont.org for more information, including fees.

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 door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open. All are welcome in.

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

Drop in from 5:30–7:00 p.m., and bring your projects to work on.

Wednesdays

Drop-In Tech Help at the Brandon Free Public Library

Drop in from 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. with your tech issues— not sure how to set up email on your phone or how to rent an audiobook? We can help.

Ping Pong

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, 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 Conscious, 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

Meditation Group at the Brandon Free Public Library

From 12:30–1:30 p.m. join neighbors for quiet meditation led by Kerrie Quinn.

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join Ariana at 11:00 a.m. for a story and a craft. Age 7 and under recommended. Stay for a cup of coffee!

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!

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!

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."

Saturday 20th

A Passion for Bells—Shoreham

Shoreham resident Judy Blake will highlight her lifelong passion for collecting bells at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 in the Fellowship Hall of the Shoreham Congregational Church. Judy's collection of over 5000 bells is displayed in her Shoreham Bell Museum, and she knows the history behind almost all of them. The bells are made of materials like pewter, glass, crystal, bronze, brass, clay, wood, and straw. Bells can be used on animals, in homes or schools or work places, as jewelry or toys. Bells can depict people, animals, buildings, or other objects.

A long-time member of the American Bell Association, Judy will bring a sample of bells to this presentation. Some of them can be handled and rung by those present, and some are rare and only for viewing. This event is free and open to all ages.

Audubon Delaney Woods Bird Walk

May 30

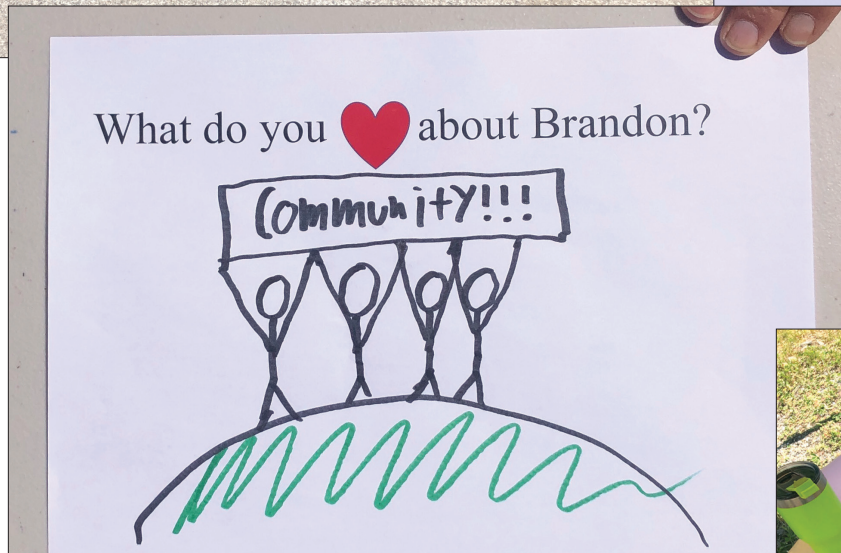
All levels of birding experience are welcome. Bring water and a snack, binoculars, cameras, field guides, if you have them. Slow pace with opportunities for observing & photographing. Sponsored by Rutland County Audubon and Slate Valley Trails.

Contact Joel Tilley for more information: jptilley50@gmail.com (preferred method), or 802-598-2583, evenings 7 to

8pm. Enter Delaney Cross Road off North Street in Wells, a cross from the Lakeside

Park, and look for the parking area on the right. Meet at 7:30 am. Easy to Moderate terrain, 3.4 miles.





Photos by Steven Jupiter



Successful Safety Day in Brandon

The Brandon Fire Department, Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Brandon Police Department, and Brandon Rec teamed up for Safety Day last Saturday. Kids learned about bicycle safety, received free helmets, got a chance to look at fire engines and ambulances up close. The service departments grilled burgers for

potential new volunteers and mingled with local residents and their kids. Community Heart & Soul was also on hand to spread the word about their programs and display some of the drawings children made about Brandon. The sense of community in Brandon pervades everything.

BASEBALL COACH WADE MITCHELL HONORED AT OV

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Legendary coach Wade Mitchell was honored posthumously prior to the Otter Valley Varsity baseball game on Monday, May 15th. Wade coached OV baseball from 1984 to 1989 when his 2 boys, Tim and Terry were stars for OV. His OV teams gained the semifinals twice in the state championship playoff. Prior to coaching at Otter Valley, he coached Proctor HS for 15 years, including 4 straight state championships. Wade, who passed away last winter, is a member of the Otter Valley Hall of Fame.



TIM MITCHELL THROWS the first pitch to his brother Terry.

Photos by George Fjeld

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TIM AND TERRY Mitchell on the field when their father, Wade Mitchell is honored

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YOUTH BASEBALL PLAYERS joined the varsity on the field prior to the game Monday

Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



Relay for Life

(Continued from Page 4)

Sunday morning. When the high school updated their field, the Relay moved to the CVPS grounds, now Green Mountain Power.

In 2011, Rutland County Relay for Life was held at the Rutland Fairgrounds, where it continues. We now have the Opening Ceremony at noon on Saturday and end with a Closing Ceremony on Sunday morning. In 2015, a few of us stayed through the night for the first time and have continued to do so except for the years of Covid. It is hard to stay up all night after being busy all day, but each year we do better. I think the fact that we are present counts as being supportive of our Survivors. The night hours are the hardest to go through. Luminaria line the track and shine through the night, even when we can't.

Our team has changed over the years, losing some members to cancer and gaining new Survivors and Supporters. We are now named Neshobe School and Friends. Our fundraising has also changed, from mainly soliciting donations before the event to having a basket raffle the day of the relay. We sell tickets throughout the day and draw the winners' names just before dark. Last year, we had so many donated items, along with our baskets, that we sold tickets ahead of the event. We are currently selling tickets for this year's relay and have over 25

items that can be won. For the past 2 years we have had a fall raffle with limited tickets. The 5 winners can take home money, from \$100 to \$500. Last summer, we hosted a Spaghetti Supper as part of the Basin Bluegrass Festival. We also sold breakfast sandwiches every morning. We will be doing this again this year.

You may have seen or heard about this year's raffle on Facebook or on our page, Neshobe School and Friends. We will have a display at Scheck's, between the Brandon Post Office and the liquor store, beginning May 15, where you can see more about us and view some of the raffle items.

On May 19, Mae's Restaurant is hosting a luminaria-making party. Luminaria line the Relay for Life track from dusk until daylight. For \$5.00, you can make one in honor of someone battling cancer or in memory of someone who has lost their battle. We will provide the bags and supplies to decorate them. Come join us this Friday.

Rutland County Relay for Life is taking place at the Rutland Fairgrounds on June 3 & 4, 2023. It is free and open to the public. Come join us and experience the great feeling you get from supporting our efforts to combat cancer and to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Someday we hope there will be no more cancer.



CORRECTION:

LAST WEEK'S ISSUE omitted this photo of (l to r) St. Paul's Lodge member Seth Hopkins, artist Doug Lazarus, and former Gov. Jim Douglas at the Masonic Lodge in Brandon.



Mim's Photos

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



Recognized



Karen Wilber recognizes the gentleman as Frank Simons. He was President and ran Brandon Coils at the time this photo was taken.

E-mail ads@brandonreporter.com
if you can identify someone in these photos.
Or call us at 247-8080

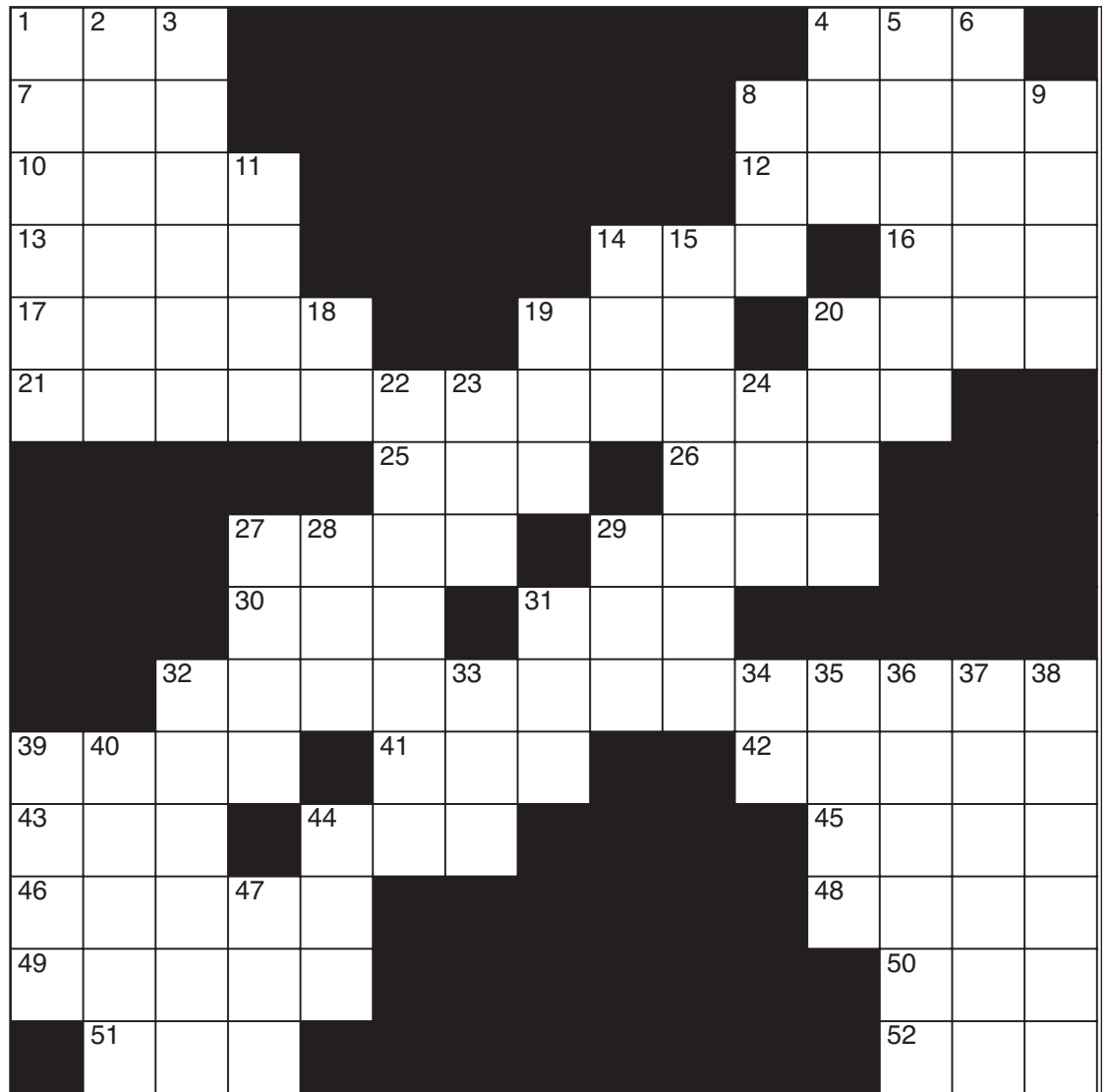
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
4. Chinese philosophical principle
7. Branch
8. Jewish spiritual leader
10. Slang for requests
12. "So Human An Animal" author
13. Rocker Billy
14. British Air Aces
16. Type of tree
17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary
19. State attorneys
20. Goddess of fertility
21. Localities
25. Beloved singer Charles
26. Clue
27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
29. Helsinki neighborhood
30. Farm resident
31. Ocean
32. Where ballplayers work
39. Unable to hear
41. Cool!
42. Cape Verde capital
43. One point north of due east
44. Kilo yard (abbr.)
45. Middle Eastern nation
46. It yields Manila hemp
48. People operate it (abbr.)
49. Regenerate
50. Not healthy
51. Chinese sword
52. Mild expression of surprise

CLUES DOWN

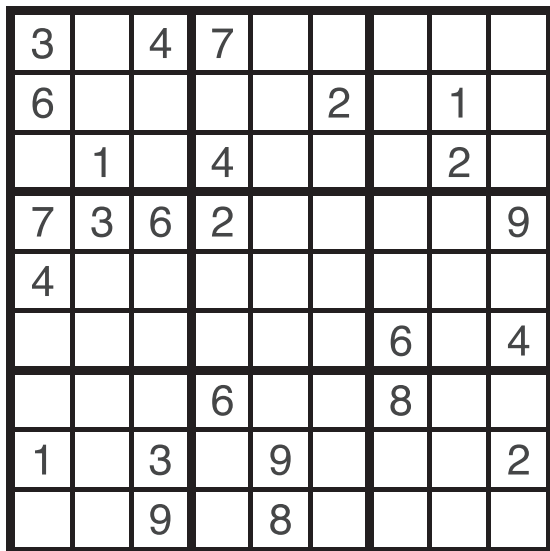
1. Unit of angle
2. Headgear to control a horse
3. Clots
4. Follows sigma
5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
6. Greek units of weight
8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
9. Systems, doctrines, theories
11. Stony waste matter
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. Hostile to others
18. U.S. State
19. Not wet
20. Something one thinks up
22. Where beer is made
23. Clumsy person
24. Belonging to us
27. Canadian flyers
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Snakelike fish
31. Unhappy
32. Fruit
33. Not good
34. Zero degrees Celsius
35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
36. Crawls into the head (folklore)
37. Legally responsible
38. Move in a playful way
39. Regarded with deep affection
40. Partner to flowed
44. Native American tribe
47. Head honcho



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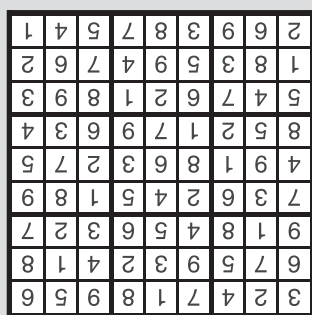
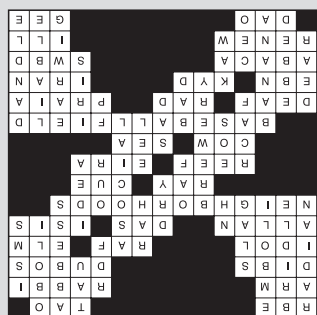
Sudoku

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.



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Transportation to Cat Spay and Neuter Clinic on May 25th - Rutland County Humane Society Working with VT-CAN

Vermont Companion Animal Neutering (VT-CAN), a low cost spay/neuter clinic located in Middlesex, VT, is a long drive from Rutland County. To help out, RCHS and VT-CAN are working together to make it easier for cat owners. By dropping your cat at the RCHS shelter at 6 am, volunteers will transport your cat to VT-CAN where he or she will be spayed or neutered and given vaccines, and returned to RCHS for pick up between approximately 4:30 pm-5 pm. On May 25, cats 6 months old or older can be spayed or neutered at a discounted rate. If you would like your cat to be microchipped that is an additional \$25. Prior registration is required. Cash only and exact change (no change available) required at time of cat drop off at RCHS. To schedule an appointment, please email VT-CAN at vtcaninfo@gmail.com. If you do not have email, please call 802-223-0034 and leave a message. For more information visit www.vt-can.org.

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



MEET BUDDY - 3 1/2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. LAB MIX. BLONDE. Are you looking for your next sporting dog? Or a high-drive working dog? If so, Buddy may be your boy. He is smart, has a high prey drive, and loves to work. He loves to play tug, and is food motivated. Buddy came to RCHS from a busy shelter in the south. He is a bit of a hard player, so as long as he is paired up with a dog similar in size and play style, he enjoys playing with them. Buddy needs a confident and experienced handler who has the lifestyle to fit his needs. He is very athletic and could succeed in multiple sports.

MEET HAPPY - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC LONG HAIR. BLACK. Happy is as happy does. She is always very excited to meet new people and loves to be the center of attention. She loves people and affection, but we are learning that she is not a fan of dogs! Happy was brought to us as a stray in March and was very matted. She is now sporting a fabulous new haircut to help her fur grow in correctly. She doesn't seem phased by this new look and is very comfortable strutting around. She is looking for a new home to be pampered, as she grows her gorgeous black hair back.



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OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Adult Fiction:

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

Twenty-year-old Violet Sorrengail was supposed to enter the Scribe Quadrant, living a quiet life among books and history. Now, the commanding general—also known as her tough-as-talons mother—has ordered Violet to join the hundreds of candidates striving to become the elite of Navarre: dragon riders. But when you're smaller than everyone else and your body is brittle, death is only a heartbeat away... because Violet soon learns that everyone at Basgiath War College has an agenda—since once you enter, there are only two ways out: graduate or die.

The Sorrows of Others by Ada Zhang

In this collection of stories about Chinese-American families, an art student finds an unexpected subject when she moves in with a grandmother from Xi'an; a newlywed couple moves to Arizona, adapting to unfamiliar customs keeps their marriage from falling apart; a woman grapples with what it means to care for another, and the limits of that care, when her dying husband returns from Beijing years after abandoning her.

DID YOU KNOW?

We now have some Harm Reduction bags in case of overdose available for free, courtesy of the VT Dept of Health. Free to take!

Gone to the Wolves by John Wray

In arch-conservative backwoods Florida in the 1980s, Kip, Kira, and Leslie connect through their love of heavy metal, where just listening can get you arrested. Different from one another as they are, the three of them form a family of sorts and together make the pilgrimage from Florida's swamp country to L.A.'s fabled Sunset Strip—but the beautiful new life they've dreamed of soon proves a mirage. Kira finds herself drawn to ever darker and more extreme strains of metal, drifting toward a place where her friends can't follow. On a trip to Europe for her twenty-second birthday, in the middle of a show, she vanishes. Years later, the shocking truth about her disappearance reunites Kip and Leslie, whose search for her takes them from California to the snowbound woods of Norway. But bringing Kira home will require a greater sacrifice than either could imagine.

The Paper Man by Billy O'Callaghan

1930s Austria: Matthias Sindelar is an internationally renowned soccer player known as "The Paper Man" because of his effortless weaving across the field. When Sindelar speaks out against Hitler, his fame can't protect him from being placed under Gestapo surveillance. Meanwhile, Sindelar falls in love with a young Jewish girl named Rebekah. As the country darkens under the Nazi regime, Rebekah flees to relatives in Cork, Ireland. Only after she arrives there does she realize she is pregnant with Sindelar's child. The following year, at the age of thirty-five, the Paper Man is found dead in his apartment. 40 years later, in the Jewish Quarter of Cork, Rebekah's son Jack Shine discovers a bundle of German letters and newspaper clippings tied with a ribbon while sorting his mother's belongings. With the help of his German-speaking father-in-law, Jack translates the letters and attempts to piece together his family history and, hopefully, solve the mystery of his father's identity. Based on true events.

Raccoons, already wearing a mask, ready for B&E

May 8

Brandon Police Department (BPD) received a complaint from a residence on Alta Woods reporting that a male was in the area, late at night, with a flashlight.

BPD responded to New Road for a report of a theft of copper and catalytic converters from the business. Incident is under investigation.

BPD responded to a call from a residence on River Street reporting that a teenage child had gone missing after an argument with her parent the previous day. The child was entered into the national database for missing persons but was later located by Rutland Police in Rutland City. The child was returned to her mother.

Fingerprints taken for a nursing license.

BPD responded to the intersection of McConnell Road and Wood Lane for a report of a two-car motor-vehicle crash with possible injuries and fluid leaking from the vehicles. A driver and a passenger involved in the crash reported pain as a result of the crash and were checked by EMS personnel, but no one was transported to the hospital. One of the vehicles was totaled and the other sustained minor damage. An investigation determined that one of the drivers failed to yield the right of way to oncoming traffic.

Officers conducted a welfare check on a resident on Forest Dale Road whose family members had reported may be having suicidal ideations. The subject was found to be in good health, did not want to harm himself, and did not require any assistance.

Officers responded to a possible burglary on North Street that the homeowner discovered after arriving back at her residence. The house was checked and no one was found inside. At this time, it appears that an animal, most likely a raccoon, got into the residence through an unsecured door, opened cabinets, and knocked numerous items down around the house.

Parents of a child called the police department to ask how to apply for a stalking order against a male on behalf of their child.

Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated driver in the parking lot of Brandon Discount Liquors in Conant Square. The area was searched. However, the vehicle was not located. An area-wide "Be on the Lookout" was issued for the vehicle and operator.

As a result of an ongoing investigation, the Brandon Police Department served a search warrant at a residence in the Town

Brandon Police Report

of Brandon. The Pittsford Police Department assisted Brandon Police with the execution of the warrant.

May 9

A resident of an apartment building in Conant Square called to report that a male traveling in a black Saab, with no license plates, pulled up in front of his residence, damaged his mailbox, and stole two of his neighbors' packages that were on the ground. The vehicle reportedly fled the area heading southbound in Conant Square towards the direction of Hannaford Supermarket.

Brandon Police assisted the Vermont State Police and DCF with an interview they were conducting.

Brandon Police provided assistance to an outside law enforcement agency requesting a room at the police station to conduct a polygraph interview for employment purposes.

Motor-vehicle stop on Marble Street for failure to maintain driving lane. Warning issued to driver.

BPD responded to burglary alarm on Grove Street. An unlocked door was located at the house and the residence was checked by officers. No one was located inside and the house appeared secure.

Brandon Police responded to the area of Fox Road for a report of two pit bulls loose and at large in the area. The responding officer was able to determine that the dogs were from a residence in Leicester. The owner was contacted and retrieved the dogs. Brandon Police will be forwarding the information to the Brandon Animal Control Officer to follow up on the complaint concerning the two dogs, as it was determined that the dogs running loose are an ongoing problem and have been aggressive towards other dogs in the area in the past.

May 10

An officer responded to a report of juveniles riding dirt bikes on the roadway in the area of Church Street. One of the young juveniles was located in the area and was warned about driving his dirt bike on the roadway by the responding officer.

(See Police report, Page 19)

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

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Friday 10 am-6 pm

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

May 11

An officer responded to a request for assistance from the Brandon Area Rescue Squad to help them gain access to a residence on Mulcahy Drive for a Life Alert activation. Entry was gained into the apartment and it was determined that the activation was accidental.

Brandon Police were dispatched to a residence on North Street for a domestic disturbance between a mother and adult son. When the officer arrived on scene, he found that the son was still on the property and was "holed up" inside of the garage on the property. The officer subsequently made contact with the male, who advised him that he was just collecting some work tools and would be voluntarily leaving. The male left without further incident. It was later determined that no crime was committed, and the complainant was advised as to her options on how to deal with her domestic issues moving forward by seeking legal remedy in court.

BPD assisted an officer from Pittsford PD on a traffic stop on Route 7 with a non-compliant motorist.

Motor Unit conducted a motor-vehicle stop for speeding on Franklin Street. Warning issued to operator.

Motor Unit stopped a vehicle in Conant Square for lack of inspection. Warning issued.

Police conducted property watch at Mallory's Automotive on Forest Dale Road.

Property watch conducted at buildings owned by the McKernon Group in the area of Mulcahy Drive. No activity observed, but several more broken windows were discovered in one of their vacant buildings.

BPD conducted foot patrol on Center Street.

May 12

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department requested assistance in locating a subject whose wife had not been able to reach him and asked if the Brandon Police Department could have an officer check Whistle Stop Lane in Pittsford for the subject. The area was checked, but neither the subject or his car were located. The individual later turned up at another location and was determined to be safe and sound.

The Deputy Town Manager for the Town of Brandon reported that someone had damaged one of the light poles in the municipal parking lot behind the new car wash on Conant Square.

Brandon Police responded to the intersection of Franklin Street and Alta Woods for a report of a two-car motor-vehicle crash with minor injuries reported. The investigation into the crash is still being conducted, but it is believed that the crash was caused by inattention by one of the motorists.

Brandon Police assisted the Vermont Department of Children and Families with a welfare check on a young child at a residence on Champlain Street. While at the residence, the officers determined that the mother of the child, who was at the home, was in violation of court conditions ordering her not to be at that residence. As a result of the investigation, Brittany Dumas (33), of Brandon, was taken into custody for violating conditions of release. Ms. Dumas was released on a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on May 15, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. for arraignment on the aforementioned charges.

BPD assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a medical incident on McConnell Road.

Directed patrol conducted on Franklin Street. One motor-vehicle stop was conducted and the driver was issued a written warning.

Warning issued for speeding on Franklin Street.

Brandon Police responded to a residence on Stanton Road for a report of a domestic disturbance. Upon further investigation, the (See Police report, Page 21)

REAL ESTATE



LOOKING TO BUILD?

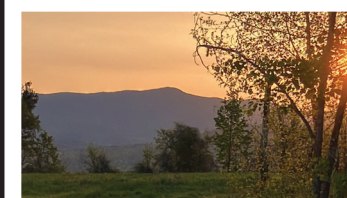
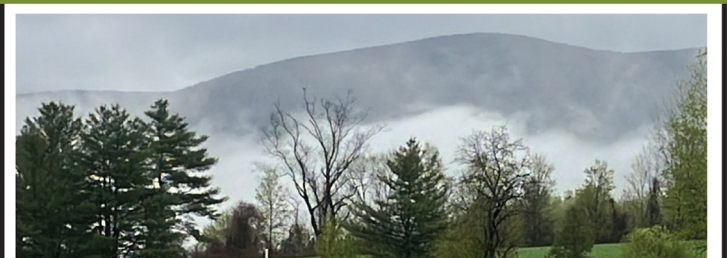
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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21–April 20

You may struggle to get going this week, Aries. But once you do, it will be full speed ahead. In fact, you may need to slow things down to let others catch up.

TAURUS April 21–May 21

Taurus, if you are feeling a bit scattered as of late, take some time out of your schedule to meditate and reflect on what is most important to you. Then follow that path.

GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, give yourself permission to move slowly this week. If you racing through things, you're apt to make mistakes. Set your own pace and let things play out as they may.

CANCER June 22–July 22

Deadlines could make for a heated week, Cancer. It's best to remove yourself from

any situations before they get out of hand. Offer advice when things cool down.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Routines are boring you lately, Leo. You may need to shake things up. If you work a set schedule, see if you can go to flex time and look for ways to change.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 23

Do not let drama that doesn't involve you sneak into your orbit, Virgo. If you need to distance yourself from others for a while, then do so.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Libra, others feel you're giving off some high-strung vibes this week, and they wouldn't be wrong. Something is weighing on your shoulders. Figure out what it is and lighten the load.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, you're dishing out all sorts of sage advice but it may be frustrating if others don't want to take it. All you can do is offer and let others lead their lives.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Things may be a little rough around the edges lately, and you'll need to figure out the ways to smooth things over,

Sagittarius. Find a few friends who are in your corner.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Capricorn, emphasize a slow and methodical approach to a problem with an elusive solution. Slowing things down has a tendency to provide substantial clarity.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Disagreements on how to move forward could bring tension at home or work this week, Aquarius. Everyone needs to put their ideas on the table and whittle down the best answer.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Don't compare yourself to others, Pisces; otherwise, you may downplay all of your wonderful attributes. Be proud of who you are.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- May 18 Tina Fey, comedian (53)
- May 19 Malcom X, Civil Rights activist (d)
- May 20 Cher, singer (77)
- May 21 Albrecht Durer, artist (d)
- May 22 Jasper Johns, artist (93)
- May 23 Mary Cassatt, painter (d)
- May 24 Bob Dylan, musician (82)



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Police report

(Continued from Page 19)

responding officers determined that an assault took place and subsequently took Frank Biggi, 35, of Brandon, into custody for Domestic Assault and Interfering With Access To Emergency Services. Mr. Biggi was flash cited to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on May 15, 2023 for arraignment on the aforementioned charges.

May 13

BPD responded to Franklin Street for a juvenile walking alongside the roadway following a 911 call from a concerned citizen. The juvenile was brought home without issue.

K9 Guinness attended a Safety Day put on by the Brandon Fire Department.

BPD responded to a noise complaint on Steinberg Road. The noise was found to be coming from the Imagine Zero Music Festival. Officers cleared the scene without incident.

BPD conducted a property watch at a residence in Brandon.

BPD conducted a property watch at Mallory's Automotive on Forest Dale Road.

Routine business check at Blue Seal on Alta Woods.

Foot patrol on Center Street.

Noise complaint involving an alleged party and fireworks in the area of River Street. An officer made contact with the subjects at a residence on River Street and determined that there was no party going on, that the individuals had only set off a smoke bomb, and that no fireworks had been used.

May 14

Tenant on Wheeler Road reported that his landlord had confronted him in a threatening way over a lawn-mowing issue. Case still under investigation.

Rutland County Sheriff's Dept requested assistance from BPD in attempted to locate a suspect vehicle that was involved in an accident in West Rutland.

Foot patrol conducted on Center Street.

Brandon Police received a call for an erratic operator traveling

at a speed of around 10 miles per hour and swerving as it traveled down the road. The responding officer located the vehicle in the parking lot of Hannaford Supermarket and checked on the operator, who did not show any signs of impairment.

Restraining order served at a residence on Forest Dale Road.

Brandon Police responded to a residence on Grove Street for a verbal domestic disturbance in progress. Upon arrival, it was determined that there were children in the house and that the male inside had armed himself with a crossbow. The male was subsequently taken into custody after a brief struggle with the officers, who received minor injuries trying to arrest the subject. As a result of this incident, Angelo Ameroso, 34, of Brandon, was arrested and later released on a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on May 15, 2023 for arraignment on the charges of Reckless Endangerment and Resisting Arrest.

Legislative wrap

(Continued from Page 11)

quirements so that space and dollars go to build housing, not unnecessary parking spaces

Allows developers building affordable housing a 40% density bonus, in downtown areas with water and sewer

Allows duplexes anywhere a single-family home is allowed

Prohibits local zoning boards from paring down a proposal that fully complies with zoning bylaws to appease pressure from neighbors.

This bill prioritizes solutions that balance the need for smart growth development while preserving our natural environment and the rural character of Vermont.

S.56 Childcare bill:

We passed a childcare bill that will help our young families and is a pivotal piece of Vermont's economic future. This bill broadens public funding, making childcare more affordable. It sets us on a path to work toward the goal that no family should have to spend more than 10% of their income on childcare. The bill invests in high-quality child-care programs. Child-care providers will receive more funding to cover the true cost of quality early childhood care and education — including a developmentally appropriate curriculum and small class sizes. S.56 ensures that childcare workers are compensated fairly by

increasing pay to providers. Child-care programs will also have more funding to provide benefits to their employees. It further explores how best to advance Vermont's mixed-delivery Universal Pre-K System. Vermont is recognized as having some of the highest pre-K participation rates in the country. The bill calls for a plan to expand upon what's working so we can ensure as many children as possible benefit from publicly funded Pre-K in our state.

In conclusion, I am proud of the difficult work the legislature has done this session. We tackled tough issues, looking at all sides of the problems, and always working to create a better Vermont. We have scheduled June 20-22 to return to Montpelier in case the Governor vetoes any of the important bills that have passed this legislative session. I am hoping that he will agree to the policies and budget that we have developed.

I will be working from Brandon until I return to Montpelier next January. I will resume my constituent meetings throughout the summer and fall. The next Constituent Coffee Hour will be held at the Brandon Free Public Library on 5/27 at 10am. Hope to see you there.

Take care,
Stephanie

Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
(Rutland-6, Brandon)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers |
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Now YOU can help pollinators thrive in spring

BY FRED PUTNAM, JR. & JEFFREY CUNNINGHAM

Those of us in the beekeeping world often hear the question, “What can I do to help the bees?”

To that end, the Vermont Beekeepers Association (VBA) recently released a list of Vermont plants that are important to honeybees and other pollinators: Honey Bee Nectar and Pollen Plants of Vermont. <https://www.vermontbeekeepers.org/resources/for-beekeepers/pollen-and-nectar-sources>

This list will be useful to homeowners, landowners, land managers, and consultants who wish to plant or retain trees, shrubs, and ground flora species that nourish honey bees, native bees, and other pollinators. The list includes mostly native plant species and agricultural plants but also includes a few ornamentals that can be helpful to pollinators. A university researcher developed this data. Recently, VBA members,

Putnam and Cunningham, tailored it to Vermont.

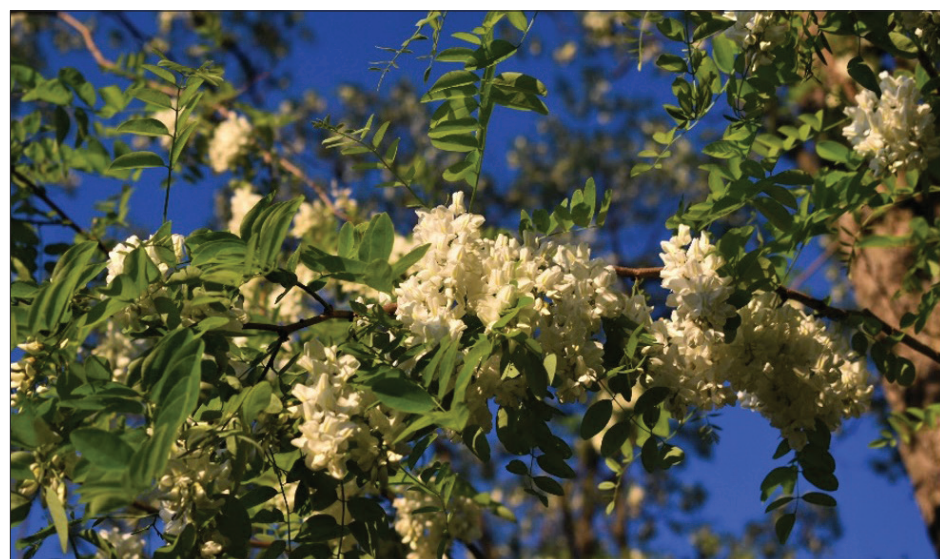
Nectar and pollen are essential floral food resources that honeybees and other pollinators need to survive and thrive. Nectar’s high natural sugar content supplies pollinators with energy (and is the stuff from which honey is made!). Pollen provides the protein required to nourish bee larvae (brood) into adult bees to replace those lost to predators, parasitic mites, age, and to expand the bee populations. Honeybees have a special use for certain plant bud resins that they process into a gum called propolis to sanitize brood cells in wax comb and to seal cracks and holes in their hives.

It is important to provide pollinator forage as consistently as possible from March through October, especially plants that bloom in the late summer and early fall – a critical time for many pollinators. Build or maintain a habitat with flower-



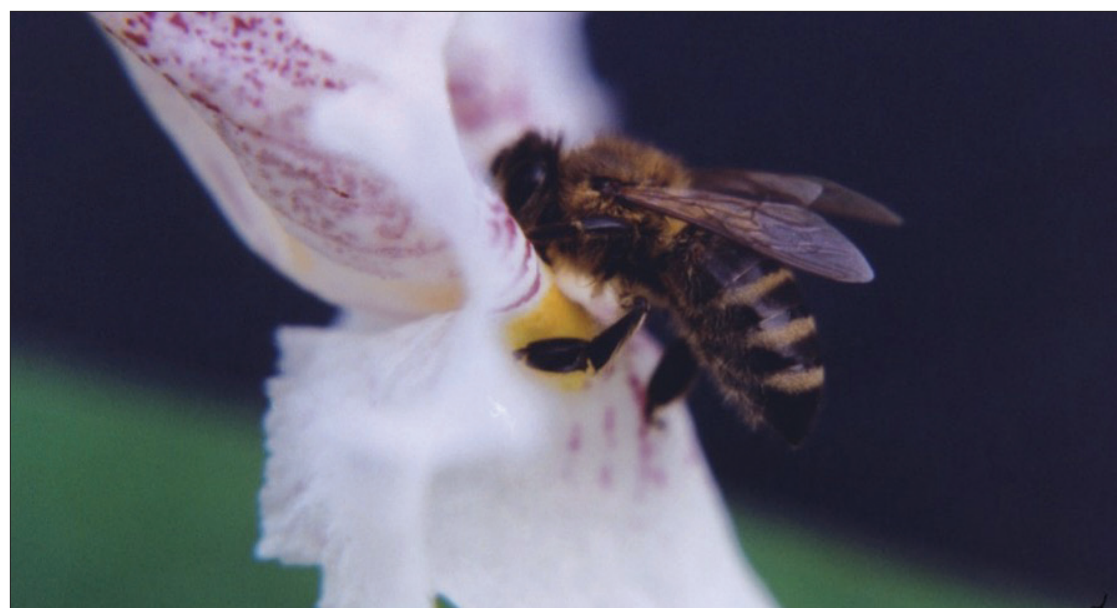
DANDELIONS ARE NOT “weeds”! They are an excellent source of pollen and nectar for bees. Defer mowing until they are past blooming. Honey from dandelions has a rich and somewhat robust flavor.

Photo provided.



FLOWERS CONTAINS ABOUT 46% natural sugars which honey bees make into a tasty, light-colored honey.

Photo: Fred Putnam, Jr.



CATALPA IS NOT only a beautiful shade tree around your home. It blooms during May providing both nectar and pollen to many pollinators.

Photo by Jeffrey Cunningham

ing species appropriate to your area. Observe which plants grow on their own without being planted. Nurture a range of appropriate plant species that include flowering periods from spring through fall. Having abundant forage and propolis resources is critical to the nutritional health of honeybee colonies and enables native bees to

prepare their progeny to survive winter.

Trees and shrubs also produce flowers, often in great volume high above the herbaceous flowers we see growing at ground level. Honeybees and native bees converge on trees in large numbers when they are blooming. Red maple and sugar maple trees are key sources of nectar and pollen very early in the season when honey bee colonies emerge from our long winter and are critically low on food stores – just as the maple sugaring season ends.

Vermont’s wooded valleys and mountain include American basswood, an important nectar source in June and July, usually preceded by the blooming of black locust trees. Aspen (poplars) and cottonwood trees (Populus spp.) are primary sources of bud resins that honey bees gather to make propolis. Native elderberry shrubs can be reintroduced to damp locations.

Encourage nectar-rich milkweeds for bees as well as monarch butterflies.

Discourage invasives like American bamboo, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle because even though useful to pollinators, they will displace/dominate natives and disrupt ecosystems.

The plants included in Honey Bee Nectar and Pollen Sources of Vermont are important to honey bees and other pollinators. The list includes data on sugar content in the nectar of some plant species and notes whether the plants provide nectar, pollen, or resin for propo-

lis.”

Early spring species such as pussy willow, sumac, skunk cabbage, trout lily, and others are critical for species emerging from winter with food stores depleted. Spring and early summer species like dandelions, fruit trees, white clovers, alfalfas, locust trees, serviceberry, and basswood trees give a boost to colonies that are expanding to their summer peak numbers.

After the summer peak, honeybee populations naturally dwindle and reach their lowest level in mid-March. Having an ample natural food supply helps honey bee colonies grow large enough to have a better chance of surviving the 6 ½ months from first frost in the fall to last frost in the spring – a time during which little or no food is available outside the hive – also called the “winter dearth.”

By early September, the newly emerged young honeybees are physiologically different from the spring and summer bees. Honey bees born during the spring and summer live for about 6 weeks. Honey bees born starting early in the fall can live 5 or 6 months. These bees must be healthy to survive that long which is one reason that late summer forage is so important.

During the late summer and fall, honeybees and other pollinators rely heavily upon species such as goldenrod, Joe-Pye weed, asters, and others to build up food stores (honey and pollen) that will be needed

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Pollinators

(Continued from Page 22)

by the longer-lived individuals who must survive winter. After the first frost, food is scarce or not available and it is often too cold for them to fly.

Pollinators include many creatures other than bees. Lady beetles, lacewings, bumblebees, butterflies, wasps, and certain bird species are also very effective pollinators. Some of these species actually feed on crop pests.

To help honeybees and other pollinators, vegetation management guidelines should strive to retain, add, or emphasize species that are important food and propolis sources. Such guidelines include:

When logging or other vegetation management is planned, retain a variety of tree and shrubby tree species used by pollinators. It is important to note that both honeybees and native bees occur at surprisingly high elevations - well above 2,500 feet - in Vermont's mountains.

Avoid mowing lawns and fields while species like dandelions, white clover, and goldenrod are blooming. Defer mowing milkweed until after the first frost in the fall.

Plant or retain a variety of native pollinator-friendly species that bloom throughout the growing season.

And, of course, refrain from

using products containing pesticides since even sublethal low-level exposure to many pesticides can make the difference between a pollinator surviving through the winter or expiring.

The pollinators thank you for your help!

Fred Putnam, Jr. is a Vermont Certified Beekeeper and co-owner of Busy Bee Honey located in Brandon, Vermont, busybeehoneyvermont@gmail.com.

Jeffrey Cunningham is an Apiculturist, Consultant, and Manager/co-owner of Honeyhunter Apiaries and Farm in Putney Vermont, honhuntr@together.net.

Both are active members of the Vermont Beekeepers Association.

As fawns arrive, Fish & Wildlife say 'leave them alone'

MONTPELIER, Vt. — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says deer fawns are being born this time of year and asks that people avoid disturbing or picking them up.

Most deer fawns are born in late May and the first and second weeks of June, according to Vermont deer biologist Nick Fortin.

Fortin says it is best to keep your distance because the fawn's mother is almost always nearby. When people see a small fawn alone, they often mistakenly assume it is helpless, lost or needing to be rescued.

Fawns do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks, instead relying on camouflage and stillness to remain undetected. During these times, fawns learn criti-

cal survival skills from their mothers. Bringing a fawn into a human environment results in separation from its mother, and it usually results in a sad ending for the animal.

Fortin encourages people to resist the urge to assist wildlife in ways that may be harmful, and he offered these tips:

- Deer nurse their young at different times during the day and often leave their young alone for long periods of time. These animals are not lost. Their mother knows where they are and will return.

- Deer normally will not feed or care for their young when people are close by.

- Deer fawns will imprint on humans and lose their natural fear of people, which can be essential to their survival.

- Keep domestic pets under control at all times. Dogs often will kill fawns and other baby animals.

For the safety of all wildlife, taking a wild animal into captivity is illegal in Vermont.

"It's in the best interest of Vermonters and the wildlife that live here, for all of us to maintain a respectful distance and help keep wildlife wild," added Fortin.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VT RFP Auditing Services

The Town of Pittsford seeks auditing services for the Town for the fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025. A full description of the required services is available on the Town's website pittsfordvermont.com or by contacting Town Manager David Atherton at manager@pittsfordvermont.com or at 802-483-6500 x 200. The deadline for submittals is Noon on May 31, 2023.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VT Invitation for bids

The Town of Pittsford is requesting bids for fuel deliveries from **July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026** to the following Town locations, as specified below on an annual basis:

- 12,000 gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel to the Town Highway Garage, Pleasant St.
- 2,000 gallons of off-road diesel fuel to the Transfer Station, Depot St.
- 1,600 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Town Highway Garage, Pleasant St.
- 2,000 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Fire Department, Pleasant St.
- 1,200 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Town Office, Plains Rd.
- 2,000 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Maclure Library, Arch St.
- 500 gallons of propane to the Fire Department Auxiliary Station, Florence
- 1,000 gallons of propane to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lab, Arch St.
- 1,300 gallons of propane to the Water Department (former WWTPlant), Arch St.
- 1,000 gallons of propane to the Pittsford First Response, Arch St.
- 100 gallons of propane for Fire Station Generator, Pleasant St.
- 100 gallons propane for Town Office generator, Plains Rd.
- 250 gallons of propane to water well house, River St., Florence
- 200 gallons of propane to water pump shed, Route 7 Red Barn

Sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Pittsford Town Manager at the above address, until Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. at which time they will be opened and read. Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked Pittsford Fuel Bid.

Selection of the supplier will be based upon bidders' qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects (ie: prompt service) and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the Town to be the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

Payment will be made within 30 days of the delivery of fuel and submission of an invoice.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, (Saturday, Sundays and legal holidays excluded) after the opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Town.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD
David Atherton, Town Manager

BID PACKAGE 3 INVITATION TO BID

The Otter Valley Unified Union School District is inviting qualified vendors to submit proposals for updating the Otter Valley Union Middle/High School Vocational Education a/k/a Shop Dust Collection System.

Scope of work and engineering designs are available online at: <https://www.mesu.org/page/public-bids> or by calling RNESU office: 802-247-5757

Interested parties are invited to a Site Visit **May 22, 2023 at 3:00pm**, at OVUMHS 2997 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT 05733.

Sealed bids will be received electronically by the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, Brenda L. Fleming, bfleming@rnesu.org **Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 9 AM.**

Construction is anticipated to start as soon as possible after notice to proceed no later than July 1, 2023 and be substantially complete on or before August 22, 2023.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept informality and irregularity.

Dear Blue Moon community,

Thank you for your support through the many iterations of "Blue Moon" over the past thirty years. I'm happy to announce that I've accepted a full-time position at a local non-profit starting in July.

It has been a very difficult decision, one that I have gone back and forth on many times, but I will be closing the store. I will miss the festive Moonlight Madness nights and seeing everyone in the shop, but I look forward to being on the other side of things. Please help me send off Blue Moon in the coming weeks, and celebrate a new chapter!

All my thanks,
Allie Walter

30% off Storewide

BLUE MOON

Blue Moon

(Continued from Page 1)

town: 31 Center Street. It's a suitably quirky building for a bou-

tique that focused on quirky gifts and eclectic, handmade clothing.

Ellen and Allie Walter cultivat-

ed a loyal clientele not only with their shrewd selection of goods but also with their sociability and willingness to chat with everyone who came in the store.

"I love being in Brandon," said Allie. "I loved being at the

store and seeing everyone. When I bought merchandise, a lot of times I had a specific customer in mind. That's the part I'm going to miss the most."

Allie took over Blue Moon from her mother in 2021 and business has been great.

"I'm not closing because business is bad," she said. "Things have actually been really good. The community has kept me going. But I grew up with the store and it's time to try something new."

Allie's "something new" is a full-time position as coordinator of continuing education for the Safer Society Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to ending domestic violence and abuse.

"I've been working part-time for Safer Society since last year," she said. "I couldn't do both the store and this part-time work." She felt she had to make a choice.

"I think about the store all the time," she added. "I wouldn't be able to just hire a manager. I'd still be over there all the time. It's an extension of me. I had to make a clean break. And I wanted to move on while things were still good. But retail is tough. When we started, online wasn't a thing."

"We were both in tears," said Allie's mother, Ellen. "It's hard [to close the shop] for sure. Having your own shop is a unique way to make a living. It's an ex-

pression of ourselves."

The Walters will put the building up for sale. Though it hasn't officially hit the market yet, Allie said they've had inquiries about it over the years. It's one of more prominent buildings in downtown Brandon, a remnant of Brandon's industrial past, when the town was known for iron and scales. In fact, 31 Center Street is the last remaining building of the Howe Scales operation that dominated Center Street in the 1850s and 60s.

But for many Brandonites of a certain age, 31 Center Street will forever be remembered as LaDuke's, where staff from the Brandon Training School would grab famously tasty burgers before the loggers came down off the mountains and got rowdy at night. Folks who were in Brandon at the time love to say that the big plate-glass window up front had so many drunken men thrown through it that the owner eventually just put up plywood.

Even without a business, Allie will continue her work on the Downtown Brandon Alliance, and will wind the store down between now and when she begins her new job at Safer Society in July. Though the merchandise may end up being discounted, the memories will remain priceless.



ALLIE WALTER AT the counter of her boutique, Blue Moon, which will be closing this summer as Walter takes a new position with a nonprofit in Brandon.

STONE 4X4 EXPO

MIDDLEBURY, VT

See the Raminator Crush Some Cars & More!

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 • 10-2

G. Stone Motors and Stone CDJR invite you to show off your ride or just mingle with others who share the love of adventure!

General admission is free. \$10 Entry fee for each 4x4 displayed, proceeds to be donated to the Vt. Children's Museum. Enter by June 1 to receive a goodie bag and a T shirt! **Questions? 802-388-9961.**



Scan the QR code to register your vehicle!



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

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• 802-388-9961
• stonecdjr.com



Food By
Hangry Hog &
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**Grand Opening of Stone
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Fun activities for the Kids

