

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

A community supported newspaper

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OVUU SCHOOLBOARD

OVUU SB discusses surplus, Stafford, & Hawk Hill.

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FROM THE PULPIT

Pastor Dwyer of the Pittsford Congregational Church offers a meditation on Memorial Day.

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WEST RUTLAND HOUSING

West Rutland residents meet developers of proposed affordable-housing project.

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MAPLE MAGIC

Matt Aucoin delivers another delightful adventure with your favorite cow, Maple.

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TIME MACHINE

Learn about the Pittsford Boga Man that terrorized travelers in the early 1900s.

PG. 7



PG. 10



Pittsford SB talks Bridge, Insects, and Tax Exemption

BY WILL ROSS

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard gathered in the town offices last Wednesday. In attendance were members of the Planning Commission who hoped to air out their grievances with the way the appeal process was handled regarding the bridge 108 redesign.

The Selectboard and Planning Commission had been working together to appeal the plan by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to redesign the intersection between Oxbow Road and Route 3 on the south side of Pittsford. The Planning Commission was under the impression that the Selectboard had every intention of going through with the appeal; however, in their May 3rd meeting, the Selectboard opted not to file the appeal.

Chuck Charbonneau of the Planning Commission asked how the board arrived at that decision despite previous conversations. Board Chair Alicia Malay informed the Planning Commission that the decision was based on the foreseen expense in tax dollars for legal fees.

Board member Mark Winslow pointed out that the time constraint involved in the appeal process heavily influenced the previous decision to vote in favor of the appeal. However, after further evaluation of the expenses involved in the process, the board decided it would not be in the best interest of the town and decided not to appeal.

Rick Conway, proprietor of the Mobil station at the intersection, brought up differences between the Planning Commission's allocated budget and the amount that was actually spent over the previous fiscal years. Conway noted that this discrepancy could have been used to offset the legal fees involved in the appeal process.

Ann Rademacher voiced her concerns with the process from the perspective of a taxpayer: "[M]aybe the townspeople would have liked a little more input as to whether we think it is worth our tax dollars to get this intersection the way we all

(See Pittsford SB, Page 7)

Brandon family suffers through house fire



LANCE LARRAWAY AND Trish Lafayette suffered a devastating fire at their home at 69 Carver Street in Brandon on Tuesday, May 16. The family wasn't home during the blaze and their pets were able to escape the flames, but the house sustained major damage.

A GOFUNDME CAMPAIGN on Facebook has already netted over \$2,600 and there is a fundraiser planned for the family at the Brandon American Legion on Saturday, June 10 at 5 p.m. There will be a picnic dinner, music, and raffles to raise money to help the family through this difficult time.

Photo by Trish Lafayette

Brandon Selectboard grapples with quorum quandary

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard gathered for its regular meeting on Monday evening. Chair Tracy Wyman was not in attendance. All other board members were present. Vice-chair Cecil Reniche-Smith ran the meeting in Mr. Wyman's absence.

The meeting began with the Board of Sewer Commissioners—one of the several hats that the Selectboard wears—and a vote to spend "not more than \$51,000" on a pre-owned sewer line jetter to replace the town's current model. Jettors are used to flush sewer lines. The cost of the jetter will come from the Wastewater Capital Fund, which currently has approximately \$288,000. The town's current model will be taken away as part of the deal,

though its trade-in value was deemed minimal.

After the Selectboard convened and approved minutes and agendas, Town Manager Seth Hopkins presented highlights from his written report, the full text of which is available in the May 22 Selectboard packet on the town's website.

Mr. Hopkins's written report includes the following:

- A steering group has been formed to formulate emergency preparedness policy for the town. The group has begun to work with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission and the VT Dept of Emergency Management to conduct a preparedness session with the community in the coming weeks.

- The engineering firm KAS will begin regular testing for

PFAS (forever chemicals) in the town landfill, as per the May 8 meeting.

- The town treasurer has been informed that a "single audit" of the town will need to be conducted because of the town's use of more than \$750,000 in federal funds last year. The audit will examine the town's finances to ensure effective management, controls, and use of funds.

- The town has submitted a request to the Trustees of Public Funds (TPF) for funding toward mosquito abatement. TPF has confirmed that the town's application is now complete.

- The status of Chipmunk Lane and Spring Pond Drive as town roads is still unresolved, though Chipmunk Lane may be ready for acceptance by the

(See Brandon SB, Page 8)



Turtles on the roadway still need your help

Vermont's turtles are on the move, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for the public's help in keeping them safe. Female turtles will soon be looking for places to deposit their eggs, and they sometimes choose inconvenient or dangerous locations. For example, turtles often lay eggs in gravel parking lots and driveways and along road shoulders, which puts them at risk of

being hit by motor vehicles.

"Turtles commonly cross roads as they move to nesting sites and summer foraging habitats," said Luke Groff, biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "Many turtles killed on roads are nesting females, so not only is the female taken from the population but so are her future progeny. Turtles grow slowly and females may not reproduce until

10 or even 15 years old. So, for some species, the loss of mature breeding females may have population-level effects."

Turtle nesting activity peaks between late May and early June, and drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles on the road — especially when driving near ponds and wetlands.

"Turtles are usually slow to move, so they have a tough time

safely crossing roads. If you spot a turtle on the road, please consider helping it across but be sure you're in a safe spot to pull over and get out of your car. Human safety comes first," said Groff. "If you're going to move a turtle off the road, always move it in the direction it was traveling. They know where they're going."

Most turtles can be picked up and carried across the road. How-

ever, snapping turtles have long necks and a powerful bite, so people should be alert and know what the species looks like. If the turtle is large or if it lacks colorful lines, spots, or other markings, then it may be a snapper. Instead of picking up snappers, try pushing them across the road with a shovel or pulling them across the road on cardboard or a car floor mat.

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West Rutland residents meet with developers of housing project

BY STEVEN JUPITER

WEST RUTLAND—Residents of West Rutland met last Thursday with representatives from the Housing Trust of Rutland County (HTRC) and their development team to discuss the affordable-housing project that HTRC is proposing for a site in that community. The conference room at West Rutland Town Hall, where the meeting took place, was at capacity, as dozens of community members came to hear HTRC's pitch and ask questions about the impact of the project.

The meeting was organized by W. Rutland Town Manager Mary Ann Goulette and featured Mary Cohen, the Executive Director of HTRC, Matt Moore, a Senior Developer with Evernorth Community Developers, Pat Griffin of the engineering firm Enman-Kesselring, and Nick Wood and Jean Terwilliger of Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) in Middlebury.

Mr. Moore began the presentation with an overview of the project and his firm's involvement. Evernorth is a nonprofit that specializes in community development in northern New

England, with a particular focus on affordable housing. The firm is overseeing the project on behalf of HTRC.

The proposed project would consist of a single, multi-wing building with 24 apartments of various sizes—17 one-bedroom units, 5 two-bedroom units, and 2 studio/efficiency units. 19 of the units would be income-restricted and 5 would be “market.” Applicants for the capped-rent apartments would be vetted for income by HTRC. To qualify for a restricted-income unit, a tenant cannot earn more than 60% of Vermont's median income. As of 2020, the median income in Vermont was approximately \$33,000, making the maximum income of a capped-rent tenant approximately \$20,000.

The complex would also include indoor and outdoor community areas and a parking lot with 27 spaces.

The proposed building site is located on Main Street in West Rutland, just to the west of the Price Chopper shopping center. The site consists of three separate parcels (376, 398, and 416 Main Street) which are currently vacant or contain derelict/



AN ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING of the proposed housing complex in West Rutland, prepared by Vermont Integrated Architecture of Middlebury. The structure will contain 24 units, 19 of which will be reserved for tenants with incomes below 60% of Vermont's median income. Construction is slated to begin in early 2024.

unused buildings. Together, the three lots total about an acre. At the moment, none of the parcels is owned by HTRC, although all are under option for purchase, pending successful acquisition of state and local permits this summer.

“We do work in communities that want us to be there,” said Moore. “We’re here because we’re in the middle of a housing crisis. These properties are a gateway to West Rutland and

something needs to be done with them. Once we do something on a vacant lot, it tends to spur other investments.”

If HTRC obtains the necessary permits, Moore anticipates that construction plans would be put out for bids this winter and ground would be broken in early 2024. Construction is projected to take 10 to 12 months in total.

Pat Griffin, a civil engineer with Enman-Kesselring of Rutland, then took the floor to ex-

plain the physical considerations and limitations of the particular site, noting that its bowtie-like shape made it particularly challenging to place a building of sufficient size on the combined lot. Because of those constraints, a waiver will be needed from the town for a reduced setback from the street.

The ground will also be raised 30” to ensure that the building will sit above the flood plain.

(See Housing project, Page 23)

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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

It is time for tough conversations

A month or two ago, The Reporter received an anonymous email from a former employee of Regional Ambulance Service (RAS) in Rutland. The writer claimed that RAS was experiencing such severe staffing shortages as to effectively be mismanaged and, moreover, that the mismanagement was putting local residents at risk. We chose not to publish the email because we didn't know who had sent it, but we did feel obligated, at the very least, to investigate the claims.

We went down to Rutland and talked with Jim Finger, Executive Director of RAS, who was quite forthcoming about the staffing issues his service is facing. We spoke with former employees of RAS and physicians affiliated with Rutland Hospital. But instead of malfeasance or mismanagement, we discovered an earnest organization suffering from the same labor shortages we're seeing all over the country. There was nothing about RAS that set it apart from the scores of other emergency services in Vermont, including those in the Brandon/Pittsford/Proctor corridor, that are struggling to recruit and retain staff (we wrote about the struggles of Brandon's services last summer). In fact, there was nothing about RAS that set it apart from all the businesses in fields as disparate as hospitality and agriculture that are finding themselves woefully understaffed these days.

In Vermont, we see firsthand the effects of the labor shortage when, with increasing frequency, local businesses close because they don't have enough help. Or

when we can't find a plumber, electrician, or carpenter. Or are shocked by how much it costs when we actually do find one. We see companies raising wages and offering signing bonuses to attract workers. And yet no one seems able to answer the simple question, "Why is this happening?"

There is consensus that the labor market was easier for employers before COVID. Mr. Finger of RAS absolutely sees a clear before and after in his ability to attract staff. Anecdotally we all sense that something has shifted in the years since 2020. But no one is really sure what the problem is. Is it that the population in Vermont is just too small? Is it that COVID caused people to reconsider their priorities and demand a better work/life balance? Is it that COVID triggered a wave of retirements, leaving jobs unfilled?

The truth is probably that it's a combination of all of the above, plus other factors specific to particular professions. It's a problem with so many causes that it feels impossible to formulate a solution that doesn't require a thousand separate fixes.

We spoke with Stephanie Jerome and Butch Shaw, who represent Brandon, Pittsford, and Proctor in the Vermont House of Representatives. We asked them what the legislature is doing to try to address the labor shortage. Both of them listed multiple pieces of legislation that provided funding for workforce development, affordable housing, childcare, and parental leave. It was clear that Montpelier is (See *Tough conversations*, Page 22)



Seldom seen, but often heard

THE WEST RUTLAND Marsh is home to the Least Bittern. This small bird is often heard but only with luck might you see one.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums
Brandon Planning Commission hosts
Town Plan forum

More than 50 citizens assembled at Town Hall on Sunday evening to share their visions for Brandon's future with the town Planning Commission, as a first step toward updating the Brandon Town Plan.

A Town Plan sets forth a multi-year blueprint for improvements and growth, specifying projects and goals that the town hopes to execute. Vermont law requires that every town update its Town Plan every eight years. Brandon's plan was last updated in 2016, necessitating an update in 2024.

Planning Commission Chair Cecil Reniche-Smith started the meeting with a short introduction about the Commission and its involvement in drafting the Town Plan and the town's Land Use Ordinances. Ed Bove from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission then spoke about the importance of town plans and how they factor into state regulatory decisions and municipal eligibility for funding.

After the introductions, Commission member Natalie Steen divided the attendees into four working groups. Each group was assigned an initial category: Public Facilities and Services; Housing and Development;



Historic, Cultural and Natural Resources; or Economic Development and Transportation. The groups were given about fifteen minutes to throw out ideas about what they would like to see happen within its assigned category. After fifteen minutes, the groups exchanged categories, and this continued until every group had an opportunity to weigh in on every category. In addition to Ms. Reniche-Smith and Ms. Steen, Commission members Robert Foley and Jack Schneider served as group facilitators, moving from group to group as

the topics were exchanged. Discussions ranged from the condition of the town's sidewalks to dreams of a regional recreational center with an indoor swimming pool and game courts. At this stage of the planning process, no idea was too small or too large. As they talked, the groups memorialized their ideas on Post-It notes, which they stuck to foam boards for each category. By the end of the evening, the boards were covered with colorful evidence of active engagement. Participants were (See *Planning commission*, Page 5)

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BRANDON REPORTER

Notes from the Pulpit

Memorial Day Reflection

We observe Memorial Day as a secular holiday but sometimes forget deeply felt religious convictions permeate its origins, especially for the generations who lived through the Civil War. It has long been a Christian imperative, known for some of us as a corporal work of mercy, to bury the dead. Our national holiday, originally known as Decoration Day, arose from the magnitude of deaths, combatants and civilians alike, many of whom had no proper burial. Over 620,000 soldiers died between 1861 and 1865—pro-

of the sacrifices made, and that these sacrifices were not made in vain. Those participating in Memorial Day rituals often sought consolation and support from their churches.

With uncanny prescience, Abraham Lincoln stated the challenges that lay ahead in his second inaugural address delivered a month before his assassination:

Where is our just and lasting peace? We today, in the United States of America, remain a nation deeply torn and in need of healing. As we place flags and markers on the graves of veterans, we also honor the memory of loved family members and friends.

With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to find the work we are in, to bind up the na-

tion's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and all nations.

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Where is our just and lasting peace? We today, in the United States of America, remain a nation deeply torn and in need of healing. As we place flags and markers on the graves of veterans, we also honor the memory of loved family members and friends. May we take the time to mourn, as well as to heed the admonitions of past orators on Memorial Day. History does unfortunately repeat itself. Let us pray that the divisions that tore the Republic asunder do not happen to us again.

*Michael F. Dwyer
is Pastor of the Pittsford
Congregational Church.*



Feast for the eyes and for the bees

FLOWERING TREES ARE a welcome sign of spring, brightening the landscape and providing nourishment for pollinators.

Photo by George Fjel

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Correction

CORRECTION: In last week's article on the Four Winds nature program, we mistakenly wrote "Mary Lou Jenson" when we should have written "Mary Lou Webster." We apologize to Ms. Webster for the mistake.

Planning commission

(Continued from Page 4)

also treated to pizza.

The Planning Commission hopes to have more outreach events over the coming months as it works to finalize the updated Town Plan, and citizens are also encouraged to attend

Planning Commission meetings where the updates will be discussed. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 5, at 6:00 PM, in the downstairs lobby of Town Hall.

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

Obituaries

Patricia (Patty) Marie Smith, 79, Sudbury

Patty Smith resided in Sudbury Vermont from 1978 till 2003.

At 3:42 am on Monday, May 15, 2023, Patricia (Patty) Marie Smith passed away peacefully while in hospice care in Dune-din, FL. Her stepson Paul visited her regularly until the day of her passing. She was able to enjoy her time and make quite a positive impact to staff and residents of her memory care facility Arden Courts in Palm Harbor, FL.

Patty was born in Brooklyn, NY on June 14, 1943. She grew up in St. Petersburg, FL with her two brothers, Robert and Tommy. She also spent some time after graduation in San Francisco. She extended her education at St. Petersburg Community College and the University of South Florida. Patty married her husband George Smith in 1972. Although not a fan of the colder climate, she supported George's desire to move to Vermont, a place he loved, and develop a homestead there on his land in Sudbury. After a failed first attempt in 1976 in an uninsulated 200-year-old farmhouse, they built a small home and settled permanently there in 1978.

Patty had boundless energy and pursued whatever tasks were required. She was a quick learner and whatever skills that she



PATTY MARIE SMITH

needed she developed quickly. This included everything from organic gardening to building construction as well as doing chores on a neighboring dairy farm. In addition, she became Sudbury town clerk and quickly developed the skills necessary for the job. She held this position for 17 years.

Although Patty had no children of her own, she bonded with George's sons, Paul, and Ken. When Paul and Ken came to Vermont for extended visits, she brought them happiness and laughs while picking berries, enjoying campfires, making runs to Brandon for candy and ice cream, visiting grandma and grandpa Smith, learning to drive and cross-country skiing. Patty thoroughly enjoyed being with

children of neighbors and friends and they enjoyed being with her.

In the early 90s, while in Vermont, Patty finished a master's degree in the neurosciences. She also went on to run and win a seat in the state House of Representatives in Vermont. She served 2 terms in the 1990s. Patty was a progressive thinker and well ahead of her time in terms of equal rights in Vermont.

In 2002, Patty met her current husband, Ralph Weseman, Jr. They relocated to New Port Richey, FL in 2003. Patty was a dedicated caregiver to many people she met in her life including George's parents, her husband Ralph upon his suffering a stroke in 2006, and her brother Tommy, who predeceased her in 2021.

Those of us that knew Patty and associated with her enjoyed her quick sense of humor and funny and often colorful sayings. We also enjoyed and benefitted from her insights into the problems of life and sound advice that she offered freely. She was a quick study and could master almost any situation that she applied herself to and was generous and kind and loved by children, or "munchkins" as she called them. Patty was a dear friend to many including lifelong friendships that are rare and cherished.

OVUU SB reviews surplus, Stafford, & Hawk Hill

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—At the OVUU board meeting on Tuesday May 16th, the administration informed the board of a projected \$176,000 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending in June. After discussion, the directors voted to apply these funds equally between the Facility Fund and the After School Fund. The After School Fund supports both after school programs and summer programs. It can suffer from limited funds and be plagued by staffing issues. The flexibility to use this money in any year means the program can continue when there are bumps in the road.

The meeting began with a video presentation of Global Ends monitoring, featuring a large number of students and programs from throughout the district. This is a key way the board gets to see how the students are doing. Building leaders then presented a synopsis of their plans for the next year.

Board member Kevin Thornton presented a review of the Stafford Technical School. This is the primary place for Otter Valley students to obtain technical education in a wide variety of areas. They cover the construction trades, including carpentry, electrical and plumbing, welding and metal

fabrication, and engineering. Auto body repair and automotive technology are included. Areas as diverse as video communications, public safety and criminal justice, and the culinary arts are also taught. Many of these vocations do not require a college education but rather some courses and lots of time apprenticing. Unfortunately, there are more students wanting to participate than spots in the various programs. These programs represent many of the good paying jobs available in our communities.

Derek Larsen reviewed the status of the Hawk Hill Conservation area. This is land behind Otter Valley and over the ridge to Old Brandon Road that is available for public use but is conserved. It contains the site of the original Brandon settlement and an old cemetery. There are developed hiking trails throughout the 231-acre property. The committee is exploring coordinating an archaeological program with the state archeologist and/or Castleton University. It is utilized by a variety of OV programs and is the classroom for the Moolsalamoo program. Larson is looking for a board member replacement on this committee.

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Time Machine:

Local legends: The mystery of the Pittsford Boga Man

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—It's not uncommon to hear folks recount their sightings of Bigfoot in these parts. If you haven't seen him yourself, chances are you know someone who has. Or someone who knows someone who has. In any event, the area between Whitehall, NY and Pittsford has reputedly been home to Sasquatch for many moons.

But have you heard tell of the Pittsford boga man? Local lore has it that travelers on the byways and thoroughfares between Brandon and Pittsford were oft harassed and tormented by the Pittsford boga man, a creature of mystery and great power who would pluck night riders right off their horses and scurry them off to his hidden lair, never to be seen again.

On the evening of May 17, 1901, a young man who lived on Pearl Street in Brandon set out for Pittsford, an act which inherently courted danger, as the Boga Man was sure to be on the prowl. When the youth failed to return home, concerned neighbors drew the only logical conclusion: he had been snatched by the Boga Man! Why, there could be no other explanation! A posse need be formed and marched down to Pittsford to get to the bottom of things. They would do their best to rescue their missing brother from the clutches of the monster.

Happily, upon arrival in Pittsford, they discovered the young man safe and sound. Whether through guile or inno-

cence, he had somehow managed to evade the gnarly claws of the Pittsford Boga Man. The townspeople could breathe a sigh of relief for one more night at least.

Now, it should be no surprise that this corridor between the Green and Taconic Moun-

Last Friday evening a young man from Pearl street hitched up his pacer and started for Pittsford, which, in itself, was nothing unusual, but when midnight came and the young man came not back, an inquest was held without any corpse and a verdict was rendered that the Pittsford boga man, or burglar man had got him. Bright and early next morning a delegation started for Pittsford to verify the verdict but they met the young man half way home. It had rained in Pittsford and as he had no umbrella for the pacer he decided to stay all night.

tains would be home to such a fearsome beast. In the 1800s, it was well known that the membrane between this world and the next was especially thin here. People came from far and wide to contact their deceased loved ones. The Eddy Brothers of Chittenden, for example, were famed spiritualists who claimed to have open channels of communication with the departed. That they were ultimately exposed as frauds is irrelevant to the fact that the northern reaches of Rutland County were and are a veritable playground for supernatural beings.

So, the next evening you find yourself traveling on Route 7 or West Creek Road or Birch Hill Road or any other pike 'tween Brandon and Pittsford, keep your eyes open and your wits about you. You may well find yourself face to face with the loathsome Boga Man!

Brandon Energy Committee

Solar panels and mini splits



I have always been interested in anything electrical and energy efficient, which is why I decided to become a volunteer for the Brandon Energy Committee. It was during my participation on the committee that my curiosity in mini splits and solar panels started to develop. Jim Emerson, chairman of the Committee, was giving me a tour of his impressive garden area when

I noticed that he had installed solar panels and a mini split. I asked him about them and one thing he mentioned was how low his heating and electric bills were. It was then through the committee's available literature and resources that I realized that installing these was not only energy efficient, but also the right thing to do.

My wife and I decided that a mini split would be a worthwhile investment, so we proceeded with the installation of a large unit in the living area and a smaller one in our bedroom. This allowed me to turn down the oil heat in the whole house at night ten degrees lower than normal, since our sleeping

area was now heated by the bedroom unit. I programmed the main unit in the living area to start at 5 a.m. and run until 10 p.m. Previously, I was burning pellets for 18 out of 24 hours and oil during the 6 remaining night hours. After doing a month's calculation, these changes yielded an approximate savings of 30% on heat after deducting the additional mini-split electrical usage. During this time, my oil furnace only started on a couple of really cold nights.

The person who installed my mini-split units gave me the name of Tim Guiles as a source for information in regards to installing solar panels on my roof. Tim, who has helped other people through the paperwork, permits, and installations, helped me understand what it took to do a self-installation and provided me with a source for a 10

Jim Emerson, chairman of the Committee, was giving me a tour of his impressive garden area when I noticed that he had installed solar panels and a mini split.

kWh solar kit. I purchased the kit and proceeded with the online permit application to the State of Vermont Public Utility Commission, who automatically sends notice to the utility company and other State Agencies. Only one

place to apply! I applied on 2/23/23 and received the permit on 3/13/23, pretty nice turn-over time! A few days after submitting the application, I received an email from Green Mountain Power providing me with their installation requirements and an application form for the solar meter installation once the installation was completed. Tim offered to help with the physical installation and within six hours Tim, a friend who has experi-

ence in previous installations, and myself installed on the roof all the rails, micro inverters, and wiring. The nice part is all the roof wiring is plug and play, no splicing wires! The next weekend my brother added his help, so we had 2 of us on the ground passing the panels up to 2 people on the roof. It took us about four hours to mount 28 panels! The only thing left was the electrical installation, which was done the next week by a certified electrician. I emailed the request form to GMP for the solar meter and a few days later it was installed. Tim helped me set up the system on the internet and I was up and running! On Green Mountain Power's website I can easily monitor what our system is generating versus what we are using and the solar manufacturer provides an app that lets you monitor each individual panel along with a real time view of the system's output.

Fortunately, my system was installed early enough to benefit from the summer's sunny days, which is the major period when Vermonters benefit from the sun's energy. My electric bill for April was approximately 1/4 of the previous month's bill! I was able to get real data on the output of another system similar in size to mine in this area and, using that data, I expect to recoup all the money I invested in 6 to 7 years at most and then get a handsome return for years to come.

I hope this gives someone a glimpse of what a solar installation entails. If you need help, we at the Energy Committee can connect you with the right people, information, and available rebates. Whether you have a local contractor install them or are a do-it-yourself type person, I sincerely believe mini splits and solar panels are good for you and the future of our community/world. And they will save you money in the long run!

*Serge Cottoir
Brandon Energy Committee*

Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

feel it would be safer? But it wasn't on the agenda." Rademacher continued, "It seems the citizens should have a little bit of say in where our money goes. [I] think a lot of people in town would have been willing to pay that and more to have a safe intersection. I have just been kind of disappointed that this major decision was made in executive session with no public input."

After the discussion on the bridge wrapped up, Steve Belcher, Pittsford representative to the BLSG Mosquito District, led a brief discussion on the possibility of add-

ing Proctor to the mosquito district. Proctor has been paying for the service on a contractual basis and to be fully integrated into the district, four out of the five surrounding towns must vote them in. The Selectboard approved Proctor's request to join the insect district.

There was a brief discussion on a tax exemption for the Pittsford Village Farm. The discussion was led by Lisa Wright, president of the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association. Wright informed the board that Pittsford Village Farm has applied for tax exemption and that there are some pros and cons

involved. The current status of the building is that it is in disrepair and in need of renovation. "It is a little bit uncertain what exactly the building will be used for, and that is a big question for this application," said Wright. David Mills stated, "We have been assured time and time again that this would not cost the town any money," and made it known that he was opposed to the exemption. Malay was inclined to agree, stating, "It would be different if it was up and running." The board made the recommendation to Wright that the application for tax exemption be denied.

Red Clover Saturday the 27th

We are going to have a beer garden in Green Park, La Catrina will be selling carnitas tacos and burritos and *The Morning Dudes* will be playing from 3-6 p.m.

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

Riverbank stabilization projects are advised for two sites along the Neshobe, one behind Park Street and one along Pearl Street. These projects will prevent further erosion of the riverbank around drainage culverts and will cost in excess of \$100,000 each. Neither project is imminent but should be taken into account in budgeting in the near future.

Mr. Hopkins also stated in the meeting that his comments at the May 8 meeting about the scoping study for the North St. Bridge were erroneous: the study is being conducted by Dubois & King,

not by the state of Vermont. Dubois & King has now completed 35% of its \$50,000 contract with the town for this work.

The wastewater construction project shut down as planned on May 18 and will resume on August 15. The EPA will conduct a site audit in late June. The entire project is slated for completion in March 2024.

Delinquent tax notices went out last week. The town is owed a cumulative total of \$878,100 in delinquent taxes and payments. Of that amount, \$532,729 is property tax; 198,100 is sewer; and 147,271 is water. Of the

1,938 households in Brandon, approximately 3% (or 150) are delinquent in at least one of these three areas. Pandemic-era amnesties ended with the lifting of the state of emergency in Vermont. Penalties and annual tax sales have now resumed.

Deputy Town Manager/Rec Director Bill Moore presented his report as well, the full text of which can be found in the Selectboard packet for May 22 on the town's website. Highlights include:

- Safety lighting has been installed in Estabrook Park.
- There are 2 new summer camp offerings for kids: Dance Camp and Lego Robotics.
- The Brandon Extravaganza will take place at Estabrook on June 3. "Food, Music, Games, and Fun to help build community."

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, resident Wayne Rausenberger emphasized the urgency of roadwork on Union Street between Ella Dean Road and Twin Oaks Road. Mr. Rausenberger also urged the town to replace the plate-glass windows in the Town Offices, as they are cracked and discolored. He called the windows "a disgrace," especially considering that \$500K had been spent on the building's renovation. Mr. Rausenberger also recommended that replacement of the floor in the main hall of Town Hall be postponed in favor of roof work.

Town Manager Hopkins replied that an estimate of \$160K for roof work had been received in 2015 and a new estimate should be requested now.

Town Treasurer Sue Gage presented a partially updated policy on the town's capital assets (roads, bridges, and other infrastructure). The town's current policy is woefully outdated, according to Ms. Gage and members of the board, but Selectperson Tim Guiles suggested that the entire policy be updated before any vote on it. Ms. Gage agreed to come back with a complete update.

The board formally adopted a new payroll-payment process by which it will vote in advance to approve the town's entire payroll until/unless there is a change in staffing or compensation. The town manager will maintain a list of salaries and wages. This is to avoid having to authorize payroll after it has already been distributed.

An unused 500-gallon fuel tank at the wastewater plant sparked a lengthy conversation among board members as to how the town should dispose of equipment and assets it no longer wants/has use for.

The board agreed to sell the tank in an eBay-style process whereby potential buyers would submit anonymous bids within a specified timeframe. The bids would be kept current by the town manager and posted on the town's website. Fire Chief Tom Kilpeck suggested that the board also look into Municibid, an online bidding service for municipalities looking to sell unwanted equipment.

The meeting experienced a moment of sharp debate among board members regarding requests for ARPA and option-tax money by several entities in town, including a time-sensitive request for \$100,000 in ARPA funds from the Brandon Library for its upcoming renovation. A full list of these entities and their requests is available in the packet

on the town's website.

Vice-chair Cecil Reniche-Smith recused herself from discussion of and voting on the library's request because she is also a trustee of the library. This left only 3 members—Mr. Guiles, Mr. Coolidge, and Ms. Nelson—to discuss and vote on the library's request.

Though the board still had a quorum (only 3 members are needed to conduct official business), Board member Brian Coolidge did not want to entertain discussion or a vote on the ARPA requests without the full board present.

Ms. Reniche-Smith and Ms. Nelson ultimately agreed with Mr. Coolidge to table all the requests until Mr. Wyman was present.

Mr. Guiles disagreed with his colleagues' position, stating that a quorum was all that was needed and that to table these requests was bad precedent.

Ms. Reniche-Smith explained that large one-time requests for town funds should be made with the full board present whereas approval of minor expenses or even the warrant (which authorizes payment of previously approved commitments) does not require the full board.

Mr. Coolidge stated after the meeting that he believed it necessary to have the full board present in order to foster better discussion of large expenditures.

Ultimately, the board voted 3 to 1 to table all the ARPA and option-tax requests until Mr. Wyman was present. The board similarly voted 3 to 1 to table discussion of the purchase of a new woodchipper for the same reason. Mr. Guiles was the sole nay vote in both instances.

As its final act of official business for the evening, the board unanimously approved the warrant for \$1,668,156.68. This amount included \$230,000 for a new tandem truck and \$45,000 for a new excavator, per previous board votes.

Open Memorial Day 10-5

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At Devil's Bowl

Audet Rebounds for Devil's Bowl Speedway Sportsman win

WEST HAVEN, Vt. — Troy Audet technically has not lost a race that he has competed in at Devil's Bowl Speedway during the last two weeks, but that does not mean that the road has been an easy one for him. The Bridport, Vt., driver topped the Sunoco Sportsman Modified feature on Sunday, May 21 — which was postponed on Saturday by rain — to headline a list of winners that included Scott Towslee, Nick Austin-Neil, Logan Denis, Jason Porter, and Eric Leno.

Audet won his qualifying heat race on May 13 at Devil's Bowl, only to crash at the finish line after contact with another car. Audet's car was heavily damaged and he was forced to withdraw from the feature race that night, but a week's worth of repair work found him just as fast on Sunday night as he was before the accident.

Audet won his qualifying heat again and then led every circuit of the 30-lap feature, but that was no walk in the park, either. The former Limited Sportsman division champion had to hold the field off over eight restarts, and he survived a lead-swapping charge by veteran Jimmy Ryan with five laps to go, using a brilliant cross-over move to regain the point and drive off with the victory.

Ryan was in striking range throughout the distance, but he gave up the runner-up position in the final laps as Walter J. Hammond turned up the wick — after a 20-lap battle in traffic with his father, Walt Hammond Jr. — and stole the spot. Ryan finished third, Adam Piper ran up front all race and finished an impressive fourth, and Tanner Siemons drove forward for fifth place.

Visiting Brian Calabrese drove from 20th at the start to finish sixth and earned the \$100 Elmo's Pit Stop Hard Charger bonus. The top 10 was completed by Marty Kelly III, Tim LaDuc, Billy Lussier, and Justin Comes. Audet, Piper, and Anthony Warren won the heats, and rookie Josh LeClaire won the consolation race.

Modified newcomer Scott Towslee was the official winner of the 25-lap O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman feature following post-race technical inspection. The Manchester, Vt., youngster led a dozen laps in the middle of the race before giving up the lead to Timmy Aldrighetti and crossing the finish line second, but a rev box violation left Aldrighetti disqualified and allowed Towslee to inherit the win.

Randy Ryan finished second officially, and early-season championship point leader Hunter Nutter

was third. Katrina Bean and Gary English were next in line, and the top 10 was rounded out by Alex Layn, Bob Kilburn, A.J. Munger, John Gosselin, and Freddie Little. Qualifying heats were won by Munger, Aldrighetti, and Layn.

Another first-time winner broke through in the Hoosier Daddy Racing Novice Sportsman class, as Salisbury, Vt.'s Nick Austin-Neil ran to the checkers for the first time in a 20-lap feature. Austin-Neil, who started his career in the former Youth Mini Stock division, passed Mike Clark for the lead on lap 14 and ran away over the balance of the race; Austin-Neil also turned the fastest lap in any of the three Sportsman divisions during the night, averaging 92.779 mph.

Donald Williams was the runner-up and point leader Tyler Travis took third place, giving him three podium finishes in as many



TROY AUDET WITH his first-place trophy at Devil's Bowl Speedway.

Clark held on for fourth place after leading, with Bobbi Jo Hults fifth. Adam LaFountain was sixth, followed by Eric Shaw, Randy Edson, Russ Farr, and Matt Wade. Heat wins went to Clark and Austin-Neil.

The Friend Construction 500cc

Mini Sprint division ran a three-segment special event, with the overall winner determined by a scoring point system. Defending champion Logan Denis became the first repeat winner at Devil's Bowl Speedway in 2023 by taking the overall victory; the Whit-

ing, Vt., youngster finished third in each of the first two 12-lap segments and won the final leg to score 7 points (3, 3, 1) and claim the lowest overall total.

Roger LaDuc was the overall runner-up with finishes of first, (See Devil's Bowl, Page 22)

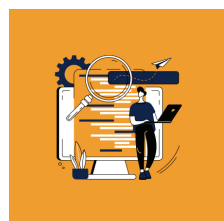
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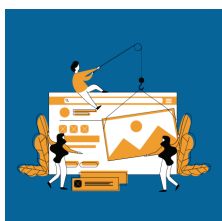
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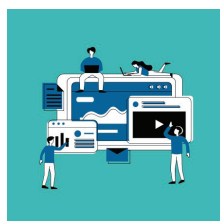
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May 28th is National Hamburger Day!

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!

WE ARE HIRING! Part-Time Line Cook

Looking for a part-time line cook, no experience required. Will train dependable, creative, hard working team players to work in our seasonal golf club kitchen. Serving lunch daily along with special dinners and events throughout the season (April-October). \$16 - \$22/hour.

The golf course is OPEN!
Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Log on to neshobe.com or call 802-247-3611 to make a tee time.

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OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Harmeny Stevens

GRADE: 1

SCHOOL: Otter Creek Academy

MEDIUM: Pencil and colored pencil on paper

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin

Harmeny
May 5, 2023



STATEMENT FROM MR. AUCOINI

Harmeny Stevens is in first grade at Otter Creek Academy in Leicester. Harmeny created this piece using pencil and colored pencils. She's been practicing shading and observational drawing. Harmeny created this piece by studying a vase of tulips for reference.

Our Creative Kids Poetry Corner

Leicester

By Bryce Mitchell

Let's take a walk on a dirt road
Everyone is nice and kind
I like the place where I live
Can we ride bikes together?
Eagles fly over head
So many green fields
Train station next to my house
Epic place to explore
Rippling water from Otter Creek

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



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Welcome Before & After Work or School!

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.



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 (hzfm@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.

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

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

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

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

Lina (Parvati) has 20 plus years of experience teaching and a

lifelong personal practice.

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

2023 LIVE AT KENNEDY PARK LINE-UP

June 10

Ethan Nelson covers & originals

June 24

Kevin Kareckas singer/songwriter

July 8

Will Reed folk alternative

July 22

Ellie & Co. Fiddle-infused folk

August 12

Tom Van Sant folk rock

August 26

Melissa Moorehouse singer/songwriter

September 9

Doug Ross w/ Wade Davis rock covers & originals

September 23

Silas McPrior acoustic rock

All shows will be 11a.m.–1p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays in Kennedy Park (upper falls, near the crosswalk).



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.

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.

The Brandon United Methodist Church is having a Sale Saturday May 27

Table space will be available for a monetary donation to the church.

The Brandon United Methodist Church is home to the Food Shelf and Friend Zone.

For more information or to help us and our endeavors to sustain the marginalized & underserved in our

Pittsford Rec. Summer Camps

Each week campers will go on a field trip (no trip July 4th week), enjoy a surprise guest, play games, swim, tie dye, enjoy activities, get messy, and so much more!

For children entering kindergarten through entering 6th grade at the start of camp.

Camp is based in the Lothrop

Cafeteria.

Limited slots, only 40 participants, and the registration fee is \$90 per week.

For more information visit www.pittsfordvermont.com, or call 1-8002-483-6500 x17, or email recreation@pittsfordvermont.com

Goings on around

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 27th

16th Annual Plant, Book, and Bake Sale at the Orwell

United Methodist Fund-Raising Tag Day 27th from 9-1

community, please contact Pastor Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman hzfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

1 Franklin Street. Rain or Shine.



Free Library

From 9 a.m.–3 p.m., plants of all kinds - annuals, perennials, houseplants, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, container gardens, and hanging baskets will be for sale as well as, books, DVDs, home baked and canned goods, soups, and breads. All proceeds go directly to the Orwell Free Library for purchasing books, providing programming, updating technology and serving our community. Online ordering for sale day pick up is available until Thursday

5/25 at orwellfreelibrary.org.

und town

Plant and Bake Sale at the Brandon Congregational Church

Before you hit the garden stores this Memorial Day weekend, stop by at the Brandon Congregational Church's annual plant sale and bake sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a variety of annual and perennial flower plants, herbs and vegetable starters, and houseplants. All for great prices! Bring your kids and they can plant and take a flower for free. There will also be a bake sale inside Fellowship Hall including pies, cinnamon rolls, cake pops, bread, brownies and more!



All proceeds will benefit Elaine Averill.

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

For the convenience of its clients, the Brandon Area Food Shelf has moved to the center of Brandon. We will be open on Tuesdays 12-3 & Sundays 12:30-2 for anyone who needs assistance. Walk-ins are welcome.

Tuesdays 12-3 p.m.
Sundays 12:30-2 p.m.

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Brandon, VT

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

Saturday 27th Sunday 28th

Vermont 2023 Open Studio Weekend, Brandon Artists Guild

Vermont Open Studio Tour Celebrates 31 years! The thirty – first year of Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend will be held during Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.– 5 pm. each day. Visitors will have the opportunity to plan a tour that brings them through the small towns of Vermont to studios where they can purchase beautiful fine art and crafted items and talk with the artist who made them.

As well as 11 Brandon Artists Guild Members in their studios, the Guild will be presenting artists' demos in the gallery throughout the weekend.

In their area studios-
Karen Deets – Stained Glass
Muffy Kashkin Grollier – Needle Felting
Brian Hewitt - Landscapes
Jennie Johannesen – Pastels/Birds
Robin Kent – Folk Art
Warren Kimble – Folk Art
Jill Listzwan – Whimsical Jewelry
Mike Mayone – Fine Art
Beth Murphy - Botanicals
Hallie Monroe – Vitreous Painted Glass
Carrie Pill – Oil Landscapes
Judith Reilly – Textile Art

Vermont Craft Council Open Studio Weekend

The Vermont Craft Council is once again sponsoring Open Studios, with over 155 participants. Included in Rutland City are Carolyn Shattuck, Carrie Pill, and Ann McFarren, with numbers 50, 51, & 52 on the map. Artists and Craftsmen across the state are opening their doors and inviting the public in to see them work. So, get the map, follow the big yellow signs and enjoy the tour!

Sunday 28th

Open Mic Poetry at Phoenix Books Rutland

Join us for an afternoon of poetry hosted by Phoenix Books Rutland's own Bianca Amira Zanella. Come to read, come to listen, or come for both!

Those interested in reading can sign up at the door.

Bianca Amira Zanella is a cis queer Vermont-based performance poet, artist, and advocate living on traditionally Abenaki land. She is the Poet-in-Residence at Phoenix Books Rutland, hosting an international monthly open mic. Her poems have most recently appeared in The Artful Mind, The Rutland Herald, The Mountain Troubadour, and The Reverie. Their poem films, sculptural poems, and poem paintings have also been on exhibit with PoemCity Montpelier, Merwin Gallery, Stone Valley Arts, SPACE: a Pop Up Art Gallery, and Surdam Gallery.

They received the Corrine Eastman Davis Memorial Award for their poem, "A prayer –before the soup– for the suicidal son" (2018). In 2019, Bianca acted as Wellness Coordinator for the Feminine Empowerment Movement Slam (FEMS) tournament based in Cambridge, MA, and founded "Infinite Lit: a night of spoken word poetry," co-producing the series alongside Moth storyteller Michael Kingsbury. She wishes to lift up her community via poetry.

In 2020, Bianca founded The Paper Poet, offering healing poetic experiences to anyone experiencing suffering, and continues to perform around the United States and globally, including reading for the American Club of Brussels and

competing at the Women of the World Poetry Slam in Dallas, TX. Bianca Amira attended the inaugural Ruth Stone House 2021 Next Galaxy Poetry Retreat, and as of 2022, Bianca will serve as the President of the Poetry Society of Vermont.

This event is free and open to all. Registration is requested. Please sign up on our website.

Audubon Cadwell Loop, Pittsford, Bird Walk – June 2



Meet at 7:00 a.m. on Elm St. Pittsford. The parking area is at the Cooley Covered bridge approximately one mile south on Elm St. from US 7 and Kamuda Market in Pittsford. Car pooling is encouraged as parking is limited. This will be a 3-mile bird walk open to all. Should see some birds along the rivers, warblers and other interesting wildlife. Contact us at birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for more information.

Tuesday 30th

Maclure Library Book Discussion

We will meet at 6 p.m. to discuss "People We Meet on Vacation" by Emily Henry.

Truly a community effort, Pittsford Village Farm builds an outdoor pavilion



Over a year ago, Maclure Library, Pittsford Village Farm and community members applied for a Better Places grant with the vision of building an outdoor space, accessible to all and protected from the sun and rain. The vision grew to include Vermont Department of Housing, Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Community Foundation and Patronicity for outside funding, PLUS community donations for an \$11,000 local match!

With funding in place, Casella Construction, Carrara Concrete and Gagnon Lumber donated labor and material.

To date, the pavilion is framed and roofed and is awaiting Casella to come Monday to pour the concrete! Within a week, we all should be able to use it!

Very special thanks go to Donna Wilson, Shelly Williams, Barb Lalancette and Josh Brittenman for all the organization and planning, and Terry White, Will Kimball, Casella Construction, Carrara Concrete and Gagnon Lumber for construction of this wonderful community asset!

Restaurant guide

Robert's
Café Provence
From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

Wednesday – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

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Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



Vermont Open Studio Tour celebrates 31 years

The thirty – first year of Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend will be held during Saturday and Sunday of May 27 & 28, from 10 – 5 each day. Visitors will have the opportunity to plan a tour that brings them through the small towns of Vermont to studios where they can purchase beautiful fine art and crafted items and talk with the artist who made them.

As well as 11 Brandon Artists Guild Members in their studios, the Guild will be presenting artists' demos in the gallery throughout the weekend.

- In their area studios-
- Karen Deets – Stained Glass
 - Muffy Kashkin Grollier – Needle Felting
 - Brian Hewitt - Landscapes
 - Jennie Johannesen – Pastels/ Birds
 - Robin Kent – Folk Art
 - Warren Kimble – Folk Art
 - Jill Listzwan – Whimsical



- Jewelry
 - Mike Mayone – Fine Art
 - Beth Murphy - Botanicals
 - Hallie Monroe – Vitreous Painted Glass
 - Carrie Pill – Oil Landscapes
 - Judith Reilly – Textile Art
 - Local Brandon Artists right in the village
 - Joan Curtis – Mixed Media
 - Medana Gabbard – Folk Art
 - Nancy Jewett – Rug Hooking
 - Caleb Kenna - Photography
- For Studio locations and Loop Tour directions, see Maps available at the Brandon Artist Guild or go to <https://www.vermontcrafts.com/visit-open-studio/>

 **SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**
news@brandonreporter.com



CHURCH Directory

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church Sunday 10 a.m. 19 Conant Square, Brandon</p> <p>Brandon Congregational Church Sunday 10 a.m. 1 Carver Street, Brandon</p> <p>Brandon United Methodist Church Sunday 11:15 a.m. 1 Franklin Street, Brandon</p> <p>Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's) Catholic Church Saturday 4 p.m., & Sunday 11 a.m. 38 Carver Street, Brandon</p> <p>Brandon Baptist Church Sunday 11 a.m. 13 Champlain Street, Brandon</p> <p>One Church Brandon Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m. 97 Frog Hollow Road, Brandon, VT</p> <p>St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Sunday 9 a.m. 2918 US 7, Pittsford</p> | <p>Living Water Assembly of God Sunday 11 a.m. via Facebook Live 76 North Street, Brandon</p> <p>Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1895 Forest Dale Rd, Brandon</p> <p>Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church Sunday 9 a.m. 3325 US Route 7, Pittsford</p> <p>Pittsford Congregational Church Sunday 10:15 a.m. 121 Village Green, Pittsford</p> <p>Church of Wildwood Sunday 11 a.m. 347 Holden Road, Chittenden</p> <p>Union Church of Proctor Sunday 10 a.m. 5 Church Street, Proctor</p> <p>St. Dominic Catholic Church Sunday 9 a.m. Feb, Apr, Aug 45 South Street, Proctor</p> | <p>St. Paul Lutheran Church Sunday 9 a.m. 5 Gibbs Street, Proctor</p> <p>St. Bridget/St. Dominic/St. Stanislaus Kostka Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses rotate monthly between the West Rutland/Proctor Parishes. 2023 February - St. Dominic; March - St. Stanislaus-Kostka; - April - St. Dominic; May - St. Bridget; June - St. Stanislaus; July - St. Bridget; August-St. Dominic</p> |
|--|---|---|

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Mim's Photos

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



Recognized



Michael Dwyer recognizes these Otter Valley teachers, circa 1986, from left to right as Josephine Chapla (the librarian), Rita Rinehart (a Middle School teacher), Lindra Moerdyk (an English teacher), Harriet Szanto (a Middle School English teacher), Dan Moerdyk (an English teacher), and Jane Sarno (an English teacher and later Curriculum Coordinator for Rutland Northeast).

Bonnie Robinson also emailed in recognizing some teachers in the Otter Valley photo printed on May 17th of the Reporter. OV Teachers: Jo Chapla (PE), Rita Rhinehart (History), Lynda Moerdyk (Bonnie believes Lynda taught Math), Harriet Szantos (English) & Jane Sarno (English).

Terry Ferson also called to identify 2 people in the photo of 6 people. The lady second from the left is Rita Rinehart, a long-time teacher at Otter Valley. She also was the 1967 senior class advisor. Terry remembers her as being one of the nicest and most genuine people he ever met. The lady third from the right is Jane Sarno, also a long-time teacher at Otter Valley.



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

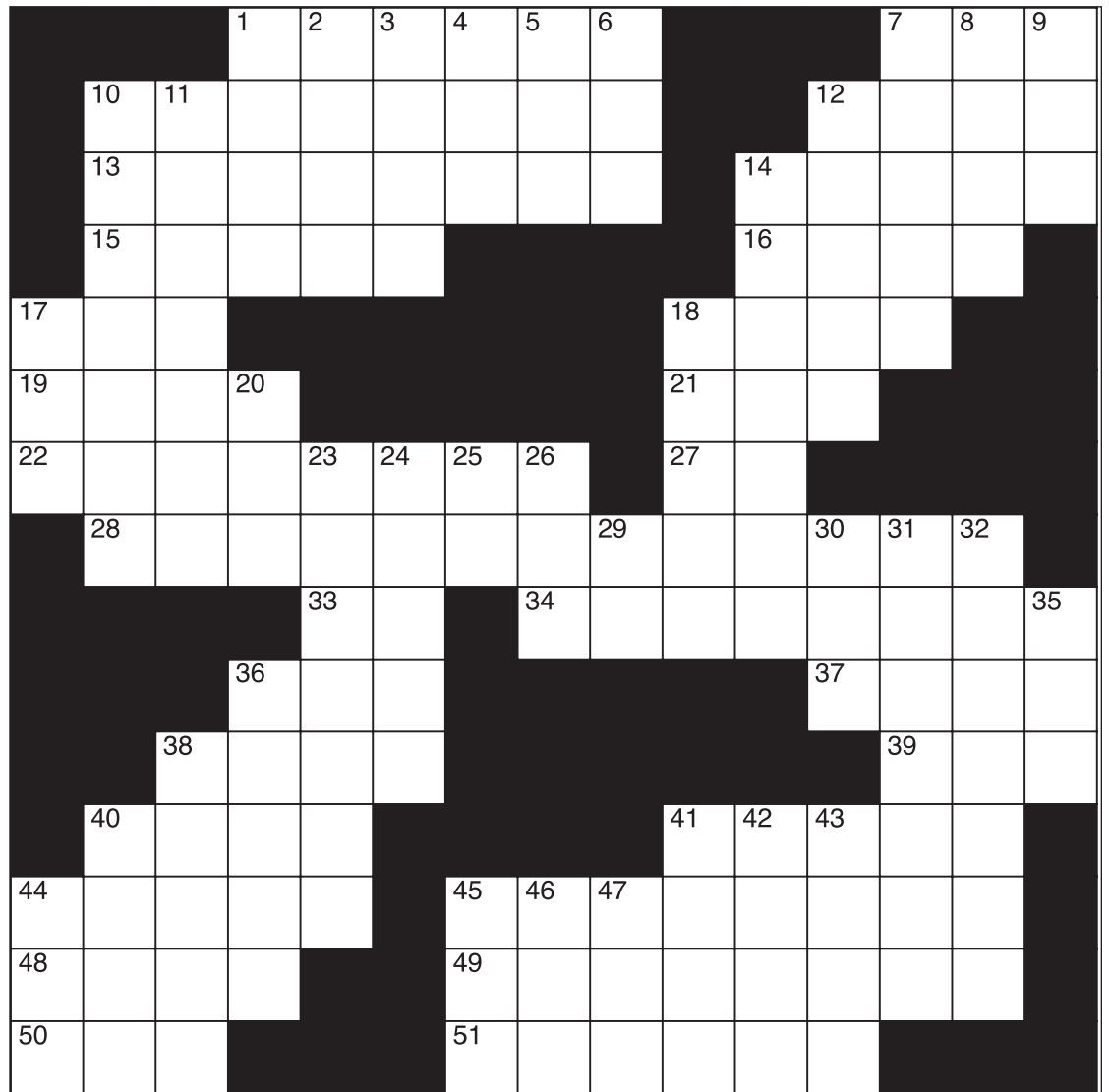
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Wear away by friction
7. Insecticide
10. Elicited a secret vote
12. Beef
13. Disagreement
14. ___ Crawford, supermodel
15. Jeweled headdress
16. Digits
17. Trillion hertz
18. Snap up
19. Classical portico
21. Residue after burning
22. Large integers
27. Free agent
28. Where ballplayers work
33. Blood type
34. Scottish city
36. Google certification (abbr.)
37. Serbian monetary unit
38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
39. Wood or metal bolt
40. Relaxing attire
41. Famed neurologist
44. Dullish brown fabrics
45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
48. Griffith, Rooney
49. Lawmakers
50. Government lawyers
51. The arch of the foot

CLUES DOWN

1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
2. Britpop rockers
3. National capital
4. Consumed
5. The habitat of wild animals
6. Sun up in New York
7. Cygnus star
8. Male parents
9. Talk to you (abbr.)
10. A place to clean oneself
11. Southwestern US state
12. South Korean idol singer
14. Pirate
17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
18. Mistake
20. Promotions
23. Prepares
24. Partner to flowed
25. State lawyer
26. Patti Hearst's captors
29. Pound
30. Electronic data processing
31. Sports player
32. Treats with contempt
35. Apprehend
36. Excessively talkative
38. Highways
40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
41. College organization for males
42. Any customary observance or practice
43. Employee stock ownership plan
44. Male parent
45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
46. Female bird
47. Autonomic nervous system

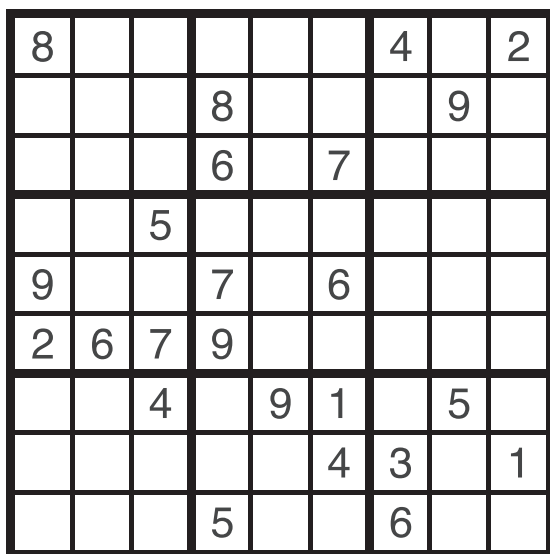


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Sudoku

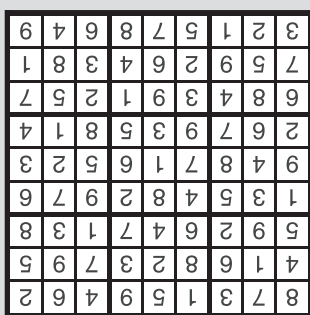
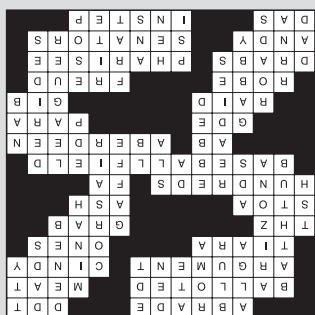
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

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



RCHS Duck Derby - Adopt a (Plastic) Duck or Two!

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) wants to let you know that the ducks are in training and are hoping to beat last year's record of 3,459 ducks! In the fall we will hold our Annual Duck Derby at Pittsford Recreation Area. "Adopted" plastic ducks will be launched into the stream in a race to the finish to raise money for homeless animals! The first 4 ducks to reach the finish line win cash prizes. There will also be a prize for the last duck! You can adopt a single duck for \$3, a Quack 4-Pack (4 ducks) for \$10 or a Quack 6-pack (6 ducks) for \$15. To adopt a duck (or more!) stop by the RCHS shelter in Pittsford or adopt ducks online from our website, www.rchsvt.org. For more information contact the RCHS Business Office at 483-9171.

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



MEET BELLA -

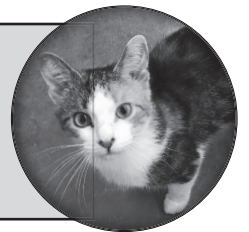
3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. SHEPHERD/BASSETT HOUND MIX. BROWN AND BLACK.

Are you looking for a pup who is not only sweet but who will turn heads because of how adorable they are? Well, Bella is just that. This cutie has the face of a Shepherd, but the height of a Basset Hound. She loves everyone and has a happy-go-lucky personality.

MEET MARTHA -

19-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. CALICO/WHITE

This little lady may be only 9 months old, but she is confident that she can take on the world. She loves to be the center of attention, so much so that she races other cats to make sure she is the first to greet you. She can be a little pushy with certain cats, but she has a typical calico personality.



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OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



The following are Large Print books recently donated by Brenda Whitaker.

The Lie Maker by Linwood Barclay, donated in memory of Tom P. Whittaker

Your dad's not a good person. Your dad killed people, son. These are some of the last words Jack Givins's father spoke to him before he was whisked away by witness protection, leaving Jack and his mother to pick up the shattered pieces of their lives as best they could. Years later, Jack is a talented but struggling author, barely scraping by on the royalties from his moderately successful first book. So, when the U.S. Marshals approach him with a lucrative opportunity, he's in no position to turn them down. They're recruiting writers like Jack to create false histories for people in witness protection—people like Jack's father. Jack realizes this may be a chance to find his dad. Only there's one problem: Jack's father hasn't made contact with his handlers recently, and they have no idea where he is. He could be in serious danger, and Jack may be the only one

who can find him.

The Loner by Diana Palmer, donated in memory of Zula B. Sawyer

Tanner Everett spends most of his time jet-setting around the world. But that hasn't stopped innocent Stasia Bolton, the daughter of a neighboring rancher, from falling head over heels for the jet-setting playboy. When Stasia's father passes away, he stipulates that the only way for Stasia to keep the ranch, which is mortgaged to the hilt, is for her to marry and stay married to Tanner for a year—otherwise it will be sold to amusement park developers. Stasia is secretly thrilled as it means Tanner will be hers for good. Despite his globetrotting ways, Tanner can't help but be enthralled by the quiet girl next door. But as the embers between the two are fanned into flames, Tanner wonders if he's found his forever in the last place he ever expected.

All the Days of Summer by Nancy Thayer, donated in memory of Francis Brown-Close

Heather Willette has a good life in Concord, Massachusetts—complete with a husband who runs his own business and a son to take

up his mantle one day. But her marriage has fizzled out and Ross, her only child, is graduating from college and getting serious with his girlfriend. Ready to seek out her own happiness and discover herself again, Heather decides to leave her husband and rent a cottage on Nantucket. All is going perfectly—until Ross announces he's moving to Nantucket to work at his girlfriend Kailee's family business instead of going back home to work with his own father as he'd promised. Worst of all for Heather, this means having to get along with his girlfriend, Kailee. Kailee is thrilled that Ross is willing to move to her hometown. She has big hopes for their happily ever after, especially now that her parents are finally showing interest in her career. She's less thrilled, however, about his mother living nearby. Kailee has clashed with Heather since the day they met. But anything is possible in the summer sun and sea breezes of Nantucket—even reconciliation. And when change comes sooner than either Heather or Kailee expect, they must learn to overcome their differences to fight for the future they want.

High speed chase ends in arrest for wanted woman

May 15

• Brandon Police Department (BPD) received multiple reports of cows blocking the roadway on Town Farm Road throughout the morning. When officers arrived, there were no cows in the road.

• A complaint was made after the fact to the Brandon Police Department concerning some damage to the complainant's vehicle. The owner of the vehicle, who resides in Pittsford, was not sure where the damage occurred, but believed that it may have happened while she was at work at the Otter Valley Union High School in Brandon. Damage documented for insurance purposes.

• An out-of-state Trust Company called BPD requesting a welfare check on the son of one of their clients who lives in Brandon. The son had made worrisome comments to family members living out of state indicating that he wanted to harm himself. The responding officer made contact with the son, who indicated that he was fine and did not want to harm himself.

• An officer conducted a motor vehicle stop in Conant Square for a license plate cover which obscured the car's registration, defective equipment, and having an obstructed windshield. It was subsequently determined that the operator, Stefanie Hill (44), of Rutland City (VT), was operating the vehicle without an ignition interlock device while having an ignition interlock restricted driver's license. The operator was placed under arrest for Driving Without an Ignition Interlock Device on A Restricted Driver's License. Ms. Hill was issued also issued a ticket for the equipment violation and released with a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court-Criminal Division on July 17, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. for arraignment.

• BPD attempted to stop a motor vehicle on Grove Street for speeding. The operator did not yield to the emergency blue lights and siren and drove into the town of Leicester, where the vehicle finally pulled over. The operator was subsequently issue tickets for having an unregistered motor vehicle, operating with a civilly suspended license, failure to obey an officer, and speeding.

May 16

• A property watch was conducted at Mallory's Automotive on Forest Dale Road.

• BPD conducted foot patrol on Center Street.

• A resident of Forest Dale Road called BPD to report that he received a telephone call from a

Brandon Police Report

male who stated that he was from Publisher's Clearing House and that the resident had won the lottery and a new car. The resident was advised that this was an ongoing scam and not to engage with the male should he call back.

• Burlington PD requested assistance from Brandon PD in serving a subpoena to a resident of Newton Road in Brandon. However, it was determined that the subject of the subpoena had not lived at that location for months and his current location was unknown.

• An alarm was activated at Neshobe Family Care on Court Drive but it was immediately determined to be an accidental alarm caused by an employee. No police response was necessary.

• A motor-vehicle stop was conducted on a car at the intersection of Town Farm Road and Forest Dale Road for having a rear license plate covered with a tinted piece of plastic. The operator, John Adams Jr., (30), of Rutland City (VT), was discovered to have an active arrest warrant for failure to appear in court out of Rutland County. Adams was subsequently taken into custody and transported to the Marble Valley Correctional Facility for lodging. Adams was also issued a ticket for his rear license plate violation.

• BPD assisted Brandon Fire Dept. by maintaining scene security and diverting traffic at the scene of a structure fire on Carver Street.

May 17

• BPD received a report of a domestic disturbance in the area of Park Village. No crime was committed. However, the caller was referred to resources that could help them relocate and to address the volatile relationship she was in.

• Brandon Police responded to the Heritage Family Credit Union on Franklin Street for a report of a woman trying to cash a fraudulent check at the drive-thru window. When the officer arrived on scene, he attempted to pull the vehicle over to conduct an investigatory stop, at which point the female suspect fled in a black SUV with a concealed rear license plate. A high-speed pursuit ensued from Brandon into the towns of Leicester, Salisbury, and finally Middlebury. Because
(See Police report, Page 19)

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

SPRING

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 27th from 9am - 1pm

The Brandon Library community volunteers will be holding a plant sale in Central Park to benefit the renovation project. We are collaborating with the Congregational Church who is holding a plant sale to benefit Elaine Averill medical fund. There will be lots of unique and fun plants available for your gardens at these sales Saturday!



DID YOU KNOW?

TAG (our Teen Advisory Group) is coming up June 2nd! Great for ages 11-16 to hang out and eat pizza. RSVP to info@brandonpubliclibrary.org



Open at the Town Hall

Tuesday 10 am-7 pm
Wednesday 10 am-7 pm
Thursday 10 am-6 pm
Friday 10 am-6 pm
Saturday 10 am-4 pm

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18) the suspect driver was driving at speeds well over 100 miles per hour, was swerving in and out of oncoming traffic, and was generally endangering the public with her reckless driving, the officer discontinued the pursuit. A short time after the pursuit was terminated, it was reported that the operator of the vehicle crashed in Middlebury near the Addison County Transfer Station on Route 7. The operator was apprehended at the scene by Middlebury Police and the Addison County Sheriff's Department, and it was later determined that the vehicle that she had been operating was stolen in the state of Maine. The driver was taken to the hospital to be medically cleared and then brought back to the Brandon Police Department for processing. During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that the driver of the stolen car, later identified as Tayva Murphy (21) (residence unknown), had an outstanding, non-extraditable warrant out of the state of Wisconsin for multiple crimes. The stolen vehicle was later searched and a significant number of stolen items were found inside that were from thefts from all over Vermont and outside of the state as well. As a result of the incident, Ms. Murphy was lodged at the Marble Valley Correctional Center in Rutland (VT) on

\$250,000 cash bail. Ms. Murphy is due in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on May 18, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. for arraignment on the charges of False Personation, Identity Theft, False Pretense or Token, Forgery, Uttering a Forged Instrument, Excessive Speed, Eluding A Police Officer While Operating In a Grossly Negligent Manner, and Aggravated Operating Without Consent Of Owner. The suspect was also cited to appear in the Addison County Superior Court-Criminal Division for 17 counts of Possession of Stolen Property and is due to be arraigned on May 22, 2023.

- Brandon Police responded to a residence for a report of a suicidal male holding a knife to his neck. The responding officer was able to de-escalate the situation and convinced the male to drop the knife. The individual was later transported to the Rutland Regional Medical Center for a voluntary mental-health screening.
- BPD received a walk-in complaint of a late-reported hit-and-run motor-vehicle accident in the parking lot of Hannaford Supermarket. Upon further investigation, it was determined that no hit-and-run crash had occurred.
- A woman called to report that a suspicious vehicle was parked in her driveway on Grove Street. It was later determined that the car had broken down on the side

of the roadway and the driver had called a friend to loan a trailer so that the car could be removed from the driveway.

- BPD received a report containing information that would assist the Vermont State Police with an ongoing juvenile investigation. The caller was referred to the appropriate agency.
- A report was received regarding acts of vandalism near the Brandon House of Pizza. The incident is under investigation.
- Concerned citizens called BPD to request a welfare check on a possibly suicidal male. It was later discovered that the male was undergoing a mental health evaluation at the hospital and was safe.

May 18

- No reported police activity

May 19

- A welfare check on two children was requested by a concerned citizen. The responding officers spoke with the children's parent and determined that they were fine and in good health.
- BPD responded to a citizen dispute between two neighbors on Champlain Street. All of the parties were advised to cease and desist from further contact.
- A complaint was received about a parking violation on Center Street but no violation was (See Police report, Page 19)

observed by the responding officers.

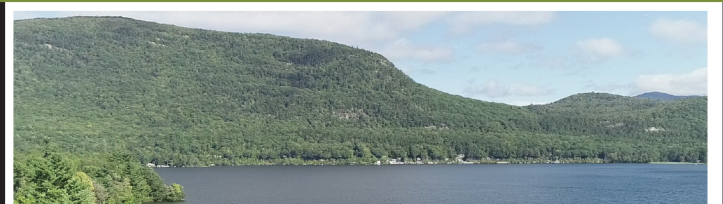
- Foot patrol was conducted on Center Street.
- A woman called BPD to report a man in a car in the parking lot adjacent to her apartment on Conant Square was staring at her through her window.
- BPD received an anonymous call advising of drug activity occurring in an apartment in Brandon.
- Property watch conducted at a business on Union Street. The premises were determined to be secure.
- BPD responded to an untimely death at a residence on Richmond Road. The incident was investigated in conjunction with

the Vermont Medical Examiner's Office and the cause of death appeared to be natural.

- BPD received a report of suspicious activity on Brookdale Street. Investigation underway.
- Officers assisted a motorist with a disabled vehicle at the intersection of Arnold District Road and Grove Street.
- BPD received reports of a suspicious vehicle on Town Farm Road. Officers spoke with citizens and no suspicious activity was observed.
- BPD responded to reports of domestic disturbance on Furnace Road. No crimes were found to have occurred. Officers left the residence without incident.

REAL ESTATE

Sunset Hill Condo



DUNMORE CONDO: A Sunset Hill condo excel views of Moosalamoo & Dunmore. Summer living on a great lake: swimming, paddle boarding, fishing, kayaking, boating, biking & hiking/mountain biking trails. Delightful camp for Summer living. Being sold mostly furnished. Open living/dining area - vaulted ceilings, remodeled kit. w/new stove & refrigerator. Shower Bath newly remodeled. Propane parlor stove. 2 BRs, a wonderful screened porch complete s 444 square feet of living space. Wood & carpet flooring. Storage Shed. About 15 min. Brandon or Middlebury. A restaurant and general store are also close by. The HOA fee is about \$2,000 per year. The cottage is part of Sunset Hill Condominium Association, a seasonal association that includes a great sandy beach and lake side patio and a playground area. **\$230,000.**



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Now is the time to re-start a restaurant that includes all the kitchen equipment, dining furniture, and much of the stylish decor. Features an inviting main dining room with a massive central hearth and a comfortable separate dining area to the back. There's enough space for large functions, and there's also a semi-private area for family sized groups. The property also includes a 1,300 sq.ft. home. Great exposure at this Route 7 location. **\$210,000.**



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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



need to exert greater control and discipline.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

There's a fresh cosmic wind blowing your sails, Leo. This gives you all the energy you need to tackle projects or get moving in other ways. Embrace all of this energy.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Your romantic life is about to get even more exciting, Virgo. Date nights are happening with greater frequency and you're likely to enjoy all of the extra attention.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You'll likely feel more at ease having a big group of people around you during the next few days rather than heading out alone. Put away that lone wolf mentality for now.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Ambitious career goals could have you reevaluating all of the choices you have made thus far, Scorpio. It might be time to venture off on new paths once you figure out the way.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, the call of the wild is quite strong right now. This means you might be right at home on a hiking trip or a rafting trip. Make your plans and bring a friend.

ARIES March 21-April 20

Being more selective can enhance your life in many different ways, Aries. You often are judged by the company you keep, so think about that when starting new relationships.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Set up camp on the sofa for the next few days, Taurus. Enjoy the rest and relaxation. You don't have to be productive every minute of the day so don't feel guilty about your R&R.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Some interesting information could be coming your way, Gemini. You just need to keep your ear to the ground and open to receive it. Others may want to get in on the news.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, this week you may find it easier to cut out superfluous spending or extravagant behavior than at other times. You may

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, rather than being light-hearted, conversations could take a turn to the more serious, especially as they pertain to a health condition for someone you love.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, don't try to take on too many things yourself. You need to know when to ask for help this week, especially as your schedule gets even more filled up.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

This is the perfect time to get more organized, Pisces. Try to fit in time to sort and clean among all the other things on your itinerary.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- May 25 Sir Ian McKellen, actor (84)
- May 26 Miles Davis, jazz musician (d)
- May 27 Donna Strickland, physicist, Nobel-laureate (64)
- May 28 Jim Thorpe, athlete (d)
- May 29 Melissa Etheridge, singer-songwriter (62)
- May 30 Countee Cullen, poet (d)
- May 31 Walt Whitman, poet (d)

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They can dance if they want to!

BRANDON REC DANCERS took the stage at Otter Valley on May 20 for their 2nd annual recital "Name that show!" The recital included songs such as "Vidiots" from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "A Whole New World" from "Aladdin," "We're Not Gonna Take It/We Built This City" from Rock of Ages, "Dancing Queen" from Mamma Mia, and more. These selections were all from famous musicals with coordinated costumes. Styles consisted of ballet, tap, hip hop, lyrical, and

musical theater for the final number "The Greatest Show." Students have been working on these styles with weekly classes since September with the help of Ms. Michaela and her team of student teachers. The program has Ms. Newell and her staff of students teachers and helpers. Thanks to Pajua Gamba, Sophie Moore, Jordan Bertrand, Elyse Singh, Calvin Ladd, and Kaylee Maloy, who assisted with classes as well. GREAT JOB to everyone involved!

Devil's Bowl

(Continued from Page 9)

seventh, and second for 10 points (1, 7, 2). John Smith was third overall with 13 points (5, 5, 3), ahead of Chayton Young with 14 points (6, 2, 6) and Kevin Smith with 15 points (2, 6, 7). In addi-

tion to LaDuc and Denis winning segments, rookie John Carleton took his first checkered flag in the middle round.

The rough-and-tumble Mini Stock division saw an old name return to the track for the first time in five years, and that name ended up at the top of the heap, as Jason Porter made the long haul from Freeport, Maine, to the winner's circle. Porter, driving a car borrowed from Bear Ridge Speedway champion Logan Martin, started 14th and threaded his way through traffic before taking the lead from Craig Kirby and grabbing his first win at Devil's Bowl since 2018.

Former champions Kirby and Chris Conroy finished second and third, respectively, followed by Cody Dion and Airborne Speedway regular Ryan Senecal. Levi Cram was sixth, followed by Austin McKirryher, rookie Ryan Patch, Griff Mahoney, and Jake Barrows. Heats were won by Brian Blake, Conroy, and Adam Mahoney. The "B" feature was won by Jakabee Alger, who escaped from a wild, multi-car crash on the first lap.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
RUTLAND UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 23-PR-01341
IN RE ESTATE OF:
DAVID ST. GERMAIN**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: David St. Germain, late of Pittsford, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: May 16, 2023

Executor: Lisa St. Germain
c/o Costello, Valente & Gentry
PO Box 483
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0483
nichols@cvglawoffice.com
802-257-5533

Publication: Brandon Reporter
Publication Date: 05/24/23
Address of Probate Court:
Rutland Unit, Probate Court
83 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701

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OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) provides email notifications of all planned spraying to control adult mosquitoes. Those notifications are sent no later than six (6) hours in advance and include the spray route(s) to be treated and the pesticide(s) to be used. In addition, notification will be provided at least monthly regarding the anticipated schedule of trapping and treatment for all towns in the district to alert residents to be aware of potential notification of spraying. The OCW's published spray routes can be viewed at: <https://ocwcd.com/route-maps/>. To subscribe to the spraying notification email list, please send a request to: ocwcd@gmail.com. Please include your name, E-911 physical street address, and town in your request. Requests for inclusion on more than one email notification list will be accommodated.

Further information can be obtained from:
Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or
Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwcd@gmail.com
<https://ocwcd.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW spraying operations should be addressed to:
Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
(802) 522-6973
Steve.Dwinell@vermont.gov



A sleight of hand, a trick of the eye

THE SETTING SUN illuminated the trees behind Park Street in Brandon, creating the illusion of autumn in the middle of spring.
Photo by Susan Johnson

Tough conversations

(Continued from Page 4)

working hard on the problem and also that there's no easy answer. Legislatures across the country are scrambling to implement programs, hoping that someone will hit upon the magic formula that will reverse this rapid decline in the workforce.

One issue that was mentioned by everyone we spoke with is immigration. Though Vermont has seen a net increase in population over the last several years—COVID and climate refugees have been flocking to the state—the gains have been concentrated in the Burlington area, leaving the rest of the state to age and depopulate, as is the case in many other rural parts of the U.S. We need lure people to those other areas from elsewhere, whether that be from another state or another country.

And yet, for reasons both political and practical, that's no easy task.

Several years ago, an attempt was made to welcome Syrian refugees to Rutland City. Depending on whom you ask, you'll hear a different explanation for why the program failed. Perhaps it was xenophobia. Per-

haps it was administrative incompetence. Anyone who was here at the time will recall that it was a contentious issue that likely cost then-Rutland Mayor Christopher Louras his bid for a sixth term. But things are different now, in our post-pandemic world. Maybe people are ready to face the reality that without an influx of new residents, Vermont may well feel unlivable in 10 years, when there's not enough people to provide even the most basic services we rely on.

But the practical obstacle to immigration is housing. Where are new residents supposed to live when even those of us already here are having an incredibly tough time finding homes we can afford? All over the state, attempts are being made to build housing. We have an article in this week's issue on the proposed affordable-housing complex in West Rutland, for example. But these projects, though necessary, are expensive and often get mired in bureaucracy. Construction costs are so high now that developers don't want to waste their energy on lower-end projects. And in many places in Vermont, zoning laws prohibit

the most cost-effective housing: apartments.

Then, we need to relax our zoning regulations. But then we run up against environmental concerns. Increased density means increased burdens on our natural resources and increased pollution. Vermont has long protected its environment from the sort of development you might see in suburban Boston. No one wants to compromise the health of our environment or lose what makes Vermont special. But passing development-friendly policy in Vermont is a Sisyphean task that must necessarily be made easier if Vermont is going to thrive in the long run.

And so it goes...each fix requires a slate of different, prior fixes to succeed.

However, apathy is not an option. What's happening at RAS, and elsewhere in the state, will only get worse if we don't find a way to increase our workforce. We need to start having tough conversations about what we're willing to do, or we will end up having discussions about what we've lost.

Steven Jupiter

Housing project

(Continued from Page 3)

There is a stormwater intake in front of the site on Main Street that empties into a gully on private property behind the site. Mr. Griffin assured the room that computer modeling had been done to determine that the site could withstand a 100-year flood event.

Griffin also pointed out that the location on a heavily trafficked bend in the road made placement of the driveway tricky. The site is at the junction of Route 4A, Main Street, and Route 133, with a large shopping center and gas station just to the east. The engineers decided to place the driveway as far west on the site as possible, to avoid forcing residents to exit the complex into the heaviest traffic flow. No matter where the driveway is sited, however, it will be difficult for residents to see oncoming traffic as cars round the bend.

Jean Terwilliger and Nick Wood of VIA then presented the proposed design for the complex, with Ms. Terwilliger stating that VIA focuses on “projects that improve people’s lives.” VIA is also the firm that designed the upcoming renovation of the Brandon Free Public Library.

Though the architects said they sought inspiration in some of the Victorian-era buildings in the downtown area of West Rutland, the design they presented was spare and unornamented: a three-story gable-roofed structure with a three-story flat-roofed wing. The gabled element harkens back to classic New England architecture, but for the most part the design is resolutely modern.

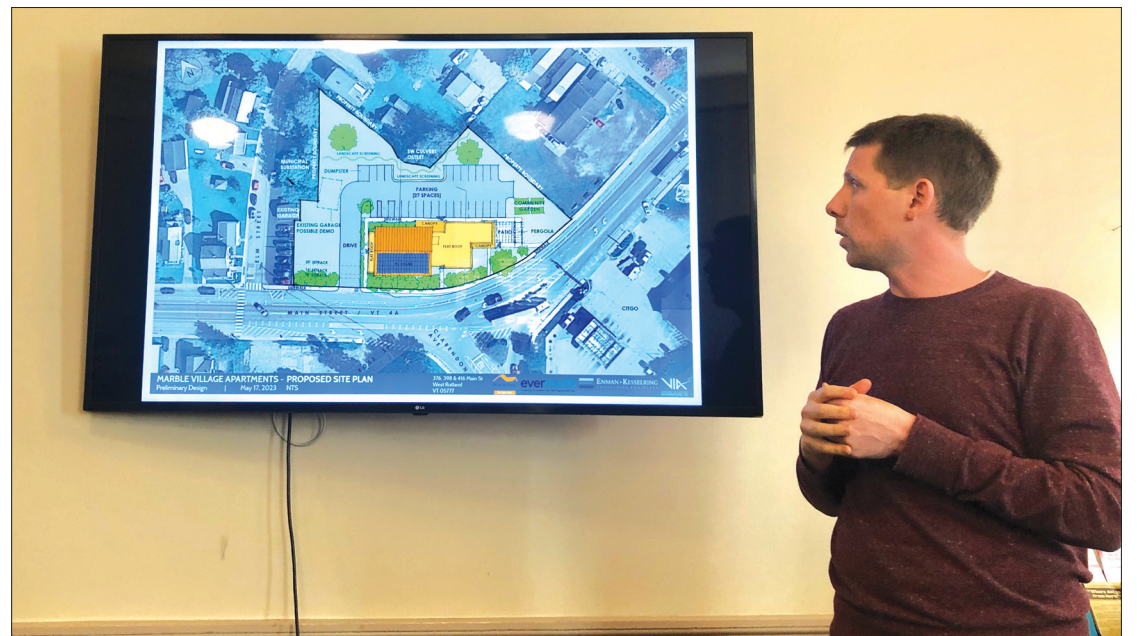
The gabled structure will contain the one-bedroom units while the flat-roofed wing will

contain the two-bedroom apartments, storage, and a common lounge. The gabled roof will also bear solar panels. In fact, the entire building will be constructed to meet or exceed energy standards, with an “energy efficient envelope,” as Ms. Terwilliger put it.

Seemingly to the chagrin of the entire team of developers, the proposed design met with almost universal disapproval in the room. One attendee said flat-out that “it doesn’t look good.” Another stated that “it doesn’t mesh with the town.” The architects and Mr. Moore reassured attendees that the design was “still in progress” and that the landscaping would soften the severity of the architects’ rendering.

Mr. Moore also reminded the room that construction costs have skyrocketed over the last several years. Materials and design elements that were once within reach are now out of budget. Even with a minimalist design, HTRC estimates the total cost of the project to be \$11.5 million, none of which will be borne by the taxpayers of West Rutland. The project will be funded through private financing and grants. HTRC will also pay property tax on the complex. Ms. Goulette stated that the town assessor gave a preliminary Grand List assessment of roughly \$900,000 for the finished development.

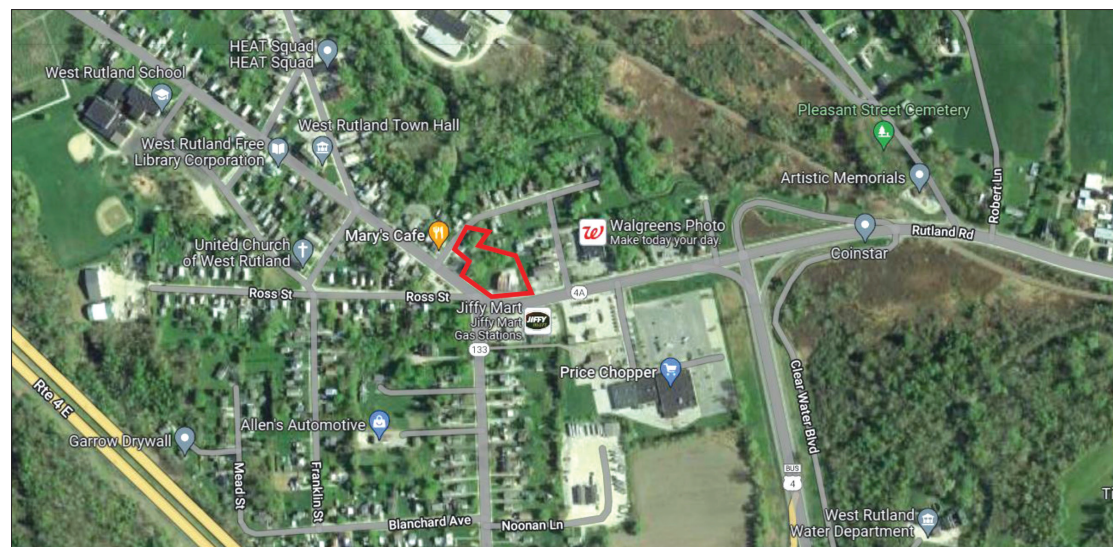
During the Q & A portion of the presentation, it became clear that most in attendance had not been won over. There were concerns about the presence of such a large building at that location, the impact on traffic, the extra burden on town water and sewer, the quality of potential tenants, and the creation of excess storm runoff by the paving of the park-



PAT GRIFFIN OF the engineering firm Enman-Kesselring of Rutland discusses the physical challenges of the proposed site.
Photo by Steven Jupiter



NICK WOOD OF Vermont Integrated Architecture of Middlebury shared his firm’s proposed design with the packed room.
Photo by Steven Jupiter



THE PROPOSED SITE (in red) will comprise three individual parcels in West Rutland, at the busy intersection of Route 4A, Route 133, and Main Street.

ing lot.

The development team and town officers answered the questions with aplomb, as if they’d anticipated the pushback. State Representative Thomas Burditt

was also in attendance and offered praise for HTRC and its properties: “I’m 110% behind this project. The Housing Trust is nothing but a class act.”

“Although many residents may not have the same vision, the Town has been working toward this,” said Mary Cohen in a subsequent email. Ms. Cohen was referring to the numerous steps that West Rutland has taken to facilitate the project, including changing the zoning laws and extending the Village Center to include the proposed building site, thereby allowing HTRC to sidestep the lengthy and expensive Act 250 review process.

HTRC maintains over 40 low-income rental properties throughout Rutland County, including three in West Rutland and four in Brandon. Unlike the proposal now under considerations, most of HTRC’s properties are rehabbed structures or single-family homes that have

been converted to multifamily.

“The Stanislaus School in West Rutland is a good example of our work,” wrote Cohen, referring to a converted 1920s school in West Rutland. During the meeting, attendees praised HTRC for its meticulous upkeep of this particular property.

As the COVID-era hotel-housing programs come to an end on July 1st, HTRC anticipates an increased need for housing.

“The market study for this project has indicated that there is an unmet need through 2023 of 3,069 units of affordable housing,” wrote Cohen. “These 24 are a drop in the bucket of meeting that need but we are developing as fast as we can.”

As the meeting concluded, it seemed that the town was prepared to issue the needed permits and that the project would move forward, though perhaps with a revised design that would meet with broader approval from town residents.

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