

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 35

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

\$1



## ORWELL ARTISTS

Orwell Artists Group making a name for itself with its first Orwell Art Festival.

PG. 2



## SECRET GARDEN

'Guerilla Gardeners' take on Neshobe School and hope to expand.

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## THEATER REVIEW

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theater stages 'The Fantasticks' in West Rutland.

PG. 21



## NEW FEATURE

New Weekly Feature! Brandon Brain Buster, a brain teaser to test your synapses and keep your brain sharp.

PG. 8

## TIME IS TOO SHORT

Dave Praamsma laments the short, short, short Vermont summer (the leaves are already turning and it's not even September!)

PG. 7



1973 OV GRADS attending the reunion on Saturday pictured here are: Front left to right: Carmen Quesnel Cram, Charlene Gallipo Bryant, Karen Stanton, Jeanne Terwilliger LaRock, Melanie Pond Greeno, Valarie Pond Stewart, Deb Slater Miner, Bob Read, Ed Solomon. Middle: Debbie Kimball Roberts, Cathy Kallen Lajoice, Rick Roberts, Claire LaPorte Pate, Rodney Luther, Jean Bertrand, Paula Sanders Flannery, Wayne Rowe, George Fjeld, Charlie McMaster. Back: Judy Platt Kilpeck, Bernie Cram, Ray Reed, Shane Thornton, Dave Johnson, Mike Carr, Gary Rowe and Jerry Foley. (missing: Becky Ryan)  
Photo by Carol Fjeld

## Otter Valley 50th Reunion, class of '73 going strong

BY GEORGE FJELD AND DEB MINER

GOSHEN—The legendary Otter Valley Class of 1973 celebrated its 50th reunion this past weekend at Camp Thorpe in Goshen. This independent and

adventurous class was the first to receive permission to leave the comforts of the Otter Valley gym and travel to the Bardwell

Hotel for their Junior Prom in 1972 (charging \$8.00 per couple for dinner and music!). Now

they've held a class reunion every five years, starting with their 10th year. Spearheaded by dedicated organizers Deb Miner, Claire Pate, Melanie Greeno, and Charlene Bryant, there was breakfast, lunch, and dinner

from Friday evening to Sunday noon, highlighted by a prime rib dinner catered by Tracy and Harriet Wyman!

Arriving on Friday afternoon, classmates gathered to chat, (See *OV Reunion*, Page 20)

## Brandon SB talks minutes, green energy, and mosquitos

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard met for its regular session on Monday evening. After the usual opening business of approving the previous meeting's minutes, Town Manager Seth Hopkins presented highlights from his submitted report. The full report is available in the August 28 Selectboard packet on the town website.

According to Mr. Hopkins, (See *Brandon SB*, Page 4)

## Liza Myers returns to Sudbury and the Brandon Artists Guild

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Liza Myers loves to paint birds. She comes from a family of ornithologists and was once on the board of the Vermont Audubon Society, so her artistic interest in them should come as no surprise. And, just like these migratory creatures, she has found her way home.

"It feels good to be back," she said.

Myers and her husband, Jim, had been in New Mexico for eight years, caring for Myers's ailing uncle on top of some of her own recent health challenges. A founding member of the Brandon Artists Guild (BAG), a longtime resident of Sudbury, and a fixture as the art teacher at Lothrop



LIZA MYERS

Elementary, Myers has returned to a community where she has deep ties and enduring friendships.

As if any proof were needed, she was enthusiastically greeted by three different couples who happened to stroll by as she sat outside

the BAG on a recent Sunday morning. Having moved to Sudbury with Jim in 1988 and taught art at Lothrop for 19 years, she's known this community for decades and it was happy to have her back.

(See *Liza Myers*, Page 3)

# Orwell Artists Group makes itself known

BY STEVEN JUPITER

ORWELL—Between Route 30 and Lake Champlain lie a string of small, rural communities full of farms and artists. And sometimes they're one in the same.

Take Cindy Watrous of Say Wat Farm in Orwell. She tends a flock of 50 sheep, whose yarn she shears, cards, dyes, and turns into beautiful felted-wool "paintings." Watrous is just one of the artists who came out on Saturday for the first Orwell Art Fair on the green in Orwell village.

The show was put on by the Orwell Artists Group, an informal collective of artists living and practicing in Orwell and the surrounding communities.

"Besides Orwell, we've got artists from Addison, Benson, Shoreham, and Bomoseen," said Stacey Stanhope Dundon, a potter who lives in Orwell and is also the President of the Brandon Artists Guild Gallery. "I've met people I never would've known otherwise." Stanhope Dundon was at the fair with ceramic platters, vases, and mugs that bear her instantly recognizable stylized animals.

"I'd seen other festivals and wanted to do something similar here," said painter George Macedo, Orwell resident and one of the group's organizers. "For a small

town, Orwell has a lot of artists. This could eventually grow into an annual event."

Another of the group's organizers is Andy Snyder. Snyder represented Brandon and Pittsford in the VT House of Representatives back in the 90s and is now the owner of Mud Puppy Pottery.

"The group was founded in 2016 and has over 20 artists. We meet on a monthly basis," said Snyder. "We encourage each other when creativity is lacking. We critique each other's work. We'd like to keep a critical mass of artists in town. This fair feels really good."

Snyder had been preparing to perform on what appeared to be a mandolin with State Representative Joe Andriano on a hurdy gurdy that sounded remarkably like a bagpipe. Andriano has just completed his first term representing many of these small communities: Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting, Sudbury, and Hubbardton.

Peter Root is a newcomer to the area, having moved to Orwell from Massachusetts mere weeks ago. But Root has wasted no time making connections to the local art community, showing his meticulous watercolor studies of trees and expressive multimedia portraits.

Painter and pastelist Lynn Aus-

tin has lived in Orwell for 8 years and recently joined the Brandon Artists Guild.

"The Orwell group encouraged me to apply to the Guild," said Austin next to her expressive pastels of farm scenes and animals. A horse in blue pastel was particularly striking.

Inside the Town Offices was Muffy Kashkin Grollier, another fiber artist who makes exquisite felted-wool paintings and is a member of the Brandon Artists Guild.

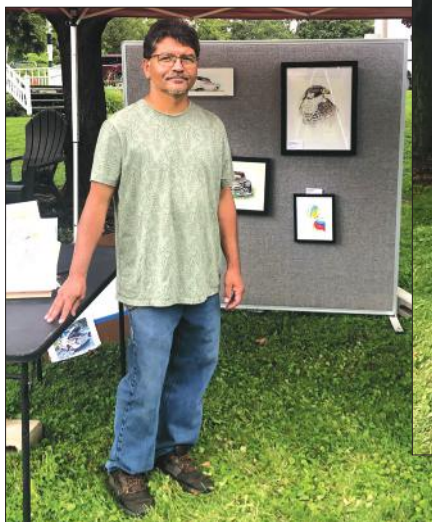
The Orwell Free Library, right across the street, had set up a tent for kids to make art and string beads.

These smaller towns along the lake are often overlooked, but the artists in the Orwell Artists Group are determined to draw some attention to themselves.

Anyone interested in joining or getting more information should contact the group through its Facebook page: [facebook.com/Orwellartists](https://www.facebook.com/Orwellartists).



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE: Andy Snyder, Cindy Watrous, Peter Root, Lynn Austin, George Macedo, Stacey Stanhope Dundon, Joe Andriano.  
Photos by Steven Jupiter



# Liza Myers

(Continued from Page 1)

Her path to Vermont was not a straight line. Born in Maryland, she spent her childhood in constant motion, as her father sought to use his skills as an engineer to improve conditions in Latin America.

“He wanted to make the world a better place through technology,” Myers said.

The family lived in Mexico, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Nicaragua. She attended a Quaker school in Pennsylvania and then began university in Colombia. After a semester, she transferred to the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico. She left school for a bit to elope with her first husband, Bruce, and live out in the desert near Taos, which began a lifelong love affair with the American Southwest.

During that time—in the mid 1970s—she’d hitchhike to classes at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where she studied art and biology. She was soon offered a job teaching art in Paraguay and off she went, setting up a ceramic studio to teach pottery.

“I’m still in touch with those kids,” said Myers.

After three years in Paraguay, she was back at UNM, where she finished her degree with honors. After another year in Paraguay, she got a fellowship in ceramic sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. She taught art at a number of schools in Maryland, got divorced, and moved to Vermont in 1984 because her brother had a place in Shelburne.

Her first job in Vermont was teaching art in West Rutland. She lived in Hydeville, a tiny hamlet at the southern end of Lake Bomoseen. After 2 years, she left Vermont for a job at the Purnell School in New Jersey. Two weeks before she left for New Jersey, though, she met her husband of 30 years. They were apart for only one year, though, as she came back to Vermont in 1988 and they built a house in Sudbury that they still live in.

They settled in and became fixtures in the community. Liza began a 19-year tenure teaching art at Lothrop—“I influenced a generation of Pittsford kids”—and started making the connections that would eventually lead to the creation of the BAG in 2002-03.

“The Guild was really Warren’s project,” Myers said, referring to esteemed artist Warren Kimble, who’s been based in Brandon for decades. “There were a lot of other people who helped, but Warren got us together. His perseverance kept it going.”

Brandon went through a stage in the latter half of the 20th century in which it was seen by surrounding communities as a little rough around the edges. But by the early aughts, Brandon was experiencing one of its periodic “renaissances” in which folks seem to realize all the upsides to the town and begin reinvesting in the place.

One of the BAG’s earliest triumphs was the famed Pig Parade in 2003, a fundraiser for the nascent organization in which artists

Painted, paraded, and auctioned off 30 sculptures of pigs. Myers’s own pig, a winged beast named “Esperanza,” fetched \$3,500. The auction brought in enough money for the BAG to buy and renovate the building it still occupies on Center Street.

“The kids at Lothrop made pig masks and marched in the parade,” Myers laughed.

Myers’s pig was fairly typical of her work, a mixture of realism and fantasy that Myers calls “Visionary Realism,” which seems to have much in common with the Magical Realism of Latin America, where she’s spent so much time. Her paintings capture something spiritual about nature, and while her scenes are rendered with great realism and attention to detail, they are clearly meant to depict visions rather than reality.

“There’s a very spiritual component to the natural world,” said Myers. “It’s replenishing, rejuvenating. I love the itty bitty details...the edges of a petal.”

Ravens are a favorite motif.

“They’re mysterious,” she said of the black-feathered creatures, as she explained the difference between crows and ravens. “Birds connect us all. Their migratory paths link all parts of the world, and when something disrupts the birds in one place, it has consequences somewhere else.”

In addition to all of her visual endeavors, Myers is also a musician. She has been in a band called Sleeping Dogs (“Taconic rockabilly”) for years and composed several



LIZA MYERS WITH her ‘Visionary Realist’ work on display at the Brandon Artists Guild. Photo by Steven Jupiter

ecologically themed musicals for kids back in the 1990s. She sang a few excerpts in a sweet, clear voice, including a short burst of rap.

Meanwhile, Myers’s home in Sudbury is undergoing renovation and her studio isn’t yet functional, but she’ll be back to making art soon. She has to. It’s simply what she does.

“I don’t sleep if I don’t make art.”

## Correction

CORRECTION: The event at the Brandon Inn hosted by Ann Marie Mitroff will take place on Friday, September 22, not Thursday, as was stated.



## Point CounterPoint 2023 Summer Faculty Concert Series

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Friday, September 29th –

PCP Alumni Celebration Concert - Salisbury Congregational Church



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# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

245 notices were sent to property owners with more than \$250 in delinquent taxes, letting them know that their properties would be sent to tax sale if the arrears were not cleared up in 30 days. Mr. Hopkins stated that a number of property owners did respond, many of whom worked out payment plans with the town that would allow them to pay off their arrears within a year. Total outstanding property taxes are \$425,065 and total outstanding water/sewer fees are \$346,344.

The town is continuing to work with FEMA to assess the damage caused by the flooding in July. Debris continues to be removed from Newton Road (which remains closed except to residents of the street). Bids for the removal of 3 houses acquired by the town through Flood Resilient Communities Fund have been received. (Later in the meeting, the Board unanimously approved the bid from Richard Reed & Son, Inc. for \$120,000.) The town has also sought bids from contractors for the rebuilding of Newton Road and construction of flood-mitigation measures thereon. Those bids are due by September 5.

Mr. Hopkins reported that the town received \$67,038 from the Local Options Tax for the second quarter of 2023 (April, May, June). According to Hopkins, the amount is typical for the second quarter.

Board member Brian Coolidge asked Mr. Hopkins about the condition of the tennis court at Estabrook Park as well as the condition of the bioswales along the residential portion of Park Street, all of which Mr. Coolidge felt had not been maintained well.

“Before we build anything else, like the connector between Brandon and Forestdale, we should make sure we can maintain what we have,” said Mr.

Coolidge.

Mr. Hopkins referred the question about the tennis court to Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore, who said that the court was in “the wrong place,” given that the ground beneath it is unable to support the posts necessary to hold the net taut. Mr. Moore also noted that an alternative location within the park had been found for the court and the present paved surface could be turned into a skate park, a feature numerous residents have requested. The cost of moving the tennis court, according to Moore, would be \$95,000. Resident Bruce Jensen, on Zoom, reminded the Board that the original grant that funded the creation of the park requires that any changes to the park be approved by the Department of the Interior and the Park Service. Mr. Hopkins assured the room that all necessary approvals would be obtained if the plan went forward. Attendees in the room expressed dismay over the way the court had been allowed to deteriorate.

As for the bioswales, Mr. Hopkins noted that there is only one crewmember in the Buildings and Grounds department right now and that the cost of maintaining the swales would have to be addressed in next year’s budget if the town were to continue maintaining them. Alternatively, he suggested that adjacent property owners on the street could “take ownership” of them and manage their upkeep.

Board member Cecil Reniche-Smith stated that she had essentially done as much with the swale that abuts her property on Pearl Street.

In a subsequent email, Mr. Hopkins stated that there was already a group of volunteers willing to take on the task. The Town would fund replacement plantings and would loan tools and equipment as needed.

(See Brandon SB, Page 11)



## Most fearsome roar on the steppes

THIS IS AN Eastern kingbird that was hawking insects at Half Moon State Park. Its Latin name, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, fits its personality.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums Library Talk on Fulbright experience in Kazakhstan - Thursday, August 31 - Brandon Library

What do you get when you combine enthusiastic students in Kazakhstan (KZ) with impassioned teachers in the U.S.? You get a rich assortment of communications that enlighten, inspire, and motivate.

In June, Dr. Monica

McEnery of Brandon benefited from a unique experience that was supported by Castleton University (as of July 1, Vermont State University/Castleton) and by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Af-

fairs and their Fulbright Specialist Program. In the sponsored visit to KIMEP - a public, English-speaking university in Almaty, Kazakhstan - relationships were forged through coursework and through a

(See Fulbright talk, Page 8)

## Soldiers atop Mount Independence, Sept. 2 & 3

ORWELL— Immerse yourself in a Revolutionary War experience at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, Vermont, on Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3, 2023, for the “Soldiers Atop the Mount” annual weekend encampment event. This event

honors the soldiers who built and garrisoned Mount Independence in 1776-77, 247 years ago, laying the foundation stones of the new United States of America.

Reenactors from the region will be encamped on site. The highlight on Saturday is the popular Baldwin Trail Walkabout,

running from 10:30 to 1:30, with experts at stations around the trail and reenactor camp talking to visitors about Revolutionary War subjects specific to those locations. Throughout the day reenactors will demonstrate period life, skills, and military activities

(See Mount Independence, Page 8)

### The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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

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

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# Letter to the Editor

## A 'thank you' to the Brandon Selectboard & Town Managers

Thank you for considering the concerns and opinions of Brandon area residents, both in the days leading up to and during the Monday night Selectboard meeting in regard to the recording process. The discussion, and the change itself, was educational and enlightening. Many points were brought up, such as transparency, posterity and the unique challenges some citizens face, which demonstrate how much

more inclusive and socially just the town is when we come together. It was encouraging to be a part of this decision-making process and to feel like my voice was heard.

Your diligence in addressing the shortcomings of the town's website in such a timely manner is appreciated also.

*With gratitude,  
Vicki Disorda*

# The Town of West Rutland presents our annual Community Block Party

The Block Party will take place on the Town Hall Green and Marble Street on Saturday, September 16th, 3pm to 8pm.

Marble Street from Campbell to Main Street will be blocked off to traffic to host the festivities. The day will feature

games, craft vendors and food trucks. The musical entertainment will feature: West Rutland (See *W. Rutland Block Party*, Page 23)

# Rutland's Promise makes gift to Homeless Prevention Center to support their work

The Homeless Prevention Center (HPC) in Rutland recently received an unexpected donation from another local organization. When Rutland's

Promise—a nonprofit launched amid the pandemic to provide shelter—wound down operations earlier this year, they decided to donate their remaining

funds to a group serving people experiencing homelessness.

The Rutland's Promise Board of Directors ultimately selected (See *Rutland's Promise*, Page 15)

## 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](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com)

# Hunters reminded of rules on importing deer, elk

Hunters traveling outside Vermont to hunt deer or elk need to keep in mind that a regulation designed to protect Vermont's wild deer from chronic wasting disease remains in effect, according to a re-

minder from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the brain and nervous system in deer and elk. Abnormal prion proteins produce

lesions in the brain that cause disorientation and emaciation in conjunction with other abnormal behaviors. This highly contagious disease is always fatal to deer. For

(See *Hunting rules*, Page 20)

# Audubon Spaghetti Scholarship Supper

Celebrate Fall and help us raise money for the Rutland County Audubon Scholarship Fund! Spaghetti (and meatball, if desired,) dinner will be held at

the Comfort Zone of the Rutland United Methodist Church at 60 Strongs Avenue in Rutland on September 22 at 5 pm until sold out. Salad, rolls, drinks, and des-

sert included. \$12 for adults; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout available. More info at:

[birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org)

## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023 EVENTS AT THE BRANDON TOWN HALL

Sat., September 9: 7pm  
**"The Freshman" (1925)**  
**Silent Movie**

"The Freshman" (1925) starring Harold Lloyd and Jobyna Ralston. We welcome football season with Harold Lloyd's blockbuster hit about a college boy who dreams of gridiron greatness. One of Lloyd's all-time best! This is a Free Will Donation Event.

Sponsored by Frank Mazza & Linda Zaragoza, Kathy & Wayne Rausenberger, Edward Loedding & Dorothy Leysath, Donna Malewicki.

Sat., September 30: 7:30pm  
**Blues Without Borders Band**  
"Blues Without Borders" vocals by Deb Tier and the guitar stylings of Scotty Mac. The rhythm section consists of Jon Randel on keys, Mike "Uncle Joe" Burbank on bass and Dan

"Freight Train of Rhythm" Whittemore on drums. Expect to hear covers of blues rock tunes, a few classics, and many new songs from some of today's hottest acts like Danielle Nicole or Beth Hart plus a bit of Blues Without Borders original music. Tickets are, Adults...\$8.00, Seniors & Students...\$7.00, Couples...\$14.00.

Sponsored by Harold & Jean Somerset, Anonymous, Rowe Real Estate, Fyles Brothers, Inc., Shirley Markland.

Fri., October 6: 7:30pm  
**Mamajamas**  
**Middlebury College's Co-ed a Capella Group**

The Middlebury Mamajamas are Middlebury College's youngest gender inclusive a Cappella group. They woo audiences with a widely varied repertoire that includes artists

ranging from Michael Jackson to Adele and everything in between. With a strong emphasis on musicality, fun and "steeze", you can find us performing on campus, in town, on tour around New England and on YouTube. Tickets are Adults...\$8.00, Seniors & Students...\$6.00.

Sponsored by Ronald, Carolyn & Ricky Hayes, Hayes Pallets, Gourmet Provence, Fyles Brothers, Pat Wood, Kathy & Bob Clark

Sat., October 7: 7pm  
**"My Best Girl" (1927)**  
**Silent Movie**

A spectacular romantic comedy which stars Mary Pickford and Charles "Buddy" Rogers (who is her future real-life husband) in a big city department store, romance blossoms between

a humble stockroom clerk and the store owner's son...who is already engaged! A sparkling "rich man-poor girl" romantic comedy. This is a Free Will Donation Event.

Sponsored by Harold & Jean Somerset, Fyles Brothers, Inc., Jeanette Devino, Donna Malewicki.



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## Leicester News

### Active couple weeks coming up in Leicester

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., Sept 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Refreshments offered and all are welcome.

2023 being an odd-numbered year means local political parties meet to organize. The Re-

publican Party Caucus will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept 11, at the white building at the Four Corners, known as the Senior Center.

The Democratic Party Caucus will be held on Monday, Sept 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

## RNESU Honors Local Faculty and Staff Members

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is excited to announce our celebration of contribution honorees. These are the staff members who have made outstanding contributions and have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to excellence. The 2022-2023 school year honorees include:

### DISTINGUISHED LICENSED PROFESSIONALS:

- Sarah Gallagher – Middle School Math Teacher – Barstow Memorial School
- Jed Pauls – School Guidance Counselor – Lothrop School
- Sue Dier – Kindergarten Teacher – Neshobe School
- Christine Landon – PE Teacher – Otter Creek Academy
- Christine Roberts – Community Based Learning Teacher – Otter Valley Union Middle and High School

- Laura King – Instructional Coach – RNESU

- Nate Traynor – Special Services Teacher

### OUTSTANDING SUPPORT STAFF:

- Joe Boucher – Head Custodian – Barstow Memorial School
- Emilee Sweatt – Student Support Professional – Lothrop School
- Jamie DesForges – Student Support Professional – Neshobe School
- Jill Doody – Paraprofessional



**BACK ROW (LEFT to RIGHT):** Emilee Sweatt, Jed Pauls, Nate Traynor, Jill Doody, Christine Landon. **FRONT ROW (LEFT to RIGHT):** Sarah Gallagher, Christine Roberts, Sue Dier, Jamie DesForges, Laura King. **Not Pictured:** Joe Boucher, Char Wessing.

- Otter Creek Academy
- Char Wessing – MS/HS Registrar – Otter Valley Union Middle and High School

In addition to the above honors, Jed Pauls and Sarah Gallagher were chosen for the 2023 UVM Teacher of the Year award.

Superintendent of Schools, Kristin Hubert said:

“RNESU is dedicated to the development of character, competence, creativity and community and we have a faculty and staff that embody these qualities on a

daily basis.

Although it is never easy to celebrate only a few individuals, this year’s recipients are extremely deserving of the recognition. It is my distinct honor and privilege to call them colleagues and members of the RNESU professional community serving our schools, its students, and families.”

For more information about the honorees and the awards they received, please contact Kristin Hubert, khubert@rnesu.org, (802)247-5757.

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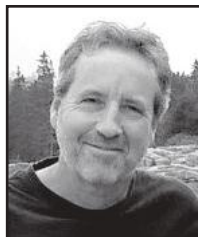
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Christopher Book/Director

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# Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

## How to out-maneuver our unreasonably short Vermont summers

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

Roundabout late August when I am reminded again of our unreasonably short summers, I usually console myself with the petty comparison that the Northeast Kingdom folks have difficulty even growing tomatoes. Now this might not be the most adult response to our abbreviated summers, but at least it gives me a little comfort.

In fact, I tried to confirm this recently in a carefully worded email to my sister-in-law who lives in those parts. There were of course the standard pleasantries. A couple of nice inquiries about the family. And then woven in as naturally as I could manage, the whole tomato question.

Admittedly the whole business was predicated on the rather emotionally unhealthy hope that her inability to grow a couple of Big Boy Tomatoes might somehow make me feel better down here in lower Vermont. (Which of course I now fully repent of.) But to my astonishment her response was overwhelmingly positive. Not a word of complaint. "I think lots of people around here have little greenhouses so they can extend the growing season!" "I love how easy

green beans are to grow!" And then my sister-in-law even weighed in quite optimistically on some fall crop ideas. You simply couldn't count all the exclamation marks.

Which is also to say that she is employing exclamation marks quite differently from me when it comes to summer discussions. ("I can't believe summer's almost over!" "It's like living in Copenhagen!")

It may be hard for me to face, but I'm beginning to conclude that we might have two frames of mind over our short summer season here in Vermont. There are those who bravely make the most of our truncated season. And then there are those of us who, in the quiet recesses of our minds, guiltily wonder if global warming might come with a side benefit of keeping the boat out an extra week or two. (Which is a thought I am also repenting of.)

Let me just say that this problem hasn't necessarily kept me awake at night. Nevertheless, a rather troubling angle was recently added to the mix when my wife reminded me again of another detail: my sister-in-law is from Southern California. (!) Now, I'm not one to go around trying to psychoanalyze

extended family members. But that that someone of her background might find the Vermont summer length acceptable is a mystery I can't easily walk away from.

One possible explanation I recently read on my porch, in the waning August sunlight, comes from a psychologist named Dr. Loretta G. Breuning. In an article written for Psychology Today she suggests that the key to making peace with things outside of your control is all about retraining your mind. Building new "Neural Pathways". "When the world disappoints your expectations, your brain releases cortisol and it feels like an emergency. You can re-wire your brain to feel safe when you're not in control...it means building a new neural pathway to replace that old cortisol circuit."

Now I don't know a lot about cortisol, but to me this is essentially a new repackaging of an old adage I have subscribed to for many years: If you can't change your situation, change your attitude. Reading on I learned that the good doctor was basically suggesting a mental exercise to build new habits of mind. She recommends that for 45 days – say, the length of a solid

Vermont summer – malcontented thinking might be reversed by forcing an opposite train of thought. Sure, comparing your short summer to others with even shorter summers might feel good in the moment. But the better option she says for your "Mammal Brain" is to rewrite your mental responses. If an unholy September frost were to materialize, for example, I should probably refrain from angry monologues at the local post office and instead remark on what a wonderful opportunity it will be for me to wear my new cardigan.

But perhaps a more plausible theory to explain people like my sister-in-law might have something to do with the intensity of how many Vermonters spend their summers. Like Navy sailors on limited shore leave, some Vermonters just understand how to make the most of the time. One neighbor of mine would fit this exactly. He routinely jogs by my home, shoulders back, training for a 50-mile mountain run. (!) In addition, his family performs weekly in Monday night park concerts, he's teaching his

kids how to sail this summer, their garden is the envy of the neighborhood, and his kids are some of the most enterprising fishermen in the area. Clearly these people are not spending their summer sitting idle in lawn chairs.

I've been seriously pondering this (in my lawn chair) for some time now and I realize that the key to overcoming the short summer season is simply to cram 4 months of stuff into 2 months. It's basically a way of cheating time. Run not one marathon but two. Back to back. Double the size of your garden. Catch enough fish to fill two freezers.

With any luck, utter exhaustion will effectively blanket any thoughts of how unreasonably short the summer season is. Which may be the underlying Vermont strategy all along.

I'll be sure to check back with my sister-in-law on this.

And good luck with those tomatoes.



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## Golf Course

NESHOBE

Est. 1958

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**5 person scramble • \$1600 per team**  
includes skins, food, Golf/Cart • 2 carts per team • 2022 Teams are in with application and payment • All other will go on waitlist until application due date • Scores on Friday to flight teams • Gross Skins and gross prizes only • Flight 1 & 2 Blue tees, all other flights get white • Ladies green tees • Closest to pin all par 3's

**APPLICATIONS AND MONEY DUE AUG 31 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**

Register your team online, then pay via check or cash in the pro shop.

**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.

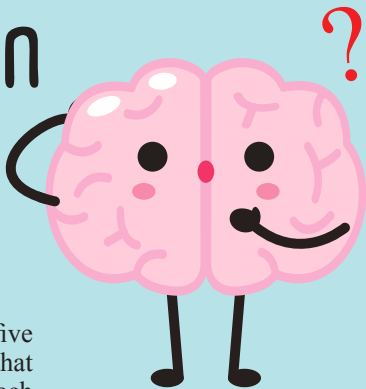
**Outdoor Grill and Waitress**

We are seeking a skilled and enthusiastic individual to join our team as an Outdoor Grill and Waitress at Neshobe Golf Club. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing excellent food service at our outdoor grill station, ensuring a positive and memorable dining experience for our valued members and guests. This seasonal position will start on August 10 and continue until the end of the golf season (exact date to be determined).

**The golf course is OPEN!**  
Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
<https://neshobe.com> • (802) 247-3611

## New Feature!

# Brandon Brain Buster



There are exactly five pairs of shoes in a box that has no other contents. Each pair is a different color: red, yellow, orange, blue, and green. If two shoes are randomly drawn from the box, one at a time and without replacement, what is the probability that the second shoe is the same color as the first?

A) 1/45  
 B) 1/9  
 C) 1/5  
 D) 2/5  
 E) 3/4

Find the answer on pg. 23

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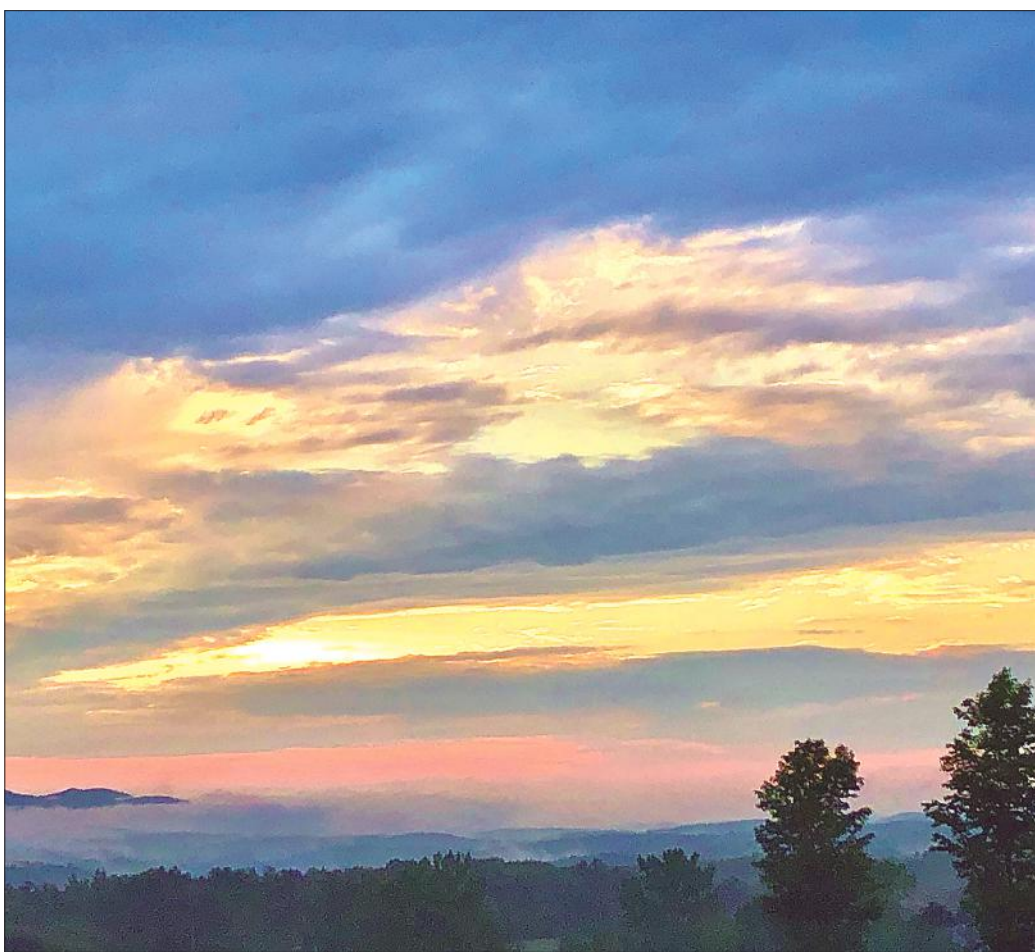


## NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

New England Woodcraft is always looking for new talent willing to learn new skills and bring the organization forward for generations to come!

Interested in building and growing your career?

Call (802-247-8211),  
 email (tray@newoodcraft.com)  
 or stop by to see what opportunities we have for you!



## Green Mountain High

A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET over Pittsford, as seen from Corn Hill Road.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

# Mount Independence

*(Continued from Page 4)*

and in the afternoon present a woods skirmish, leading visitors to follow the action. Most activities are outside. Visitors should dress for the weather, wear walking shoes and be prepared to walk around the Baldwin Trail area.

On Sunday morning visit the camps. Mid-day the site will offer a number of short history vignettes presentations and dem-

onstrations.

Event admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$1.00 for ages 6-14, free for children under 6, and includes visiting the museum. The museum shop, with an excellent selection of books and other items, will be open. Food and beverages and light snacks are available for purchase both days.

Mount Independence is a National Historic Landmark and considered one of the best-

preserved Revolutionary War archaeological sites in America. It is located near the end of Mount Independence Road, six miles west of the intersection of Vermont Routes 22A and 73 in Orwell. The site is open daily, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, through October 15.

Call (802) 948-2000 for schedule details or visit [www.HistoricSites.vermont.gov](http://www.HistoricSites.vermont.gov)

# Fulbright talk

*(Continued from Page 4)*

“SHOW/TELL/ASK Video Pen Pal Exchange Initiative” that connected area teachers to students in KZ.

To hear more about what was gained during Monica’s journey to KZ, community members are invited to attend a presentation at the Brandon Free Public Library on August 31, from 6-7. A slideshow will bring the project to life. The presentation will take place in the foyer of the temporary library space which is in the ground floor of the Brandon Town Hall. Donations will be accepted to help

with the library renovation happening now in the original building site at 4 Franklin Street, Brandon.

As a university professor, Monica strives to broaden perspectives. She shares the mission of the Fulbright Specialist program, which is to better connect a complex and changing world through collaborative efforts, and she looks forward to presenting photos and information related to Central Asian education and culture. For more information, please contact [monica.mcenery@vermonstate.edu](mailto:monica.mcenery@vermonstate.edu).



**MONICA MCENERY, CENTER,** with students she met during her Fulbright in Kazakhstan.





AN INFORMAL GROUP of “guerilla gardeners” led by Heather Nelson (pictured below) has worked to beautify the ground of the Neshobe Elementary School in Forestdale. Nelson is hoping to join forces with other gardening groups in the area to help keep Brandon looking great. Photos by Steven Jupiter and Wendy Fjeld

## ‘Guerilla Gardeners’ spruce up Neshobe School

BY STEVEN JUPITER

FORESTDALE—A bunch of ‘guerilla gardeners’ led by Heather Nelson have been working hard to get the grounds of the Neshobe School in shape for the coming school year. They’ve been planting, weeding, mulching, and generally beautifying the garden plots scattered about the school’s campus.

“I noticed that teachers lovingly started gardens but then when they

retired or left for the summer, the plants still needed to be cared for,” said Nelson, a speech pathologist who attended the school as a kid and whose husband, Ethan, currently works at Neshobe. Her mother, Wendy Fjeld, retired from the school a few years ago.

“I’ve spent a lot of time here,” she laughed as she gave a tour of the group’s work.

Two other gardeners from the group—Lyn Desmarais and Jim

Emerson—were already hard at work on a garden plot in front of the school that was designed in honor of Sarah Leary, a former student who passed away in a car accident as a teen, and John Dilts, a former Neshobe principal. Irises from a 9/11 memorial have also been replanted in the plot. Late-summer flowers such as coneflowers and black-eyed Susans were all in bloom.

The ‘guerillas’ are an informal group of gardening enthusiasts that Nelson hopes to get involved in gardening projects all around Forestdale and Brandon, in conjunction with the groups, such as the Downtown Brandon Alliance, that already maintain some of the public garden plots around town. The name came from the idea of having an informal group that comes in to attack particular projects, guerilla style, rather than a formal group with officers and rules.

“It’s basically just a mailing list right now,” said Nelson. “It’s just a way for people to hear about the opportunities to get involved.”

Folks can do as much or as little as they want, on their own schedule.

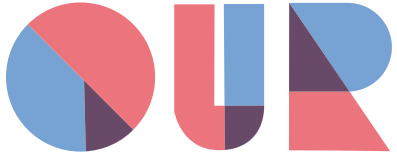
As for the Neshobe project, “about a dozen people have helped out so far,” said Nelson. “Lyn Desmarais, Jim and Karen Emerson, Wendy Fjeld, Sarah Patis, Jordan Thomas and her daughters, Hannah Fjeld and her kid... just to name a few.”

“Blue Seal donated annuals,” noted Nelson. “Anyone who wants to donate plants, we’ll find a place for them. Or mulch. Or labor.”

Anyone who’d like to join

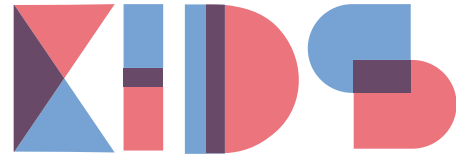


the mailing list to find out about other gardening opportunities around town can contact Nelson at Hfjeld@gmail.com.



# CREATIVE

ARTISTS: Lee  
AGE: 2 years old  
SCHOOL: Home school  
MEDIUM: Watercolors  
TITLE: Cars out the window



# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 4)

"I believe this is a good way to build community and demonstrate pride in our hometown and appreciate very much the willingness of many hands to beautify two of our showcase avenues while also improving our sustainable treatment of stormwater," wrote Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. Hopkins also mentioned during his report a meeting he had had with Police Chief Kachajian and two citizens regarding the way in which certain types of calls were handled by Brandon Police Department (BPD). Hopkins said that the discussion originated with a particular incident and that Chief Kachajian was hoping for guidance from the Selectboard as to the kind of policing the community wished to see from BPD. Ms. Réniche-Smith suggested perhaps a public forum would be an appropriate way to approach the issue.

Rec Department Director Bill Moore presented his report as well, the full text of which is available in the August 28 Selectboard packet on the town website. Of particular note was the profit to the Town of \$2943 from the Brandon Carnival, which was co-sponsored by the Rec Department and the Brandon Area Toy Project. Board member Coolidge expressed concern about what he felt was a "conflict of interest" in the Toy Project's involvement, since the Toy Project is run by the Assistant Director of the Rec Department. Mr. Coolidge felt that all the profits from the Carnival, since it was held on town property, should have gone to the Rec Department.

Mr. Moore responded that he had no problem with the arrangement and that it was the Toy Project that had brought the Carnival to Brandon. Moore also noted that the relationship was in the process of being formalized with a memorandum of understanding. Several members of the Board agreed that the Town should have a more formal policy regarding financial cooperation between the Town and non-profits like the Toy Project.

During the public comment segment of the meeting, members of the Board noted that they had received almost universally negative feedback about the changes the Board had made in its previous meeting to the process used to record minutes. In the last meeting, it had been decided that minutes should emphasize the outcomes of motions and minimize the discussions leading to the votes on those motions. The idea was to streamline the written minutes so that

outcomes could be found more quickly by someone scanning the minutes for a particular issue.

But there was significant pushback from the community against this change and a number of attendees in the room voiced their displeasure. It was said that the new process would make it difficult for people who are not tech savvy to access the full minutes, as it had been suggested that the video recordings should suffice. It was also said that it was important to record the comments of everyone who spoke at a meeting. In response to a suggestion by a Board member that The Reporter could also act to memorialize the meetings, this writer noted that the paper has space limitations and that the Board should not put itself in a position where it must deem some speech worthy of recording and some not.

Ultimately, the Board decided to reverse course and resume the practices it had previously used.

Brandon resident Susan Benedict recounted for the Board her experiences with excess water from July's flooding at her home on River Street. Though her house did not suffer any water damage—she had previously installed French drains—she said that 3 FEMA agents had visited her house to alter her to what they felt was a potential problem. Ms. Benedict asked the Board to examine the situation.

"I hope you people are wrestling with it," said Benedict. "This is just the beginning."

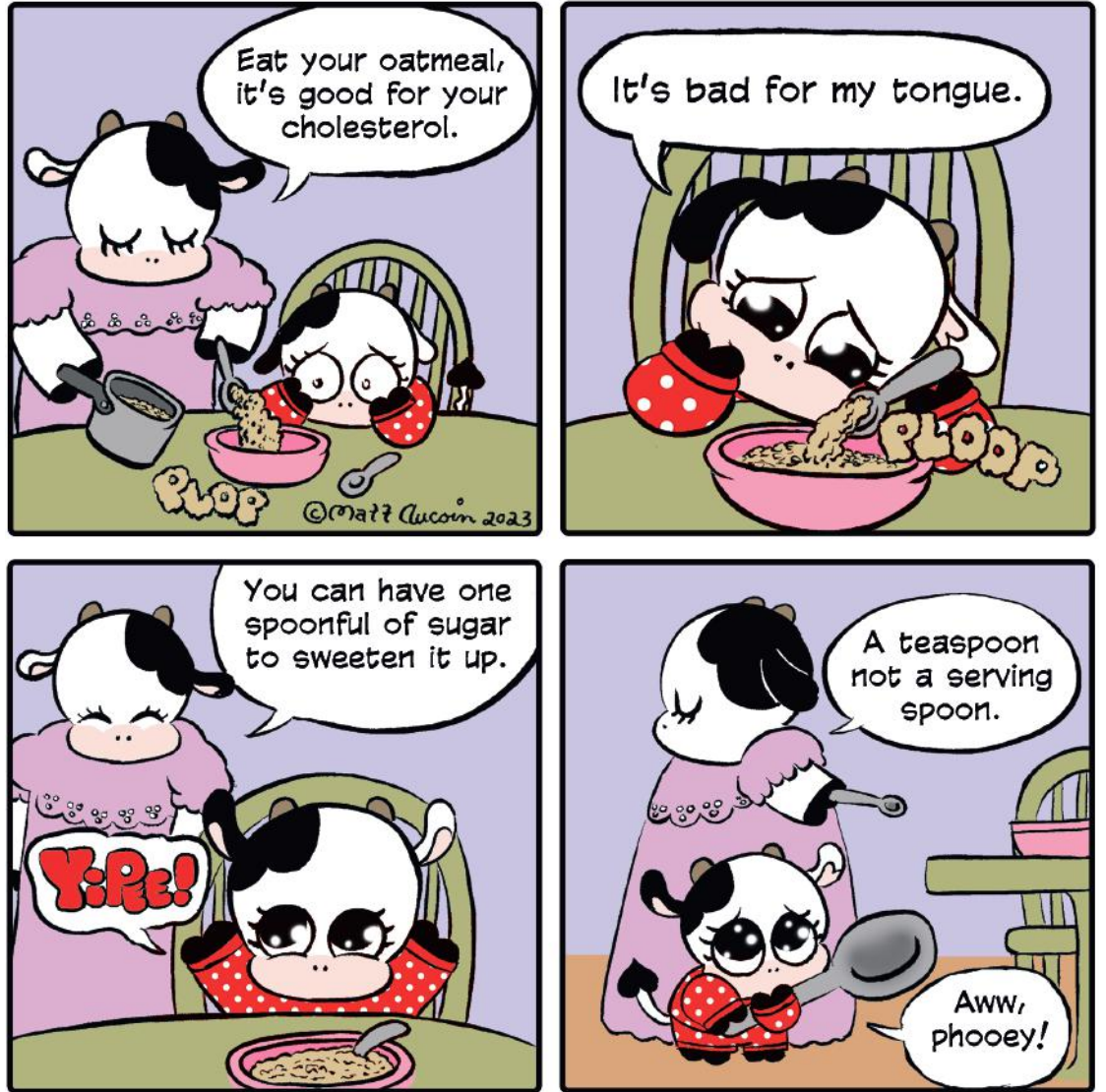
Brandon resident Eileen Dolan, a longtime cancer survivor, had asked the Town for permission to hold a coin drop to raise money for the American Cancer Society in front of the Dunkin' Donuts on Route 7 in downtown Brandon. The Board did not approve the request, citing fears of traffic and liability, but offered alternatives during activities, such as Harvest Fest or Town Hall events.

The Board appointed member Cecil Réniche-Smith as its voting delegate at the annual meeting of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns in South Burlington on September 26.

Board member Tim Guiles then presented a "Green Fleet" study on the Town's efforts to reduce its carbon emissions through reduction in the use of fossil fuels by town vehicles and equipment. Mr. Guiles noted that Vermont had set a goal of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 and that an increase in the use of electric vehicles and equipment will be necessary to meet that goal.

(See Brandon SB, Page 19)

## MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin



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 SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com

# Calendar of events

## August

### 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](http://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](mailto:allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org) with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

#### Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize

with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

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

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

#### Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Wednesdays

#### Drop-In Tech Help at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

#### Ping Pong

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

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

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles,

inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

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

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at [www.gmttc.com](http://www.gmttc.com).

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

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

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

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

soon notice a difference once you start. Looking forward to seeing you in class!

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

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

#### Meditation Group at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Thursdays

#### Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

#### Ukulele Group

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

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

#### Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

### Fridays

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

From 11am–Noon...FREE! Students

will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more!

One free book per student will be given weekly (while

supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

#### Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

#### Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2–4 p.m.

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

### Sundays

#### Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at [ceastman88@gmail.com](mailto:ceastman88@gmail.com)

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



### Thursday 31

#### The Fulbright Experience

From 6–7pm at the Brandon Free Public Library, Dr. Monica McEnery will be speaking about her Fulbright experience teaching and learning in Kazakhstan. This event is free.

## September

### Saturday 2nd

#### Red Clover Ale Company Beer Garden

Wendy Fjeld and friends are playing from 3–5 pm, and Shady J's BBQ will be serving food.

#### Shakespeare Alive! A Bard-Based Variety Show

The 2023 annual "Shakespeare Alive! A Bard-Based Variety Show" returns for an all-new FREE performance. It's a delightful mélange of Bard-based entertainment for all ages!

The Stand Up Shakespeare troupe of professional actors and singers from New York City will share its talent, passion

## BRANDON 2023 LIVE AT KEN

#### September 9

Doug Ross w/ Wade Davis rock covers & originals

#### September 23

Wyatt Waterman, eclectic blend of keyboard music

All shows will be at the 2nd & 4th Park (upper part of the crosswalk)



and creativity to amuse and amaze with the best of Shakespeare's canon as well as Bard-based skits and songs. And, lo, verily, the show is always FREE! (Although donations are gratefully accepted.) Stand Up Shakespeare is a collective of New York City-based actors who have become a veritable Vermont institution over a 23-year period. The beloved troupe travels to Killington and Plymouth each Labor Day weekend to present a new one-hour show made up of romance, tragedy, history and comedy, all based on the works of William Shakespeare. From 12:00– 1:00 pm

## Friday 8th

### The International Sustainable Comedy Music & Variety Showcase

Advance: \$14 (+fees) // Day of Show: \$17 (+fees)  
Doors: 7:00pm // Show: 7:30pm  
BYOB

The Underground Presents: A Randy Lopez Production The International Sustainable Comedy Music & Variety Showcase - For a Safe and Securer Society

Step right up and join us for an evening of open mics, melodies, and entertainment that will leave you craving more! This variety show promises to set the stage ablaze with a fusion of talent, humor, and all types of artistic prowess!

#### Srandall Slopez:

Srandall Slopez is a comedian and musician from Inland Empire, California, and a newcomer to Vermont.

#### Sofia Bonelli:

Sofia Bonelli is a comedian and musician.

#### Rachi Farrow:

Rachi Farrow is a multimedia Randolph staple, who describes herself as an "Artist".

#### David Cron (pronounced 'crone', like 'bone'):

David Cron is a singer/songwriter with deep Americana roots tempered by a Rock-N-Roll lifestyle. His music lands somewhere between insightful reflections and downright silliness.

## Friday 8th Saturday 9th

### Rutland Free Library September Book Sales

September Friends of the 1Rutland Free Library Book Sale. It's at 10 Court Street, Rutland, VT 05701 802-773-1860.

Fri., Sept. 8 (10 -4) and Sat., Sept. 9 (10 -2)

Public Always Welcome

Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books.

All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers.

Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects.

[www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org)

## Saturday 9th

### Vermont Golden Honey Festival

Part craft fair, part food festival, all small town fun!

From 10:00 am–4:00 pm at the Golden Stage Inn, 399 Depot Street, Cavendish VT

You'll find big-time fun at this small-town festival. Local beekeepers, crafters, artists and food vendors join together on the spacious lawn of Golden Stage

## AUDUBON WEST RUTLAND MARSH MONITORING WALK – SEPTEMBER 16

Join our friendly and knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area. No experience necessary. Go the entire 4



mile loop or go halfway. Meet at the marsh boardwalk kiosk on Marble Street at 8 am. All are welcome! More info: [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org)

Inn in Proctorsville to showcase their products, especially those featuring honey or the honeybee. Kids activities. Free admission. Co-hosted with Goodman's American Pie of Ludlow VT. Come check out their Honey Apple pizza (a food truck special!) baked in their on-site beehive oven pizza truck!

### Central Vermont Flood Relief Benefit Concert

Musical lineup includes: Guagua (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065116826177>), the Ray Vega Quintet (<https://rayvegamusic.com/>), Dwight+Nicole (<https://www.dwightandnicole.com/>) and The Dave Keller Band (<https://www.davekeller.com/>).

Fundraising goal: Concert is a fundraiser to support the Montpelier Strong Recovery Fund and the Barre Community Relief Fund. Goal is to raise over \$50,000 to benefit countless small businesses, and residents, across Barre and Montpelier.

The Central Vermont Flood Recovery Benefit Concert is a collaboration between and is presented by: the Cities of Montpelier and Barre, Montpelier Alive, Barre Area Development, The Barre Partnership, Firefly Productions, and Singularity Booking.

From 3:00 pm–7:00 pm at the State House Lawn, \$35.00.

## Wednesday 13th

### FREE Square Dance Nights with Cast Off 8's

Mark your calendars for the fall startup of contemporary square dancing in Rutland County. Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club starts its fall season of classes on Sept 13. NOT your grade school square dancing, contemporary square dance is danced to a variety of music including pop, country music, Broadway, rock, Motown, and hip-hop. Casual dress, no special clothes. A great no-stress way to get back out and socialize among friendly people. Singles as well as couples. Children 8 and up. First two classes are free, Wednesdays, September 13 and 20. Ice cream social on 9/27. Lothrop School, Pittsford, VT. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For more info see [Castoff8s.com](http://Castoff8s.com) or Facebook Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club. Contact Lauren at [lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com)

### NXT Rockumentary Film Series:

#### Gimme Shelter (1970)

The landmark documentary about the tragically ill-fated Rolling Stones free concert at Altamont Speedway on December 6, 1969.

Only four months earlier, Woodstock defined the Love Generation; now it lay in ruins on a desolate racetrack six miles outside of San Francisco.

Equal parts essential and chilling, Gimme Shelter provides a spine-tingling look at how the Rolling Stones' music paralleled the end of the counterculture movement.

Co-presented with Next Chapter Records.

Wed at 7:00–8:30pm  
Next Stage Arts Project  
15 Kimball Hill  
Putney  
\$10.00

## Saturday 16th Sunday 17th

### Vermont Spartan North American Championship Weekend 2023 - Sprint, Beast, Ultra & Kids

Spartan Race will push you beyond your limits. We chal-

lenge you to break out of your comfort zone, test your mental grit, and accomplish something difficult. Join us and become UNBREAKABLE.

Spartan Race is the world's leading obstacle race series. Each race is designed to test endurance, strength, agility, and mental toughness. On the course you will overcome obstacles, push your limits, and find out what you're made of. Get off the couch and come do something different with your weekend - we bet you'll feel pretty damn good about your decision.

Distances available:

Spartan Sprint (5K, 20 obstacles)

Spartan Beast (21K, 30 obstacles)

Spartan Ultra (50K, 60 obstacles)

Spartan Kids (various options for kids ages 4-14)

\*Minimum age to participate in Sprint, Super and Beast is 14 years old on the day of the event. Minimum age to participate in Ultra is 18 years old on the day of the event.

Each Registrant Receives:

-Spartan Headband with your bib number

-Chip Timing and individual race time

-Professional Photos

Each Finisher Earns:

-Badass Finisher Medal + a Trifecta Medal Wedge Piece

-Finisher T-Shirt

-Non-Alcoholic Finisher Beverage

-Bragging Rights for Life

From 6:00 am–Sun at 1:00 pm, at Killington Ski Resort

\$25.99 - \$189.00

## Sunday 17th

### Cocktails for a Cause to benefit the Brandon Free Public Library Great Renovation

Join us from 5–8 pm at Café Provence for an evening of specialty cocktails, 'celebrity' servers, and merriment...all for a wonderful cause! Your ticket gets you one complimentary drink and light hors d'oeuvres. An additional cash bar will be available. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Ages 21 and up. Tickets at [brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events/](http://brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events/)

### Calling Brandon Democrats - join us at 3pm!

Please consider becoming involved in the Brandon Town Democratic Committee. We welcome all levels of participation! In Vermont, town committees are the foundation of the Vermont Democratic Party organization. These committees do the organizing that allows the party to connect with voters across the state and build social infrastructure in our towns and counties. This enables people with similar values to work together to build a better, stronger Vermont. On September 17, the Brandon Democratic Party will have its reorganizational meeting to select a chair and other officers. This meeting is an opportunity for people to become official members of the Brandon Democratic Party. Through this committee you will have input on decision-making and become informed of events within the Democratic Party at the local, county, and state level. In recent years, Brandon has been largely voting Democratic - over the last six sessions, Brandon has been represented by Democrats in the VT House of Representatives. However, our local town committee has not experienced an increase in the number of people who are actively involved. We would like to change that and welcome more folks to get involved. Participation could be purely social or as an officer on the Committee - this is up to you. We are planning an informal get-together at the Red Clover Ale Co. for September 17 at 3pm. This will be an opportunity for newcomers, long-time residents, and all of us in between to get acquainted and to learn about what's going on in the local Democratic Party. Let's continue to strive for a Vermont that works for all of us. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Clark at 802-247-3935 or Stephanie Jerome at 802-683-8209.

## KENNEDY PARK

will be 11a.m.–1p.m. on Saturdays in Kennedy Park, near Killington.





## Why aren't you at the lake?

**BY LYN DESMARAIS**  
**PART I: 'SEASONED GARDENERS,' HAVE YOU TAKEN ANY VACATION YET THIS GROWING SEASON?**

Gardeners here in Brandon are telling me that their gardens are gorgeous this year. They have loved not having to water anything but their potted plants/annuals this summer. Many perennials have grown three times their normal size with all the abundance of rain. This is a great time of year to ask ourselves- do we like how our gardens look today? Some gardeners are deadheading and cutting back iris, peonies, roses, daisies, daylilies, bee balm, some hosta and other mid-summer favorites. Others are planning for next year and moving and dividing plants. I'm still weeding! All of us need to stop and go on vacation. All the work will be there waiting for us next week, next month, next year.

So, which plants are happily blooming right now, despite all our help? All hydrangea, roses of sharon (common hibiscus,) and other 'bush' hibiscus. These beauties need space. If you want them to be happy in your garden, give them elbow

room. Other bloomers from now until the end of September and beyond are wonderful perennial wildflowers like Black Eyed Susans (rudbeckia), Queen Anne's lace (wild carrot), golden rod (solidago), Joe Pye weed (eutrochium purpureum), milkweeds (Asclepias), and thistle (aster family). These can all have a place in your garden. Just contain them, they like to spread. I have seen several gardens with wild spaces, sometimes corners, or sections in an otherwise formal garden. They are in their glory right now, blooming their hearts out. Gardeners are adding pink and white turtlehead (chelone), chrysanthemums (mums), blue globe thistle (echinops), blue-gray sea holly (eryngos), late-blooming daylilies (hemerocallis), coneflowers (echinacea), all colors, cultivated black-eyed susans (rudbeckia Goldsturm is a favorite), daisies (leuanthemum) and scarlet lobelia to add pops of color, interest, and depth. In fact, I get more compliments on my wild gardens than I do on the ones I fuss over and spend numerous hours on. How disheartening. While wild gardens are often a mixture, another way to plant is

to experiment with large blocks of color. I am seeing arrangements of the Karl Foerster Grass with Russian sage up at Walgreens in Middlebury. It's a dramatic display of huge blocks of violet and gold, and it's so effective because it's large and fills that space completely.

### Planning and Planting

This is the perfect time to take an hour or two and plan for next year. What are you missing that you like? Is there a plant or a color? Come into Brandon and look at the gardens. So many are at peak right now. They have been blooming all season and are just lovely to look at. Their caregivers are master gardeners, even though some would balk at the term being applied to them. The results speak for themselves. The gardens can give you planning ideas. Then go visit some nurseries and see what they have left for sale. We are all desperate to plant in the spring. We need color. But autumn is the best time to plant for plant survival. You won't have to water as much come spring. Try to get your perennials in the ground by the end of September and your bulbs into the ground by (See Gardening Corner, Page 15)



SCENES FROM AROUND Lyn Desmarais' garden.

Photos by Lyn Desmarais



## Gardening Corner

(Continued from Page 14)

the end of October.

### PART II: NEW GARDENERS- RUN AWAY NOW!

If you'd like to try gardening and don't want to start digging up your yard at home, and having a muddy mess, then try any of the following:

Go help a friend. Much like grandparenting (or so I'm told), it's absolutely delightful and you can go home, put your feet up, consume lots of calories, and feel like you've done

a good day's work and have earned a great rest.

Consider joining the gardening group forming in Brandon. We will all be grateful for an extra pair of hands and your energy. Easier than a friend, who may come to depend on you. Easier to say you 'have a meeting' or 'must get home', when you're tired and want to leave.

By far the cheapest and easiest thing, get online gardening magazines and read them cover to cover. Fill your phone and devices with snapshots of pictures of beautiful gardens, I recom-

mend White Flower Farm, get your fix this way, and buy flowers from Brandon Florist, Brandon Farmers Market, Renaissance Farm, Woods Market, or Understory Farm or other farms I may not know about. Then you have the best of all worlds: no garden chores forever nagging at you, no backaches, sunburns, soggy clothes, insect bites or bad knees. You decide.



FROM L TO R: Angus Chaney, HPC Director; Brenda Kingsbury, Family Supportive Housing; Rebekah Stephens, Director of Habitat for Humanity of Rutland County; Sarah Woods, Family Supportive Housing; Jessica Makela, HPC Program Supervisor.

Photo by Lee Ann Cenate

## Rutland's Promise

(Continued from Page 5)

Homeless Prevention Center to receive a nearly \$27,000 donation. The funding will help support operations of HPC's innova-

tive Family Supportive Housing program which last year served 58 families in Rutland County transitioning from homelessness to home.

## REAL ESTATE

### Fern Lake & Dunmore



**Fern Lake Building Lot:** 123.54 feet frontage at North end of Fern Lake. 1.02 Acre wooded lake lot. Mountain views to South. Soil work indicates standard in-ground system is possible. Level lake road access from Route 53. Close to Brandon/Middlebury for shopping, theater, groceries & dining. Opportunity **\$149,900.**



**DUNMORE CONDO** - Views of Moosalamoo & Dunmore. Summer living.: swim, paddle board, fish, kayak, boat, bike, hike. 444 sq.ft.: open liv/din area, remodeled kit. & shower Bath Parlor stove. 2 BRs & screened porch. Seasonal assoc. includes a great sandy beach, lake side patio and playground area. **New Price - \$212,000**



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

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE



Stylish home in great condition. Woodland Park custom build, featuring a bright and crisp interior with a vaulted ceiling in the kitchen, dining, and living areas and a roomy loft above the bedroom. The open layout and large window banks really connect the house to its country setting. The home is sited on a private 15.44 acres with a small pond and stream, and panoramic views of the surrounding woods. A detached one-car garage provides additional storage. Close to Lake Hortonia and Lake Bomoseen with quick access to Route 30. **\$215,000**



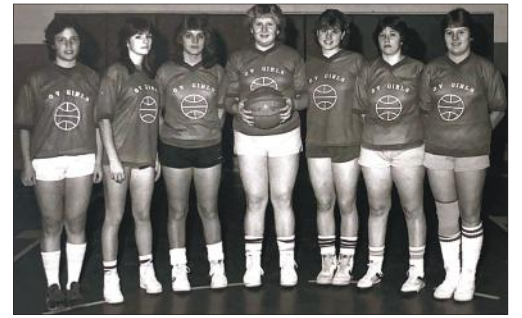
802-236-9112 • Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com  
RoweRealEstate.com



# 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

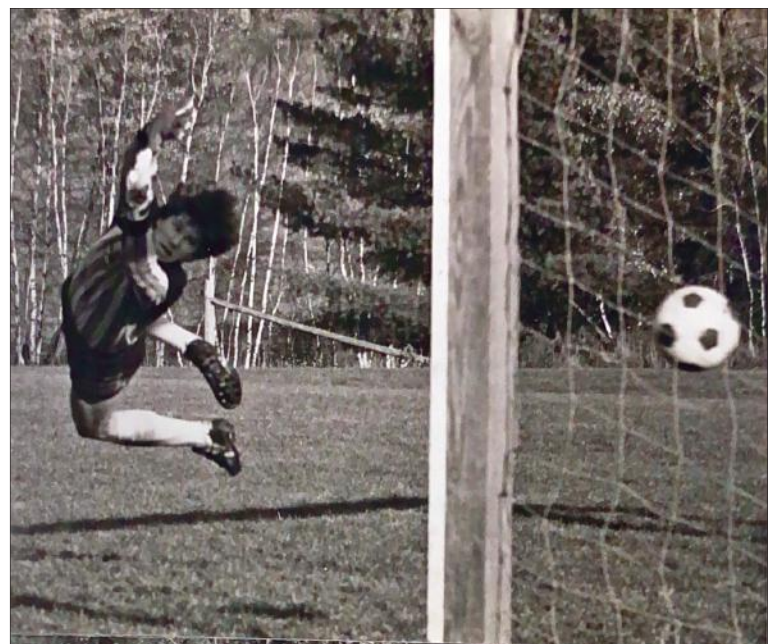
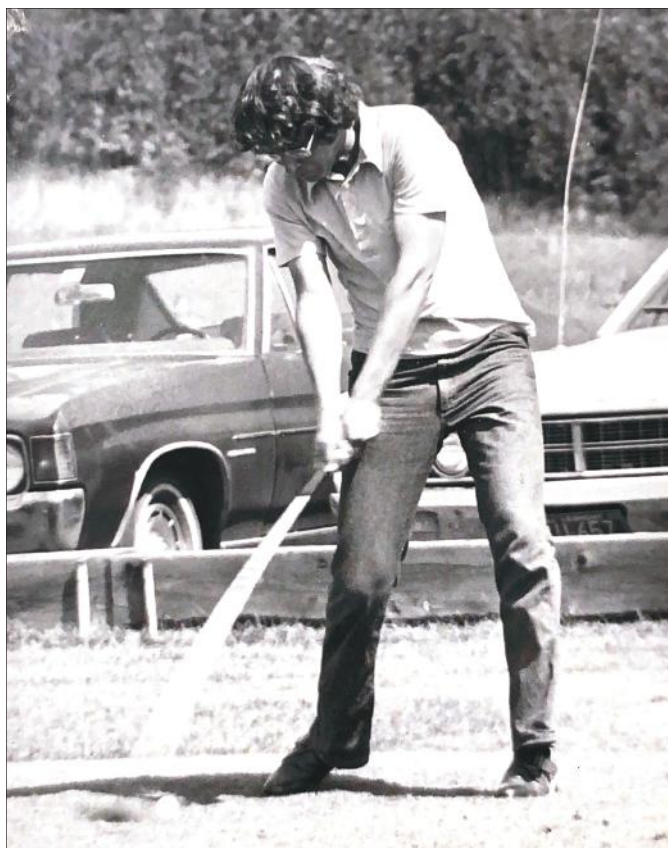


Jean Lamarre of Brandon recognizes this photo of the 1986 Otter Valley Union High School Girls Basketball Team. The coach was David Mitchell, not pictured. The girl on the far left of the photo is Kimberly Lamarre, Jean's daughter, and the girl in the middle is Lisa Munuka.



E-mail [ads@brandonreporter.com](mailto:ads@brandonreporter.com) if you can identify someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080





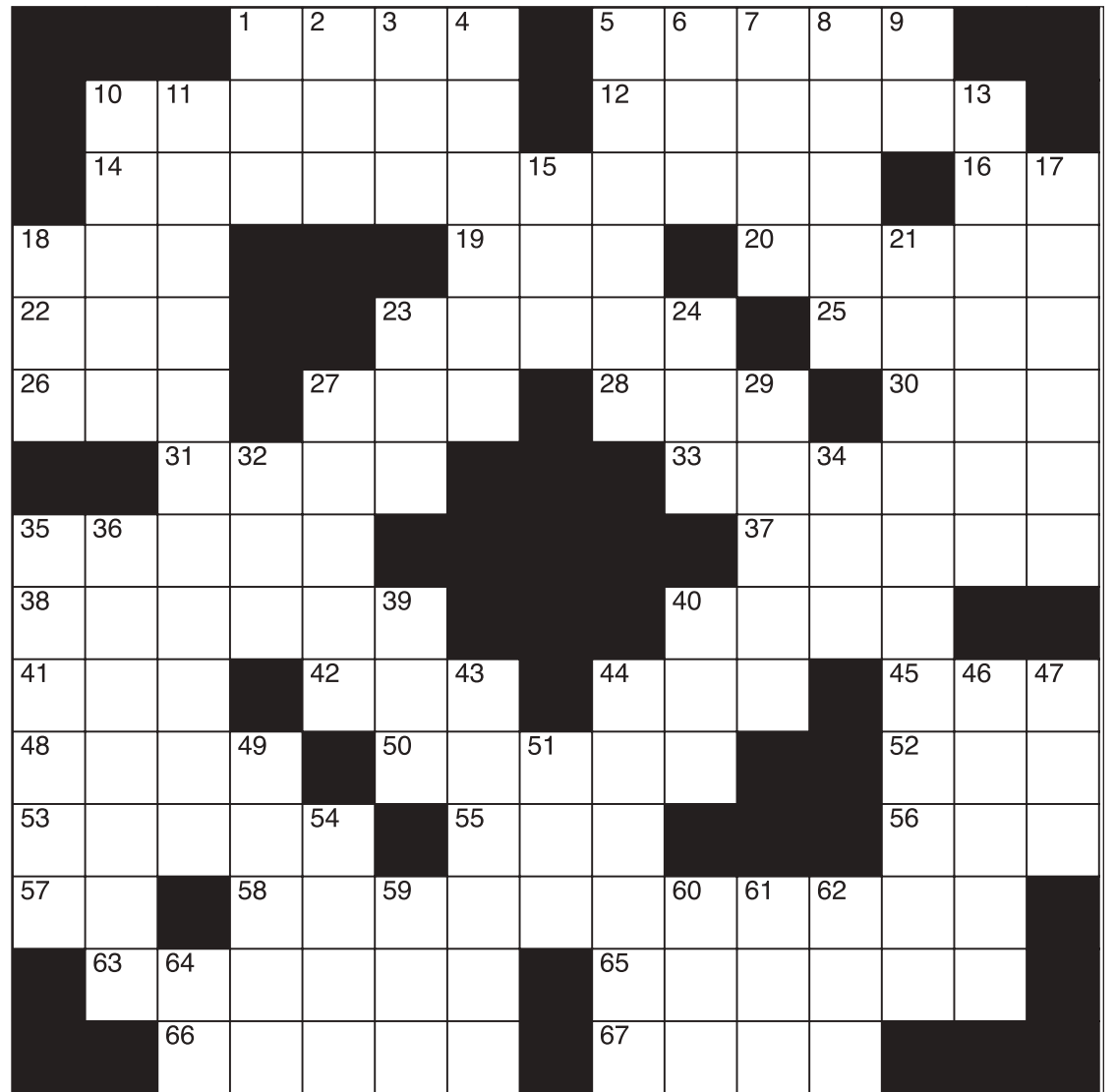
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Sloping position
5. Descendant of a notable family
10. Following accepted norms
12. Root vegetable
14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
16. Integrated circuit
18. Records electric currents of the heart
19. Used to anoint
20. Japanese city
22. After B
23. Muffles
25. Pass over
26. Vase
27. Soft touch
28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
30. Patti Hearst's captors
31. Israeli politician
33. Degrade
35. Type of wrap
37. Polyurethane fabric
38. Avoids capture
40. Vegetarians avoid it
41. Decay
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Vessel to bathe in
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
48. Frosts
50. Dipped into
52. Controversial replay system in soccer
53. Comforts
55. Needed for yoga
56. Ands/\_\_\_
57. South Dakota
58. Printing system
63. Dramatic works set to music
65. Highest points
66. Social division
67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

## CLUES DOWN

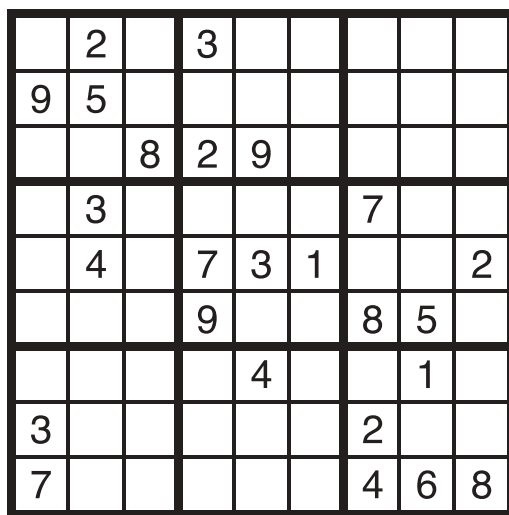
1. Hill or rocky peak
2. Initial public offering
3. Type of light
4. Test
5. Flaky coverings
6. Former NFLer Newton
7. Part of the eye
8. Roman god of the underworld
9. Negative
10. Indiana pro basketball player
11. Replaces lost tissue
13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
15. Historic college hoops tournament
17. Hut by a swimming pool
18. Defunct European monetary unit
21. Feeds on insects
23. Adult male
24. Melancholic
27. Sheets of glass
29. Slang for famous person
32. Not good
34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
35. The "World" is one
36. Used to make guacamole
39. Midway between south and southwest
40. Wet dirt
43. Ancient Egyptian name
44. Set of four
46. Strips
47. Wife
49. More dried-up
51. Socially inept person
54. Clusters on fern fronds
59. Bar bill
60. Prefix indicating "away from"
61. Very important person
62. Fiddler crabs
64. Special therapy



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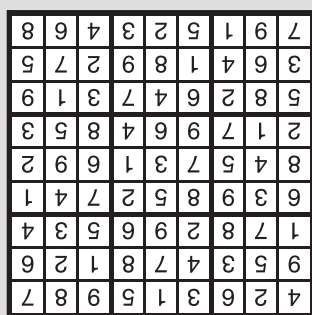
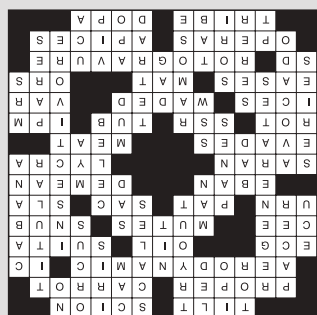
# Sudoku

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



# Tips to Help Your Pets When Your Kids Go Back to School

Kids aren't the only ones who might be sad to say goodbye to summer and hello to school! Your pets may have a hard time adjusting, too, so here are some helpful tips from the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) to make the transition easier. Pets usually thrive on routine, so you'll want to adjust your walking/feeding time to match up with the new school schedule. Increase your pet's exercise time to help ease any anxiety your pet may have during the change. Smart toys, like dispensing food toys or advanced puzzles, help entertain your pet while you're away and prevent boredom. If your dog loves to get out of the house, consider bringing him on your daily trips to and from school. Another great option, if you're away a long time, is doggie daycare or hiring a dog walker to help burn off extra energy. But always remember, at the end of the day, spending a little quality one on one time with your pet will make them the happiest, even if it's just lounging on the couch before bed.

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



### MEET DOUG - 3-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. MIXED BREED. BLACK.

Doug is a sweet, playful, and cuddly young dog that is good while riding in the car and gets along well with other dogs. He played tug of war and chase with 2 large dogs in his foster home. He is housebroken and crate trained for when his foster parent wasn't home. He loves rope toys, chew toys, people, and other dogs. He loves to cuddle on the couch and sleep on a dog bed at night. He will make an excellent dog for a family and/or individual willing to spend time with him. He may not be happy being alone all day. He can be a little possessive of his toys with other dogs. Handsome Doug arrived on August 6 from a busy shelter in TX. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM - 4 PM.

### MEET UTAH - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BLACK.

Utah is a beautiful young lady! She is a bit bashful when you first meet her, but she warms up quickly once she gets comfortable around you. Utah also likes it best when all 4 paws are on the ground. This could also change once she is in her own space. She came to us as a stray so we have no known history with dogs or children. If you would like to meet Utah, please stop by the shelter Tuesday-Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM to meet her.



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

802-483-6700 • [WWW.RCHSVT.ORG](http://WWW.RCHSVT.ORG)  
765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN  
TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM  
11AM-4PM.  
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

# OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



## DID YOU KNOW?

August 31st is the drawing for our summer reading raffle. Make sure to get your bingo sheets and kids reading logs in!

them.

### Liar: Lost & Found Book 3 by Fern Michaels

Luna Bodman always looks forward to a new shipment of furniture at the restoration shop. Her brother, Cullen, has a knack for finding discarded pieces with an intriguing history, and Luna likes to sit with each item to see if she can feel any kind of vibrations. The arrival of an old armoire triggers a reaction in Luna that's impossible to ignore. From the moment Luna wiggles inside the armoire and closes her eyes, she feels an overpowering and disturbing sensation. Emerging, she asks for a flashlight and discovers words scraped into the wood: "Help me!" Hoping to uncover the piece's secrets, Luna contacts her good friend, U.S. Marshall Christopher Gaines, and the group sets out to trace the armoire's origins. The journey takes them to a military school in New England, and a mysterious, long-ago ransom case. The kidnappers were never found, but decades later, the answers may finally be within reach.

Mia is three months old. The Community's rules are draconian—members are branded with letters corresponding to their alleged crimes, they cannot contact the outside world, and books are forbidden. When tragedy strikes, 15-year-old Mia escapes and finds refuge with a librarian and her partner who've been secretly helping her with access to books. Several years later, Mia's love of books and her obsession with Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, bring her back through time to meet the young writer whose book saved her life.

### Good Bad Girl by Alice Feeney

Twenty years after a baby is stolen from a stroller, a woman is murdered in a care home. The two crimes are somehow linked, and a good bad girl may be the key to discovering the truth. Edith may have been tricked into a nursing home, but at eighty-years-young, she's planning her escape. Patience works there, cleaning messes and bonding with Edith, a kindred spirit. But Patience is lying to Edith about almost everything. Edith's own daughter, Clio, won't speak to her. And someone new is about to knock on Clio's door... and their intentions aren't good. With every reason to distrust each other, the women must solve a mystery with three suspects, two murders, and one victim. If they do, they might just find out what happened to the baby who disappeared, the mother who lost her, and the connections that bind

## New issues of magazines are in:

**Real Simple, Advocate, OUT, The Family Handyman, Bird Watcher's Digest, and Prevention**

## Adult Fiction

### The Continental Affair by Christine Mangan

Two strangers on the run, both trying to escape their pasts. Henri, a former disillusioned gendarme, and Louise, who is running from her past, from the shady people she has stolen money from, and from Henri, the person she doesn't know was sent to collect it. Henri soon realizes that Louise is no ordinary mark. She leads him across the continent from Belgrade to Istanbul on a journey he did not anticipate. As their train hurtles toward its final destination, Henri and Louise must decide what the future will hold—and whether it involves each other.

### The Invisible Hour by Alice Hoffman

When her ever-disappointed mother and stern father react badly to Ivy Jacob's news of her teen pregnancy, she runs away from her Boston home for Western Massachusetts where she's embraced by a group called The Community. There, Ivy gives birth to her daughter, Mia, and marries the group's charismatic but controlling leader, Joel, when

# Hey Wile E. Coyote, that's not dynamite, it's just a flare

## August 21

- Police recovered a series of blank inspection stickers. Investigation ongoing.

- A mental-health caregiver on Church Street called the Brandon Police Department (BPD) demanding that an officer transport a client who would not listen to her family's residence in Fair Haven. BPD advised the caller that the department was unable to accommodate such courtesy rides but provided alternative options.

Officers responded to East Prospect Street and River Street for a "construction-type" noise complaint. The source of the noise was located and the officers addressed the issue with the complainant's neighbor.

- Vehicle stop for speeding on Franklin Street. Warning issued to operator.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

## August 22

- An officer assisted a woman with changing her flat tire on Grove Street.

- Vehicle stop for speeding on Grove Street. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop for speeding on Champlain Street. Warning issued.

- Officers attempted to service a notice of hearing to a residence on Fox Road. The intended subject of the notice was discovered to be out of town and service was unable to be made.

- Vehicle stop on Pearl Street for failure to maintain lane. Warning issued.

- BPD responded to Fox Road for a report of an abandoned vehicle. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle upon arrival.

- Bradley Bosley, 42, of Richford, VT was arrested for DUI and Driving with a Criminally Suspended License after being stopped for erratic operation on Franklin Street. Bosley was released on a citation to appear before Rutland Superior Court-Criminal Division on September 5, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. for arraignment.

## August 23

- An officer responded to a report of a vehicle that had fled the scene of a crash on West Seminary Street. The victim did not witness the crash, as the incident happened in a parking lot. The victim made an accusation against another individual but that other individual's car, upon inspection, did not display any damage consistent with the

# Brandon

## Police Report

crash.

- Vehicle stop at Champlain Street and Grove Street for a stop-sign violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for cell-phone use while driving. Warning issued.

- Officers responded to Barlow Street for a violent juvenile who was acting out toward others in the home. Officers walked the juvenile and parents through some steps to manage the anger issue, at which point the juvenile calmed down and was subsequently offered advice on managing anger in the future.

- Officers attempted to locate multiple vehicles backfiring in downtown Brandon. The vehicles in question were gone upon the arrival of the officers.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain lane. Warning issued for lane violation and for failure to display plates.

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Pearl and Bridge Streets for defective equipment. Ticket issued.

## August 24

- Officer responded to report of domestic violence on East Prospect Street between a man and a woman. James Wiley, 39, was arrested for Domestic Assault. Mr. Wiley was processed at BPD and released on court conditions. He was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court-Criminal Division at 12:30 p.m. on August 25, 2023 for arraignment.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. A VCVC was issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued.

- Officers assisted the Douglas PD in Massachusetts by clarifying a firearms transaction that had been made at a local (Brandon) gun shop involving a party from their jurisdiction who had had a restraining order issued against him to relinquish his firearms.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to display plates. Warning issued.

## August 25

- Speed enforcement on Union (See Police report, Page 19)

## THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

cocktails FOR A CAUSE

Sunday, September 17 from 5-8pm

Join us at Café Provence for an evening of specialty cocktails, 'celebrity' servers, and merriment...all for a wonderful cause! Your ticket gets you one complimentary drink and light hors d'oeuvres. An additional cash bar will be available. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Ages 21 and up.



TICKETS: \$25 Couple, \$15 Single  
Scan code for tickets  
or go to [brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events/](https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events/)

These events are brought to you by the Brandon Library Community Volunteers and all proceeds will benefit The Great Library Renovation.

Tickets at the library!  
WIN A TREK E-BIKE



RAFFLE DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT COCKTAILS FOR A CAUSE.  
GENEROUSLY DONATED BY DOROTHEA LANGEVIN



Open Tues. & Wed. 10am-7pm, Thurs. & Fri. 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm  
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# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

Street.

- Officers responded to a domestic dispute on Fox Road between a man and a woman. The dispute was determined not to be criminal in nature.
- Property check at Brandon Discount Liquor on Conant Square.

## August 26

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for stop-sign violation. Warning issued.
- BPD responded to location of a runaway juvenile who had been found by good Samaritans

in Brandon. Juvenile was reunited with her mother without further incident.

- BPD responded to an alarm at a business on Conant Square. No suspicious activity was observed.
- Officers responded to reports of sticks of dynamite being offered for free at the intersection of McConnell Road and Franklin Street. Officers determined that the sticks were in fact expired road flares and disposed of them.
- Officers conducted speed enforcement on Union Street.
- Mother of a child reported that another child had harassed

her son by swearing at him and “giving him the finger” while out walking near the intersection of Church and Rossiter Streets.

- Property check at Mallory’s Automotive on Forest Dale Road.
- Property check at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.
- BPD responded to report from Brandon Fire Dept of a male in a stationary car in the middle of the roadway at the intersection of West Seminary and Center Streets in downtown Brandon. Upon investigation, Ralph Schneider, 62, of Mendon, VT was arrested for DUI-

Alcohol.

## August 27

- BPD conducted directed patrol on Franklin Street.
- BPD received complaint from a man about his neighbor’s dog. Case was referred to the Brandon Animal Control Officer.
- Officer found a wallet in the vicinity of Park Village. If you are missing a wallet, please contact BPD to confirm ownership.
- Vehicle stop at Grove Street and Farr Way for failure to maintain lane. Warning issued.
- Traffic stop at McConnell and Birch Hill Road for reckless

driving. Operator issued ticket for driving with a suspended license and failure to use safety seats for children in the vehicle.

- BPD assisted Brandon Area Rescue at a residence on High Pond Road for a man complaining of difficulty breathing. The man was transported to the hospital without incident.
- Complaint made of a truck doing burnouts on Park Street that almost ran a citizen off the road. The area was checked but the vehicle was not located.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued.

# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 11)

According to the report, the Town has 4 main sources of carbon emissions: gas, diesel, propane, and #2 heating oil. Since 2017, only the amount of heating oil has decreased appreciably, which is generally attributable to the increased use of electric heat pumps in town buildings. The amount of gas used by police vehicles has increased largely because of an increase in the size of the police department. And the amount of diesel used by town equipment has increased because of the assumption by the Town of work that used to be contracted

out.

In response to an assertion that the police union’s contract with the Town mandates that each officer have his or her own vehicle—it had been suggested by Mr. Guiles that the number of police vehicles could be reduced if only the on-duty officers had access to police cars—Mr. Hopkins said that the contract did not have such a stipulation.

“Some choices are going to be more expensive but are the right thing to do,” said Mr. Guiles in response to attendees who noted that the changes sought might be costly.

The full report can be found in the August 28 Selectboard packet on the town website.

The three members of the Trustees of Public Funds (TPF)—Tanner Romano, Laura Miner, and Courtney Satz—were present to initiate a public discussion with the Selectboard regarding the Town’s annual request for funding for mosquito control. The Trustees felt that, in the past, the Town had not provided sufficient information to justify their requests. In recent years, the lack of information had even cause the Trustees to deny the request altogether, though normally the Town does receive more than \$10,000 per year from TPF for the Town’s contribution to the Otter Creek Insect Control Dis-

trict.


TPF manages a fund set up by Shirley Farr, a longtime Brandon resident who died in the 1950s. Her will left a trust to help fund projects and expenses not covered by taxes. Organizations can submit applications for funds, and the Trustees noted that the annual expense of the Town’s mosquito control took up a significant portion of what TPF had to disburse overall. The Trustees noted that the will does not specify that any money need go to mosquito control and that the language that the Town has relied on is not determinative.

“We want to understand the accounting,” said Mr. Romano. Mr. Hopkins noted that much of the information sought by the Trust-

ees was available to the Town only through the Insect Control District, which is an independent entity. But the Board agreed that it would provide as much information about the true costs of the spraying program in the future.

The Trustees also suggested that perhaps the continuation of the program should be put to a town vote, since it had not been voted on since the 1970s and the Otter Creek district is one of only 2 remaining in the state that engage in chemical spraying.

In the final business of the evening, the Board approved a warrant in the amount of \$1,191,951.48.



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** March 21–April 20  
Get outside and enjoy as much fresh air and exercise as possible this week, Aries. A weekly outdoors excursion can recharge the batteries and provide some time to reflect.

**TAURUS** April 21–May 21  
Taurus, it’s not possible to have everyone like you all the time. Emotionally it can be difficult to accept that not everyone agrees with your point of view. Be who you are.

**GEMINI** May 22–June 21  
Someone from your past might come back into your life, Gemini. Keep a lookout for someone who seems familiar, as it can be a way to reminisce for a bit.

**CANCER** June 22–July 22  
Cancer, start conversations with all the people you meet so you can learn about different backgrounds or cultures. You

**LEO** July 23–Aug. 23  
Leo, try to work the room when you are thrust into a social situation. You need to be a diplomat or politician if you want to be in good standing with as many people as possible. Put your best face forward.

**VIRGO** Aug. 24–Sept. 22  
You know who you can trust, Virgo. Stay close to those people for the time being. Some difficulties with family members will arise and you may need to pick sides.

**LIBRA** Sept. 23–Oct. 23  
Libra, after a whirlwind adventure, you may be glad to be back home. Vacations are nice and relaxing, but soon enough you may crave the familiarity of your own space.

**SCORPIO** Oct. 24–Nov. 22  
Scorpio, you have a calm energy around you this week. You can rest assured that the people you are dealing with have everything handled. They take care of business.

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 23–Dec. 21  
There is a great opportunity knocking at your door, Sagittarius, so why not seize it? New things can be scary, but you have to dive in right now.

**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22–Jan. 20  
Take stock of where you want to go in the future and start putting those plans together, Capricorn. You don’t have to figure everything out, but try to map out a rough outline.

**AQUARIUS** Jan. 21–Feb. 18  
You can quickly see when someone is putting on an act, Aquarius. They may say one thing but mean another. This duplicity can be off-putting, but try to get along with others right now.

**PISCES** Feb. 19–March 20  
Pisces, you are in no danger of not being popular right now, so continue to enjoy all the invitations you receive. You also can be proactive and throw your own party for friends.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

Aug. 31 Van Morrison, singer (78)  
Sept. 1 Zendaya, actor, singer (27)  
Sept. 2 Salma Hayek, actor (57)  
Sept. 3 Malcolm Gladwell, author, journalist (60)  
Sept. 4 Beyoncé, singer (42)  
Sept. 5 Freddie Mercury, singer (d)  
Sept. 6 Idris Elba, actor (51)

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# OV Reunion

*(Continued from Page 1)*  
 socialize, and reminisce. With typical class spirit, they remembered their 27 classmates who have passed. The rain didn't hinder this group, as many spent the weekend relaxing and visiting with others in the pavilion by the fireplace or dining hall, catching up on each other's lives. Saturday night featured Live DJ

Jam Man Entertainment spinning tunes into the wee hours, (well, okay, 11pm) but it was the 50th! Several classmates spent the nights in rustic cabins or personal campers at Camp Thorpe overlooking the beautiful Green Mountains. Prior reunions were held at Antonio's Restaurant and Black Jack's Tavern aka Sweet Apples, Patricia's, Sully's, and

presently, The River Pub (1983); Neshobe Sportsman Club (1988 and 2008); The Palms Restaurant (1993); The Neshobe Golf Course (1998 and 2018); Lagasse's Restaurant & Cottages (2003); aboard the Spirit of the Ethan Allen III on Lake Champlain (2013).

# Hunting rules

*(Continued from Page 5)*  
 the latest information on CWD, check these websites: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and [www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org).  
 The potential exists for CWD prion proteins to be introduced to the environment through the bodily fluids of CWD-positive deer, elk or moose and then persist in the environment for extended periods of time.

Vermont rules on importing and possession of deer or elk from areas with chronic wasting disease (CWD) and captive hunt areas or farms:

It is illegal to import or possess deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, from states and Canadian provinces that have had chronic wasting disease, or from captive hunt or farm facilities with the following exceptions:

- Meat that is cut up, packaged and labeled with hunting license

information and not mixed with other deer or elk during processing;

- Meat that is boneless;
- Hides or capes with no part of the head attached;
- Clean skull-cap with antlers attached;
- Antlers with no other meat or tissue attached;
- Finished taxidermy heads;
- Upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

Vermont's CWD importation regulations currently apply to hunters bringing in deer or elk carcasses from the following states and provinces that have detected CWD in either captive or wild animals:

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota,

Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan.

"CWD is a very persistent disease that can resurface after years of absence," said Nick Fortin, Vermont's deer biologist. "Vermont's CWD regulation is designed to help prevent CWD from infecting Vermont's deer and the drastic population reduction measures that would be required if it appears here."

"Hunters bringing deer or elk from any of the CWD-listed states or provinces into or through Vermont simply have to get them processed according to the regulation before doing so."

A fine of up to \$1,000 and loss of hunting and fishing licenses for one year are applicable for each deer or elk imported illegally.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is also reminding hunters that using any type of natural deer urine-based or deer body fluid attractant scents is prohibited in the state because of the CWD threat.

### St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church

Sunday 10 a.m.  
 19 Conant Square, Brandon

### Brandon Congregational Church

Sunday 10 a.m.  
 1 Carver Street, Brandon

### Brandon United Methodist Church

Sunday 11:15 a.m.  
 1 Franklin Street, Brandon

### Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's) Catholic Church

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 38 Carver Street, Brandon

### Brandon Baptist Church

Sunday 11 a.m.  
 13 Champlain Street, Brandon

### One Church Brandon

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 97 Frog Hollow Road, Brandon, VT

### St. Alphonsus Catholic Church

Sunday 9 a.m.  
 2918 US 7, Pittsford

### Living Water Assembly of God

Sunday 11 a.m. via Facebook Live  
 76 North Street, Brandon

### Forest Dale Christian Fellowship

Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
 1895 Forest Dale Rd, Brandon

### Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church

Sunday 9 a.m.  
 3325 US Route 7, Pittsford

### Pittsford Congregational Church

Sunday 10:15 a.m.  
 121 Village Green, Pittsford

### Church of Wildwood

Sunday 11 a.m.  
 347 Holden Road, Chittenden

### Union Church of Proctor

Sunday 10 a.m.  
 5 Church Street, Proctor

### St. Dominic Catholic Church

Sunday 9 a.m. Feb, Apr, Aug  
 45 South Street, Proctor



# CHURCH Directory

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday 9 a.m.  
 5 Gibbs Street, Proctor

### 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

# Review: 'The Fantasticks' at West Rutland Town Hall Theater

BY STEVEN JUPITER

WESTRUTLAND—For fans of musical theater, *The Fantasticks* holds a special place. As a production, it's meant to be minimalist, presented almost as a fairy tale, with sparse sets and simplistic props. Book and lyrics by Tom Jones and music by Harvey Schmidt, it premiered Off-Broadway in 1960 and immediately created a new aesthetic in musical theater. It's not showy. There are no chorus girls or large dance ensembles. In fact, eight actors can perform the entire thing as intended, as there are only eight parts.

But it's also a piece that punches well above its weight. What it lacks in extravagance it makes up for in charm, humor, and feeling. And at least one of its songs, the wistful 'Try to Remember,' has entered the canon of American standards. The play is so effective that it ran from 1960 until 2002, making it the world's longest-running musical and the longest uninterrupted theater production of any kind in the United States.

Its simplicity makes it especially attractive for smaller theater companies. The Vermont Actors' Repertory Theater mounted a lovely production of it at the West Rutland Town Hall Theater over the last two weekends.

The plot isn't terribly complex: two families live on either side of a recently built stone wall in an unspecified small town. The wall is the result of a fake feud concocted by the fathers as a means to compel their children, Matt and Luisa, to fall in love. Luisa (Molly McGovern) is 16 and a dreamer. With an inborn dramatic bent, she longs for passion and adventure, envisioning herself as a princess. Matt (Shannon Wright), 20, is a college student studying science but also yearning for something magical.

The wall is a clever bit of reverse psychology on the part of the fathers: by telling their children "no," they create irresistible forbidden fruit. Matt and Luisa meet at the wall every night and declare their love for each other. To bring the fake feud to an end and unite their children, they hire a bandit named El Gallo (Colin Hill) to "abduct" Luisa and allow himself to be "defeated" by Matt, who will thus become a hero and earn the admiration of Luisa's father (John Lugar) as well as of his own (Michael Eaton). The feud will be called off and the children will live happily ever after.

El Gallo enlists the aid of two itinerant Shakespearean actors, Henry (Alanah Jackie



THE CAST OF 'The Fantasticks' at West Rutland Town Hall Theater. Back row, from left to right: Jackson Aubuchon, John Lugar, Michael Eaton, Alanah Jackie Grant. Front: Molly McGovern, Shannon Wright, Colin Hill (not pictured Miriam Lerner). Photos by Steven Jupiter

Grant) and Mortimer (Jackson Aubuchon), to pull off the abduction. It all goes according to plan. Matt and Luisa end up together, the feud is ended, the wall is demolished, and the cardboard prop moon that illuminated the abduction scene is replaced by a blazing, merciless sun.

In the light of that sun, however, it becomes clear that, separated by the wall, Matt and Luisa had fallen in love with the fantasy of each other, never having been close enough to see each other as they really are. Matt now sees Luisa as immature. Luisa sees Matt as pretentious. Even the fathers are annoyed with each other, picking at each other's gardening habits. In a spasm of irritation, Matt's father reveals that the wall had been a ruse and that the children's relationship was

the result of manipulation. Matt and Luisa are devastated. Luisa loses her joie de vivre and does nothing but sit and daydream. Matt leaves home. The fathers realize that their plan has wounded their children.

El Gallo soon returns and seduces Luisa, leading her through a series of hallucinations in which she sees Matt being abused. El Gallo also convinces her to relinquish a cherished necklace that had belonged to deceased mother. As the bandit starts to abscond, Matt returns in the flesh and tries unsuccessfully to recover the necklace for Luisa. This time, El Gallo handily defeats the boy, leaving him humiliated in front of Luisa.

Both now scarred and battered by their experiences, seeing each other at their lowest, they realize that they did in fact love each other. They reunite, but with eyes wide open.

One of the most striking features of the production is the character of El Gallo, who also acts at times as the Narrator. He's a bit of a devilish figure and Colin Hill does a fine job conveying his slithery seductiveness. Hill has a rich bass-baritone that put the show's signature tune ("Try to Remember") across beautifully.

As Luisa, Molly McGovern was delightful. She embodied all the adolescent drama of a teenaged girl, but with a seasoned singing voice that suited the material perfectly. McGov-

ern was sweet and charming without being cloying.

Relative newcomer Shannon Wright, as Matt, impressed with his vulnerability and a baritone singing voice that just keeps getting better. Wright has been taking advantage of every opportunity to sing locally and his voice is becoming quite strong. For an inexperienced actor, he did a remarkable job with a central role.

Michael Eaton and John Lugar, as the fathers, were the comedic stars of the show. Their witty duets felt a bit like an old Vaudeville act that still had some chops.

Alanah Jackie Grant and Jackson Aubuchon also played their parts for laughs, and rightfully so. Aubuchon was especially funny as "the man who dies," since his character is an actor who specializes in histrionic death scenes, writhing and flopping on the stage.

In a small and underappreciated role as The Mute, Miriam Lerner was able support the action of the scenes she was in with an impish appeal, even when she was called upon to simply stand and be The Wall.

Directed by Marisa Varent, the production remained essentially faithful to the original, wisely avoiding the pitfalls of overmanipulating a classic.

"I wanted to find a way to stay true but make it special for us," said Varent during intermission. "Diving into the script (See *The Fantasticks*, Page 24)



MOLLY MCGOVERN, MIRIAM Lerner, and Shannon Wright as Luisa, The Mute, and Matt.

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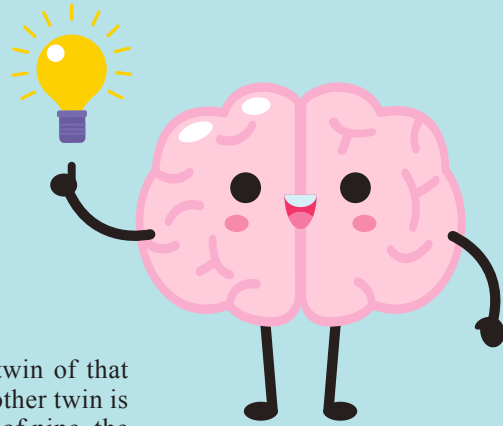
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Answer: (B) 1/9  
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In other words, since we didn't specify that the first shoe had to be any particular color, we're ultimately asking, "If we take a shoe out of the box so that there remain one unmatched shoe and eight matched shoes (4 matched pairs), what is the probability that we get the unmatched shoe on the second pick?" The probability that we select the unmatched shoe is now one out of nine or 1/9. The answer is (B) 1/9.

You can think of it like this: if there were 5 sets of twins in a room (10 people in total) and we kicked one twin out, what's the probability that we'd randomly

select the other twin of that pair? Since that other twin is now just one out of nine, the probability is 1/9.

The trick answer here is (A) 1/45. This would be the correct answer if we asked that the two shoes be a specific color. For example, if we asked for the probability of selecting the two red shoes, the probability of the first shoe being red would be two out of ten or 2/10 = 1/5. And then the probability of selecting the other red shoe on the second pick would be one out of nine (nine shoes remain and only one is now red) or 1/9. The probability of BOTH these events occurring would be 1/5 x 1/9 = 1/45 (to find the probability of two events occurring, you multiply their individual probabilities).

So, the probability of specifically selecting two red shoes would be 1/45. But that would also be the probability of selecting two yellow shoes or two orange shoes or two blue shoes or two green shoes. To determine the probability of one event OR another event, we need to ADD their individual probabilities. So, the probability of 2 red or 2 yellow or 2 orange or 2 blue or 2 green would be 1/45 + 1/45 + 1/45 + 1/45 + 1/45 = 5/45 = 1/9.

Again, the answer is (B) 1/9.

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## W. Rutland Block Party

(Continued from Page 5)

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# the Fantasticks

(Continued from Page 21) was important to me. I wanted to pull what I could from the playwrights.”

The pit band also deserves praise. The music integrated seamlessly into the production, underscoring the emotions of the scenes without overpowering or distracting. On piano, Diane Chartrand. On bass, Cameron Wescott. On percus-

sion, Mark Barrett.

Overall, it was a charming production from a theater company that consistently stages quality shows. And as we slide into September, here’s the opening line from the classic “Try to Remember”:

Try to remember  
the kind of September  
When life was slow  
and oh so mellow...



JOHN LUGAR (L) and Michael Eaton (r) provided many chuckles as Bellomy and Hucklebee, fathers of Luisa and Matt, in ‘The Fantasticks.



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