

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

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\$1



MEET THE CANDIDATE

Todd Nielsen received 92 votes as a write-in candidate for state representative in the Primary Election. Vicki Disorda wrote in about his life and agenda.

PG. 4

GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais investigates lilac blight caused by this year's wet spring and humid summer. Don't despair! There are several ways to manage it.

PG. 8

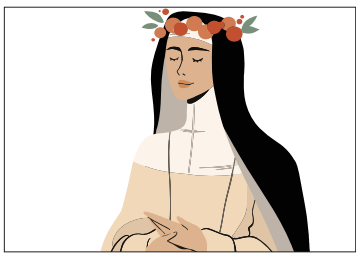


PG. 10

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

State Representative Stephanie Jerome explains what Vermonters should know about the Affordable Heat Act, which aims to help residents save money on their fuel bills by switching to clean energy.

PG. 14



INTO THE MYSTIC

Coming up at the Ruth Stone House on September 14th, an evening of music with The Pandora Consort that will explore the visions of 12th century mystic Hildegard von Bingen.

PG. 18



LIBRARY DIRECTOR MOLLY Kennedy with staff and first patrons as the Brandon Library reopens to the public. L to R: Eric Drzewianowski, Dan Fox, Helyn Anderson, Joni Osterhaut, Ms. Kennedy, and Chris Tarbell. The library returned to its historic building after a massive renovation.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Brandon Free Public Library reopens after huge renovation

BY STEVEN JUPITER
BRANDON—On Tuesday, September 3, the Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) welcomed the public back into its historic building on the corner of Park and Franklin Streets after a massive \$4-million-plus renovation that added over 2,000 square feet to the structure and redesigned the interior to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

"It's going to serve everybody better," said BFPL Director Molly Kennedy as she helped put the final touches on the public spaces this weekend. "It's been a lot

of work, but it feels good to be back in here with our team pulling it all together."

The new design includes 2 ADA-compliant restrooms, an elevator that accesses all four levels, an ADA-compliant main entryway, a revamped kids' section, a new "teen room," a new community meeting space, dedicated computer stations, and expanded space for administrative offices.

"There hadn't been any updates since the 1960s," Ms. Kennedy added. "We weren't in compliance with the ADA.

(See BFPL reopens, Page 3)



Mosquitos in Sudbury and Brandon test positive for EEE

The Vermont Department of Health announced over the last two weeks that mosquito populations in both Sudbury and Brandon

(See EEE, Page 14)

Chittenden's Baird Farm embraces traditional materials for syrup

BY LYN DESMARAIS
Until very recently, tin was mined in Cornwall and Devon, England. Tin is an element that was discovered and used since before 3000 BCE. It added strength to copper (bronze is 1/8 tin and 7/8 copper) and other metals. It could be polished, so it shone brightly in the sun. It was used to plate other metals, and it was used to create pewter (80-90% tin mixed with other metals). Pewter was used for millennia for dishes and utensils. At least one tin mine

OV Football Club realizes a goal: an illuminated field



FOUR TOWERING LIGHTS will now illuminate night games and other events on Markowski Field at Otter Valley Union High School thanks to the determined efforts of the Otter Valley Football Club. The club raised \$200,000 for the project from local residents and businesses.

Photo by Michelle Brutkoski

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Let there be light! The Otter Valley Football Club (OVFC) realized a longstanding dream this past weekend: lights on Markowski Field at OVUHS. Over 70 feet tall, the four new light poles tower over the school building and are visible to drivers passing by on Route 7 and will be put to use for the first time at a night game against Rice Memorial High School on Saturday, September 7 at 7 p.m.

It's not the first time Markowski Field has been illuminated, though. According to Nate and Kate McKay of OVFC, for six years the club used drive to Fort Ann, NY to rent portable, generator-powered lights for night games.

"Those were always the best attended games," said

(See OV lights, Page 2)

is being reopened in England in the next several years. Pure tin is lightweight, does not rust in water, and doesn't react with most foods, so it is used to line steel food containers.

When I was a child, maple syrup was a rare treat. Our cousins brought it to Massachusetts from Vermont. It was both exotic and delicious. It came in pint sized tin cans, often highly decorated. By the 1990s everything was in plastic or glass.

(See Baird Farm, Page 7)



OV lights

(Continued from Page 1)

Nate. “A day game might have 400 or 500 people, but a night game would bring in 1,200 to 1,500.”

“The energy was different at night games, too,” Kate added. “You could feel the difference on the field and in the stands. The enthusiasm was through the roof.”

And since the drive to Fort Ann was a hassle, the club would keep the lights for a week at a time, breaking them down and setting them up on the various fields at OV so other teams could take advantage of them. All in all, they estimate that they spent 60 to 80 hours dealing with those portable lights every week they had them.

And then the Vermont Principals Association (VPA), which oversees school athletic programs in the state, told OVFC that if OVUHS did not allow permanent lights, then portable lights were not permissible either.

At that point, the club began its quest for permanent lights in earnest.

“We were ready to go to the administration to authorize a fundraising campaign in 2022,” said Nate. But, as luck would have it, that administration—Superintendent Jeanne Collins and OVUHS Principal Jim Avery—was on the verge of retirement and advised OVFC to wait until their successors were in place to make the request.

“They didn’t think they should be the ones authorizing the campaign since they were about to leave,” said Nate.

Fortunately for OVFC, the incoming administration—Superintendent Kristin Hubert and OVUHS Principal Michael Ruppel—gave the club the green light in October of 2023.

It helped that OVFC had already done their homework. They had researched the lights to decide which companies were the best. They had tested the field to make sure the soil could support the weight of the lights (10,000 lbs. apiece). They had gotten assurances of in-kind donations for the physical labor of the installation from local contractors.

“We wanted to make sure we had all our ducks in a row before we went out and asked anyone for money,” said Nate. “Naylor & Breen and Markowski were on board from the start. Greg Markowski said, ‘Our name is on the field. We’ll do whatever it takes to make this happen.’”

OVFC had to raise \$160,000 just for the lights themselves. They ultimately

raised \$200,000.

“The community has been great,” said Kate. “No taxpayer money went into this at all.” OVFC was able to reach its fundraising goal through donations from local residents and businesses and from grants via the Burditt Fund in Pittsford and the Trustees of Public Funds in Brandon.

Though there were bureaucratic and administrative hurdles along the way—OVFC raised the money privately but had to abide by the same procurement regulations that apply to OV generally—they were able to take delivery of the lights a few weeks ago.

The site work and installation were donated by Naylor & Breen, Markowski, Benoit Electric, Black Diamond, and Black Bear, among others. A full list of all donors will appear on a sign at the field.

Tanner Romano of Naylor & Breen estimated that the cost of the project would’ve been \$350,000 if OVFC had had to pay retail for everything.

The installation took place starting at 7 a.m. on Friday, August 30. Romano and his crew were on site, along with electrician Tim Brutkoski of Benoit Electric. A crane hoisted the 80-foot light poles until they were completely plumb and then the ground crew slid them into the pits that had been excavated by Mar-

kowski.

The task was made much easier by the great foresight to install electrical conduits along the sidelines when the field was first created in 2007. That work had been done by CEA, Inc., the electrical contractor owned by Pittsford-Proctor State Rep. Butch Shaw.

On Friday evening, the new lights were switched on for the first time, ushering in a new era of night events at OV.

“The field won’t just be for football,” said Nate. “Soccer and lacrosse will use it, too. It can be used for school events. Anything that needs to happen at night.”

The lights can be adjusted and there will likely be a need for someone to get back up in a lift to fine tune the direction of some of the individual fixtures. But the lights are under warranty for 15 years, so OVFC and OVUHS will be covered if anything more significant needs to be addressed.

Even if you’re not a football fan and have no plans to attend the game on Saturday, it’ll be worth it to drive past OV that night just to see the lights ablaze above the school, testament to the hard work and determination of OVFC and the generosity of all the donors who made it happen.

Otter Valley Union High School Varsity Football 2024

#	Player	Grade
7	Addison Boynton	12
33	Noel Pearsons	12
58	Kyle Pockett	12
44	Isaac Whitney	12
52	Colin Carroccia	11
65	Jaydon Connors	11
24	Zachary Dragon	11
31	Ethan Dukette	11
	Eugene Fulton	11
43	Drake Felkl	11
51	Ryan Gallipo	11
3	Robert Gilbert	11
56	Hunter Kehoe	11
70	Austin Mallory	11
10	Chase Razanoski	11
5	Dominyk Waite	11
50	Derrick Walton	11
74	David Bertrand	10
54	Ayden Larocque	10
79	Samuel Luis	11
17	Max Potter	10
8	Keegan Reid	10
2	George Stamp	10
40	Colby Benoit	9
29	Colby Brown	9
32	Patrick Coleman	9
30	Trevor English	9
1	Noah Gilbert	9
20	Garrett Greeno	9
19	Chase Herrick	9
MGR	Clover Hobbs	9
66	Ethan Kenyon	9
27	Jared Krans-Gould	9
57	Tyson Lanza	9
63	Eli Larocque	9
61	Jason Littlefield	9
15	Alexandru MacLeod	9
4	Emmett Mallory	9
9	Nolan Quenneville	9
6	Jordan Raiche	9
75	Peyton Trombley	9
28	Lucas Whitney	9

V Head Coach Jim Hill, **V Def Coor** Bill Rose, **V Asst** Aidan Blier, **V Asst** Tom Hobbs, **V Asst** Tristan Congleton, **V Asst** Chas Hall, **V Asst** Carson Leary

Other team rosters to come next week!



THE CREW THAT helped erect the light poles included Naylor & Breen, Markowski Excavating, and Benoit Electric. Each pole measured 80 feet long and weighed 10,000 lbs. The poles had to be raised by a crane and slid into prepared holes. Because of the wet ground, mats were laid to support the weight of the crane and protect the field. Photos by Steven Jupiter

BFPL reopens

(Continued from Page 1)

We didn't have accessible bathrooms and the ADA requires two. People with mobility issues couldn't access the upper floors. This was essentially an accessibility project."

What began as an "accessibility project" soon became something more: an opportunity to bring the whole building into the 21st century not just in terms of ADA compliance but also in terms of energy efficiency, safety, and usability. Libraries are no longer just repositories of books; they serve multiple community needs and BFPL's building no longer felt adequate.

"The building has a lot of historic importance and charm, but it

wasn't built as a library and we were struggling to make it do all the things the community needed it to do today," said BFPL Board President David Roberts.

The building was originally constructed in the 1830s and served over the decades as a furniture manufacturer and a millinery. Its industrial origins are still evident in the large exterior doors on the upper floors used to lower large pieces of furniture to the street. It was known in those years as "the Parmenter Block."

The building was purchased and donated to BFPL by benefactors in 1910. In 1916, those same benefactors purchased and donated to BFPL the houses adjacent to the library on Park Street,

which the library still owns and rents out as apartments. In the 1960s, an addition was built connecting the main library building and the adjacent houses. And, until now, that was the last work that was done to the structure.

The need for the renovation was apparent years ago, but the various elements needed to make it happen didn't align until more recently.

"We'd been talking about this renovation since 1992," said Ms. Kennedy. "But it takes a certain board dynamic to make something like this happen," said Ms. Kennedy. Kennedy added that even though BFPL had had great board members in the past, things fell into place more recently that allowed the project to move forward.

"We'd already interviewed 10 or so architects and chosen VIA [Vermont Integrated Architecture of Middlebury], but I really credit David [Roberts] with taking all our initial work and getting it done."

Mr. Roberts, whose background was in finance, steered the board through the labyrinth of fundraising, financing, and government regulations that were necessary to see the project to fruition.

"There were a lot of moving parts," said Mr. Roberts, who joined the board in 2018 and became president in 2020. "Earlier boards had gotten the ball rolling but there were some big bumps we had to get over."

FUNDRAISING

First, of course, was the funding. Initial estimates proved woefully incorrect when construction costs spiked after COVID. What had been thought to be a \$2-million project ballooned to over \$4 million when all the bids finally came in. The extra costs also included asbestos abatement, which had not figured into the initial estimates but which turned out to be necessary when the

(See BFPL reopens, Page 20)



ABOVE: THE EXPANDED children's section. The mural above the shelves was painted by Brandon resident Ethan Nelson and was retained from the temporary space in Town Hall. Below: The new elevator will provide access to all four floors.

Spotlight On Business BLOOMING BUNGALOW



Brandon.org for more info



Hello fellow Brandonites! We're excited to introduce you to Blooming Bungalow, the latest and greatest creation from the Ellen and Allie team! Our eclectic and exciting gift items are now located across

the street from our original store, Blue Moon. We have more space for plants, housewares, Vermont products, baby and kid items, craft supplies, and more! Stop in and say hi, we can't wait to see you!



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Extreme rainstorms complicate progress on Lake Champlain's water quality

BY EMMA COTTON/
VTDIGGER

BURLINGTON — On July 18, a group of scientists and reporters stood on the balcony of a boat on Lake Champlain, gazing out at a plume of brown, murky water that ballooned from the mouth of the Winooski River.

One week earlier, the remnants of Hurricane Beryl dropped as much as 7 inches of rain in a torrent that swept across central and northern Vermont. Rainwater organized on the land, and rivers emboldened with new body and strength tore away entire sections of land, roads and stream banks.

Lake Champlain's basin is 8,234 square miles — 18 times bigger than the lake itself — with more than half of that in Vermont. When it floods, rivers carry pieces of far-away environments into the lake.

Muddy plumes are part of a scene that's becoming more familiar in Vermont: In the

last 13 months alone, extreme rainstorms have caused four major flood events on July 10-11, 2023, December 18, 2023, July 10-11, 2024, and on July 29-30, when flash floods hit the Northeast Kingdom.

"This is certainly representative of trends we're seeing with climate change," Mat-

thew Vaughan, chief scientist at the Lake Champlain Basin Program, told reporters on the boat. Hurricane Beryl, for example, was the earliest category-five-strength hurricane on record, he said, and it derived its power from record-warm water in the Atlantic Ocean.

Since 2002, Vermont has been working to achieve water quality goals for Lake Champlain that are required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. In recent years, the state has made modest but steady progress on those goals.

But increasingly frequent and extreme flooding in Vermont, driven by climate change, could mark a significant setback for

the lake's water quality.

At a press conference in July, Vermont Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore said the impact of recent floods was compounding. The flooding that took place on July 10, 2024 "exacerbates the concerns we saw last summer," she said. Lakeshore property

owners had told members of her agency that "they believe the lake has never looked worse."

"Our water quality clean water goals for Lake Champlain need to be achieved regardless of climate change," she said. "So we are actively looking at (See *Lake Champlain water*, Page 19)

Since 2002, Vermont has been working to achieve water quality goals for Lake Champlain that are required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. In recent years, the state has made modest but steady progress on those goals.



The original snowbird

THIS WILSON'S WARBLER was seen on Wildcat Rd. on its way to Central America after spending the summer in Canada.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Meet Todd Nielsen, write-in winner of Brandon's Republican primary for State Representative

BY VICKI DISORDA

Of the 464 ballots cast in Brandon's August 13th Primary Election, Todd Nielsen received a whopping 92 write-in votes for Brandon's seat in the VT House of Representatives. The sudden emergence of support may have some area residents wondering who Todd Nielsen is.

Todd and his wife, Aida, moved to Brandon shortly after 9/11 when, Todd said, their "neighborhood changed. The first place we stayed was in Woodstock in October, and it snowed. —But Woodstock is expensive." It was by accident that he and Aida stayed at the Brandon Inn where they "fell in love with Brandon."

"My kids thrived in the schools here," Todd said of his two sons. "The schools are wonderful."

The oldest of five siblings himself, which includes a sister adopted from Korea, Todd's father, Stanley, joined us in conversation at the Brandon Museum and Visitors cen-



TODD NIELSEN

ter where Todd volunteers.

"We wanted a girl; we had three boys." Stanley, a retired Long Island, NY police officer, explained. "We got her when she was three or four." Her exact age was unknown. The child had been abandoned. According to Stanley, Korea had no social system, "they were just trying to get rid of them. [The Open-Door Society] said, 'bring a coat.'" Whatever clothes she had on they were

taking back with them.

When asked if Stanley paid for the adoption, he said he "paid for the plane ticket."

As a youngster, Todd would tag along with his father in his carpentry business. When grown, he became a carpenter in Hawaii for a couple of years. Then moved to Virginia, where he was a carpenter, a car salesman, and a cook. "What-

(See *Todd Nielsen*, Page 5)

The REPORTER

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Letter to the Editor

I am voting for Stephanie Jerome for the good of my hometown

What has Stephanie Jerome done for us?

There is a simple reason why this district was flooded with Stephanie Jerome signs during the primary. There is a reason why so many folks come out to stand with her on the sidewalk waving at traffic holding signs saying, "Honk for Stephanie." The reason is that she has proven for decades, above and beyond policy and party, that she works for her neighbors and community.

Anyone paying attention has seen Stephanie Jerome sacrificing for her community. This spring I saw her hauling bags of mulch to the public park gardens—down on her hands and

knees weeding to keep the town looking nice. This summer I saw her out in public dedicating her time to listen to community members - many of whom I know disagree with her on some issues. All along I have seen her creating jobs and opportunities for working folks in which she is still regarded as the best boss one could have. We see her out supporting our local businesses. I was honored to serve with her on the Brandon Planning Commission for a time. Her name is always to be found in records of charitable giving and those who go the extra mile for their neighbors.

Like many Brandonites, I have been proud, in the past, to vote

for both Butch Shaw and Stephanie Jerome. That's because both of them put their ideologies aside for their constituents as a whole and they agreed when and where it mattered most, despite their party differences. Stephanie has sent, published, and posted more resources for businesses and struggling individuals than any politician I've seen. Take a moment and read her website, columns, emails, posts—they're filled with opportunities. In her last several articles I've read of opportunities for tax relief for those who need it as well as grants for those ready to pursue their business ambitions. I heard someone ask, "What has Stephanie Jerome done for us?" The

answer is everything possible: tax relief for those who need it, favorable loan opportunities, advocacy, charity, pro-business policy, childcare policy, and acquisition of state and federal money for Brandon.

I've lived in Brandon just about my entire life. That's long enough to remember Mamie Humiston serving on the Selectboard as one of our only women leaders in Brandon history. That's long enough to remember when even many Democrats were voting for Joe Acinapura, first for Selectboard then for state rep, not because all his policy ideas aligned with theirs but because they knew he was a good man of strong character who consistent-

ly did his best for all his constituents. That's the case now with Stephanie Jerome. The other day I passed a house in Forest Dale with two political signs - one for a republican candidate and one for Jerome. I know I'm not the only one who's looking to bridge the partisan gap and create unity for our town and country.

Whatever may be going on in the Federal circus, we in Brandon can transcend partisan fear and division. We at the local level know who has our back. Stephanie Jerome has our backs.

*Ethan Nelson
Brandon*

Todd Nielsen

(Continued from Page 4)

ever it took to pay the bills. I was a gypsy, I bounced around."

"But he always came back to carpentry," Stanley chimed in.

In the 90s, Todd became a handyman in the Hamptons on Long Island. An article dubbed "A Good Handy Man is Hard to Find" was even written about him in the Southampton Press. Most recently, Todd has been using his carpentry

Todd first moved to Brandon, he raised pigs as a hobby. "It kept me from going nuts with nothing to do." Not just ordinary pigs, "I raised different pigs." Once, Todd raised a Mongolian pig. "It was black and had long hair. It was tall and skinny and had a long snout and long legs." Todd grinned. "It was the ugliest thing you've ever seen."

Todd joined the Army when he was 17. In the 1980s, he was in the Berlin Brigade, which was responsible for guarding the Berlin wall. Todd served in the anti-tank platoon in what was called a combat support battalion. "The Army was very good for me. It gave me some discipline." The discipline paid off. He and Aida have been married for twenty-eight years.

Ironically, Aida grew up in Lithuania, which was a communist country. "I was saving the world from communism in Germany and then I married one." Todd teased. Then clarified Aida never was a communist. "When I met her, she was a believer in God and holistic lifestyle." A legal citizen of the United States, Aida has worked as a nurse at Helen Porter in Middlebury for fourteen years. "Her job is very

important to her." Todd said she is an exemplary employee.

"Todd's mother was a hospice nurse for a while." Stanley added.

Employed as a security guard at GMCS (Green Mountain Concert Services) based out of Winooski, Todd's work has included North Beach Campground, The Flynn Center, and the Warming Shelter in Burlington. "During the plague [Covid-19], I did all the hotels in Rutland and Colchester." When Todd spoke about his work experiences, the happenings at the Warming Shelter appeared to disturb him the most. Briefly mentioning how dangerous the job is, Todd went on to share a couple of stories that included one of a "naked guy walking down Church Street [in Burlington] at 4 PM." Although Todd playfully admitted, "He had sneakers on."

Of his candidacy for the VT House of Representatives, I asked Todd, "What is the most important issue for you this year?"

"To make Vermont affordable again. We can't go on like this. Sometimes you've got to say no. This Affordable Fuel Act is far from affordable." While working, Todd admits that he and Aida are fine, but worry if they will be able to afford living in Vermont once they retire. Additionally, he is concerned for younger generations. "Families starting out, they don't have any money, I don't know how they are going to make it."

"Todd was always one for common sense," his father affirmed.

To learn more about Todd Nielsen, Candidate for VT House of Representatives, please join him at the Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, for a meet and greet on Thursday, September 5th at 6 PM.

Brandon biggest tree contest still open for entries!

School has already started! Thanksgiving is right around the corner! The Brandon Tree Group Biggest Tree Contest continues until Thanksgiving, but that's getting closer every day! Don't wait until the last minute!

We've had people aging from 3 to 75 enter their choices of Brandon's Biggest Tree. Some have entered two trees (hedging their bets?). Enter early, enter often! Enter the biggest tree you can find for largest diameter tree (at breast height, 4 1/2 feet above the ground). Measure it (inches around). Send us a photo, the tree's size, and your name and email. Who knows which tree will be the winner? The tree doesn't need to be on your prop-

erty (but get permission if it's not), it doesn't need to be your tree. In the event of more than one entry of the same tree, we'll figure it out.

Fun for one, fun for all!! This is a family-friendly contest with no age limits, so get your kids interested, get them out and looking.

Don't know what kind of tree it is? Enter it anyway, we'll figure it out later.

Start keeping your eyes open for that one giant tree that you're sure is big, bigger, and biggest!

Did I mention prizes!?!?

Neil Silins

Brandon Tree Warden



TODD NIELSEN AND his father, Stanley (on ladder), working on a pole barn at Todd's house on Corona Street in Brandon.

skills making improvements to his Corona Street home in Brandon. He and Stanley, 83 years young, are currently erecting a pole barn for Todd's travel trailer.

"After I'm done with this, I'm building a 16' X 24' utility shed for my tractor and yard equipment." Apparently not one to sit still, when



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Obituaries

Penny Marie Eastman, 67, Leicester

Penny Marie Eastman, 67, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2024 at the Jack Bryne Hospice Center in Hanover, NH. She was born in Sharon, CT on November 13, 1956, the daughter of Paul and Patricia (Murphy) Phillips. Her family moved to Sudbury, VT in 1972. She graduated from Otter Valley Union High School. On July 20, 1974, she was married to Steven Allen Eastman at the Brandon Congregational Church. Penny worked at the First Brandon National Bank for 23 years. She afterwards worked at Royal Lock & Glass in Rutland for 12 years before recently retiring. Family was everything for Penny, she loved to cook, bake, and host family gatherings. She had also



PENNY MARIE EASTMAN

volunteered for American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Penny is survived by her lov-

ing husband, Steven; 2 sons, David and Steven; 1 brother, Paul Phillips; 4 sisters, Peggy LaRock, Kandie Stocker, Sandie Stacey, and Dawn Phillips; 4 grandchildren, Ryan, Amber, Julia, Isaac; and 2 great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Landyn. She was predeceased by 2 brothers, Patrick and Peter Phillips.

Respective of her wishes, a private celebration of her life will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bryne Hospice Center or the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

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

Muriel Marsette Layn, 84, Brandon

It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Muriel Marsette Layn, who departed this life peacefully on June 27, 2024, at the age of 84.

Born to Edmund Marsette and Erma Bryant Marsette on February 27, 1940, she spent her formative years in the picturesque state of Vermont alongside her three siblings: Edmund Marsette Jr., Lynn Marsette McCarthy, and Robert (Bob) Marsette, with Bob being the sole survivor, residing in Brandon, VT.

Our mother's life was dedicated to the happiness and well-being of her family. As a devoted mother of three children and grandmother of seven, she found her greatest fulfillment in nurturing and guiding us. Her unwavering love and kindness were the cornerstones of her existence, and she embraced motherhood with a grace and devotion that touched

the hearts of everyone who knew her.

Her daughter and son-in-law, Michelle Layn Ouansafi and Ha-



MURIEL MARSETTE LAYN

kim Ouansafi, reside in Honolulu, HI, with their three children: Daniel, Courtney, and Brandon.

Her sons, Greg Layn and wife Marci Layn, along with Jeff Layn and wife Jill Layn, both reside in Lewisville, TX. Greg and Marci have two children, Logan and Bryce, while Jeff and Jill have two children, Jordan and Eric.

Mom was a beacon of love and warmth, always placing the needs of her family above her own. Her journey took her from the Green Mountains of Vermont to the Lone Star state of Texas, following her boys 18 years ago to ensure that their lives and those of their children were filled with love and support. Her selflessness and gentle spirit were a testament to her character, never asking for much in return.

As we reflect on the journey of our lives, there is a guiding light that has been constant and unwavering—the love and sacrifice our mother poured into raising us children. Words often fall short in capturing the depth of gratitude we feel, but we hope this obituary serves as a testament to the profound impact she had on all our lives.

From the very beginning, she embraced motherhood with a dedication that knew no bounds. So many of us spend our life searching for our purpose, why we were created, but our mother never had to do this, she always knew her purpose and that was being a loving mother to the three of us. Moms' days were marked not by leisure, but by selflessness—waking before dawn to ensure we were clothed and fed, comforting us through tears and fears, and teaching us with patience and wisdom. Her love

(See Muriel Marsette, Page 18)

Kathleen "Katie" Anderson, 38, Brandon

Kathleen "Katie" Anderson, age 38, passed away August 20, 2024, at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Katie was born in Rutland on August 13, 1986. She was the daughter of James and Tammie (Ballo) Olsen. She grew up in Brandon, where she received her early education in local schools. She graduated from Otter Valley



KATHLEEN ANDERSON

Union High School, class of 2004. She had worked for Noonies Deli in Middlebury before accepting a position at New England Woodcraft. Most recently she had worked at Champlain Farms in Brandon until being promoted to manager at Champlain Farms in Pittsford. She enjoyed camping and arts and crafts. She loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Lee Anderson, Jr., her daughter, Arabella Anderson, Arabella's brother of Middlebury, her parents of Brandon, a sister, Cassandra Olsen of Castleton, her paternal grandmother, Marie Bradbury of Brandon, and her in-laws, Lee and Jane Anderson, Sr of Bridport. She was predeceased by her paternal grandfather

and maternal grandparents. Respecting her wishes, a private "Celebration of Her Life" will take place at a later date.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

Jennifer Leigh Stanley, 46, Goshen

Jennifer Leigh Stanley, age 46, passed peacefully with her husband, Brent, by her side on September 2, 2024, at her home in Goshen, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Jen was born in Rutland on July 28, 1978. She was the daughter of Gary and Helen (LaPorte) Stanley. She grew up in Brandon, where she received her



JENNIFER LEIGH STANLEY

early education and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1996. While at OV she was involved in theater arts, plays and dance. She earned her degree from CCV. A free and adventurous spirit, Jen began seeing the world with trips to Europe, where she worked picking grapes in France and traveling all around various European countries. She loved San Francisco and loved living abroad. She loved to read, play piano, enjoyed dancing, and very much loved Silver Lake and the forest.

Jen is survived by her husband and care provider, Brent Klecka of Goshen; her father,

Gary (Andi) Stanley and mother, Helen (Tom) Williams of Brandon; 2 brothers, Todd (Brandy) Stanley of Pittsford and Tim Stanley of Boulder, CO; and her step-sister, Danielle Spaulding of South Burlington. Several aunts,

uncles, and cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her paternal and maternal grandparents.


A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 10 AM, at Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's) Catholic Church, in Brandon. The Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor will be the celebrant.

Following the mass the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion Post, for a time of remembrance.

Friends may pay their re- (See Jennifer Stanley, Page 14)

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JACOB POWSNER (LEFT) and Jenna Baird (right) at Baird Farm in Chittenden. The farm is known for its wide range of maple syrups, many of which are infused with herbs and other flavorings. The syrups will now be available in vintage-inspired tins.
Photo by Winter Caplanson

Baird Farm

(Continued from Page 1)

This week I drove up to the Baird Farm to fill some of my containers with maple syrup. A few times each year the Baird Farm welcomes its customers to do this. Jenna Baird was outside picking flowers for fellow volunteers at a suicide prevention charity. Her gladioli, zinnias, and dahlias are gorgeous. What a thoughtful gift. She directed me to their farmstore. Jacob was busy filling bottles with syrup. While he was filling mine, I asked Jacob if anything was new, he told me their farm is launching a new product line: maple syrup in tin cans. Look for it locally at Morningside Bakery and at food sellers across the state, from Woodstock Farmers Market to Cold Hollow Cider Mill. Jenna says the cans are “soft launched.” They’ll be officially announcing it on September 10th.

The can is charming. The Bairds teamed up with illustrator Shane McFalls from Newfane, VT and designer Andrew Plotsky of Farmrun to create the tin can artwork. Their art design is whimsical and filled with images of winter: a bear on a sled, a squirrel on skis, a great blue heron on ice skates, a Holstein and dog pulling a porcupine be-

hind a snowmobile. “Eat pure and stay wild” is stamped on the back: their tagline. This time it has a small addition underneath: “Ya Filthy Animals.”

I asked them about this new product line. The Bairds said the idea for this product was years in the making. The inspiration emerged during the long nights of boiling syrup during the early years of the pandemic. Folks traditionally have been putting maple syrup in cans for the better part of 150 years. Tin is still very popular north of the border in Quebec. Many sugarmakers still say “canning” to describe the bottling and packing of syrup. Nostalgia and retro styles are coming back. Their main challenge was finding a company that could

The Bairds teamed up with illustrator Shane McFalls from Newfane, VT and designer Andrew Plotsky of Farmrun to create the tin can artwork.

help bring the custom cans to life. While there are one or two tin can producers still in Vermont, none does custom labels, only generic industry ones. Jenna and Jacob worked with Dominion and Grimm, based out of Canada, who were excited about custom cans. For years now, Dominion and Grimm have worked with a manufacturer in England to source cans specific for the maple industry. It’s surprisingly refreshing in a world full of microplastics to see some folks

make a conscious choice for more traditional materials.

I cannot recommend enough the following drive which will end at the Baird’s Farm and farmstore. Book a tour, go buy syrup or just take a drive. Between now and November 1, it should be amazing. Take Oxbow Road in Pittsford to Adams Road (left hand turn off Oxbow.) There’s a pretty Jersey farm on the left. Then



CREPES, BLUEBERRIES, AND Baird Farm maple syrup! The Baird Farm has been a family affair for four generations.

Photo by Steve Peters Media

take a right onto Furnace Road, following Furnace Brook, until you reach the hamlet of Furnace Brook. There’s a hairpin

turn on Stoney Hill Road to North Chittenden then a right turn onto West Road. The farm is on the left.

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GARDENING CORNER



The lilac blight is neither to be feared, nor permanent

BY LYN DESMARAIS

Are your *syringa vulgaris* (otherwise known as lilacs) looking peaky? Are their leaves browning, drying up, and falling off long before winter? Are they looking as if they are parched and dying of drought? I blundered into a Front Porch Forum discussion where these were the concerns being mulled over by mystified gardeners last week. Half a dozen good solutions were already posted. Readers chimed in with their own stories, did some internet

research, and even pulled in Charlie Nardozzi. Great job. But just in case you're not on Front Porch Forum, here is what I gleaned from these conversations and research.

As we all know, lilacs are gorgeous and fragrant. Along with forsythia and daffodils, they are harbingers of spring in my garden. I love them because

"Don't get rid of your lilacs! They are still alive."

— Charlie Nardozzi

they need little care and come back year after year. However, lilacs do need to be pruned, just after flowering, and if they are seri-

ously overgrown, as mine are, they should be pruned right to the ground, one third of the entire plant for three years. They need to breathe. They need space. Last year was so rainy. Then we had a wet spring this year followed by hot and humid July and August, conditions simply perfect for fungi!

According to Ann Hazelrigg, plant pathologist at UVM, "Lilacs have three main pests that can impact their health: lilac leaf blight, powdery mildew, and the lilac leaf miner." The first two (fungal infections) thrive in the conditions we are having.

Charlie Nardozzi, an expert gardener and nationally recognized garden writer and speaker based in Vermont, addressed the lilac leaf blight so

many of us are seeing (August 25, 2024). "Don't get rid of your lilacs!" he urged. "They are still alive."

"Just scratch the bark at the end of a twig and you should see green," says Ann.

Charlie opined that the blight folks are seeing is caused by the wet spring weather and the humid summer weather. "The leaves look like they are scorched." He recommends cleaning up around your Lilacs and removing the dead leaves. If the blight persists, he does recommend an organic spray early next year.

[HTTPS://www.vermont-public.org/show/all-things-gardening/2024-08-25/rose-of-sharon-hibiscus-shrub-colorful-large-blossoms-late-summer](https://www.vermont-public.org/show/all-things-gardening/2024-08-25/rose-of-sharon-hibiscus-shrub-colorful-large-blossoms-late-summer)

Ann Hazelrigg says that lilac blight is a fungal leaf disease (*pseudocercospora* sp.). She recommends thinning the plant in winter to improve air circulation. She also says to rake and destroy the leaves. Neither thinks the blight will destroy your lilacs and both hope that a drier spring next year will help

curtail the fungus.

I don't know if burning the leaves is a good choice for destroying the leaves. It is suggested by some online. I'm guessing that heat may destroy many of the fungal spores, but could the smoke also spread the spores? Composting is an option but only if you can get the temperature high enough. Otherwise, it's still in your soil. I haven't read good information yet on what exactly to do with the leaves once you have collected them. I'll keep looking for answers.

Confusingly, the internet brings up a fourth pest; lilac blight that it says is caused by a bacterium (*pseudomonas syringae*), which is spread by wind or water and seems to be identical to the fungus in terms of the damage it does. The recommendation of what to do is also the same: rake up the leaves and destroy them and promote better air circulation.

It is so important to know what the pest or disease is before you treat any plant or shrub or tree in the spring with
(See Gardening Corner, Page 18)



For a new film on Vermont's 1960s counterculture, it's been a long strange trip to the screen

BY KEVIN O'CONNOR/
VTDIGGER

Ray Mungo's origin story reads like the stuff of a movie script: Born in 1946, the Roman Catholic schoolboy morphed into a Marxist Boston University student turned New York underground press founder turned, in 1968, back-to-the-land pioneer at Vermont's Packer Corners commune in Guilford.

Mungo wrote about his journey in the 1970 book "Famous Long Ago: My Life and Hard Times with Liberation News Service," which the New York Times deemed an "honest, literate and loving memoir" and actor Robert Redford — fresh off his star turn in 1969's "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" — optioned for a film.

Redford asked Mungo to write the screenplay, the press went on to report.

"Big mistake," Charles Light,

a fellow back-to-the-lander and 75-year-old Vermont filmmaker, recently recalled. "Ray's script had nothing to do with the original story."

And so Redford's option lapsed, as did subsequent interest from a succession of prominent producers including, as one newspaper reported, Stephen Schwartz, composer of the musicals "Godspell" and "Wicked."

Mungo would move to California, where he's now 78, retired and, according to friends, living quietly out of the public spotlight. Light, for his part, has spent decades making indie documentaries about everything from the plight of Vietnam veterans to the fight against nuclear power to, premiering Sept. 7, what he calls "this long-delayed opus."

"Far Out: Life On & After the Commune" tells the true story of a group of hippies who

bought properties in Guilford and nearby Montague, Massachusetts, only to face challenges while sowing the seeds of surprisingly lasting change.

"Our whole idea of moving to the farm was to get away from the cities, to get away from politics, to get away from the news," Mungo says at the start of the 85-minute film. "We didn't have a television set, we didn't have a telephone, we didn't have indoor plumbing."

Instead, they had an array of higher education degrees — and, in Mungo's case, a spurned fellowship to Harvard. Even so, they didn't know how to complete such down-to-earth tasks as milking a cow or

tilling a field.

"I wasn't brought up ever to go outside," commune resident turned poet Verandah Porche says in the film. "There were farmers who reached out to us. They needed cheap labor, and we needed to learn how to do things. And so we toted hay bales and hauled sap buckets and hung around in farm kitchens."

Many longtime locals still remember the newcomers weeding naked. But the documentary reveals the commune wasn't always the Garden of Eden. When Mungo revealed his sexuality, "the hippies were not necessarily accepting of this gay thing," he says in the

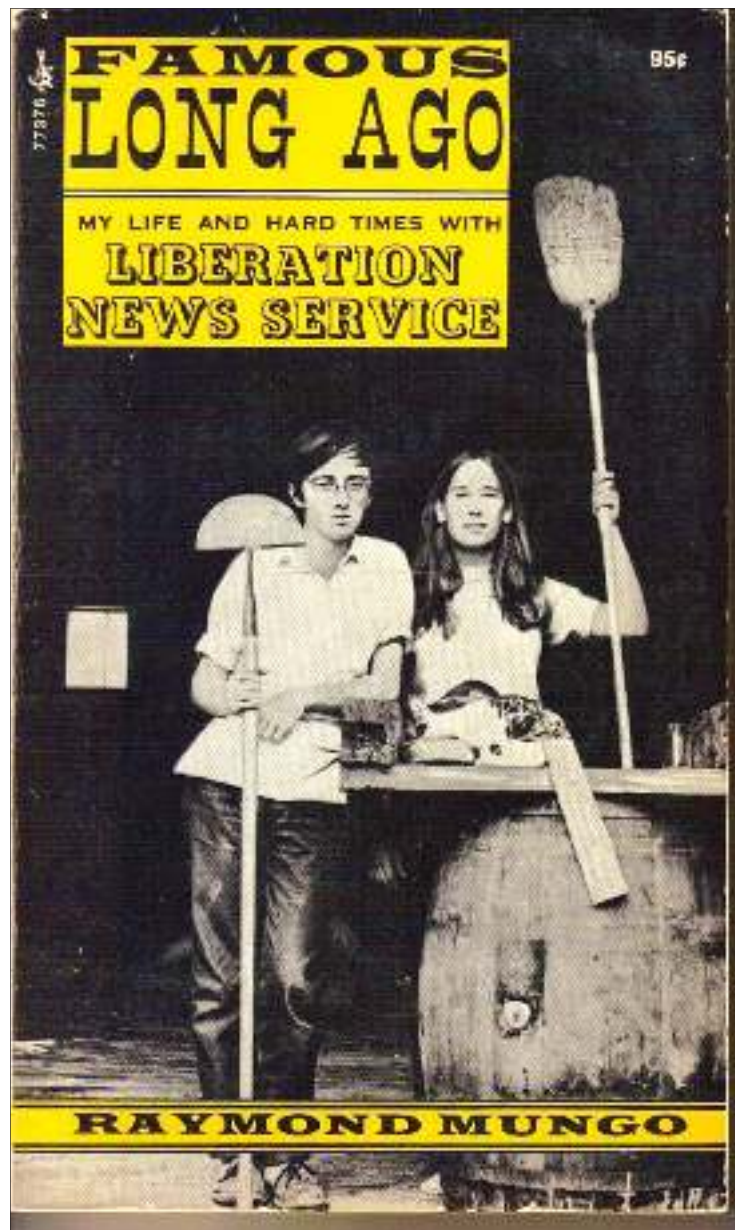
film. Women recount feeling relegated to the kitchen despite the feminist movement, while their children ricocheted in different directions.

Porche's daughter, Oona Adams, recalls pretending that a tree stump was a record player — then discovering cartoons on a neighbor's television.

"It was kind of a complicated place to grow up," Adams says in the film.

Commune residents would go on to protest the 1970s development of nuclear power locally and nationally. By 1979, a few teamed with such stars as Jackson Browne, Graham Nash and Bonnie Raitt to produce a

(See *Counterculture film*, Page 11)



RAY MUNGO (LEFT) is pictured on the cover of his 1970 book "Famous Long Ago: My Life and Hard Times with Liberation News Service."



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A STILL-FRAME IMAGE from the new documentary "Far Out: Life On & After the Commune" pictures revelers dancing around a maypole in Guilford on May 1, 1969.

Courtesy Charles Light

Counterculture film

(Continued from Page 9)
week of sold-out "No Nukes" concerts at New York's Madison Square Garden and a culminating 200,000-person rally featuring Jane Fonda, Tom Hayden and Ralph Nader at nearby Battery Park.

"I think it had a very divisive impact," Harvey Wasserman, a Montague commune resident turned activist and author, says in the film. "There were those of us who had been in New York and those of us who stayed home. And there was a divide. It just was a cultural divide."

It wasn't the only fissure. In 1970, the Green Mountain State was home to an estimated 35,800 hippies — one-third of its 107,527 people age 18 to 34, according to the Vermont Historical Society. But that number declined precipitously upon the conclusion of the Vietnam War, with some 75 communes at the beginning of the decade whittled down to only a dozen by its end.

The documentary doesn't sugarcoat the communes' divisions and decline.

"I certainly wanted it to have that honesty vibe," Light said in an interview, "for people to speak directly to the problems and conflicts as much as they felt comfortable, even to the extent of including very contradictory points of view. Because that's how life is. Obviously,

we didn't have all the answers." And yet, seeds continue to sprout.

Mungo's memoir and subsequent books remain for sale (on Amazon, no less). Porche, for her part, still lives on the property and serves as vice-chair of the Guilford Selectboard.

"It's important to me," Porche says in the film, "that people still do feel that this is a place where you can come and stay for a week or a month and compost experience with us, that conversation is still a crop here."

Adds her daughter, who's now a labor organizer: "It's a sea change really, that the dominant culture is now a culture shaped by the people who moved here in the '60s."

That's one reason Light made the documentary between his meetings as a member of the Guilford Planning Commission. He's set to screen the film at Brattleboro's Latchis Theatre Sept. 6-12, with fellow commune residents scheduled to appear at a special premiere event Sept. 7.

"I think a certain amount of 'boomer' fatigue is setting in, as our kids always refer to this as 'The Story That Will Not Die,'" Light said. "But you can't deny the effect that the back-to-the-land movement had on the social and political culture — and the effect the local people had on us.

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Calendar of events

September

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Aikido with Brandon Rec -- Aikido classes for Youth (4:30) and Adults (5:30) at Brandon's Town Hall main floor. Beginners and Spectators always welcome! For more information, visit www.AikidoVermont.org

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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



name, age, and contact information for your family.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink.

Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

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

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

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.

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

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

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily, making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reap 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 you 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 our email list. \$15/class.

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Art Center from 12-1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not 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 Art 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.



Brandon Senior Center Game Day

Come join us every Friday at 2:00 p.m. Cards, darts, puzzles, board games, coloring.

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 whomever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

First Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join us every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for picture book storytime. All ages welcome.

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

Saturday 31st, Saturday 6th

Pond Hill Pro Rodeo

Set in the beautiful central Vermont Mountains is a 2000 acre working ranch, in which on Saturday nights in the summer you can step back into the wild west! Our rodeo is every Saturday Night July 4 the weekend through Labor Day weekend at 7:30 PM.

Pond Hill Ranch
1683 Pond Hill Ranch Rd., Castleton, VT, 05735

Friday 6th

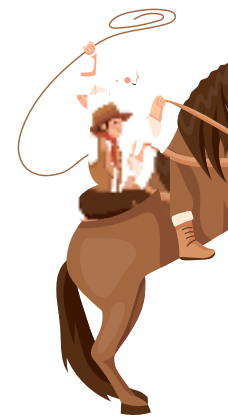
Outdoor Movie Night Featuring "Garfield 2024" — Pittsford Recreation Area

Free family movie night under the stars. Come join us for a FREE event. We will have trivia contests with prizes.-Pre show retro cartoons and of course lots of FUN with our Garfield friends. Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy the movie outside on the biggest screen around. Popcorn is also FREE and additional concessions will be for sale with all proceeds benefitting the Lothrop PTO. Rain date is September 13th. Donations accepted. 7-9 pm.

Kalos and Hannah O'Brien & Grant Flick — Next Stage Arts

Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present an evening of traditional and contemporary Celtic and fiddle music by Kalos and Hannah & Grant Flick.

Kalos is made up of three innovative interpreters and composers of Celtic roots music. Eric McDonald (guitar, mandolin, vocals), Ryan McKasson, (fiddle, viola, vocals), and Jeremiah McLane (accordion, piano, vocals) draw on years of experience performing with the likes of Cantrip, Nightingale, The Clayfoot Strutters, and Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas to forge a new musical path as Kalos. Kalos' underlying drive and pulse, rhythmic electricity and swirl-



Goings on around town

ing intensity transform traditional repertoire into a vital, elemental, genre-transcending sound appealing to music lovers of all stripes.

Hannah O'Brien & Grant Flick mix original compositions and traditional pieces from various fiddling traditions. With backgrounds in classical, Irish, and American improvisational idioms, they feature double fiddles, but also vary instrumentation, incorporating tenor guitar and nyckelharpa. Their musical interests are broad and as a result, the award-winning duo showcases an eclectic assemblage of repertoire. Co-presented with Twilight Music. From 7:30–9:30 pm at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$20–25.

Saturday 7th

Touch A Truck — Pittsford Village Farm

Come with the whole family to experience all types of vehicles! Utility trucks, farm equipment, fire and safety vehicles, trail maintenance machines, and more!

Touch A Truck is Saturday, 9/7 (rain date 9/14) from 10 am–2 pm at Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm Street, Pittsford. 10–11 am is our horns-free hour. We will have food, music, Sara's Stories, a play area for kids, and LOADS of vehicles. There will be utility, fire and safety trucks, farm tractors, trail equipment, and more! Everyone is welcome to climb the vehicles, sit in them, talk to their operators and hear the horns and sirens. This is a free event open to the public and great for the whole family. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per family.

Scottish Genealogy Research — Virtual

You don't have to travel abroad to find valuable documents and records for your Scottish ancestors. Sheila Morris will show how to trace those elusive ancestors, what their occupations were, names that are important, and how to find original Scottish census records. She will also share maps of Scotland showing the counties before 1855, and after, as well as how to use ScotlandsPeople.com and tips for organizing your research. This class will be held in-person at the library, and simultaneously via Zoom from 10:30 to noon. The cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org register.



Imagine Zero 2024 — Fable Farm

Presenting the 2nd annual Imagine Zero Music Festival on September 7. Imagine Zero is an aspiring zero waste, zero carbon emissions music festival taking place at Fable Farm in Barnard, VT. Join us for a beautiful celebration on the farm featuring great live music, local food and drinks, all ages. World-touring Haitian band, Lakou Mizik, will headline the event, joined by New England favorites, Billy Wylder, The Wolff Sisters, Saints & Liars, Chad Hollister Band, Ben Kogan Band, Beecharmer, Seth Glier and more. The dynamic performers will play a range of global music, indie-rock, American folk, bluegrass, and rock & roll that will make you want to dance!

Fable Farm is a community gathering place, known for their delicious wines and farm to table food that will be offered alongside local sustainable vendors. Help us reduce our carbon emissions by taking the free shuttle or carpooling.

Town of West Rutland Block Party

The Block Party will take place on the Town Hall Green and Marble Street on Saturday, September 7th from 2:30 pm to 8 pm. 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's Rock Lab, Extra Stout Irish Band, Tony's Polka Band and Satin &

Steel. The event will be topped off with an evening fireworks display. Admission is free. Bring a chair and your dancing shoes.

A Gift of Dreams: The Creative Process — Work of Richard Weis

Stone Valley Arts announces a major exhibit "A Gift of Dreams: The Creative Process" a retrospective of the work of Richard Weis. The show will display a body of work from 59 years as an artist. Opening reception will be held on Saturday, September 7 from 5–7 pm. The exhibit will run through October 20 with gallery hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1–4pm where Weis will be set up as an artist in residence and he will be available to do painting demonstrations and discuss his work with visitors.

Richard Weis

began his career as an artist/teacher in the 1960s in Bemidji, Minnesota. Various teaching and study opportunities led him and his wife, Nancy, to Wisconsin, Oregon, Northern Virginia/Washington, D.C., Ohio, and Indiana, before he joined the faculty of Green Mountain College in 1989. Weis has exhibited widely in the U.S. and abroad, spending time as a visiting artist at Aberystwyth University in Wales in 2002, and as a Fulbright Scholar and Artist in Residence at Hannam University in South Korea in 2003. At the end of his teaching career Dick was a Professor of Art, and Director of International Programs at Green Mountain College, retiring in 2010. He continues to work out of his Poultney and Castleton studios, regularly exhibiting his work and involving himself in community art activities in Poultney and Rutland. He is proud to have been one of the founders of Stone Valley Arts and feels blessed to have been able to share his life and work with fellow artist Nancy Pulliam Weis. You can view their work at www.otherweis.com. From 5–7 pm at Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main Street, Poultney.

Bandwagon Summer Series: Reverend Vince Anderson & His Love Choir — Scott Farm Orchard

After coming to New York in the 90s to enter the seminary, studying to be a Methodist minister, Reverend Vince Anderson dropped out to follow his second calling—music. His band, The Love Choir, defines its style as "dirty gospel," busting out trumpets, guitars and a keyboard. Together, they have played a now-legendary weekly show in Williamsburg, Brooklyn for over twenty years. Reconnecting with his faith and using his intense soulful music, he began to preach a type of spirituality that meets people where they are, is open to all, and moves everyone that sees him play.

Reverend Vince is also deeply involved in social activism, working with other progressive faith leaders at home and around the country to build inclusive communities.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. Twenty performances ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold onsite, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts. From 5–7 pm at Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Road, Dummerston. \$20–25.

Proctor Town Green, 6 pm



September 4
Chaz Canney
September 28
Fall Festival
Robert Wuagneux

Pine Tree Flyers at Burnham Presents Music Series

Burnham Presents kicks off their next season September 7th with Pine Tree Flyers. Four of the finest voices in the traditional music scene come together to spotlight the rich tradition of Irish, Scottish, French-Canadian and American traditional music. Each member of the band has toured the world and brings years of experience and dedication to their craft with instrumentation of fiddle, piano, accordion, guitar & bouzouki. Band members Owen Marshall and Neil Pearlman have taught at Maine Fiddle Camp since they were teens, Emily Troll plays in the acclaimed contra dance band Anadama, and Katie McNally performed for over a decade with New England supergroup Childsplay. Owen Marshall was also a member of Vermont Young Traditions from a young age and has toured and recorded with many artists including The Seamus Egan Project, Haas, Marshall and Walsh and Liz Carroll. It's sure to be a raucous good time! Homemade desserts will be available. Music at 7:30 pm for two sets. Doors at 7.

Admission \$20–25. Tickets and information: <https://www.burnhampresents.org/> 802-349-3364 Burnham Presents Burnham Hall. Lincoln, VT 05443.

Saturday 7th Sunday 8th

East Barnard Linen Fair

Join us at our third annual fair on Saturday, 7th & Sunday, 8th September, 2024. The linen fair celebrates and demonstrates traditional harvesting and retting of flax, from crops grown this season in the Broad Brook valley, and spinning and weaving demonstrations in the making of linen. Participate in the flax harvest and try flax processing with traditional equipment. This event is family-friendly and has food available, live music, plus an art exhibition of flax based creations. From 9 am–4 pm at 5324 Broad Brook Road, Barnard.

Sunday 8th

Orwell Food & Farm Fest

Celebrate our community of growers and makers with live music, farmers market, crafts for kids, and community socializing at the last Food & Farm Fest of 2024. In addition to the fantastic spread of vendors of over 20 local vendors, the September 8th event will feature: Live music by Dick McCormick • Carriage rides with Driven by Drafts from 1–3 pm, sponsored by DeMoy Rockwell Family • Most Outsized Vegetable Competition (drop off your oversized veg before 2:45 on Sept 8 to enter) • Mimzy's Shop – kids, decorate a bat house and do bat crafts, free! • Tea and cookies with Orwell Fortnightly to celebrate their 125th year as a group, free! • Apple Pressing Demonstration • Ask a Master Gardener Table • Orwell Historical Society exhibit • Food specials by Buxton's Store • Hard cider tastings with Champlain Orchards. Visit the Orwell Free Library website, Facebook page, & YouTube channel to learn more about this community gathering and join us! On the Green from 12–4 pm.

EEE

(Continued from Page 1)
had tested positive for the virus that causes Eastern Equine Encephalitis, known as EEE.

Though cases among humans remain uncommon, even in areas where the virus is detected, the virus can cause brain swelling, fever, muscle pain, and seizures, among other symptoms. Most healthy adults will recover fully within 2 weeks, but the disease can be fatal and can cause permanent neurological damage in survivors. There is no vaccine and no cure. Patients who contract EEE are generally treated for their symptoms only.

The best prevention is to limit exposure to mosquitos by wearing long sleeves and long pants when outdoors, using insect repellent, and avoiding outdoor activities at times when mosquitos are most active (dusk and night).

In September of 2012, a resident

of Brandon, 87-year-old Richard Hollis Breen, succumbed to EEE, the first in Vermont to do so. Mr. Breen had been the first principal at Otter Valley Union High School in the 1960s. Forty-nine-year-old Scott Sgorbati of Sudbury also died of EEE that September.

Stephen Belcher, the interim President of the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCWICD), which sprays for mosquitos in Brandon, Pittsford, Leicester, Goshen, Salisbury, and Proctor, wrote in an e-mail that OCWICD had not sprayed heavily earlier in the season because of the frequent rain and the low mosquito population. However, he indicated that OCWICD will be returning to its usual spraying schedule now that the weather is dryer.

Please visit heathvermont.gov for more information about EEE and its prevention.



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Affordable Heat Act (Act 18) — What you need to know

Vermonters deserve access to reliable and affordable methods to heat their homes, but the cost of fossil fuel can be volatile. The Affordable Heat Act (2023) addressed how Vermonters heat their homes. It is explicitly designed to help Vermonters save money on fuel bills by switching to clean energy heat. Vermonters who can afford to do so have already lowered their fuel bills by weatherizing, installing heat pumps or advanced wood heating systems, or switching to solar-powered water heaters. Vermonters unable to afford these changes are being left behind as our economy shifts to clean heat.

Act 18 proposes a new regulatory framework called the Clean Heat Standard. The price of fuel oil rising by \$2 a gallon has hit us hard. Vermont families have been hammered by rising, unpredictable fossil-fuel prices. In a global market, these prices fluctuate based on factors that Vermont fuel dealers can neither control nor predict. The Clean Heat Standard is meant to help Vermonters cope with these changes.

There are three major goals of a Clean Heat Standard:

To help Vermonters, especially those of low- and moderate-incomes, save money on heating bills by transitioning to more

affordable, sustainable ways of heating their homes

To encourage fuel dealers to diversify their business models as the global economy shifts to renewable energy

To help Vermont meet its carbon-pollution reduction milestones, as required by the Global Warming Solutions Act

The Affordable Heat Act directs the Public Utility Commission to engage in an extensive rule-making process and deliver draft Clean Heat Standard rules to the legislature in January 2025. The Affordable Heat Act also commissioned an independent analysis to detail how this standard would be rolled out, how much it might cost, how much it could save, and how it impacts the price of heating fuel. This study is due in September.

The House and the Senate will take the draft rules and data and use them to develop a new bill for consideration during the upcoming 2025–2026 biennium. This will involve expert testimony, public hearings, committee meetings, and multiple drafts of the bill before final consideration. The Clean Heat Standard will only become reality in Vermont if it passes the House, the Senate, and is signed by the Governor into law.

Many Vermonters have been

told that the Affordable Heat Act will result in much higher fuel prices. This bill does not raise the price of fuel or put in place a carbon tax. The bill does not require Vermonters to replace their fuel systems or install heat pumps. Instead, the bill commissioned a study to determine how to ensure Vermonters can access more stable, affordable sources of heat. A detailed proposal will come back to the legislature to consider or reject in 2025. Our goal is to help Vermonters heat their homes and make life a little more affordable. I will fight for programs that lower these costs. As we move toward a renewable energy economy, we must ensure that the needs of all Vermonters are front and center.

If you are interested in reading the bill or viewing testimony, please go to <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.5>

Feel free to reach out to me with questions about the Affordable Heat Act or other bills of concern to you.

*Take care,
Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
Vice-Chair, Commerce
and Economic
Development Committee
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us
www.stephaniejeromevt.com*



Golf Course

Whalen Open | Sept 13–15
5 person scramble • \$1600 per team includes skins, food, Golf/Cart • 2 carts per team • 2023 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 will play from the Blue tees, all other flights play white tees • Ladies green tees 8 Closest to pin all par 3's, all 3 days.

APPLICATIONS AND MONEY DUE SEPTEMBER 1st (NO EXCEPTIONS)

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

REGISTER HERE:
<https://neshobe.com/whalen-open/>

WE ARE HIRING!
Cook
We are currently seeking a skilled and dedicated Cook to join our culinary team at Neshobe Golf Club. The ideal candidate will have a passion for creating delicious and visually appealing dishes while ensuring a high standard of food quality and safety. As a Cook, you will play a crucial role in enhancing the overall dining experience for our members and guests.

Bartender
We're currently searching for a skilled and enthusiastic bartender to join our team. If you have a passion for creating great drinks and providing excellent customer service, we want to hear from you. This is a fantastic opportunity to work in a vibrant and friendly environment. Apply today!

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

Jennifer Stanley

(Continued from Page 6)

spects to the family at Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, on Wednesday, September 4, from 5 to 8 PM.

Please NO FLOWERS. Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to www.friendsforadog.org (an Arts Foundation).

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

See page 17



Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

Leicester News

Make an energy plan for your home to save some money this winter

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat, Sept 14, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Refreshments served and all are invited. Funds raised help with maintenance costs of the historic buildings in town.

The Leicester Selectboard is pleased to announce that the town received a Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant from the State of Vermont to help residents learn about ways to save money on energy bills and be more comfortable in their homes. The Selectboard has partnered with The Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County, a local non-profit, to bring the Energy Navigators program to Leicester. Energy Navigators provide free one-on-one energy consulting to homeowners and renters. Working together, you can make an energy plan for your home and learn about options for paying for these improvements, as well as connect with contractors that can help you get the work done. So, if you have been wondering how to lower energy bills or who might be able to do energy related work for you, contact <https://www.energynavigators.org/>

You can contact Diane Benware for more information at 802-247-3786.

Can you guess the street?

Trees for a downtown or commercial area should grow tall enough to not interfere with signage, street lighting or building fronts. Large mature trees also shade more pavement in the summer and reduce the heat island. Large trees also deaden more sound, eat up more pollu-

tion, and remarkably act as traffic calmers. Conversely, trees that never gain much height block road signs, block store signs, and block store windows, they block sight lines for traffic and along sidewalks. They never create much shade and don't really get big enough to sit under. It is true

that their roots don't need much room, and their branches don't fall on power lines, but their advantages end there.

I certainly hope the trees in this photo of the 2024 Brandon Central Park and Civil War Monument grow tall a majestic like the trees in the circa 1900 photo.



BRANDON CENTRAL PARK and Civil War Monument now (below) and circa 1900 (left).



Your mystery for next week!



September 20th, 7–8:30 pm The Brandon Artists Guild presents, Artist Talk: Featured Wood Artist, Guy Rossi

Guy Rossi, shares his fascination for the properties, found in wood. How he incorporates texture and grain patterns in small ornament pieces to large home furnishings.

“Meet the Artist” Friday night, September 20th at 7pm Refreshments will be served

The gallery is open Monday - Saturday 10am–5pm ,
and Sunday 10am–4pm
7 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733,
(802) 247-4956

REAL ESTATE



Classy, comfortable, and private camp on 34 acres. Scenic views off the front porch and mountain views from the enclosed deck. The National Forest is the neighbor to the north, and the North Branch of the Neshobe River runs along the edge of the property. Open floor plan inside with several wood stoves. The front deck features a built-in bench. One bedroom with a loft for extra sleeping (or storage) space. Close to Silver Lake, Goshen Dam, and all Green Mountain recreation. \$240,000

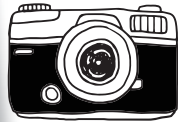


802-236-9112 • Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com



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



Frank Farnsworth recognized his father, Frank, in this photo. He writes, his father is pictured here "installing the sign for the new location of my business on Wheeler Road. He may have been a PhD, but he was no stranger to the old-fashioned post hole digger. Picture was probably done in 1994."

Marcia King recognized her aunt, Marion Leonard on the left in this photo.

Connie Kenna and Linda and Bob Schmidt also recognized "Marnie," who used to live in Brandon. Connie knew Marnie because she purchased the house that Marnie and her husband Ralph had built in 1927. The Leonards lived there for 62 years. Ralph was a native of Brandon and Marnie moved to Brandon from Burlington before she met Ralph.

Maridon Gibson also recognized Ms. Leonard, noting that, "She and her husband owned and tended their farm on Mt. Pleasant Acres, now currently being developed into housing by T. and C. Whittaker."



Liz Steventon recognized the gentleman playing the keyboard in this photo to be her father-in-law, Joe Steventon, of Rochester.

Linda Berry also recognized Mr. Steventon, and the gentleman playing the guitar—he is Joe Andrews, of Hancock. Ms. Berry noted, "When they played, they called themselves 'The two Joes.'"

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



Or call us at 247-8080

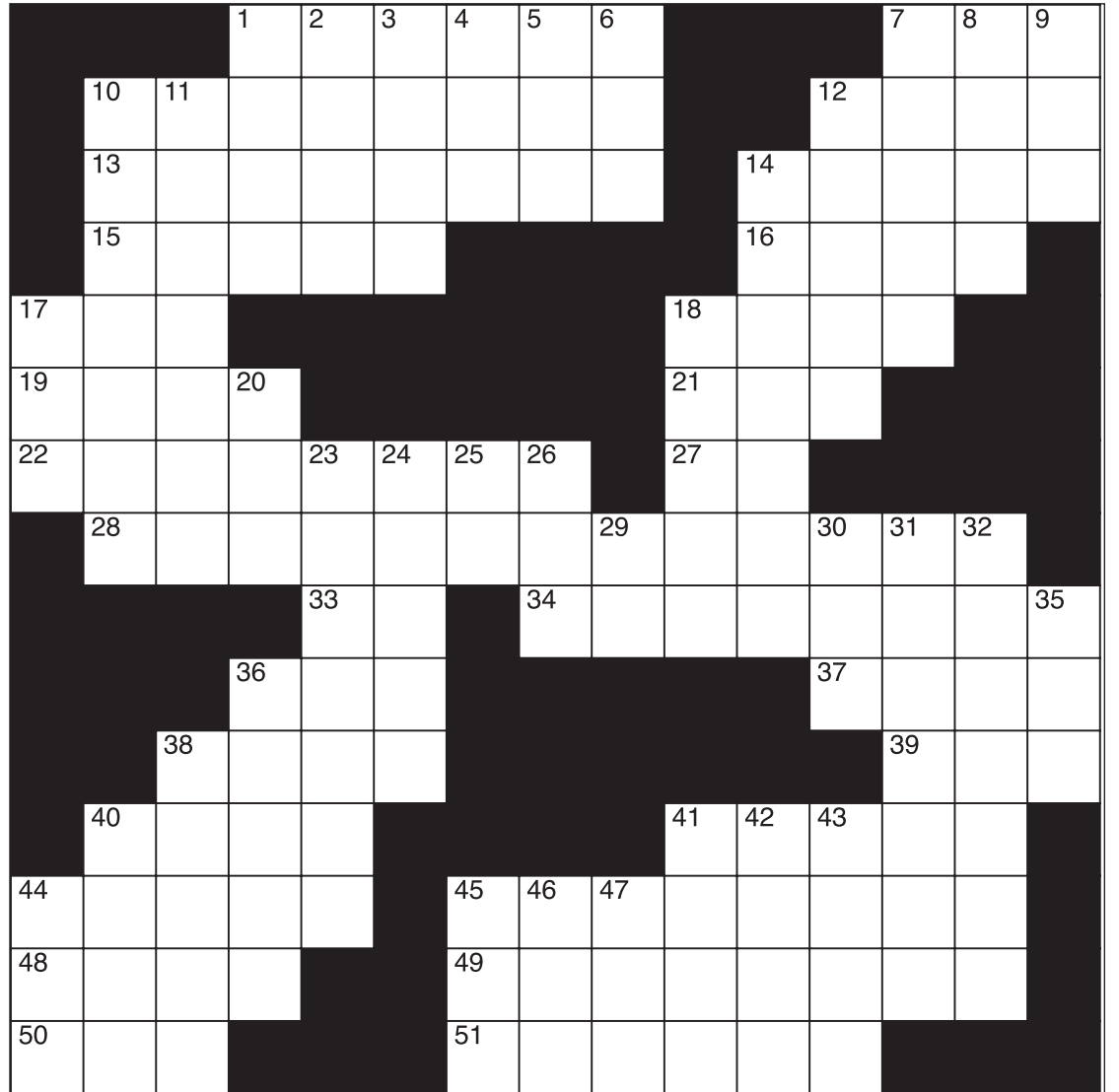
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Current unit
7. Reciprocal of an ohm
10. God of the sea
12. A way to disfigure
13. Positioned
14. Tall tropical American tree
15. Large deciduous trees
16. ___ and ends
17. Part of a machine
18. Brews
19. One who leads prayers in a mosque
21. Indian state
22. Partisans
27. Top lawyer in the land
28. Former Dodgers MVP
33. Title for women
34. Heated and allowed to slowly cool
36. Copycat
37. Sounds
38. One-time Israeli diplomat Abba
39. Part of (abbr.)
40. Hateful
41. Collide
44. European football heavyweight
45. One who works for you
48. Song
49. Ancient marvels
50. Bridge building degree
51. Delivery boys

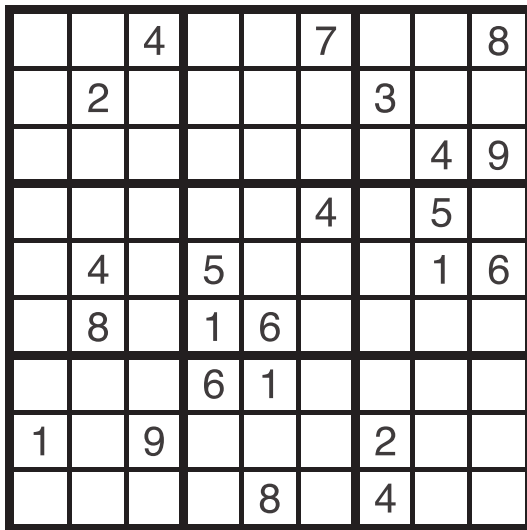
CLUES DOWN

1. Continent
2. Submissive
3. There's a lot in a bowling alley
4. Sun up in New York
5. Court decision ___ v. Wade
6. Finish line
7. Young women
8. Hives of activity
9. Hyman Roth's right-hand man Johnny
10. Eastern U.S. river
11. Popular cooking ingredient
12. Greek mythological princess
14. Scent for men
17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
18. Once more
20. Irate
23. Triangular spaces above a door
24. Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik
25. Atomic #58
26. Patti Hearst's captors
29. Natural logarithm
30. Talk incessantly
31. Went by
32. Strives
35. Fall back
36. Manila hemp
38. Not easily explained
40. Former "Double Dare" host Summers
41. Mollusk
42. Capital of Togo
43. Letter of Semitic scripts
44. Founder of Babism
45. Indicates near
46. Family of regulator genes
47. Indicates before



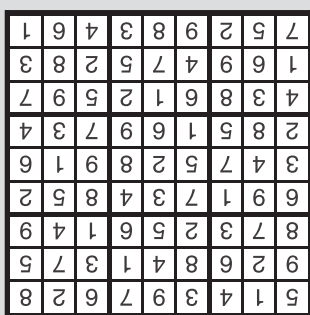
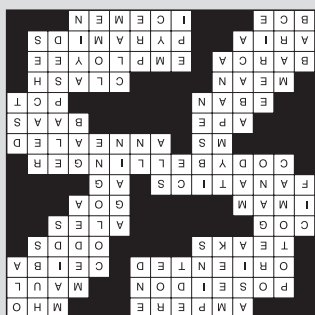
Sudoku

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



Rutland County Humane Society "Duck Derby" – Last Call For Ducks!

There is still time to adopt your little plastic ducks for the Rutland County Humane Society's Duck Derby! The Duck Derby will be at 5:30 pm, on Thursday, September 5th, 2024, at Pittsford Recreation Center. The first 4 ducks to reach the finish line win cash prizes. We'll also have a cash prize for the last duck! You can adopt a single duck for \$3, a Quack-Pack (4 ducks) for \$10, or a 6-Quack (6 ducks) for \$15. Ducks are available for adoption online at rchsvt.org or at the shelter on Stevens Road, Pittsford. All proceeds go towards the care of homeless animals in our community. We have exceeded our goal of 3,465 ducks from last year! Can you help us get to our stretch goal of 4,500?

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



MEET PENELOPE- 9 MONTHS. SPAYED FEMALE. AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE

TERRIER MIX. BRINDLE. Say hello to our cutesy girl Penelope! She came to us as a stray on 7/20 from the Rutland area. She's a young girl ready to find her perfect home and learn the ways of the dog world! She's quick to learn and will do great in a home with family that take her out and give her a solid routine. She's done well around our other dogs here, though we've no known history on how she will do with cats or children. She's young and pliable enough that given the proper training she should do fine with them in a home.

MEET JOY - 2-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TIGER.

If you are looking to add a little sass and spice to your life, Joy is a little of both!! She isn't a fan of being held for long periods of time and can be a bit grumpy if she's had enough of loving from you. Joy does like attention, but it must be on her own terms. Once in a home of her own where she feels relaxed and comfortable, her personality will surely blossom. She arrived at the shelter August 2nd from a busy shelter in North Carolina.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

802-483-6700 • WWW.RCHSVT.ORG
765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



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

Saturday, September 14th from 4-5 pm the pandora consort at ruth stone house presents hildegard REANIMATED: VISION IN VISION

Come to the Ruth Stone House to be immersed in the otherworldly sounds of the human voice as the Pandora Consort perform gorgeous, evocative choral arrangements by remarkable 12th century mystic and composer Hildegard von Bingen. *Hildegard Reanimated: Vision in Vision* also includes animated illuminations by the visionary!

The Pandora Consort explores the mystical visions of Hildegard von Bingen through her illuminations and music. Hildegard is an impressive figure in many regards; she was a theologian, philosopher, botanist, doctor, magistra (mother superior), and one of the first named composers of music. Hildegard experienced visions (“umbra viventis lucis” or “the reflection of the living light”) from the age of three up to her death, and many of her writings and illuminations are a result of these visions. Hildegard’s writings, visions, and music are inextricably linked in her life and philosophy. Taking inspiration from her life, we weave them together in a concert program focused on four of her most famous visions that influenced her spiritual philosophy. Working with visual artist Cate Duckwall to bring these visions to life, this concert features music from Hildegard’s vast oeuvre accompanied by artistic animations of key illuminations, creating a multimedia experience.

Follow link below to reserve at Eventbrite:
[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-pandora-consort-live-at-ruth-stone-house-tick-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-pandora-consort-live-at-ruth-stone-house-tick-ets-1006983644187)



ets-1006983644187
Limited to 30 seats
Also tickets at the door,
reserve by emailing
bianca@ruthstonehouse.org
\$25

Gardening Corner

(Continued from Page 8)
any sort of treatment including chemical, organic or not, as it may not help and may actually cause added damage. I plan to email Ann and Charlie about this bacterial infection for clarity.

So, after finally not quite figuring out what the problem was, I went out to inspect my

own lilacs. I have two traditional light purple deeply perfumed old fashioned lilacs and a Miss Kim lilac. I was not surprised to see that all three of my lilacs are affected, by the fungus or bacterium. I’d better get raking and my alcohol spritzer out to sterilize my pruning shears between cuts.

Muriel Marsette

(Continued from Page 6)
was a steady presence, a fortress of strength that shielded us from life’s storms.

Through every triumph and stumble, she was there, cheering us on or lifting us up when we faltered. Her sacrifices were countless, often unseen, yet they formed the bedrock upon which our lives were built. She gave up her dreams and aspirations so that ours could take flight. Her own needs took a backseat to ours; her desires became secondary to our happiness. Her hands worked tirelessly and her heart beat endlessly for us until it became too tired to continue.

Her love and unwavering devotion weren’t just about meeting our physical needs; it was about nurturing our spirits. She instilled in us values of kindness, resilience, and integrity. She taught us to be compassionate and understanding, to see the good in others, and to strive for excellence in all we do. One of her most fervent passions was her deep love for sports, encompassing all disciplines. As a young girl, she actively played various sports, and though she didn’t continue participating physically, she became an avid fan of baseball, football, basketball, hockey, and soccer. She instilled this passion in all three of us, using sports to impart invaluable life lessons: discipline, leadership, hard work, teamwork, time management, mental fortitude, goal setting, perseverance, and the importance of continual improvement whenever we ventured into something new. Her lessons weren’t just in words but in actions—her own life a living example of what it means to love unconditionally and to give generously.

Today, as I look at my siblings and see the remarkable individuals they have become, I realize the magnitude of her influence. Her sacrifices have borne fruit in the form of three siblings who carry her teachings forward, who strive to make her proud with every step we take.

She was the heart of our family—the quiet force that held us together through the years. Her love has shaped us, molded us into the people we are today. And though words may never suffice, we want the world to know that our love and appreciation for her and what she did for us is without end. We celebrate the life of our mother and give thanks for her love and sacrifice and her unwavering devotion to the purpose of raising us.

She was our hero, our role model, and our greatest blessing. Living life without her will be difficult, but we will use the gifts she gave us to persevere and continue with the legacy she created.

In her final days, our mother did not suffer, passing peacefully and surrounded by the love she so freely gave throughout her life. Her legacy is one of kindness, compassion, and steadfast dedication to her family. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue to inspire and uplift us all.

As we mourn her loss, we find solace in the memories we shared with her. Our mother’s spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those she touched, a lasting reminder of the beauty of a life well-lived.

Maya Angelou so poignantly said, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel” and our mother made us feel profoundly loved for which we will be forever grateful.

“To God we belong and to Him we shall return.” We will be bringing our mother home to rest in the beautiful state of Vermont on September 14th, 2024. We will have a graveside memorial at Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon, VT at 11 AM, followed by a Celebration of her Life at the Brandon Inn at 12 PM.

May she rest in peace...she will be forever missed and always remembered.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21–April 20

It’s easy to lose perspective when it comes to the important friends and family in your life, Aries. Start rethinking where to devote your attention and energy.

TAURUS April 21–May 21

Taurus, if you feel adventure is calling you, you can always take a break and get out there and answer that call. Take a road trip this week or even explore a new neighborhood nearby.

GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, be sure to get off to an early start regarding plans this week. Let others involved know that you’ll probably be picking them up bright and early.

CANCER June 22–July 22

Cancer, if you are not up for a night out on the town or much socializing the next few days, it’s perfectly fine to stay close to home. Everyone needs a break from time to time.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Leo, when you are in a good mood, it’s hard for people around you to keep up with your level of energy. Don’t be surprised if some people in your posse tire out before you.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, you’ve never been good about asking for help. This week you’ll be pleasantly surprised by how quickly a family member jumps in to give you the boost you need.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Typically you are very easy to get along with, Libra. But this week others may describe you as uncompromising and uncooperative. Think about what is prompting this change of tune.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, you aren’t about to settle without getting what you want. When road blocks come up this week, you may be frustrated when things don’t go your way. Stay the course.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Try to fill your days with the arts and music this week, Sagittarius. They are what you need right now to put you in a positive mood and turn things around.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Things have been busy in your life, Capricorn. That mile-long list doesn’t seem to be

getting any shorter. You might need to call in some help to get through all of the tasks.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Aquarius, someone has been keeping tabs on what you have been doing from afar. You don’t know whether to be flattered or concerned about this attention. You’ll learn soon enough.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Pisces, it is time for loved ones to get together and have a serious conversation about something that involves the whole family. You just don’t know if you’re ready to deal with it.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 6 Idris Elba, actor (52)
- Sept. 7 Elizabeth I of England, queen (d)
- Sept. 8 Patsy Kline, singer (d)
- Sept. 9 Otis Redding, singer (d)
- Sept. 10 Stephen Jay Gould, paleontologist, author (d)
- Sept. 11 Arvo Pärt, composer (89)
- Sept. 12 H. L. Mencken (d)

Lake Champlain water

(Continued from Page 4)

that data, seeing what it tells us about long term trends, and will ultimately consider if there are changes needed in our management approach.”

By the numbers

Flooding can impact Lake Champlain in a number of ways. It can wash all kinds of pollutants — plastics, sewage, propane tanks — into the water. It can cloud the water with sediment, creating potentially dangerous situations for recreators who might not be able to see debris in their path. Murky water can also be a setback for aquatic life, because sunlight can't reach plants and algae, the base of the food chain.

But when experts talk about water quality in Lake Champlain, they're often referring to phosphorus, a naturally occurring nutrient that, in excess, fuels cyanobacteria blooms, which have plagued the lake in recent decades.

Cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae, is a type of bacteria that

is native to most ecosystems, including Lake Champlain. Blooms look like “thick pea soup or a paint spill,” according to the Lake Champlain Basin Program's 2024 State of the Lake report.

Not all blooms are toxic, but they can produce cyanotoxins that can harm humans, pets and wildlife. From 2021 to 2023, cyanotoxins were detected in 28 out of 172 water samples taken when there were visible cyanobacteria blooms. Only four samples were above public safety thresholds, according to the report.

Plants, algae and cyanobacteria need carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus to grow. But other nutrients are plentiful in the lake, so phosphorus is “often the resource that limits growth of cyanobacteria,” the report states.

Phosphorus comes from a variety of sources, such as fertilizer, waste, and soil. Projects that reduce pollution are wide-ranging, from installing rain gardens that help the ground absorb stormwater to multi-million-dollar wastewater treatment upgrades to reforming farming practices.

Together with the EPA, Vermont has defined limits for the amount of phosphorus that the lake can accept on average every day throughout the year without having problems, called the Total Maximum Daily Load. Each segment of the lake has its own limits.

In total, Vermont is working to reduce the amount of phosphorus going into the lake to 418 metric tons per year by 2036. That would be a reduction of more than 200 metric tons per year; from 2000 to 2010, the average amount of phosphorus that washed into the lake annually was 630 metric tons.

Vermont has only been tracking its progress to prevent

phosphorus pollution since 2016, and the tracking process can be tricky and inexact. But according to the available data in the state's 2023 Clean Water Initiative Performance Report, pollution prevention work went the farthest in 2022.

That year, all of Vermont's pollution prevention efforts successfully kept 45 metric tons of phosphorus out of the lake. In 2023, clean water work prevented 41.5 metric tons of phosphorus pollution.

But those numbers are dwarfed by the amount of phosphorus that can swiftly wash into the lake during times of heavy flooding. In July 2023, after towns in Vermont received between 3 to 9 inches of rain in 48 hours, rivers delivered 174.5 metric tons of phosphorus to the lake in a single day, according to a presentation to the state from the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

“Flows peaked on July 11, when about 90 billion gallons of water and more than 100 metric tons of phosphorus flowed into Lake Champlain, ranking as the fourth highest daily delivery of phosphorus to the Lake since monitoring began in 1990,” according to the State of the Lake report.

It's not unusual for the lake to receive a larger percentage of its phosphorus load for the year during strong storms in the summer. For example, even in a year without extreme

flooding, the day with the highest phosphorus load in the Winooski River “typically accounts for about 5% to 10% of the load for that year,” according to the report.

But last July was different. From July 10 to July 16, the lake received about half of the recommended phosphorus load for the entire year.

“Lake users noticed a sharp and widespread decrease in water clarity for weeks following the July 2023 storm,” the report stated.

In the short term, that murkiness can stave off cyanobacteria, which needs sunlight to bloom. But when the water clears, the deposited phosphorus can cause trouble, particularly if it settles in a shallow part of the lake. At the end of last summer, regions including bays in St. Albans and Burlington experienced “a relatively higher incidence” of cyanobacteria blooms, leading to beach closures.

Blooms “were likely driven by availability of phosphorus,” said Vaughan, with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Warm weather with less wind — factors that are also tied to climate change — contributed to the blooms, too, he said.

A great challenge

On the boat in mid-July, Anne Jefferson, director of Lake Champlain Sea Grant, an organization run by the University of Vermont and the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, told reporters that, generally, flooding in Vermont is part of a “natural system.”

“We're going to go look at some dirty water because of the floods,” she said. “But remember that rivers moving things like sediment and wood are natural and good processes.”

Phosphorus that washes into the lake doesn't always cause problems, Vaughan said. Some of it sticks to sediment particles and drifts to the deepest parts of the lake, where it's effectively removed from the ecosystem. Phosphorus is also absorbed in natural processes, fueling green algae blooms — which, unlike their blue-green counterparts, aren't harmful — and providing nutrients for plants, for example.

Last year, there was “a really sharp increase in phosphorus that was, in part, due to that suspended sediment that had phosphorus attached to it,” Vaughan said. “And then, throughout the season, it kind of recovered and looked much

more like a typical year.”

Vaughan said he was surprised to see how quickly the lake recovered from last summer's flooding. Only weeks later, “monitoring showed a return to typical nutrient levels throughout the Lake, and most of the 2023 season showed typical phosphorus concentrations,” according to the State of the Lake report.

But any time there's a flood, it's going to add more phosphorus to the mix, which increases the odds of a cyanobacteria bloom.

So how are officials planning for that increase?

Each major tributary to Lake Champlain has a basin plan for

its watershed, and Vaughan said basin planners are accounting for climate change. All of the work taking place on the ground — upgrading undersized culverts, for example, or establishing new floodplains — is designed to make Vermont's environment more resilient to climate change by reducing erosion and runoff.

Lake Champlain's water quality is ultimately regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, which issues regular report cards on Vermont's progress. The agency tracks a number of factors, and it gives Vermont credit for the strategies the state and towns have (See *Lake Champlain water*, Page 23)

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BFPL reopens

(Continued from Page 3)

carcinogen was discovered in the 1960s addition.

This was a devastating blow to the board, as they and the Friends of the Brandon Library had successfully raised \$2 million from events, auctions, grants, and dozens of private donors—with much help from a private fundraising consulting firm, Demont Associates, whose initial work for the library had been a gift from Chris and Rob Naylor. Now they had to figure

out where the rest of the money would come from without asking for local taxpayer support.

The board made the decision to scale back the project, trimming off features they deemed desirable but unnecessary and breaking the project into three phases that will be completed as funding is secured. The first two phases have been completed. Phase 3 will encompass the basement and the attic, which will both be converted into usable space.

The board was able to secure additional money from Brandon’s ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) allocation and through Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), which are federal grants sponsored by members of Congress. BFPL is currently completing the paperwork to receive the \$1 million CDS grant that was sponsored by Sen. Peter Welch.

THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

BFPL vacated the historic building in spring of 2023 and, with the help of the OV baseball team, moved most of its books to temporary lodgings in the lower-level room at the Brandon Town Hall, which had been graciously offered by the Brandon Selectboard. Some material was placed in storage around town. Board member Carol Fjeld oversaw that process and Brandon resident and architect Robert Black designed an effective layout for the temporary space that allowed

BFPL to function smoothly for the duration of its time there.

The physical construction was overseen and largely executed by Brandon’s own Naylor & Breen. On BFPL’s side, the main supervisor was board member Bruce Ness, whose professional background in mechanical engineering proved invaluable in keeping the project on track.

“Carol and Robert executed the move with military precision,” said Mr. Ness. “And

Naylor & Breen was exemplary. But once the structure was laid bare, we saw unanticipated structural deficiencies that *(See BFPL reopens, Page 21)*



THIS PAGE AND opposite: Views of the refurbished interior of the Brandon Free Public Library, including one of the steel beams that had to be installed in the attic to help support the weight of the lower floors that were hanging from sagging wooden trusses. The door on the opposite page, with its iron hardware, is an

example of original features that will preserve the historic feel of the building. In the exterior shot on the opposite page, the new addition can be seen on the right-hand side of the building. It was designed by VIA of Middlebury to blend with the original historic structure. Also pictured is Len Schmidt’s handmade bench.

BFPL reopens

(Continued from Page 20)

couldn't have been addressed in the design phase."

"There were a few 'oh no' moments along the way," said David Roberts.

An addition had to be built onto the rear of the building to accommodate the 4-floor elevator shaft, new stairwell, and new community and administrative spaces. But when that rear façade was being prepped, the crew discovered that the wooden sill on which three stories of brick rested was rotted through and the stone foundation was falling apart. The brick had to be removed and the sill replaced. The whole façade had to be re-framed.

As was the convention at the time the building was constructed, much of the internal structure was post & beam, and many of those posts and beams had either rotted or been compromised by choices made by previous generations.

"We saw joists that had been cut away," said Ness. "Some of the posts that supported the exterior structure had been cut into to make room for bookshelves. The tree trunks that supported the building in the basement were rotted and had to be replaced. But my favorite thing is the steel beams that we needed to add in the attic to reinforce the wooden trusses that hold up the entire building. Those trusses were starting to sag and there's no way to raise them up. We had to add the beams. A lot of the project was just trying to halt any continued deterioration."

BFPL retained as much of the original material as pos-

sible. The wood floors beneath the modern carpet were refinished. The pressed-tin ceiling was preserved. The wooden railing around the central atrium was retained. While the interior has clearly been refurbished, it maintains its historic character.

"Vermont Historic Preservation was adamant about keeping as much as we could," said Roberts. "And it's what we would've done anyway."

Trees were logged from Hawk Hill behind Otter Valley Union High School to provide lumber for some of the interior features as well. The new circulation desk is topped by maple from Hawk Hill, as are the half-walls in the stairwell. Len Schmidt and Eric Sanborn oversaw the logging, with Mr. Schmidt also constructing a new bench from the wood for the vestibule. Board member Jeff Haylon, also a professional woodworker, crafted the countertops and some cabinetry.

LEGACY

"The reopening is the culmination of countless volunteer hours and generous donations from our community," said Roberts. "It represents the value we place on our library as one of the cornerstones of our town. I want to thank our staff, our board, the Friends of the Brandon Library, and everyone else who helped us when we needed it."

"I find it exciting to see what a community does when we share a vision and pool our talents and resources," said Carol Fjeld, former board member and current President of the Friends of the Brandon Library. "Now we have the space to truly accommodate the needs of folks from Brandon

and the surrounding communities."

Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. sharp, Ms. Kennedy and her staff opened the doors to the public, welcoming patrons to the new space. First in line was Helyn Anderson, a Brandon resident since 1978 who lives right across the street.

"The library is where you go not just to get books," she said. "It's also where you go to connect with your community."

The community now has a library accessible to everyone and ready to serve all.



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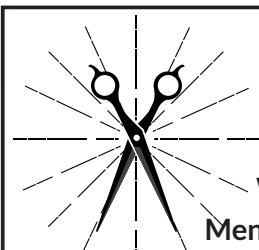
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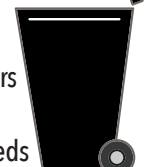
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Lake Champlain water

(Continued from Page 19)

put in place to address pollution, rather than solely assessing measurable pollution reduction.

So far, the agency's report cards have concluded that Vermont is on track to meet its goals — but the most recent report card came in January 2023, before four major floods hit the state.

Moore said there has been improvement in the lake's water quality over the last few years, and she pointed to progress in Missisquoi Bay, where phosphorus levels have been "significantly lower than previous years," according to the State of the Lake report. Despite 2023 flooding, the annual phosphorus level there was "at its lowest since 1994."

"It's pretty momentous, from my perspective," Moore said. "It shows, in some ways, a little bit of proof that the work we're doing is having the intended effect."

Still, the report notes that Missisquoi Bay is among the lake regions that "continue to face significant challenges." While phosphorus pollution has been reduced there in recent years, that's "almost an anecdote — like, it's a single data point," Moore said. "And we need a collective set of data points" to prove that real progress is taking place.

Impacts from climate change "are among the greatest challenges to the Lake" because of more frequent and intense rainstorms "like those experienced in the Basin in 2023" that "will continue to cause increased erosion and nutrient loading to the lake," according to the 2024 State of the Lake report.

Asked whether Vermont might need to ramp up its water quality work, Moore said it's something staff at her agency has been considering.

"Climate change was a consideration in building the model. We anticipated there would be more frequent intense rain-

fall events in the future," she said, and there's a margin of error built into Lake Champlain's Total Maximum Daily Load.

"I think it's something that merits tracking over time and awareness of," she said. "And I don't believe there's an answer to that question yet."

Uncomfortable options

Phosphorus pollution comes from a variety of sources, including stormwater runoff from developed land, forestry operations, the erosion of streambanks during flooding and overflows from wastewater and sewage treatment systems.

But historically, agriculture has been one of the largest contributors of phosphorus pollution in the lake — and in turn, farmers have been responsible for most of the pollution reduction that Vermont has achieved so far, according to the 2023 Clean Water Initiative Performance Report, which is assembled by staff at the Agency of Natural Resources.

Farmers have implemented a range of practices to achieve that progress, including reducing tilling, using cover crops, farming farther away from the rivers and injecting manure into the soil rather than spreading it on top of the land.

It's becoming clear that, in addition to erosion that comes from the water's blunt force during flooding, Vermont's increased extreme weather could make some pollution reduction projects harder for farmers.

The Winooski River, the largest tributary to Lake Champlain, inundated fields at DeGraaf Dairy in Richmond in July 2023 and July 2024, according to farmer Nicholas DeGraaf.

"All of our crop ground was completely underwater, anywhere from a foot and a half to easily 12 feet," he said.

It was hard to quantify the flood's economic impact to the farm, he said. He had less feed for his animals, and needed to buy it instead. The feed he did

give to the cows was less nutritious, which can reduce the amount of milk the cows produce.

In addition, the farmers had to change some of their operations that are designed, in part, to protect the water quality of the Winooski River.

Typically, DeGraaf doesn't till his crop fields, he said. Tilling can contribute to soil erosion, which can worsen water quality — and requires more labor from the farmers. But the floods covered his fields in a fine, silty sand that "doesn't grow anything," he said.

"So you either have to bury it with tillage to try and get it incorporated, or you have to take all this time and effort to scrape it off and do something else with it," he said.

The farm flooded last year, too, and the DeGraafs decided to till. This year, tilling is "back on the table," he said.

It's frustrating for DeGraaf because water quality is "majorly important to us for two reasons," he said.

"One, we don't want to pollute the river," he said. "But two, you know, I have all this money invested into these nutrients, and they grow this crop. So it matters to me that what I apply stays there, and that I am fully able to use it."

Heather Darby, a soil specialist with the University of Vermont Extension Program, said extreme flooding can make water quality practices harder for farmers in a number of ways.

For example, many dairy farmers maintain open-air manure pits. Heavy rains increase the amount of material farmers need to manage. Last year, on some farms, the rain nearly doubled the amount of manure farms had to spread, Darby said, though the material was more diluted.

In addition, when the ground is already wet, manure that's spread on top of a field might not absorb as easily.

"Last year, that was a huge,

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Susan Gage,
Town Treasurer

huge concern on farms and to the state as well, because farmers weren't able to get their manure spread," Darby said.

Challenges that come from flooding force farmers to weigh uncomfortable options, Darby said.

"You feel like you got it all figured out, and then you don't," DeGraaf said. "We work with nature, you know. Nature doesn't work with us."

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AS SUMMER WINDS down, folks are still being treated to excellent music throughout the area. On the left, a crowd gathered at the Pittsford Village Farm on Friday, August 30 to hear the Vermont Symphony Orchestra's String Quartet perform a Summer Serenade. On the right, Red Hot Juba performed the last concert in the Music at the Riverbend summer series behind the Brandon Inn on Wednesday, August 28.

Photos by Liz Russell

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