

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 37

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

\$1



**LOCAL THEATER**

The murder mystery musical “Lucky Stiff” comes to Otter Valley this weekend. Reviewer Mitchell Pearl calls it “hilarious.”  
**PG. 2**



**NAMES LOST**

Genealogist Michael F. Dwyer explores the history of the Crone and Devino families.  
**PG. 3**

**NON-PROFIT MEDIA**

The Reporter is now officially a non-profit media company. Here’s what that means and why it matters.  
**PG. 4**



**NEED A LAUGH?**

Head to the Brandon Town Hall on Saturday for a screening of Harold Lloyd’s 1928 film “Speedy,” which features captivating footage of the Big Apple.  
**PG. 9**

**Brandon SB discusses civility, swamps, and stop signs**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Monday evening.

**CIVILITY IN THE COMMUNITY**

At the beginning of the meeting, board member Heather Nelson read a prepared statement regarding an e-mail she had received from someone who had attended a previous meeting. Ms. Nelson revealed that the attendee had told her that she should “sit like a lady” at the Selectboard table.

Ms. Nelson explained the negative effect that inappropriate personal comments have on board members’ ability to carry out their duties and urged the community to treat one another

with kindness and civility. When Ms. Nelson finished speaking, the room erupted in applause.

Ms. Nelson’s statement can be read in full in the Letters section of this week’s issue.

**TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins presented highlights from his report to the Selectboard, the full text of which is printed in this issue and is also available on the town website.

Mr. Hopkins noted that energy audits of four town-owned buildings were available for public review: Town Hall, Town Offices, the wastewater treatment plant, and the highway department building. The reports are available on the town website (re-  
*(See Brandon SB, Page 18)*



**Never Forget**

THIS SCULPTURE BY Ray Jobst incorporates a genuine piece of the World Trade Center and stands in memory of those who perished on September 11, 2001. A ceremony was held at the Brandon Police Department to mark the 23rd year since that terrible day.  
 Photo by George Fjeld

**Input sought on proposed trail from Brandon to Forest Dale**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—According to Brandon Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore, there has been interest over the years in a trail between downtown Brandon

and Forest Dale, some three miles to the east. Currently, there is no dedicated path between the two hubs that isn’t a heavily trafficked road, such as  
*(See Proposed trail, Page 13)*

**Proctor’s Wilson Castle is a ghostly delight**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PROCTOR—Summer isn’t even officially over and yet Halloween season has clearly begun: there’s an entire aisle of trick-or-treat candy at Hannaford. There’s no point in resisting. Put away the flip-flops and start planning your costume now.

For those of us who dig the dark and spooky side of life, Halloween season presents a cherished opportunity to indulge these tastes with abandon. And Wilson Castle in Proctor is the perfect place to do so this year.

If you haven’t yet visited, Wilson Castle is a massive Victorian estate perched on a hill in the southern part of Proctor, almost to the Rutland line. The main house was built by the Johnson family in 1885 and encompasses



WILSON CASTLE IN Proctor was built in 1885 and encompasses over 13,000 square feet. The Wilson family has owned it since 1939. It has become in recent years a hotbed of paranormal activity and numerous events are scheduled to mark the Halloween season and satisfy the public’s taste for the macabre. Visit the castle’s Facebook page for more details.  
 Photo by Steven Jupiter

32 rooms over 13,000 square feet, 84 stunning stained- and etched-glass windows, richly painted ceilings, masterfully carved woodwork, and 13 fireplaces with exquisite tile surrounds. It originally sat on 150 acres (now 95), took over seven years to construct and cost \$1.3 million (roughly \$32m today). The castle is worth a visit just for the sheer opulence of it all.

But owner Denise Davine (“DAH-vin”) and her longtime assistant, Andy Probst, are ready to reveal something else about the house: it’s haunted. And they’re happy to let the public share in the delight during the Halloween season.

“I’ve been part of the castle my whole life,” said Ms. Davine  
*(See Wilson Castle, Page 26)*



# 'Lucky Stiff' comes to the Otter Valley Stage this weekend

BY MITCHELL PEARL

The Brandon Recreation Department, in collaboration with Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theatre Company, will bring the musical comedy "Lucky Stiff" to the Otter Valley stage this weekend. Performances are Fri-

day and Saturday evenings, September 13 and 14, at 7:00, and a Sunday matinee on September 15 at 2:00.

The show is a hilarious musical farce featuring a cast of fourteen community members, including some recent—and not

so recent—OV graduates, other members of the community, and a school board member. Otter Valley theatre director Jeffrey Hull is directing the show, with Kenny Cifone as music director and a small band of musicians. OV alum Mike Mitrano will

handle the technical direction with Hayden Hull as stage manager.

Based on the novel "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" by Michael Butterworth, "Lucky Stiff" is an offbeat, hilarious murder mystery musical

farce, complete with mistaken identities, a six-million-dollar inheritance, and a corpse in a wheelchair. "Lucky Stiff" played Off-Broadway in New York City and on London's West End. The story follows Harry, (See "Lucky Stiff," Page 11)



REHEARSING LUCKY STIFF at Otter Valley. At the Monte Carlo Casino, Kasey Franzoni (Dominique Du Monaco), Cebelle Hull, and Michaela Newell perform. Photos by Mitchell Pearl



MURDERER RITA LAPORTA (Cara Woods) convinces her brother Vinnie (played by Lennon Philo), an eye doctor, that they must go to Monte Carlo.

## Celebrate 50 Years of G. Stone Motors!

This Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, at G. Stone Motors, 36 Boardman St. Middlebury

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# Names lost in Vermont, Part 1: Crone and Devino

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

Unpacking a family photo from 1920 takes us into the history of two entwined and transformed names. Once a common practice in small towns, pairs of siblings married siblings from a neighboring family, as with this case of two Forest Dale families. In September 1917, Charles Bird married Ezma Devino, and his sister Ethel Bird married Ezma's brother Frank Devino. At time this picture was taken, the two families lived together in Shelburne, Massachusetts. At left

were captured in a charming photo at their double nephew Stanley Bird's wedding in 1940.

In the late 1840s, Mary Crone's parents, William and Elvira had moved from Henryville, Québec, about 17 miles over the border, to Orwell. The 1850 census shows four of their children born in Canada. Often when the surname Crone appears in American French-Canadian families, it proves to have been Caron, a two syllable-name mashed into one as Crone. Here, Crone makes the

Chambly, Québec, on May 5, 1835. According to the church record, Guillaume's father was George Croan, living in Sorel, Québec. His mother, Marie Bonnet, was deceased.

Croan/Crown/Crone: we are certainly not dealing with a French name. George evidently married a second time to Amable Gravel. They had a child named Marguerite Krown who died in infancy. Her burial record from 1831 describes George as an old soldier. According to the church register in Sorel, George Crown died in March of 1840, age 99! Even with allowances for an upwardly exaggerated age, that puts George's year of birth somewhere between 1741 and 1751, making him old enough to have been a soldier at the time of the American Revolution. Did he fight for or against the Crown? The dearth of records for George's children point to his being non-Catholic for most of his life. On a land record from 1803, he signed his name as George Krown—suggesting he came from one of the German states. In the 1880 census of Orwell, William Crone indicated his father was born in Germany. Perhaps one of the male-line Crone descendants will do a Y-DNA test that will hold the answer to George's origins.

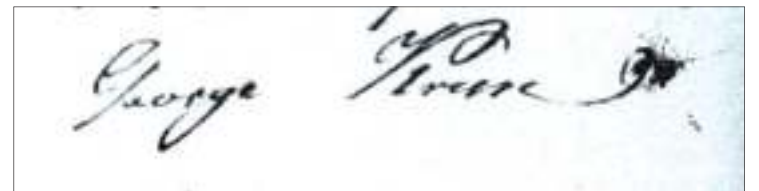
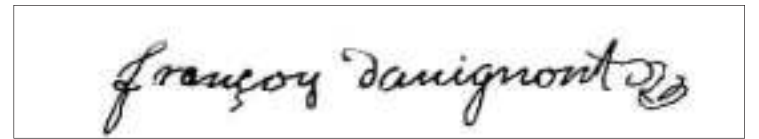
Now back to Chambly, home for a century to the Davignon family, which is how the Devinos spelled their name in Québec. The name, of course, has a remote association with the city of Avignon with its fabled bridge. [Many French students, this one included, once sang *Sur le pont d'Avignon, l'on y danse, l'on y danse*]. Francois Davignon, with the dit name *Bauregarde*, "good-looking," first appears on a document from 1717. Even then, he signed his name with inconsistent spelling. A century later, his descendant Augustin Davignon (1796–1859) left Québec at the vanguard of French-Canadian migration to Vermont, moving to the Burlington area before 1820. He married Esther Cottard, and together they had ten children. With no resident Catholic priest in Vermont during the 1820s, Augustin and family made the trip seventy miles north to have three of their children baptized at Chambly.

While two of Augustin's brothers eventually returned to Québec, Augustin made Colchester [present-day Winooks] his permanent home. In 1831, Augustin Deavanoe purchased

a farm on the west side of the "Onion River." In Vermont censuses 1830 through 1850, Augustin's name was written in a variety of ways:

In 1830, Houstin Devenaux; in 1840, Gustin Devenoe, and in 1850, Eustine Devino.

the French priest recorded Orpha Bickford's name as Mary Banfield. Leaving Vermont in the 1870s, Oliver and Orpha lived in several locations in New Hampshire before moving back to Vermont by 1920. Still working as a sawyer at



CHARLES AND EZMA Devino Bird in 1940.

NAME	AGE	SEX	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH
William Crone	47	M	Canada	1803
Elvira	42	F	Canada	1808
Charles	11	M	Canada	1837
Ezma	12	F	Canada	1838
Stanley	4	M	Canada	1842
William	4	M	Canada	1844
Mary	4	F	Canada	1844
Elizabeth	4	F	Canada	1844

ABOVE: CRONE CENSUS 1850. Top right: The signatures of François D'Avignont (1717) and George Krown (1803).

Mary (Crone) Bird sits next to her daughter, Ethel (Bird) Devino, who is holding her infant nephew, Stanley Bird, son of Charles and Ezma. The Birds were grandchildren of Québec immigrant Edward Bird, born Antoine Loiseau. [Lost Names, Part 1]. Charles Bird and Ezma

exception. In a reverse of Lost Names, it seems an original name was modified in Canada, not the United States! Baptismal records of William's older children record the name as Crown. William was married as Guillaume Croan to Ovide [Elvira in Vermont] Laroque at

Augustin's seventh child, Oliver, breaking the norm among French Catholic families, wed a Protestant, Orpha Bickford on March 2, 1857, their marriage officiated by a Methodist clergyman. A year later, however, their marriage was rehabilitated at St. Joseph's Church in Burlington. Opposite of a French name garbled by an English speaker,

82 years old, Oliver lived in a Forest Dale neighborhood near son Fred and grandson Volney Devino. Orpha Devino died in January 1928, age 89, her husband Oliver following her four months later. A vicissitude of old age, they outlived every one of their children. Reading the Devino cemetery stones at St. Mary's Cemetery calls our (See Names lost, Page 20)

## Spotlight On Business BANDON ARTISTS GUILD



The Brandon Artists Guild is a vibrant group of 30+ Vermont artists and artisans. Founded in 1999 under the leadership of renowned folk artist Warren Kimble.



We are dedicated to supporting the visual arts and artists in and around Brandon, through exhibitions, demonstrations and community art initiatives. Membership dollars and gallery sales help us to fund an annual student art scholarship and make grants to our local art teachers for materials and supplies.



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## Guest Editorial

# At long last, The Reporter is a full-fledged nonprofit

BY STEVEN JUPITER

The Reporter is delighted to announce that we have received our official 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation from the Internal Revenue Service.

When we first took over the operation of the paper from the for-profit Addison Independent back in 2022, we registered as a nonprofit with the Vermont Secretary of State's office (under the name Reporter News Media Corp). Yet, most of the benefits that derive from nonprofit status accrue only to those organizations that have also been recognized as 501(c)(3) by the IRS. And now we will be able to take advantage of those benefits.

Among the myriad benefits, perhaps the most obvious is that anyone so inclined can now donate to us and deduct the donation on their federal taxes. We have been holding off on soliciting donations until we received our 501(c)(3) designation.

Another key benefit is that we are also now eligible for grants that require official 501(c)(3) status. Many funding opportunities, especially those through the state and federal governments, are open only to nonprofits that have been officially recognized by the IRS.

But the benefit that means the most to us is the credibility we hope the status affords us with our own community. Even though we emphasized our plans to operate as a nonprofit from the start, we have been made aware over the last two years that a significant num-

ber of people still assume that we run the paper as a business. We'd like to use this occasion to reiterate our commitment to community service. Neither I nor George Fjeld nor anyone else on our Board has received any compensation for our work. We took this on because we recognized, and still do, the importance of a local paper to a community's sense of shared experience and to its ability to make informed decisions about town governance. We hope we have provided a service to you all.

That said, it's becoming harder and harder to keep local newspapers viable. Two of the biggest weeklies in Vermont—Seven Days and the Addison Independent—have been quite open about their struggles. The arrival of the internet 30 years ago triggered a slow but certain decline in revenue for printed papers, which had traditionally relied on the combination of subscriptions and advertising for their income. Today, both of those revenue streams are a fraction of what they were when newspapers weren't getting trounced by online media. It's especially difficult in small markets like ours where there's a limited pool of both readers and advertisers.

All of our revenue goes into the production of the paper. We pay a press to print a fixed number of copies every week. We also have two paid employees: our crackerjack graphic designer, Sepi Alavi, and our tireless operations coordinator, (See Reporter is nonprofit, Page 4)



## Thumbing his way down south

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS are another migrant that's south bound.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

# RRPC Launches Second Phase of Public Engagement for 2026 Rutland Regional Plan

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is thrilled to announce the launch of the second phase of public engagement for the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan. Phase 2, titled Report Back, invites you to see how your invaluable feedback from Phase 1, Learn and Assess, has influenced our draft plan policies. Together,

we're crafting a collaborative guide for a healthy, equitable, and resilient region, with strategies to achieve coordinated and efficient community economic development.

During Phase 1, from January to April 2024, we reached out to you, residents, and stakeholders across all 27 towns in the Rutland

Region. Through a dynamic mix of engagement strategies—including a dedicated plan website, 27 town presentations, 21 pop-up events, 5 community open houses, several focus group meetings, and a public survey that garnered nearly 1,200 responses—we listened closely to your thoughts, (See Rutland Regional Plan, Page 7)

## Lake Champlain Bridge history tour

ADDISON—Learn about the history that surrounds the Lake Champlain Bridge by coming to a guided walk on Sunday, September 15, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. This "Points of Interest" guided bridge walk is offered by the Chimney Point State Historic Site in Addison, Vermont, and Crown Point State Historic Site in Crown Point, New York. Site administrator Elsa Gilbertson (VT) and Sam Huntington, manager of Crown Point, lead the tour. Meet at the Chimney Point

State Historic Site museum on the Vermont side of the bridge to start. Allow two hours for this walk back and forth on the bridge. Learn about the historic and archaeological importance of this crossing and beautiful location on Lake Champlain. This is a Vermont Archaeology Month event.

The fee is \$9.00 for adults, free for children under 15, and includes admission to the Chimney Point and Crown Point museums. Wear a hat and bring water. Light refreshments

afterwards at Chimney Point. The Chimney Point State Historic Site is located at 8149 VT Route 17, at the Vermont foot of the Lake Champlain Bridge. Call 802-759-2412 for information. The site is regularly open Wednesdays through Sundays through October 13 and on October 14, Indigenous Peoples Day; 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Crown Point State Historic Site is located at the New York foot of the bridge. Call 518-597-3666 for the Crown Point museum.

## The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a 501c3 nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary; Mitchell Pearl; Shelly Williams.

Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator

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## Community Forums cont. A Service of Remembrance and Celebration of Life at the Brandon Congregational Church, Sept. 26

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2022.

Time: 7:00 pm.

Place: Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. Brandon, VT.

The Board of Deacons of the Brandon Congregational Church wish to invite you and your family to a special service to honor and remember those in our broader community who have passed away within the last year. We will be asking the name of your loved one when you come into church so we

will be prepared to call you forward. This is a participatory service during which you will be invited to light one candle in memory of your loved one. There will also be an opportunity to remember other family members and friends who have passed away.

Everyone is welcome! Light refreshments will be served after the service in the Fellowship Hall, located next to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to call BCC at 247-6121.

## Enjoy the festivities at Dead Creek Wildlife Day, Oct. 5

ADDISON—If you enjoy wildlife be sure to make plans to attend the 23rd annual Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison, Vermont on Saturday, October 5.

Activities at Dead Creek Wildlife Day are especially for people who enjoy hunting, fishing, birdwatching, or learning about Vermont's diverse wildlife and ecosystems.

The event will be held at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on Route 17, west of Route 22A.

Early risers can begin the day with a bird banding demonstration at 7:00 a.m. Two large tents at Dead Creek WMA headquarters will open at 9:30 a.m. featuring wildlife-related exhibits and activities such as decoy carving, building bluebird boxes, and nature crafts. The Dead Creek Visitor Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. featuring displays about conservation and wildlife management in Vermont.

Enjoy a walk along the interpretive trail to observe pollinators feeding on native wildflowers. Complete the NatureQuest featuring Steward the Otter. Live critters will include a selection of snakes, turtles, raptors, and more that visitors can see up close and learn about their ecology.

New this year will be a talk on the American marten, a

demonstration by Newt the turtle-finding dog, a bat habitat walk, and a salamander talk. Smokey Bear will also be there to celebrate his 80th birthday!

Retriever dogs will be working in the area ponds, pointing dogs will be nearby, and all the favorite nature walks will be happening. All events are free, and a free shuttle bus will provide regular access to nearby field events throughout the day.

"We want to welcome visitors to the 23rd year of the popular Dead Creek Wildlife Day," said Amy Alfieri, manager of the Dead Creek WMA. "We try to bring in new activities and presentations every year and I am excited for what is on the schedule this year. I only ever see smiles on people's faces as they learn about fish and wildlife in a beautiful setting. Visitors love to see the live animals and working dogs, and the kids love to build their own bluebird box to take home. It's a great event for everyone."

The festival is hosted by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Vermont

Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Otter Creek Audubon Society.

For more information and a schedule of events visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) and check under Watch Wildlife.

## Letter to the Editor

### Let's keep Stephanie Jerome in office

My wife and I had just moved to Brandon when Rep. Stephanie Jerome introduced herself and warmly welcomed me to town. As we discussed her work in the Vermont House, I knew immediately that this was someone who not only cared deeply about her community but also labored hard for the betterment of all who reside here and across the state. I quickly realized too that she and I were "eye to eye" about what our government ought to be doing to improve the lives of citizens. It's easy enough to scan through her

website or read previous letters to The Reporter to get a sense of the issues that draw her special attention and action. Indeed, these are questions that hit directly home with many Vermonters and seem to be constantly in the news and the topic of conversations. They include such matters as childcare opportunities and the state's dire housing circumstances, areas where improvements spearheaded by state government help not only individual families but also directly boost Vermont's economy. A look through the bills Rep.

Jerome has supported reveals her equally keen interest in bettering our education system, enhancing access to healthcare, ensuring livable wages, and improving our environment...to name but a few vital matters drawing her attention. Please join me in voting for this highly experienced fifth-generation Vermonter and skilled legislator. No one could serve Brandon better in Montpelier!

Ken McFarland  
Brandon

## Letter to the Community

### Personal attacks have no place in our public discourse

At the start of every Selectboard meeting, Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey reminds everybody to keep the conversation civil and to remember that we are all neighbors who need to treat each other respectfully. A couple of weeks ago, I had an experience in which I was not treated respectfully, and I would like to tell about it.

The following statement of equity was ratified by the town and is intended to apply toward everyone in town, whether they be town officials, Selectboard members, residents, or simply

visitors:

"The Town of Brandon, a Vermont municipality, recognizes that the individuals that make up the community it serves, are diverse in experiences. Age, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disabilities, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and national origin are all factors that contribute to this diversity. It is vital that the Town, its employees, its elected officials, and its volunteers embrace this diversity in our service to the community. Service to our community through work with

the Town requires a commitment to respecting and dignifying our differences. Creating opportunities for all in fair and equitable fashion fosters a culture of inclusion."

During our last Selectboard meeting, I received an email suggesting that I request table skirts from a former constituent who had previously told the Selectboard Chair that I needed to be taught to "sit like a lady." For the record, I was one of three Selectboard members wearing long pants that evening.

(See Public discourse, Page 31)

# FABULOUS TOYOTA SALE



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# Obituaries

## Douglas William Newton, 72, Brandon

Douglas William Newton, age 72, passed peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on September 6, 2024, at his home in Brandon.

Doug was born in Middlebury on May 16, 1952. He was the son of Philip and June (Narabone) Newton. He grew up in East Middlebury and Bristol, where he received his education. There wasn't anything that he couldn't fix. He was an excellent mechanic and enjoyed working on cars, especially classic cars. He was a family man, a provider, and protector. He had a heart of gold and would give you the shirt off his back. If you did not know Doug, then you were really missing out.

He is survived by his wife, Mary (Pfenning) Newton of Brandon, whom he married in Forest Dale on September 11, 1982; 2 daughters, Molly Newton and Michelle Laughlin, both of Brandon; 4 sons, Wayne and Barry Newton of Brandon, An-



**DOUGLAS W. NEWTON**

thony Newton of Rutland, and Jay Lanza of Sudbury, whom he loved as his own; 13 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 2 brothers, Bradley Newton of Pittsford and Dean Newton of Leicester; 2 sisters, Lorrie Palin of Orange and Mary Newton of Forest Dale; his paternal uncle Bill and his maternal aunt Philly, both of Salisbury. Several nieces,

nephews, and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents, 4 brothers (Bradley, Patrick, David, and Jeff Newton) and one sister, Kelly Newton.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date.

A celebration of life will be held on September 22nd from 12 to 2 at the VFW on Exchange Street in Middlebury. All are welcome. Doug loved all things horsepower. We encourage everyone to respectfully drive their classic cars, hot rods, and motorcycles to this event!

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to the Allie Mae Foundation, 22 Rossiter Street, Brandon, VT or the Allie Mae Foundation account at Heritage Family Credit Union.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.



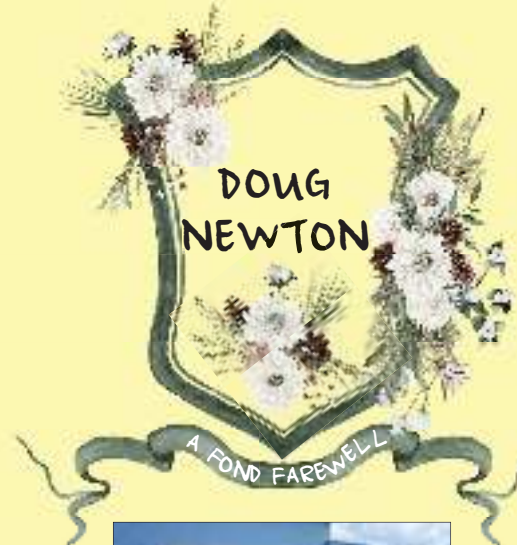
### SERVICE FOR JAMES "DOUG" GRAHAM, JR. AND DOUGLAS LEE GRAHAM OF GOSHEN

Friends are invited to the graveside committal service and burial for James "Doug" Graham Jr., who passed away on August 4, 2020 and his son; Douglas Lee Graham who died January 30, 2024, to be held on Friday, September 13, 2024, at 2 PM at The Old Goshen Cemetery.

Following the ceremony, the family will receive friends at the Goshen Town Hall for a time of remembrance.



Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.





The Brandon community lost an icon on Friday, with the death of Doug Newton. His friends gathered on Saturday, less than 24 hours after his passing, for an impromptu parade of 103 cars, trucks, and motorcycles down Maple Street in Brandon, where Doug lived. Thanks to all who came to say goodbye.

*Colleen Wright*

## Norbert Conant, 83, Salisbury

Norbert Conant, age 83, of Salisbury, VT, died on August 21 after a 3+ year struggle with Alzheimer's. To learn more, please visit [gregorycremation.com/obituaries/](http://gregorycremation.com/obituaries/)




**NORBERT CONANT**



**BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.**

3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • [www.barnardfuneralhome.com](http://www.barnardfuneralhome.com)

(802) 483-2811  Christopher Book/Director

For five generations the Barnard family has assisted families in Pittsford, Proctor, Chittenden and the surrounding area getting through one of life's most difficult times.

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## Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com). Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.



A MACINTOSH APPLE ripens at Burt's Apple Orchard in Cabot on Aug. 25, 2020.

File photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

## It's apple-picking season, and Vermont's apple growers expect a great year

BY CATHERINE HURLEY/  
VTDIGGER

Vermont's apple growers are expecting a bountiful harvest this year, following a season affected by a late-spring frost in some parts of the state last year.

"Reports of an excellent apple season are true overall," said Terence Bradshaw, a University of Vermont professor and fruit specialist. "Most are reporting above average yields."

One night in May 2023, temperatures in Vermont plunged into the 20s. Apples, blueberries and grapes were already in bloom, and the unusually cold frost decimated crops in the region. The freeze affected 80% to 85% of orchards in Vermont, half of which experienced significant damage and lower yields, according to Bradshaw.

But this year, things are different.

Apples are produced on branch wood that's two years old or older, meaning this year's crop started developing in 2022. That two-year cycle allows trees to save up and direct their resources into growing buds for the next year, meaning orchards with a low crop yield last year had the potential for a bigger crop this year, Bradshaw said.

Peck Farm Orchard in East Montpelier lost 60% of its crop in the freeze, according to co-owner Daniel Bair. This year, he's expecting one of the largest crops he's ever had.

"Last year was very challenging ... but that's ag. That's farming," he said. "Anyone who

doesn't experience anything like that, I guess, is very lucky."

Bair said the freeze made last year's fruit look "really ugly," but this year, the "fruit's looking great."

Vermont growers produce about 1 million bushels of apples each year, according to the Vermont Tree Fruit Growers Organization. That's around 40 million pounds. Availability for most apple varieties begins between August and October, and visitors at Vermont's pick-your-own orchards pick about 200,000 bushels each year.

The U.S. Apple Association, a national trade group, predicts another high-performing year for apples nationally, after record-breaking production last year. According to the organization's analysis of U.S. Department of Agriculture data, nearly 282 million bushels will be produced in the U.S. during the 2024-25 crop year, a 2% decrease compared with last year.

Devin Hackett, orchard manager at Hackett's Orchard in South Hero, is also expecting a great harvest this year. The farm is located on the Lake Champlain islands, which provides "kind of a microclimate," Hackett said, that avoids big weather swings because of the lake. The orchard's crop looks to be on par with last year's, which was not affected by the freeze.

"If an orchard could see Lake Champlain last year, the buffering effect of the lake allows for some protection from frost," Bradshaw said. "They were in an

enviable position last year."

Jessika Yates, owner and operator of Yates Family Orchard in Hinesburg, experienced the same.

"There were a handful of us in the Champlain Valley that were spared," she said of last year's freeze. The orchard offered pick-your-own apples as usual that fall, and this year, Yates is optimistic.

(See *Apple crop*, Page 9)

# Rutland Regional Plan

(Continued from Page 4)

concerns, and hopes for the future.

Thanks to your active participation, key insights have emerged across the 10 plan chapters. You've told us about the importance of focusing growth in downtown and village centers while preserving our natural landscapes. You've highlighted critical issues like the need for affordable housing and quality rental units, improved road maintenance and walkability, affordable child-care facilities, and more trade jobs. You've also emphasized the importance of highlighting our cultural and recreational resources, expanding renewable energy and weatherization, preserving our working lands, and enhancing our resilience to natural disasters.

Now, as we enter Phase 2, Report Back, which will run from September to November 2024, we need your continued engagement to ensure we're on the right track. This phase aims to achieve two main goals: 1) gather your reaction to what we learned from you in Phase 1 and 2) seek your thoughts on the plan's draft policies.

We have a robust lineup of Phase 2 engagement activities planned, including 27 town presentations, 5 pop-up events, 2 hybrid feedback sessions, an online survey, and a video presentation. These events are designed to make it easy and convenient for you to participate and share your

thoughts.

Following Phase 2, your feedback will help shape the second draft of the plan. The third and final phase of public engagement, Alignment, is targeted for May and June 2025 to ensure the plan truly reflects the priorities of our Region.

We are incredibly grateful for your input and encourage you to review the draft plan policies and provide your feedback. Your voice is crucial in creating a future that benefits everyone in the Rutland Region. Visit [rutlandrpc.org/plan2026](http://rutlandrpc.org/plan2026) or email us at [plan2026@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:plan2026@rutlandrpc.org) to learn more and share your thoughts.

As a special thank you, we are inviting survey respondents to enter for a chance to win a \$200 gift card to the Paramount Theater in Rutland, VT! Let's shape the future of our Region together!

Contact:

Devon Neary, Executive Director, [devon@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:devon@rutlandrpc.org), 802-775-0871 x203

About RRPC:

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is one of eleven regional commissions serving Vermont municipalities. Regional planning commissions are a local resource for towns and, in a state without county governments, a critical link between municipal affairs and state government. More information about the Rutland Regional Planning Commission can be found at [rutlandrpc.org](http://rutlandrpc.org).

# Stephanie JEROME

for Vermont House of Representatives

Experienced • Knowledgeable • Hardworking

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Paid for by Stephanie Jerome for House of Representatives PO Box 65, Brandon, VT 05733



# Legislative Report

## Working to improve public safety statewide

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Public safety is a concern statewide. I am proud of the work the legislature did this session to correct the backlog of court cases, help in domestic and sexual violence, register ghost guns, add a constitutional amendment for the ERA, and improve public safety. Here is a rundown on some of the major bills that were passed in this area.

### BACKLOG

During the pandemic, fewer criminal cases were filed but those that were filed were not being processed. After the courts reopened, a surge in filings left the courts falling further behind. \$8M was appropriated to fill the needed positions, including Judiciary, State Attorneys, Defender General, Attorney General (Court Diversion), DOC (Community Justice Centers), and the Center for Crime Victims Services. These investments will help ensure individuals can be held accountable for their actions as soon as possible after

offending – a key to ensuring public safety.

### TACKLING DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

H.27 adds “coercive controlling behavior” to the definition of abuse in the civil statute. The aim of this bill is to provide a pathway out of an abusive situation before physical violence occurs.

H.173, prohibits manipulating a child for the purpose of sexual contact. It provides a useful tool for law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate and stop these abusive behaviors towards children.

S.278, eliminates the comparative negligence defense in civil negligence cases involving sexual assault.

### Regulating Ghost Guns.

S.209 prohibits possession, sale, or transfer of firearms without a serial number. These guns can be assembled from parts or printed using a 3D printer. A person can still make a firearm but must bring

it to a Federal Firearms Licensee to be serialized and undergo a background check before the gun is returned to them. This bill also bans firearms at polling places during elections and early voting.

### PROPOSITION 4: EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Proposition 4 is a Constitutional amendment that would allow Vermont to join with 22 other states that currently have equal rights clauses in their state constitution. If the proposed amendment passes both the House and Senate next year, it will be voted on in November 2026. It reads:

That the people are guaranteed equal protection under the law. The State shall not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person’s race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted or applied to prevent the adoption or implementation

of measures intended to provide equality of treatment and opportunity for members of groups that have historically been subject to discrimination.

### SUPPORTING PUBLIC SAFETY

H.563 creates a criminal violation for driving someone else’s car without permission.

H.534 establishes severe penalties for repeat offenses of retail theft.

H.645 creates a “pre-charge diversion,” to reduce the court backlog.

S.195 addresses conditions of release and establishes a pre-trial supervision program aimed at helping defendants who have violated conditions of release. The pre-trial supervision program offers monitoring (i.e., phone checks and electronic monitoring) in an attempt to produce the same outcome as the imposition of bail without the financial incentive.

S.58 delays the implementa-

tion of Vermont’s Raise the Age initiative by one year. This bill adds three offenses to the list of crimes for which charges against juveniles (ages 16 through 18) can start in criminal court, rather than family court. The bill includes the addition of xylazine to the list of regulated drugs and the creation of a felony charge for selling it. The bill eliminates the “ostrich defense,” which has allowed drug dealers to escape accountability by arguing that they did not know that the drugs they were selling contained fentanyl.

As always, feel free to reach out to me at [sjerome@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:sjerome@leg.state.vt.us) or 802-683-8209 if you have any questions or concerns about legislation or Vermont state government.

*Take care,  
Rep Stephanie Zak Jerome  
(Brandon)*

[www.stephaniejeromevt.com](http://www.stephaniejeromevt.com)

# Vermont officials say voting systems are secure after potential vulnerabilities found in New Hampshire

BY SHAUN ROBINSON/  
VTDIGGER

The Vermont Secretary of

State’s Office was warned earlier this year of potential vulnerabilities in new software being devel-

oped by the company that manages the state’s voter registration system, officials said.

However, they maintained that staff there are confident that the issues — which were first reported last week by Politico — never put voter information at risk.

The warning, Politico reported, stemmed from a discovery in 2023 by election officials in New Hampshire that a firm building new voter registration software for that state, and managing the existing registration software in Vermont, had outsourced some of its programming work.

WSD Digital—which is based in Connecticut—is also developing new voter registration software for Vermont, though unlike New Hampshire’s, the system will not be ready to use until next year, according to Lauren Hibbert, Vermont’s deputy secretary of state.

According to Politico, a cybersecurity probe of the system being developed for New Hampshire found software misconfigured to connect to servers in Russia, as well as the use of code that is freely available online — known as open-source code — and that is overseen by a Russian computer engineer convicted of manslaughter.

A programmer had also coded the Ukrainian national anthem into New Hampshire’s voter da-

tabase, an apparent nod to Russia’s ongoing invasion of that country, the news outlet reported. The presence of the anthem, however, posed no threat to the software itself.

Politico reported that WSD Digital resolved the coding issues before New Hampshire’s software went into use ahead of its presidential primary election this spring. It also noted that there was no evidence of wrongdoing. But the outlet did, broadly, find a lack of oversight across the country of the supply chain states tap to build the software that manages their elections.

Hibbert said the specific issues identified in the Politico article, while concerning, were found to have had no impact on the software that WSD Digital is building for Vermont. Moreover, she said, the security review — conducted by a firm called ReversingLabs — is a standard part of software development and is designed to identify problems such as those found in New Hampshire’s software.

Vermont and some its contractors have since been “taking a closer look” at where the code they use to build election management systems comes from, (See *Voting is secure*, Page 24)

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**Rob Roper**

**What Is The Clean Heat Standard?**

**AND**

**Where Do Property Taxes Come From?**

**A look at the key bills of the past two years and what could be next**

**Questions & Answers To Follow**

**6 p.m. Thursday, September 12th**

**Brandon Town Hall - Upstairs**

Advertisement paid for by the Brandon Town Republican Committee





## Classic Harold Lloyd comedy 'Speedy' on Saturday, Sept. 21 in Brandon

BRANDON—He was the bespectacled boy next door whose road to success was often paved with perilous detours.

He was Harold Lloyd, whose fast-paced comedies made him the most popular movie star of Hollywood's silent film era.

See for yourself why Lloyd was the top box office attraction of the 1920s in a revival of 'Speedy' (1928), one of his most popular comedies.

'Speedy' features an extended cameo by baseball's Babe Ruth, then at the height of his fame.

The film, shot on location in New York City, will be shown on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt.

All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

The screening, the latest in the venue's silent film series, will feature live accompani-

ment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating music for silent films.

'Speedy,' Lloyd's final silent feature before the transition to talkies, finds Harold as a baseball-crazed youth who must rescue the city's last horse-drawn streetcar from gangsters bent on running it out of business.



Filed almost entirely on location in New York, 'Speedy' features remarkable glimpses of the city at the end of the 1920s, including footage of Coney Island and the original Yankee Stadium in the Bronx.

The latter scenes include an extended appearance by Babe

Ruth, then at the height of his career during the team's storied 1927 season.

"In 'Speedy,' New York City is practically a part of the cast," Rapsis said. "In filming it on location, Lloyd knew scenes of New York would give the picture added interest to audiences across the nation and around the world.

"But what he didn't anticipate was that today, the location shots now provide a fascinating record of how life was lived in the Big Apple in the 1920s," Rapsis said.

Rapsis will improvise a musical score for 'Speedy' as the film is screened. In creating accompaniment for vintage classics, Rapsis tries to bridge the gap between silent film and modern audiences.

"Creating the music on the spot is a bit of a high-wire act, but it contributes a level of energy that's really crucial to the silent film experience," Rapsis said.

(See "Speedy", Page 31)

## Apple crop

(Continued from Page 7)  
mistic.

"When you have a good crop, people are really excited to come out to farms and have an orchard experience," she said. "It's looking like a beautiful season. Apples are plentiful and abundant."

Bradshaw said Vermont's orchards have been less affected by flooding, even though perennial crops like apples, which grow in the ground for many years, do not do well in saturated soil.

"For the growers that have the bumper to bumper crops this year, it won't be like this next year," Bradshaw said, but barring extreme conditions, there should still be a good crop.

This year, Peck Farm Or-

chard's crop came in earlier than usual, while Hackett's Orchard pushed its apple picking back by a week because the farm's blooms started a week later than normal in May.

"We thought the apples needed a little bit more time to develop flavor and color," Hackett said, adding that cooler temperatures at night this week have been a positive for the apples.

He's also looking forward to the start of the season.

"Generations of families come here to pick, and we enjoy seeing them year after year," Hackett said. His message to them: "Enjoy the fall weather, and come out and pick your favorite type of apple."

**ONLINE AUCTION**  
**(1611) GDP ELECTRIC AUCTION**  
**Auction Closes: Tues., Sept. 17 @ 10AM**

**FLORENCE, VT LOCATION - BIDDING NOW OPEN: THCAUCTION.COM**  
Large Auction with Over 400 Lots of Electrical Supplies, Tools, Wires and MORE! Highlights include: 42' box trailer, inverters, tripods, pipe threaders, extension ladders, power cutters, heat guns, cable pullers, rivet guns, tools, lifting slings, conduit benders, spool racks, pulleys, signs, sheaves and more.

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**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
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*Properties can be sold together or separately.*  
**LIVE AUCTION: TUESDAY, SEPT. 24 @ 11AM**  
**95 & 99 South Street, Proctor, VT 05765 (Home & Garage)**

**HOME:** (95 South Street, Proctor, VT) - Live in one unit and rent the other! Each unit features a kitchen, living room, two bedrooms, and one bath. Conveniently located near shopping and essentials and close to Rut and.

**COMMERCIAL GARAGE:** (99 South Street, Proctor, VT) - Spacious garage up for auction! This property features a 8,500 sq. ft. main building and a separate storage garage situated on 5.61 acres of land. There are 4 overhead doors and a 5-bay garage at the rear for ample storage space. Town provides garbage collection, water and sewer. Easy access to Rt. 7.

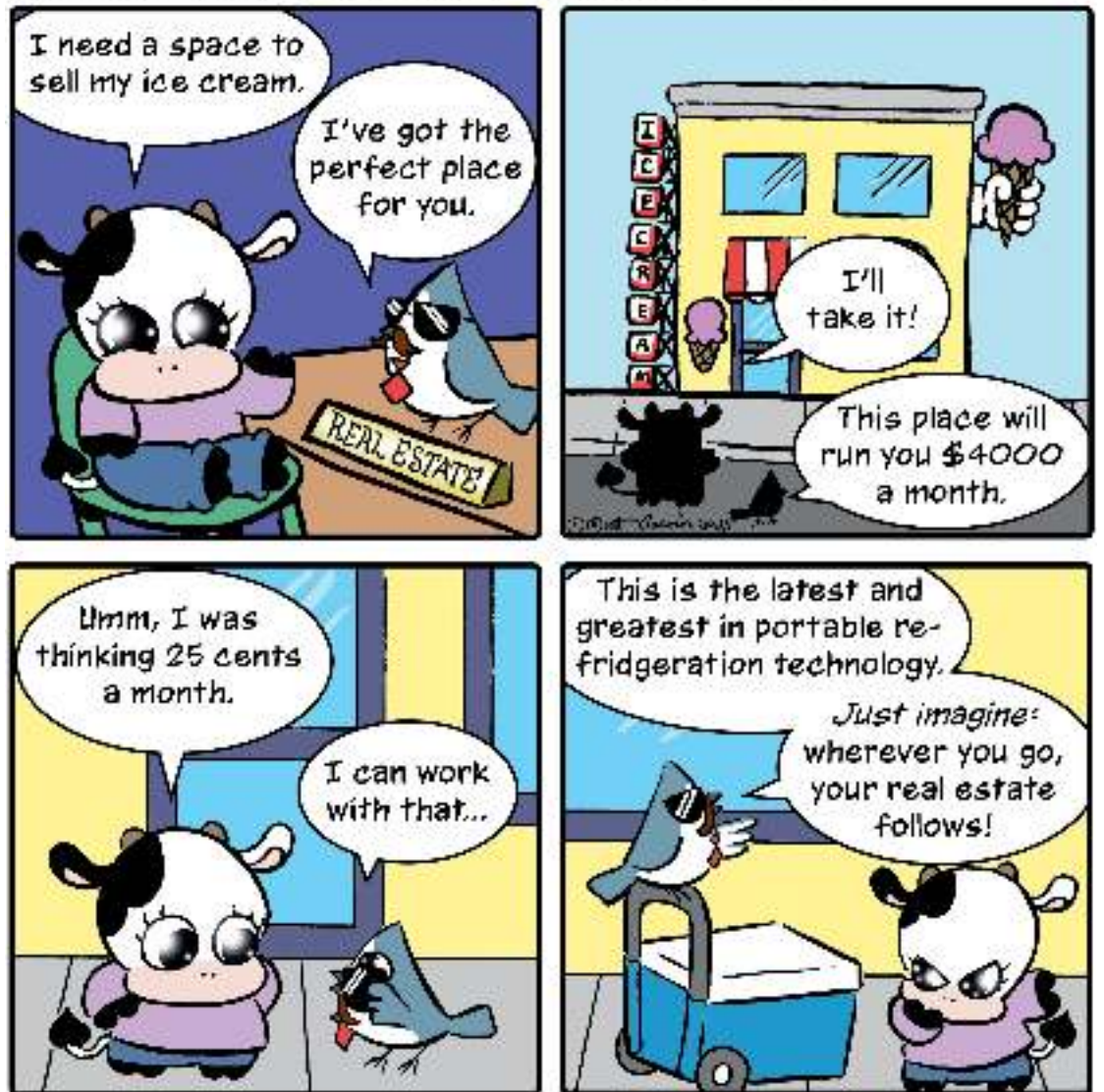
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STUDENT: Luna Vazquez  
GRADE: 1  
SCHOOL: Homeschool  
TITLE: Viper  
MEDIUM: Clay and marker

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*10th Annual*  
**BRANDON HAS TALENT SHOW**

Do you like to sing, dance, play an instrument or have a special talent & you want to be part of the 10th Annual "Brandon Has Talent Show"?

Contact Dennis at [denniswmarden@gmail.com](mailto:denniswmarden@gmail.com) or leave a message at 802-247-5420 to sign up for an audition time.

**Auditions are held every 15 minutes on Sunday, October 6 from 3:00–6:00 pm and Monday, October 7 from 5:00–8:00 pm**  
 (times will be assigned on a first come, first served basis)

If you will be using music, make sure it is on your cell phone so you can connect to a Bluetooth Speaker. We will be downloading all music to a laptop for the performance on Saturday, November 9.



## 'Lucky Stiff'

(Continued from Page 2)  
 played by recent OV graduate Baker LaRock. Harry is a forlorn English shoe salesman who receives strange and interesting news: he is to receive a large inheritance from an uncle he never knew—but there are conditions attached. In order to receive his inheritance, he must take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on a vacation to Monte Carlo. If he fulfills all the conditions, Harry will inherit \$6,000,000. If not, the money goes to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn . . . or perhaps else-

where! As the opening number proclaims, "Something funny is going on!"  
 Jeffrey Hull hopes that this will be the first of many community theater offerings, providing an opportunity for both adults and younger students in the Brandon area to participate in a community theater production. Tickets to "Lucky Stiff" are \$8 and will be available at the door. For advance tickets and further information, see <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/otter-valley-union-high-school-rnesu/>



ABOVE: HARRY AGREES to take his dead uncle to Monte Carlo to fulfil the conditions to get his inheritance. Below: Claire Pate returns to the OV stage after 52 years. She was last seen as Rosie in "Bye Bye Birdie" in 1972.

# Orwell food festival was fun for all



CLIFF HUNTER OF Orwell demonstrates how to make cider at the Orwell Food Festival on Sunday, September 8. Hunter is using Macintosh apples that grow on his property. One bushel of apples will yield 3 to 4 gallons of cider. Hunter mashes the fruit, places the pulp in cheesecloth, lowers the press to extract the juice, and finally pours the resulting cider into an urn for everyone to sample.

# Proposed trail

(Continued from Page 1)  
Route 73. Anyone who wants to walk from, say, Center Street in downtown Brandon to the Neshobe School would need to walk along busy Route 73, which has sidewalks along intermittent stretches.

The purpose of a connecting trail would to allow residents to walk or bike safely from one nexus to the other without fear of the heavy traffic that can make Route 73 feel unsafe.

On Wednesday, September 4, Mr. Moore welcomed Brandon residents to the Brandon Town Hall for the first “public concerns” meeting regarding the project. Brandon has committed

\$10K from its 1% local option tax fund to match a \$40K grant from VTrans for a scoping study to determine the feasibility of such a trail. No commitments have been made by the town to the construction of a path. The scoping study will allow the town and its residents to determine whether they want to proceed with the plan.

Project Engineer Jenny Austin of Dubois & King led attendees through a slide presentation that outlined the process of the study. Steffanie Bourque of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, who will be acting as the Municipal Project Manager, was present as well.

The process began with the formation of a four-person steering committee consisting of Mr. Moore, Highway Department Foreman Jeremy Disorda, Jim Leary, and Liz Gregorek.

That group and Ms. Austin studied the existing conditions of the landscape between downtown Brandon and Forest Dale to determine where it would make most sense to lay a path, noting existing roads, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas, spots of rock or ledge, and flood plains.

Ms. Austin showed a map of proposed routes, some of

which followed existing roads and some of which would require cooperation with private landowners.

According to Ms. Austin, the constructed path would be 8 to 10 feet wide and surfaced with a material that would allow easy walking and bicycling and would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Along existing roadways, it would function almost as a sidewalk.

Attendees at the presentation seemed inclined to seek routes that steered clear of Route 73, following less-traveled road-

ways such as Town Farm Road. No route has been adopted at this point.

*The purpose of a connecting trail would to allow residents to walk or bike safely from one nexus to the other without fear of the heavy traffic that can make Route 73 feel unsafe.*

In fact, Mr. Moore has made the presentation and maps available on the town website (under News & Notices). Residents are encouraged to print out the map, mark out preferred routes, and submit the recommendations to Mr. Moore at the Town Office.

No deadline has been set and no additional public meetings have been scheduled.



JOIN THE BRANDON DEMOCRATS FOR A

# COMMUNITY MIXER

Meet your neighbors and candidates running for public office, including:

- State Rep. Stephanie Jerome
- Marsha Cassel
- Esther Charlestin

**DOOR PRIZES!  
REGISTER TO VOTE!  
RAFFLES!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
4 pm - 6 pm

📍 The events room at 11 Center St  
*Please bring a snack to share*

## 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

# THE ANNUAL BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT CORNHOLE CHAMPIONSHIP IS IN THE BAG!



**DESPITE THE UNPREDICTABLE** weather—alternately sunny and rainy—there was no shortage of competitors for the Brandon Fire Department’s annual Cornhole Championship on Sunday, September 8. Each two-person team had its own tossing style but ultimately three teams made the podium. Top photo (L to R): 3rd place winners Littlefield, 2nd place winners Boynton Bombers, and 1st place champions RJ Jones and Linda Gayle. Pulled pork, fries, and baked goods prepared by the Brandon Fire Department satisfied the hungry athletes while Mae’s Place slaked their thirst with cold beverages.

Photos by Steven Jupiter and Bill Moore

# OVUU SPORTS ROSTERS, AUTUMN 2024



## Otter Valley Union High School Varsity Cross Country 2024

Player	Grade
Elisha Bagley	12
Luke Calvin	12
Sara Loyzelle	12
Brody Lathrop	11
Brendan McLoughlin	11
Roni O'Brien	11
Jackson Rawls	10
Cooper Rubright	10
Ryder Snow	10
Shayla Frain	9
Caledonia Gibbs	9

**Head Coach:** Cameron Perta  
**Asst Coach:** Jonna Keith

Ryan Willey	8
Mason Denis	7

**Head Coach:** Cameron Perta  
**Asst Coach:** Jonna Keith

## Otter Valley Union High School Middle School Field Hockey 2024

Player	Grade
Audrey Carrier	8
Hillary Desabrais	8
Sophialeee Duby	8
Maci Gatchet	8
Lydia Keith	8
Sofia Kerr	8
Georgia LaPorte	8
Sienna Many	8
Kalina Snow	8
Ayda Bernhard	7
Teaghan Clark	7
Jazmine Cram	7
Jady Devino	7
Rylee Hall	7
Ava Hammel	7
Sage Parker	7
Brenna Quesnel	7
Chloe Aube	6
Chloe Dupoise Chandler	6
Marion LaPorte	6
Stella LaPorte	6
Morgan McMahon	6
Aubrey Norris	6
Joleigh Osnoe	6

**Head Coach:** Alia Dick  
**Assistant Coach:** Meghan Hallett

## Otter Valley Union High School Varsity Field Hockey 2024

Player	Grade
Matelin LaPorte	12
Charlotte Newton	12
Alexis Beaulieu	11
Hannah Desabrais	11
Marissa Dick	11
Micheala Hobbs	11
Breanna Bovey	11
Tayah Cram	10
Sophia Parker	10
Mariterese Pearsons	10
Elliana Berriault	9
Isabella Bovey	9
Amelia Gibbs	9
Olivia Gibbs	9
Katherine Bailey-Warner	9
Aleah Romano	9

**Head Coach:** Jodie Keith (V)  
**Asst Coach:** Alia Dick (JV)

Audrey Carrier  
Hillary Desabrais  
Maci Gatchet  
Lydia Keith  
Sofia Kerr  
Georgia LaPorte  
Sienna Many  
Kalina Snow

## Otter Valley Union High School Varsity Golf 2024

Player	Grade
Lucas Politano	12
Rowen Steen	12
Jacob Tripp	12
Connor Denis	11
Jackson Howe	11
Jacob Warrell	11
Marek Heitmann	9
William Kilpeck	9
Gavin Steen	9
Max Eugair	8

**Head Coach:** Greg Hughes  
**Assistant:** Thomas Kingsley

## Otter Valley Union High School Varsity Girls Soccer 2024

Player	Grade
Laura Allen	12
Savanna Cook	12
Randi Lancour	12
Mallee Richardson	12
Jazalynn Madriga	11
Emma Stanley	11
Bella Cassel	10
Allie Charbonneau	10
Katelyn Greeno	10
Michelle Hendee	10
Adyson Humiston	10
Lana Karnai	10
Olivia Quinn	10
Tegan Boynton	9
Amira French	9
Makenzie McNolty	9
Iyla Spensley	9
Madison Stamp	9

**Head Coach:** Tammi Blanchard  
**Asst Coach:** Michael Stark



## Otter Valley Union High School MS Girls Soccer 2024

Player	Grade
Addison Erickson	8
Jaiden Eugair	8
Jasmine Gilmore	8
Brooklynn Hill	8
Lucy Howe	8
Jaelyn Martin	8
Reece Benoit	7
Madison Charbonneau	7
Karen Gaitan	7
Eliana Gonzalez Gibson	7
Marjorie Hooker	7
Lyrik Kane	7
Camry Miner	7
Brianna Pockett	7
Ruby Spensley	7
McKenzie Wilson	7
Lulu Young	7

**Head Coach:** Jennifer Popp

## Otter Valley Union High School MS Boys Soccer 2024

Player	Grade
Hunter Barnhardt	8
Tucker Cram	8
Max Lavelle	8
Ezra Satz	8
Andrew Sweeney	8
Caleb Woodward	8
Anthony Zaccheus	8
Arion Aberle	7
Mickey Barber	7
Evan Desforges	7
Landon Euber	7
Lucas Lacey	7
Nicholas Lathrop	7
Brogan Malay	7
Peyton Quenneville	7
Hayden Shackett	7
Jackson Romano	7
Jacob Therrien	7
Teagan Wilbur	7
Eliot Wingfield	7

**Head Coach:** Brent Wilbur



## Otter Valley Union High School Fall Cheerleading 2024

Player	Grade
Leah Chapin	9
Brooklyn Williams	7

**Head Coach:** Kassidy Buley



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



#### Friends Zone

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

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

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

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

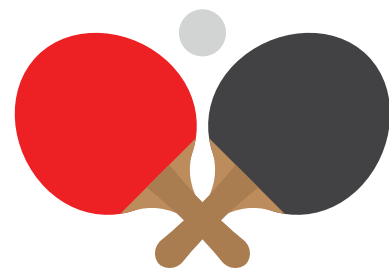
#### Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Wednesdays

#### Ping Pong

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



The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the

corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a

challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

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

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

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

From 10:30-11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland, Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth 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 a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register. There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

#### Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

### Fridays

#### Chaffee 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.

## Cast Off Contemporary square

Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club is excited to announce the start of its 47th year of introducing new dancers to square dancing. The new workshop season kicks off on September 11th at Lothrop School in Pittsford, with sessions held every Wednesday night.

The club welcomes dancers from all walks of life, including working professionals, retirees, families, singles, and couples. Starting with simple calls, the square dance lessons gradually progress to more complex calls. The music ranges from popular contemporary hits to traditional tunes, creating an engaging and enjoyable atmosphere.

The club embraces the philosophy that "Anyone can square dance—if you can walk, you can square dance!" It's not only a fantastic way to relieve stress but also an excellent opportunity to meet new people and forge connections, which can lead to greater happiness.

The upcoming workshop season begins with two free introductory nights

## Cast Off

on September 11th and 18th, from 6:00 to 8 pm at Lothrop School. After the free sessions, participation is \$7 per dancer, with discounts available for those who sign up for 10-week sessions. By the end of the workshops, participants will be prepared to enjoy square dancing events around the world.

For more information or to pre-register, please contact Lauren at [lauren@castoff8s.com](mailto:lauren@castoff8s.com) and visit [castoff8s.com](http://castoff8s.com).

Don't miss this coming community event! Join the fun of square dancing!

#### 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.

## Goings on around town

### Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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





## 2024 Live at Kennedy Park line-up

**September 14**  
Melissa Moorehouse, Singer/Songwriter

**September 28**  
Bird Boombox, Alt. Folk/Rock Trio

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

## Off 8's dance starts this week



castoff8s@gmail.  
our website <http://www.off8s.com>

chance to join a well-organized community and experience the joy of dancing!

## Wednesday 11th

**NXT Rockumentary Film Series: Cobain: Montage of Heck (2015) — Next Stage Arts**  
Brett Morgen, 2h 25m

A multimedia mix of Kurt Cobain's home movies, journal entries, drawings, notebook scrawlings and audio recordings (buffered, naturally, by vintage interview excerpts and concert clips), Brett Morgen's documentary is more than just a must-see for Nirvana fans. It's a collective labor of love that offers an unfiltered peek into the singer-songwriter's mindset, from the first creative stirrings to the spiral downward. By the time it ends with Cobain thanking his Unplugged audience, you feel as if you know the man himself. — Rolling Stone. From 7-9:30 pm at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$10.

## Proctor Town Green, 6 pm



September 28  
Fall Festival  
Robert Wuagneux

## Thursday 12th

### Rutland Fall Job Fest

A free outdoors job fair in the heart of Rutland! Employers are actively hiring and are excited to meet you, so polish up your resume and come on down to find your next career opportunity. This event is outdoors and is completely free.

If you have questions, call the Vermont Department of Labor Middlebury (802-388-4921), Rutland (802-786-5837), or Bennington (802-442-6376) regional offices. From 11 am-2 pm at Depot Park, 15 Evelyn Street, Rutland.

## Friday 13th

### Rutland Ice Cream Social & Listening Session

Join Vermont Public at Center Street Marketplace Park for FREE Wilcox Ice Cream and family-friendly activities. Center Street Marketplace Park - 53 Washington Street, Rutland, VT 05701. Rain location: Roots Restaurant - 55 Washington St, Rutland, VT 05701.

Chat with Vermont Public reporters and your neighbors about your community and what's happening in your town. Enjoy family-friendly activities, giveaways and Wilcox Ice Cream!

Admission is free but please RSVP to let us know you're coming. Send us a message on Eventbrite or call 800-639-2192, 10 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday.

Event Flow:

5:00 p.m. - Event begins  
7:00 p.m. - Event ends

Is there a cost to attend?  
No, this event is free for all!

What are my parking options?  
Free parking is available at metered spots around the park and Green Mountain Shopping Plaza - 286-324, US 7 South St, Rutland, VT 05701.

What are my food and drink options?  
Ice cream and water will be available at the event.

How and when will we know if the event is moved to the rain location?  
A decision will be made 24 hours in advance. You will be contacted via email.

Will this event be broadcast?  
No, but our reporters may be recording their conversations for future use.

What if my question isn't answered here?  
Send us a message on Eventbrite or call 800-639-2192, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Friday 13th Saturday 14th

**Rutland Free Library September Book Sales**

Fri., Sept. 13 (10 am-2 pm) and Sat., Sept. 14 (10 am-2 pm). Public Always Wel-



come. Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per monthly sale per family. No book dealers. Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects. 10 Court St., Rutland. 802-773-1860. [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org).

## Friday 13th Sunday 22nd

### "Year One" — Wild Goose Players

Wild Goose Players is opening a new 40-seat black-box studio where live shows will be performed in an intimate theatrical setting. The inaugural production in the space will be Year One opening in September. The dark, gritty drama follows a family struggling against the violent rise of authoritarianism and is written and directed by Chicago playwright Erik Gernand. This is the play's second production, following a successful run in New Jersey in 2021 that The Star-Ledger in Newark called, "A compelling dive into extremism's creep... It leaves audiences with the difficult task of recognizing the seeds of evil concealed in otherwise perfectly pleasant people."

The show features five regional actors and will be produced in the round with only a single row of seating. "The forty audience members will be mere feet from the action," said Gernand, who also teaches dramatic writing at Northwestern University. "You'll intensely feel every moment of the story."

Showings at 7:30 pm, and 3:30 pm at Wild Goose Players, 13 Westminster Street, Town of Rockingham. \$18.



# COFFEE TALK

**MEET RNESU'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT RENE SANCHEZ**

**09.24.24 • 7:30-10AM**

Keith's Country Store  
4085 US-7, Pittsford, VT

COME HAVE A COFFEE AND GET TO KNOW RENE

# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

sources □ reports). An attendee stated later that the report on the Town Hall understated the usage of the building and was therefore inaccurate.

Mr. Hopkins also noted that he and Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore had met with Tom Markowski of Markowski Excavating to discuss the stone dam at the upper falls on the Neshobe River in downtown Brandon, behind Kennedy Park. The dam, which consists of stone blocks, has fallen into disrepair over the years. Markowski will provide estimates for three possible approaches:

Remove the dam entirely and return the falls to the natural ledge beneath the stones

Restore the appearance of the dam

Repair the dam, restore its functionality, and remove built-up silt from the impoundment area behind the dam

Only option 1 carries the possibility of state grant money. The other two options would be funded by the town. Mr. Hopkins made clear that the dam serves no practical purpose at this point and that the amount of water it impounds would have a negligible impact if released.

An attendee urged the board to restore the appearance of the dam rather than remove it.

Official town e-mail addresses have changed because of the town's transition to a .gov domain. All town employees with email addresses can now be reached at first initial last name @brandonvermont.gov. For example, an employee named John Doe would be jdoe@brandonvermont.gov. All previous town e-mails will remain active for a few years to allow residents time to adjust.

Mr. Hopkins advised the community that 3 GovPilot modules were now functional on the town website. These modules allow the public to interact with the town online. The three active modules are:

Report a concern. This allows residents to alert the town to issues that need to be addressed, such as downed trees, unsafe road conditions, damaged signage, etc.

Land-use applications. This allows residents to apply online for permits for construction projects, for example. All necessary documentation must be supplied in order for applications to be submitted, allowing the Zoning Administrator to receive only complete applications.

Rental housing registration. Residential landlords must reg-

ister their rental units with the town to ensure compliance with relevant town ordinances. Short term rentals (e.g., Airbnb) are excluded from this requirement.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Deputy Town Manager/Rec Dept Director/Economic Development Officer Bill Moore presented his report to the Selectboard, noting that all of his various roles will now be subsumed under the heading "Community Development."

Highlights of his report included:

The Eagle Feather PowWow will take place in Estabrook Part on September 19-22

Halloween-appropriate movies will be shown at the drive-in at Estabrook Park in October. Offerings include Nightmare before Christmas/Nightmare on Elm Street (10/4), Hocus Pocus/Friday the 13th (10/5), and The Shining (10/6).

The Parking Committee had its first meeting to discuss possible solutions to Brandon's longstanding parking problems downtown

The Union Street sidewalk project has begun its early phases. VTrans will negotiate right-of-way permissions with adjacent landowners in September and October. A final plan is expected in February 2025. Contracts signed in April 2025. Bids in May 2025. Construction from July to November 2025. All timeframes are open to change.

## DOWN ON THE BRANDON BAYOU

Via Zoom, Joan Allen of Vermont Fish & Wildlife (VF&W) petitioned the Board for a letter in support of the purchase by VF&W of two "swamp" lots owned by Robert and Carol Parker. The lots are located on either side Route 73 along Otter Creek near the Sudbury/Brandon line but are not directly accessible from the road. The two lots cover 13 acres and 12.7 acres respectively. VF&W already has significant holdings along Otter Creek in that area.

The lots would be held as conservation land and would remain open to the public for birding, botanizing, and hunting. The purchase would be a transaction between VF&W and the Parkers with no funds coming from the town of Brandon, though the town would continue to receive annual "payments in lieu of taxes" from VF&W.

The Board voted unanimously to provide the letter of support.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Doug Bailey noted that the Budget Committee

will meet on Monday, September 16 and on Monday, September 30 for initial discussions of budget priorities without focusing on any specific dollar amounts.

Ms. Nelson said that she had received an e-mail from a town resident who wanted the Board to address the "dangerous" intersection at Park and Marble Streets. Four streets intersect there (Park, Park Extension, Marble, High) but only three of the streets have stop signs. There is no stop sign at the end of Marble Street. Ms. Nelson stated that she agreed that the intersection posed a danger and said that no intersection should require a "learning curve." Local residents are familiar with the quirk of the intersection but it can be tricky for those who haven't traveled through it before.

Ms. Nelson also stated that the resident asked the Board to address the inconsistent speed limits between the Neshobe Golf Club and the intersection. The speed limit goes from 35 to 45 to 35 to 25 during that span and drivers often ignore all the lower limits and speed through.

Mr. Hopkins advised that even though Route 73 follows Park and Marble Streets, the roadways are owned by the town. However, the town cannot add a stop sign at the end of Marble Street without approval from the state. Mr. Hopkins also said that the state had done traffic studies of the intersection in the past and did not recommend the addition of a stop sign.

Attendees asked that vegetation obscuring the existing stop signs be trimmed back and that the signs warning that traffic from Marble Street does not stop be made more prominent. One attendee stated that any intersection that requires a warning to drivers is inherently dangerous and the town has a responsibility to improve the safety there.

Town Clerk Susan Gage congratulated Assistant Town Clerk Luanne Merkert on her 24th year as a town employee. Ms. Gage also announced that the Vermont Secretary of State will be sending out ballots for the November 5 general election to all registered voters.

## WARRANTS

The Board unanimously approved two warrants in the amounts of \$7,908.75 and \$194,119.73. The lesser warrant covered lingering expenses from FY24, which ended on June 30. The larger warrant included money for FEMA flood buyouts which pass through the town but are not actually taxpayer funds.

# Brandon Town Manager's report August 27–September 6

## FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town's grant application spearheaded by the Energy Committee to fund a revolving loan fund to assist Brandon residents with weatherization and efficiency projects was not successful; the grant administrators advise such use of funds does not qualify. A second round of applications has been opened and the Energy Committee is working on another concept to secure funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) to benefit Brandon. The new concept is to fund an Energy Navigator such as is successfully implemented in Addison County currently. An Energy Navigator would help homeowners connect with resources to help the homeowners pursue energy audits, weatherization, obtaining efficient heating, cooling, and transportation equipment, and consider generating electricity with solar.

The Town has received, and I have posted on the Reports page of the Town website, all four of its MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) building audit reports. These were done at no expense to the Town and are thorough energy evaluations of the Town Hall, town office, highway barn, and wastewater treatment facility. Recommendations are included for weatherization, heating/cooling systems, and resilience. Jeremy Gildrien from RRPC met with a team from the Town; he will be assisting the Town with a MERP implementation grant application to try to secure funding for some of the reports' recommendations with the overall goals of reducing our baseline energy use and the ongoing energy costs borne by taxpayers.

## FOCUS AREAS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

The Town completed a buyout of a home at 317 North Street adjacent to the Neshobe River. The Town will now arrange the asbestos inspection and after that enter the demolition bid process.

The Town received a no-asbestos clearance and on Friday 6 September conducted a mandatory site visit with parties interested in bidding that demolition work at the factory building at 110 Newton Road now owned by the Town through the buyout process.

We have implemented new e-addresses for the Town professional staff and selectboard using our more secure domain of brandonvermont.gov. An updated contact list accompanies this report.

Town staff and our NEMRC assessor worked to make significant progress on chronic mapping issues in the assessor's office this week. This will assist property owners making investments in Brandon through our land use / zoning permit process. In conjunction, I met with our state District Advisor for Property Valuation on matters related to reappraisal and other assessing functions.

I had many meetings with town officers, staff, townspeople, and responded to a number of requests for information from various parties. Highway/tree/sidewalk matters were the most frequent topics.

## FOR AWARENESS OF THE SELECTBOARD

A box truck was reported to have attempted but failed to cross the Sanderson covered bridge on Wednesday; a board was struck and taken off; the Town crew will be able to make the repair.

The Town crew has been focusing on the final roadside mowing of the season and continuing with ditching to bring more segments of our roads into compliance with the municipal roads general permit. The crew is working methodically under the direction of our very able Highway Chief Jeremy Disorda. They are responding to individual matters brought to their attention as well.

(See TM report, Page 19)

# Hymn Sing a success at Pittsford Congregational Church



**THE SWEET SOUNDS** of the annual Hymn Sing were heard on Sunday, September 8 at the Pittsford Congregational Church. Pastor Michael Dwyer (at the pulpit in the left photo) led the program. Dr. Alastair Stout (at piano) was the guest artist. Dr. Stout is a composer, pianist, and the Music Director at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland. The event raised \$650 for Vermont flood relief.

Photos provided



**DEVINO STONES** AT St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon.

## Lost names

*(Continued from Page 3)*

attention to this fact. Son Fred Devino and wife Katherine's stones have their full dates of birth and death, but an adjacent stone for Oliver and Orpha's has only their dates of birth. Curiously, someone planted a veteran's flag next to the stone. Along with four of his brothers, Oliver had registered for the draft during the Civil War but did not serve.

Notwithstanding dying be-

fore his parents, Fred Devino's obituary from 1925 recounts he was survived by eight children, all of whom lived in Forest Dale: John, Fred, George [father of Ivor Devino], and Volney Devino, and daughters Lucy Anoe, Bernice LaRock, Elizabeth Pfenning, and Ezma Bird. Son Frank Devino lived in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. Today scores of descendants live in the area.

One more curious twist of



**MARY (CRONE) BIRD** with daughter Ethel (Bird) Devino and Stanley Bird, 1920.

Family photos courtesy of Michele Bird Poremski

names. Another D'Avignon family had students who matriculated through Otter Valley. Their ancestor was Joseph Arthur D'Avignon (1900–1981), born with the surname McFarland; he was adopted from

a New York orphanage by a Québec-born D'Avignon family. Some students within this family answered to the pronunciation of Devino proving what people hear does not always follow the spelling of their

name.

Thanks to Michele Bird Poremski for loaning family photos.

# Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

This view of Brandon has changed a lot since this photo was taken in the 1920s. The only way to orient yourself is by the familiar water fountain and drinking fountain. This photo was taken looking west across Central Park to the top of Union Street 100 years ago.

On the left is the former Josiah Rossiter home. This home was torn down to build the Ayrshire Breeders Building in 1952. The new \$216,000 building (that would be \$2.5 million dollars today) served as the headquarters for the Ayrshire Breeders Association for 30 years, until 1982, when the Association moved to Columbus, OH to join the Jersey and Guernsey breeders associations.

In the middle, above the black fountain, is the Victorian house built by T.B. Smith. He is the

same Smith who built the Smith Block on Center Street.

This house later served as the American Legion Post 55 just before it was torn down in 1961 to make room for the Grand Union (now Hanaford).

On the right, above the marble drinking fountain is the original Child's Tavern that became the home of Ebenezer N. Briggs, a lawyer through the last half of the 1800s into the 1900s. It was later the home and jewelry shop of Burt Howland. And was then torn down to make way for the I.G.A. (now Walgreens).

The black water fountain was installed in 1884 and the marble drinking fountain in 1904. Thank you to Jim Peck for helping with all of these interesting details and histories.



**WESTERN VIEW ACROSS** Central Park to the top of Union Street circa 1924, and today.



Your mystery for next week!

# Reporter is nonprofit

(Continued from Page 21)

Kate Saunders. Without these two, there is no paper. But after printing and payroll, there's not much left. We have just received a generous grant from the Trustees of Public Funds in Brandon to help us hire a delivery driver, which we find ourselves in need of, but that's not a permanent solution.

And as committed as George and I have been to The Reporter, we will not be able to do the work ourselves indefinitely. The project is fulfilling but exhausting. Ultimately, we will have to find other people who are willing to take up the cause. It's not likely, though, that we'll find other folks able to devote the time and energy

without compensation. Fortunately, our 501(c)(3) status will make it easier to raise money, whether through donations or grants.

But even as a 501(c)(3), our future is not assured. We know that times are tough for many and appreciate all the support we get, whether it be the purchase of a single issue, the purchase of a subscription, or the placement of an ad. All of it helps and we take none of it for granted.

Yet, if in the months ahead we begin to actively solicit donations, please understand the reasons for it. We're simply trying to ensure the survival of what we hope you see as a valuable community resource.

## 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.

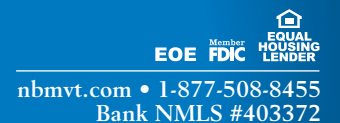
One bedroom with a loft for extra sleeping (or storage) space. Close to Silver Lake, Goshen Dam, and all Green Mountain recreation. \$240,000



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



Make the dream of home ownership a reality. We can help. Contact us today or apply online. Beth Buckman | Community Lender | NMLS #41062





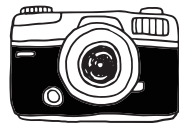
# Mim's Photos

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



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

Or call us at 247-8080



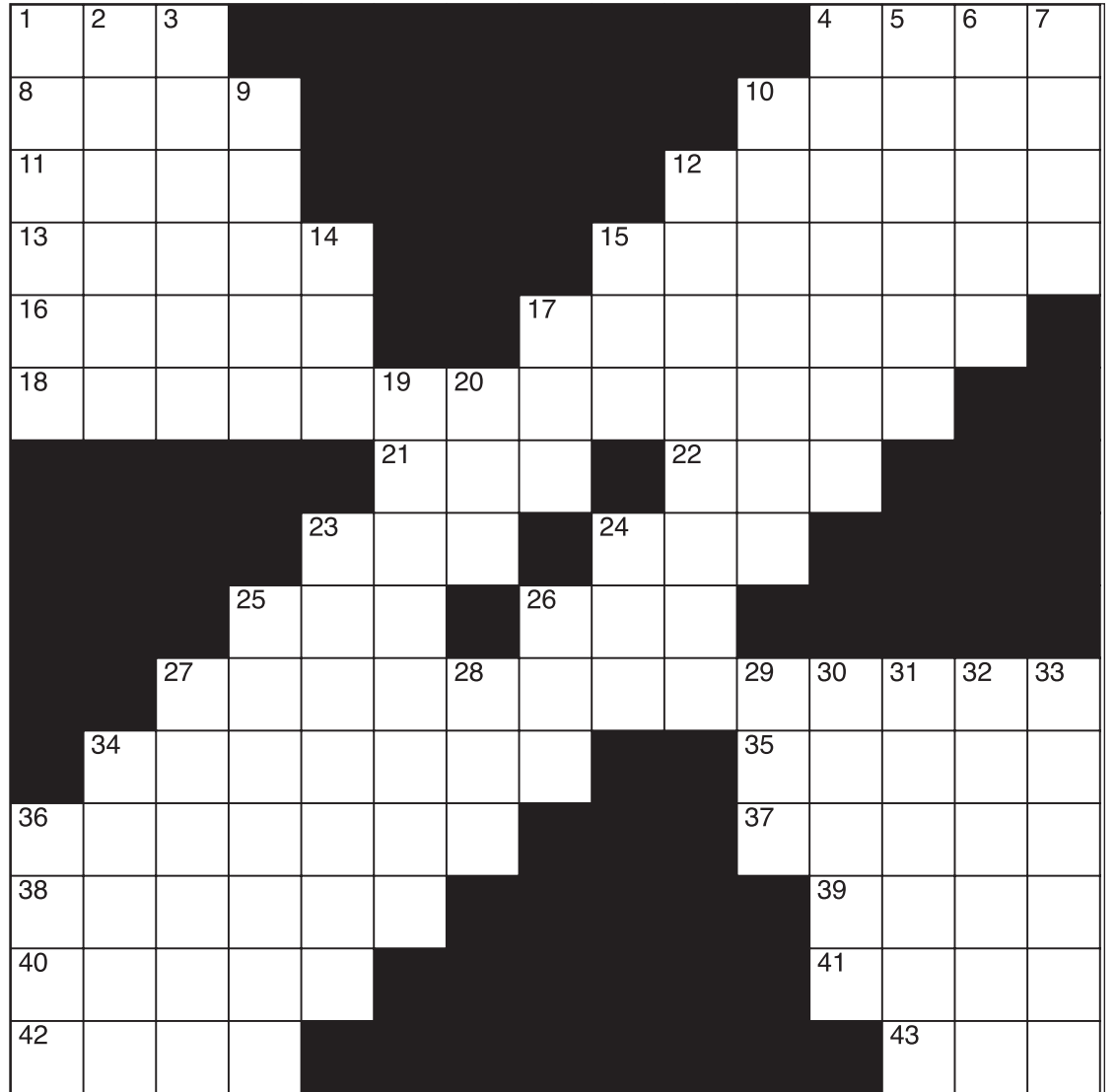
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Engine additive
4. A type of test
8. Curtain
10. Irish surname
11. The opposite of good
12. Got rid of
13. Central parts of a church building
15. Stylistically
16. Intestinal
17. Negative potential outcomes
18. Lived up to a standard
21. Snag
22. Time units (abbr.)
23. Ad \_\_\_
24. "Partridge" actress Susan
25. For each
26. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
27. League titles
34. More intensely black
35. Slang for lovely
36. Petrarch is known for them
37. Old Eurasian wheat
38. Body part
39. Swedish rock group
40. They're worth avoiding
41. Rising and falling of the voice
42. Wings
43. Enzyme import for respiration

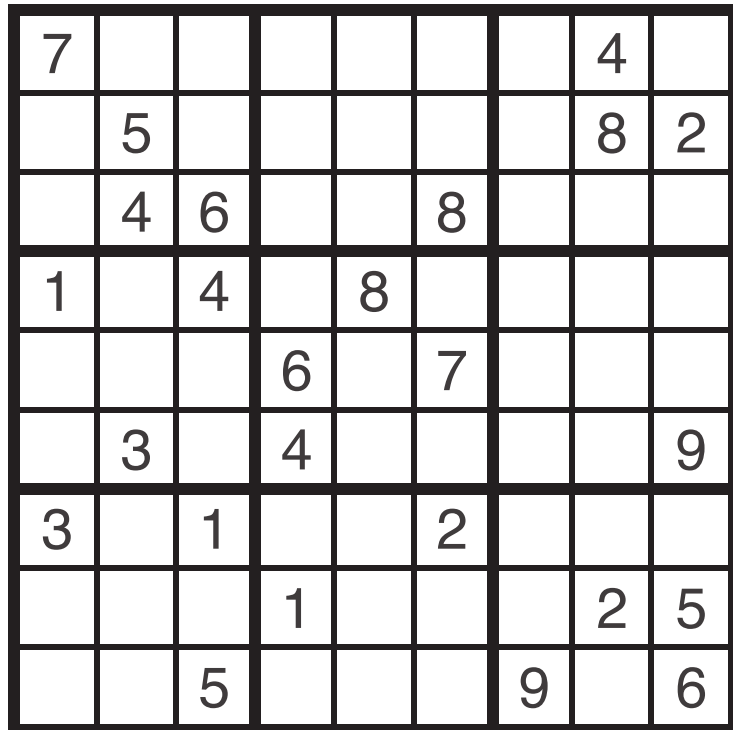
## CLUES DOWN

1. Idyllic
2. South Pacific island nations
3. Shrub of the olive family
4. Boundaries
5. Encircle
6. Weights
7. Samberg is one
9. Sheep sound
10. European country
12. Respected group of people
14. Trigraph
15. Prosecutors
17. Assign a nickname
19. Huge size
20. Partner to cheese
23. Fastballs
24. Principle underlying the universe
25. Distinct units of sound
26. Title of respect
27. Against
28. Foot (Latin)
29. One point east of due south
30. Concerning the blood
31. Type of pentameter
32. North American peoples
33. Layers of rock
34. Georges \_\_\_, French philosopher
36. Lengthy tale



# 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

## Tips from RCHS about Avoiding Wildlife When Driving

With fall arriving, more wildlife is moving about, especially at night and the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) has a few tips. It's important to be particularly alert when driving, especially at night. In wildlife areas such as near ponds, rivers, farms, and woods be sure to drive slowly. Pay attention to both sides of the road for animals that may step out in front of your car. Look for the animal's reflective eyes, which are often visible from a distance. Because animals often travel in groups, if you see one on the road slow down to avoid others who may be following. Your car is not recognized by animals as a predator and even if they see it, they may run out in front of you. If you hit a deer or moose, pull off to the side of the road and put on your flashers. Don't approach the animal. Report the collision to the state wildlife agency or police. For more information please contact RCHS at 802.483.6700.

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

### MEET NUTMEG \*FOSTER TO ADOPT\* - 2 YEARS OLD. NEUTER PENDING. HOUND



**MIX. RED/WHITE.** Say hello to our little friend here! They are one of many dogs (33 total) that came from a recent house collapse. All of them came into our care very fearful, tired, and in need of veterinarian care. Now that they have had time to adjust and be treated, they've come a long way in behavior and learning the ways of being a dog. They're very sweet and crave human interaction. They're getting better on leashes, taking treats, and becoming playful with other dogs and those around them. Food is the biggest motivator for all of them and they've taken great strides from being fearful of eating around our staff to eating out of our hands and using toys. The flip side is that, given their previous living conditions, the majority have issues with food aggression towards other dogs. It can most definitely be addressed given the right type of training, patience and consistency. We have no known history on how they will do with cats or children, but we suspect they will adjust into a home with either. They're all eager to settle into a quiet home and become your new best friend!

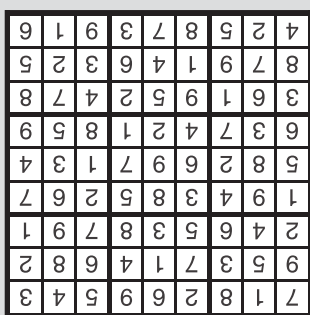
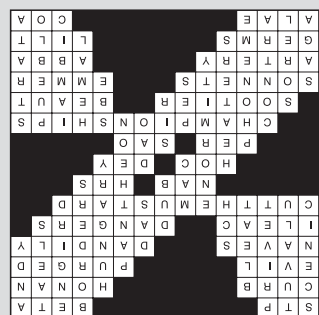
Most of these dogs are still pending spays/neuters, medical checkups, or medications and will be listed as foster to adopt. A great way to get them into a home and make sure it works without the commitment of fully adopting just yet! If you're interested, please call or come in Tuesday-Saturday 11-4.

### MEET LESTER \*FOSTER TO ADOPT\* - 14 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC

**SHORT HAIR. ORANGE. 7.74LBS.** Meet Lester! He is a charming 14-year-old boy with a lifetime of love to give. He is an affectionate fella who enjoys quiet naps and being near his favorite humans. Lester's calm demeanor makes him the perfect companion for cozy evenings and relaxed days. Lester was surrendered to us because his previous owner was moving. We know he likes his feline friends because he has lived with cats previously. However, we have no known history on how he will do with children or dogs. Lester is currently a foster to adopt as he is awaiting a dental. If this handsome boy sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with him. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm.



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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# Voting is secure

(Continued from Page 8)

Hibbert said, but maintained there was no threat to election integrity in the state.

“It did not happen in Vermont code,” Hibbert said. “We decided that we didn’t need to change the security parameters within our contract, or the way that our contract was being executed in our build, because all of the appropriate security measures are already in there.”

The Politico story prompted pushback from New Hampshire Secretary of State David Scanlan’s office. In comments to the

malware, he said, though noted it would have only been viewable to users in Russia. He said the Granite State’s voter registration database was never at risk of being compromised.

In Vermont, officials have known for years that the current software the state uses for election management — which was developed in 2014 by a company called PCC Technology Group — needed to be replaced.

An independent consultant’s review last year found that support and maintenance of the system “began to deteriorate” in 2020, around the time that PCC Technology’s parent company unified its subsidiaries under the brand name Civix. Support requests took “unreasonably long,” the review by Plainfield-based Paul Garstki Consulting states, and proposed upgrades “were slow in coming or never arrived at all.”

The system — which included more than just a voter registration database — then had significant challenges displaying election results on the night of the 2022 general election, the review said. By that point, it adds, the state had “lost confidence in Civix’s

ability to maintain and support the system adequately and began to pursue a replacement.”

Hibbert, in an interview, said Civix “made good faith efforts” to maintain and improve the existing system but that it’s clear new software is needed. The state has since essentially made a copy of the Civix system, she said, and given control of it to WSD Digital. Meanwhile, the latter firm is also developing new software including the voter registration database.

“WSD is managing that system for us and helping us troubleshoot all of the issues that may come up within it through the end of this (2024) election cycle,” she said.

Hibbert said the state does not believe its election systems are vulnerable and that officials have taken numerous other steps to ensure the vote is secure. The Secretary of State’s Office recently met with all of its technology vendors to review their security protocols, she said, and is overseeing training on election procedures and digital security with town and city clerks.

Speaking about the new software, she added, “the vendor that we’re working with — and the security parameters that we built in — are at the leading edge of this industry.”



New Hampshire Union Leader newspaper, Scanlan disputed Politico’s reporting that the state’s software used open-source code linked to Russia.

The state had a forensic expert remove “Ukrainian anthem”

# Brandon Police Report

## August 26

- Vehicle stop conducted on Park Street for flashing red light violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for a cell phone violation. Ticket issued.
- Responded to a dog bite incident on Center Street. The incident was forwarded to the Brandon Animal Control Officer (ACO) for further review.
- Took fingerprints for teacher licensing.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Responded to Wheeler Road for a citizen dispute regarding property.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for display of plates. Warning issued.

## August 27

- Responded to the area of Forest Dale Road and Wagner Road to assist a farmer in trying to corral a cow that had gotten loose and was walking in the roadway.
- K9 Unit assisted the U.S. Bureau of Prisons in a drug search at a Federal Correctional facility in New York during in-service training.
- Responded to the Brandon Village Green for a report of a physical altercation over the purchase of a hot dog from a food cart. The complainant, who was highly intoxicated, was later transported to the hospital for evaluation. No criminal charges.
- Served in-hand a restraining order on Town Farm Road on behalf of the Vermont State Police—Berlin.
- Served in-hand a restraining order, out of the State of Maine, on Church Street, on behalf of the Vergennes Police Department.
- Dealt with an intoxicated man walking in the area of Center Street. The man returned to the Brandon Inn, where he was staying, without further issue.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment (taillight). Warning issued.
- Responded to Champlain Street for an erratic driver.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for driving without an inspection sticker. Warning issued.

## August 28

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to display license plate(s). Upon further investigation, the vehicle was

seized due to suspicion of containing illegal drugs. Search warrant to be sought.

- Arrested and lodged a woman at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility, as a result of a vehicle stop on Grove Street, for two active arrest warrants for Fentanyl Trafficking and Cocaine Possession.
- Received a report of a low hanging wire on Grove Street. Wire removed by Green Mountain Power.
- K-9 Unit conducted a sniff on a vehicle suspected of containing illegal drugs. K9 Guinness alerted on the presence of drugs in the vehicle. Search warrant to be sought.
- Vehicle stop on Union Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Union Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- Received a report from a complainant at the police station that someone had fraudulently used his social security number to get a credit card in his name.
- Assisted a disabled motorist at the intersection of Churchill Road and Forest Dale Road who had run out of gas and was in a dangerous location near a blind curve.
- Recovered a car bumper with a New Hampshire license plate from the parking lot of Hannaford Supermarket on Supermarket Drive.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Took fingerprints for teacher licensing.
- Took possession of a lost wallet that was found on Seminary Street. The owner of the wallet was contacted and later retrieved his property.
- Took a late reported hit and run accident that occurred at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. Incident documented for insurance purposes.
- Executed a search warrant on a vehicle that was seized on suspicion that it contained illegal drugs. Drugs were later found in the car. Investigation ongoing.

## August 29

- Responded to the dog park on West Seminary Street for a report of a man who appeared to be under the influence of drugs in the area. The park was checked, but no one was located. (See Police report, Page 25)

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



of something you need to get done. Ask your friends or family to pitch in as much as possible.

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, you’re finally ready to take a sizeable step toward completing a goal that has been on your list for what seems like an eternity. It will feel so great when it is far behind you.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Do you have an appetite for adventure this week, Virgo? You may not have to travel too far for all of the thrills and chills you desire. Look around for options close to home.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You may not be feeling like yourself, Libra. There’s something rumbling beneath the surface that you don’t want to share with others just yet. There’s time to be patient.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, as you move through the week, a certain relationship could begin weighing heavily on you. You’re not sure if you should commit further or move on.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, you’re not just ready to hit the ground running, you have the stamina to sail through at a rocket’s pace. This renewed sense of urgency can help you achieve great things.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, the week may start off on a good note with plenty of entertaining distractions. Keep the fun going throughout the week.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Your attention span is limited this week, Aquarius. You may need to work from home or block out as many distractions as possible if you hope to get a single thing finished.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Make a point of delegating if your to-do list gets a little long over the next few days, Pisces. Your phone will be pinging constantly with alerts, so a little help can go a long way.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 13 Clara Schumann, composer (d)
- Sept. 14 Margaret Sanger, birth control activist (d)
- Sept. 15 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, writer (47)
- Sept. 16 Amy Poehler, comedian (53)
- Sept. 17 Anne Bancroft, actress (d)
- Sept. 18 Anna Deavere Smith, actress, playwright and professor (74)
- Sept. 19 – N. K. Jemisin, author (52)

### ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, you are quick to spend money lately, and that can prove problematic in the long run. It may be a good idea to sit down with a financial planner and sort out spending and saving habits.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, this week you have free rein to follow your intuition and express your emotions to those around you. It’s beneficial to get in touch with how you are feeling and explore things further.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

There is some unfinished business you need to clear up before you can fully focus on the week or even month ahead, Gemini. It may be scary, but you need to put it behind you.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, it is time to rally the troops, as many hands will make much faster work

# Police report

(Continued from Page 24)

• Vehicle stop on Park Street for making a turn on a red light where prohibited. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Valley View Drive for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

## August 30

• Conducted a patrol on Route 7.

• Vehicle stop on North Street for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

• Responded to a noise disturbance at the intersection of Union Street and Supermarket Drive.

• Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with a medical call on Severy Farm Road.

• Conducted a patrol on Grove Street.

• Dispatched to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Hacks Sawmill Road. During the investigation, officers observed drug paraphernalia inside of the vehicle. The vehicle was seized pending the application of a search warrant.

• Responded to Mulcahy Drive for a welfare check on a man who was reported to be intoxicated and had possibly fallen. The man was found to be doing fine and did not need law enforcement and/or medical assistance.

## August 31

• Responded to a local residence in Brandon for a 911 call where arguing could be heard on the other line by State Dispatch. One woman was taken into custody and charged with Domestic Assault.

• Received a report of littering on Steinberg Road. It was discovered that a bear was the likely culprit and the person who discovered the mess took the initiative to clean it up.

• Responded to a residence on Franklin Street for a report of a Conditions of Release violation. It was found that the suspect was a woman who was charged the same day with Domestic Assault.

• Issued a Notice Against Trespass to an individual as requested by the Union Street Grocery. Order served in-hand.

• Assisted VSP—New Haven with serving an Abuse Prevention Order upon a man on Brookdale Street in Brandon. Order served in-hand.

• K-9 Unit was called to assist other officers with a vehicle suspected to contain illegal drugs. K9 Guinness alerted on the vehicle, which had been seized for application for a search warrant.

• Responded to Newton Road for a report of a suspicious man acting strangely towards a child while the child was riding their bike in the area. The suspect was not located.

• Assisted the Brandon Fire Department with a fire call on Barlow Avenue.

• Responded to Jiffy Mart on Grove Street for a report of potential animal abuse. The matter was investigated and abuse was not suspected.

• Responded to a distress alarm at a residence on Pearl Street. It was determined that the alarm was false.

## September 1

• Received a report of a civil custody dispute. Due to the matter being civil and the high call volume, no police response was deemed necessary.

• Received multiple reports of suspicious activity at Estabrook Park involving an open door on a shed and that a homeless individual may have been inside. No one was located.

• Assisted the Rutland Regional Ambulance Service by first-responding to a call for mutual aid on Fox Road.

• Obtained information regarding possible vandalism to a shed at Estabrook Park.

• Responded to a report of a potentially lost juvenile. The juvenile was located and found not to be lost after all.

• Responded to a medical call on McConnell Road for a lift assist.

• Assisted BARS with a medical call on Old Brandon Road in which an elderly individual fell off a ladder. The officer rendered first-aid until BARS arrived. The subject was transported to the hospital for subsequent treatment.

• Conducted a patrol on Newton Road.

• Received a call from a woman who advised that her friend was watching her dog while she was out of state and received notice that the dog was being removed from the friend's residence on Stanton Road by an animal control officer.

## September 2

• Conducted late night foot patrol and business checks on Center Street in downtown Brandon.

• Responded to a suspicious vehicle on Nickerson Road with a man passed out inside. Evidence of drug activity was discovered. K9 Unit assisted with a vehicle sniff and alerted on the vehicle, which was subsequently seized for search warrant application.

## September 3

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Nickerson Road for a stop sign violation. Ticket issued.

• Received a report of a minor two-car crash in the parking lot of the Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road involving a bus and pickup truck. Crash documented for insurance purposes.

• Took a walk-in complaint regarding online fraud involving a computer security scam. Incident documented for informational purposes.

• Assisted the Vermont Department of Aging with a firearm found in the residence of one of their dependents.

• Received a walk-in complaint for an incident that occurred out of the area in which an illegal tracking device was placed on the complainant's car. Complainant was referred to the proper agency.

• Executed a search warrant on a vehicle that had been seized on suspicion of containing illegal drugs. Officers discovered 6.1 grams of cocaine/fentanyl as a result of the search.

• Assisted Pittsford Police in locating a suicidal man in the Brandon/Pittsford area who was threatening to commit self-harm with a firearm.

• Assisted a motorist on Conant Square who had a disabled vehicle. A tow truck was called for the driver and the officer stood by to assist with traffic control.

## September 4

• Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road at Olivia's Croutons for speeding. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Center Street for an illegal turn on a red signal. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Route 7 for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment (taillight). Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road at Mulcahy Drive for failure to use turn signal. Warning issued.

## September 5

• Responded to Carver Street for an agency assist regarding a man who had COPD and was having trouble breathing. The officer stood by until EMS personnel arrived.

• Responded to a residential burglary alarm activation on Townline Drive. The residence was checked and appeared to be secure.

• Receive a report regarding a student that had pulled a fire alarm at school. No police response was deemed necessary. The school indicated they would handle the incident as a disciplinary matter.

• Vehicle stop on a motorcycle for an unsafe passing vio-

lation. It was discovered that the operator's license required an ignition interlock device to be equipped in the vehicle he was operating. The vehicle was found not to be equipped with the device.

## September 6

• Vehicle stop on Grove Street near Cattails Restaurant for speeding. Warning issued.

• Stopped traffic for a family of raccoons trying to cross the road on Grove Street.

• Conducted high visibility traffic enforcement on Franklin Street in front of OVUHS during the time when students were arriving for class in the

(See Police report, Page 29)

# Restaurant guide



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# Wilson Castle

*(Continued from Page 1)*  
 on a recent afternoon. Sunlight streamed through the stained-glass windows, sending brilliant streaks of color across the Renaissance-inspired interior. “But I didn’t really have paranormal experiences growing up here. It was just home.”

Denise’s grandfather, Colonel Herbert Lee Wilson, bought the castle from the town of Proctor in a 1939 tax sale. The Johnson family had abandoned the place in 1900 and it had changed hands numerous times. Colonel Wilson had hoped it would be a safe haven for his family during WWII. The Wilson family maintained the place as their private residence for decades, opening it up for tours beginning in the 1960s. When the Colonel passed in 1981, the house remained in the family.

After the Colonel’s daughter, and Denise’s mother, Blossom Davine (née Wilson), passed in 2009, Denise and her siblings inherited the castle and Denise started for the first time to experience the occult magic of the house.

“My siblings weren’t interested in keeping the place,” said Denise. “They loved it but didn’t have the passion for it that I did. But it’s a money pit and I wasn’t always sure I was going to be able to afford it. Once I asked my late mother for help deciding whether to keep it. I said, ‘Mom, can you give me a yes?’ And the dinner bells rang twice.”

Denise then understood that she wasn’t alone in the castle after all.

“We hear conversations sometimes,” said Andy. “Music and distant voices. One time we heard furniture being dragged across the third floor, which was locked.”

“We definitely heard it,” confirmed Denise.

“But when we went up to check, nothing had moved,” said Andy.

There have been numerous other inexplicable events. A vacuum cleaner turned on by itself (“I interpreted that as my grandfather telling me to get to work,” laughed Denise). Mysterious figures appear in photographs taken in mirrors throughout the house, though especially in the “Pink Room,” which had once been Denise’s mother’s room and had originally been the bedroom of Lady Johnson, the rich British noblewoman whose money had financed the house at the behest of her husband, who was eventually exposed as a fraud and disappeared without a trace.

One of the mysterious figures

photographed in a mirror by a guest bears an uncanny resemblance to Denise’s late brother, Chris. Another photo appears to have a woman with her hair up in the style of the 1890s. In yet another photo, a little boy in breeches seems to be standing in a doorway.

“People send us these photos when they get home and really examine them,” said Denise. “Something goes on in the Pink Room. Even my brother, who’s a real skeptic, admits there’s something different about that room.”

It wasn’t long before paranormal hunters started inquiring if they could come explore the castle.

“The first time Steve and Dylan [of Haunted Nights] came, we were blown away,” said Denise. With all sorts of devices to detect paranormal presences, the duo (who post videos of their work on YouTube) were able to communicate with the spirits of the house.

And now Denise and Andy welcome the public to join these



**ONE OF THE grand rooms at Wilson Castle. The furnishings are a combination of original pieces from the Johnson family, pieces owned by Colonel Wilson and his wife, and pieces collected by Denise Davine, the Colonel’s granddaughter and the current owner.**



**THE ENTRY HALL. The fireplace on the left, like all the fireplaces in the house, is surrounded by beautiful tiles manufactured by the now-defunct Low Art Tile Works of Chelsea, Massachusetts in the 1880s. This particular fireplace has a cast-iron lion’s head in the hearth itself. The lion was a symbol of Lady Johnson’s noble British roots.**

events every fall. On Friday, September 20, there will be Haunted Legends of New England: The Witching Hour at Wilson Castle, presented by Third Eye Event Productions. The event will include a paranormal investigation and a VIP seance. On Saturday, September 21, there will be Witches of Wilson Castle event hosted by Brandie Wells, The Breakthrough Medium. Music, food, vendors, spiritual readers, potions, and spell casting. See Wilson Castle’s Facebook page

for links to purchase tickets.

There are also candlelight tours available on select dates in September and October. Call the castle at (802) 773-3284 for details.

“We get excited by all of this, too,” said Andy.



**THE MAGNIFICENT STAINED-GLASS window in the main stairwell. Just one of scores of gorgeous windows in the castle, this one is known to cast rainbows throughout the stairwell when the light hits it just right in the afternoon.**



**MORE VIEWS OF the interior of Wilson Castle. In the upper left is the "Pink Room," which was originally Lady Johnson's bedroom and then subsequently used by three generations of Wilson women. Of all the rooms in the castle, it seems to have the greatest occurrence of paranormal activity. Several guests have taken photos that seem to show figures that were not in the room when the photos were taken...**

Flaws in the current system “are preventing Vermont from adequately controlling phosphorus discharges from” confined animal feeding operations, “which contribute to severe water quality problems in Lake Champlain” an EPA official wrote in a letter to the state.

## EPA orders Vermont to change how the state regulates some farms

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is requiring Vermont to change the way it regulates some types of farms after an investigation showed that a state program is not complying with the Clean Water Act, the federal agency told the state in a letter on Friday.

The EPA is taking aim at the state’s management of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), farms where animals are kept in confined areas. Currently, two agencies split responsibility for regulating the farms: the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Agency of Natural Resources. But that divided system has caused problems, according to the EPA.

“The flaws in this program are preventing Vermont from adequately controlling phosphorus discharges from CAFOs, which contribute to severe water quality problems in Lake Champlain and other water bodies in the state,” the letter, signed by EPA regional administrator David Cash, states.

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Specifically, the EPA is asking the Agency of Natural Resources to be the sole entity that regulates Confined Animal Feeding Operations, which would require the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to step back.

“We understand the importance of (the Agency of Agriculture’s) mission and role in Vermont, and it is also vital to recognize that the current division of responsibilities between ANR and AAFM is interfering with the regulation of Vermont’s CAFOs and preventing Vermont from adequately addressing agricultural water quality,” Cash wrote in the letter.

The EPA’s letter comes in response to a petition from the Conservation Law Foundation, Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Lake Champlain Committee, issued in 2022. In 2008, Vermont Law School Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic filed a different petition with similar arguments, and the EPA determined

in 2013 that the state needed to reform the way it regulates Confined Animal Feeding Operations.

“It is clear that Vermont has not adequately addressed deficiencies in its CAFO program and has not complied with the requirements of the 2013 Corrective Action Plan,” Cash wrote

cy, or a kind of slap on the wrist — just a litany of examples from emails about feuds between the two agencies over who had jurisdiction,” Mihaly said. “It was just a mess, frankly.”

The environmental groups submitted a formal request asking the EPA to remove Vermont’s authority to administer

transitioning from the status quo to meeting the federal agency’s requirements.

“We may push back on some of the components of EPA’s desired future condition, but all of that will take place in a dialog that I expect to occur once we’ve drafted the corrective action plan,” Moore told VTDigger.

many, many years, maybe, with some data on this,” he said. “But from my current perspective, things are going really well. The program is working.”

Moore said “there’s always room for improvement” with communications between the two agencies, but tensions have “improved markedly in the eight



AN AERIAL PHOT of Burlington and Lake Champlain.

Photo via Adobe Stock

in the letter.

Elena Mihaly, vice president of the Conservation Law Foundation Vermont, said the organization requested inspection reports and records of communications between the two agencies in 2020. They found “glaring examples” of problems during state inspections of farms that ranged from an excess of manure being applied to “a manure pit that was overflowing and ending up in a stream going to Lake Champlain,” she said.

“Either nothing was being done about it, or the agency wasn’t properly referring it over to the Natural Resources Agen-

the federal Clean Water Act.

“We wanted EPA to come in and do its own investigation, and we are delighted that they found the similar problems that we found, and are holding the state accountable to fixing them,” Mihaly said. “We appreciate that the state has showed up so far in a collaborative way to address those deficiencies.”

In interviews on Monday, Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore and Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts said they expect the EPA to allow them to choose how to move forward.

The EPA is asking the agencies to “lay out a roadmap” for

The EPA letter alludes to the Conservation Law Foundation’s finding that staff members of both agencies have been at odds with each other, noting “that the relationship between Vermont’s Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) and AAFM related to implementation of the program is a contributing factor in the failure of the Vermont’s CAFO program to meet its Clean Water Act obligations.”

Tebbetts told VTDigger that tension between the agencies has largely been resolved in recent years.

“I think they’re going back

years I’ve been in this job.”

Both secretaries lauded farmers for their work implementing clean water projects and reducing the amount of pollution coming from their farms.

“Under climate change, we’re seeing more frequent and more intense rainfall events, which further challenges the ability of Vermont farmers” to eliminate pollution coming from farms, Moore said.

Farmers have been “real leaders in the work around clean water,” Moore said, noting that the petition and response from the EPA apply to government agencies, not farmers.

# Police report

(Continued from Page 25) morning.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square by the Dunkin Donuts for failure to stop for a stop sign. Warning issued.
- Vehicle complaint received regarding erratic operation on Wheeler Road. The operator was stopped and it was determined that he had slid on loose gravel earlier and skidded accidentally. No enforcement action taken.
- Received a vehicle complaint on Deer Run Road.
- Police Chief attended a meeting with the new school administration and superintendent for the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union to discuss school safety and security.
- Assisted EMS personnel at a residence on Franklin Street

with a stroke patient. The subject was transported to the hospital for treatment.

- Responded to the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street for a hold up alarm activation. The responding officers determined that the alarm system was being worked on and no emergency existed.
- Received a request for a VIN verification on Conant Square.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to display front license plate. Warning issued.
- Conducted traffic enforcement on Newton Road. No activity observed.
- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road for failure to stop at a stop sign. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale

Road for an expired registration. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for misuse of license plates.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with a suicidal man on West Seminary Street. The man later went to the hospital for treatment.
- Assisted BARS with a lift assist on Union Street. The subject was later transported to the hospital for treatment.

## September 7

- Responded to the area of Olivia's Croutons on Forest Dale Road for a suspicious man walking in the area with a hoodie on. The responding officer located the man and determined that he was just out walking his dog.

• Responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Spring Pond Road. The vehicle was located and it was discovered that the operator was supposed to have a functioning ignition interlock device installed in his vehicle. He did not.

- Dispatched to a 911 hang up call at the Lilac Inn on Park Street. It was determined that there was a wedding at the Inn and there was no emergency.
- Conducted a community policing detail at OVUHS during a scheduled football game.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to yield. The vehicle was later grounded due to no insurance on the car.
- Came across a woman with her head down on the curb at the Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road who appeared to have a

black eye and facial bruising. The woman refused all assistance and would not tell the officer what had happened to her.

## September 8

- Responded to a possible burglary at a residence on Brookdale Street. This case is under investigation.
- Attended the Brandon Fire Department Cornhole Tournament at Estabrook Field.
- Dispatched to a building alarm at the Neshobe Elementary. Officers determined that the alarm was accidentally set off by school staff.
- Assisted BARS with a medical call on McConnell Road in which a man sustained a cut to his neck after falling.



## Breaking in the new lights!

THE FIRST FOOTBALL game under the new lights was played on Markowski Field at Otter Valley on Saturday, September 7. Though OV lost by just a single point to Rice Memorial, making the score 19-20. The Otters played a great game and the lights performed their part perfectly.

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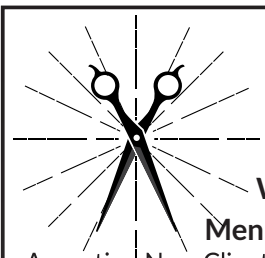
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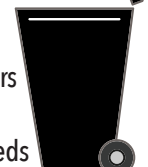
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# 'Speedy'

(Continued from Page 9)

The screening of 'Speedy' is sponsored by Dick and Debbie Kirby, Dorothy Leysath and Edward Loedding, John and Lynn Wilson, Sarah and Louis Parris, Donald and Dolores Furnari, and the American Legion Post 55, Brandon.

Other films in this year's Brandon Town Hall silent film series include:

- Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, 7 p.m.: "Phantom of the Opera" (1925) starring Lon Chaney. Long before Andrew Lloyd Webber created the hit stage musical, this silent film adaptation starring Lon Chaney put 'Phantom' firmly in the pantheon of both horror and romance. Just in time for Halloween!

- Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, 7 p.m.: "Barbed Wire" (1927) starring Pola Negri, Clive Brook. During World War I, the French government commandeers a family farm for use as a camp for German POWs, setting the local population at each other. Intense drama about forbidden love and the human condition, with a special holiday twist.

'Speedy' (1928) will be screened with live music on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

For information, visit [www.brandontownhall.com](http://www.brandontownhall.com).

For more about the music, visit [www.jeffrapis.com](http://www.jeffrapis.com).

# CLASSIFIEDS



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ACEDC's mission is to create an entrepreneurial and innovative environment, nurturing businesses to launch, grow, and thrive. ACEDC assists entrepreneurs and business owners from all backgrounds, businesses of all sizes, during all stages of growth, while advancing economic and community development in Addison County, Vermont.

The Office Operations Manager supports the organization's mission and ensures effective and smooth operations by providing office management functions, coordinating contracted services, and providing support to staff. The ideal candidate can handle a wide range of assignments, ensure sensitive material is kept confidential, and is willing to be flexible in their responsibilities.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Administrative	Grant Administration
Bookkeeping and Lending Assistance	Marketing And Communications

### SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

- Experience with Microsoft Office 365, including Teams and SharePoint
- Experience with website and CRM software
- Strong IT and computer skills
- Working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, and online forms systems
- Very detail oriented
- Highly organized, high standards for quality work
- Able to multi-task and navigate multiple deadlines and work schedules
- Excellent time management skills and ability to prioritize
- Outstanding written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently while maintaining effective working relationships with coworkers, supervisors, customers, and the general public
- Enthusiasm for the mission of ACEDC and its future

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Associates degree required, Bachelor degree preferred, or 3 or more years of office operations experience
- Minimum 2 years' experience with similar or equivalent organization in similar role
- Computer proficiency required in all Microsoft Office products
- Skills with customer relations management platforms and website management preferred

### STARTING WAGE

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Submit cover letter and resume to [fkenney@addisoncountycedc.org](mailto:fkenney@addisoncountycedc.org) with "Office Operations Job Application" in the subject line. Applications due by September 27, 2024.

# Classifieds

## SERVICES

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

## TOWN OF GOSHEN

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: TREE REMOVAL

A large maple tree overlooking the Town Office building at 50 Carlisle Hill Road needs to be removed. The scope of the work is to safely take the tree down, without damage to the town office building. The project includes removal of the tree, flush cut to the trunk, and removal of all the limbs and branches.

The tree is suitable for firewood and the value of the firewood may be considered as part of the bid.

Experience in tree work is essential. Insurance is also necessary, a liability waiver is required. The site can be inspected in daylight. Bids are due no later than September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Bids may be placed in the town drop box or sent via email to [selectboard@goshenvt.org](mailto:selectboard@goshenvt.org).

## TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT

### NOTICE TO PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given that payment for the property taxes assessed upon the grand list of the Town of Brandon for the first quarter of the fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 is due Monday, September 16, 2024, due to the deadline falling on a Sunday. First quarter payments not received, or postmarked by September 16 will be subject to interest at 1% per month. Please furnish your tax notice by enclosing it with your remittance. Payments may be made by mail to 49 Center Street, Brandon VT 05733, at the Town Offices, 49 Center Street or at either of the two drop boxes located in front of the Town Office or at the Neshobe School. Thank you.

Susan Gage,  
Town Treasurer

## NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF PERSONNEL RECORDS

### RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, Whiting (RNESU, Otter Valley & Barstow Unified Union School Districts)

Let this serve as notice that Personnel Records of employees who were employed at Barstow Memorial School, Lothrop Elementary School, Neshobe School, Otter Creek Academy (formally known as Leicester Central, Sudbury Country and Whiting Elementary Schools), or Otter Valley High School in the 1993 and 1994 school years are being destroyed in accordance with Federal, State and Local Guidelines.

Anyone who would like their record should call Kayla Emerson at the RNESU Office at (802)247-5757 prior to December 31, 2024 to make arrangements to pick it up.

Brooke Dahlin  
Human Resources Coordinator

# Public discourse

(Continued from Page 5)

I have never before received a comment about how I sit in my personal or professional life, and I would love to say that meant that this comment did not get under my skin. But the next day, I found myself questioning, and I even asked my husband if I really did sit funny and just hadn't ever known it.

This comment may seem benign when taken in isolation, or because it was given as a "girl-to-girl tip." However, this type of comment is meant to deteriorate one's confidence so that they will stop standing up for themselves

and for things they believe are right. Comments like these are meant to undermine one's positive feelings about oneself.

This is me, standing up to stop this type of treatment.

I was elected to do the work of the Selectboard, and this type of disrespectful comment is a distraction from that work.

When people are disrespectful in our political discourse, it hinders the ability of people to have a thoughtful conversation about an issue. It also hinders the effectiveness of the board because it changes the discussion from the issues at hand to things of a

personal nature which have no bearing.

Selectboard members, town officials, and town office staff have been receiving emails, comments, and messages about their character, appearance, and gender, that are *absolutely inappropriate* and have no place in polite political discourse. These comments often violate our statement of equity. Comments of this nature are counter-productive to the work of the Selectboard. We can do better.

Heather Nelson  
Member, Brandon Selectboard

# Colorful autumn

(Continued from Page 19)

bright, fall conditions need to cooperate, Salge said in his report.

"I'm hoping, beyond all hope, it makes for happy trees," said Jeff "Foliage" Folger, a New England foliage blogger and photographer who describes himself as "mildly obsessive about leaves." (The nickname came from his editor at Yankee magazine, where Folger was the first foliage blogger.)

Folger, who lives in Salem, Mass., has flown his drone above his home and seen leaves already starting to turn, which he normally doesn't see until October. It's hit or miss, he said, whether those leaves will also turn brown earlier than usual.

"Every year we see some trees cause a panic," when their leaves

turn and drop early, Folger said. "But it's not widespread." He said it's normal for there to be some early fall color, where a leaf or branch here and there turn before the rest.

With hope for a colorful season, Folger has a few recommendations for leaf peepers in Vermont.

"You always have the classics," he said, suggesting a visit to Smugglers' Notch State Park and Owls Head Mountain at Groton State Forest. He also thinks there's potential for brighter leaves in the southern part of the state.

"From Woodstock south, down to the Mass border are going to be the brighter colors this year because there is a little less rain," Folger said.

# HAVE YOU VISITED OUR RENOVATED SPACE?

Your library has officially re-opened! If you have been in to say hello, you most likely noticed our gorgeous new shelving, circulation desk, and book bins, custom built for us by New England Woodcraft in Forestdale. It is truly special to have such a company in our community! The generosity of the owners and craftspeople at New England Woodcraft goes above and beyond.

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