

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 38

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

\$1



## GRAND REOPENING

The Brandon Free Public Library reopened on Sunday after the completion of its major renovation

PG. 2

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Candidates for Brandon's state representative, Todd Nielsen and Stephanie Jerome, answer questions about their vision for Vermont.

PG. 3



## SEEKING YOUNG ARTISTS

VT Fish & Wildlife is holding a Fish Art Contest for K-12 students.

PG. 4



## MUSICAL MYSTERY

The Brandon Recreation Department and Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theatre Company put on the musical comedy "Lucky Stiff," this weekend, to the delight of theatergoers.

PG. 10



## LATE SUMMER BEAUTY

Brandon's joyous late summer blooms bring beauty to town..

PG. 20



## Local residents invited to experience Native American culture at Brandon powwow

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Before Vermont was settled by Europeans, it was home to the Abenaki, an Algonquin tribe whose lands stretched from Maine to Lake Champlain. Over the years, arrowheads and shards of pottery have been found at many sites in our area, evidence of the Abenaki's longstanding presence here.

This weekend, the Abenaki culture will be made accessible to all at a powwow at Estabrook Park in Brandon. The powwow is being organized by Rutland resident (and frequent Brandon Idol contestant) Peggie Sue Rozell, who is a "full-blooded" Native American with roots in the Abenaki, Navajo, and Cherokee tribes.

"My father has been a Navajo chief for 60 years in Arizona," said Rozell in a recent phone conversation. "My mother's family is Abenaki from Swanton. The current chief of the Abenaki, Donald Stevens, is a distant cousin. The chief before him was my great-uncle Homer St. Francis." Ms. Rozell can also claim direct descent from King Philip of the Wampanoag (1638-1676), whose native name was Metacomet and who lent his English name to King Philip's War (1675-1676).

"My mother, Wildflower Phillips, and my stepfather, Domingos Joaquim, started holding powwows in Whitehall, NY," said Rozell. "I worked beside them for 17 years. After they passed, I started organizing powwows on my own. I'm a free spirit. I love bringing people together. I love my culture and want to teach people about it. The first powwow I organized myself was in Pittsford in 2018. Then COVID hit and I'm just starting up again."

Outside of Native American culture, perhaps the result of its use in Western movies, the word "powwow"

(See *Brandon Powwow Page 9*)



THE POWWOW THIS coming weekend at Estabrook Park in Brandon will feature traditional dance and music, such as this drum circle. The event will take place from 9 a.m. on Saturday to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

## Airstream group looks forward to rally in Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The organizers of the September 27-29 Airstream camper rally in Brandon want y'all to know they're in bed by 8 p.m.

"We're not partyers," laughed Melissa Corbin of the Northeast Mountaineers Airstream Club (NEMAC), which will bring approximately 20 gleaming aluminum Airstream campers to Brandon for a weekend of fun, food, and friendship on the great lawn behind the Brandon Inn.

The group regularly organizes collective camping trips, but this



20 OR SO gleaming Airstream campers will occupy the great lawn behind the Brandon Inn for the weekend of September 27 - 29.

is the first time it has proposed to "camp" in a downtown. The original plan, in coordination

with Brandon town management and the Brandon Area Chamber (See *Airstream rally, Page 7*)

## Pittsford FD extinguishes fire at VELCO substation in Florence

FLORENCE — The Pittsford Fire Department (PFD) responded to a fire at the VELCO substation on Whipple Hollow Road in Florence on Monday evening.

According to PFD's social media, PFD was dispatched to the scene around 7:45 p.m. after reports of an explosion and a fire were received. PFD Chief Bill Hemple arrived on the scene and assessed the situation, determining that the fire would likely require an extended period to contain because of the complex electrical equipment at the substation.

(See *VELCO fire, Page 14*)

## Brandon SB & Budget Committee discuss cost of policing

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard and the Brandon Budget Committee met on Monday evening for the first discussion of the FY25-26 budget season. The current fiscal year will end on June 30, 2025.

Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey had called for this meeting in order to get an earlier start on the budget process. Last fall's budget workshops left members of the non-voting, advisory Budget Committee feeling ignored and disrespected. Mr. Bailey was on that committee before being voted onto the Selectboard in March and stated that he wanted to avoid the mistakes of last year's approach.

(See *Brandon SB & budget, Page 8*)





**GUESTS WERE WELCOMED** at an open house at the newly renovated Brandon Free Public Library on Sunday. The event celebrated the completion of the main phases of the project and also the contributions of Library Friends member Sue Wetmore (see photo after the jump). Photos by George Fjeld

## OPEN HOUSE AT THE BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**BY GEORGE FJELD**

**BRANDON**—The Brandon Free Public Library hosted an open house at the newly renovated building on Sunday afternoon. Over 100 people attended and were given tours of the beautifully renovated space. Light refreshments were served. This event caps a very busy year and a half, first moving the library to the basement of the Town Hall, Briggs Carriage building, the Congregational and Episcopal church-

es, and a few private spaces. Next up was demolishing the interior of the Park Street building including a fair amount of asbestos abatement (removal).

The interior was then fully rehabbed from insulation to wiring to heat and ventilation. Of course a new lift was added and the entire building from the basement to the attic space became handicapped accessible. There are new meeting rooms and bathrooms that are easily accessible as well. All new

bookcases were manufactured by and donated to the library by New England Woodcraft. The windows were rehabbed and storm windows are coming.

The children's area was upgraded and expanded and the entrance reduced from 2 openings to one. This is of great delight for mom's and librarians not having to corral children going around and around through the 2 doors.

The space is now well lit and feels open and inviting. Com-



**KIDS ENJOYING THE** new children's section, which provides more space for kids while simultaneously making it easier for parents to keep an eye on them.



**THE STAFF OF the BFPL (l to r):** Dan Wolf, Library Director Molly Kennedy, Eva Fillion (and son, Felix), Joni Osterhaut, and Eric Drzewianowski.

ments from attendees included, "it feels like the same space but better," "I love that they kept the tin ceilings" and "the children's room is amazing." There is dedicated computer space and a lending area of tools and toys for recreation. This is the first major renovation

of the library since 1965. During the event, Sue Wetmore was honored with the gift of a set of bookends made by the librarians and board members of the Llibrary and Friends of the Library. Wetmore has been on the li- (See BFPL open house, Page 11)



# Special election coverage

## Candidate Questionnaires

The Reporter sent questionnaires to local candidates for Vermont House of Representatives. We asked the candidates to explain their positions on a number of issues that are on the minds of local voters. We received responses from both Rep. Stephanie Jerome (Brandon-D) and her challenger, Todd Nielsen (R). Those responses are presented here. We sent questionnaires as well to Alicia Malay (R), who is running for the Pittsford-Proctor seat currently held by Rep. Butch Shaw

(R), to Rep. Peter Conlon (D), who is running for re-election in Addison-2, which includes Goshen, Leicester, and Salisbury, and to James Casey, who is running for the seat in Addison-Rutland, which includes Sudbury and Whiting. Ms. Malay, Mr. Conlon, and Mr. Casey did not return the questionnaire by our printing deadline and did not respond to our e-mails.

## Candidate: Todd Nielsen (R)

**Q:** Why are you running to represent Brandon in the Vermont House of Representatives?

**A:** Conversations with neighbors about rising costs and property taxes overwhelmed me. I decided to step up to try to help my community lower our cost of living.

**Q:** How would you describe your political beliefs?

**A:** I am fiscally responsible and socially accepting of others' beliefs and values.

**Q:** Please describe your plans to address the following issues:

**1.** Vermont's high taxes

**A:** I hope to go to Montpelier

to be Brandon's voice and to vote No on new and increased taxes.

**2.** Vermont's high energy costs  
**A:** I will vote No on any legislation that would increase the cost of fellow Vermonter's heat and energy bills.

**3.** Crime in Vermont

**A:** I will work hard to support our local law enforcement to get the training and equipment they need to keep our community safe.

**4.** Climate change in Vermont

**A:** There has to be balance between affordability and protecting our environment. It is critical that Vermonters can afford

to eat, heat, and sleep. I recently learned that Vermonters voluntarily decreased their usage of heating oil from an average of 1,700 gallons in the 1980s to an average of 700 gallons now without mandates. This shows that Vermonters don't have to be forced to do the right thing.

**5.** The quality of public education

**A:** Brandon folks are very concerned about Vermont's high education cost per pupil and education quality. I will work with others to support our teachers and students at an affordable cost.

**6.** Equity and diversity in Vermont

**A:** I am running to help to create a safe, affordable and welcoming place for all people in Vermont.

**7.** Employment opportunities in Vermont

**A:** Business owners have told me they are "fed up" with the ever-increasing costs and challenges of doing business in the State of Vermont. Individuals are looking for the jobs that give them stability to thrive and prosper. I will vote No to any increased administrative or tax burdens for Vermont businesses.

I will work hard to try to decrease those costs and tax burdens, and to make Vermont more attractive to businesses.

**8.** If Democrats retain their majority in the Statehouse, and if you are elected, how do you propose to implement change as the minority party?

**A:** I will be a nonstop voice to remind the majority in the Statehouse that the people in my home town are suffering an affordability crisis.

## Candidate: Stephanie Zak Jerome (D)

**Q:** 1. Why are you running for re-election as Brandon's representative in the Vermont House of Representatives?

**A:** I am seeking re-election because I love our town, and I want to see it continue to grow and succeed. I believe that every Vermonter should have the opportunity to receive affordable healthcare, get a great education, find housing, and retire with security. I care deeply that we need to create a rural Vermont that works for all of us, not just a select few. I will use my legislative and business experience to focus on issues that impact all of us, including:

- Fiscally responsible state budget
- Excellent schools and expanded workforce training
- Affordable health care
- Businesses and economic growth
- Increased housing opportunities
- Livable, equitable wages
- Stewardship of the environment
- Consumer protection

I am proud of the work that I have done to support women and families with increased childcare opportunities, to provide more workforce training in career and technical education, to offer healthcare and teacher training,

grant loan forgiveness for in-demand careers, and to permanently enshrine reproductive rights in our constitution.

Examples of what I have done to help Brandon:

Helped to secure \$114,000 to expand the Technical Education welding program for grades 7 - 9

Worked to secure over \$1Million in grant funding for the Brandon Free Public Library renovation

Passed legislation to merge Brandon Fire District 1 and 2

Passed legislation to make water and wastewater workers essential employees

Provided ongoing connections to grant and statewide funding opportunities for Town of Brandon and Brandon Recreation Department

Assisted constituents with unemployment insurance, DCF, historical markers, business startup, taxation issues, professional certification, housing, elder services and more.

**Q:** How would you describe your political beliefs?

**A:** I am a moderate Democrat and I believe in working across party lines to get the job done! I am vice-chair of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee, which has four parties (Republican (chair), Demo-

crat, Progressive and Libertarian) participating. I am proud that we passed nearly 100% of our bills unanimously. In addition, I meet weekly with all members of the Rutland County Delegation to discuss issues that are important to our region, not our parties. As a native Vermonter, I have a clear understanding of our culture, our residents, and the issues that are important to us.

**Q:** Please describe your plans to address the following issues:

**1.** Vermont's high taxes

**A:** I am also upset about the increases in education funding and property taxes - my husband and I own our home and a commercial property in Brandon. When the taxes increased this year, many events came together to create a "perfect storm" - there were increased costs in health insurance premiums (16%), too few students, too many buildings, too many school districts, loss of federal COVID education funds, pupil weighting, and inflation. Statewide, all school budgets increased. Our Agency of Education has been decimated and needs to be made stronger. There has been a lack of leadership by the Governor, Agency of Education and Tax Department in finding a solution

(See Stephanie Jerome Questionnaire, Page 8)

## Spotlight On Business BAR HARBOR BANK & TRUST



At Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, we think differently about banking. We are proud to be recognized as a Best-In-State and World's Best Bank by Forbes Magazine and as One of America's Best Banks and Credit Unions by Newsweek.

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# The OV Football Club is delighted with the new field lights and support

The Otter Valley Football Club would like to thank OV Athletic Director Steven Keith and the Otter Valley Unified Union School District for this heartfelt recognition at Saturday's football game:

"Beginning in 2007 with the "Field of Dreams Project" being spearheaded by Naylor & Breen,

Markowski Excavating, and CEA Electric, the drive for a top of the line outdoor facility for our athletes and community members to enjoy was created. At that time Markowski Field was outfitted with bleachers, a press-box, and a field renovation including irrigation. The only thing missing was the full-time installation of lights for nighttime activities.



**A NEW PLAQUE has been affixed to the press box at Markowski Field at Otter Valley to thank the donors to the "Light Up the Valley" project.**

After successfully undertaking administering temporary lighted night games for football, soccer, and field hockey, the Otter Valley Football Club proposed in November of 2023 a campaign to outfit Markowski Field with permanent lights. In the spring of 2024 after donations ranging in all shapes and sizes from community

individuals and businesses, the goal to put up permanent lights was enacted when the lights were purchased. The amount of support and donations of both monetary and in-kind levels was incredible – resulting in almost \$350,000 worth of combined value – many of which were small local businesses helping when

Football Club members looked for support. The Club has generously donated a sign hanging below the press box thanking those light sponsors. During the end of the 2024 Summer materials, machines, and a smaller group of people began to show up daily checking on orders, prepared the field, dug, raked, planned, inventoried, building the light structures, install-

ing them on the poles, mulching, raking, seeding, watering, and making last-minute driver adjustments in the rain due a game night to have the lights work at full power. The time and energy put into where we are now is incom-  
(See OV Football Club, Page 11)



## Off to sightsee

**PHILADELPHIA VIREOS HAVE** been seen lately on their way south. Named for the place first spotted, they breed mostly in southern Canada.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

# VT Fish & Wildlife announces state-wide K-12 Student Fish Art Contest

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is pleased to announce that entries are being accepted

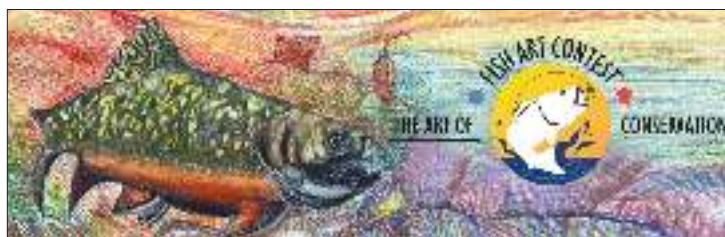
for the 2025 Vermont Student Fish Art Contest in partnership with Wildlife Forever.

The department invites Ver-

mont students in grades K-12 to select a fish species found in Vermont waters and submit an illustration and one-page creative essay on the species. The essay is not required for grades K-3.

"The Fish Art Contest is a way for Vermont students to use their creativity and strengthen their knowledge and connection with our environment,"

(See Fish Art Contest, Page 14)



# Vermont's archery deer season starts Oct. 1

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says hunters are looking forward to Vermont's upcoming October 1–November 15 and December 2–15 archery deer hunting season.

A hunter may take up to four deer in Vermont's two-part archery season if they do

not shoot any deer in the other deer seasons. The purchase of an archery deer license and tag is required for each deer. No more than one of the deer taken during archery season may be a legal buck if no buck is taken in the other deer seasons. Antlerless deer hunting is allowed during archery season state-

wide this year.

In WMUs C, D1, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler three inches or more in length. In WMUs A, B, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler with two or  
(See Archery deer season, Page 19)

## The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary; Mitchell Pearl; Shelly Williams.

Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator

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## Letters to the Editor

### Greetings from Michelle Williams, Pittsford's new Postmaster

I am honored to introduce myself as the new postmaster of Pittsford. My name is Michelle Williams, and I bring 6 years of proven experience in mail delivery, managing postal operations, customer service, and community engagement. I am deeply committed to serving the residents of Pittsford and ensuring that the Postal Service meets the

needs and expectations of our community.

Throughout my career, I have focused on streamlining operations and improving customer satisfaction. I am excited to bring this dedication and expertise to Pittsford, and I look forward to engaging with you and addressing any needs or concerns that may arise.

A key priority for me is the successful local implementation of the Postmaster General's 10-year Delivering for America plan. This comprehensive plan is investing \$40 billion in our nation's outdated postal network to improve service reliability locally and across the country. I am confident that, as the Postal Service makes financial invest-

ments across our state, Pittsford will reap the benefits of our unprecedented modernization. I am passionate about working with our dedicated team to deliver the highest level of service to our community.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and months. Your feedback and support are invaluable

as we continue to evolve the Postal Service to better meet the modern mailing and shipping needs of our customers. Together we can ensure that Pittsford continues to grow and thrive.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Williams  
Pittsford Post Office  
Pittsford, VT

### Thanks to all who made 'Lucky Stiff' a success, we have a great community!

Thank you to the hundreds of people who came out to see the great musical Lucky Stiff at the OVUHS auditorium last weekend! The first presentation of the Brandon Actors Troupe was an absolute success and was a great example of the talent in this area.

Brandon has long been a town

of theatrical skills, with history leaving memories and scraps of programs: Dennis Marden's Neshobe Players, the Brandon Players, musical groups, and more. And now we can add the new Brandon Actors Troupe to the list. There will soon be announcements of more opportu-

nities for performance, for all ages! Be sure to keep in the loop by following progress in the Brandon Reporter!

So many thanks to Jeffrey Hull and Kenny Cifone, who, through blood, sweat, tears, and connections, made this a wonderful experience. In a short

period of time, they turned regular people into gangsters, goofy maids, young lovers, and a dead body. Many thanks to Mitch Pearl, who came to review the show before the performance and helped to bring people to the show. And thanks to the cast and crew—you all were amazing.

The audience loved you.

How lucky are we, to live in a community of people who work together to create such wonderful theatre!

Colleen Wright  
Assistant Rec Director  
Brandon

### Stephanie Jerome represents Brandon with integrity; she has earned my vote

The residents of Brandon are so very lucky to have Stephanie Jerome as our Representative in Montpelier. Stephanie's hard-working ethic, integrity, and genuine desire to help people make her the perfect legislator. It is well-known that Stephanie has the education, intelligence, and experience to do the job.

But what Stephanie also has is the compassion, the resourcefulness, and the drive to kick it up a notch. Stephanie is Vice-Chair of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development – a position she has earned. She works for all con-

stituents and her work benefits Vermonters of all political parties.

Stephanie has been in office for the past six years and has worked on legislation that focused on providing more training to those working in the fields of healthcare, skilled trades, construction trades, meat cutting, education and high-tech research. Developing these programs helps to educate workers who will succeed in our communities – they become taxpayers and good neighbors. These are non-partisan initiatives and help us all.

As a direct result of Stephanie's hard work and dedication during the last legislative session, she was a part of the efforts to invest in a number of key workforce development programs including a program that provides free tuition to qualifying Vermonters at the Community College of Vermont (CCV), funding a National Guard Tuition Benefit Program, a Vermont Trades Scholarship

Program, and continuation of education loan repayment programs for health care professionals. Again, non-partisan initiatives that have the ability to help all Vermonters, no matter how they vote or align politically.

Right here in our own hometown, for our very own children, Stephanie has been working with Otter Valley MS/HS to get a significant grant from the

Vermont Department of Labor to expand the school's welding program. This grant will boost the school's hands-on learning opportunities.

I'm proud to call Stephanie a friend, neighbor, and my Representative to Montpelier. She will have my vote in November.

Janet Mondlak  
Brandon

## Letter to the Community

### Rob Roper raises awareness of clean energy's costs

BY VICKI DISORDA

Freelance writer Rob Roper visited the Brandon Town Hall on Thursday, September 12 to give an informational presentation on the Clean Heat Standard. With over 20 years of experience in Vermont politics and policy under his belt, Rob writes about financial and political issues Vermonters face in a regular column called "Behind the Lines" on the platform Substack and also for the Vermont Daily Chronicle.

Rob served as president of the Ethan Allen Institute, Vermont's free-market think tank, for nine years before starting "Behind the Lines," which originated in 2020 with the Global Warming Solu-

tions Act, Clean Heat Standard [S.5 (Act 18)], and a lot of the energy policies we are dealing with today.

"It was supposed to be transformational policy that would change the way we drive our cars and heat our homes and was going to cost billions of dollars and be extremely complicated. It is going to impact businesses and homes," said Roper. Inspired by the lack of media coverage, Rob vowed, "to pay as close attention to this as humanly possible. I want to understand it and I want to make other people understand what's happening with these energy policies."

(See Rob Roper, Page 23)

# Stephanie JEROME

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# Obituary

## Louis Eugene Faivre, 87, Rutland

Louis Eugene Faivre, age 87, passed away on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Lou was born in Hartford, CT on October 26, 1936. The eldest of six sons of J. Maurice and Ellen (Wivagg) Faivre, he grew up in the Simsbury-Collinsville, CT area, where he received his early education and graduated from Simsbury High School, class of 1954. After high school, he joined the United States Air Force and was stationed in Germany.

In 1963, Lou married Patricia Szczepaniak and they made their home in Canton, CT. While working as a materials manager, Lou took night courses for his B.S. in Business Administration, graduating in 1965 from the University of Hartford. After moving to Vermont and settling with his family in Brandon in 1968, Lou worked for several decades in purchasing, product management, and regional sales. He and Pat raised their family of three children, and after her passing, Lou's family grew when he married Ferne Mills.

Lou valued service to the community. He was a founding member of the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, serving as an EMT and officer for over a decade. He also served for 12 years on local school boards. Over the years, he belonged to the Lions Club, the Neshobe Sportsman



**LOUIS EUGENE FAIVRE**

Club, and the Brandon Congregational Church.

He enjoyed going to concerts and theater, as well as canoeing, walking in the woods, and spending time with family at lakeside cabins in Maine and Vermont. Lou and Ferne enjoyed travel by train across the country. He was a proud member of The 251 Club.

Lou is survived by his wife, Ferne (Mills) Faivre of Brandon, whom he married in 1991; one daughter, Suzanne (Mark) Cioffi of Calais; two sons, Robert (Julie Tarrant) Faivre of Round Lake, NY, and Samuel (Jennifer) Faivre of Crested Butte, CO; four stepdaughters, Lisa Wright of W. Rutland, Vicki (Leman) Bronson of Monkton, Christie (Rick Chapman) Wright of W. Rutland,

and Stephanie (Sean) Kennedy of Pittsford; one brother, Karl Faivre of Orleans, MA; 5 grandchildren; 8 stepgrandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Patricia, in 1990, and by four brothers, Paul, Jon, Allen, and James.

His memorial service in celebration of his life was held on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM, at the Brandon Congregational Church. Rev. Sara Rossigg officiated. Following the ceremony, the family received friends in the church hall for food and fellowship.

A private graveside committal service and burial, with Military Honors, took place on Sunday, September 15, in the family lot, at St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon. Members of Brandon American Legion Post #55 provided Color Guard and firing detail. Commander Aaron Tucker delivered a prayer and Paul Scott sounded taps. Members of the Vermont Air Guard performed the Flag Ceremony. The American Flag was presented to the widow.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT or to the Vermont Food Bank, vtfoodbank.org.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

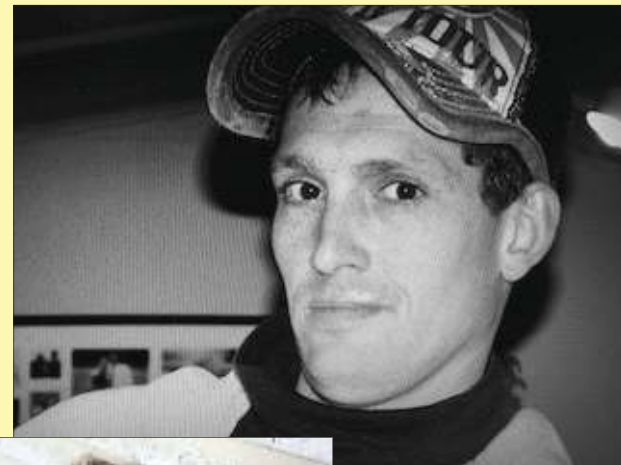


### DEREK JOHN "SCOOB" REED

December 17, 1974 - September 16, 2014.  
10 years gone but loved, remembered,  
and missed immensely every day.

Love,

Mom, Kent, Laura, Terra,  
Tyler, Jordan, and Kinlee



## 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. Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.

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**WE NEED**  
**U**





# Airstream rally

(Continued from Page 1)

of Commerce, was to have the campers line both sides of Park Street, creating a sort of Airstream promenade for people to walk down and admire the sleek machines. Equally important, it would give the campers a chance to experience Brandon in a more intimate way than if they went to one of the area campgrounds or even Estabrook Park.

But after a moment of push-back from residents of Park Street last month—sparked by concerns about privacy and noise—the rally was moved to the expansive lawn behind the Brandon Inn.

“I was surprised,” said Corbin. “I know what a great group of people we are. But we’re taking it as an opportunity for education. The essence of the rally is immersion. We want to contribute vitality to the communities we visit. And we want to respect our neighbors. We’re a really beautiful community of people who want to get to know other communities in Vermont.”

According to Corbin, NEMAC chose Brandon because of the town’s enthusiastic response to the group’s initial proposal and because of the newly renovated downtown.

“There were 4 towns that were competing to host the rally,” said Corbin, who lives in Winooski. “But we have a lot of respect for Brandon’s resiliency. We’ve seen the evolution of the town over the years. And the town presented a united front. The town managers, the Chamber, the Police Department, the Fire Department. The people there are really engaged.”

The campers will do more than just park their RVs on the lawn. NEMAC has a slew of activities planned to bring the campers and the Brandon community together:

Friday at 11 a.m.: camper caravan to the Brandon Inn

Friday at 5 p.m.: lawn games at the Inn

Friday at 6:30 p.m.: Brandon resident and historian Dr. Kevin Thornton will present his film “Death in the Wilderness” at the Brandon Town Hall. The film follows the story of Brandon resident Frankie Davenport’s efforts to recover her husband’s remains after he died in the Civil War.

Saturday 2 to 4 p.m.: Creative campsite contest at the Inn. Brandon residents are invited to visit the campers and vote for their favorites.

Saturday at 6:45 p.m.: Airstream adornment award ceremony

behind the Inn

Saturday 7 to 9 p.m.: Yacht Rock band Pontoon will perform on the stage behind the Inn

Brandon artist Robin Kent has been asked to create unique artwork that will be sold at the Farmer’s Market on Friday, with the proceeds donated to the upkeep of the Brandon Town Hall.

Members of NEMAC will be seen all over town, patronizing shops and restaurants. They’ve been instructed to come with empty fridges, said Corbin. Arrangements have already been made to have pizzas and pastries from Morningside Bakery and brunch at Café Provence. The empty fridges mean that Hanaford and 802 Spirits will likely see an influx as well.

Corbin and her fellow campers are eager to show off the RVs in which they’ve invested so much of themselves, as evidenced by the creative campsite contest. The Airstreams will be tricked out and folks are asked to vote for their favorites. Corbin herself says, “Some people leave theirs in factory condition, but many of us decorate our campers in ways we’d never decorate our homes.”

In fact, Corbin recently commissioned a “wild” custom table

for her Airstream from an artist who passed away right after completing the project.

And to those who wonder why these RVs engender quasi-cultish devotion, Corbin points out that not only are Airstreams beautiful, but they also provide a unique camping experience. Unlike many other makes, Airstreams allow “boondocking,”

which is basically self-sufficient camping in areas that would be too remote for many other RVs. Airstreams do not require the utility hookups that other RVs do, permitting their owners to camp in remote places.

“My husband and I once camped on the salt flats in Utah,” said Corbin by way of example.

“And it’s not an elitist thing, either,” she added. “There’s a



misconception that Airstreams are expensive and everyone who owns one is rich. I work for a nonprofit and my husband is a firefighter. A lot of people who see our camper say, ‘You’re living my dream.’ And we say that dream is a lot more accessible than people think.”

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Learn More



# Special election coverage continued...

## Stephanie Jerome questionnaire

(Continued from Page 3)  
to these programs. Work on reducing the tax burden dominated the work of the House and Senate tax committees this session, and the focus must continue throughout the next legislative session.

### 2. Vermont's high energy costs

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

There has been much disinformation about the Affordable Heat Act. It does not raise the price of fuel or put in place a carbon tax. Nor does the bill require Vermonters to replace their fuel systems or install heat pumps. The bill commissioned a study to determine how to ensure Vermonters can access more stable, affordable sources of heat. A detailed proposal will come back to the legislature to consider or reject in 2025. Please read the text of the bill to get a comprehensive understanding of the goals: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/ACTS/ACT018/ACT018%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

I will continue to advocate for programs that lower the costs of heating our homes and businesses. As we move toward a renewable energy economy, we must ensure that the needs of low-income, rural, and marginalized Vermonters are front and center.

### 3. Crime in Vermont

**A:** Public safety is a concern statewide and is a local issue. I am proud of the work the legislature did this session to correct the backlog of court cases, to help in domestic and sexual violence situations, to register ghost guns, and to improve public safety. (see The Reporter 9/11/24 p. 7 for a detailed article). I am in contact with our Brandon Police Chief when there is public safety legislation that may affect our town, I am also lucky to be able to know the leadership at the VT Police Academy and can reach out to them to discuss pending public safety legislation. A well funded, well trained local police force, with clear communication and public outreach serves Brandon well.

### 4. Climate change in Vermont

**A:** Vermont has experienced extreme weather conditions and floods over the past several years. The reality of climate change is here and most people accept that we need to act. I will support legislation that promotes climate policies that build resilience, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and save money. We have made great strides in weatherizing homes and incentivizing energy efficiency. It is important that we continue our work in protecting our environment: promoting clean air, water, and healthy working lands and

forests. As Vermonters we value our outdoor and natural environment for hunting, recreation, and our way of life.

### 5. Equity and diversity in Vermont

**A:** Since my first year in the legislature in 2019, I have worked on making our legislation more inclusive by acknowledging barriers which include race, gender, language, economic disparities, disability, and age. The problems of access became even more obvious during the pandemic. The Office of Racial Equity's responsibility is to make sure that equity and diversity is addressed in all legislation. My goal is to make Brandon and all rural Vermont towns welcoming and inclusive - growing our community, our schools and our workforce is an important piece of our economic future

### 6. The quality of public education in Vermont

**A:** Education is locally controlled in Vermont. In order for our town to continue to grow and be successful, our local schools must be excellent. We want more families to move to Brandon and their children to attend our schools. This is a difficult time for local education, but our schools and school boards have done an amazing job in a stressful environment. As a community we need to be supportive of our students, teachers and administrators.

Vermont has a very complicated education funding system, and we need to be willing to overhaul it and to make tough decisions. H.887 sets up a public-education commission that will bring an action plan to the legislature on

short-term cost containment and long-term financial transformation. Districts will have to make hard choices, and voters will have to agree, by considering things like consolidating, closing small schools, increasing class size, reducing staffing, and renovating aging school buildings. The Commission is designed to run for 18 months with the overall mission of providing the General Assembly with recommendations for a sustainable high-quality, affordable public education system. I welcome your input and ideas - please send them to me and I will provide them directly to the Commission.

### 7. Employment opportunities in Vermont.

**A:** I have a solid understanding of the employment opportunities in Vermont. As a small business owner in Brandon, with over 25 years' experience, I know firsthand the challenges and opportunities of running a business in Vermont. In my role as Vice-Chair of the House Economic Development Committee, I focus on workforce development issues every day. Over the past six years, we have created programs to incentivize careers in the trades, nursing, healthcare, and education. I also serve on the Vermont Economic Progress Council - which has a focus on growing businesses that promise job growth throughout the state. Locally, I serve on the Brandon Revolving Loan Committee.

Locally, it is important that we grow the workforce, help businesses, and generate a vibrant local economy. I am proud of the work that I have done to expand

opportunities for training and career and technical education statewide. I have worked closely with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Small Business Development Center VT, Center for Women and Enterprise, Vermont Professionals of Color Network, CEDRR, Stafford Technical Center, OVUHS, Adult Learning, HireAbility, and CAP Agencies to assist businesses, provide business connections, workforce training and employment opportunities. For example, I helped to create legislation to fund forgivable loans and grants to health care, education and trades, and incentivizing Vermont college graduates to stay in Vermont. Locally, I have worked closely with the Otter Valley MS and HS to expand welding programs for them to receive a \$114,000 grant to expand the welding program.

**8.** If Democrats lose their supermajority, how do you think your party should work with the Governor, if Phil Scott is re-elected?

**A:** Regardless of who has the supermajority, it is the role of the governor to work closely with the legislature. Over the past few years, the Scott administration has not been working with the legislative committees and has been governing by veto. This is frustrating. I want to work with the Governor, his agency Secretaries, and his staff to create meaningful legislation for all Vermonters. The goal should be to make a Vermont that works for all of us. At the end of the day, no one cares who created the policy, just that it helps Vermonters.

## Brandon SB & budget

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Bailey said he intended these first meetings of the Selectboard and the Budget Committee to focus on conceptual discussions rather than on specific dollar amounts, with the purpose of pinning down what the town needed and wanted before trying to determine how to pay for it. Mr. Bailey said he hoped the whole process would ultimately result in a proposed budget that was "fair" and that the Selectboard, Budget Committee, and voters could all support.

Monday's meeting was limited to a discussion of the Brandon Police Department (BPD) and the Town Offices, though the discussion of

BPD accounted for almost the entirety of the two-hour meeting.

BPD was the subject of ongoing debate and sometimes conflict during last year's budget workshops. BPD accounts for roughly 1/4 of Brandon's overall tax burden. In FY25's budget, which was approved only on a third vote this past spring, BPD accounted for \$865K out of a total budget of roughly \$3.4 million. The allocation for BPD had started out at \$900K but was whittled down as the budget failed on the first two votes.

The main sources of conflict with regard to BPD last year were the K-9 program, the need for new

police cruisers and the possibility of purchasing electric vehicles, and the possibility of hiring an additional police officer in order to provide 24/7 police coverage.

While the Selectboard initially eliminated the K-9 program to save money, it was restored to the budget after constituent pushback. But the two cruisers that had been planned for FY25 were removed and only an advisory question about hiring another officer appeared on the ballot (the majority of voters stated they would approve of the hire).

On Monday evening, BPD Chief David Kachajian addressed the Selectboard and the Budget Commit-

tee to give an overview of where BPD currently is.

According to Chief Kachajian, the department was down 3 officers when he began at BPD in 2022, and morale was low. Now, in fall of 2024, the department has 6 full-time officers plus the Chief, making Brandon one of the few towns in the state to boast a fully staffed police crew.

Moreover, Chief Kachajian stated that as of July 1, 2024, BPD is providing 24/7 coverage with existing staff, having switched from 10-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts. The change also allowed the department to end its practice of officers driv-

ing home in police cars for "on call" shifts.

The 24/7 coverage has greatly increased overtime pay, though inadvertently. According to Chief Kachajian, the new scheduling has officers working 48 hours in one week and 36 the following week. Since the officers' pay period is two weeks, this works out to a total of 84 hours every pay period. But the town's contract with the Police Union stipulates that overtime is calculated per week and not per pay period, so the amount of overtime is 8 hours per pay period (because of the week with 48 worked hours) (See Brandon SB & budget, Page 19)



# Brandon Powwow

(Continued from Page 1)  
 connotes a high-level meeting, as among chieftains. But a powwow is a cultural celebration that encompasses singing, dancing, and feasting. And this is precisely what will happen at Estabrook.

Rozell made clear that it is a spiritual event and not a party. There will be no drugs or alcohol. But there will be plenty of music, dance, and food.

"Native Americans love cheeseburgers," she laughed.

The powwow will open to the public at 9 a.m. on Saturday, with vendors, music, singers, and dancers. There will be a grand circle at noon. The circle begins with three important

songs, during which Rozell asks that no photos be taken. These three songs honor veterans, the ill and recently deceased, and the elders.

"It's very educational. It's beautiful to watch people dance in regalia," said Rozell, referring to the traditional Native American clothing that participants will be wearing.

In addition to traditional music and dance, there will be face painting and crafts.

And after the main activities wrap up at 5 p.m. on Saturday, there will be a "trade blanket," which is literally a blanket on which people place items they'd like to trade. If you see something on the blanket you'd like,



**A SAMPLING OF the kinds of crafts and activities visitors can expect at the powwow this weekend at Estabrook Park in Brandon. There will be traditional song, dance, craft, and cheeseburgers. "Native Americans love cheeseburgers," laughed Peggie Sue Rozell, the organizer of the event.**



**ORGANIZERS AND VENDORS at the powwow will be camping in traditional-style tents.**

you can place something on the blanket to trade for it. The other owner can accept your trade or ask you to sweeten the deal by adding another item or two.

"People trade all kinds of things. The best trade I've made on the blanket is a pair of handmade moccasins that I got for a 3-foot-tall chief lamp," said Rozell.

Do not touch the blanket during the trade, however.

"If you touch the blanket during the trade, even if it's just your foot, you become the 'gofer' for the person you're trying to trade with," Rozell explained.

So even an accidental touch of the blanket will indenture you to your trading partner and you'll find yourself being ordered to go fetch food and perform other tasks.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday, there will be a Native American pageant, organized by Crystal Eastman-Ketcham of the Silver Bells of the Brandon Area Toy Project. The entry fee for the pageant is \$30 and the proceeds go to the group's charitable endeavors.

The powwow will end with a closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

The 2018 powwow in Pittsford

drew several thousand visitors, by Rozell's estimation, and the organizers of the 2024 Brandon event expect similar numbers. There is no admission fee and pets are welcome as long as they're leashed and the owners clean up after them.

"From all the native people and myself, I'd like to thank Colleen Wright, Bill Moore, and the town of Brandon for letting us use Estabrook," said Rozell. "It's a great honor to bring our culture to town."

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# 'Lucky Stiff' delights the Otter Valley stage

BY MITCHELL PEARL

This past weekend saw the first theatrical production on the Otter Valley stage featuring adult actors and singers in 22 years. The Brandon Recreation Department, in collaboration with Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theatre Company, put on the musical comedy "Lucky Stiff," to appreciative audiences. "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.

The story follows Harry, played ably by recent OV graduate Baker LaRock. Harry is a forlorn English shoe salesman who receives unexpected news: he is to receive a large inheritance from an uncle in America he never knew. But to receive his inheritance, he must take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on an all-expenses paid vacation to Monte Carlo. If he fails, the money goes to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn. The dog home's representative, Annabel Glick, is played by Sydney Singh, and while she and Harry start out as adversaries and competitors, the atmosphere of Monte Carlo will change that. But this is a musical farce, and so the story is even more complicated. The murderer, Rita LaPorta—played by Cara Woods—is legally blind and she often fails to wear her glasses. She thinks that she mistakenly murdered the only man she had ever really loved. But perhaps even that is not what really happened. As the opening number proclaims, "something funny is going on!"

The lead players were all a joy to watch. Cara Woods, the murderer, especially shone in "Rita's Confession," when she explains her predicament to her eye-doctor brother and convinces him to go to Monte Carlo with her. Vinnie DiRuzzio, the brother—played by Lennon Philo—was superb in his phone call home from the airport in France—"I won't be home for dinner." Kasey Franzoni, playing Dominique Du Monaco, nailed the number, "Speaking French," at the night club in Monte Carlo. Baker LaRock, playing Harry, makes wonderful peace with his strange circumstances in "Lucky," and the scenes between Harry and Annabel (Sydney Singh) when they bridge their differences in "Nice," were, well, nice. Jeff Ladd had a more difficult job than one might imagine playing the "Body," a/k/a the "Lucky Stiff." He played the role with deadly accuracy.

As a play, "Lucky Stiff" benefits from several catchy musical numbers, but the plot suffers from unnecessary complexity. Like many musical comedies written for the American stage, Act II struggles to bring all the story lines together smoothly and coherently. That said, Harry's dream sequence—reminiscent of Tevye's Dream in "Fiddler on the Roof"—was skillfully directed and staged. The players, lighting, music, and staging all came together in this scene which fully captivated the audience. The moment when the nightmare ends was simply great theatre.

The small band was expertly directed by Kenny Cifone. The band accompanied the singers seamlessly and provided energy for the movement of the play without ever becoming obtrusive. Much of the time you barely knew they were there, which means they were doing their job perfectly.

"Lucky Stiff" was a great success for the first outing of the new collaboration between Brandon Rec and Otter Valley's theatre department. Director 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. More productions will be in the works. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, save the dates for Otter Valley Theatre Department's production of "Mean Girls," to be shown on November 21, 22, 23, and 24.

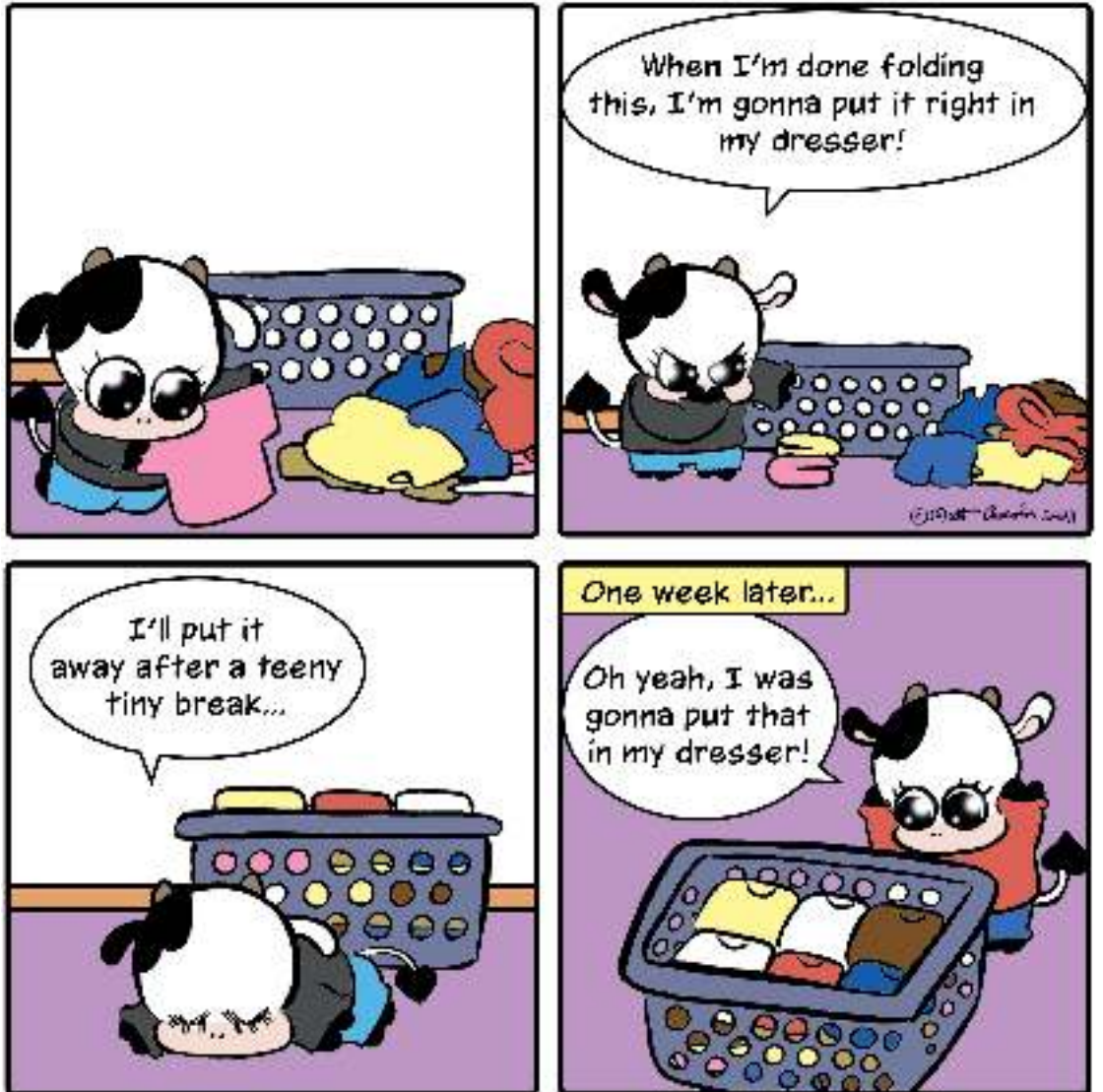


SCENES FROM THE musical comedy "Lucky Stiff," presented this past weekend at Otter Valley.

Photos by Mitchell Pearl



# MAPLE <sup>the</sup> COW™ by Matt Aucoin



BFPL BOARD PRESIDENT David Roberts (l) and Library Director Molly Kennedy (r) present bookends to Sue Wetmore in recognition of her years of service to the library. Ms. Wetmore was formerly a member of the BFPL Board and president of the Friends of the Brandon Library. The bookends were made by BFPL Board Member Jeff Haylon.

## BFPL open house

(Continued from Page 2)

Library board and the Friends of the Library board for 3 decades! The bookends were made by board member Jeff Haylon, the tiny books 3D printed in the library by head librarian, Molly Kennedy, and the flag handcrafted by new

Friends chair, Carol Fjeld.

A lot has changed in the building, but the librarians remain! They are looking forward to helping everyone utilize the new spaces for all the things our library offers.

## OV Football Club

(Continued from Page 4)

prehensible in that short period. However, we shouldn't tell that to those people involved, many of which are out here in front of you tonight.

As we look around and see the lights lighting up this valley, we need to be thankful for the community and the opportunity we have along with the people who helped to make this happen. Fu-

ture generations of football, soccer, lacrosse, and many other activities will have the opportunity to be out here surrounded by a community that cares and shows it when needed most. We would like to say thank you to the group that played an instrumental role in bringing the lights to fruition, some with financial contributions, others with in-kind services, and many with both."

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## 10th Annual

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**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.*

## Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 17



# 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 ([hazfm@hotmail.com](mailto:hazfm@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 Conscious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

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

#### Free drop-in homework help with Dan for grades K-12!

Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 pm at the Brandon Free Public Library.

### 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.

#### Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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



### Saturdays

#### Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

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

#### Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Sundays

#### Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

### Wednesday 18th

#### Wolf Peaches, Poisoned Peas and Madame Pompadour's Underwear

Join us at 6pm at the Brandon Free Public Library to find out why a lot of us don't like beets, how a 17th-century pirate named the bell pepper, how carrots won the Trojan War, and how George Washington was nearly assassinated with a plate of poisoned peas with science and history writer Rebecca Rupp.

### Friday 20th

**Rusty DeWees: The Logger** — Pittsford Village Farm Starting at 7 pm, this event is "pay watcha can" as you arrive. No tickets necessary!

Grab a lawn chair, your friends and family, your favorite flannel . . . and join us at The Pittsford Village Farm when Rusty DeWees brings his show to town. Known as an entertainer, comedic artist, actor, producer, writer, musician, master of duct tape . . . Rusty has been bringing The Logger to life for the past 20+ years!

Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm Street.

#### Rakish and The Early Risers — Next Stage Arts

Violinist Maura Shawn Scanlin and guitarist Conor Hearn unite to form "Rakish." The pair gets their namesake




# COFFEE TALK

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GET TO KNOW

### 2024 Live at Kennedy Park

September 28

Bird Boombox, Alt. Folk/Rock



from the traditional Irish tune Rakish Paddy, an origin that aptly suits the duo and their shared background in traditional Irish and Scottish music. Yet "rakish" itself also suggests something strikingly unconventional in its appearance, and Maura and Conor knowingly embrace this wealth of connotation in their music, drawing on the music they grew up with and performing it with their own slant. In a performance that toes the line between concert music and

session music, Rakish explores tunes and songs from Irish and American folk traditions in a way that reflects their shared interest in and love for old traditional tunes and chamber music. Maura Shawn, a two-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion and a winner of the Glenfiddich Fiddle Competition, wields the technical range of a classical violinist and the deep sensitivity of a traditional musician. Conor, a native to the Irish music communities of Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, MD, makes his home in Boston, MA playing and teaching guitar.

The Early Risers are a folk duo from Vermont made up of Ashley Storrow and Putnam Smith. Both rootsy and lyric-driven, their original songs feature close vocal harmonies and arrangements on a wide array of instruments: banjo, guitar, mandolin, piano, and shruti-box. Their debut album, "Making Life Sweet," went to #1 on the national Folk DJ Charts (November, 2019).

From 7:30–9:30 pm at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$10–25.

### Saturday 21st

#### Bandwagon Summer Series: Cyro Baptista

Cyro Baptista is a Brazilian born percussionist and composer whose vast talent and penchant for innovation brought him to be praised as one of the most respected musicians in the world. Cyro's endless sonic curiosity and intense rhythmic led him to create several musical ensembles and record many albums of his own. He has also lent his sounds to several GRAMMY award-winning records and to over 300 CDs with many of the most beloved musicians in the world. Cyro's credits read like a "Who's Who" of modern music. From Paul Simon to Yo-Yo-Ma, Herbie Hancock to Kathleen Battle, Trey Anastasio to John Zorn, Wynton Marsalis to Laurie Anderson, from the legendary Brazilians Milton Nascimento and Caetano Veloso to Sting—they all wanted Cyro's magic touch on their recordings or live performances.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. Twenty performances ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County.

Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold onsite, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our



concerts. From 5–7 pm at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road, Putney. \$20–25.

#### Bird Walk with Sue Wetmore — Pittsford Village Farm

At 8 am, we are hosting a Bird Walk at Pittsford Village Farm with local birding expert Sue Wetmore. This event is free and open to everyone, including seasoned birders and those new to birding. Bring your binoculars



and listen as Sue shares her wisdom. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm Street, Pittsford

### Saturday 21st Sunday 22nd

#### Vermont Living History Expo — Champlain Valley Exposition

The Living History Expo is a family friendly event for all ages. The event will host over two dozen reenactment groups representing the Roman Legions, Medieval Knights, the American Revolution, the Napoleonic era, the American Civil War, both World Wars and much more. We will also be joined by a number of historical societies and museums, veteran support groups, vehicle displays, period crafters and vendors. View the reenactment groups here!

Patrons will have the opportunity to interact with the different groups in their encampments as well as watch troop drills and period craft demonstra-



## Proctor Town Green, 6 pm



September 28  
Fall Festival  
Robert Wuagneux

tions. Attendees and participants are excited about the Living History Expo as it provides both a fun and educational event for all ages. It is a great "hands-on" event for homeschoolers and students of history.

Champlain Valley Exposition 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction. Kids under 6 and parking are both free! Saturday & Sunday, 10 am–6 pm. Tickets are \$20 for one day or \$30 for two days. Kids 6–12 are \$5. All events are rain or shine!

### Sunday 22nd

#### Artifact Road Show — Pittsford Village Farm

Artifact Road Show returns to the Pavilion of Pittsford Village Farm. Join us for this free event. VSU-Castleton archaeology professors and their students will help you identify and learn about your household artifacts. Bring items in from your family farm, yard sale finds, and heirlooms—and learn about them as archaeologists analyze and identify each piece. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm Street, Pittsford.

## Goings on around town

### Cast Off 8's

## Free introductory contemporary square dance this week

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

on September 11th and 18th, from 6:30 to 8 pm at Lothrop School. After the free sessions, participation is just \$7 per dancer, with discounts available for those who sign up for 10-week sessions. By the end of the workshops, participants will be well prepared to enjoy square dancing at events around the world.

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

Don't miss this chance to join a welcoming community and experience the fun of square dancing!



### Park line-up

Trio



# Fish Art Contest

(Continued from Page 4) said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Education Specialist Corey Hart. “Last year, 226 Vermont Students submitted artwork of Vermont fish species. Several Vermont schools incorporated the contest into their curriculum, allowing the teachers to highlight the selected fish species in detail before the students created their masterpieces.”

Winners will be selected for four grade categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

Winners will receive a fishing rod and reel, and their art will be entered into a selection process to be featured in the

department’s forthcoming 2026 Fishing Guide and Regulations publication.

Rules and information about the contest are available at this link: rules and information about the Contest: <https://www.theartofconservation.org/fish-art-contest>

Entries to the 2025 Vermont Student Fish Art Contest must be submitted by February 28, 2025 at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/242386164735159>

Teachers who have questions may contact Corey Hart by email at [Corey.Hart@vermont.gov](mailto:Corey.Hart@vermont.gov) or by phone at 802-505-5562.

## Share your compassion and talents with patients and their families in your community You can make a difference by volunteering for Hospice

RUTLAND—Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provides training for those interested in becoming hospice volunteers.

Training will be held on Friday, October 18, from 8am–4pm in the Casella Conference Room at the VNAHSR Rutland office, located at 7 Albert Cree Drive. Training is free and open to individuals 16 years of age and older. Volunteers need to pass a background check. No previous hospice and health care experience is required. Pre-registration and proof of COVID-19 vaccination are required.

At VNAHSR, volunteers play a critical role in enhancing the end-of-life experiences of people facing serious illness and their families. Volunteers represent all life experiences and are drawn to hospice for a variety of reasons, but the defining characteristics that unite them are compassion and the desire to help others. Their many skills are matched to important tasks within our mission.

Once training is complete, assignments and schedules are tailored to the volunteer’s geographic and time commitment

preferences.

### TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Understanding the Hospice philosophy of care
- Knowing boundaries when interacting with patients and families
- Communicating with patients and families
- Understanding basic health and safety precautions
- Understanding patient confidentiality

### THE BENEFIT OF BECOMING A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER

While our volunteers make a tremendous impact on the lives of our patients, families, and staff, we hear time and again that they, too, benefit from their hospice experiences. Among the things they mention are:

- Increased appreciation for living life in the moment and defining what is really important
- Greater knowledge and more inner peace about the end-of-life experience
- Greater insight about diversity and the different perspectives among cultures
- Heightened sense of fulfillment and pride because of their contributions to patients

and families and to VNAHSR.

For more information or to register, call Mary at 802.442.0540 or email at [mary.pleasant@vnahsr.org](mailto:mary.pleasant@vnahsr.org).

VNAHSR is a non-profit, Medicare-certified home health and hospice agency delivering a wide range of advanced medical care with compassion, dependability, and expertise to people of all ages throughout Bennington, Franklin, and Rutland Counties.

With office locations in Bennington, Dorset, Manchester, Rutland, and St. Albans, we have over 250 trusted health professionals and caregivers committed to providing exceptional care to patients and families.

Proud of our national reputation for quality care, VNAHSR is highly rated for Quality of Patient Care and Patient Satisfaction from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is recognized as one of the nation’s top performing home health agencies by HomeCare Elite, a market-leading review that identifies top Medicare-certified agencies.

# ADVERTISE WITH US

CONTACT US TODAY!  
[SALES@BRANDONREPORTER.COM](mailto:SALES@BRANDONREPORTER.COM)



## Golf Course

Plan ahead for next year!  
It's that time of year again! Neshobe Golf Club is excited to reintroduce our special offer: Buy a 2025 Membership now and play the remainder of 2024 for FREE!  
This incredible deal allows you to enjoy the rest of this year's golfing season at no additional cost while locking in your membership for 2025 at our current 2024 pricing.  
New members only—this offer is designed just for you! Plus, every Neshobe membership comes with full Rocky Ridge Golf Club membership privileges at no extra charge.  
Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to experience two great clubs for the price of one.  
For all membership inquiries please visit the Membership Page on our website!  
We look forward to welcoming you to the Neshobe family!

**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.

**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.

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

## VELCO fire

(Continued from Page 1)

A request was made to VELCO to power down the substation so that PFD firefighters could enter the site safely. PFD’s ladder truck returned to PFD while a small crew remained on site.

At 9:30 p.m., PFD sent another engine to the site after receiving word that the substation was nearing shutdown. Soon after the engine’s arrival, the site was deemed safe to enter and two crews of two men each entered the facility, wielding dry chemical extinguishers and water cans. At that point the fire was limited to a conduit.

After the fire was extinguished, thermal imaging equipment was used to determine that the surrounding equipment was at a safe temperature. All PFD personnel and assets cleared the scene at 11:20 p.m.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

Thank you to the Pittsford Fire Department for their work.





# Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

The front porch, or front veranda of the Brandon Inn was open until 1997. Although there has been a hotel of some sort in that location since 1786, the structure we recognize today was built in 1892 after a devastating fire.

For over 100 years, the flat roof of the porch had been hammered by snow and ice sheeting off of the Inn's mansard roof and soaked by rain and melting snow unable to drain off of its flat surface. By the 1990s, the roof was leaking, the Doric columns that held it up were crumbling, Rt 7 was a busy road just feet away, and mosquitoes had come to

town.

The young couple who bought the Inn in 1988, Louis and Sarah Pattis, decided to save the porch before it collapsed, and in the meantime make some improvements. Nancy Leary helped them design a glassed-in porch with a pitched roof and a heated floor. This helped with run-off, noise, dust, rain, cold drafts in the Inn's lobby, and mosquitoes. Kemper Fredericksen and Louis Pattis did the work, and now this space is a lovely, tranquil, protected space all year round.



FRONT VERANDA OF the Brandon Inn circa 1892 and today.



Your mystery for next week!



September 20th, 7–8:30 pm

## The Brandon Artists Guild presents, Artist Talk: Featured Wood Artist, Guy Rossi

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

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

The gallery is open Monday - Saturday 10am–5pm, and Sunday 10am–4pm

7 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733, (802) 247-4956

## REAL ESTATE



### PRICE REDUCED! 6,000+ SQ. FT.

Impressive 2 story commercial building with 6,614 sq. ft. This meticulously maintained building was entirely renovated in 2007. Features a spacious commercial kitchen, office space, conference room, a very yoga/pilates room. All rooms are large and bright with ample lighting and natural light. The building is well insulated, with a state of the art heating system with radiant heat, and 3 separate Buderus Logamax furnaces. ADA compliant with a lift/elevator, 4 restrooms, ample paved parking, 3 bay garage and a spacious backyard. There are a multitude of potential uses for this building.

Located in Historic Brandon Village. A great investment opportunity offered at \$415,000



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





# Mim's Photos

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

## Recognized



Michele Witherbee recognized the location of this photo. It was taken at RFL Industries, which is the current home of New England Woodcraft on Seminary Hill in Brandon. Ms. Witherbee writes that RFL was "owned by a company out of England, and they made electrical boards for appliances, radios, etc." The man on the far left in the photo is Frank, the company's CEO, who used to live

in East Middlebury. The woman standing second from last is Marge Charbonneau, who handled reception, payroll, human recourses, etc. And the third woman from the right was Betty Pfenning, better known as Betty Steele—Ms. Witherbee's mother. Betty was an executive and second in command.



Stephanie (Bird) Wilson recognized the girls in this photo. She thinks it was likely a 4H or Girl Scouts project, and writes, "I was involved in both and must have been absent when this photo was taken! A hearty shoutout to my old friends, from left to right: Kim Sprague, Vicki Disorda, Robin Schmidt, Danica Bostock, Stacy Phillips, and Debbie Ayer."

Linda and Bob Schmidt also recognized the girls pictured here (including their daughter Robin Schmidt [Shrum]), and they identified the gentleman in the center as Mr. Stephen Mann of Park Street.



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

Or call us at 247-8080





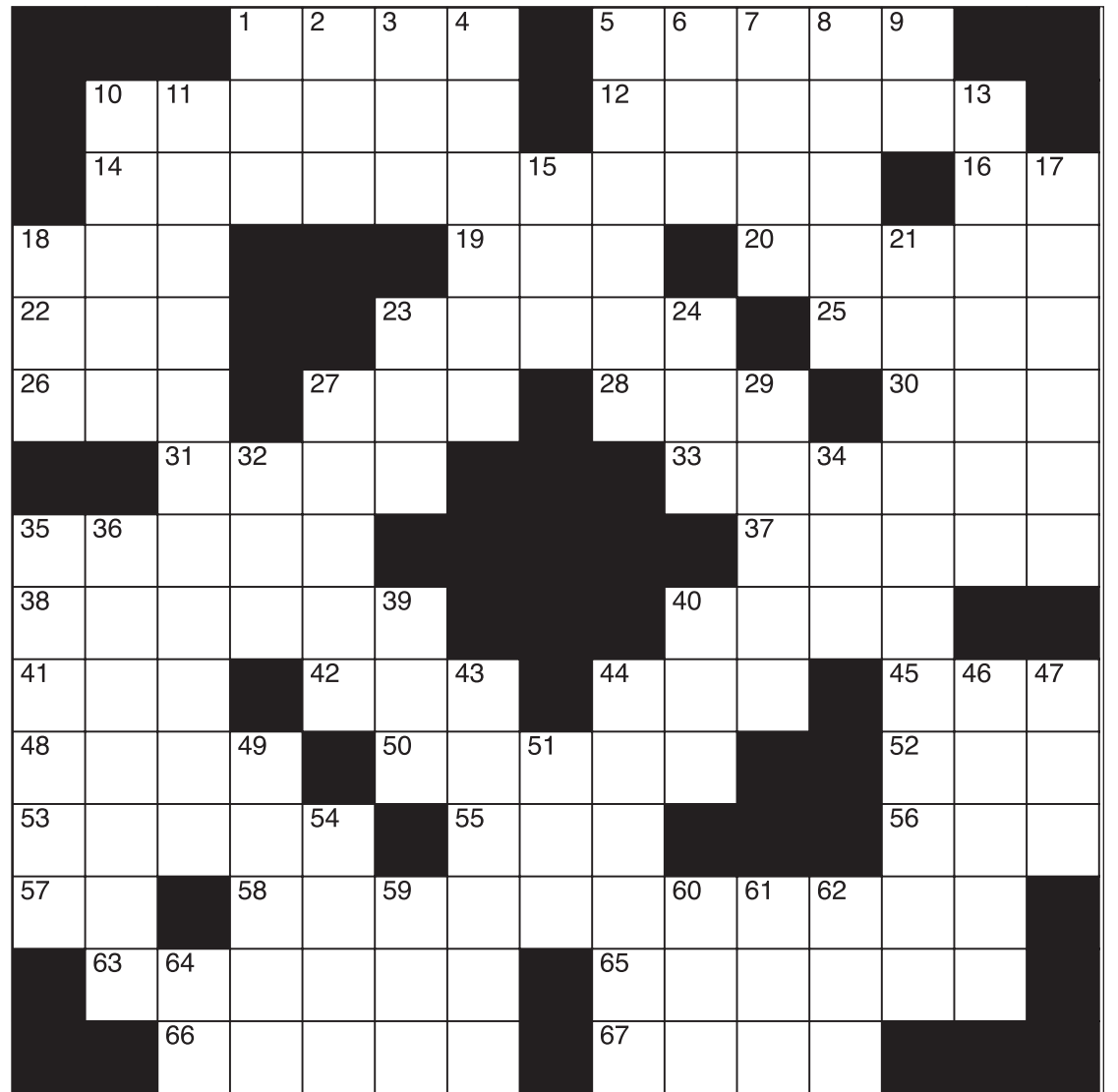
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Wrest
5. Russian river
10. Grupo Montparnasse founder
12. One who quits prematurely
14. Related to the nature of being
16. Early multimedia
18. Indigenous Tibetan religion
19. Tease
20. J.M. \_\_\_, Irish dramatist
22. Pounds per square inch
23. Surrendered
25. Notable Dallas Cowboy Leon
26. Dash
27. Man who behaves dishonorably
28. British Air Aces
30. Data executive
31. Spiritual leader
33. Flower cluster
35. Of the cheek
37. Tears down
38. Uncoordinated
40. Touches lightly
41. Soak
42. Founder of Babism
44. Not good
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
48. Type of casino game
50. Skills assessments for adults
52. Check
53. Gives a job
55. Fifth note of a major scale
56. Small, faint constellation
57. Thou
58. Reduce
63. Another recording
65. Removes for good
66. Jill and Catherine are two
67. Cruise

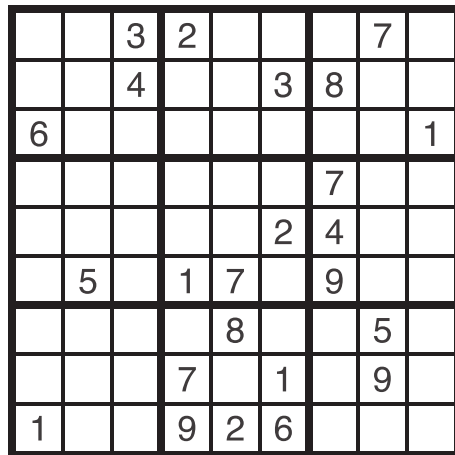
## CLUES DOWN

1. Greenwich Time
2. Metropolis
3. Complete
4. Scheduled
5. One who obeys
6. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
7. Days (Spanish)
8. Unsaturated hydrocarbon radical
9. Region of the U.S. (abbr.)
10. Tributary of the Alabama River
11. One who eliminates
13. Ballroom music
15. Officer in the Book of Mormon
17. Denies
18. Barrels per day (abbr.)
21. Make vital
23. Former NFLer Newton
24. Kashmiri tribe
27. Indigenous S. American person
29. Capacitance unit
32. MLB great Scherzer
34. Taxi
35. Boggy
36. Artist's workroom
39. Feline
40. Prosecutors
43. Freshwater perches
44. Young ladies
46. Whittles
47. Licensed for Wall Street
49. Type of gene
51. Express displeasure
54. Fly high
59. Norwegian krone
60. Investment account
61. Chinese surname
62. Language
64. By the way (abbr.)



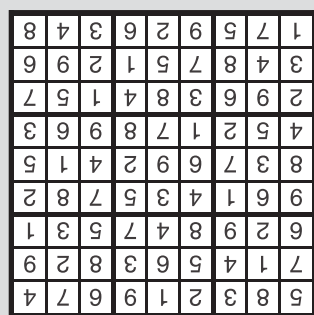
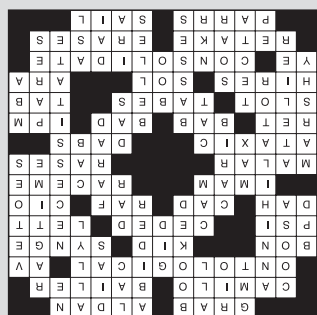
# Sudoku

Here's how a sudoku puzzle works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number must appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out where to fill in the missing numbers by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers that are filled in, the easier it gets to solve.



Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



## September is Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet Month!

Give a Loving Home to a Furry Friend from the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS). With so many wonderful pets waiting for their forever homes, there's no better time to adopt. We have adorable cats, playful pups, and snugly small animals who can't wait to meet their new families. Visit [www.rchsvt.org](http://www.rchsvt.org) to see all of our adoptable animals. We're open for walk-in visits Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm. Let's find loving homes for them all this September!

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



#### MEET ROXIE 5-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TABBY.

Roxie arrived at the shelter on September 4th after her previous owner was unable to keep her due to a move. Roxie has fallen into a routine here at the shelter and we think that she will adjust well in her new home. We currently have her in our Community Cat Room where she can socialize with the other cats at RCHS. As soon as she stepped foot in the room, she started to explore and settle in. If you are looking for a sweet, laid-back lady who likes to go with the flow, we think you will love Roxie. You can visit the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday from 11 am-4 pm.

#### MEET ALARA - 3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. HOUND MIX. TAN/WHITE/BROWN.

Say hello to our cute girl Alara! She came to us as a surrender after her previous home collapsed. She's a very sweet and quiet girl, who's under-socialized and will need a calm patient family to go home to. She has made a lot of progress with the staff but will need to continue this in her new home. Alara is eager to learn and will blossom into a loving hound given time and attention. She has lived with other dogs, but we have no history with cats or children. If you would like to meet her, the Adoption Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-4 pm.



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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

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







**Some things of interest:**

On Wednesdays, we will be offering up homework help for grades K-12, made possible with a grant from the Winnie Belle Learned Fund. Available in a 1-on-1 format or in a small group. Every Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:00 pm, no registration required. Most subjects are available - email dan@brandonpubliclibrary.org or call 802-247-8230 for more information.

Also on Wednesdays- free tech support from 4:30 - 6 pm! Stop in and get help with your phones, tablets, or laptops FREE. No appointment needed. As always, you can also make an appointment for tech help at other times.

The Meditation Club has returned! Join others in quiet contemplation on Tuesdays at 10:30 am in our new meeting room!

Storytime is back on Saturday in our beautiful new children's room. Come listen to stories, have a snack, dance, and catch BUBBLES! Lots of room to play and have fun. Coffee/tea/cocoa available for adults.

Our Library of Things is now on easy display between our main fiction room and kids' room. We have a birder's backpack with two sets of binoculars to check out, a portable DVD player, projector for outdoor movie nights, and more.

We have some great fall programming coming up for teens. Keep an eye on socials or join our email list (sign up on our website) to see what's coming. A little peek at what we're hoping to bring your way: college essay prep, kitchen/cooking basics, car basics. Have an idea? Want to teach a program? Reach out and let us know! We'd love to hear

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We are back open at our Park Street location and lots of exciting things are coming. Stop in and say hi, have a cuppa, and see all that's new!

your thoughts.

Opening this week- the Brandon Area TOOLSHIP! In partnership with reBHS and the Brandon Energy Committee, all registered patrons will be able to check out battery-operated EGO lawn tools from that cool orange box you may have seen out in front of the library. Details available in the library, by phone, or by email. We'll have a mower, string trimmer, and leaf blower available.

Also starting up this fall - Family Game Nights, Coffee and Cards club, Friday afternoon flicks and more!

We hope to see you soon!

**Explore the Crown Point Road in Proctor**  
**September 21, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Gather to explore parts of the Proctor area. The meeting area is the west shore of Beaver Pond. Begin by walking part of the original Crown Point Road, and finish by visiting a 20th century industrial site that is being "re-wilded".

<https://www.crownpointroad.org/home/calendar/>

**WEEKLY HOROSCOPE**

more reserved and shy. Are you missing someone? If so, get in touch and you'll feel more like yourself.

**LEO July 23-Aug. 23**  
 Friends or family members may be making more demands on your time, Leo. You want to go along with it, but be careful not to stretch yourself too thin.

**ARIES March 21-April 20**  
 A disagreement may have you questioning a relationship this week, Aries. Do not get ahead of yourself, as you'll figure out that the turmoil will subside soon enough.

**TAURUS April 21-May 21**  
 Group activities or time spent with a significant other may not go as well as usual this week, Taurus. With your mind elsewhere, it's hard to focus on having fun and others will catch on.

**GEMINI May 22-June 21**  
 Do not believe everything you hear this week, Gemini. There are a lot of rumors floating around, and only a portion of what is being said is accurate. Get the facts first.

**CANCER June 22-July 22**  
 Cancer, you are usually outgoing and easygoing, but this week you may be feeling

tarius. Instead, wait until the time is right to express your thoughts and work out a solution.

**CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20**  
 Capricorn, even though you may want to expand your friend network right now, you aren't sure how to begin. Social media can connect you with those nearby.

**AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18**  
 It is a good idea for you to have set deadlines for your goals, Aquarius, otherwise, you may keep putting things off. With dates on paper, you can check things as they get done.

**PISCES Feb. 19-March 20**  
 Pisces, you want to return to a relationship right where you left off, but the other person may not be on the same page right now. Give it a little more time.

♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

Sept. 20 Dale Chihuly, artist (83)  
 Sept. 21 Bill Murray, actor, comedian (73)  
 Sept. 22 Michael Faraday, scientist (d)  
 Sept. 23 Hasan Minaj, comedian (39)  
 Sept. 24 Jim Henson, puppeteer (d)  
 Sept. 25 bell hooks, writer, activist (d)  
 Sept. 26 Serena Williams, tennis player (43)

**Brandon Police Report**

**September 9**

- Conducted a foot patrol in downtown Brandon along Center Street. Businesses were checked and nothing suspicious was observed.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street at Larch Lane. Three stops were made and two tickets issued, both for speeds in excess of 70 miles per hour in a 50 mile per hour zone.

- Found a vehicle exceeding the posted speed limit on Grove Street (72 mph in a 35 mph zone). The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a citation.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for traveling 74 mph in a 50 mph zone. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for traveling 80 mph in a 50 mph zone. Ticket issued.

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

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Carver Street near Church Street for ongoing speeding complaints by area residents. One vehicle stop with ticket issued for speeding.

- Vehicle stop on Carver Street for speeding. Ticket issued for driving without a license.

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Franklin Street and Nickerson Road for speeding. Warning issued.

- Completed a VIN verification on Conant Square.

- Took fingerprints for DCF and Rutland School District employment.

- Took fingerprints for educational purposes.

**September 10**

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Carver Street at Syndicate Road. No violations observed.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at Arnold District Road for driving without headlights. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at Arnold District Road for speeding. Warning issued.

- Assisted the Brandon Fire Department with an unknown odor call on Conant Square.

- Received a complaint of an intoxicated man who had just left the Union Street Market in a vehicle, after urinating on the building, and was driving into downtown Brandon.

- Investigated vandalism to a truck that occurred in the parking lot adjacent to an apartment complex on Mulcahy Drive.

- Conducted a patrol on Frank-

lin Street.

- Conducted a traffic stop on Grove Street for an erratic operator. Upon investigation, the man driving showed signs of alcohol impairment and was taken into custody for suspicion of DUI. The man was processed and ultimately released.

**September 11**

- Participated in the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at the Twin Towers Monument located at the Brandon Police Department.

- Spoke with a resident of Conant Square at the station about the housing conditions she was living in at her apartment building. The individual was referred to the Rutland Housing Trust to address the various complaint(s).

- Received a walk-in complaint of a lost phone that was located on Deer Run Road.

- Conducted a patrol on Newton Road.

- Assisted the Vermont State Police-New Haven with a family fight in Goshen on Capen Hill Road.

- Spoke with an individual at the station regarding several issues in his life that he wanted to speak with an officer about now that he has moved to Brandon.

**September 12**

- Responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near a child's bicycle on Champlain Street. The bicycle was located, and it appeared to have been left as litter.

- Responded to a report of a subject leaving the scene of a crash on Center Street.

- Responded to a trespass complaint on River Road. The suspect was located and issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court on 10/21/2024 at 10:00 A.M. for trespassing.

- Received a request to serve a restraining order on Hollister Quarry Road. The residence was not in Brandon and that service was transferred to the appropriate agency.

- Received a call from a woman regarding an ongoing stalking situation involving her ex-boyfriend.

- Received a call regarding a woman who pulled into the driveway at a home on Fox Road and was harassing the residents.

- Served a citation on a man residing on Mulcahy Drive on behalf of the Vermont State Police-Rutland Barracks.



# Police report

*(Continued from Page 18)*

- Responded to a vehicle complaint on Forest Dale Road for a motorcycle that was revving its engine in front of a residence. Officers were unable to locate the motorcycle.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Forest Dale Road at McConnell Road due to ongoing complaints from residents concerning speeding. No violations were observed.

## September 13

- Conducted a foot patrol and business checks on Center Street.

- Received a complaint from OVUHS that a student was selling vapes on the campus to other students. The school will handle the issue administratively.

- Assisted Middlebury Rescue on North Street with an individual believed to be having a seizure. The subject was later transported to the hospital for treatment.

- Assisted an individual with information regarding a trespass order and how to apply for a relief from abuse order.

- Conducted a welfare check on a child at a local residence. The child was found to be in good health and doing fine.

- Conducted a patrol in the Forest Dale Area.

- Responded to a noise disturbance in the trailer park on Brookdale Street. The parties were advised regarding the noise levels.

- Dispatched to a second noise complaint on Brookdale Street. All parties involved were warned to keep it down or they would be charged with noise in the nighttime.

## September 14

- Dispatched for a 911 hang-up call at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. A child had accidentally contacted 911. No emergency had occurred.

- Opened an investigation into a stalking complaint.

- Observed a child hanging out of a sun roof in a passing car and conducted a vehicle stop. Ticket issued for Unrestrained Child. DCF notification was also made regarding the incident.

- Conducted a community policing detail at OVUHS during a football game.

- Received a call of a dispute between two groups of young juveniles on Park Street. Upon investigation, it was determined that no crime had been committed by any party involved.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for a red light violation. Warning issued.

- Responded to the Brookdale Trailer Park for a noise disturbance involving numerous intoxicated individuals who were yelling and being physically aggressive.

## September 15

- Conducted a patrol in the Forest Dale area near Brookdale Trailer Park due to ongoing noise complaints. No issues observed.

- Conducted a patrol on Franklin Street.

- Responded to Conant Square for a report of juveniles riding dirt bikes in the area. The juveniles, who were not on dirt bikes, were located and respectful towards the officer. No criminal activity observed.

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

- Received a report of an ongoing child custody issued. Complainant advised regarding the situation.

- Police are attempting to locate a Rutland man after he extorted money from his grandparents and threatened them with physical harm. The suspect has also made threats to shoot police. Investigation ongoing.

- Responded to a building alarm on Forest Dale Road.

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

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

# Archery deer season

*(Continued from Page 4)*

more antler points one inch in length or longer.

Hunters must have a standard hunting license in order to purchase an add-on archery deer hunting license, except that nonresidents may purchase an “archery only deer license” costing \$75. Licenses may be quickly and easily purchased on Fish and Wildlife’s website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)).

Hunters planning a Vermont archery deer hunting trip will find it helpful to download a

copy of the 2023 Deer Harvest Report from Fish and Wildlife’s website with this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2vmdt9jt>. It has the number of deer taken in each town in last year’s deer hunting seasons.

For more information and a summary of regulations, download the 2024 Deer Seasons Guide from Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website, or pick up a free copy of the 2024 Hunting & Trapping Guide from any license agent or highway rest area.

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# Restaurant guide



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11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

# Brandon SB & budget

*(Continued from Page 8)*

rather than 4 hours.

Chief Kachajian stated that he understands that this situation is not sustainable for the town and that he was exploring options with Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins. Mr. Bailey added that the current set-up would likely cost the town over \$150K in overtime pay for the year vs. the \$19K that had been allocated in the budget.

The 24/7 presence of on-duty officers in Brandon has been at least partially responsible for the increase in drug arrests this year, said Chief Kachajian.

“Lots of drug deals were happening in the open, but we didn’t have officers on duty to see it,” he said. He also attributed the increase in drug arrests in Brandon to the intensification of policing in Rutland City, pushing drug dealers out to nearby communities. Brandon’s K-9 officer, Guinness, has also been extremely successful in discovering illegal narcotics in cars, helping BPD confiscate over \$100K in drugs this year.

Chief Kachajian noted that the increased police presence in Brandon

was also having a positive effect on traffic accidents, since BPD officers were stopping more cars and thus diminishing dangerous driving.

The Chief also stated that BPD has generally seen a significant uptick in calls for service in 2024 compared to 2023.

The discussion turned to police vehicles. BPD currently has 5 police vehicles, of which 3 are nearing the end of their useful lives and should be replaced, according to the Chief.

Several members of the Committee and the Selectboard expressed their desire for a capital plan that would allow the town to look ahead several years to know what assets and equipment would need to be replaced at what time. The town currently does not have such a plan and equipment tends to be replaced only when circumstances absolutely demand, causing the town to scramble to figure out how to pay for the expense.

Board member Tim Guiles differed from other members of the Board and Committee in that he has long advocated for a smaller police force in Brandon. He questioned

whether BPD’s current staffing provided the correct “level of service” for the town.

Chief Kachajian replied that the U.S. Department of Justice recommended an even larger police force for a town of Brandon’s size.

Board member Heather Nelson suggested that the “level of service” could perhaps be determined by voters, if options were given on the ballot for different levels of service with their attendant costs.

The discussion of the Police Department took up all but 15 minutes of the allotted two hours, leaving little time for Town Clerk and Treasurer Sue Gage to speak about the needs of her department. But she did state that she’d like to see a 5-year capital plan and even a 5-year budget, as opposed to the year-by-year approach currently taken by the town.

The next budget meeting will be held on Monday, September 30 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall. Topics will include the Highway Department, the town manager, and community development.



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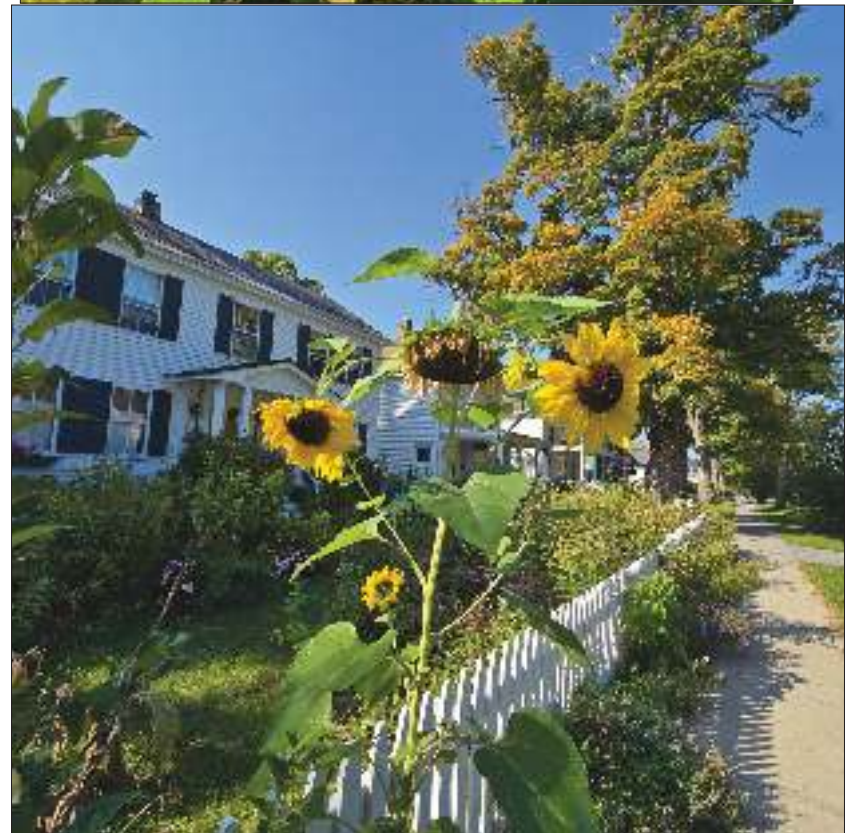
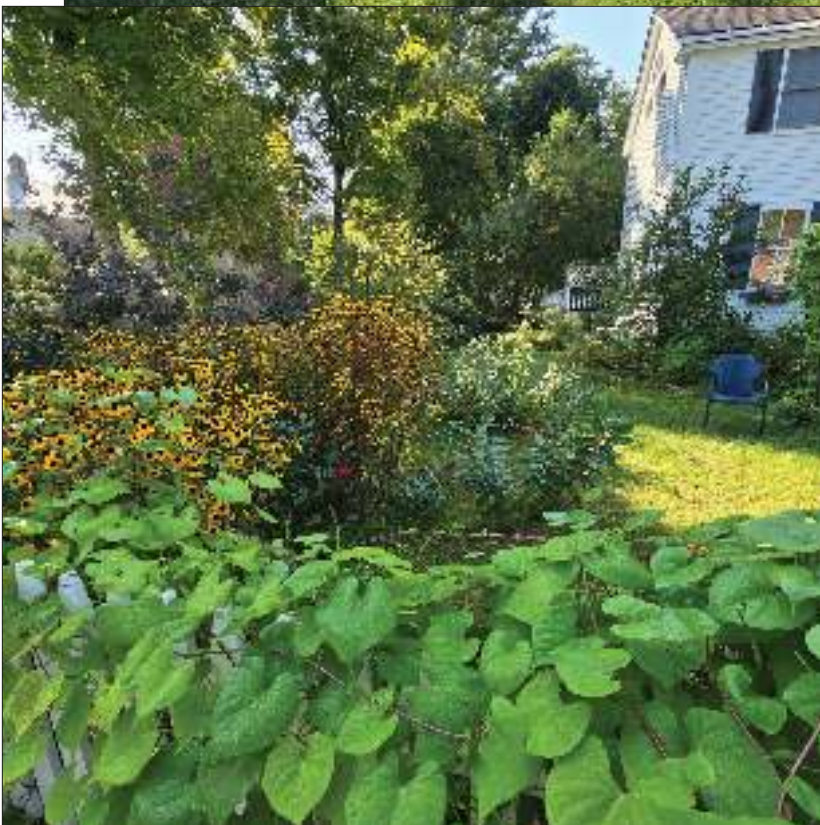
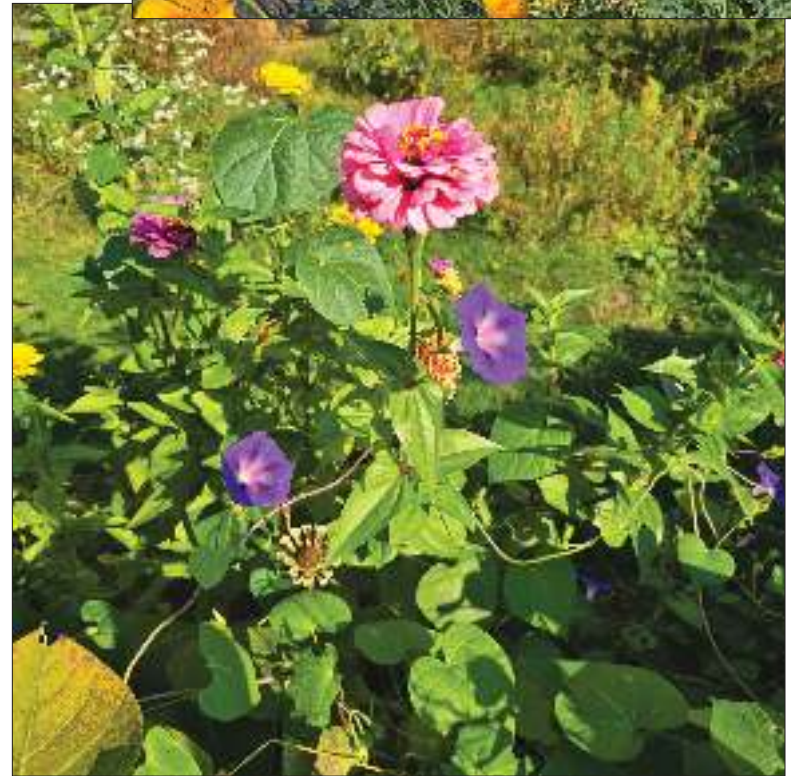
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Text and photos by Lyn Desmarais









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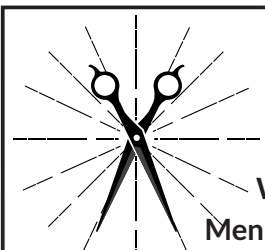
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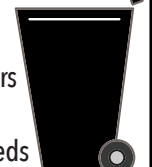
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# Rob Roper

(Continued from Page 5)

The Global Warming Solutions Act was passed in 2020 “over Governor Scott’s veto without knowing how it was going to be paid for, how it was going to work, or if it was even feasible.” The Act requires Vermont to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 26% below 2005 levels by 2025. Emissions would need to be 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below by 2050. (Source: climatechange.vermont.gov) “If we don’t meet these mandates, says the Global Warming Solutions Act, anybody has standing to sue the state of Vermont, which is us, the taxpayers.”

The Conservation Law foundation has already announced that they are going to sue the state now.

“Not only do we have to pay to defend a suit— from anybody, we are also going to have to pay their fees when we lose— and we are going to lose these suits. Because the goals set forth with the Global Warming Solutions Act are impossible for us to meet as a state.” What is not in the Global Warming Solutions Act, Rob says, is a way to actually do it. About 40% of Vermont’s greenhouse gases come from heating our homes. This is called the Thermal Sector, which includes heating water and cooking.

“They devised this system called the Clean Heat Standard which basically is a carbon tax on a ton of greenhouse gas emissions.” The way they’ve structured it is if someone wants to sell you propane, for instance, “they have to buy a carbon credit from somebody somewhere— probably a default delivery agent who has yet to be determined. But it’s going to be Efficiency Vermont. The credit functions essentially as an excise tax. We have a 2-cent excise tax on fuel already. It raises about five million dollars a year. There is no difference structurally by paying somebody a carbon credit to sell your product or paying a tax to sell your product. Where it differs from paying a tax is that it is so convoluted in how it works because the seller has to figure out how many tons of car-

bon is emitted from the product sold, which depends upon whether it is used for heating, cooking, or for a generator.”

They still haven’t determined who owns these carbon credits.

“Generating them is almost like Bitcoin. We’re almost creating a cryptocurrency with these clean heat credits.” There are eleven or twelve categories of things you can do that theoretically remove a ton of carbon from the atmosphere to claim a credit, like insulating or installing a heat pump.

“In order to meet the thermal requirements by 2030, we have to install 122,000 heat pumps and a similar number of heat pump water heaters and we have to switch twelve to thirteen thousand households to biofuels.” Mobile homes can’t have heat pumps. “They don’t work.” Nor do they work in older homes with smaller rooms instead of an open floor plan. Additionally, there is not enough labor to do the work by the deadline. There are currently about 700 people in the state of Vermont who are licensed and capable to do the work while more like five or six thousand are needed in order to complete it on time.

“Each one of these actions is like mining for Bitcoins. It has to be verified by somebody that it took place. It has to be quantified over the life of the machine in the home it is installed in, which varies by home size and level of insulation. This is going to be hugely bureaucratically complicated and expensive to do.”

Then Roper went on to share that (retiring) Windsor County Senator, Dick McCormack, who sits on the Natural Resource and Energy Committee one day in committee said, “I do not understand how this thing works. To me it looks like a Rube Goldberg carbon tax.”

“It is a complicated mechanism of implementing a carbon tax on home heating fuel,” Roper confirmed. The estimates just came out from a group called NV5, paid for through the Department of Public Service. It is going to cost somewhere between \$1.79 to \$4 a gallon extra on home heating oil or kerosene and somewhere

between 95 cents to \$2.12 a gallon extra on propane. The anticipated cost is \$3,000 extra every year to heat Vermont homes.

“It’s just not practical,” Roper stated. The administration of all of this is expected to cost Vermont tax payers \$40 million a year. “Not to give them any ideas,” Roper said, “but if they just raised the 2-cent excise tax on home heating fuel there would be no added bureaucratic cost to this. They’re charging you \$40 million extra every year to create a program so they don’t have to call it a tax when they run for reelection this November.”

All of this does not account for any sort of social safety net program for low-income Vermonters.

The legislature is going to vote on this in January. “The make-up of the legislature is crucial as to whether this thing gets implemented or gets put on moth balls until the Act can be repealed.” In 2022, the current legislature passed it. The governor vetoed it. They tried to override the governor’s veto and missed by one vote. In 2023, the legislature passed it. The governor vetoed it and they overrode his veto this time. “If you send the same crowd back to Montpelier and think that they are going to all of the sudden say ‘NO, we’re not going to do this,’ you’ve got another thing coming. That’s the crucial vote. That’s why voters need to understand what this is before September 23 when the ballots get mailed out.” To see the details of the Clean Heat Standard and who voted for it, please search the following: Bill Status S.5 (Act 18) (vermont.gov).

“This is just the thermal sector, which is only about 40%. The other big chunk is transportation. We will see something similar for gasoline and diesel by 2030,” Roper predicted.

To view Rob Roper’s full presentation at the Brandon Town Hall, search the following: FY-IVT Rob Roper Clean Heat Standard Property Taxes VT (youtube.com).

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

### AGENDA

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

The Brandon Development Review Board (DRB) will hold its regular meeting, including any properly noticed public hearings, on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, beginning at 7PM, at the Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon, Vermont. The board expects to consider the following agenda. The public may participate in-person, by Zoom, or by telephone. Advance testimony for consideration of the board may be submitted in writing to Larry Stevens, Brandon Zoning Administrator, at zoning@townofbrandon.com by 4PM on the day of the hearing.

### 3 Public Hearing(s)

Participants must take an oath or make an affirmation administered by the DRB chair. Testimony and comments on hearing matters must be made while the hearing is open.

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Review Local Act 250 (sections 6, 7 and 10) review  
Proposal Convert Building “J”, previously a dormitory, to 22 residential units
- b Application #6350  
Applicant Arthur Mitchell  
Parcel ID 0118-0238  
Location 238 Stearns Rd  
Review Setback Waiver  
Proposal Construction of 20’ x 20’ x 16’ Pole Barn

Zoom Meeting ID 840 9456 4293

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### Never Forget

A SOLEMN CEREMONY was held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11 at the Brandon Police Department to honor those lost in the attacks of September 11, 2001. Members of Brandon American Legion Post #55, the Brandon Police Department, and Ray Jobst, the sculptor of the 9/11 memorial, were on hand to speak words and prayers of remembrance.

# G Stone Motors says Thank You!



Thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate G. Stone Motors' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday Sept. 14th, and congratulations to Jack Helm, the winner of a 2-year lease on a 2024 Ford Bronco!

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Things came full circle as Jack had his 1924 Ford on display at the event and left with a 2024 Ford as well!



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