

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 48

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

\$1



STEPHANIE JEROME

Six years in Montpelier: a conversation with State Rep. Stephanie Jerome of Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—After six years in Montpelier, State Representative Stephanie Jerome is wrapping up her third and final term representing Brandon.

She joined The Reporter for a conversation about her time in office.

A RETURN TO HER VERMONT ROOTS

“I was always interested in government,” she recalled. “Every March I went to Town Meeting with my father in Mendon. I kept going even when I was at UVM.” She graduated with a degree in history and political science, eventually attending UMass Amherst for a master’s degree in public policy and public administration.

Jerome and her husband, Brian, then found themselves in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC, where she worked for NASA and he for National Geographic. Yet they longed for a small town like the one

Jerome had grown up in.

“We wanted a strong sense of community after suburban Virginia,” said Jerome.

So, in 1997, she and Brian brought their two young children, Louisa and Andrew, up to Vermont.

“We looked all over but Brandon checked all the boxes,” she recalled. “It had a sense of community, a downtown with amenities.”

She and Brian put down roots and started a business producing educational science videos for public television and schools. Jerome eventually became president of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, joined the Planning Commission, and many school organizations.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO RUN FOR OFFICE

“People asked me to run for Selectboard in Brandon. I couldn’t manage that with kids, our company, and all the other
(See Stephanie Jerome, Page 8)

RNESU seeks community input on school budget

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is approaching the Fiscal Year 2025–26 budget a bit differently than it did the current FY25 budget, which failed twice at the ballot box last spring. Hoping to avoid that fate, RNEUSU interim Superintendent Rene Sanchez and the Ot-
(See RNEUSU, Page 14)

NOTICE: HOLIDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE
 Because of the coincidence of both Christmas and New Year’s Day with our usual press days this year, we will not be able to publish on our usual schedule. Neither our printing press nor the U.S. Postal Service will be open on our usual printing/mailling days. As a result, our last issue of 2024 will be published on 12/18 and our first issue of 2025 will be published on 1/8. We normally don’t publish the last week of December, so this change skips an additional week. We will add a week to all subscriptions to make up for this. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

THE REPORTER TEAM



Just in time for the holidays!

THE DOWNTOWN BRANDON Alliance decked Brandon in holiday garb last weekend, just in time for the beginning of the holiday season. Thanks to DBA and its volunteers! And Happy Thanksgiving to all from The Reporter!

Brandon SB discusses Carver closure, EV charge rates, BLUO, and bridge accidents

BY STEVEN JUPITER

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

FURTHER DAMAGE TO SANDERSON COVERED BRIDGE

During his report to the Selectboard, which is reprinted in

this issue, Town Manager Seth Hopkins added that the Sanderson covered bridge on Pearl Street had been struck by a tractor-trailer yet again last Friday, causing even more damage to the wooden structure.

This is the second collision between a tractor-trailer and the bridge this fall. The previ-

ous collision caused \$25,000 in damage, which will be paid by that trucker’s insurance company.

(See Brandon SB, Page 20)



Holiday Auction a success for the *Friends of Brandon Library*

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—On Sunday afternoon at the Brandon Town Hall, about 75 people came together to support the Friends of the Brandon Free Library. Some 70 items were auctioned off to the highest bidders, with the top bid over \$900. There were gift certificates, handmade holiday wreaths, original art, and holiday memorabilia from past residents like Bette Moffet and Penny Estabrook up for bid. Auctioneer Jeff Haylon put on a fine performance in his first appearance. Runners John Peterson, Billy Bullock, and this author wowed the crowd with fanciful displays of the items up for bid. There were some very excited winners, including a young lady who won a collection of buttons in an old cigar box. She won't go missing a button for many years now.

The Friends raised over \$7,000 at the event for the benefit of the library. Friends President Carol Fjeld said, "We're very grateful for the generous donations and the willing bidders. The volunteer effort that produced the event is happily recognized."

Next year's event is already being planned with a return to the library as the venue. Confetti

throwers rejoice (you know who you are!). For those of you who haven't had the experience of the auction at the library, there is a group of merrymakers who toss confetti from the upstairs bal-

cony onto the crowd whenever there is an overbid and whenever it strikes their fancy. That along with cheering and laughing makes for a mighty fine time.



EMILY NELSON SPORTING a Swan and Stone hat won at auction. "It fits perfectly!" Photos by Carol Fjeld



JOHN PETERSON (L) and George Fjeld (r) show off a quilt while auctioneer Jeff Haylon solicits bids at the annual Holiday Auction to benefit the Friends of the Brandon Library. Seated are Susan Stone (l) and Sue Gage (r) keeping track of the winning bids.

STUFF-A-TRUCK HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

HOPE served over 600 children, right here in Addison County last Christmas!

It's time to re-stock the Holiday Store shelves.

Drop off your new unwrapped toys, or make a monetary donation at G. Stone Motors or StoneCDJR. Help us make sure every child has gifts under the tree and a smile on their face!

Questions?

www.gstonemotors.com or 802-388-6718 • www.stonecdjr.com or 802-388-9961

Hope

Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects



36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-6718
gstonemotors.com

2149 Rt 7 South,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-9961
stonecdjr.com



Theater review

OV dazzles with high energy production of ‘Mean Girls’

BY MITCHELL PEARL

Otter Valley’s Walking Stick Theatre dazzled appreciative audiences this past weekend with four high-energy performances of the musical “Mean Girls.” With a cast of nearly forty students, a crew just as large, and a full orchestra, the performance highlighted Walking Stick’s ability to bring out the best in all the participants.

“Mean Girls” is a rock musical play with a book by actress and comedian Tina Fey, lyrics by Nell Benjamin, and music by Jeff Richmond. It is based on a 2004 film of the same name—which was not a musical—also written by Tina Fey. The musical played on Broadway from 2018 to early 2020, and then was adapted into a new film musical when Broadway closed due to COVID. The Mean Girls musical film became a pop culture phenomenon, which means that many people in the community have seen the movie, or the musical play. The Otter



JANIS (JORDAN BERTRAND in black t-shirt) leads the ensemble in Welcome to High School.

fit in. Two “outsiders” at the high school--Janis Sarkasian (played by Jordan Bertrand) and Damian Hubbard (played by Calvin Ladd)--befriend her and try to guide her. They persuade her to infiltrate the “Plastics,” a clique consisting of the insecure Gretchen Wieners (Miley Lape), sweet but simple Karen Smith (Kaylee Maloy),

brought these well-known, complex characters to life with skill, sparkle, and energy. The supporting roles were also outstanding. Particularly notable were Ian Miller, who plays Cady’s love interest Aaron Samuel—perhaps the only character in the play who is just simply nice the whole time; Chloe Mol, who shapeshifts to play the teacher Ms. Norbury and also both Cady’s and Regina’s mothers; and Emil Dardozzi, who as “Kevin G.” convinces Cady to join the math team.

The story is meant to starkly portray the reality of high school, to ask difficult questions, and to carry a message. The high school student char-

acters act inappropriately older than their age, making them look immature. The voices of strong women, and those who are just a bit different, are silenced by name-calling. Halloween costumes are over-sexualized, and the students use all sorts of derogatory words--in person--and on social media, to hurt each other. Perhaps most importantly, the students feel they have to put on an act—to be different from who they really are--to fit in. This is captured well when Cady (Elyse

(See ‘Mean Girls’, Page 6)



QUEEN OF THE Mean Girls, Regina George (played by Sophie Moore), exulting in her dominance over her classmates.

Photos by Mitchell Pearl

Valley performers knew that the story, the characters--and even some of the gag lines--were well known. They were thrilled to bring these iconic characters to life, and it showed.

The musical focuses on Cady Heron, played by Elyse Singh, a teenage girl who grew up in Africa where she was home-schooled by her biologist parents. When they move to the Chicago area, she enrolls in a public high school and tries to

and “queen bee” Regina George (Sophie Moore). Of course, things do not go well. Cady becomes more like Regina, Regina nearly dies when she gets hit by a bus, and everyone at the high school is at odds with each other.

The play’s lead parts are written as complex characters, whom we get to know and understand as the show progresses. Every one of the lead actors shone in their parts and

Spotlight On Business RIDGELINE OUTDOOR COLLECTIVE



Ridgeline Outdoor Collective was founded in 2013 by a group of local backcountry skiers and mountain bike enthusiasts from the greater Brandon/Rochester/Randolph/Pittsfield area to develop and maintain recreational trails on public and private land in the region. Our club created

backcountry ski zones in the National Forest at Brandon Gap, along with zones on private land in Braintree, VT. Ridgeline has now developed an extensive mountain bike trail network encompassing almost 100 miles of trails in our member towns.

Angus Chaney & Ethan Nelson present
Proto-Cycology II:
Chasing the Falcon
author/illustrator event
Sunday, December 1st at 3 pm.

**SHOP SMALL
BUSINESS SATURDAY!**
10 AM-5 PM SPEND \$100+ GET
A FREE TOTE BAG!

DECEMBER IS OFF TO AN
EXCITING START AT
THE BOOKSTORE

**[WE WILL BE OPEN MONDAYS
THRU THE MONTH!]**



**MOONLIGHT
MADNESS NEXT WEEK**
15% off storewide Dec. 2-Dec. 6!
Open LATE (until 8 pm Wed Dec. 4
and Fri Dec. 6)

CLiF Book Drive
Dec 1-31



State to pay nearly \$200K to family of infant who died at Rutland childcare facility

BY ALAN J. KEAYS/
VTDIGGER

The state will pay almost \$200,000 to the parents of a 6-month-old baby who died at a Rutland childcare facility to settle a suit the family brought alleging that the Vermont Department for Children and Families failed to properly investigate complaints against the facility and its owner.

A Rutland County jury found Stacey Vaillancourt, the owner of the facility, guilty in December 2023 of both manslaughter and child cruelty resulting in the death of 6-month-old Harper Rose Briar in 2019.

Prosecutors said Vaillancourt caused Harper Rose Briar's death by giving the baby a sedative she had not been prescribed.

Vaillancourt was sentenced in March to three to 10 years in prison.

A wrongful death lawsuit was also filed in 2021 on behalf of the estate of Harper Rose Briar and her parents, Marissa and Blake Briar.

The lawsuit accused DCF and its employees of failing to properly investigate complaints that Vaillancourt had administered medication to children at her child care facility without receiving parental permission.

According to paperwork filed this month in Rutland County Superior civil court, the state has agreed to pay \$195,000 to the estate of Harper Rose Briar to settle

the lawsuit. The state admits to no wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

The settlement was first reported Thursday by WCAX-TV.

Joshua Marshall, spokesperson for DCF, stated in an email Friday that the department "does not have a comment beyond what is

included in the settlement document."

Attorneys for the family could not be reached Friday for comment.

Rutland County State's Attorney Ian Sullivan argued during the criminal trial for Vaillancourt that she fatally sedated Harper on the baby's third day

at Vaillancourt's in-home childcare program in Rutland.

The state's medical examiner's office ruled the child died of intoxication from diphenhydramine, an antihistamine that has sedative effects and is the active ingredient in medication such as Benadryl.

"The level of diphenhydramine in Harper Briar's blood at the time of death represents more than one therapeutic dose," the affidavit stated. "The blood concentration at time may represent one large administration or multiple small administrations."

Defense lawyers for Vaillancourt argued that someone else could have fatally medicated the child before she arrived at Vaillancourt's home.

Vaillancourt is currently serving her sentence in the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington.

The lawsuit accused DCF and its employees of failing to properly investigate complaints that Vaillancourt had administered medication to children at her child care facility without receiving parental permission.



I see that you see that I see you

THIS GREEN HERON is watching the bird watcher. A walk along the Cadwell Trail in Pittsford is where one may find this species.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums VSU establishes Dean Honorée Fleming Memorial Financial Aid Fund Scholarship will honor beloved dean and support Castleton students

CASTLETON—Vermont State University (VTSU) will honor the late Dean Honorée Fleming by supporting students who exhibit her academic spirit, strong work ethic and dedication to science. The Dean Honorée Fleming Memorial Financial Aid Fund, established at the direction of interim VTSU president David Bergh in consultation with Fleming's husband, Ron Powers, will benefit students enrolled at the Castleton campus, with a preference for those who embody the values and qualities of Dean Honorée Fleming—for example, female students majoring in the sciences.

Fleming was killed in a still-unsolved shooting on a trail near the campus on October 5, 2023, stunning the Castleton community. She had taught at Middlebury College before joining VTSU as Dean. She re-

tired in 2012.

"Honorée was brilliant in science and the loving center of our household," is how Powers describes his late wife. "We held hands for forty-seven years."

The Fund will be administered by VTSU's Office of Institutional Advancement. Ernie Fernández, Director of Institutional Advancement, said the Fund is set up to receive donations from colleagues, community members and others interested in honoring Fleming and supporting VTSU Castleton students. Contributions can be made at VermontState.edu/Fleming or mailed to the VTSU Advancement, Woodruff Hall, 62 Alumni Dr., Castleton, VT 05735.

"Honorée was a beloved leader, an exceptional scientist, and an inspiration to our entire community," Bergh said.

"Fittingly, the Dean Honorée Fleming Memorial Financial Aid Fund honors her extraordinary legacy by supporting students who share her passion for knowledge and her commitment to serving humanity through the sciences. It is a comfort to know that, in this way, Dean Fleming's legacy within our Castleton community will endure, empowering current and future students to continue her work and carry forward her memory with purpose and dedication," he added.

Powers, a Pulitzer Prize and Emmy Award-winning journalist and writer, is already a donor to the Fund created in his late wife's honor, as is Castleton resident Mark Brown, who organized a collection to help establish the Fund earlier this year.

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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

Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

Postmaster, send address change to The Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753 • Phone: 802-388-4944 Email: news@brandonreporter.com, ads@brandonreporter.com

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by Reporter News Media Corp., Brandon VT.

Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55

The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur. SJ

Letters to the Editor

The Downtown Brandon Alliance thanks all who helped get the holiday season started

It was a cold and rainy Saturday, one of those days when all you want is to have a cup of hot tea and a freshly baked goody while reading the paper next to the fire. So, you jump into your car and scoot down to Morningside to grab a pastry and a copy of The Reporter. As you drive through the wind-chilled morning, you see a buzz of activity. Are these Santa's elves getting their reps in before the big day? No, it's the Downtown Brandon Alliance volunteers scurrying around downtown Brandon, moving summer flowerpots on hand trucks or shuttling lights and garlands to other folks on ladders. This group of holiday patriots come together each year to bring joy to our community by setting up the garlands and lights that create a sparkle in the long winter nights of Vermont. As President of the DBA, I am truly grateful for the work these volunteers put in each year to make our little town a festive holiday oasis in central Vermont. I want to

thank them all for coming out in the rain and cold this past Saturday to put the summer flower pots away for the season and transition to winter and the holidays. You all know who you are, and I hope it was fun for you and that you'll enjoy looking at your handy work as much as I do—it does look fantastic. Thank you to Morningside Bakery for providing coffee and to the Wymans for the donuts, especially on that damp and chilly day. I also want to encourage everyone to come downtown, enjoy the holiday cheer, walk through the village, and stop in their favorite shop to say hello. Don't forget Moonlight Madness begins December 4th and, NEW this year, the Holiday Market in Green Park.

Happy Holidays from the DBA!

*Devon Fuller
President Downtown
Brandon Alliance*



DBA HOLIDAY DECORATIONS going up around town.

The Friends of BFPL thank everyone who helped make our auction a success

On behalf of the Friends of the Brandon Free Public Library, we would like to thank all of our generous donors and volunteers for their outstanding contributions to make our holiday auction a great success. We raised over \$7,000 and a good time was had by all. We'd like to thank Jeff Haylon, our auctioneer, our runners George Fjeld, Billy Bullock, and John Peterson, and Nancy Spaulding Ness in set-up. Thank you also to our able record keepers and money handlers, Sue Gage, Sue Stone, and

Tracy Holden. Thank you to the too-many-to-name cookie donors and Sarah and Louie Pattis for delicious refreshments and to Courtney Satz for manning the wine table. We look forward to a joyous celebration again next year at the library.

*Carol Fjeld
Friends of BFPL President*

*Bobbi Torstensen
Friends of BFPL
Vice President*

Letters to the editor

Letters Policy: The Reporter will only print letters to the editor that are signed with the author's full name, address and a phone number so the author may be reached for verification or questions. Only name and town will be printed.

Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage area. We will also consider letters from former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

The editor reserves the right to approve or reject any letter to the editor. Any letter considered slanderous or libelous will not be printed. Letters written locally endorsing candidates for office will be accepted without charge.

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m.
news@brandonreporter.com

Mim's Photos

are on page 16!



RETIREMENT/80TH BIRTHDAY
OPEN HOUSE FOR
Dennis Marden
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
FROM 4-7 PM
RIGHT AFTER THE TREE LIGHTING AT THE TOWN HALL.

Come in to wish him well in his next adventure.

WINSLOW FARMS
Pittsford, Vermont

CUT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Open 10-4 Friday, Saturday and Sunday starting after Thanksgiving

This year cutting in both locations, our original field on the West Side of Rt. 7, and our East Fields just down Channing Lane on the East side of Rt. 7.

Route 7 Pittsford, 773-1003 • winslowfarmsvt.com



PETER CADY

Celebration of Life for Peter Cady, deceased in October.
 Fellowship Hall of Pittsford Congregational Church,
 Village Green, Pittsford
Saturday, December 7, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Bring a memory to share.



"A CAUTIONARY TALE" comes to an end: Janis (Jordan Bertrand) and Damian (Calvin Ladd) with the rest of the cast at the end of the show.

'Mean Girls'

(Continued from Page 3)
 Singh) and Aaron (Ian Miner) sing "More is Better." Trying to fit in, Cady has become less of herself, while Aaron wishes she would be "more" herself.

Mean Girls continues Otter Valley Walking Stick Theatre's long history of high energy, stellar musical performances. Of course, the student actors, singers, and dancers are front and center; their talent, energy, and attitude carry it over the top. But they do not do it alone; it is a real community effort. Theatre Director Jeffrey Hull has assembled a community of interested students, crew, musicians, choreographers, costumers, tech people, and more—some students, some faculty, some recent graduates, some adult members of the community—all of whom

must work together to pull off what just weeks before the show opens must seem completely improbable.

The irony is that everything "Mean Girls" depicts about high school—the bullying, ostracization, oversexualization,

the feeling that one needs to change to fit in—is true; but that is not the whole story. Performances like this prove that high schools can also bring out the best in people—the students, faculty, and community members alike.



ABOVE: CADY (ELYSE Singh) is center stage in "Whose House is This?"

BELOW: THE MATH team wins big. Visible are Kevin G (Emil Dardozzi), Oliver Lavelle, Aaron (Ian Miller), Cady (Elyse Singh), and Ms. Norbury (Chloe Mol).

SUBSCRIBE

to THE BRANDON REPORTER

Annual subscription for just \$50, and \$45 for seniors
brandonreporter.com

WE NEED U

Visit our website



www.vermontcamera.com

If you love classic film cameras you need to pay us a visit.
 Leica, Zeiss, Rolleiflex, Nikon, Voigtlander
 and many others.

Hours
 Thu - Sat 10-5

(802)483-9357

3200 US RT 7, Pittsford
vcw@vermontcamera.com

Jim & Liz McRae



Moonlight Madness 2024 at Brandon Town Hall

**Open Wednesday,
December 4 and
Friday, December 6
from 4–8 p.m.**

The Brandon Town Hall will be celebrating the 2024 Moonlight Madness with 15 vendors each night who will offer great gifts and gift ideas upstairs and downstairs, there is something for everyone!! All patrons are asked to enter through the downstairs entrance, the main

stairs and entrance in the front of the hall will be closed to keep the heat in the upstairs hall. A lift to the upper floor is available from the downstairs lobby. FOTH will be selling homemade Chili, Soup, Soft Drinks, Coffee, Hot Chocolate & Snacks.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Dennis Marden
M & M PRODUCTIONS
Christmas Decorations,
Odds & Ends | *Sally Wood
SALLY'S GOODIES & STUFF!
Jam, Jellies, Aprons, Wine &
Gift Bags, Dried Flowers | Cassandra Hayes
BRANDON/FORESTDALE LIONS
Raffle Tickets for a \$200
Scratch Ticket Wreath, Pull
Tabs, & Baked Goods | **Barbara & Scott Scribner VT.
COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY
Vt Covered Bridge
Calendars, Ornaments,
Pins, Puzzles and Hats. |
| *John Hoare/Linda Hitcok
GINGERBREAD ARTS
Original Art/Prints | *Jessica Hathaway
TRIPLE H GREENHOUSE
Jellies, Jams, Salsa, Scented
Wax Melts, Soaps, Crafts | *Terry Scott
TEKIMA ART
Handcrafted Gourd Vessels
and Ornaments. | **Nick & Kimberly Otto
NICK'S CUSTOM CREATIONS
Laser Burned Wood Earrings,
Night Lights, Sun Catchers,
Tumblers, Book Boxes. |
| *Claire Sinozich
FRIDAY HARVEST BAKERY &
GOODS.
Gingerbread House
Kits & Baked Goods | *Teresa Vladyka
AUNT'S CROCHET
Crocheted Hats, Mittens | **Kacie O'Connell
LIBRO CURIOSITIES
Gifts Made from
Recycled Books | **Sydney Anechiarico
JEWELRY BY SYDNEY
Artisan hand fabricated
jewelry and gifts. |
| *Marianne Buswell
NATURE INSPIRED ART
Jewelry & Stained Glass | Jennie Masterson
BLUEBIRD BAGS
Handcrafted Bags from
Indonesian batiks,
Vintage & New Fabrics | **Abigail Wentz
WHIMSEY WENTZ WHEEL
Thrown Pottery & Watercolor
Whimsical Wheel Thrown
Pottery & Watercolor
Prints & Cards. | **Diana Hayes
M & M CROCHETING
Dish Towels, Scarves,
Crocheted Ornaments |
| Fred Putnam & Shan Ko
COUNTRY BLOSSOMS HONEY
Honey, Beeswax and
other products from
their Honeybee Hives | Deb Jennings
SWEET TREATS & GIFTS
Cookies, Brownies,
Gifts, Small Breads. | Anne Young
FOXCROFT FARMS
Farm Fresh Mixed Green
Wreaths, Homemade Sweets
& Wooden Ornaments | **Michele Kingston
GREEN MOUNTAIN RIDING
SCHOOL PONY CLUB
Crafts, Baked Goods,
Membership Info and Gift
Certificates, Riding Lessons. |
| *Wendy Cijka
HIGH POND GOAT FARM
Goat Cheese, Yogurt, Lotion,
Chocolate Goat cheese Truffles,
Granola, Handwriting items | Shaun Devino
DEVINO'S MAPLE PRODUCTS
Pints, ½ Pints, Quarts, ½
gallons, Maple Cream &
Candy, Christmas Baskets | | *Peg Allen
PEG'S QUILTING & SEWING
Table Runners, Placemats,
Potholders and more |

***Vendors attending only on Wednesday,
Vendors that will only attend on Friday

Like us on **FACEBOOK!** • brandontownhall.com • Handicap accessible and ADA compliant



Stephanie Jerome

(Continued from Page 1)
commitments,” she said.

But in 2018, Democrat Steve Carr of Brandon retired after 3 terms, giving up one of the two seats repping Brandon, Pittsford, and Sudbury (the other seat was held by Republican Butch Shaw of Pittsford).

The Brandon Democrats asked Jerome to toss her hat in the ring and she won one of the seats (the other seat remained with Shaw) against Republican Seth Hopkins and Progressive Tim Guiles, both of Brandon.

“I’m a moderate Democrat,” she said by way of explaining

how she approached communities as politically varied as Brandon, Pittsford, and Sudbury. While Vermont overall has a reputation for progressivism, this area of Rutland County tends to be much more centrist.

“I had to reach over 8,000

people,” she added. “I had to get to know other communities. I knew people in Sudbury but had to get to know Pittsford. I thoroughly enjoyed it.”

A CHALLENGING FIRST TERM IN MONTPELIER

Though Jerome had worked for large agencies like NASA, Montpelier was a new experience for her.

“Campaigning and the actual work are two different things,” she said. “After the election, you get a week off and then have to do a deep dive into the issues. When you’re campaigning, you have a superficial understanding of policies. In office, you have to read all the reports and quickly learn how government actually works.”

“I like to fix problems,” said Jerome. “I’ve been criticized for saying things are complex, but they are. Vermont’s problems have many layers. It’s interesting and difficult at the same time. The complexity is what’s shocking.”

Part of the complexity that Jerome discovered in Montpelier was revealed by the committee process in the House. Jerome was assigned to the Commerce Committee, initially as a Clerk and then as a Ranking Member. The perception that issues are simply voted on is incorrect, she said. Months or even years of research and expert testimony must often be processed by committee members before a bill is even drafted and a vote taken.

Just as Jerome was getting the hang of the place, everything turned upside down when COVID hit in March of 2020, at the beginning of her second legislative session. Members were sent home, thinking they’d return to the Statehouse in a few weeks. But weeks turned into months and Jerome found herself in her home office in Brandon working 12 hours a day helping her constituents navigate the confusion of the early days of the pandemic.

Through her position on the Commerce Committee and its connections to the state and federal Departments of Labor, Jerome worked to get Vermonters the financial assistance they needed to make it through the days of shutdowns and quarantines.

“I helped 25,000 Vermonters get unemployment insurance during COVID,” she said. “It was a difficult time and it often felt like we could never do enough to cover the need. I was unbelievably impressed by our state employees. I was really

proud of the work we did.”

A second term devoted to workforce development

Before the pandemic had even resolved, while everyone still masked and kept a social distance, Jerome had to run for re-election in November 2020. She faced Butch Shaw and Republican Dave Soulia of Pittsford for the two seats in the district.

“I had just come off COVID and felt I had done a good job,” she said of her confidence going into that election. “But it was a different campaign because we couldn’t hold events or go door to door.”

She and Shaw were both re-elected.

Jerome devoted most of her second term to one of the most pressing challenges facing Vermont: the state’s labor shortage. A small and aging population makes Vermont a tricky choice for out-of-state employers and limits the opportunities for young Vermonters.

“I really worked hard on workforce development and training,” she said. The Commerce Committee opened opportunities for people to get training in highly needed careers, such as healthcare and the trades. The committee worked to get more money to community colleges to open that path to more young people and encourage them to stay in Vermont.

“Whatever training or education people wanted, we wanted to make it more accessible,” she said. “We did really great work. The foundations have been set.”

Third term brings change and challenge

After the 2020 U.S. Census, Vermont reorganized its House districts. Brandon, Pittsford, and Sudbury were subsequently split up in 2022. Brandon became its own one-seat district, Pittsford was joined with Proctor, and Sudbury was joined with its neighbors Hubbardton and Orwell. For the first time, Jerome would be competing for just one seat.

She ended up running unopposed, cruising to a third term. And her party ended up with a supermajority in both chambers, allowing the Democrats to bypass Governor Scott’s veto.

“Scott often governed by veto,” said Jerome. “He didn’t often come to the table with solutions of his own.”

Much of Jerome’s third biennium was devoted to legislation (See Stephanie Jerome, Page 15)

WINTER WONDERLAND SALE!

 <p>2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE AWD, V6, 3rd row seat, 116k miles \$21,995</p>	 <p>WIMETT TRADING COMPANY CARS AND TRUCKS 802 465 4688</p>	 <p>2017 HONDA PILOT Elite AWD, Leather, 3rd row, loaded, 89k miles \$22,995</p>
 <p>2015 FORD F150 Crew Cab, 4x4 Lariat, V6 Turbo, 126k miles \$22,995</p>	 <p>2011 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS, 4 Cyl, Auto, Loaded, 112k miles \$7,995</p>	 <p>2016 TOYOTA COROLLA S, Auto, Loaded, FWD, 108k miles \$13,995</p>

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS

We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester

Michael Jackman, 52 Years Experience
David Wimett, 39 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 11 Years Experience

802-465-4688

2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com

More than a decade of delivering Quality!



2024 MEMORY TREE BULBS

Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce

Donations are now being accepted for Memory Tree bulbs in memory of loved ones.
The cost of the bulbs is \$1.00 each.

• In memory of:	Number of bulbs	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	
Write additional names of a separate sheet	Total	_____

Your name: _____

Phone: _____

Names with cash or check (to BACC) may also be dropped off at Carr's Gifts. Deadline is Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024. Tree lighting and singing on Sunday, Dec 1, 2024 at 3:30 pm in front of town hall.

Senior spotlight

A chat with Sylvia Philburt Howland

Sylvia (Syl) Philburt Howland was born at home in Rutland, VT on October 31, 1940. Her father, Arthur Philburt, worked at GE (the original one on Columbus Avenue) as an inspector, while her mother, Mary Caligiure, was a seamstress for Rosenblat and Linda Lee in Rutland, along with being a homemaker. She grew up with one sister, Roberta, and one brother, Arthur. She attended St. Peter's elementary school and MSJ in Rutland. After graduating, she worked in clothing sales in Brandon at Shapiro's and at Aubuchon Hardware Store. She was married to Wayne Howland for 63 years before he passed in 2023. They had two children, Brian, who has 2 sons, and Malissa, who has 2 daughters. When asked what was the best thing that ever happened to her, her response was "knowing Wayne for 67 years and being married to him for 63 years." The most embarrassing thing that ever happened to her was "nothing." She said that she takes everything in stride. Her hobbies and interests include painting with acrylic, diamond chip (artistry pictures), home holiday decorating, and going to yard

sales. Her favorite things to do? Acrylic painting is her favorite and decorating for all seasons. The most exciting experience that she was willing to share was "having my two children and watching them grow."



Brandon Senior Center's "Spotlighted Senior"
Sylvia Philburt Howland

**BRANDON SENIOR CENTER
HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

DECEMBER 7TH
FROM 9 AM-3 PM

Christmas and household
wares, clothing, baked goods,
soup & chili.

ADVERTISE

SALES@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

WITH US

MORNINGSIDE BAKERY



WOOD FIRED PIZZA & PROVISIONS

Monday 6 am - 2 pm
Tuesday 6 am - 5 pm
Wednesday 6 am - 5 pm
Thursday 6 am - 7 pm
Friday 6 am - 7 pm
Saturday 7 am - 7 pm
Sunday 7 am - 6 pm



Owners Matt & Carrie Lewis

Welcome to Morningside Bakery! Our goal is to create a comforting community gathering space by serving delicious food and drinks in our inviting downtown storefront. Our bakery is open daily and we welcome you to stop in for breakfast or lunch, a cappuccino, a pizza, tasty salads, soups, sandwiches, or to stock your pantry with unique local goods...all in a one-stop-shop! Oh, and don't forget the wine! Our selection is diverse and impressive. We look forward to seeing you.

Check Facebook & Instagram for daily specials



cut here



WOOD FIRED PIZZA

Thursday & Friday 5-7pm

Saturday 3-7pm • Sunday 1-6pm

**WEEKLY PIZZA SPECIALS POSTED
ONLINE EACH THURSDAY.**

Check our Facebook and Instagram!

Gluten-free dough & vegan options available

CLIP THIS COUPON!
\$1 off Regular Cheese Pizza
or
\$2 off Any Other Pizza

1 coupon per customer.
Not valid without coupon presented.
Expires 12/31/2024



OUR CREATIVE

STUDENT: Jazmine Perry

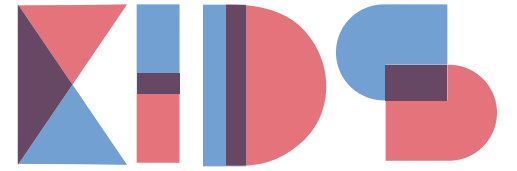
GRADE: 8

SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle School

TITLE: House Fire

MEDIUM: Ink/stamps, Newspaper, Glue, Tape transfer (magazine image & clear packing tape).

TEACHER: Tiffany St. Michaud



STATEMENT FROM MS. ST. MICHAUD:

In class we had a project titled “Mixed Media- Tape Transfer”, where students created collages using multiple mediums. In the project they had to master an image transfer technique with packing tape and a magazine image. Jazi really got into this project adding multiple layers and setting a dark mood with her use of ink.



Our Creative Kids Poetry Corner Where I'm From

by Kaibry

5th grade class at
Otter Creek Academy

I am from Vermont,
from softball and soccer.
I am from the smells of T.J Maxx and coffee.
I am from Bob Evans mac and cheese,
from the sunrises
in the morning before the bus.
I'm from watching my brother's football, basket-
ball and soccer games.
I am from family and friends.
I'm from Bandit and Millie
and my family.
I am from playing and talking.
I'm from yelling at my brothers
and playing with them, too.

I'm from tackling Bandit and watching Pinky swim,
from chasing my pets
to get my socks back from them.
I am from my diencephalon and my limbic system.
I am from Vermont.

MAPLE COW™ by Matt Aucoin



SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY,
OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com



Sharpen your
mind with
our puzzles.

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

READER COMMENTS



A loyal reader writes:
"I love it! I am so impressed
by how much you put in
each week!"

Quotes are taken
from reader
comments submitted
with subscription renewals.

Annual subscription
for just \$50.
brandonreporter.com

The
REPORTER

Have some fun, support your friends and
neighbors and keep your dollars local!

Shop smart-
Shop local

Get your
Memory Tree
names in!

Watch for
our full
page ad next
week with
Moonlight
Madness
sales info!!

SMALL BUSINESS
Saturday, Nov. 30

Calendar of events

November

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2–5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided,

along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.



Friends Zone

Need a safe space to socialize? Come join us at the

Friends Zone. Open Tuesdays 12–3 pm at the Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Meet with old friends and make new ones. Play cards, cribbage, or Yahtzee. Put a puzzle together or bring your arts, crafts, and hobbies to work on. Snacks and beverages provided. All are welcome to attend.

For more information contact pastor Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com) or (802) 345-4125).

Pokémon Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

3–5 pm. Ages 7+.

Magic the Gathering at the Brandon Free Public Library

5–7pm

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

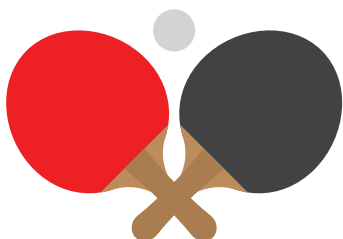
Drop in from 5:30–7:00 pm, and bring your projects to work on.

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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.

Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library

4:30–6 pm

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

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

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



Brandon Forestdale Lions Club Diaper Drive

To make up for the cut in state funding to the VT diaper bank from \$320,000/yr to \$100,000/yr, there will be a diaper drive at Brandon United Methodist Church.

Donations accepted during Food Shelf Hours:

Tuesdays 12–3 pm

Sundays 12:30–2 pm

1 Franklin Street

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 wth Dan for grades K-12!

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

Thursdays

Coffee and Cards at the Brandon Free Public Library 2–4 pm. Come play Bridge, Hearts, or other games! Coffee and tea are available.

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.

St. Ambrose Church presents 'Friday, Dec 6th, 1–4 pm AND Saturday, Dec 7th, 10am–1pm'

Featuring: Craft Shop, Bake Shop, Doll & Jewelry Shop, Wonder Jars, Attic Treasures, Face Painting, on-line Silent Auction 11/29–12/5, and Raffle Mania including: Hand-woven Blanket, Theme with Great Items, 50 Special Events including Silver Tea (

ven Blanket, Theme with Great Items, 50 Special Events including Silver Tea (

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.



Brandon Area Food Shelf

The Brandon Area Food Shelf is open Tuesdays 12–3 pm, Sundays 12:30–2 pm, to anyone who needs assistance. Walk-ins are welcome.

We are located at the Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, VT

For more information contact Vicki Disorda (802-345-4125)



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!

areas with free Wi-Fi available, then explore the wide selection of unique, hand-made and affordable holiday gift ideas.

Open 10 am to 5 pm. For Black Friday only, get a FREE Ann Clark Cookie Cutter with purchase.

Plus, explore the beauty and history of the 1890s Queen Anne Victorian Mansion.

Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. www.chaffeeartcenter.org

Goings on around town

Child First Advocacy Center Basket Raffle — Rutland Elks Lodge

What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than to come to the basket raffle to support the Child First Advocacy Center. We have lots of great donations from many businesses in New England. To name a few are a 1-year subscription to the



Shelburne Farms, a 1-year Black Card membership to Planet Fitness, a basket from Cobra gym, Swan boat ride from Boston, a basket donated from Saratoga Olive Oil Company, and many more!

Doors open at 11 am. \$5 entry fee, which includes one sheet of tickets. \$3 for each additional sheets of tickets. The drawing for baskets will start at 2 pm and you must be there to collect your basket.

For more information do not hesitate to reach out to Mary or Madelyn at 802-747-0200. We look forward to seeing everyone, come out and support our organization and to help support children and families of abuse.

‘Gnome for Christmas’ Bazar!

ay, Dec 7th, 9 am–3 pm.

Baskets filled 10/50. Starts at 12:30 pm).



Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

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

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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



Saturday 30th

November Bird Monitoring Walk — Birds of Vermont Museum

Join our monthly monitoring walk to record birds on the Museum property. Learn something new, share what you know, or both! All birders (current, experienced, newbie and would-be!) welcome! Most fun for adults, older children. Please bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. We recommend bringing tick repellent and a water bottle.



Max: 12 people. Suggested donation \$10–15. Register at sevenday-tickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum or call 802-434-2167.

Kids’ Gingerbread House Workshop — Chaffee Art Center

11 am–1 pm. \$10 donation per child, includes all supplies. Min: 5. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult to help if needed. Limited seating. MUST PRE-REGISTER! LEAVE YOUR MASTERPIECE AT THE CHAFFEE! Creations from this workshop will be on display in an upstairs gallery until our Annual Gingerbread Contest Showcase opening on December 7th (Noon to 2 pm).



NOTE: To enter the Annual Gingerbread Contest, see complete details and guidelines at chaffeeartcenter.org.

Friday 29th

Black Friday Shopping — Chaffee Art Center

What are you doing on Black Friday? Stop by for a hot chocolate or tea and sweet treats while you browse. It’s the perfect time to start your holiday shopping! Plan to meet a friend and cozy up in one of our many seating



December

Sunday 1st

Fair Isle Knitting Class — Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber

In this intermediate level class with Ellen, you will use the Benon handband pattern by Hazel Tindall to learn how to knit fair isle colorwork, using 2 colors in 1 row. The fee for this class is \$30. Participants will need a 16” circular needle in a US 3 as well as 4 colors of Jamieson’s Spindrift yarn (you will receive 10% off the yarn purchased for this class). Additionally, participants will need to come to class with the first 7 rounds of the handband completed so they are ready to start in with the colorwork.

Preregistration is required; you can register at greenmountainfibers.com. From 12–2 pm.



Wednesday 4th

Dealing with the Hard Stuff During the Teen Years — Brandon Free Public Library

Come explore different ways to ease the anxiety of growing up. We will dive into meditation, journaling, companioning conversations and visioning to help add tools to our toolboxes. Workshop hosted from 4–5:30 pm by Becki Lund of La Dimora.

Register by Dec. 2 by emailing eva@brandonpubliclibrary.org. Ages 11–17.

RNESU

(Continued from Page 1)
ter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) Board are trying to involve the district community in the process from the beginning.

“We’re looking at this process as having a beginning, a middle, and an end,” said Sanchez in a recent conversation at RNESU Central Office in Brandon.

Sanchez is just wrapping up the beginning phase, which he began in September and which entailed meetings with district residents at local establishments like Mae’s Place in Brandon, Keith’s Country Store in Pittsford, and Sugar & Spice in Mendon. These events were intended to give district residents a chance not only to meet Sanchez, who took on the position this summer after the departure of former RNESU Superintendent Kristin Hubert, but also to weigh in on the school budget.

Sanchez is also making the rounds of the Selectboards in RNESU’s constituent towns. So far, he has been to Mendon, Chittenden, and Pittsford, with Brandon, Leicester, Sudbury, Whiting, and Goshen to come.

“We want them to be a part of this,” he said.

RNESU is also soliciting responses via an online survey, hoping to bring in as much feedback as possible before beginning the middle phase of the process: discussing actual dollar amounts in school board meetings.

The district already knows it will face a tough audience this season. The first OVUU proposed budget for the current fiscal year (FY2024–25) requested a 12.71% increase over the previous year. It was shot down at Town Meeting in March with 60% of voters rejecting it. In April, the OVUU Board

submitted a second proposal that cut only 1 percentage point from the first and got an even worse reception, with roughly 67% of voters turning it down. The third proposal, which requested an 11% increase over the previous fiscal year finally passed, with 53% of the vote.

“It was a perfect storm,” said RNESU Business Manager Brenda Fleming. Health insurance costs for the district had spiked 16%. COVID-era funding had ended, forcing districts across the state to request money from taxpayers to close the gap. Moreover, property values in the OVUU district had risen sharply since the pandemic, adding to taxpayers’ frustration with the state’s method of calculating school tax based on property value.

Adding to the district’s pain, the legislature unexpectedly retracted a statutory 5% cap on property tax increases only after OVUU had already cut \$500K from its budget to get below the cap’s qualifying threshold. The statewide retraction, which occurred at the end of budget season, removed what many districts had seen as protection against what were otherwise expected to be soaring tax rates and left them little time to adjust before having to submit their budgets to voters at Town Meeting.

“Our annual report was based on the cap,” said Fleming. “We

didn’t have time to redo it. And we had to go to voters with a budget that assumed we’d be protected.”

Mr. Sanchez had a similar experience at Champlain Valley School District, where he had been Superintendent during the last budget season.

“The budget failed at Champlain Valley, too,” said Sanchez. “We’d had to put the brakes on an 8-page informational mailer. The community didn’t have correct information.”

Districts around the state, including OVUU, were caught flat-footed by all these factors last spring, prompting some superintendents, such as Sanchez, to try a different approach this time around.

“We struggle with getting feedback from the community,” said Fleming.

“This is why we’re offering so many opportunities to meet with us,” added Sanchez.

RNESU has also commissioned a demographic study of the district from Statistical Forecasting of Dorset, VT. The purpose of the study is to try to predict the longer-term enrollment trends of the district in order to prepare for the longer-term financial needs of the district.

“We don’t want to base our budgets on narratives,” said Sanchez. “We want to base them on data.”

(See RNESU, Page 18)

REAL ESTATE



Time to revitalize the old Sudbury Store and the 3 bedroom apartment upstairs. It will take some work but should be worth the effort! Great storefront location along a scenic road with beautiful country views beyond. The store area is 750 SF with hardwood floors, bead-board panels, and includes lots of shelving and the original product coolers. The 1.0 acre parcel includes land across the road that once had a barn, creamery, and single wide. Pleasant Brook runs along the west side of the property, and the Sudbury School is a neighbor across the street.

\$125,000



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



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



1857 TOWN FARM RD., BRANDON VT 05733
MLS #5022851 - \$360,000
Come check out this lovely cape that has been well cared for by the same owners for almost 37 years. This 3-bedroom home has a first-floor bedroom as well as two bedrooms on the second floor. The Hearthstone wood stove makes the living space nice and cozy. There is an extra studio off of one of the second floor bedrooms. Outside you will find space for gardening, relaxing and enjoying nature. The location is ideal for either commuting to Brandon, Middlebury or Rutland.

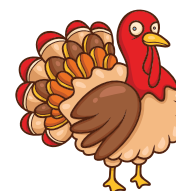


2207 GAP RD., GOSHEN, VT 05733
MLS # 5022964 - \$290,000
Are you looking for a getaway? This rustic, year round, one bedroom camp is sited on 15.1 acres. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Green Mountains, this property also features apple trees, blueberry bushes, a pond and the Neshobe River which runs through it. This property offers plenty of space for outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, hiking, snowshoeing or snowmobiling or simply enjoying nature. This property would serve as a great retreat for those seeking both recreation and solitude. Centrally located between Middlebury and Rutland and close to VAST trails and the Long trail.



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT

802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net



Stephanie Jerome

(Continued from Page 8)
 tion on consumer protection, especially in the digital sphere. One bill that got through the Commerce Committee protected Vermonters from the collection and use of digital identity markers, like voice or face recognition.

Another bill guaranteed Vermonters the “right to repair” their own farm equipment rather than have to rely exclusively on the manufacturer, who may be exorbitantly expensive or unavailable when needed.

Neither bill has made it into law. According to Jerome, both bills were the targets of lobbyists working for large corporations like Amazon and Facebook.

But the bills that garnered the most attention during Jerome’s third term were the Affordable Heat Act and the Clean Energy Standard, both of which were heavily criticized by Republicans who claimed they would raise fuel costs for Vermonters. Jerome asserts that those bills, and her support for them, have been misrepresented by Republicans.

Democrats also faced a backlash when the state released a statutorily mandated letter predicting a double-digit increase in property tax. Though the causes of the increase can be debated—soaring health-insurance costs for public em-

ployees are often blamed—the Democrats took a big hit in public opinion.

“That tax letter was a shock,” said Jerome. “We have a health-insurance system that’s out of control. Our educational system is funded through property tax, and we absolutely need to reexamine that. The Governor and state Republicans messaged it brilliantly and blamed Democrats.”

And back in Brandon, both the town and school budgets were shot down twice by voters who were angered by the increases they saw.

In Brandon’s August primary, a write-in candidate, political newcomer Republican Todd Nielsen, rode that wave of discontent to a place on the November ballot, ultimately unseating incumbent Democrat Jerome in a district that also voted for Harris over Trump. Nielsen ran on a single-track platform of “no tax increases” that Jerome found difficult to counter with explanations of complex legislation. While Jerome had visible and loyal support around Brandon, the frustration over taxes this election cycle dominated everything.

Brandon’s was one of roughly two dozen House and Senate seats to flip from blue to red across Vermont, bringing the Democrats’ supermajority to an end and returning the veto to

Gov. Scott, who was re-elected by a wide margin. Clearly, voters were sending a message to Montpelier.

“All I could do was run a positive campaign about my experience and work,” said Jerome. “I’m very proud of my work. My goal was to get my message out and I did it every way I could. My record was misrepresented by Republicans. They misconstrued my record to make it look like I was working against everyday Vermonters. I helped Brandon secure several million in grants over the years. Any time a grant opportunity came across my desk that I thought could help Brandon, I did what I could to help make it happen. I helped the Fire District, the Rescue Squad, the high school. I really helped people as much as I could.”

AN UNDECIDED FUTURE

Jerome says she will continue to work just as hard on behalf of her constituents for the remainder of her term, which ends in January. She hasn’t made any concrete plans beyond that. She had expected to return to Montpelier.

“It was an honor to represent Brandon and I would like to continue to use my experience in government somehow,” she said. “There’s still a lot of work to be done in Vermont. And I think I have a lot to offer.”



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

Judy Anderson - Mornings from 6 to 10 am!



101.5 FM

MUD RADIO

The Roots of American Music



Mim's Photos

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

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

Or call us at 247-8080



Recognized



Sue Wetmore and Terry Ferson recognized Lucille Huntley of Leicester on the far right in this photo. Mr. Ferson noted that Ms. Huntley and her husband ran the IGA supermarket at the Leicester four corners for many years.

Continuing from the right is Carlita LaPorte, according to Ms. Wetmore. And second from the left, is beloved local teacher Mary Force, recognized by Linda Thompson, Ms. Wetmore and Mr. Ferson. Mr. Ferson believes this may have been a class reunion photo.



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Long piece of squared timber
5. Emaciation
10. "Bewitched" boss Larry
14. Combining form meaning "different"
15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes
16. Older
17. Large, stocky lizard
18. Ringworm
19. Actor Pitt
20. Indian hand clash cymbals
22. Data at rest
23. Jeweled headdress
24. Indicators of when stories were written
27. Check
30. Cigarette (slang)
31. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
35. Delivered a speech
37. A place to bathe
38. Postmen deliver it
39. Surface in geometry
40. More (Spanish)
41. ___ and Venzetti
42. Exclamation at the end of a prayer
43. Hawaiian dish
44. Aggressively proud men
45. Fellow
46. Mark Wahlberg comedy
47. Mock
48. When you expect to get somewhere
49. Songs
52. Pair of small hand drums
55. Play
56. Sword
60. Evergreens and shrubs genus
61. Filmed
63. Italian Seaport
64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
65. Pores in a leaf
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. Snakelike fishes
68. Pretended to be
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Piece of felted material
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Aquatic plant
4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)
5. Body art (slang)
6. One who follows the rules
7. Ordinary
8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
9. Relaxing space
10. Japanese socks
11. Indian city
12. Rip
13. Icelandic book
21. Satisfies
23. Where golfers begin
25. Small amount
26. Snag
27. Determine the sum of
28. A distinctive smell
29. Exposed to view
32. Stain or blemish
33. Small loop in embroidery
34. River herring genus
36. Large beer
37. Deep, red-brown sea bream
38. Partner to cheese
40. At a deliberate pace
41. Gurus
43. Of each
44. Angry
46. Popular beverage
47. Flower cluster
49. Blocks
50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. A (usually) large and scholarly book
53. Popular soap ingredient
54. NBAer Bradley
57. Popular movie about a pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Not a sure thing
61. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
62. Father

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22					23			
			24		25					26				
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35				36			37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49					50			51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61				62		63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

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.

	6							
2				9				7
3	1							6
				7	4	1		
		6						
				9	4	3		
5	7		4					2
		4		1				8
9				3	7			

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

K	C	E	N	D	S	O	P	S	T	E	M	
S	I	B	I	V	W	O	L	S	B	V	O	M
I	V	B	A	D	P	F	V	E	V	E	L	O
B	E	V	S	O	R	E	V	T	B	V	A	T
S	E	D	N	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
V	T	E	G	H	D	D	E	D	G	V	L	
S	O	H	C	M	I	O	P	N	N	W	V	
O	C	C	V	S	V	W	S	N	R	O	T	
L	I	V	M	B	U	D	G	E	V	H	O	
V	A	R	T	P	A	T	A	V	R	B	A	
S	E	N	I	L	E	D	V	O	D			
V	R	V	I	T	V	D	S	T	V	A	T	
V	R	B	S	V	N	I	I	I	N	G	E	
D	D	G	V	P	M	V	V	O	L	V		
T	A	T	T	S	E	S	B	A	T	M	A	

4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	8	7	1	5	6	4	2	9	6	2	9			
1	2	6	8	4	9	7	3	5						
5	3	4	9	9	8	2	7	1						
6	7	8	3	2	1	9	5	4						
2	9	1	4	7	5	3	6	9	8					
9	1	4	2	5	8	7	6	9	3					
7	1	5	9	6	3	8	4	2						
8	6	3	2	1	4	5	9	6	7					

Important Update on Dog Visits & Adoptions

Starting immediately, we will temporarily shift to appointment-only dog visits to help alleviate the strain on our short-staffed team and improve efficiency. Cat visits will remain walk-in as usual during our open hours (Tuesday–Saturday from 11 am–4 pm). Here's what you need to know—Appointments: We will have a set number of slots available depending on staffing, so you will want to schedule at least 24 hours in advance by calling us at 802-483-6700 x201. Same-Day Adoptions: If you are hoping to complete your adoption in the same visit, be sure to bring all family members (including your dog) to your appointment and complete the adoption application ahead of time to avoid delays. This can be found here: <https://www.shelterluv.com/matchme/adopt/RCVT/Dog>. Why the change? This temporary system allows our team to focus on giving you one-on-one attention to find the perfect match while ensuring we provide the best care for our animals. We truly appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this challenging time. Our ultimate goal remains the same: to find loving homes for every pet in our care while also providing a smooth adoption process. Thank you for supporting our mission and for helping us make this adjustment as smooth as possible. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

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



MEET DAPHNE- 3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD MIX. BROWN/WHITE. Daphne is full of personality and loves her walks and spending time with people. She quickly became a staff favorite, charming everyone she meets and warming up beautifully to new faces. She would thrive in an active home that can embrace her breed's energy and character. While we don't have any history on how she does with cats, children, or other dogs, we believe that with proper introductions and patience, she has the potential to get along well with them all. Dog adoptions are currently by appointment only. If you're interested in meeting Daphne, please call our adoption center at 802-483-6700 to schedule a time. We can't wait to introduce you to this incredible girl!

MEET MIDNIGHT *AT PETCO - 5-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC

LONG HAIR. DILUTE TORTI. Meet Midnight! This stunning girl is full of love and ready to find her forever home. Midnight adores attention and would be perfectly content sharing your couch and your heart. She also enjoys gazing out the window and taking in the world around her. Midnight came to us on 11/5 after her previous owner could no longer care for her. While she's an absolute sweetheart, we believe she'd prefer to be the only cat in her new home. We don't have any history of how she does with children or dogs, but her gentle and affectionate nature makes her a wonderful companion. Right now, Midnight is hanging out at Petco in Rutland, so stop by to meet her and see if she's the perfect match for your family. She's patiently waiting to find her forever best friend—maybe it's you!



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN TUESDAY–SATURDAY FROM 11AM–4PM.



The following Large Print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker

The Blue Hour by Paula Hawkins, donated in memory of Frances Brown-Close

Welcome to Eris: an island with only one house, one inhabitant, one way out. Unreachable from the Scottish mainland for twelve hours each day. Once home to Vanessa, a famous artist whose notoriously unfaithful husband disappeared twenty years ago. Now home to Grace, a solitary creature of the tides, content in her own isolation. But when a shocking discovery is made in an art gallery far away in London, a visitor comes calling. And the secrets of Eris threaten to emerge.

To Die For by David Baldacci, donated in memory of Tom P. Whittaker

Travis Devine has become a pro at accomplishing any mission he's given. But this time it's not his skills that send him to Seattle to aid the FBI in escorting orphaned twelve-year-old Betsy Odom to a meeting with her uncle, who's under federal investigation. Instead, he's hoping to lay low and keep off the radar of an enemy. But as Devine gets to know Betsy, questions begin to arise around the death of her parents. Devine digs for answers, and what he finds points to a conspiracy bigger than he could've ever imagined. It might finally be time for Devine

and his enemy to come face to face.

Adult fiction:

The Mesmerist by Caroline Woods

Before hypnotism, there was mesmerism. In 1894 Minneapolis, spiritualism of every stripe was all the rage, and people were dying under mysterious circumstances. But until a new guest named Faith lands at the Bethany Home for Unwed Mothers, mute and refusing to explain her arrival, the sordid stories of unexplained deaths seem unconnected. Faith's reticence is quickly interpreted as malevolence, setting the house abuzz with whispers of dark magic. Abby, a lifelong supporter of progressive causes, thinks the rumors of mystical powers swirling around Faith are nonsense, but she recognizes the danger of a good story. Refusing to allow scandal to cloud the home's important mission, Abby tasks Faith's roommate, May, with tracing Faith's path to the home. May is desperate to end her stay at Bethany Home and as she digs into Faith's shadowy background, she uncovers things she never expected, and the more she learns, the more she questions the motives of everyone around her, including Abby and Faith. And as more people turn up dead, May must reevaluate the future she wants, and which lies she's willing to tell and for whom.

Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty

Aside from a delay, there will be no problems. The flight will

DID YOU KNOW?

We now have BFPL mugs and super soft beanies in addition to our baseball caps? Makes a great holiday gift and all funds go towards programming

be smooth, it will land safely. Everyone who gets on the plane will get off. But almost all of them will be forever changed. Because on this ordinary, short, domestic flight, something extraordinary happens. People learn how and when they are going to die. For some, their death is far in the future--age 103!--and they laugh. But for six passengers, their predicted deaths are not far away at all... If you were told you only had a certain amount of time left to live, would you do things differently? Would you try to dodge your destiny?

DVDs:

The Fall Guy (Rated Pg-13)

Ryan Gosling stars as a stuntman who has just barely recovered from a major injury. Roped into a job, he returns to set to find the star missing, a growing conspiracy, and his ex whom he still loves.

Fargo- Seasons 1 through 3

A darkly comic series of intrigue and murder in Minnesota, all leading back to the titular town of Fargo.

about expensive facility maintenance over the next few years, as the district's buildings are starting to show their age and will need costly overhauls.

In response to criticisms that the district was not seeing a return on taxpayer investment, given the district's poor testing over the last several years, Sanchez acknowledged that the district needed to be more forthcoming with parents and other residents about what it is trying to do to address the problem. However, the results of the most recent academic assessments won't be made public until a week before Town Meeting.

"It really prevents us from talking about our essential work," lamented Sanchez. "We need to

Brandon Police Report

November 18

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square. The operator was screened for DUI, which resulted negative. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.
- Received a call about a critically injured deer near the area of Newton Road. The deer was located and humanely euthanized.
- Responded to a possible late-reported burglary at the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District garage on Hollow Road. The officer secured the building and, although damage was found to a door around the outside perimeter, it did not appear that anything inside the building had been manipulated or stolen.
- Took fingerprints for employment.
- Took fingerprints for employment.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Served a citation upon an individual residing on Town Hill Road on behalf of the Fair Haven Police Department.

November 19

- Responded to the Neshobe Elementary School for a motion alarm activation. The responding officers determined that the alarm had been accidentally tripped by the school janitor working in the building.
- Vehicle stop on Town Farm Road for failing to display license plate. Upon further investigation, the investigating officer determined that the operator had a criminally suspended driver's license. The

operator was issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 12/30/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Responded to a residence on Stanton Road for a report of a fight in-progress and a car being stolen at the home. Upon arrival on-scene, the investigating officer determined that there was no fight or car theft occurring and that the issue at-hand revolved around the civil ownership of a mutually owned car. No law enforcement action was taken.

November 20

- Received a walk-in complaint regarding stolen property. It was later determined that the theft occurred outside of Brandon in the Town of Leicester and the complainant was referred to the Vermont State Police-New Haven, which covers that area, to report the matter.
- Responded to a report of a single-vehicle roll over crash that occurred on Champlain Street. The operator (a juvenile) went off the roadway while his mother was in the vehicle with him. Both the juvenile and his parent suffered minor injuries.
- Posted a property watch for a local residence.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Responded to a residential burglary alarm activation on Union Street. The residence was checked and appeared to be secure.

(See Police report, Page 19)

RNESU

(Continued from Page 14)

The study, which was presented to the OVUU Board by Dr. Richard Grip of Statistical Forecasting last week, predicted that the district would lose almost 60 students by 2030, due mostly to a decline in K-6 enrollment. Grip attributed this to an aging district population and a low local birth rate.

It was also apparent from the study that most students graduating from 8th grade at Barstow in Chittenden, which is under the supervision of RNESU, do not choose to continue on to Otter Valley. Instead, the largest percentage choose Rutland High School. Of

the 93 students who left Barstow in 2024, only 3 enrolled at OV, while 56 chose Rutland. The remainder dispersed among other public and private schools.

Dr. Grip also noted that almost all of RNESU's schools would be undersubscribed by 2030, meaning that the physical buildings would have unused capacity and would not be serving as many students as they could. The only exception to this was Neshobe Elementary in Brandon, which was projected to remain slightly above capacity, as it is today. This will directly influence important decisions that will need to be made

be able to say, 'We have students in need. Here's what we're doing to address it. Here's what it will cost.'"

Sanchez added that overall "our goal is somewhere between level funding and level service."

"Level funding" means that the dollar amount of the budget does not change from the previous fiscal year. However, because of increased costs, fewer services may be covered by that same dollar amount. "Level service" means that the services offered will remain the same but the budget might increase depending on the cost of those same services compared to last year.

It's a choice that RNESU and OVUU will have to make based

on feedback from residents. Fewer services for the same amount or the same services for a greater amount? It's also certainly possible to reduce services to reduce the overall budget as well.

Anyone who has not yet seen or responded to RNESU's online surveys can find them on the district's website: www.mesu.org/page/budget. It can also be accessed through the QR code accompanying this article.

And as always, OVUU School Board meetings are open to the public.

"An organization's budget tells you who an organization is," said Sanchez.

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

- Received a call from OVUHS that a student has been riding his dirt bike to school every day. The information was passed on to the patrol division.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment (head light). Warning issued.
- Responded to Pearl Street to assist EMS with a report of an unconscious woman with a weak pulse. The individual was transported to the Rutland Regional Medical Center for treatment.
- Vehicle stop on North Street for a registration violation. Warning issued.

November 21

- Responded to a domestic disturbance on Carver Street. Both parties were separated and the situation was de-escalated. No enforcement action taken.
- Responded to a domestic

disturbance on Forest Dale Road. It was determined that the dispute was verbal in nature and the parties were separated for the night.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at the Jiffy Mart for operating without working tail-lights. Warning issued.

November 22

- Performed a welfare check on a Carver Street resident.
- Responded to Pearl Street for a report of a tractor trailer that had struck the bridge, causing extensive damage. Upon officers' arrival, the driver of the truck started to flee the area, hitting a mailbox in the process, and was eventually stopped over 1 1/4 miles away on Short Swamp Road after nearly forcing another vehicle, with children inside, off the road. The operator was subsequently taken into custody and later released on a citation to

appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 1/6/2025 at 10:00 a.m.

- Vehicle stop near the intersection of Grove Street and Larch Lane. Warning issued.

November 23

- Received a call about a suspicious vehicle on Hawk View Road. The vehicle was found to have broken down and the operator had made arrangements for a tow.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol at the intersection of McConnell Road and Franklin Street due to reports of erratic operation in the area as well as vehicles cutting through the Jiffy Mart to circumvent the stop sign adjacent to the parking lot.
- Served, in-hand, a Relief From Abuse Order upon an individual at a residence on Grove Street.

- Opened an investigation into a late reported alleged domestic assault that occurred at a Brandon residence.

- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road at McConnell Road for stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol on Pearl Street.
- Conducted a welfare check on a woman on Valley View Drive.

November 24

- Vehicle stop near the intersection of Franklin Street and McConnell Road. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street. Warning issued.
- K9 Unit assisted Middlebury Police with a seized package suspected to contain illegal drugs. K9 Guinness alerted on the package.
- Investigated a domestic disturbance that occurred at

a residence on Church Street. Criminal elements for a charge were not found based on the facts and circumstances of the investigation. The complainant was advised on how to obtain a restraining order.

- Responded to a residence on Valley View Drive for a report of a domestic assault. A man was taken into custody and ultimately transported to Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility on \$5,000 bail for the charge of 2nd Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault. The individual is to appear before the Rutland Superior Court on 11/25/2024 at 12:30 p.m.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

December is the start of bird feeding season in VT

“Winter bird feeding is a great way to observe and learn about our year-round bird residents such as black capped chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays. It’s also a great time to learn about winter visitors such as evening and pine grosbeaks.” said Jillian Kilborn, Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s bird project leader.

Here are some basic bird-feeding tips from Vermont Fish and Wildlife:

- Make your own feeding mixture to maximize the number of species visiting your yard. Black oil sunflower seed is a favorite of many birds, but when mixed with “thistle” (or “nyjer”) or cracked corn you will be sure to attract a wide variety of species. Don’t forget the suet to attract woodpeckers and even chickadees.
- Mix up the type of feeders you use. Hopper feeders are great for large birds such as blue jays, while tube feeders are best for smaller birds. Elevated tray feeders will attract birds that usually feed on the ground including juncos and larger bodied winter visitors such as evening grosbeaks.
- Place your feeders near natural habitat, or even add a habitat for birds to hide. A Christmas tree is a great addition to a snowbank next to your feeder to provide quick cover.
- Keep your feeders clean. Only put out enough food for

a day, and wash feeders every couple of weeks in a 10 percent bleach solution and let dry to prevent the spread of bacteria and disease.

If you decide to feed birds, remember:


- Feeding can expose birds to hazards they might otherwise avoid. The risks of predation are higher close to people, especially from domestic cats -- the leading cause of bird deaths in North America. Keep cats inside and take feeders down if predators become frequent visitors. Also, we recommend placing feeders within three feet of windows to minimize high speed window strikes.
- Don’t feed birds when bears are active. Most bears are in dens from December 1 to April 1, but some will delay hibernation or re-emerge to feed during periods of warmer weather. Remove bird feeders immediately if you see signs of bears or know a bear is active in your community. Bears that learn to associate food with a house will continue to return, potentially leading to property damage and dangerous encounters with people. Further, it is illegal to feed bears in Vermont.
- Once you’ve started feeding the birds, keep your feeders stocked. Although wild birds are not entirely dependent on bird feeders, they can become accustomed to this easy food

source. If you wish to stop feeding during winter months, gradually taper off the amount of food you provide rather than stopping abruptly, giving the birds a chance to find other food sources. This is especially important when food is scarce

in late winter or during periods of extreme weather. Immediately remove feeders if there are reports of HPAI (Avian Influenza) or even a bacterial infection outbreak. Concentrating birds at a feeder only contributes to the spread of diseases.

If you find a dead bird visit the Avian Influenza Wildlife Health Bulletin on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website for more information on when to report, and what to do.

- Finally, report your obser- (See *Bird feeding season, Page 21*)



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ARIES March 21–April 20
Aries, your energy is impressive and contagious this week. You can put it to use tackling tasks that you have been putting off. A surprise message could brighten your weekend.

TAURUS April 21–May 21
Taurus, review your budget and consider a new investment opportunity. This week brings a chance to reconnect with someone special. Don't avoid vulnerability, as it could enhance things.

GEMINI May 22–June 21
You might find yourself in discussions that lead to exciting new projects, Gemini. Be open to collaboration and work on improving your communication skills. Time for fun comes later.

CANCER June 22–July 22
This week is all about self-care, Cancer. Take some time to focus on your emotional well-

being and nurture it as much as you can. A midweek work opportunity could arise.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23
Leo, dive into artistic pursuits or share ideas with others this week, as your creativity will be shining brightly. A social engagement may bring new connections that lead to exciting prospects.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22
Get down to business and organize your workspace or tackle a project that has been pushed aside, Virgo. If you feel overwhelmed, be sure to ask for some help from those you trust.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23
Libra, it's all about balance this week, something you know a lot about as the scales sign. Make time for both work and play so you can make the most of every opportunity.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22
Intensity and passion might define your week, Scorpio. Delve into a project that excites you. By the middle of the week, news reaches your ears and it could be very exciting.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21
This is the week for exploring new ideas or planning a trip, Sagittarius. It's only a matter

of time before you realize that adventure awaits. Get started on what awaits.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20
Capricorn, try focusing on your long-term goals this week. Strategic planning will pay off in the long run. If you need help, seek a mentor who can offer advice.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18
A surprise opportunity might arise for you midweek, Aquarius. Don't hesitate to snatch it up quickly, as others also might be interested. Leave weekend plans open for now.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20
Pisces, if you feel your emotions are running high this week, try to channel your feelings into a creative project that will use them in a smart way. A friend may call asking for advice.

es. If you find a dead bird visit the Avian Influenza Wildlife Health Bulletin on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website for more information on when to report, and what to do.

• Finally, report your obser- (See *Bird feeding season, Page 21*)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

<p>Nov. 29 Billy Strayhorn, jazz musician (d)</p> <p>Nov. 30 Ridley Scott, filmmaker (87)</p> <p>Dec. 1 Zoë Kravitz, actor (36)</p> <p>Dec. 2 Gianni Versace, fashion designer (d)</p> <p>Dec. 3 Jean-Luc Godard, filmmaker (d)</p> <p>Dec. 4 Jeff Bridges, actor (75)</p> <p>Dec. 5 Margaret Cho, actor & comedian (56)</p>	<p>Nov. 29 Billy Strayhorn, jazz musician (d)</p> <p>Nov. 30 Ridley Scott, filmmaker (87)</p> <p>Dec. 1 Zoë Kravitz, actor (36)</p> <p>Dec. 2 Gianni Versace, fashion designer (d)</p> <p>Dec. 3 Jean-Luc Godard, filmmaker (d)</p> <p>Dec. 4 Jeff Bridges, actor (75)</p> <p>Dec. 5 Margaret Cho, actor & comedian (56)</p>
---	---

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

In this most recent collision, according to the report from the Brandon Police Department, the driver of the truck attempted to flee the scene but was apprehended on Short Swamp Road after nearly forcing a vehicle with children off the road.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the town was able to get the trucker's insurance information and will seek compensation. Additionally, he suggested that the Board approve a change order to add the additional damage to the existing quote from Naylor & Breen for the damage from the earlier accident.

The Board discussed several

options to prevent such collisions, since this is the second collision in as many months. There are currently prominent signs on both sides of the bridge to warn truckers that their rigs will not fit and to turn around. However, as is evident from the recent collisions, not all truckers notice or obey the signs.

Remedies such as steel bars across the bridge's canopy were rejected because of aesthetics and the liability the town could face for the damage to trucks. It was suggested that some kind of structure with hanging flaps be installed to allow truckers to gauge whether their rigs would fit through the bridge before

reaching it. Some attendees also suggested the imposition of fines as large as \$10K to be levied against drivers personally rather than their insurance companies.

Mr. Hopkins noted that towns in the Northeast Kingdom had faced similar problems with their covered bridges and that he would reach out to see how they're approaching the issue.

In another update to his written report, Mr. Hopkins noted that the town had received its 1% Local Option Tax payment from the state for the third quarter of the current year (July, August, and September). The total amount was \$81,693, the second-highest quarterly payment the town has received since the program was implemented in 2017. The 1% option tax program has netted Brandon a total of \$1,807,320.19 since its inception.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING RATES

Board member Brian Coolidge made a motion to increase Brandon's EV charging rate in tandem with any increases in Green Mountain Power's (GMP) rates. GMP had recently raised its rate by 5.26% and Mr. Coolidge stated that the town needed to match this increase and then automatically match any additional increases when they occur.

The town operates two EV charging stations in the parking lot behind Dunkin' Donuts on Conant Square. The stations can charge up to 4 cars simultaneously. Brandon currently charges \$0.44 per kilowatt hour to charge and \$1.25 per hour to occupy the parking spaces adjacent to the charging stations.

Board member Tim Guiles, who has been a vocal proponent of EVs, acknowledged that the town's charging rate should rise in tandem with GMP's but objected to the parking charges, arguing that no other parking spots in town are subject to a charge and EV owners should not be penalized.

Board member Heather Nelson responded that those spots are intrinsically different from any other parking spots in town and that there needs to be an incentive to vacate the spots so that other EV owners can use them.

An attendee who uses her Tesla EV as an Uber recounted to the Board her experiences with charging stations around Vermont.

Ms. Nelson suggested that instead of a parking fee, which would accrue even while a car is charging, an "idle fee" should kick in only an hour after an EV is completely charged, as a way of allowing EV owners to patronize local shops while their cars are charging but also encourage them to vacate the spots for other users.

Mr. Guiles agreed that an "idle fee" would be acceptable.

The Board unanimously approved both the motion to increase rates in tandem with GMP and to implement a \$1.25 idle fee beginning one hour after completion of an EV's charge, with no parking fee while charging.

RECLASSIFYING LOWER CARVER STREET

Mr. Hopkins suggested to the Board that the unpaved section of Carver Street roughly between the railroad overpass

and the bridge over Otter Creek ("lower Carver") be reclassified as a trail in order to allow the town to erect a gate on either end to prohibit vehicular traffic. The road, which connects

Brandon and Pittsford, would remain open to pedestrians and cyclists.

The reclassification is sought in response to decades of illegal dumping alongside the roadway, which runs next to Otter Creek. Recently, the town was obligated by the state to remove and dispose of a load of discarded roofing shingles that had been illegally dumped in the waterway. The removal and disposal cost the town \$1,000, in addition to the labor and equipment time.

Mr. Hopkins and Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore stated that the town had already received "enthusiastic" support for the proposal from all the adjacent landowners.

Mr. Guiles also expressed his support for the idea, noting that it would save money that could be better spent elsewhere.

Mr. Coolidge called the proposal "a waste of time" and asserted that the Pittsford Selectboard was opposed to it. Pittsford would need to agree to the reclassification because the

road connects the two towns. Coolidge added that anyone inclined to dump illegally on lower Carver would likely just dump somewhere else.

Several attendees, some of whom live near the road, had come to the meeting specifically to register their opposition to the plan. Some said the town should ask the police department to crack down on dumping before gating off the road. Some suggested that the town install cameras to catch offenders. Some suggested imposing large fines (currently the town would impose the state's \$500 fine for illegal dumping).

The main objections to the proposal were that it would deny lawful residents access to a valued natural resource, as the road passes through undeveloped wetlands and is used by nature lovers and hunters alike, some of whom would not be able to access the road if they couldn't enter by car.

Ultimately, Board Chair Doug Bailey offered to attend a meeting of the Pittsford Selectboard and seek their cooperation as the next step forward.

BRANDON LAND USE ORDINANCE

Brandon Planning Commission (BPC) Chair Jack Schneider submitted BPC's proposed amendments to the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO) to the Selectboard. The amendments make changes to the town's zoning ordinances in order "to increase housing opportunities, reduce nonconformities, align bylaws with changes in state law, and minimize impacts to local resources in a manner that is consistent with the Brandon Town Plan."

BPC had received a grant to update Brandon's bylaws and undertook these revisions also in order to comply with recent changes in state law, according to BPC's submitted report, which is available on the town website under Committees Planning Commission. Hard copies are also available at the Town Office.

The proposed amendments rezoned Brandon into several districts based on predominant uses and characteristics: Central Business, Mixed Use, Village, Neighborhood, and Rural.

The Central Business District encompasses most of what residents normally think of as "downtown Brandon," from the library to roughly Dunkin' Donuts. Mixed Use are areas generally along Route 7 both north and south of town where

(See Brandon SB, Page 21)

Restaurant guide



From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

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

Want a reservation? Please book through the website <https://cafeprovencet.com> or call (802) 247-9997

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT



Full Menu 7 days a week
Eat In or Take Out
Available for Parties

Prime Rib Every Friday & Saturday from 4–9 p.m.

25 North Street, Proctor ☎ 802-459-3320

Ad design included in pricing
Call 802 236-4662, or email george@brandonreporter.com for more information

Brandon SB



Last remnants of color

THANK YOU TO Dale Christie of Proctor for sending us this beautiful shot of moss-covered stones—the ruins of an old stone wall—taken near Beaver Pond in Proctor.



Bird feeding season

(Continued from Page 19)
 vations. While watching your bird feeders, you can participate in one or more bird monitoring projects by looking up the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard

Bird Count and Project Feeder Watch and eBird -- all collect important information for understanding bird populations.

As winter sets in, find a comfortable spot inside where you can watch the birds visiting

your feeders. Figure out what birds they are, observe how they interact with each other, and see what they prefer to eat. It's a perfect way to get to know the birds around you better.

(Continued from Page 20)
 housing and commercial uses are interspersed. The Village district is the older, higher-density residential areas surrounding the Central Business district. The Neighborhood district encompasses mostly newer residential development in Brandon and Forest Dale (Mt. Pleasant and Forestbrook, for example). The Rural district is the low-density areas surrounding the other districts, a mix of isolated homesteads and agricultural uses.

The BLUO determines minimum lot sizes, maximum building heights, permitted and non-permitted uses, etc. for each district.

At a public BPC hearing on Wednesday, November 20, attendees had an opportunity to ask questions before the amendments were presented to the Selectboard. Most of the expressed concerns related to density and parking, noting that more residents in certain areas close to downtown would overburden what is already extremely limited parking. Residents of West Seminary Street were especially concerned that relaxing permitted uses of the old Brandon High School would make the neighborhood

unsafe for pedestrians and encourage illegal parking.

The Board unanimously voted to hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments on Monday, December 16 at 6 p.m. at Brandon Town Hall. Anyone with concerns or questions about the proposed amendments is encouraged to attend. The Board will use the feedback from the hearing in determining whether to vote to accept the amendments.

RUTLAND REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Town Manager Seth Hopkins and Brandon Fire Department Chief Tom Kilpeck were appointed to represent Brandon on the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee. Mr. Hopkins also acts as Brandon's Emergency Management Director.

WARRANT

The Board unanimously voted to approve a warrant in the amount of \$1,340,163.00 to cover its obligations and expenses. This amount includes a payment to Otter Valley Unified Union of \$1,294,436.11.

We do Trees!

Planting • Pruning • Removing • Repairing
 Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood
 Educated, Experienced and Fully Insured Professionals



Black Bear
 Tree, Land & Forest

Thad Poremski
 (802) 345-2815

SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY,
 OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gagnon Lumber



Native Vermont Lumber

Bark Mulch – Delivery Available

Hemlock Framing Stock • Pine Shiplap Siding
 Pine Tongue & Groove • Custom Cut Timbers

89 Stevens Road Pittsford, VT | 802-483-6550
 Mon-Fri: 7AM-4PM & Sat: 8AM-12PM | www.gagnonlumber.com

Ad design included in price.

Business & Service

Call The Reporter today at 802-247-8080
or email ads@brandonreporter.com

Directory

Accounting

Laurie L. Bertrand
Certified Public Accountant

*Bookkeeping & Payroll Services
Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation*

Experience You Can Count On
4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only
465-8362 • fax 465-8438



Accounting

Sharon L. Stearns, CPA, PLLC
Accounting, Tax & Consulting Services

Individuals, Small Business & Non Profits | Bookkeeping Accounting Quickbooks | Tax Planning & Tax Return Preparation

P. O. Box 22, 900 Pearl Street, Brandon, VT 05733
sharon@stearnscca.com • www.stearnscca.com
(802) 247-8300 • By Appt. Only

Auto Repair

Hometown Service from Your Hometown Dealers!

Factory-Trained Technicians
Servicing all makes and models



G Stone Motors
36 Boardman St., Middlebury
(802) 388-6718
gstonemotors.com

Stone
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
2149 Rt 7 So., Middlebury
(802) 388-9961
stonecdjr.com

Auto Sales and Leasing

G Stone Motors, Inc.
NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS

Justin Gardner Stone
Sales & Leasing Consultant
The 3rd Generation

We will take anything in trade!

Bus: 802-388-6718
Fax: 802-388-6891
justin@gstonemotors.com
www.gstonemotors.com

36 BOARDMAN ST | P.O. Box 527 MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753




Excavating

1963 — Celebrating 60 Years — 2023

Markowski
Excavating, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
Dozers. Excavators. Heavy Hauling.
Top Soil. Gravel. Sand.

P.O. Box 69 Florence, VT 05744
Phone: (802) 483-6469 Fax: (802) 483-6978

Garbage & Recycling

DENTON & SON

- Weekly and bi-weekly pickup of Garbage and Recycling
- Residential and Commercial Dumpsters
- Containers available for Cleanouts, Construction waste and all other needs

64 Paintworks Rd. | Brandon | 802-247-8340



Heat Pump Service

Clean Mountain Air, LLC

Fall weather is here, it's time to clean your split heat pumps!

Take care of your indoor air quality and restore your split heat pump to peak efficiency with an annual cleaning!



Martin Fjeld, Owner • Fully insured
cleanmountainair.us • (802) 398-7007

Massage

Charlotte Bishop
MASSAGE THERAPY

Certified Massage Therapist Since 1993
Therapeutic Massage: Swedish/Esalen
Soft Tissue Release • Cupping •
VT Registered
(802) 247-8106

Residential Care Homes

Wintergreen
Residential Care Home

Level III • ERC Care • State Licensed
Keep Your Loved Ones Close to Home

Please call for info 802-247-5987
3 Union Street
and 360 New Road
Brandon, VT

Owners, Mary and Mike Jensen

- 24 Hour Personal Care
- Home Cooked Meals
- Private Rooms
- RN Overviewed
- Exceptional Staff
- Medication Management
- Daily Activities
- Transportation & Hospice Care Provided

Restoration

Disaster Recovery, Inc.

24/7 Emergency Services Covering Vermont
www.DisasterRecoveryInc.com

- Water Damage Drying/Clean Up
- Mold Remediation
- Carpet Cleaning & Deodorization
- Smoke and Sewage Cleaning Service

877-765-6340
Fully insured & certified



Storage Containers

STORAGE CONTAINERS
Rentals & Sales

Delivered To Your Location
Safe & Secure • Water Tight
Great for Seasonal Storage,
Renovation Projects
or Job Sites

483-9900 • Pittsford, VT



Welding

Call, Text or Email with all your Welding, Soldering, Fabrication and Repair needs!

TOM'S
Welding, LLC

Tom Bouchard
131 Leicester-Whiting RD Whiting, VT 05778
Phone # 802 989-1271
Email: tomsweldingllc@gmail.com

Years of Experience!



November 9th–22nd Brandon Town Manager's report

The traffic ordinance review working group has met. It has determined that some in-the-field observations are required to verify alignment of the existing ordinance with actual conditions. Chief Kachajian is assisting with that inventory. Several community members' suggestions were received and are being considered. Chief Kachajian has provided model revisions from a traffic review he led in another community. I had a follow-up meeting with our E-911 coordinator Tom Kilpeck who highlighted additional situations with road names, trail status, and so forth. It will make sense to address all of these while the ordinance is open for revision.

Pike Industries returned to Brandon to cut out and repave a section of lane on North Street near Newton Road. A small spot in this section had not adhered properly. The Town crew assisted the Fire District with sitework for its end of season patching in several locations.

We are working with Naylor & Breen regarding the Sanderson Covered Bridge repair.

I was encouraged to attend and did attend with selectboard chair Doug Bailey the 13 November meeting of the OCWICD (the bug district). The District continues to evolve. For awareness of the community, there is a vacancy for a Brandon voting representative to the OCWICD. Those interested in serving here should please submit a cover sheet and letter of interest to me.

The energy committee sought my input in implementing the energy navigators grant they've secured for the Town, and we have a promising path forward there.

I have had additional communication with the Town attorney regarding our desire to clear property tax

delinquencies. They are considering our request.

The outside auditors were at the town office all week, working closely with the town finance staff in their examination of our procedures and testing of our work. It is expected that the audit will be finished and reported in a timely manner.

Representatives of MVP Healthcare will meet next week with Town staff who are eligible for health insurance in 2025. The Town has selected the most cost-efficient option from the limited

choices available to it. We have been in consultation with the police union on this since 7 October.

I worked with staff on the FY26 budget project, including extensively with the chief regarding options for police scheduling and funding levels. I had many meetings with town officers, staff, townspeople, and responded to a number of requests for information from various parties. Staff performance evaluations / reviews are underway.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
FY25 Budget Operating Expenses	41% thru funds / 42% thru year
FY25 Police Budget Operating Expenses	49% thru funds / 42% thru year
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance	\$566,633
1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated (\$100,000 board-reserved paving now \$35,000 per board action 12 Aug 2024 not included tonight)	\$250,223
Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated	UNION STREET
Delinquent property taxes (prior years)	\$497,846 (was \$501,741)
Delinquent wastewater (prior years (over 120 days))	\$212,333 (was \$221,049)
Tax Sale Status — I have requested a letter under the Town attorney's letterhead — pending	70 accounts at attorney for letters

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT Notice of Selectboard Public Hearing Brandon Town Hall Monday, December 16th, 2024, 6:00 pm

- 1) The purpose of this public hearing is to amend the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO) to increase housing opportunities, reduce nonconformities, align bylaws with changes in state law, and minimize impacts to local resources in a manner that is consistent with the Brandon Town Plan.
- 2) The geographic area affected are all areas within the Town of Brandon.
- 3) Town of Brandon Land Use Ordinance – Table of Contents:
 - Article I: Title, Purpose, and General Provisions
 - Article II: Primary Use Categories and Descriptions
 - Article III: Zoning District Regulations
 - Article IV: Accessory Structures and Uses
 - Article V: Nonconformities and Existing Small Lots
 - Article VI: Performance and Development Standards
 - Article VII: Subdivision Regulations
 - Article VIII: Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Overlay Districts
 - Article IX: Sign Regulations
 - Article X: Wireless Telecommunication Facilities
 - Article XI: Administration
 - Article XII: Definitions
- 4) The full text of the proposed amendment to the Brandon Land Use Ordinance can be reviewed at the Brandon Town Office or online on the Town of Brandon website.
- 5) The Town of Brandon Written Report on the proposed amendment to the Brandon Land Ordinance can be reviewed online on the Town of Brandon website or in-person at the Town Office upon request. The report summarizes all proposed revisions to the BLUO.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
RUTLAND, SS

CIVIL DIVISION
DOCKET NO.: 23-CV-04036

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF TREEHOUSE SERIES V TRUST, v. CLAUDIA GAIL REED,
Occupants of: 10 McConnell Road, Brandon, VT

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

In accordance with the Judgment Order and Decree of Foreclosure entered July 22, 2024, in the above captioned action to foreclosure a mortgage given by Claudia Gail Reed and Robert R. Reed, to CitiFinancial, Inc., dated July 12, 2007, and recorded with the with the land records in the Town of Brandon in Book 190, Page 167, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by an assignment from CFNA Receivables (MD), Inc. f/k/a CitiFinancial, Inc., to CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, dated September 21, 2016, and recorded in Book 232, Page 635; by an assignment from CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, dated September 21, 2016, and recorded in Book 232, Page 636; by an assignment from Community Loan Servicing, LLC f/k/a Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, to US Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Igloo Series V Trust, dated July 18, 2022, and recorded in Book 256, Page 258; and by an assignment from US Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Igloo Series V Trust to US Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Treehouse Series V Trust, dated September 22, 2022, and recorded in Book 256, Page 260, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 A.M. on the 9th day of December 2024, at 10 McConnell Road, in Brandon, Rutland County, VT 05733, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWN OF BRANDON, RUTLAND COUNTY, STATE OF VT, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN BOOK 135 PAGE 58 ID# 16-21-36-2, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS ALL AND THE SAME LANDS AND PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE HEREIN GRANTOR, DIXIE L MAHEU (NOW KNOWN AS DIXIE L DOWNS), BY WARRANTY DEED OF SEELEY A DISORDA, II AND JEAN G DISORDA DATED SEPTEMBER 15, 1986 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 93, PAGE 249 OF THE BRANDON LAND RECORDS. AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS A METES AND BOUNDS PROPERTY.

BEING THE SAME FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY CONVEYED BY DEED FROM DIXIE L (MAHEU) DOWNS and WALLACE A DOWNS HUSBAND AND WIFE TO ROBERT R REED and CLAUDIA GAIL REED HUSBAND AND WIFE TENANCY BY ENTIRETY, DATED 01/28/1999 RECORDED ON 02/05/1999 IN BOOK 135, PAGE 58 IN RUTLAND COUNTY RECORDS, STATE OF VT.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4 th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within sixty (60) days after the date the Confirmation Order is entered by the Court. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

The mortgagor and all junior lienholders are entitled to redeem the mortgaged property at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National
Association, as Trustee of Treehouse
Series V Trust,
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
Jennifer Joubert, Esq.
Demerle & Associates P.C.
10 City Square, 4 th Floor
Boston, MA 02129
(617) 337-4444

2024 BRANDON MOONLIGHT MADNESS WEEK!

Dec. 4th thru Dec. 6th ❄️ Many shops open til 8 pm Dec. 4th and Dec.6th ❄️ Check with each business!

THE INN ON PARK STREET

69 Park St 247-3843
Full house for the holidays?
We have room at the Inn
for family & friends!
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!
Best wishes, Barbara Scribner

GREEN MOUNTAIN SMOKE

& Vape Shop—General Store
1410 Franklin St 345-6033
Mon–Sat 10–7, Sun 10–5
Smoking needs—vapes, bong,
pipes. Milk 3.99/gal., beer, snacks,
soda, Gr. Mt. Coffee! Open till 8pm
12/4, 12/5, 12/6

MORNINGSIDE BAKERY & WOOD FIRED PIZZA

37 Center St 247-3002
10% off all wines and packaged
goods 12/2 thru 12/6.
Open till 8pm Wed 4th & Fri 6th

PINE GROVE ORGANICS

Craft Cannabis Store
Check pinegroveorganics.org for
more details.
Tue–Sat 9–8, Sun 9–5

A LITTLE TWISTED GALLERY & GIFTS

7 Carver St 465-1661
Hand blown ornaments & glass,
vintage art, pottery, postcards,
patches, pins, toys & games.
Moonlight Madness hours:
Wed 4–8, Thu 1–5, Fri 2–8,
Sat 12–4
~Wed & Fri 20% off storewide~
(excludes consignment)

SISTER WICKED

3 W. Seminary 236-3368
20% off storewide! Drawing for
Tarot or Astrology Reading!
Clothing, gifts & more!
Tues, Thurs, Sat 11–5:30
Wed & Fri 11–8

BRANDON TOWN HALL

Wed 12/4 & Fri 12/6 4–8
28 vendors upstairs & downstairs
over the two nights! Enter and exit
through the downstairs doors only.
Lift and inside stairs available to
enter the upstairs hall.
FOTH selling chili, soups, & hot
drinks. A large variety of gifts, food
and craft ideas.

ACROSS THE STREET

+3000 square feet of antiques,
Collectibles, Retro, Vintage.
From mini's to furniture.
Prices starting at \$1 20% off
storewide w/ \$20 min.
All week Dec 2–6
Open till 8pm Wed & Fri
Gift Certificates Available

At the BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD all is Merry and Bright!

7 Center St 247-4956
Find the perfect gift in our Art
Market Gallery.
Mon–Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4 plus Wed
12/4 & Fri 12/6 10–8pm More than
38 Vermont artists.

CAFÉ PROVENCE

Wines bottles 1/2 price with
an entrée.
Wed–Sat: 11:30–9
Sunday: 10–9

BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK

M–F 8–5, Sat 8–4, Sun 8–2
Open until 8pm Wednesday 12/4
for your evening shopping!
Sales on Christmas decor, BBQ,
tools, socks, & MORE!

BRANDON BLUE SEAL

57 Alta Woods 247-9599
Buy a tote bag for \$2.00
Receive 20% off all you put in it
(some exclusions)
Sales ONLY ON Dec 4th 4–8 &
Dec 19th 4–8

RED CLOVER ALE CO.

43 Center St
10% Off swag: T-shirts, sweatshirts,
beer glasses.
Come enjoy our great town!

SCRIBNER FINANCIAL, INC.

69 Park Street
Happy Moonlight Madness!
Cheers to your holidays!
May you have a happy, healthy and
wealthy New Year!
Best regards, Scott E. Scribner
www.scribnerfinancial.com

THE BOOKSTORE

8 Conant Square 465-8009
Gifts for everyone!
Open late (until 8pm)
Wed Dec 4th & Fri Dec 6th
15% off storewide
(some exceptions)
Join our LOYALTY PROGRAM!

CARR'S GIFTS

21 Center St 247-3744
20% off storewide
(some exclusions)
Door prizes!
Sale runs Mon 2nd -Fri 6th
open till 8pm Wed 4th & Fri 6th

22 PARK EATERY & SCOOP SHOP

802-247-6657 22park.com
Lunch, dinner, drinks in cozy dining
rooms. We're takeout Friendly!
Unforgettable burgers & interna-
tional bowls, Craft beers & wine!
Enjoy walkable, beautiful Brandon.
Special Hours-Moonlight Madness
week: 12-8 PM Mon-Fri
Giving away FIVE \$25 gift cards!

BLUE MOON

31 Center St 247-5004
Wed & Fri 20% off storewide all day
& open until 8pm

BLOOMING BUNGALOW

22 Center St 247-6441
Wed & Fri 20% off storewide
all day & open until 8pm
Excludes plants.