

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

A community supported newspaper

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\$1



## PHILIPSEN HOUSE

The charming farmhouse on Park Street in Brandon has had a storied local history.

PG. 2



## THE ONE ACTS

Walking Stick Theatre showcased two nights of fabulous short plays written by Otter Valley students.

PG. 3

## HUNTING AND WILDLIFE

The State of Vermont is looking for public feedback on proposed changes to hunting regulations aimed at protecting Champlain Valley forests.

PG. 4



PG. 10



## THEN AND NOW

A look back through the years at Brandon's most popular labor of love: its Independence Day celebration.

PG. 15



## Pittsford SB talks ATVs, Town Road, and coin drops

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard convened on Wednesday, March 5 for its first meeting after last week's elections. The membership of the Board remained unchanged: Alicia Malay, David Mills, Tom Hooker, Mark Winslow, and Dan Adams.

### REORGANIZATION

The Board's first task was to elect officers. Alicia Malay was chosen as Chair, David Mills as Vice-Chair, and the Town Manager as Recording Clerk.

The Reporter was appointed Pittsford's official newspaper of record.

The Board approved its regular schedule of first and third Wednesday of the month.

The following appointments were also made:

- Delinquent-Tax Collector: Ann Reed
  - Animal Control Officer: Richard Bowman
  - Fuel Coordinator: Ann Reed
  - Tree Warden: Robert Ketcham
  - Fire Warden: Bradley Keith
  - Fence Viewers: Mark Winslow, W. Joseph Gagnon, Sr., David Mills
  - Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Donna Wilson, Ann Reed (alternate)
  - Rutland County Solid Waste District: Nancy Gaudreau, Bill
- (See Pittsford SB, Page 9)



## A touch of pink

DALE CHRISTIE SENT us this beautiful shot of the Aurora Borealis—the Northern Lights—over Proctor last weekend. We don't often get to see this celestial phenomenon at our latitude, so we appreciate Dale sharing this lucky moment with us.

## Brandon SB discusses ethics, dog park, and wastewater repair

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—On Monday evening, the Brandon Selectboard convened for its first meeting with new members Cecil Reniche-Smith and Jeff Haylon. Ms. Reniche-Smith had previously served on the Board in 2023-2024. Mr. Haylon is serving for the first time.

The other members of the Board are Doug Bailey, Brian Coolidge, and Ralph Ethier. Mr. Ethier won re-election to the Board in last week's election.

### Reorganization

After being sworn in by Brandon Town Clerk Sue Gage, the Board began its reorganization for

the new session, electing Mr. Bailey to another term as Chair, Ms. Reniche-Smith as Vice-Chair, and Mr. Haylon as Clerk, a position traditionally given to the newest member of the Board.

The Board also designated itself the Board of Liquor Control Com-

(See Brandon SB, Page 19)

## Brandon seeks path forward after police resignations

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—After the resignations of 5 Brandon Police Department (BPD) officers since December, BPD was left with only one full-time and one part-time officer, plus Chief David Kachajian. Brandon now finds itself searching for a path to rebuild its police force. Considerations of expense, statewide staffing shortages, and differing visions have complicated the task, making a quick restoration

a tricky prospect.

"I have every faith that the town will be able to rebuild the department adequately within the next year," said Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins in a recent conversation at his office. Brandon Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey was also present for the discussion.

"Our approach had always been to run ads, hire younger people, and send them to the Police Academy for 17 weeks

of paid training for them to become certified," said Mr. Bailey. "But then they leave for bigger departments. It's a problem throughout Vermont. Even the Vermont State Police lose officers to New Hampshire and New York. There's just a shortage of officers."

"Instead of being poached, we need to become the poachers," Bailey continued. "We already offer great benefits, but we may have to up the salary

and even offer sign-on bonuses to get certified officers. We can space out the bonuses to incentivize officers to stay."

"We need to get back to a group of five," said Bailey.

"We'll be able to compensate them better if we have a smaller department," said Mr. Hopkins.

The shift toward seeking already-certified officers may help alleviate the "poaching" problem in which Brandon in-

(See Brandon PD, Page 18)



# Seventh in a series on Brandon's historic buildings Philipsen House at the 'Head of Park Street' built in 1875

BY JAMES PECK

There are many historic residences along wide, tree-lined Park Street, from Central Park to the 4-way intersection with Marble and High Streets. But one house stands out above them all on the hill above the intersection, on what is now called Park Street Extension.

This picturesque spot has long been called the "head of Park Street" and the old farmhouse there looking down Park Street was built 150 years ago in 1875.

Many in town still call it the Philipsen House after the Philipsen family that owned it the longest: 55 years from 1952 to 2007, when current owners, Devon and Courtney Fuller bought it.

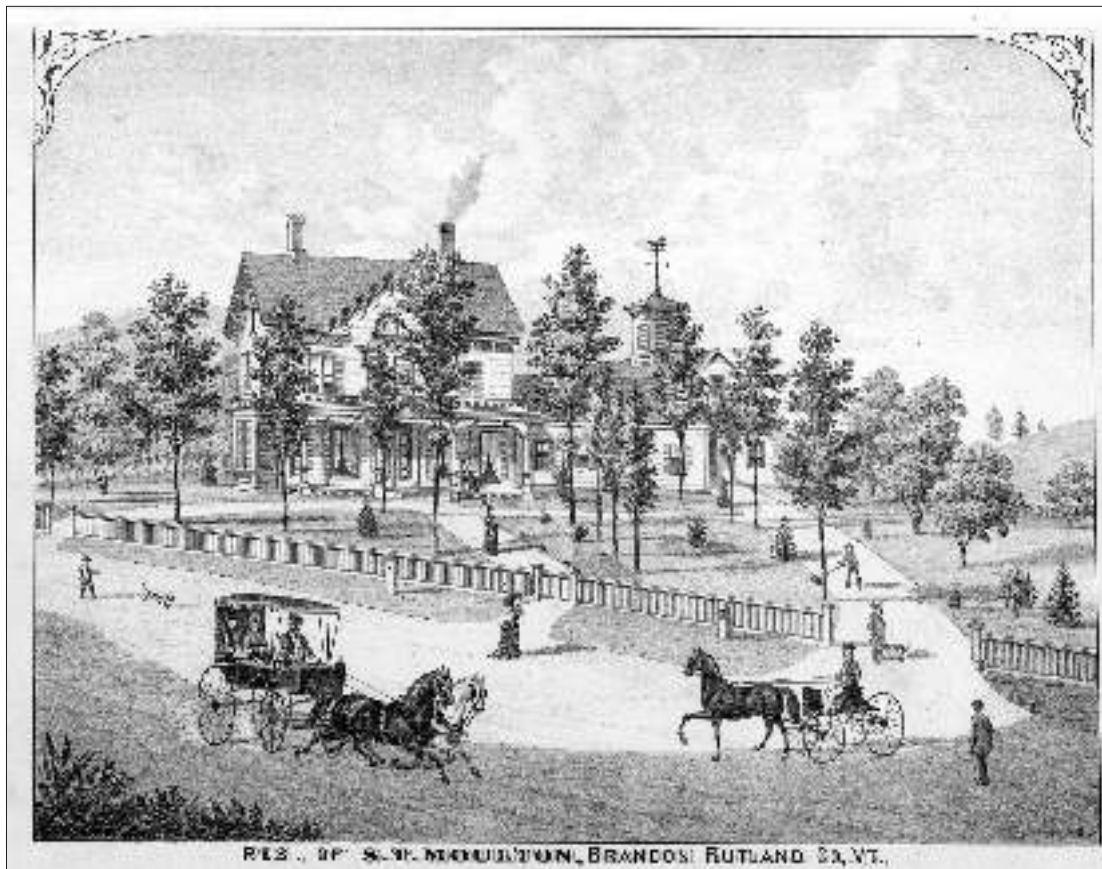
## SCHOOL LOT

The first settler on the property was Philip Jones who came from Stamford, Conn. in 1786 and bought the first division of the school right, a lot allocated to building the town's school. But the town's school was never built there; rather, schoolhouses were built on Grove Street and lower Park Street, and then on Seminary Hill. Jones then built his farmhouse, barn and out-buildings instead, farming the land until his death in 1846 at age 86. Philip and his wife Hannah are buried in the Congregational Church Cemetery at the other end of Park St.

The farm went to their youngest son Alvin Bingham Jones, who was 40 at the time. Alvin and his wife Oce Anne Gray raised a large family of three girls and six boys on the farm.

In September of 1858, a large military muster took place on the Joneses' pastureland. Troops came by train from all over the state: Burlington, Bellows Falls, Woodstock, Rochester, Granville, Cavendish and many more towns. Vermont Governor Fletcher, Lieutenant Governor Slade and a number of high-ranking military officers were there, marching with the troops, giving speeches and being entertained by John A. Conant at his mansion in Conant Square.

In 1868, Alvin Jones died of typhoid pneumonia at age 62. In 1872, his son-in-law Charles Dunn bought it, and then sold it in 1874. At the time, the property was described as "the residence and farm known as the Alvin B. Jones place in Brandon Village, located at the east end of Park Street, being the most pleasant and desirable property in Rutland County, containing



A 19TH-CENTURY LITHOGRAPH of 83 Park Street, then owned by S.T. Moulton. The house sits "at the head of Park Street" and forms a sort of bookend to the street with the Brandon Congregational Church at the "foot" of the street downtown.

VALUABLE PROPERTY  
**AT AUCTION**  
IN BRANDON.

Will sold on  
TUESDAY APRIL 16th, 1872.

At 10 o'clock forenoon, the Residence and Farm known as the Alvin B. Jones place in Brandon village, located at the east end of Park street, being the most pleasant and desirable property in Rutland County, containing about eighty acres of choice land, with a large garden, fruit trees, shrubbery, &c.

ALSO,

A good cow, 3 two-year olds, 6 extra fine-wool sheep, mostly ewes with lamb, one pair chestnut mares, well matched, 1 sow with pig, together with all the farming tools, wagons, harnesses, plows, harrows, mowing machine, horse rake, one horse pitchfork, one corn sheller, with all other implements necessary to carry on said farm.

ALSO,

One open buggy, one top carriage nearly new, two single harnesses, three buffalo robes, one fancy robe, two swarms bees, 150 bushels oats, 50 bushels corn, 25 bushels seed wheat, 100 bushels potatoes, six or eight tons first quality upland hay, some two or three tons straw, with many other articles too numerous to mention.

The above property is a part of the estate of the late Alvin B. Jones, and will be sold without reserve, in settlement of said estate.

MRS. ALVIN B. JONES,  
L. DAWLEY, Auctioneer.  
Brandon, April 10, 1872.  
For further particulars, inquire of R. C. Jones, C. C. Dunn, or F. J. Witherbee, Brandon.

A NOTICE FOR the 1872 auction of the land now occupied by 83 Park Street. The existing buildings were torn down and the existing house was erected on the site in 1875.

BRANDON,

The beautiful village of Brandon is adorned with many pleasant residences—a mark of refinement which has commended it to those who seek either a desirable summer or permanent residence. Perhaps no town in Vermont save perhaps Burlington and Brattleboro, present more agreeable attractions than Brandon in this regard. Among the foremost of these establishments is that of Mr. S. T. Moulton, located at the head of Park street, one of the most picturesque spots in the village. It was erected during the past season, and finely finished and convenient in all of its appointments with all modern appurtenances and surrounded with barns and out-buildings in accordance with the dwelling. The barns are large, fitted up in the present style with cupaloos, well adapted for the keeping of the excellent horses owned by Mr. Moulton. The place is surrounded with 80 acres of rich tillable land with some of the best plots of grass in the state. The whole establishment is well calculated for the residence of a retired gentleman like Mr. Moulton who desires to take life in an easy and agreeable way.

A NEWSPAPER DESCRIPTION of the house and property from 1876, calling the site "one of the most picturesque spots" in Brandon.

about eighty acres of choice land, with a large garden, fruit trees, shrubbery, &c."

## SYLVESTER MOULTON

The new owner

was 35-year-old Sylvester Turner Moulton from Willimantic, Conn. Moulton had gotten rich as the principal travelling salesman for the Willimantic Linen Company, a huge and successful mill company that made sewing-machine

thread. Thus, he was able to pay nearly \$8,000 for the property and have enough to build a new farmhouse and barn.

That he did in 1875, tearing down the 90-year-old Jones buildings and sparing no expense to build a state-of-the art farmhouse and barn complete with even running water.

After it was completed, S. T., as he was known, commissioned a rising artist, 25-year-old Herbert Samuel Packard, to draw the new house resulting in the beautiful lithograph accompanying this article.

S. T. was determined to have the best of everything, including the best oxen, horses, and bulls. He owned a rare spotted Arabian Albino mare named "Biny" and a prize Devon bull he rented out to stud. This would not be the last "Devon" to live there!

## CHURCH CLOCK

S. T. Moulton was quite a character. On one occasion he dragged a land roller through Brandon's streets just to get his point across and paid a fine of \$5.

On another occasion, he made a name for himself in town when he got sick of seeing the Congregational Church clock not working every time he drove down Park Street to town and paid \$50 to have it fixed.

In 1886, the Moultons decided to move back to Connecticut and sold the farm for \$7,650 to Henry C. Harrison, a rich lawyer from Chittenden. Harrison would own it only a short while after his wife died leaving him with three young children and his health declining.

In 1900, he sold the farm to William Henry Harrison, who was unrelated. Will Harrison wasn't much of a farmer, but ran a horse stable there for years, for both prize horses and work horses. In 1923, he fell off a hay wagon and perforated his abdomen on a pitchfork, dying five days later of septicemia.

## ROY & HELEN BRESEE

In 1924, Roy and Helen Bresee bought the farm out of Harrison's estate. Roy had made his money buying and selling real estate including another large farm in Forest Dale and the Cascade House property on Lake Dunmore. The latter was located on the west side of the big bay and Bresee sold it to investors from New York City who then ran a boy's camp there. Shirley Farr eventually bought the land and donated it (See Philipsen House, Page 8)



# An Evening of short plays—mostly written by students—comes to Otter Valley Union High School

BY MITCHELL PEARL

This past weekend saw the annual presentation of short plays (also known as “The One-Acts”) to appreciative audiences at Otter Valley. The evening started with 5 student-written and -directed plays. The only play presented that was not written by a student was the last play, which is the festival piece to be presented at Vermont’s Regional Drama Festival.

The festival piece this year is “Queens,” by acclaimed playwright Kristen Doherty, and directed at Otter Valley by theatre director Jeffrey Hull. Like the Broadway musical “Six,” this play presents a fictionalized approach to the story of the six wives of Henry VIII, but from the wives’ point of view. In “Queens,” King Henry VIII is trapped in purgatory, bound to his throne, and forced to relive the sins he committed against his queens.

The script of “Queens” follows the historical record closely and calls for strong acting. The six queens rose to the challenge, dramatizing their respective fates: “divorced,” “died in childbirth,” “beheaded,” or—in the case of Henry’s last Queen—nearly beheaded, but “survived.” The six queens are played by Jordan Bertrand, Sophie Moore, Elyse Singh, Dani Polli, Kaylee Maloy, and Alyssa Raymond. Each of their dramatic scenes was superb, and their period costumes were fantastic. As Katherine Parr

(Alyssa Raymond)—the one who survived—remarked, “you’ll say anything to keep your head.”

In “Queens,” Henry VIII also has an important role, played in purgatory by Brendan McLaughlin and in the dream sequences by Calvin Ladd. Given the history, Henry is not presented as a particularly likeable fellow, but both student actors tackled the difficult complexities of Henry’s character straight on. There were also three “Fools,” played by Emil Dardozi, Oliver Lavelle, and Raul Soto, who move the action along by taking on multiple roles, serving as narrators, and interacting with the ladies-in-waiting as a coherent ensemble.

The student-written and -directed plays opened the evening. The first play was “Mildly Brunette,” written and directed by Jordan Bertrand and Kaylee Maloy. It is a parody of “Legally Blonde”—the musical had been presented by Otter Valley’s Walking Stick

Theatre some years ago. Kristie Posner, playing the character “Beige,” who is

brunette but wants to be blonde, eventually (See “The One-Acts”, Page 7)



THE DANCE SEQUENCE in “Mildly Brunette.”



“GYMMY” (FIONA TAYLOR) shows the others what it takes to get along in jail.



ABOVE: HELEN KELLER (Ryder Snow) meets “Good Helen” (Kalina Snow) and “Stevie W.” (Oliver Lavelle) in heaven in “Helen Keller & the Infinity Series.”

BELOW: HELEN KELLER (Ryder Snow) and the team of superheroes in “Helen Keller & the Infinity Series.”

## Spotlight On Business ACROSS THE STREET



We have been buying and selling one-of-a-kind antiques, collectibles, retro, décor and vintage treasures for over 25 years here in Brandon. Our shop in downtown is filled with 1000s of items – we specialize in eclectic, unusual, funky and fun older and newer things. Prices start at \$1 so everyone can have fun!



Janet and Joel Mondlak

New inventory is added daily. Often heard: “It’s like a museum without paying admission.” We appreciate our customers.

– Janet & Joel



## Pittsford Town Manager's report

- Attended the winter Vermont Government Finance Officers Association meeting. The topics were on overtime and labor costs.

- Attended the cybersecurity training Monday February 24th at Hubworks in Rutland. I can see where the work we are doing with Silloway is getting us tighter on the security we need. I am going to work to see about additional training options for staff.

- I attended the ZBA hearing and meeting Monday February 24th and let them know about the mandatory ethics training.

- I attended the Tri-Town Trails meeting with Judy and MaryAnn, as well as Steffanie Bourque from Regional Planning Commission. The finalization of the plans was done, with the three town managers now reaching out to landowners for discussions. I have already reached out to Pittsford Village Farm about a trail they have constructed from Town Hill to Depot Hill Road.

- I met with Silloway about the next phase of our computer software upgrades. This is going to be done after training is given to myself and Pat to help with the transition. We are looking at the first part of April for this.

- I attended the planning commission hearing and meeting on Thursday February 27th. They were finalizing portions of the Enhanced Energy Plan. This should be coming to the selectboard very shortly for feedback, then the public hearings can be scheduled. I also let them know about the mandatory ethics training.

- I met with Otter Creek Engineering, Markowski, and Shawn about the Plains Road project. This project has been paused until warmer weather due to the deep frost.

- Shawn and I also met with Otter Creek Engineering to discuss all ongoing projects and what the status of each project is.

- I have been working with Proctor Gas for the First Response Building, which has a heating issue. Big thank you to Shawn and Chad for their assistance with electric heaters to help heat the building while Proctor Gas is awaiting parts.

- Water shutoff notices have gone out to 47 residents. I would really like to urge water and sewer users to take advantage of the payment agreement forms. If these are filled out when a new bill first comes out, there is no need to do a shut off notice. These are time-consuming and expensive.

- I will be out of the office on March 11.

- There will be a staff meeting at 11:30 on March 13th

—Ann Reed



***I mean, the reflection makes them look longer***

**THIS BLACK-NECKED STILT with bubble gum pink legs was in a Florida marsh.**

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums Fish and Wildlife Board invites public comment on proposed changes to deer, moose and turkey hunting regulations

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board is inviting public comment on proposed changes to Vermont's deer, moose and turkey hunting regulations, as well as the rules for transporting wild game meat from out of state. Public hearings will be held on March 17, 18, and 20 as well as May 6 and 8. Public comment may

also be provided online.

The proposed deer hunting changes, recommended by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's biologists, are the most extensive of the four. They come five years after state biologists last updated Vermont's deer regulations. Deer is Vermont's most popular game species with about 60,000

resident hunters and 7,500 out-of-state hunters heading into the white-tail woods each fall, and just over a fifth successfully harvesting deer.

Several of the proposed changes aim to balance Vermont's deer herd to what available habitat can support by encouraging hunters to harvest more antlerless deer, primarily (See *Hunting regulations*, Page 5)

## 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.

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## Town of West Rutland expands popular yard sale to two days

Due to overwhelming demand, we are excited to announce that the Town-Wide Yard Sale is expanding to two days and will now be known as the Town of West Rutland's Wicked Good Yard Sale!

Mark your calendars for May 9th and 10th, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.—

we've scheduled the event to avoid interfering with Mother's Day celebrations on Sunday.

Want to be included on the official event map? Register your sale location with the Town! If you don't have a big yard but still want to participate, limited spaces are

available on the Town Green on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to register, call (802-438-2263) or email info@westrutlandvt.org.

Join us for a wicked good weekend of treasure hunting and great deals!

# Letter to the Editor

## Remembering Roger Lynam, a good friend

I first met Roger Lynam in 1983 when he interviewed for the position of Essential Early Education Director for the Proctor, West Rutland, and Rutland Town School District. At that time it was unusual for a man to work with preschool children, but I hired him immediately based on his resume, recommendations, and my immediate recognition of his kind, thoughtful, and gentle manner. He had a special way with young children and a supportive and comforting manner with their parents and program staff. I watched him work for six years as his immediate supervisor and never once regretted the decision to hire him. Roger often said that I was his “best boss ever,” and I can

honestly say he was my best hire ever. An unexpected gift was that he also became a lifelong friend.

Roger’s roots in Brandon were deep, having moved here in the 1970s and working at the Brandon Training School as a teacher when all of the educational needs of the school-aged residents were met on campus. It was perfectly natural for him to switch to the public school system around the time that BTS was ordered to educate students in the public schools. He was a natural fighter for disadvantaged youth and their families and will be fondly remembered by many in the local area.

Newcomers to Brandon who met Roger more recently won’t remember the glory days of The

Sleeping Dogs, Brandon’s finest and most popular dance band of the 1990s. Even good friends had no idea that he was such a gifted singer and natural performer. His musical background and knowledge, particularly of old-time rootsy Americana music, went back to his high school years. Who knows where the frontman performance skills came from, especially from such a low-key, unassuming guy. Wherever it originated, everyone in Brandon and surrounding towns benefited from it. Around twenty years ago, toward the end of the Sleeping Dogs heyday, Roger and I and various others started playing acoustic music together, not for any upcoming gigs but for our own enjoyment. Many local

friends, skilled and less skilled, joined us over the years, and we all learned a lot about music and became better musicians because of his support and encouragement. As another friend said, he welcomed everyone into his circle of life, and my son noted that he made everyone’s life that he crossed a lot more vivid.

Roger was not a religious man, but he was one of the most spiritual people I have ever known. We often talked about death, heaven, family, friends, and, of course, music. His family, his friends, and his music were his passion and the source of his greatest joy. We both loved one song in particular on the subject of death, Vince Gill’s “Go Rest High on that Mountain,” and

often joked that whoever died first the other would sing it at his memorial service. It saddens me that I am the one who gets to sing.

Oh, how we cried the day you left us,

Gathered round your grave to grieve.

Wish I could see the angels’ faces

When they hear your sweet voice sing.

Go rest high on that mountain.

Son, your work on earth is done.

John Dilts  
Brandon

## Hunting regulations

(Continued from Page 4)  
adult female deer called “does,” in certain parts of the state.

“Deer hunting is incredibly important to many Vermonters’ culture and sense of identity, and it is also absolutely essential for keeping deer numbers in line with what is sustainable for our habitats,” said Interim Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife Andrea Shortsleeve. “The updates our biologists are proposing will help hunters continue to balance Vermont’s deer herd with the available habitat as our forests get older, winters get warmer, and land use patterns change.”

The main proposed changes to Vermont’s deer hunting regulations would:

Allow hunters who obtain antlerless permits to harvest antlerless deer during the regular November season. Currently, only antlered deer, primarily adult males called “bucks,” can be harvested during the November season.

Set the archery season as October 1 through December 15, including during the regular November season. Currently the archery season closes during the regular November season.

Create special additional archery hunting zones with a September 15 opening date in select areas where deer numbers are high.

Allow hunters to hold two antlerless permits from different Wildlife Management Units at the same time. Currently, hunters can

only hold one antlerless permit.

Allow hunters to harvest a second legal buck during the season if they have already harvested one buck with three or more points on one antler and one or more antlerless deer. Currently, hunters can only harvest one buck per year.

Reinstate an antler point restriction in Wildlife Management Unit D1 where mature buck numbers are low.

Return the state’s youth deer hunting weekend to the Saturday and Sunday prior to the start of the regular November season.

“In a nutshell, there are some very specific parts of the state—like the Champlain Valley—where we need hunters to harvest more does,” said Shortsleeve. “Doe numbers are one of the main factors that determine the deer herd’s ability to grow. In much of Vermont the herd is already pretty well balanced to the available habitat, but in some areas there are just too many deer. In those places, our forests are suffering as a result.”

In addition to the proposed deer regulation changes the board also invites public comment on proposals from department biologists on the moose and turkey hunting seasons, and on transporting wild game meat from out of state into Vermont.

The proposed new moose regulations would increase the season from six to nine days and expand the use of firearms for a small number of hunters. The proposed new turkey regulations would ex-

pand the fall archery season to the start of October. Existing regulations on bringing wild game meat from deer and elk harvested out of state into Vermont are proposed to now apply to moose and other species in the deer family as well.

The proposed new deer and turkey hunting regulations and the game meat transport regulations would take effect in 2026, if approved. The proposed new moose hunting regulations would come into effect between fall 2025 and 2026, if approved. The full proposed changes for all three hunting seasons and the game meat transport regulation can be read in their entirety on the board’s website under the “Active Rulemaking” heading.

The department will accept public comment on all four proposed regulation changes through May 25, 2025, via email to ANR.FWPUBLICCOMMENT@vermont.gov. Additionally, public hearings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- March 17, Mt. Anthony Union High School, 301 Park St., Bennington, Vt. 05201
- March 18, Lakes Region High School, 317 Lakes Region Rd., Orleans, Vt. 05860
- March 20, Union 32 Middle & High School, 930 Gallison Hill Rd., Montpelier, Vt. 05602
- May 6, Winooski Middle & High School, 60 Normand St., Winooski, Vt. 05404
- May 8, Springfield High School, 303 South St., Springfield, Vt. 05156

## Energy costs keep going up

As a kid growing up in Vermont during the 1970s, I remember my parents’ concerns about the cost of gas, fuel oil and propane. Costs were rising quickly. The thermostat was turned down, we wore layers, my dad made insulating panels for our windows, and he installed a wood stove that we fed with offcuts from the local pallet factory.

The reasons may be different now, but energy costs keep rising. Brandon residents spend on average 11.4% of their household income on energy expenses, and in many cases that percentage is significantly higher. Vermont’s housing stock is also some of the oldest in the country, much of it lacking adequate insulation and weather tightness. Meanwhile, the existing programs for weatherization assistance and financing are numerous and confusing. And with planned tariffs in place, energy costs are certain to rise even more.

Something has to change!

One thing that never changes is the control we can have over the choices we make regarding our own energy use. Some

changes are easy, such as turning off a light when it’s not needed. Others, such as insulating your attic, or deciding what changes will make the most financial sense, may be more challenging. This is why the Brandon Energy Committee is introducing a new program. Brandon’s Energy Navigator Program will assist local residents (both home owners and renters) and business owners with identifying energy-saving opportunities and helping to implement them.

Once the program is up and running, Brandon’s new “energy navigator” will work directly with individual residents and business owners. Initial steps will include a review of past energy consumption, existing equipment and weatherization to determine what improvements are desired and feasible for the client’s budget given incentives, grants, tax credits, and financing available. Next, an energy audit would be conducted by Heat Squad, (cost range from \$300 or less; in some cases it would be \$0 when income-qualified).

(See *Energy costs*, Page 11)

## Letters to the editor

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

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

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

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m. Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com)



# Obituaries

## Nancy Jean Robinson, 74, Brandon

Nancy Jean Robinson, 74, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2025 in Vero Beach, Florida. She bravely fought a lengthy battle, having survived ovarian cancer years ago, but ultimately passed as a result of chronic health issues along with medical complications.

Nancy came into this world on August 18, 1950, in Rutland, Vermont. She lived the bulk of her life in Vermont, spending her early childhood in Waterbury before moving to Rutland for grade school. She was a member of the class of 1968 at Otter Valley High School. She pursued a Business Education degree from Castleton University and a Master's in Curriculum Studies from the College of St Joseph, becoming the first member of her family to earn a degree in higher education.

She soon met and married the love of her life, Richard "Dick" Robinson II, whom she married on May 17, 1980. They split their time between Brandon, Vermont and Vero Beach, Florida, where Nancy

eventually moved full-time after Dick's passing in 2014. She surrounded herself with incredible and supportive friends in both places, many of whom were with her until the very end.

Nancy had a deeply instilled passion for both teaching and helping



**NANCY JEAN ROBINSON**

others, which drove her desire to return to her alma mater and start teaching business administration.



She was a hard worker, a quality instilled in her by her mother, Norma Osborne, and worked her way up to be assistant and eventually co-principal, all at Otter Valley. This demonstrated her commitment to the school and kids she cared for so deeply. Nancy never missed a football game or school dance. She was inducted into the Otter Valley Hall of Fame upon her retirement, being honored for her years of service and dedication to the children, faculty, and institution. Holding nicknames

like the Big R and Velvet Hammer, she left a lasting legacy on the school that will carry on for many years.

Nancy excelled in every aspect of her life. Everything that she did, she did with the utmost care and to the fullest extent. Deeply embedded within every community she belonged to, she was of service through volunteer work at animal rescues, including holding the position of Treasurer at Poodle Rescue of Vermont.

Nancy had a deep and devoted love for dogs, which was demon-

strated to anyone that knew her in her care for her two poodles, Tommy, and Sophie. Nancy was also a talented knitter and seamstress. With an eye for finding beauty in the tarnished, she loved antiques, flea markets, decorating, and trinkets.

Nancy is survived by her brother, Frank E. Grillo; her six stepchildren and their families, all of whom she considered and loved liked they were her own: Marcia Robinson, Richard Robinson III (Melissa Robinson), Deborah Robinson, Glenn (See *Nancy Jean Robinson, Page 7*)

## Patricia Blodgett LaTaille, 94, Forest Dale

Patricia Blodgett LaTaille, 94, died February 26, 2025 in Augusta, Maine.

Pat grew up in Forest Dale and graduated from Brandon High School in 1947.

She resided in California for many years, where she worked

in the aerospace industry. Upon retirement, she and her husband, Ramon, moved to Maine.

Always a dreamer and a free spirit, she lived life on her terms. She will be missed.

Burial will be in Middlebury in the spring.

## Barbara Ann Nelson, 89, Leicester

Barbara Ann Nelson, age 89, passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 4, 2025, at The Pines in Rutland.

Barbara was born in Leicester on August 22, 1935. She was the daughter of Howard and Dorothy (Ryder) Nicklaw. She grew up in Leicester and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1954, where she was voted most studious. In her earlier years, Barb worked at Rollers by Baker in Forest Dale. She later joined the staff at Nexus Corporation in Brandon, from which she retired in 2008, following many years of service. Known for her quiet strength, she was an avid reader, enjoyed doing puzzles, crosswords, and needlework, was a



**BARBARA ANN NELSON**

wonderful pie maker and loved music and animals.

Barb leaves behind four daughters: Laurie of Essex Jct,

Melinda of Rutland, Brenda of Winooski, and Susan of Rutland, along with one sister, Marsha McLaren of Goshen. Two granddaughters, 4 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren also survive her. She was predeceased by a sister, Mary Hutchins, and a granddaughter, Kaitlyn.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to the Rutland County Humane Society or Addison County Humane Society.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

## Wannetta Mae Bannister, 71, Brandon

Wannetta Mae Bannister, age 71, passed Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Central Vermont Hospital in Berlin, Vt.

Wannetta was born in Middlebury on July 12, 1953. She was the daughter of Percy and Edith (Jones) Lowell. She grew up in Brandon, where she received her early education and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1971. On October 23, 1971, she married Donald Bannister in Brandon. She had worked for many years at Brandon Training School and later for Nexus Corporation. They moved



**WANNETTA BANNISTER**

to Wildwood, Fla., where she continued working in the electronics business in Sumterville, Fla. She afterwards worked as a teller at the First Federal Bank in Wildwood, Fla., where she was robbed at gunpoint. She then decided to get out of the banking business and began working as a toll collector for the State of Florida. She later worked as a Pharmacy Tech in Wildwood until retirement. She was a past member

of the Ladies Auxiliary Unit 55 Brandon American Legion.

Surviving her are her son, Kenneth Bannister of N. Chittenden; 2 stepsons, Donald Bannister, Jr and Leonard Bannister, both of St. Albans; a stepdaughter, Helen Columb of Leesburg, Fla.; a sister, Wanda Martin of Brandon; and a brother, Werdna Lowell of Dennison, Texas. Several nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her husband, Donald, on May 3, 2009, and by her parents.

The memorial service "In Celebration of Her Life" will be held on March 22, 2025, at 12 noon, at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, Vt., 05763.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

**BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.**

3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • www.barnardfuneralhome.com

(802) 483-2811 Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory



# The One-Acts

(Continued from Page 3)

ally realizes that it is just fine to just be who she really is. She played the part with a graceful ease. “Mildly Brunette” also contained original music and dance sequences. Next up was “Unlucky Break,” written and directed by Emil Dardozzi and Oliver Lavelle, which follows the antics of three “unlucky” prisoners (Jack Rawls, Brayden McPherson, and Xander Weiland) trying to break out of jail. As the play unfolds, the prisoners learn to cope with their situation as they instruct each other, the guards, and even the warden on how to better accept and appreciate their fates in life. The next play, “Backstage Magic: The Tech Crew Chronicles” is a backstage comedy written and directed by Andrew Easter. The play follows the difficult times going on backstage while, as the actors onstage report, “the audience had no idea that anything was going wrong.”

Next up was “Hellen Keller & the Infinity Series,” an “incorrect” and ambitious retelling of the Helen Keller story, written and directed by Calvin Ladd, Brendan McLoughlin, and Ian Miner. When Hellen

Keller is born, she is struck by a ray from outer space and becomes a superhero. She and a band of other superheroes battle to overcome their challenges while characters such as Stevie Wonder, Vincent Van Gogh, and FDR play important roles. Everything turns out okay in the end when Hellen Keller (played by Ryder Snow) meets “Good Helen” (Kalina Snow) and recognizes that she is just fine as she is. The last student play of the evening was “The Real Lives of Maple Leaf Theatre” a reality TV show take on high-school theatre. It is a funny, dramatic comedy written and directed by Sophie Moore and Elyse Singh in which a group of students audition for and work on a production of “West Side Story.” We learn that in high school theatre, “everyone dates everyone else,” while Roman (played by Brayden McPherson) plays off two of the other actors. Jack Rawls, who played the TV Show host—and who had many other roles throughout the evening—set the tone with comfortable flair.

If you missed the plays last weekend, there is another chance to see “Queens” on Sat-



urday, March 22 at the Regional Drama Festival, this year at Mill River Union High School. The regional festivals offer the opportunity for OV’s students to meet like-minded students from other schools, see their productions, and compete for a chance to go on to larger festivals, such as the Vermont State Drama Festival and at the New England Festival. We wish them luck, or, more appropriately, to “break a leg.”



SCENES FROM “QUEENS” by Kristen Doherty.



THE CAST OF “Backstage Magic: The Tech Crew Chronicles.”

## Nancy Jean Robinson

(Continued from Page 6)

Robinson, Steven Robinson (former wife Paulette Fiorentino Robinson), and Scott Robinson (Jennifer Lady Robinson); her six grandchildren, Matt Cosinuke (Alexis Cosinuke), Cassidy Lawrence (Nate Lawrence), Tucker Robinson, Halle Robinson, Tiller Robinson, and Clancy Robinson; her great-grandchildren, Kennedy Scribner (Halle

Robinson), Wynslet Scribner (Halle Robinson), Iris Cosinuke, Maddox Cosinuke, Miller Cosinuke, Cecelia Lawrence, and Richard Lawrence.

There are no immediate services scheduled. Nancy’s family will hold a celebration of life sometime in the spring or summer when she’s laid to rest next to Dick at the family plot on Cotton Hill in Guilford, New Hampshire.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Poodle Rescue of Vermont, <http://www.poodlerescuevt.org/donate.html>

Arrangements are under the direction of Millennium Cremation Service, Vero Beach. Condolences may be shared online at [www.millenniumcremationservice.com](http://www.millenniumcremationservice.com).



### 2025 Area RABIES CLINICS

All Clinics are open to all residents of any town. Dogs and cats only. For the safety of all, dogs should be leashed and cats in carriers. You should bring paper proof of previous rabies vaccination(s). \$20 per vaccine **CASH only** - exact change appreciated.

- Salisbury Town Office**      **Weds. March 12, 5:00-6:00 PM**
- Orwell Town Office**        **Fri. March 28, 5:00-7:00 PM**
- Bridport Fire House**        **Sat. March 15, 10:00 AM -12 Noon**

Sponsored by Bristol Animal Hospital, and Valleywide Veterinary Services  
Please bring cash - cards and checks will not be accepted.



# Philipsen House

(Continued from Page 2)

to the state to become Branbury State Park.

## BRANDON COUNTRY CLUB

In 1926, Roy Bresee sold 91 acres of farmland behind 83 Park to Frank Lord, who then donated it to the Brandon Country Club, a nine-hole course that opened in 1927 and operated until 1944. Bresee kept the farmhouse and out buildings, but granted a right of way driveway to the clubhouse.

Both Roy and Helen got involved in community affairs. Helen joined many clubs including the Women's Auxiliary of St. Thomas Church and held meetings and luncheons at the house. Roy was appointed a fence viewer by the Selectmen for a few years, the same position held formerly by Alvin Jones and Sylvester Moulton.

He ran for Selectman in 1924

but wasn't elected until the next year, then again in 1926 and 1933. He also served as deputy sheriff, school director, and lister.

## LEDGE END TEA ROOM

In 1925, they opened a small tearoom where they served luncheons, dinners, and teas. They named it the Ledge End and also took in overnight guests.

The Bresee family owned 83 Park for 28 years, until 1952. In 1949, both Roy and Helen died of heart attacks and their daughter sold the property to Bill and Marion Philipsen.

## THE PHILIPSENS

As stated at the beginning of this article, the Philipsens would own 83 Park from 1952 to 2007.

Dr. Philipsen was the town veterinarian, for both large and small animals, over those years, succeeding his father Herman, a Danish immigrant, who prac-

ticed at 34 Franklin Street for 30 years before.

## HIKE TO ST. LOUIS

In 1929, Bill Philipsen was only 20 and had just graduated from Brandon High, when he volunteered for an epic promotional event put on to promote the local Ayrshire cow breed. He and two other boys walked two Ayrshire cows, one pregnant, 1,295 miles from Brandon to St. Louis over 90 days, garnering nationwide news coverage.

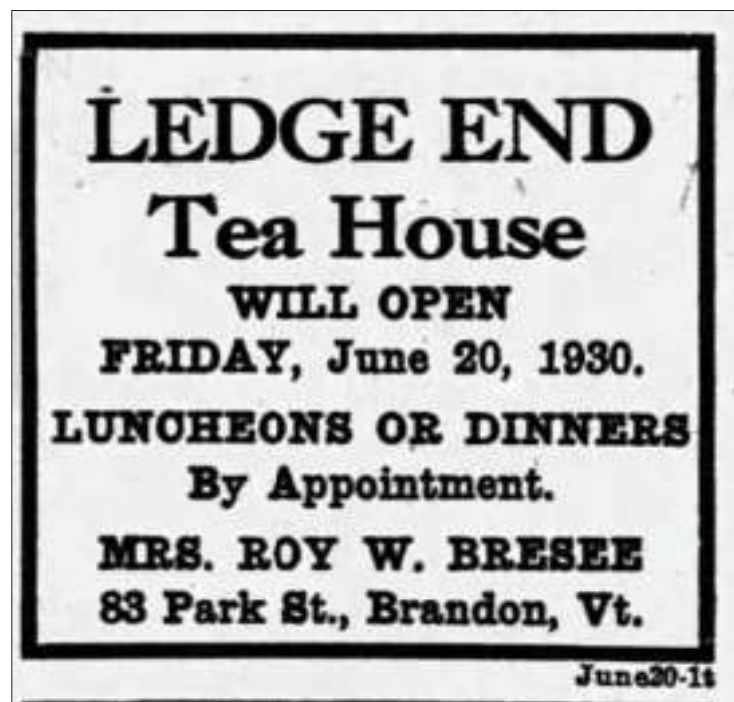
Bill, Marion, and their three sons, Doug, Dave, and Bill, moved into the house at 83 Park in August of 1952. There, Bill practiced his veterinary medicine for 50 years. Many in town may remember taking their pets there.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

In 1976, the house was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) along with 244 other architecturally and historically significant buildings in Brandon as part of the Brandon Village Historic District. Thirty of these old houses, built in the 1800s, line Park Street.

## SECOND DEVON

In 2007, Devon and Courtney Fuller from So. Hadley, Mass. bought the 9.1-acre property from the Philipsens. According



AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR the "Ledge End" tea room that once operated at 83 Park Street.

Like the previous six owners, the Fullers fell in love with the beautiful house and land at the "head of Park Street." The Fullers moved into the house in the summer of 2007, along with their two young daughters, Madeline and Chloe.

The story goes that Devon's name was chosen when his father was reading a book about the Duke of Devonshire at the

right up his alley. Right away, he had to repair damage from a tree that fell on the front of the house. Then, he went right to work, with extensive remodeling of the house.

Devon's business became Quality First Painting. He loves restoring old Brandon houses, particularly nearby. "I have done some kind of paintwork on all but eight houses on Park

## Golf Course

NESHOBE  
EST. 1957

### 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



BILL PHILIPSEN (LEFT) and his Ayrshire cows on their 1929 walk from Brandon to St. Louis. Philipsen was a veterinarian and outbuildings from his practice still stand on the property.

to Devon, "We were in town with the realtor we had been working with looking at other houses. She suggested that we look at 83 Park and once Courtney saw the view from the music room, it was pretty much over."

time of his birth. You may recall the last Devon on the 83 Park property was Sylvester Moulton's Devon bull, a unique, tenacious, and hardy individual similar to Devon Fuller!

Devon is a very tenacious restorer of old houses, so this was

Street, with a goal to hit all of them before I stop!" Check out his recent work on the Inn on Park Street at 69 Park.

Meanwhile, Courtney worked at Rutland Regional Medical Center for 15 years as an ER (See Philipsen House, Page 11)



# Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

Drummond

- Rutland Regional Transportation Council: Alicia Malay, Ann Wilson & Chad Eugair (alternates)

- Emergency Management Director: Timothy Cornell

- Recreation Committee (3-yr terms): Jennifer Popp, Kelley Connaughton

- Enhanced 911 Coordinator: Jeff Biasuzzi

## TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Interim Town Manager Ann Reed delivered her report to the Selectboard, the full text of which is reprinted in this issue.

Among the items mentioned, Ms. Reed noted that 47 water shut-off notices have been sent out to delinquent accounts. If arrangements have not been made for payment, water will be turned off beginning on March 18th. Forms for payment plans have been included with the letters.

Ms. Reed also noted that she has revived the practice of holding staff meetings, which Board Chair Alicia Malay commended, saying that the meetings were necessary to keep communication open between the town and its employees.

Ms. Reed stated that Pittsford PD had logged double the number of responses over the previous year, with 1068 compared to 589. Much of the increase in volume was because of an increase in traffic stops.

Reed also informed the Board that the heating unit in the First Response building needed to be replaced. While Proctor Gas currently has the contract for the fuel, Board Member Mark Winslow asked that other quotes be obtained for the repair.

## SELECTBOARD REMARKS

Ms. Malay noted that the Pittsford Food Shelf was in need of eggs, since its usual donor was unable to continue given current prices.

## ATV ORDINANCE

The Board approved an ordinance allowing the use of ATVs on Class 2, 3, and 4 town highways. The town attorney had reviewed the latest draft and had no issues with it.

“That’s all we were waiting for,” said Ms. Malay.

## TOWN HILL ROAD

The Board had received a request of a resident who lives near Town Hill Road to gate off the non-residential portion of the road to prevent the illegal dumping of trash.

The Board determined that the proposed locations for the gate couldn’t be used because the road was still Class 3 at that

point.

Mr. Winslow noted that he had received negative feedback about the proposal from several town residents. Ms. Reed said that the highway department hadn’t noted excessive activity on the road. Mr. Mills suggested that “local traffic only” signs be installed. Ms. Malay suggested that more police presence might deter people seeking to dump their refuse.

## REVIEW OF TOWN MEETING RESULTS

433 people had voted on Tuesday, March 4. For Moderator, Rob Spensley received 45 out of 80 votes. The Board praised the job he did at Town Meeting and appointed him Moderator for another 1-year term.

Alicia Malay, running unopposed for Selectboard, received 362 votes. There were 10 write-ins and 61 blanks.

David Mills, running unopposed for Selectboard, received 367 votes. There were 9 write-ins and 57 blanks.

Butch Shaw, running unopposed for Trustee of Public Funds, received 383 votes. There were 7 write-ins and 43 blanks.

The Board discussed ways to improve turnout for the floor votes on the Monday before Town Meeting. Suggestions included providing food, holding the floor votes on the weekend, and providing childcare.

“We should keep this conversation open,” said Malay.

The Board also discussed ways to recruit more volunteers for the Recreation Committee, which currently has two vacancies and will likely have more in the next year or two. Mr. Winslow suggested sending letters directly to the parents of children that were enrolled in Rec programs.

## HIGHWAY POSTING

The Board approved its annual list of roads to be posted during mud season, when weight limits are imposed in order to preserve dirt roads that have been softened by melting snow and ice.

## HIGHWAY GRANTS

The Board approved budget worksheets for grants from the Agency of Transportation.

Coin Drop for the Rutland County Humane Society

The Board considered an application for a coin drop from the Rutland County Humane Society RCHS, which is headquartered in Pittsford. The event is proposed for Saturday, October 11 from 10 to 2. During the event, representatives from RCHS will stand on Route 7

near the intersection with Furnace Road and ask passing cars to donate money. Other organizations, such as the Maclure Library, have held such drops.

Ms. Malay raised the issue

that RCHS did not follow safety protocols in their coin drop last year, risking injury to their representatives. Mr. Winslow proposed tabling the application until the Board receives a

signed letter from RCHS stipulating that it will abide by established safety guidelines this year. Ms. Malay agreed to table the application pending further discussion with RCHS.

# BREAD LOAF CITIZENS RACE

Saturday, March 15 ■ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Whether you’re in it to win it or just want to be part of the fun, celebrate its 50th anniversary with classic skiing on our custom old-school course. Costumes, prizes, barbecue, and more!



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[rikertoutdoor.com/citizens-race](http://rikertoutdoor.com/citizens-race)



STUDENT: Brayden Coble

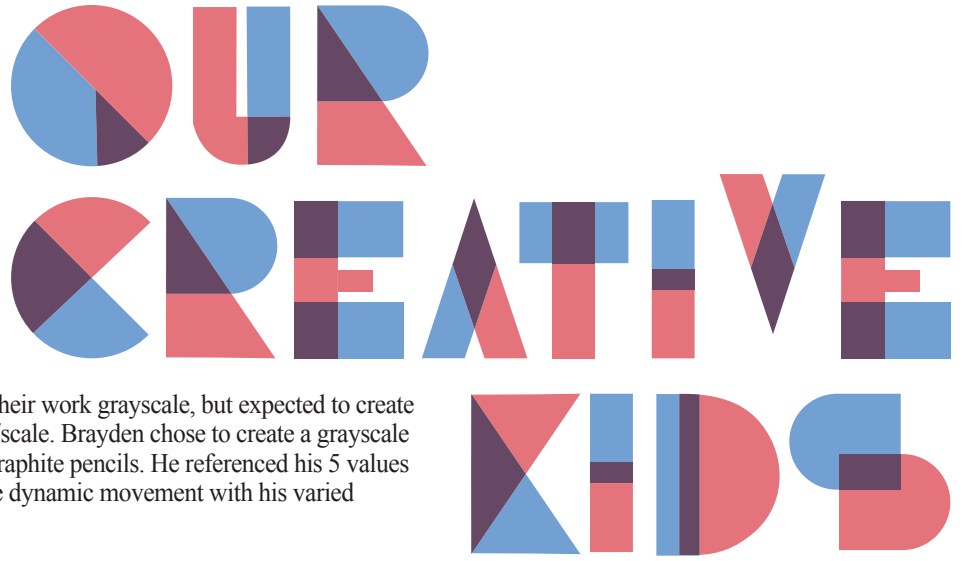
GRADE: 7

SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle School

TITLE: "Untitled"

MEDIUM: Graphite

TEACHER: Tiffany St. Michaud



**STATEMENT FROM MS. ST. MICHAUD:**

During a unit titled "Monochromatic Choice Landscapes," students were asked to practice their knowledge of value. As a class, we discussed how artists can create the illusion of depth when playing with the value scale of their piece (i.e., atmospheric perspective in a landscape). Students were challenged to only use

one color or even keep their work grayscale, but expected to create 5 values with said color/scale. Brayden chose to create a grayscale water landscape using graphite pencils. He referenced his 5 values (scale) and created some dynamic movement with his varied pencil strokes.





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



83 PARK STREET today. The front façade of this striking Victorian was severely damaged by a fallen tree soon after the current owners, Devon and Courtney Fuller, purchased the house in 2007. The expert repair job left no trace of the damage.

## Philipsen House

(Continued from Page 8)  
physician and now works at the orthopedic clinic as a non-operative sports medicine doctor.

Like Roy Bresee before him, Devon was a town Selectman, serving from 2008 to 2018. He was also one of the found-

ers of the Downtown Brandon Alliance, serving on that board from 2009 to the present and as their president for the last five years.

Brandon is fortunate to have the Fullers as caretakers of this historic house and property.

## Energy costs

(Continued from Page 5)  
When specific improvements have been identified and the client decides what they want to prioritize, they would then seek estimates from Efficiency Vermont's Efficiency Excellence Network contractors. At each step in the process, the navigator would be available to explain and guide the client, all the way through to successful project completion. There will be no cost to residents or businesses for the energy navigator service.

As the program gets underway, there will be a number of public informational meetings. If you are interested in more information or would like to be added to our waiting list, please send an email to brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com.

Additional note:  
The Brandon Energy Committee, on behalf of the Town of Brandon, is seeking consultant(s) for the Energy Navigator Program to help residents and businesses reduce energy costs and environmental impact while increasing comfort and resiliency through weatherization, equipment upgrades and renewable energy solutions. The consultant(s) will be paid by the Town of Brandon funded through a grant from the Department of Public Service. A 'Request for Proposals' is available on the town's website at: <https://www.townofbrandon.com/energynavigator-requests-for-proposals/>

David Martin, chair  
Brandon Energy Committee

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## MUD SEASON SALE

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| <b>2017 TOYOTA PRIUS</b><br>Prime Hybrid, Auto, 86k miles<br><b>\$20,995</b>          | <b>CARS AND TRUCKS</b><br><b>802 465 4688</b>   | <b>2016 TOYOTA TACOMA</b><br>Double Cab, TRD-Sport, Auto, 4x4, 135k miles<br><b>\$23,995</b> |
|   |  |         |
| <b>2019 SUBARU OUTBACK</b><br>Premium, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, 93k miles<br><b>\$16,995</b> | <b>2019 GMC SIERRA ELEVATION</b><br>5.3L V8, Auto, 4x4, 108k miles<br><b>\$27,995</b> | <b>2018 VW BEETLE</b><br>Coupe, 4-Cyl, Auto, Only 26k miles<br><b>\$22,995</b>               |

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*Mimi's Photos*

**are on page 16!**



# Calendar of events

## March

### Wednesday 12th

NXT Rockumentary Film Series: The Beatles: The First U.S. Visit (1991) — Next Stage Arts

Two years after the landmark Lonely Boy brought cinema vérité techniques backstage, the Maysles Brothers hitched a ride with the Fab Four on their first trans-Atlantic trip. Although Richard Lester would (lightly) fictionalize similar scenarios in A Hard Day's Night, no camera before or since ever got so close to capturing John, Paul, George and Ringo in anything like their natural state; you can almost see the walls coming up as they realize how unavoidably public their lives are about to become. This DVD version, re-titled The First U.S. Visit (originally released as What's Happening! The Beatles in the U.S.A.), swaps out some scenes highlighting the drudgery of promo-tour obligations in favor of the band's Ed Sullivan Show performances.

— Rolling Stone. David & Albert Maysles, 1h 23m. From 7-9 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$8.

### Thursday 13th

Annual Student Exhibit — Chaffee Art Center  
The Chaffee Art Center is proud to again showcase young artists in grades PreK-12 from Vermont schools and homeschoolers for our Annual Student Exhibit, "An Artful Adventure." We invite the community to stop by and enjoy the wonderful pieces of art! Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The Chaffee takes great pleasure in presenting the opportunity for these talented young people to be inspired by seeing their work, and the works of others, displayed in our 1890s historic mansion galleries. The Student Exhibit will be on display until April 4th. Admittance is free. A donation would be greatly appreciated. Check out our website [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org) and the Chaffee Art Center Facebook page for updates and classes, call 802.775.0356 or stop in to the Chaffee Art Center at 16 South Main Street in Rutland. Winter Hours Gallery & Shoppe: Thursday and Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-3; Note: Will be open some Wednesdays when there are classes and events. If the light's on, come on in.

### Friday 14th

St. Ambrose Annual Lenten Fish Fry  
Join us for "ALL YOU CAN EAT" FISH FRYs. Meal includes Fried or Baked Haddock, French Fries, Cole-

slaw, Fresh Baked Dinner Roll, Beverage & Dessert.

Serving Times & Dates:

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays March 14 th , March 28 th , April 11 th. \$\$: Adults - \$17.00, Children 9 &under - \$9.00, Immediate Family of 5 - \$50.00.

For more info, call St. Ambrose Church in Bristol, VT @ 453-2488.

#### Putney Community Sing-Along — Next Stage Arts

This sing-along coincides with the March Putney Community Supper. Supper attendees are invited to continue the evening by heading upstairs to



the main performing space for a lively session of singing. Rich Grumbine will lead the song circle, providing guitar accompaniment.

the main performing space for a lively session of singing. Rich Grumbine will lead the song circle, providing guitar accompaniment.

Audience members will take turns making song requests from a digital songbook featuring over 100 well-known songs. The lyrics will be

projected on a screen for everyone to follow along.

Kimball Hill, Putney. Free.

Drumstick Bossman w/ The Blue Ribbons — The Underground - Listening Room

### Cast Off 8's hosts annual community dance at I Saturday, March 15th 6:30–12 p.m.

Cast Off 8's invites the community to an evening of lively dancing and fun at the beautiful Brandon Town Hall on Saturday, March 15th, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This annual event welcomes everyone—couples, singles and families—for an enjoyable mix of easy square dances, with a sprinkling of contra and line dances.

Modern square dancing is a vibrant and inclusive activity enjoyed by people of all ages. It combines traditional dance patterns with contemporary music and styles, making it both a fun and engaging form of exercise and social interaction.

The admission fee is just \$5, making it an affordable night out for all. The event will also feature refreshments and door prizes! Whether you're a seasoned dancer or stepping onto the dance floor for the first time, social dancing is a fantastic way to meet new people, stay active, and learn something new. The dance floor is always full at this cherished community tradition, so come ready to move and make memories!

For more information, contact Lauren Norford, Cast Off 8's, [lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com) or Rita (860)202-4341.

See website <http://www.castoff8s.com>

Drumstick Bossman is a vibrant band blending reggae, funk, and world rhythms. With powerful performances led by Bossman, they create infectious beats and catchy melodies, ensuring an unforgettable experience that gets audiences moving.

The Blue Ribbons, led by award-winning artist James Rohr, blend pop, jazz, and avant-garde elements, cre-

### Endangered Alphabets, Cultural Erosion, and the Future of the Written Word — Brandon Free Public Library Wednesday, March 26th from 6–7 p.m.

What does the age of digital convergence, Facebook, and globalization mean for the future of the written word? Writer/carver/painter Tim Brookes offers remarkable and thought-provoking perspective on this question by looking at a range of

forms of writing from all over the world that are in danger of extinction. From 6-7 p.m. For information on the Endangered Alphabet Project visit [www.endangeredalphabets.com](http://www.endangeredalphabets.com).



### Upcoming events at the Brandon Free Public Library

Wednesday, March 12

6–7 p.m.: A Brief Look at 1.3 Billion Years of Brandon's Natural History with Len Schmidt

Wednesday, March 19

6–7 p.m.: Book signing and author talk with Angel Lee, author of Kindling

Thursday, March 27

5–7 p.m.: Letter Press Printing artist talk. Experience the art of letterpress printing firsthand and chat with John from Revolutionary Press.

The song selection spans many traditions, including folk, golden oldies, gospel, Beatles hits, classic pop and rock, children's songs, and show tunes. The event is free, open to the public, and accessible to people with disabilities. For more information, please contact

Rich Grumbine at [richgrumbine1@gmail.com](mailto:richgrumbine1@gmail.com) or Next Stage Arts at [info@nextstagearts.org](mailto:info@nextstagearts.org). Throughout 2025, we're celebrating our 15th Anniversary by honoring a pair of Next Stage "Champions"—individuals who have been instrumental in shaping the organization—at one event each month. Our March Anniversary event is the Community Sing-Along, where we'll salute Chip Greenberg & Ted Dodd.

From 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15

ating a unique sound that captivates audiences. Their latest album Forever, But Not For Long showcases their depth and musical talent within the Boston scene.

Advance: \$14 (+fees) // Day of show: \$17 (+fees) Doors: 7 p.m. // Show: 7:30 p.m. BYOB (21+). All Ages.

### Goings on around town

#### Saturday 15th

Sol y Canto Trio, plus The Sou-brettes — Next Stage Arts  
Join us for an unforgettable evening of vibrant Latin rhythms and exquisite vocal harmonies featuring two excep-

tional ensembles: Sol y Canto: Award-winning Pan-Latin ensemble led by Puerto Rican/Argentine singer



and percussionist Rosi Amador, alongside New Mexican guitarist, singer, and composer Brian Amador. Sol y Canto's performances are known for their inventive compositions, poetic lyrics, and dynamic arrangements that blend Latin music styles with surprising twists. Their original songs and fresh takes on classic Latin tunes will make you dance, laugh, cry, and feel deeply. Don't miss this high-energy performance by one of the most exciting Latin groups on the scene today.

The Soubrettes: The Soubrettes, a vocal ensemble under the Vermont Jazz Center, are led by director/arranger Anna Patton. Known for their intricate vocal harmonies and playful repertoire, the group brings wit, sass, and plenty of character to the stage. With a focus on swing, jazz, blues and contemporary songs, the Soubrettes' performance is sure to charm and delight.

Tickets are on sale now—get yours before they sell out! From 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$10-25.

## Brandon Town Hall



## Sunday 16th

### Perfume Making Event with Bloom Lab — Stowe Cider

Discover the art of botanical perfumery at this Bloom Lab (<https://www.bloomlabvt.com/>)

perfume making event while creating your own unique perfume that is blended

with intention to reflect your individual personality and style. Enjoy a refreshing Citizen Cider drink while learning the basics of perfumery, exploring an all natural scent wheel and blending your own custom



bottle of Eau de Parfum. For anyone interested in perfumery or simply enjoying good company while trying something new! You'll leave with one 1.7oz bottle of custom Eau de Parfum. You're invited to arrive early or stay late and enjoy the delicious food and drink menus at Stowe Cider (<https://www.stowecider.com/>)! Drinks can also be purchased at the bar throughout the event. \*Limited spots available, reserve a spot for you and your friend today!

## Upcoming events at the Godnick Senior Center

### Monday, March 17

7 p.m., Jeanne Corbett, gardener extraordinaire, will share her ingenious and economical winter sowing system for starting flowers and vegetables for yourself. Bring a few seeds that you would like to start, or use some of ours, and go home with your own little greenhouse. Also, we will hear a quick preview from EMG Zach Eastman about getting ready to plant garlic in the fall, full workshop to take place in September.

### Monday, April 21

7 p.m., Nancy Bernier and Mary Ashcroft: Caring for House Plants Like outdoor gardening, houseplants require specific growing conditions to flourish. Let's discuss the essential elements

of houseplant care including providing the right light, proper watering techniques, choosing the correct soil, and ensuring the ideal humidity. By understanding the unique needs of each plant, we can create a healthy environment for them to thrive, enhancing the beauty of our homes. Furthermore, beautiful indoor gardens don't have to cost a lot—we'll share tips on propagating and growing houseplants on a budget.

### Monday, May 19

7 p.m., Maya Zelkin, Potter and Fermentation Expert, will teach us the chemistry, health benefits and methods for fermenting our garden vegetables. She will also bring some of her crocks for show and tell and sale!

## Saturday 22nd

### Movie and Pizza Night — Forest Dale Christian Fellowship

Come from 5-7:30 p.m. to enjoy a movie for the whole family, Treasures of the Snow, a story of friendship and forgiveness. Pizza will be served. Free.



# Get up to \$24,500

off weatherization projects with home repairs\*

## Efficiency Vermont

[efficiencyvermont.com/wx](http://efficiencyvermont.com/wx)  
(888) 921-5990

### Stay warmer all winter and stop wasting the heat you've paid for!

- Get up to \$9,500 off comprehensive home air sealing and insulation projects with an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor (or \$4,000 depending on household income)
- Plus, income-eligible Vermonters can now get **up to an additional \$15,000** for home repairs that are necessary prior to completing a weatherization project
- Financing options start at **0% interest**, or add the monthly payment to your utility bill

Income-eligible Vermonters may also qualify for free weatherization services.

\*Subject to availability and eligibility.



Learn More — Use your phone's camera to scan.



## Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.



See page 17

# 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://cafeprovencevt.com> or call (802) 247-9997

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

**Franklin's**  
FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

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](mailto:george@brandonreporter.com) for more information

## Brandon Town Manager's report Week of 24 February–7 March, 2025

Thanks to all who voted on Tuesday. The Town of Brandon is well-positioned for a successful FY26 with its operating budget and foundation funding for our capital needs. Congratulations to Ralph Ethier, Cecil Reniche-Smith, and Jeff Haylon on their election.

Following Jeff Haylon's election to the Selectboard, he has resigned from the Energy Committee.

Brandon residents wishing consideration for appointment by the selectboard should submit the appointments cover sheet and a letter of interest to me by email.

The weeks on either side of Town Meeting were filled with positive activity in the town manager's office, all moving toward the goal of a better Brandon for all of us.

Bill Moore and I conducted interviews with candidates for assistant to the recreation director and are pleased to report that Robin Douglas has been offered the position and accepted. She brings strong organizational skills, clear thinking, and through-the-ranks experience as a parent, coach, and commissioner in Brandon's recreation program. We welcome her to the Town team and look forward to all she will do with her position.

The scope of work for the grant-funded energy navigators was finalized in a collaborative effort between the energy committee, me, Jackie, and our insurers. The structure in place is the most appropriate way to safeguard the Town while facilitating the goals of this grant program.

On February 26th, I served as the sponsor of the VTrans application before Brandon's Development Review Board regarding Segment 4 of USRoute 7. This is the roadway from Otter Valley southward into Pittsford and involves

our police force and will bring those recommendations to the selectboard in executive session as they involve modifying our collective bargaining agreement. I also made outreach to leadership at the Vermont Police Academy on recruitment, and Board Chair Doug Bailey and I had a productive in-person meeting with them on March 7th.

Lauren Tessaro, who had addressed the selectboard this winter regarding her concerns about geoengineering, gave me additional information including a bill under consideration in the Vermont House of Representatives. I provided that to the new selectboard after Town Meeting.

[monoger@brandonvermont.gov](mailto:monoger@brandonvermont.gov) 49 Center St, Brandon VT 05733 Voice or text (802) 247-3300

I placed the K9 cruiser, a 2018 Ford Interceptor SUV, on Muncibid on March 4th. The auction is open through March 18th. Brandon residents interested in bidding who would like assistance with the bidding are invited to come to the town office, and Bill or I will help them place their bid.

The Town has conducted directed police patrols for speed on Arnold District Road and other areas in response to community member requests, and responded as resources (human, equipment, and materials) permit to address concerns regarding conditions on sidewalks. This has been a challenging winter, there is a statewide salt shortage, and a suggestion that we provide sidewalk care "every day" is not within the scope of the Town's current resources or prudent deployment of their use. The selectboard-adopted winter operations policy (most recently reviewed/revised and readopted in March 2024, and available on the town web-

| FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT                                  |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance              | \$482,043                 |
| 1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated | \$336,376                 |
| Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated              | UNION STREET              |
| Delinquent property taxes (prior years)             | \$496,596 (was \$495,405) |
| Delinquent wastewater (prior years [over 120 days]) | \$219,248 (was \$220,264) |

total reconstruction of the roadway during the 2026 construction season. Our dedicated DRB members continue to judiciously apply Brandon's Land Use Ordinance to ensure that projects appropriately balance community standards with landowner rights.

I participated in a brief VLCT remote training on February 27th in support of a smooth onboarding of new and returning members of the selectboard.

I followed up regarding the Town Forest questions raised at the February 24th selectboard both with the person who raised the questions and with the leaseholder and adjacent landowner. I have proposed a meeting which could be productive.

I had further helpful discussions with the New England Police Benevolent Union representative regarding strategies for reconstituting

site) lays out the board's prioritization, which the Town staff implements.

On your selectboard table tonight are copies of a "selectboard handbook" which is a best practice recommended by VLCT. It contains useful resources to assist selectboard members in carrying out their duties through their terms of office.

As we start a new board year, I restate my thanks to the selectboard for the opportunity to serve Brandon as your appointed town manager, and I renew my commitment to deliver efficient government service and foster building of community among all the people of Brandon.

Respectfully submitted,

*Seth M. Hopkins*



# Brandon's Independence Day: A look back, part I

BY JANET MONDLAK

I've been thinking about how and when Brandon started celebrating the nation's Independence Day in such a big way. The Brandon Museum has a wealth of +100-year-old photos and, perusing their archives, I found a number of pics with parade floats and assume they are from Independence Day parties. It seems to me that our little town has always been patriotic!

Besides looking at pics, I also spent some time reading through Mim's Dateline newspapers and I believe, and you old-timers out there can correct me if I'm wrong, that the current version of the parade and associated festivities ramped up in time for the country's Bicentennial in 1976. We've been celebrating ever since! What's interesting is that the Bicentennial Committee held a kick-off parade in 1974 at the beginning of their planning, did not hold one in 1975, and then hit it big in 1976 for the nation's 200th birthday.

The 1974 parade began at the A & P parking lot (now Post Office) and marched south, stopping at the Town Hall to raise new US and Bicentennial flags. After that, wreaths were laid at the Soldier's Monument (what we call the Civil War Monument). It was a small affair but led to the big party two years later. The 1976 parade started at the Brandon Training School (now Park Village) and proceeded south onto Route 7 and came into downtown. The Bicentennial event featured 52 marching units and a Vermont Air National Guard fly-over.

Sometime around 1980 or so,

Brandon started holding their 4th of July celebration on the "Saturday closest to the 4th." This change allowed the planning committee to recruit more bands and other marching units because we weren't competing with the towns holding their festivities on the actual holiday. We've been scheduling like that ever since. Also around this time, the parade route changed from north to south to the marchers starting at the head of Park Street and heading north, ending near Crescent Park.

Brandon's civic pride has always been strong, and the parade was organized by different groups over the years, including our American Legion post, Brandon Lions Club, Brandon Rotary Club, and the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce. At some point, the event became its own organization, officially called Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee (BIDCC). The committee is under the auspices of the Town of Brandon Recreation Department to help cover some logistics and insurance. Committee members are volunteers and work long and hard all year long to ensure that come July 4th, or more precisely, the Saturday closest to the 4th, there is a grand show in town.

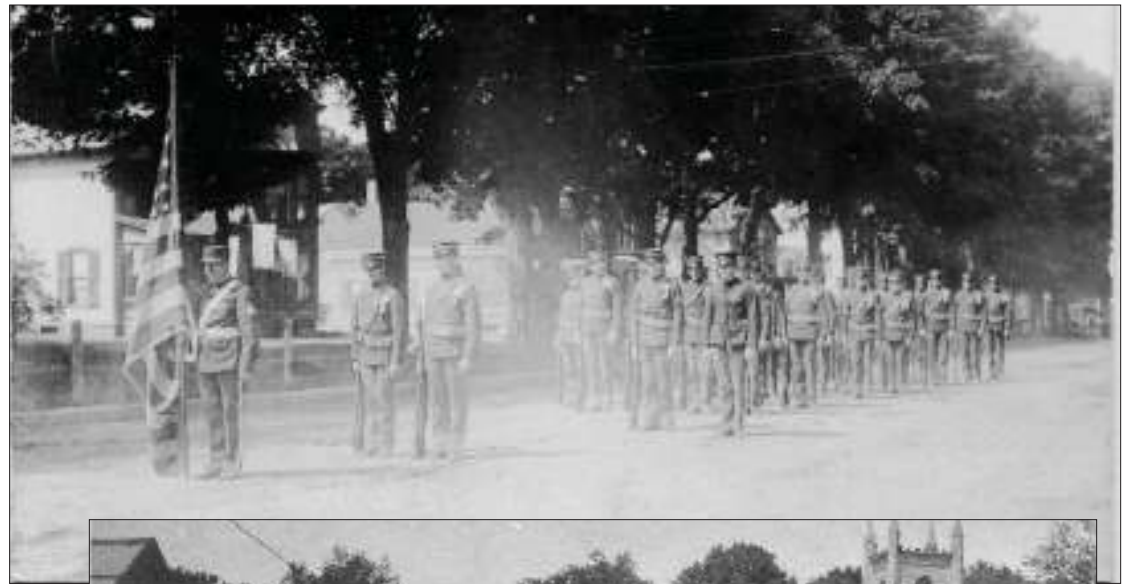
What is a parade without fire trucks, horses, ambulances, antique cars, and tractors? And what about the clowns, Uncle Sam, animals, unicyclists, roller bladers, scouts, summer campers, politicians, the Shriners mini cars, and bands—lots of bands—and music? Who remembers marching in the school band? There was so much excitement

to get to wear a traditional band uniform including a big, feathered hat.

Over the years, there have been so many unusual and interesting attractions, competitions, fun-

draisers, and all-around goofiness added to the party. Back in the early 80s, there were special Little League and softball games held in conjunction with the celebration as well as Kennel Club presentations.

In the early 90s, an elephant came to town for a few years. A ride on top of the largest land animal on Earth, right in front of the Brandon Congregational Church, was a big hit  
*(See Look back, Page 24)*



**VIEWS OF EARLY Independence Day parades in Brandon. Though the parade now begins at the intersection of Park and High Streets and heads up Park Street into downtown, it used to run in the opposite direction. In the lower photo, you can see St. Thomas Episcopal Church on the right.**

**Judy Anderson - Mornings from 6 to 10 am!**

**MUD**

**101.5 FM**

**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](mailto:kate@brandonreporter.com)  
if you can identify someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080



# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Expression of recognition
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. An iPad is one
18. Adult beverage
19. Manning and Wallach are two
20. Makes a petty verbal attack
21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Wristwatches
26. Body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. Turkish honorific title
33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city
39. Cub
42. Type of sea bass dish
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Former OSS
51. Open spaces in a forest
56. Innermost brain membranes
57. Fortune
58. Hunting expedition
59. Doomed queen Boleyn
60. Peyton's little brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Scottish tax
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. An increase in price or value

## CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
3. A desert in Asia
4. Eat greedily
5. Doomed French queen
6. Beat
7. One who survives on blood
8. As a consequence
9. Counted on
10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science
11. Unclean
13. One who does not drink
17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
24. \_\_ student, learns healing
25. Bacterial skin infection
26. Expresses surprise
27. What one says on a wedding day
28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
35. Unit of length
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
41. Statements that something is untrue
42. Greek alphabet letter
43. Suspends from above
44. Popular types of cigars
45. Girls
47. U.S. philosopher and logician
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian
54. Amounts of time
55. Trigonometric function

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |

# 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.

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

Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

## Calling All Experienced Cat Fosters!

Kitten season is beginning at RCHS, and we're looking for dedicated, experienced fosters to provide a warm, safe space for pregnant mama cats and their newborn kittens. These sweet moms need a quiet, loving environment where they can care for their little ones until they're ready for adoption. Fostering a mama cat is a truly special experience—it's heartwarming to watch her care for her babies and see the kittens grow and thrive under your care. It does take time, patience, and a gentle touch, but the reward of helping a family start their journey is immeasurable. If you can open your heart and home to a mama cat in need, please contact Carissa at [volunteer@rchsvt.org](mailto:volunteer@rchsvt.org) for more details. Thank you for helping us give them the best possible start!

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

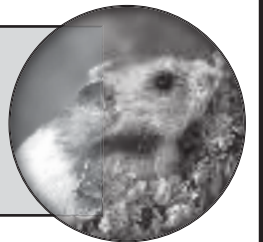


#### MEET MISCHIEF - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. PITBULL TERRIER. BRINDLE.

Don't let her name fool you—Mischief is all about fun, love, and adventure! This sweet girl is full of energy and would thrive with an active family who loves to play, explore, and keep her mind busy. She's not just a bundle of energy—Mischief is also one smart pup! She already knows some basic commands and picks up new things quickly. With a little training and lots of love, she'll be the perfect adventure buddy and loyal companion. If you're looking for a fun, intelligent, and affectionate dog to join your family, Mischief might be the one for you! Come meet her and see if she's your perfect match! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### MEET CHUCK - ADULT. MALE. HAMSTER. BROWN AND WHITE.

This adorable brown and white hamster is ready to find a loving home! Chuck arrived at RCHS on 2/7 after his owner could no longer care for him, and now he's looking for a fresh start. He is a sweet little guy who enjoys being handled and loves to explore. Whether he's running around or snacking on his favorite treats, Chuck is sure to bring joy to any family! If you're looking for a tiny, lovable companion, come meet Chuck!



## 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

### **Battle Mountain by C.J. Box, donated in memory of Charles H. Whittaker**

The campaign of destruction that Axel Soledad and Dallas Cates wreaked on Nate Romanowski and Joe Pickett left both men in tatters, especially Nate, who lost almost everything. Wondering if the civilized life left him vulnerable to attack, Nate dropped off the grid with his falcons in tow to prepare for vengeance. When Joe gets a call from the governor asking for help finding his son-in-law, who has gone missing in the Sierra Madre mountain range, he enlists the help of a local, a rookie game warden named Susan Kany. As Nate and fellow falconer Geronimo Jones circle closer to their prey, Joe and Susan follow the nearly cold trail to Warm Springs. Little do Nate and Joe know that their separate journeys are about to converge at Battle Mountain.

### **Close Your Eyes and Count to 10 by Lisa Unger, donated in memory of Ann Livak**

Charismatic daredevil and extreme adventurer Maverick Dillan invites you to the ultimate game of hide-and-seek. But as the players gather on Falcao Island, the event quickly spirals into a chilling test of survival. A storm rages as a deadly threat stalks the contestants, turning the challenge into something far more sinister than the social media stunt it was intended to be.

Enter Adele, a single mother with a fierce determination to protect her children at all costs. When she begins the game, she unwittingly enters a twisted web of deception and intrigue. Can she maneuver through the treacherous storm and the relentless competition and get home to her family? In a ruthless battle for survival where the stakes are higher than ever, the blurry line between the virtual and the real proves that the only person we can trust is ourselves.

## New DVDs

### **September 5 (Rated R)**

During the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany, an American sports broadcasting team must adapt to live coverage of the Israeli athletes being held hostage by a terrorist group.

### **Twin Peaks**

Follow FBI Special Agent Dale Cooper and Sheriff Harry S. Truman as they try to hunt down who killed Laura Palmer in the sleepy town of Twin Peaks, Washington.

### **Nosferatu (Rated R, 2024)**

Saddled by his superior with the urgent task of sealing a land deal, newlywed estate agent Thomas Hutter reluctantly abandons his worried wife, Ellen, in hopes of securing his position in the firm. However, the mesmerizing sight of lustrous gold is a deadly trap; as the ambitious young realtor arrives at the mysterious Count Orlok's isolated castle in the Carpath-

## DID YOU KNOW?

On the 19th at 6 p.m., local author Angel Lee will be present for a signing of her new book, "Kindling." Then on the 26th at 6 p.m., Tim Brookes from Vermont Humanities will present "Endangered Alphabets," a look at what the age of digital convergence and globalization means for forms of writing from all over the world that are in danger of extinction.

ian Alps, the ghastly embodiment of pure horror begins to haunt Ellen's unspoken nocturnal imaginings.

### **Saturday Night (Rated R)**

At 11:30pm on October 11, 1975, a ferocious troupe of young comedians and writers changed television, and culture, forever. Based on the true story of what happened behind the scenes in the 90 minutes leading up to the first broadcast of Saturday Night Live. Full of humor, chaos, and the magic of a revolution that almost wasn't, we count down the minutes in real time until we hear those famous words.

### **Across the River and Into the Trees**

As WWII ends, Col. Cantwell, a witty war hero, confronts terminal illness. Seeking solace in Venice, he commandeers a driver for a final trip. Amid unraveling plans, a chance encounter with a countess offers hope and redemption against the backdrop of war.

# Brandon Police Report

*Note from Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian: The Vermont State Police (VSP) are covering the Town of Brandon for emergency calls from 4 pm/6 pm until 8 am, 7 days a week, due to the staffing shortage at the Brandon Police Department (BPD). This log may not reflect calls that VSP receives during the time Brandon officers are off duty.*

## March 3

- Conducted a welfare check on an individual on Mulcahy Drive.

## March 4

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for improper passing. Warning issued.

- Assisted the Addison County Sheriff's Office in attempting to locate the owner of a vehicle that was left running and unattended in the Town of Leicester. The owner of the car was not located after a check of her residence.

- Conducted a welfare check on an individual on Church Street.

- Assisted the Vergennes Police Department with a serving a citation on an individual in Brandon.

- Vehicle stop conducted on Forest Dale Road for defective equipment. Warning issued.

- Received a complaint from a landlord regarding a firearm that was allegedly stolen by a tenant.

- Received a call regarding a landlord/tenant dispute on Forest Dale Road regarding payment of rent. The issue was later resolved between the tenant and landlord and was determined to be a civil matter.

- Received a report of a possible stolen package that was delivered by UPS at a residence on Church Street.

- Served a restraining order on an individual on Maple Street.

## March 5

- Served a subpoena on an individual on Town Farm Road on behalf of Vermont State Police - New Haven.

- Received a late report of a vehicle hit in the school parking lot.

- Assisted a mother who had questions and concerns about the custody of her children.

- Took fingerprints for adoption.

- Assisted the operator of a tractor trailer unit on Carver Street navigate back onto Route 7 from a prohibited access roadway.

## March 6

- Responded to McConnell Road for a report of farm birds in the roadway. The area was checked, but no birds were found.

- Conducted a patrol on Arnold District Road.

## March 7

- Received a call from OVUHS regarding a report that was made to them by a student that her parents were smoking crack cocaine in front of her and her sibling at home. The Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) was notified regarding the matter and an investigation is ongoing.

- Served a relief from abuse order on an individual on Forest Dale Road on behalf of the Rutland City Police Department.

- Assisted the DCF with a home visit at a residence in Brandon.

- Responded to a residence on Pearl Street for a motion alarm activation. The home was checked and appeared secure.

## March 8

- Received a complaint of vandalism to some windows at a residence on Forest Dale Road.

# Brandon PD

*(Continued from Page 1)*

vests significant time and money into training new officers only to see them leave Brandon for bigger departments that offer more money or better opportunities for career advancement. Mr. Bailey added that Brandon may also look into hiring some part-time officers with Level 2

certification rather than all full-time Level 3 officers.

Chief Kachajian said in a phone conversation that Level 2 officers are limited in the scope of their authority and cannot handle serious crimes like armed robbery, arson, and homicide without the assistance of a full-time Level 3 officer.

The resignations immediately followed a months-long budget-building process in which the size and scope of BPD became a point of heated debate among the Selectboard, advisory Budget Committee, first-response services, and citizenry. There was no consensus as to how many officers BPD needed,

what kind of coverage BPD should provide, or how much money Brandon should allocate to law enforcement.

Ultimately, the Board approved an almost 10% increase in the police budget for FY2026, which begins on July 1, 2025, raising the allocation from \$856,000 to \$937,000.

This is the most the town has ever allocated to BPD.

"And that amount doesn't include what the town spends on the police building, which is covered under the Buildings & Grounds budget," said Mr. Hopkins. "There's water, heat, electricity. Plus, there's workers

*(See Brandon PD, Page 21)*



# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

missioners, the Board of Health, the Board of Sewer Commissioners, the Housing Board of Review, and Local Cannabis Control Commissioners.

It kept for its official meetings the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the Brandon Town Hall.

The Board designated The Reporter as the town's official newspaper of record and the Rutland Herald as its alternate.

It set as physical locations for the posting of warnings the Brandon Town Office, the Brandon Post Office on Conant Square, and the Junction Store in Forest Dale.

As Tree Warden, the Board reappointed Neil Silins. As Fence Viewers, the Board appointed Bob Kilpeck, Tracy Wyman, and Jon Wyman. As Inspector of lumber, shingles, and wood, the Board appointed Bob Kilpeck. As Weigher of Coal, the Board appointed Olya Hopkins. As Green-Up Day Coordinator, the Board appointed Jim Leary. As Representatives to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District, the Board appointed Wayne Rausenberger and Kerry White, with Olya Hopkins as alternate. As Representative to the Rutland County Solid Waste District, the Board appointed Gabe McGuigan, with Tracy Wyman as alternate.

## SELECTBOARD REMARKS

The Selectboard begins every meeting with an opportunity for members of the Board to address the community. On Monday, Chair Doug Bailey thanked the citizens of Brandon for coming out to Town Meeting and for voting.

"Our job is to work within the budget and earn your trust," he said. "Our #1 task is public safety. We need to get [the Police Department] properly staffed. We're aware and working diligently."

Mr. Bailey also informed the community that the town will be seeking over the next two years to replace its Highway Department garage, which he said was sinking and too small for the department's large equipment. He said that the town would be looking at various ways to fund the project.

## WARRANT & PAYROLL

The Board unanimously approved a warrant in the amount of \$80,783.93 to cover the town's obligations and expenses.

The Board also discussed an expenditure for road salt and noted that the town has exhausted its supply and that no additional stocks of salt were available for purchase, even though the town was owed 100 additional tons that it had paid for. Town Manager Seth Hopkins said that the town had spread 952

tons of salt so far this season—in line with usual practice—and would rely on plowing and sanding if there were additional snowstorms this season. Moreover, Mr. Hopkins said that the shortage of salt was a statewide issue.

The Board also approved a new blanket payroll authorization for town employees. Mr. Bailey noted that two Board members could be designated to review and sign payroll every two weeks so that blanket authorizations wouldn't be necessary. No further action was taken on that suggestion.

## TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Hopkins presented his report to the Board, the full text of which is printed in this issue.

Mr. Hopkins thanked residents for coming out to vote and said the town was "well positioned" for the next fiscal year.

Hopkins also noted that there is an opening on the Energy Committee, as Jeff Haylon resigned in order to take a seat on the Selectboard. Anyone interested in joining the Energy Committee should contact Mr. Hopkins directly.

In response to a development over the weekend, Mr. Hopkins informed the Board that two of the clarifiers at the Wastewater Plant on Union Street had suffered extensive damage because of ice and were not functional. The specific issue was with the "curtains" that separate the sludge from the water. In two of the clarifiers, new curtains made of polystyrene plastic had broken. The previous curtains had been aluminum and had lasted significantly longer.

The plastic curtains had been installed as part of the recent upgrades at the plant and had been recommended by the engineers and contractors overseeing the project. Mr. Hopkins said that he believed the parts were still under warranty.

Town Clerk Sue Gage and Mr. Haylon suggested that Mr. Hopkins let other towns that might be purchasing these new curtains know about Brandon's experience.

Budget Committee member Barry Varian asked for an update on the town's plans to deal with the resignations at the Police Department. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Bailey both said that their likely approach would be to offer better compensation and bonuses and to recruit certified officers who would not need to attend the Police Academy. Please see the article on the Police Department in this week's issue for more details.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore delivered his Community Development report to the Board,

noting that the Town Hall had several events in the coming weeks:

- Brandon Idol on Friday, 3/14 at 7 p.m.
- The Worm Dogs on 3/21 at 7 p.m.
- Kennedy Park on 3/22
- The Electric Bears on 3/29
- Baseball registration with Brandon Rec will open on March 27.

Mr. Moore also stated that the town is close to finalizing the purchase of land on Seminary Hill on which sits a portion of the Brandon Dog Park. The town is spending \$25K on the parcel, of which \$12,500 was obtained through a grant and \$12,500 was taken from funds that the town received years ago from the sale of the Town Farm.

"No taxpayer funds were used here," Mr. Moore said in response to criticisms from an attendee who questioned whether the town could have used land it already owned at Estabrook Park. Mr. Moore explained that the necessary fencing alone at Estabrook would've cost approximately \$20K while the town was able to reuse some older fencing and enclose Seminary Hill for approximately \$5K.

Mr. Moore also explained that the town should have retained this particular parcel when it sold off the old Brandon High School decades ago.

"We're righting an historic wrong," he said, adding in response to another question that he had no new information about the group seeking to rehab the high-school building.

## ROAD POSTING

The Board approved the town's annual list of roads to be posted during mud season, when weight limits are imposed in order to preserve dirt roads softened by melting snow and ice. The full list is available in the Selectboard packet for 3/10 on the town's website.

## ETHICS COMPLAINT

The Board acknowledged that it had received a complaint against two elected town officials and that "on its face," it appeared to allege a violation of the state's new code of ethics. Ms. Reniche-Smith, who initially spoke for the Board, said that the complaint alleged a "misuse of position" but did not provide more details, though she did say that the complaint did not involve any members of the Selectboard.

The Board did not want to disclose the specifics of the allegation before it had a chance to evaluate the claims because the allegations themselves would make clear who the officials were. Ms. Reniche-Smith and Mr. Bailey both said that it would not be fair to reveal who the officials were unless the allegation was found to be credible.

The Board said it would evaluate the allegations in an executive session and reveal the outcome of the investigation in open session if it believed a violation had occurred.

Because the executive session in which the allegation is discussed would have to be warned, the Board was not able to evaluate the complaint on Monday. Instead, it will likely warn an executive session on the complaint for its next

meeting.

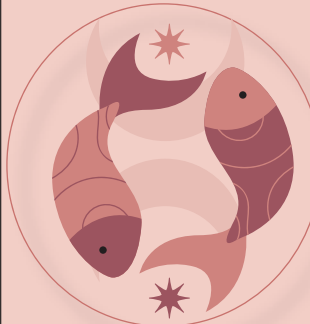
## PUBLIC COMMENT

An attendee noted that the one-vote margin in last week's approval of the OV school budget meant that a recount and a revote were both possible under Vermont law. She stated that a recount would be undertaken if the town clerks in all of OV's constituent towns (Brandon, Pittsford, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester, and Whiting) received signed letters by Friday, March 14 requesting that it be done.

She also noted that a revote could be done if 5% of the district's voters sign a petition within 30 days of the original vote. She said that petitions were available at the Brandon Post Office, the liquor store, and at the Junction Store.

Town Clerk Sue Gage said that a revote would likely cost \$4,000, which would be billed to the school. And if the revote rejected the proposed budget, another vote for \$4K would need to be done after the budget was revised.

An attendee asked that in its discussions about the Brandon Police Department that the officers be treated as human beings rather than as "widgets" that could be shifted around at the Board's discretion. He also suggested that some members of the Selectboard had overstepped their authority and tried to interfere in the operations of the Police Department. BPD Chief David Kachajian said in a phone conversation on Tuesday that he was not aware of any such interference and would not have allowed it.



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

deliver consequences that are hard to reverse.

**LEO July 23-Aug. 23**  
Leo, what you desire could be in direct conflict with what a loved one in your home wants. Instead of trying to force your ideas on them, figure out a way to compromise.

**ARIES March 21-April 20**  
Aries, forcing an agenda right now might backfire. It is best to be patient and let things unfold organically. A few new people may come to your aid this week and support you.

**TAURUS April 21-May 21**  
You might need to reconsider what you have been fighting for, Taurus. A current battle could be particularly hard to win, so you will have to rethink your strategy.

**GEMINI May 22-June 21**  
Someone in a position of power might try to convince you that their way is the best approach this week, Gemini. You are determined to stick with what you think is right, but keep an open mind as well.

**CANCER June 22-July 22**  
Cancer, avoid impulsive decisions right now, particularly those that are financial gambles. Poor or selfish actions can

unnecessarily right now. Look for the silver lining if need be.

**CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20**  
Capricorn, shortcuts can compromise your personal growth. The pathway to greater success is to work hard and put in the hours necessary to reap the most lasting rewards.

**AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18**  
Aquarius, you have more power than ever before, but remember it comes with extra responsibility. Always use your authority wisely and think through decisions thoroughly.

**PISCES Feb. 19-March 20**  
Pisces, if you hope to make progress, you may have to change tactics. What you have been doing simply isn't working. Start looking at other strategies.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

March 14 Simone Biles, gymnast (28)  
March 15 Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice (d)  
March 16 Jorge Ramos, news anchor (67)  
March 17 Nat King Cole, musician (d)  
March 18 Queen Latifah, musician and actor (55)  
March 19 Glenn Close, actor (77)  
March 20 Fred Rogers, Television host (d)

Virgo, the universe is calling the shots right now and time is moving at whatever speed is right. It might seem like very slow progress, so you'll need to remain patient.

**LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23**  
Libra, this week you might be tempted to put wants before needs. Self-control is needed or you could start spending more than is financially wise right now.

**SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22**  
Scorpio, frustrating exchanges between you and loved ones might leave you retreating to quieter spaces. Any communication is better than no communication, so keep that in mind.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21**  
Sagittarius, you can resist a certain situation, but you might need to remain flexible as you do so. Don't fight battles



# The 2nd annual Otter Valley Career Day showed students many options

THE 2ND ANNUAL OV Career Day was held on Friday, March 5. Organized by OV Tech Ed teacher Devon Karpak, the event was intended to show OV kids some of the opportunities available to them locally and get them thinking about possible career paths. Participants included Casella, Naylor & Breen, VELCO, Omya, and the Army National Guard.

Photos provided



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# Brandon PD

*(Continued from Page 18)*

comp and liability insurance for the officers and department that are included in other sections of the town budget.”

Moreover, the unionized employees at BPD opted to remain under a more expensive Blue Cross/Blue Shield health-insurance plan while the town transferred its other employees to a less-expensive MVP plan.

All in all, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Bailey estimated that the town had budgeted close to \$1 million on BPD this year.

And yet that amount was not seen as enough to provide the 24/7 on-duty coverage that many residents said they wanted at Selectboard meetings and in online forums. Brandon had relied on a combination of on-duty and on-call service. During on-call service, usually overnight, officers can be called back to town from their homes. So, while there is 24/7 access to police coverage, those calling for service must wait for officers to arrive from wherever they live. Given the housing shortage in Brandon, not all officers are able to live in or near town. The stress of on-call service has been cited as contributing to the resignations.

Chief Kachajian had attempted to offer 24/7 on-duty coverage last summer with 6 full-time officers, but the arrangement quickly overshot BPD’s overtime budget, exceeding the department’s entire annual overtime allocation in a single quarter.

However, Kachajian believes that the FY26 budget of \$937,000 would have been sufficient to provide 24/7 on-duty coverage.

“By my estimate, we would have been more than able to continue on with the 24-hour coverage with what our FY25-26 budget now is, as that would have covered the built-in overtime that we would have needed with the staff we formerly had,” Chief Kachajian wrote in an email to The Reporter.

Additionally, Chief Kachajian pushed back on the oft-made assertion that \$1.2 million was needed to provide 24/7 coverage, noting that this was not a figure that he had suggested himself. Moreover, Kachajian stated that the assertion that 24/7 on-duty coverage would require 9 or 10 officers was inaccurate and that those numbers were based on general guidelines from the Department of Justice for optimal coverage of a town of Brandon’s size. He had not meant to suggest that

Brandon needed that many officers for 24/7 on-duty coverage.

Yet, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Bailey challenged that view. Mr. Hopkins stated in his office that 24/7 coverage would likely require 10 officers and cost the town as much as \$1.5 million per year.

“Just do the math,” said Mr. Bailey.

“I don’t think it’s warranted,” said Hopkins, referring to 24/7 on-duty coverage. “I’d strive for it if I thought it was necessary. Right now, BPD is a third of the overall budget. If we increase it to \$1.5 million without expanding the budget considerably, it would be about half. Brandon wouldn’t be a town with a police department; it would be a police department with a highway crew.”

Since the resignations, BPD has been providing coverage from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Otherwise, Brandon has arranged for coverage by the Vermont State Police, which normally doesn’t serve towns with their own police departments.

“We’re not seeing a lot of calls for service during off-duty hours,” said Mr. Hopkins. “We’re not going to be jeopardizing the community if we have the Chief plus four full-time officers.” Chief Kachajian noted, however, that the state police respond only to serious, life-threatening crimes and that some calls that come in overnight are “stacked” until an on-duty Brandon officer is available.

Mr. Hopkins added that in the wake of the overtime issue last fall, he had been tasked by the Selectboard with keeping BPD expenses down, as BPD had also exceeded its overall budget for the previous two years.

“The Selectboard took a reasonable approach to get a tighter rein to keep BPD on budget,” he said. “When you get results, you get latitude. But when you don’t, you get direction. I got direction from the Selectboard and the Chief, in turn, got direction from me.”

Mr. Hopkins shared with The Reporter emails between him and the entire BPD staff outlining new spending policies that required his approval for certain expenditures, especially as spending for particular line items began to bump up against their budgeted allocations. For example, officers did not need approval to refuel their cruisers, but the department was also directed not to drive documents

*(See Brandon PD, Page 23)*

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Brandon Development Review Board (DRB)

**On Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., the Brandon DRB will hold in-person (at the Brandon Town Hall meeting room) and via Zoom remote conferencing, Public Hearings to review the following applications:**

**Application** from Rutland County Humane Society (Applicant) and Ultravation, Inc (Elwin Jackson, Landowner) to review the project for compliance with ACT 250 criteria #6, #7 and #10, under the authority granted to the DRB in Section 1009 of Brandon’s Land Use Ordinance and 24 VSA-Chapter 36 and Chapter 117 at 218 Jones Drive for a change of use of the property. This includes the renovation of the building to house the Rutland County Humane Society (Parcel # 0104-0218).

**Application** from the Rutland County Humane Society (Applicant) and Ultravation, Inc (Elwin Jackson, Landowner) for a variance request. The request is for four wall-mounted signs at the property at 218 Jones Drive. Parcel # 0104-0218)

This Meeting & Hearing will be conducted remotely by Zoom audio & visual programs; and access instructions are posted on Town website, Town and Post Offices.

Interested Parties are to be registered and present testimony, or have submitted written testimony to the Town, by 7:00 p.m. of the Hearing date or they may forfeit their right to appeal any decision of the DRB to VT Superior Court (Environmental Division).



## Child Find Notice

**Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting**

**Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is required by law to locate, identify, and evaluate every student birth through age 21 that may be in need of special education. If you have a child or know of a child that you think has a developmental delay or may require special education who resides in one of the towns listed above, please call (802) 247-5757 x2724.**

**In addition, RNESU is collecting information for preschool screenings. If you have a child who will be three or four by September 1, 2025, please fill out and return this form to the address below as soon as possible. You can also call (802) 247-5757 x2733. Thank you.**

CHILD’S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN OF RESIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

911 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

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RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION  
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Brandon, VT 05733



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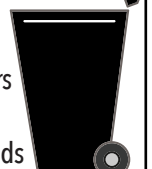
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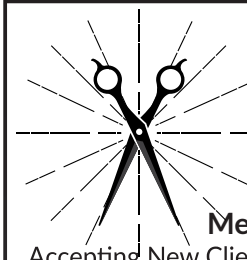
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# Brandon PD

*(Continued from Page 21)*  
to the State's Attorney's office if they could instead be mailed.

While the town says it intended this oversight to keep expenses under control, some at BPD saw it as "micromanagement," according to sources close to BPD who wished to remain anonymous. This perceived micromanagement and a perceived lack of support from the Selectboard were cited as among the motivations for the officers' departures.

Two members of the Selectboard—Tim Guiles and Brian Coolidge—were particularly vocal during budget workshops about their desire to reduce both the size and budget of BPD. Though Mr. Guiles has since left the Board, Mr. Coolidge remains. The other three members of the previous board—Mr. Bailey, Heather Nelson and Ralph Ethier—approved a 10% increase in BPD's budget.

For his part, Chief Kachajian said he was unaware of dissatisfaction among his officers beyond compensation and scheduling. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of officers," he said.

At the Selectboard meeting on Monday, Mr. Bailey and Mr.

Hopkins outlined some of their thinking about the department in response to a question from an attendee. Another attendee requested that officers be treated more as people and less as "widgets" by the Selectboard in order to create a more respectful work environment.

For now, Brandon will continue to work with state law-enforcement resources, like the Police Academy and VSP, as well as with the Police Union to retain the department's remaining officers and to create an attractive environment for new recruits, according to Hopkins and Bailey. They have had what they described as productive meetings with these resources and have received what they felt was solid advice and guidance to move forward.

"Our #1 task is public safety," said Mr. Bailey at Monday's Selectboard meeting. "We need to get properly staffed. We're aware and are working diligently."

"We know that people are frustrated," said Chief Kachajian. "It won't be a quick process, but we're trying our best. The Vermont State Police have been amazing. This is a work-in-progress."

## Classified

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### FREE EVENT

COME ENJOY A movie for the whole family, Treasures of the Snow, a story of friendship and forgiveness, on Saturday, March 22nd from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Forest Dale Christian Fellowship church at 1895 Forest Dale Rd., Brandon, VT, 802 465-8565. Pizza will be served. Free

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT License Your Dog by April 1st

Town Clerks Office  
49 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733

If your dog is over 6 months old  
Male / Female: \$15.00

Neutered Male / Spayed Female: \$11.00

(Includes \$7.00 fee for State of Vermont, VSNIP program)

After April 1st, fee is 50% more

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT

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

### Adoption of Town of Pittsford Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicle Use on Town Highways

This ordinance includes the Town of Pittsford authority, purpose, definitions, operation of ATVS, enforcement and penalties, severability, and effective date. A full copy of the ordinance is posted on the town website. Please reach out to the Town Manager with questions at

PO Box 10 Pittsford, VT 05763 or by telephone at (802) 483-6500 ext. 200. Citizens have a right to petition pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973 for a vote on the Ordinance.

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# Look back

*(Continued from Page 15)*

in my household! Vermont Teddy Bear sent a huge cuddly bear named Theodore and an area in Central Park was dedicated to Vermontica, Vermont's official dairy spokesperson. Barney has shown up, as well as Smokey the Bear and Woodsey the Owl. Brandon, Florida even joined one year with a big float! Another significant event in 1991 was that it was Vermont's Bicentennial year (1791-1991) and the Parade Committee had a "Down Memory Lane"

theme.

The memories go on and on. I'll stop here for now and will continue in a future edition of this paper. We haven't even gotten to the super popular street dance or fireworks! In the meantime, if you would like more information on how you can be a part of putting together the magic, contact Bill Moore at the Brandon Town Office at [bmoore@townofbrandon.com](mailto:bmoore@townofbrandon.com) or by calling 802-247-3635 ext. 213.



**MORE SCENES OF early parades in Brandon, showing that the town has always enjoyed celebrating July 4th in high style. In the early 1990s, there was even an elephant for kids to ride [photo shows the author's children getting a ride.]**

Photos provided

## Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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