

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 30, No.28

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

\$1



HISTORIC HOME

The colonial brick house at 5 West Seminary Street in Brandon was once home to Orson Murray, an outspoken abolitionist and newspaper publisher.

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DIFFICULT DIAGNOSIS

Carloyn Van Vleck shares the first part of her journey after being diagnosed with cancer.

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GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais shares the gardening advice of the year: Go big

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CROWD PLEASER

The Maclure Cookbook Club shares a "tried and true" recipe that's sure to satisfy your guests.

PG. 8



RAINBOW BRIGHT

For Pittsford campers, colors aren't just for using on paper.

PG. 24



Brandon welcomes new officer

BRANDON PD CHIEF David Kachajian (right) introduced Officer Mikayla Fontana (left) to the Brandon Selectboard on Monday evening. Officer Fontana joins Brandon PD after the resignation of 5 officers earlier this year. "This is the first step in our rebuild," said Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey.

Pittsford SB continues to address complaints on Fire Hill Road

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—At its last two regular meetings, the Pittsford Selectboard addressed continued concerns about the condition of three properties on Fire Hill Road and heard from the owners of those properties as well.

The three properties have been the subject of complaints from neighbors for the last three years. Allegations have included un-

(See Pittsford SB, Page 6)

Brandon SB discusses ordinances, appointments, and budget season

BY STEVEN JUPITER

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

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Seth Hopkins delivered his report to the Board, the full text of which is reprinted in this issue.

Mr. Hopkins added that there are 3 vacancies on town committees: a seat on the Energy Committee and alternates on the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board. Anyone interested in these positions should contact Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. Hopkins also asked the

(See Brandon SB, Page 14)



BARITONE NICK TOCCI is stepping out on his own after several years with BARN Opera in Brandon. Here he performs as the Pirate King in BARN's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Pittsford's Nick Tocci steps into the operatic spotlight

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Nick Tocci didn't set out to be an opera singer. Instead, his first instrument was the trumpet. Tall and broad-chested, he had the lung power to keep the brass ringing, but somehow he knew his musical journey would lead him somewhere else.

"I didn't feel passionate about the trumpet," he said in a recent conversation. "I was passionate about music—I took all the music classes I could—but I knew the trumpet wouldn't be my instrument in the long run."

It was at his grandfather's 75th birthday celebration, when Nick was 17, that he began to realize that his future lay not in

the horn section of a jazz band but instead in his own physical instrument: his voice.

"I sang 'My Way' and my grandfather started blubbering," he laughed. "That was really the first time I'd sung in front of other people."

A native of Nashua, New Hampshire, Tocci went to Keene State to study trumpet and music education. It was at Keene that professionals first heard his rich baritone and changed the course of his life.

"I had a voice teacher named Carroll Lehman who said, 'Nick, I don't know if you want to hear this, but you should drop the trumpet and switch to

(See Nick Tocci, Page 9)

Twelfth in a series on Brandon's historic buildings. Ardent Brandon abolitionist's house, later owned by prominent lumber merchants

BY JAMES PECK

The two-story colonial brick house at 5 West Seminary Street in Brandon sits back on a hill above a long sloping lawn and doesn't catch the eye of most passersby. In fact, the house couldn't be more historical, having been the residence of probably the most impactful abolitionist in Brandon's history: a man named Orson Smith Murray.

ORSON MURRAY

Brandon's abolitionist history goes back to the early 1800s, and there were many Brandon men and women who took a strong stance against slavery

before the Civil War. Orson Smith Murray was the most ardent and vociferous of them all.

Born in Shoreham in 1806, the son of devout Baptists, he grew up on the family farm, attending Shoreham Academy and Castleton Seminary. He took up the cause of temperance at 17 and never drank alcohol the rest of his life. In 1831, he published his first newspaper article and chose William Lloyd Garrison, the famous abolitionist, as his mentor.

He helped Garrison found the New England Anti-Slavery Society and became their agent as a rousing lecturer through-

out Vermont and many other states. In 1832, Murray began writing letters to the Vermont Telegraph, the mouthpiece of the Baptist Church in Vermont, whose printing office was located in Brandon.

In 1835, he moved his family to Brandon, where he bought the Telegraph and became its publisher with the financial assistance of Brandon's leading abolitionist, the rich and powerful merchant and financier John Conant. Conant even gave the Murray family lodging in the Baptist Parsonage on Champlain Street (now #13, still the parsonage today).

Murray's office was now located on the second floor of Conant's brick store on Center Street (now the Brandon Town Offices). In 1838, Conant and others helped Murray buy 32 acres for \$2,100 on Seminary Hill just above his office. He purchased the land from the Brandon Seminary Association that had built the Seminary building there in 1832 (later the Brandon Graded School). Just below the Seminary building, Conant and his sons built Murray a brick colonial house which was very similar in style to Conant's houses in Conant Square.

In late 1838, Murray moved in with his wife Catherine and five young children, ages one to seven.

MURRAY'S HOUSE

The new house sitting on the hill overlooking the Neshobe River and Center Street was later described in the National Historic Register as "2 1/2 stories, brick, gable-roofed, Federal style house with later Victorian doorway. Two interior end chimneys, circa 1830." The fan light in the south façade matched those in Conant's houses.

Murray could now walk to work in a couple of minutes and, in fact, spent most of his time in the office when he wasn't attending meetings of the Brandon Anti-Slavery Society at the Baptist Church. At first, he devoted the front page of the Telegraph to religious issues but reserved the last three mostly for ant-slavery articles. Gradually, the paper became predominantly abolitionist and the premier anti-slavery paper in Vermont.

Murray also espoused temperance, women's rights, anti-war sentiments, and vegetarianism

in the Telegraph. He was truly one of Vermont's first progressive thinkers, though he was thought at the time to be radical.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Long before the Civil War, Murray and others in town assisted escaped slaves as they sought freedom on the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses on the route to freedom in Canada.

On a sultry August day in 1839, Murray was at his office folding newspapers with his son Marsena. His wife Catherine had gone to Pittsford with son Carlos, while a babysitter watched the youngest three kids: 6-year-old Harriet, 4-year-old Catherine, and the baby, Charles. When Orson went home, the babysitter was frantic and said Harriet had wandered off toward the so-called "mill-



A SKETCH OF Orson S. Murray, the original owner of 5 West Seminary Street in Brandon.



Henry Gipson owned 5 W. Seminary and Gipson Lumber, which later became Brandon Lumber & Millwork.

In 1842, he wrote about one such encounter: "My present dwelling place is situated on one of the slave's by-paths to freedom. Three noble looking young men, on their flight, called on me and took supper. I felt no alarm during the night. When they were ready to part, I gave them some bread and cheese. They gave me a hearty shake of the hand and invoked God's blessing upon us." Murray was not alone in Brandon, as other abolitionists in town including Jedediah Holcomb at 28 Park Street and Rodney Marsh at 11 Pearl Street also supported the Underground Railroad.

TWO TRAGEDIES

pond" at the foot of the upper falls.

Her body was then discovered there by a pole with a hook that caught hold of her dress.

Harriet's death, and that of her sister Catherine of croup six months later, had a profound effect on Orson Murray, but did not cause him to waver from his work. However, he became increasingly disillusioned with religious zealotry and began attacking hypocritical Baptist and Congregational ministers, essentially "biting the hands that fed him," and he was eventually forced to sell the Telegraph and move from Brandon in 1843.

(See 5 West Seminary, Page 19)

My cancer journey, part one: In the beginning

BY CAROLYN VAN VLECK
Cancer!

This dreaded word is now part of my daily vocabulary and no longer scary. It is now part of my life. This is not to say that I'm thrilled that I've had it—no, indeed! Just accepting of it now and somewhat apprehensive about the side effects of the chemo which I have just started . . .

The statistics for cancer in the U.S. seem overwhelming. We are projected to have two million new cancer cases, with 600,000 deaths. The mortality rates have declined quite a bit due to improved treatments and early detection and a big decline in smoking. However, as you have probably read, the cancer rates in young people are rising quickly.

Which are the most common cancers? Breast, pancreatic, and lung top the list.

What causes cancer? Apparently, 90% are linked to environmental and lifestyle factors (smoking, pollution, no exercise, diet, infections, radiation, alcohol, obesity).

Genetics can play a small part in your chance of getting cancer. What caused mine? No exercise, obesity, and genetics. Personally, I feel that food additives and invisible air pollution are big factors. I knew that I'd get it someday, as my father and both his parents had it . . . just not this early!

(All info from CDC on-line)

Cancer can be totally silent or it can be painful. Many people live many years (I'm not going to share a statistic on this, as every cancer case is different). It depends on the person, the type of cancer and how the medical community deals with it: immunotherapy (zooms in to the actual cancer) vs. chemo (general) and radiation (zooming in).

My own journey started several years ago: October, 2022. My PCP (primary care physician) nurse practitioner (NP) had sent me to Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) to get a painful rib x-rayed and suggested that we do an abdominal scan. Well, the rib was fine, but the abdomen was

not. Something was spotted, and I went back for a second scan. A cyst was the culprit!

An operation was set up by my Rutland gynecologist at RRMC. The op turned out to be a battle, as the cyst was connected on one side to an ovary (the other ovary having endometriosis) and the other side to my bowel (what doctors call our large intestine). So, both ovaries were removed, as were my fallopian tubes, and the cyst, which was tricky because of the connection, apparently. It was done with laparoscopy which left me with two tiny scars, plus my belly button had been opened, then closed again. There was more than one surgeon involved as well. It took a good year to heal.

As there is no guarantee that the cancer is ever totally removed, since then I have been getting a blood marker test every six months. This was to check where the cyst had been connected to the bowel, as it's difficult to get every single bad cell out. The blood marker number cannot go over

30, which also tests for pregnancy (I'm 70 years old!). Happily, my number was at 15 and went down to 9. I was safe!!!

It Shows Up Again!

However . . . my life changed in an instant. My cancer marker at the end of March 2025 had risen from 9 to 245! Yikes! I just sat and stared at the number on the hospital portal on my screen with unbelieving dread . . . I had never thought that it would actually happen.

Then I became annoyed. I had suggested to the original surgeon in Rutland that my uterus be removed as well, to prevent any further problems. I was fully prepared to have chemo or radiation after the first op. She shot down the idea saying that that could be dealt with later (she no longer works at RRMC). Well, so here I am dealing with it later. (Prevention, physicians, not just healing, please!)

I was also annoyed at my NP, who didn't follow up at all. At my next appointment with her, she said nothing about it. So, I returned to my previous NP even though it takes me a half-hour to get there!

Fortunately, the gynecological cancer surgeon at UVM in Burlington, whom I had met briefly the first time around and who, I believe, is in touch with my new gyn D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy) in Middlebury at Porter Hospital, immediately sent me in for CT scans which showed that the cyst had returned in the same place. Ugh! This time it was connected to the uterus and the bowel—again! The next blood test showed my marker 298, just within a week. Not good news! That little potential cancerous spot had bloomed into cancer!

This is part one in an ongoing series. Stay tuned for part two.

Spotlight On Business PERFECTFIFTHS VIOLIN STUDIO



Olya Hopkins is welcoming new violin students at her home-based studio in Brandon. She has enjoyed teaching violin for more than twenty years (classical and fiddling), to students from preschool to senior citizens. Lessons are once a week for 30, 45, or 60 minutes.



To set up a complimentary introductory lesson, please call or text Olya at (802) 345-4189. www.perfectfifths.us.



Correction

IN LAST WEEK'S issue, we incorrectly identified the second- and third-place winners of the Brandon Duck Race. The third-place winner was Max Anderson (center, with son in red). The second-place winner was Stephani Pizzi, whose son (right) accepted the prize on her behalf. We apologize for the mistake.

Tuesdays

Summer Concert Series

JUNE 17 - AUG. 12, 2025
TUESDAYS @ 6PM
42 Elm St., Pittsford, VT
across from Kamuda's

Concerts are outside on the Village Farm grounds. For extreme weather, concert is canceled. Check PittsfordVillageFarm.org. This event is free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.

July 22 – Deb Brisson & The Hayburners

Soulful & Bluesy to Rocking Alt-country

FOOD BY
PELLETIER
MAPLE

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Blacklegged ticks now account for 99% of reported tick bite illnesses in Vermont, and more than half tested carry Lyme disease

As tick populations rise in Vermont, health officials urge precautions

BY ALICE FINNO/
VTDIGGER

Invasive plants, new housing development and climate change are boosting tick populations in Vermont, officials say, prompting new concerns about diseases the tiny arachnids carry.

Although ticks have been present for a long time in Vermont, the population has grown substantially, said Patti Casey, environmental surveillance program director for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

The blacklegged tick, or deer tick, is the type most frequently spotted in the state and responsible for 99% of the tick bite illnesses reported to the Vermont Department of Health.

“We are a high-incidence state for several blacklegged tick-driven tick-borne diseases,” said Natalie Kwit, public health veterinarian for the state Department of Health. “For Lyme disease, we have had over 1,000 cases in 2023.”

According to the 2018-22 Tick Pathogen Surveillance Report by the Department of Health, more than half of the blacklegged ticks analyzed carry Lyme disease, an infection that can be transmitted to humans and cause symptoms like fever, fatigue, headache, skin rash, and if left untreated can affect heart, joints, and the nervous system. In Vermont, Chittenden, Windsor and Rutland counties had the highest prevalence of blacklegged ticks infected with the disease.

Ticks can be found any time of the year when the temperature is above freezing, with their peak activity being in May and June and then again in October and November. Ticks survive by biting their host for blood, which leads to the transmission of diseases.

Other tick bite illnesses recorded in Vermont are anaplasmosis, babesiosis, hard tick relapsing fever, and Powassan virus disease, which is very rare.

Since 2015, Vermont has had the nation’s highest annual number of cases of anaplasmosis. Symptoms are similar to those of Lyme disease except for the skin rash. The most common effects are fever, muscle aches, chills, malaise and headaches, but the disease can also cause people to develop anemia, low white blood cell counts, low platelet counts and elevated liver enzymes. The illness can have serious consequences if not treated, especially for old patients or people with health problems.

The American dog tick, brown dog tick, squirrel tick and woodchuck tick are other common ticks found in Vermont. The lone star tick, which carries alpha-gal syndrome, an illness that leads to the development of a red meat allergy, is not fully established in Vermont.

“We’re not seeing any of the lone star tick-driven tick-borne diseases in Vermont in humans, so we’re pretty confident that
(See *Blacklegged ticks*, Page 23)



Mine is a dance of love!

THIS STUNNING AGAMI heron was just one of the tropical beauties we saw in Costa Rica. The males dance to attract a mate.
Photo by Sue Wetmore

The REPORTER

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

Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by Reporter News Media Corp., Brandon VT.
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55
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Community Forums Brandon Museum presents ‘The Great Bennington Battle and Vermont’

On Sunday, July 27, from 1-3 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall, come hear about “The Great Bennington Battle and Vermont.” This is a free event of the Brandon Museum, presented by historian and author Howard Coffin. Mr. Coffin will discuss the surrender at Saratoga of a British army under John Burgoyne. Occurring almost 250 years ago, this engagement has come to be known as the decisive battle of the American Revolution. However, was Bur-

goyne doomed after the Battle of Bennington, a bloody day of fighting along the Vermont border that happened two months before Saratoga? Join us to learn about the history- changing Burgoyne campaign and the dramatic battle of “Great Bennington,” which was a Vermont battle as well as a New York battle. Mr. Coffin will also review heroes John Stark and Seth Warner, and the Vermont Constitution, itself about to turn 250 years old. Howard

Coffin is the author of books on the Civil War: Something Abides: Discovering the Civil War in Today’s Vermont; Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War; Nine Months to Gettysburg; and The Battered Stars, as well as Guns Over the Champlain Valley, a book on military sites along the Champlain Corridor. This is a program of the Vermont Humanities Speakers’ Bureau and supported by a Vermont Community Foundation grant.

Letters to the Editor

Our federal and local governments do not really support freedom

When I think of kings I think of false prophets, people who rule people instead of lead people. People who need to control the masses rather than guide them. It's "my way or the highway," as the saying goes. Most kings go pretty far to get their way. They bend the rules and create new ones at will. An answer to America's latest claim has been to create a grassroots movement titled No Kings Day. In part with this U.S. Senators introduced the No Kings Act. They proposed a law preventing presidents from having immunity from criminal acts. It also reinforces that

America is not a monarchy. It is a democracy with accountability as its partner.

Today's America acts as if laws are something that can be changed at any time, without votes or amendments. Laws can be tweaked to meet any nepotistic demand. For instance, if people are required to run for a position they must run for that position. Even if they have recently held a position that has ended they must still sign up to run for that position again. One cannot just say that they want to stay in office and stay without having to follow a procedure.

Then again, kings have a tendency to say and do whatever they please and will circumvent any procedure. Nepotism is alive and well especially in these instances. Rather than supporting accountability, fingers are pointed at all who disagree and speak for fairness. They are seen as troublemakers. Even though we say we are free and we spend thousands of dollars on parades and celebrating our freedoms there are those who are criticized to the point of shaming through enforced community control. It is a successful maneuver that promotes community cohesion

on one hand and submission on the other. This causes one not to voice opinions for fear of being put down, ridiculed and, in some cases, run out of town. So much for freedom and fair play. Today most do not feel there is much truth and salvation for the future of a society that is run by not so truthful federal and local governments. Today's history is filled with false prophets, liars, and profiteers who act as if treating people fairly is no longer warranted. One's actions must "fit in" with the king who maintains he or she can deliver us to the promised land and make us

great again. The same king is democracy's disrupter, hell-bent on dismantling and destroying our civil liberties and the rule of law. Let's face it, America is lost. Worse than being lost is being lost and still going forward. Many of the king's "drivers" of destruction are still operating under a Caucasian set of imperial rules, old and no longer working. Kings who do not listen to all the voices, or take advice or instruction, and do not treat others equally.

Sandy Mayo
Brandon

Community Development Report

After what I assume was a tremendously successful Chamber Auction, the town hall upstairs is back open for entertainment. July 19th the town hall's wildly popular silent movie series resumes with a Jeff Rapsis accompanied screening of the 1922 comedy "Grandma's Boy" Free will donations to support the 2026 series

July 26th LC. Jazz returns with big band sound. A 6pm start time with \$5 admission gains you access to a swing dancing fun! Proceeds to benefit music/theatre scholarship funds.

July 27th, we are partnering with The Brandon Museum to host Howard Coffin 1pm to 3pm at the Brandon Town Hall. This free offering of this renowned historian presentation of "The Great Bennington Battle and Vermont" is a great way to get geared up for the Vermont's 250th celebration.

Youth dance, cheer, field hockey and outdoor camps have some limited registration space and start this week Visit Brandonrec.com.

The town has picked up the grant funded 2025 VW ID buzz on Friday. The phased plan will have it as a rec support vehicle with some volunteer scheduled ride share public transit connections coming online in the next 2 months.

We have started with right of way easement acquisition for the Union Street Sidewalk project, the next phase to be completed.

Youthworks is back in town! For the next 3 weeks, we will be working with this organization to complete mini projects all over town. Groups of 10 15 youth with counsellors will be helping to beautify public parks and other spaces 3 days a week

Fall planning is underway; next report will have the fall youth offerings.

Reminder that the Great Brandon Carnival is coming July 24th - 27th This former collaboration is now exclusively a field rental to Colleen Wright Events. Fun activities on tap with Miller Amusements rides, Vermont State Trivia Championships, Red Clover Open Mic and more.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill moore

Community Forums continued 40th Annual Middlebury College Carillon Series begins August 1, eight free concerts on Fridays in August and September

Summer has arrived in Middlebury, and soon the campus and surrounding neighborhoods will ring with the sound of carillon bells. The 40th annual Middlebury College Carillon Series kicks off August 1, with a series of eight free concerts on Friday evenings at 6 p.m. at the Middlebury Chapel.

Each year, musicians from around the world come to Middlebury to perform in Middlebury Chapel's bell tower, soaring high above the College campus. The Carillon Series has been directed since its inception by George Matthew Jr., Carillonneur for both Middlebury College and Nor-

wich University. He not only marks his 40th anniversary leading the carillon program this year—he also celebrates his own 90th birthday! He has taught generations of students at both schools the art of the carillon, including Middlebury alumna Amy Heebner '93, who
(See Carillon Series, Page 6)

Obituary

Laurie Kay Capen, 74, Forest Dale

Laurie Kay Capen, age 74, passed peacefully on July 13, 2025, at Rutland Health & Rehabilitation Center.

Laurie was born in Albany, N.Y. on December 10, 1950. She was the daughter of Clifton and Lorraine (Jesmer) Randall.

She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Capen.

The memorial service, "In Celebration of Her Life," will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 11 a.m., at Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church in Pittsford. Rev. John McDonald and Rev. Joel Tate will co-officiate.

A private burial will take place at a later date.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

Carillon Series

(Continued from Page 5)

performs on September 12. This season's concerts will include music that runs the gamut from classical and international folk songs to pop and Broadway favorites. Visit <http://go.middlebury.edu/carillon> for much more information on each performer and the works they'll play.

All Carillon Series performances are free and open to the public, and can be enjoyed from the chapel steps or on the surrounding lawns. Audiences are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Picnics are optional!

2025 CARILLON SUMMER SERIES SCHEDULE

- Friday, August 1, 6 p.m.: Elena Sadina, Instructor, Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian; featuring Nikita and Daniel Gratchev
- Friday, August 8, 3 p.m.:* George Matthew Jr. Carillonneur, Middlebury College and Norwich University.
- Language Schools Commencement prelude.

*Please note 3 p.m. start time for this concert only.

- Friday, August 15, 6 p.m.: Austin Ferguson, Carillonneur of the Mayo Clinic
- Friday, August 22, 6 p.m.: George Matthew Jr.
- Friday, September 5, 6 p.m.: Joseph Min, winner of the 2024 Queen Fabiola International Carillon Competition
- Friday, September 12, 6 p.m.: Amy Heebner '93, City Carillonneur, Albany, NY
- Friday, September 19, 6 p.m.: Charles Semo-wich, Carillonneur Emeritus, Riverside Church, NYC
- Friday, September 26, 6 p.m.: George Mat-

thew Jr.

- Featuring music from the Middlebury carillon's first playing, at Commencement 1985.

ABOUT THE MIDDLEBURY CARILLON

A carillon is a musical instrument whose sound is produced by at least 23 cast bronze, cup-shaped bells. The carillonneur plays by striking a keyboard of wooden batons and foot pedals connected by wires to the bells.

The Middlebury Carillon is housed in the Middlebury Chapel tower, which is a 75-step climb ending in a rustic ladder to reach the belfry—a challenge for intrepid musicians. It was established initially as a chime of eleven bells in 1918, as a gift from the Mead family. (A chime is a similar instrument made up of fewer than 23 bells.) In 1985 the instrument was enlarged to a full carillon containing 48 bells as a gift from then Chairman of the Board of Trustees Allan Dragone '50 and his wife Jane Dragone. The summer series began in 1986 and has continued ever since.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

All Carillon Series performances are free and will take place at the Middlebury Chapel, located on the campus of Middlebury College at 75 Hepburn Road. Free parking is available on Route 125/College Street, and on Old Chapel Road. Concerts will go on rain or shine. In the case of inclement weather, audiences are welcome to listen from the chapel steps and front landing. For more information on the artists and each concert's program, please visit <http://go.middlebury.edu/carillon>.

Leicester News

Triathlons, trash and mosquito spraying are on the docket

Residents please note: Saturday, July 19, is a day to collect recycling and trash in town, as well as a VT Sun Triathlon. To minimize potential interactions with bikers and town folks, the collection trucks will be across Route 7, in their winter location, on the road to the town office. Pull up parallel to the trucks and then you can be on your way shortly. It is recommended that you bring your recycling and trash after 9:30 a.m. to avoid the bulk of the riders.



If residents want to know when their road will be sprayed by the OCW staff, they can head to the website, ocwicd.com to find a link on the Home page for folks to put themselves on the email spraying notification list.

Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

safe conditions for livestock and pets, derelict vehicles, and runoff into natural waterways. The allegations of animal neglect were found to be unsubstantiated by a veterinarian who visited the property with Pittsford Animal Control and Health Officer Rich Bowman.

The three properties are owned by members of the same family, though not all properties are used as primary residences.

The owners attended a June Selectboard meeting, objecting to the allegations and to the publicity that the situation has attracted. They also complained that they have been harassed by their neighbors, who they said have been driving by and taking photographs of their properties. They also claimed that their pets had been poisoned by neighbors carelessly distributing D-Con rat poison.

In turn, adjacent landowners claimed that the family has harassed and threatened them as well.

At several points during the meeting, Selectboard members insisted on decorum.

Adding to the conflict, Interim Town Manager Ann Reed said that she had not been able to reach Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi, who had been tasked with notifying the family of their alleged violations of

Pittsford land-use ordinances.

At the Board's July 2 meeting, Ms. Reed stated that the town's attorney had reviewed the matter and concluded that the case needed to be "started over" because the Zoning Administrator had failed to take certain steps. Ms. Reed said the attorney had referred to the case file as "a hot mess." Ms. Reed also said that Mr. Biasuzzi had given his files to the town attorney but she herself had not received anything from him.

Mr. Biasuzzi had not sent tickets to any of the property owners after he had sent letters warning them of violations and impending fines, according to Ms. Reed.

Ms. Reed also stated, however, that she and Mr. Biasuzzi had visited the Fire Hill properties together earlier that day and noted progress in their cleanup. She also said that she had developed a plan for weekly updates with one of the property owners, drawing praise from Board member Mark Winslow.

Ms. Reed said that she and Mr. Biasuzzi had also visited other properties around Pittsford that were in violation of town ordinances.

"We're not just picking on [this family]," she said.

"It's good we're not just focusing on this one road," added

(See Pittsford SB, Page 18)



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



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GARDENING CORNER

Mid-summer musings already looking to the fall

BY LYN DESMARAIS
Even though technically it's not mid-summer (45 days from the solstice) it sure feels like it in the garden. It's hot and humid and the weeds are growing like, well, weeds. Everything you've planted needs watering, especially all potted plants, which need watering daily. The weeds have overwhelmed a lot of the mulch, creeping Charlie seems to thrive in mulch!
I am a fan of fall planting, so I've started thinking about what to order for next year and where to plant it.
Go big.

The message from the famous U.K. Chelsea gardening show this year is to go big. Big leaves. Big flowers. Big color. Big displays. Even in tiny gardens. The presenters then proceeded to show tiny gardens and rooms in houses with plants stuffed into every possible space. There was one plant which had to have been 5 feet by 5 feet that was just grown for its beautiful foliage. It was in a very small garden, and it did create an optical illusion that made the garden look large. Huge plants with huge foliage are great for people who hate to

weed, like me. There won't be much room for weeds. It's also great for gardeners who like a bit of chaos, no space to walk in, no real way to weed unless you trample something else. I'm definitely one of these. The result may be a jumble, but a jumble of colors and textures can be very pleasing to the eye. I shouldn't say I hate to weed, I just have too much of it to do.
The presenters also encouraged people to use climbing roses and delphinium elatum, which reaches 8 feet in height. Delphinium generally is a short-lived perennial, 2-3 years, but the show you get the first year or two is certainly worth it. It's the variety and intensity of the blue colors they come in. Hollyhocks are biennials and are also a great choice for height and color. Want them to be perennial? Just sow seeds each fall until they are. I love growing flowers from seeds. It seems miraculous.
So, what else is big? Well, the incredible hydrangea has soccer ball sized white flowers and a profusion of them, dahlias can be the size of dinner plates, as can perennial hibiscus flowers and they all do well here in Brandon. The Nelson and Baird families, and others, grow supersized squash and pumpkins and sunflowers that are just enormous, if you're looking for a new hobby. I've seen blueberries the size of dimes and raspberries the size of quarters this summer. I think all the rain has helped. But variety of plant and new genetic combinations are most probably behind it all.
The other design trend the presenters were showing, in addition to a dog garden, which was fascinating, was a reminder about the value of drifts of plantings. There were gardens of roses. There were gardens of grasses. There were gardens

of layers short to tall. They are all so beautiful. It reminded me about proportion, and appropriateness of "which plants where." Although I love my bright chaotic meadow—look, the lack of pattern, other than bright, and the lack of struc-

ture, means that it can get lost against the backdrop of the hayfields nearby. I also admire the stateliness and the calmness of drifts of plants that don't need dead heading. Is it enough to tempt me to go out and dig
(See Gardening Corner, Page 11)



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Bloodroot Gap

Thursday July 24, 5-8 PM

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025
REGISTRATION FORM

☐ **Name and address listing: \$10 OR**
☐ **Enhanced listing: \$15**
\$15 buys you 25 words to describe your yard sale's "special" items plus your name and address in a boxed ad.

For ALL LISTINGS:
NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
ADDRESS: _____

For ENHANCED LISTING:
ADD 25 WORDS:
(separate sheet of paper)
MAIL TO: BACC, PO BOX 267,
BRANDON, VT 05733
OR DROP OFF AT CARR'S GIFTS.
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:
July 30, 2025
Go to Brandon.org for more info!



Cookbook Corner with the Maclure Cookbook Club

'Tried and True' spinach squares

BY ELIZABETH SIMPSON

Everyone has a “go to” recipe and this is mine. It’s perfect for potlucks or a quick company meal (about one hour start to finish). It’s a flexible recipe too. You can use any green, leafy vegetable you have on hand, fresh or frozen, and your favorite cheese. You can spice it up with some harissa or pepper flakes. It pairs well with fresh tomato or a salsa. I always serve this dish with some kind of crunchy greens; this time, I used pea shoots.

The recipe was given to me by my childhood friend, Deb, one of the most gifted and adventurous cooks on Earth. I called her one night looking for a new recipe to bring to a community event. Without hesitating, she suggested spinach squares and read the recipe to me over the phone. I still use the original copy, written in red ink, now faded to pink over the years. Deb passed away a while ago, but each time I pull out this recipe I think of her and our friendship, tried and true. Happy cooking.

INGREDIENTS

4 tbs butter
3 eggs
1 cup flour

1 tsp salt (optional)
1 tsp baking powder
2 tbs chopped onion (you can use dried onion or garlic flakes)
12-16 ounces grated cheese
2 packs of frozen spinach OR 1 large bag—thawed and well-drained OR about 3 cups of fresh chopped greens of your choice

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Put butter in a 9x12x2 GLASS pan and melt it in the oven. Watch carefully so it doesn’t burn.
- Remove pan from oven.
- Beat the eggs in a bowl, add flour, milk and baking powder, mixing until smooth.
- Add onion, cheese and spinach. Mix well.
- Spoon into baking dish and level off.
- Bake 30-35 minutes until the top is firm and the edges are a little brown. Remove and let stand for 20 minutes. Cut into squares—which are best if served warm.
- The butter will bubble up around the edges but don’t worry, it will get absorbed as the squares cool.
- If you use a 9x9 pan (as shown in the photo), the squares will be a little bit “taller.”



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Nick Tocci

(Continued from Page 1)
voice because you have a one-in-a-million gift.”

That recognition rejiggered his professional perspective.

“I finally knew what that itch in the back of my mind was,” he said. “I finally knew where I was supposed to be going in music.”

Lehman became a mentor to the young singer, helping him to fine-tune his natural instrument.

“Carroll was great at telling me what NOT to do,” he laughed.

He was in the second semester of his sophomore year, already a bit behind the other voice students at Keene. He had to make up a lot of ground, but he took to it like a duck to water.

He also began singing with the Keene State Chamber Singers, directed by Sandy Howard, who became another mentor.

“The technique came pretty quickly,” he said. He learned how to sing in

the major operatic languages: Italian, German, and French. He learned proper breath support and placement. He knew this was going to be his career.

Tocci graduated from Keene in 2015—he skipped his own graduation ceremony to appear in a production of Mozart’s “The Magic Flute”—and immediately entered a master’s program in vocal performance at the New England Conservatory (NEC) in Boston, one of the country’s premier music schools.

It was another NEC grad, Josh Collier, who eventually brought Tocci to Vermont. The two met while working on a production of “La Bohème” with the Southern Vermont Lyric Theater, run by Ken and Julie Olsson.

Collier, a tenor, had dreams of creating his own opera company and left Boston to move to Brandon with his wife, Hilary.

“I came up to Brandon to celebrate with them when they bought their first house there,”

said Tocci.

Collier ended up meeting Stephen and Edna Sutton, who owned what was then Brandon Music (across from the Neshobe Golf Club) and the Compass Center (at the former Brandon Training School campus). The seeds of BARN Opera were planted in those early performances at Brandon Music, which was a small theater in a converted barn.

In 2018, Collier founded BARN Opera in another converted barn on Pearl Street, just beyond the Sanderson Covered Bridge. Tocci was part of the crew that helped build BARN Opera, both literally and figuratively, as they worked to outfit the barn as a theater and

develop a musical program. As Associate Director, Tocci “did a little bit of everything,” including directing one staged production himself.

“BARN was the change I wanted to see happen in the classical music world,” said Tocci. It was a community-

based theater organized and run by musicians looking for artistic freedom.

“As a New Englander, I really loved the mission of bringing my musical passion to a New England community,” he added.

Tocci and his husband, Chris Szczerba, bought a house in Pittsford. Szczerba, an administrator in the healthcare industry, was on the Board of BARN Opera as well.

Tocci and Szczerba stayed with BARN through the pandemic but left the organization in 2023.

“It was just my time to move on,” said Tocci. “I contributed what I could to bring the company to the level it’s gotten to. Josh is a great musician and got me on the path I needed to be on. He taught me a lot about the industry. I thank him for lifting me up the way he did. I was on the precipice of leaving the industry when I met Josh.”

Tocci is now building a career for himself as an independent artist. In addition to teach-

ing voice at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., he’s booking

concerts and recitals on his own.



TOCCI WILL PRESENT a program of art songs this Saturday at the Salisbury Cong. Church as part of the Otter Creek Music Festival.

In fact, one of his first performances as an independent artist will be on Saturday, July 19, at 7:30 at the Salisbury Congregational Church, as part of the 2025 Otter Creek Music Festival, accompanied by Claire Black, who was BARN’s principal pianist. It will be a program of “art songs,” which are classical vocal compositions meant to stand alone. The program will feature Ralph Vaughn Williams and Aaron Copland, among others.

“Copland makes people weep,” Tocci said. “And Williams really expresses the range of human life. That’s what I love about art songs: they give me an opportunity to flesh out my own being. And they’re beautiful melodies. You’ll leave whistling something.”

The program is also an opportunity for the local community to hear Tocci on his own, and to appreciate the velvety beauty of a baritone voice, which sits in a lower range than the high-flying tenors who often steal the spotlight.

“I’m excited to bring the baritone repertoire to more people. It’s definitely part of my journey,” he added. “When you’re passionate about something, you need to share it with the people around you.”

Tickets for Saturday’s performance can be purchased at the door or at ottercreekmusicfestival.com.

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2010 TOYOTA TACOMA
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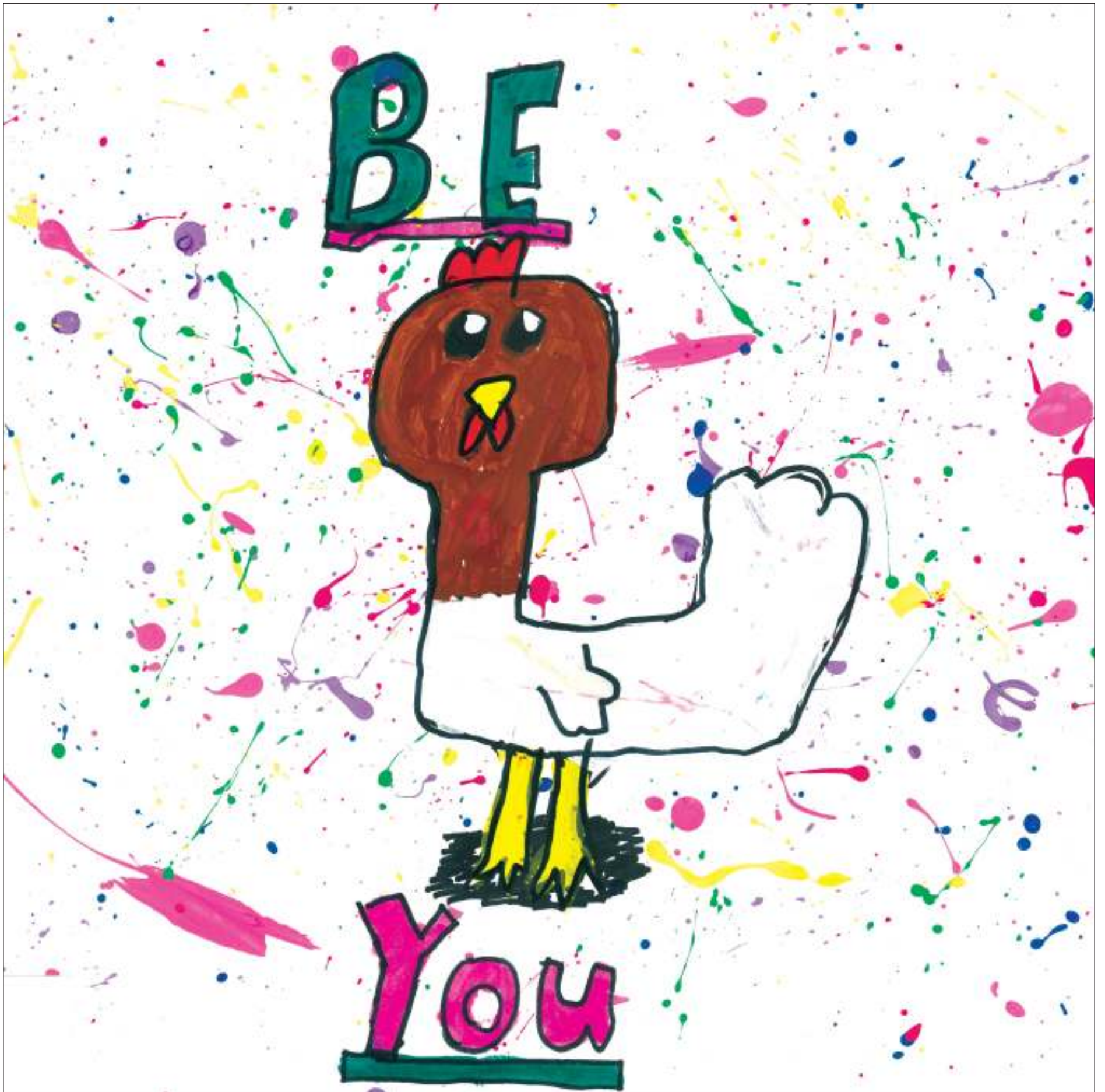
STUDENT: Natalee Dickinson

GRADE: 4 (going into grade 5)

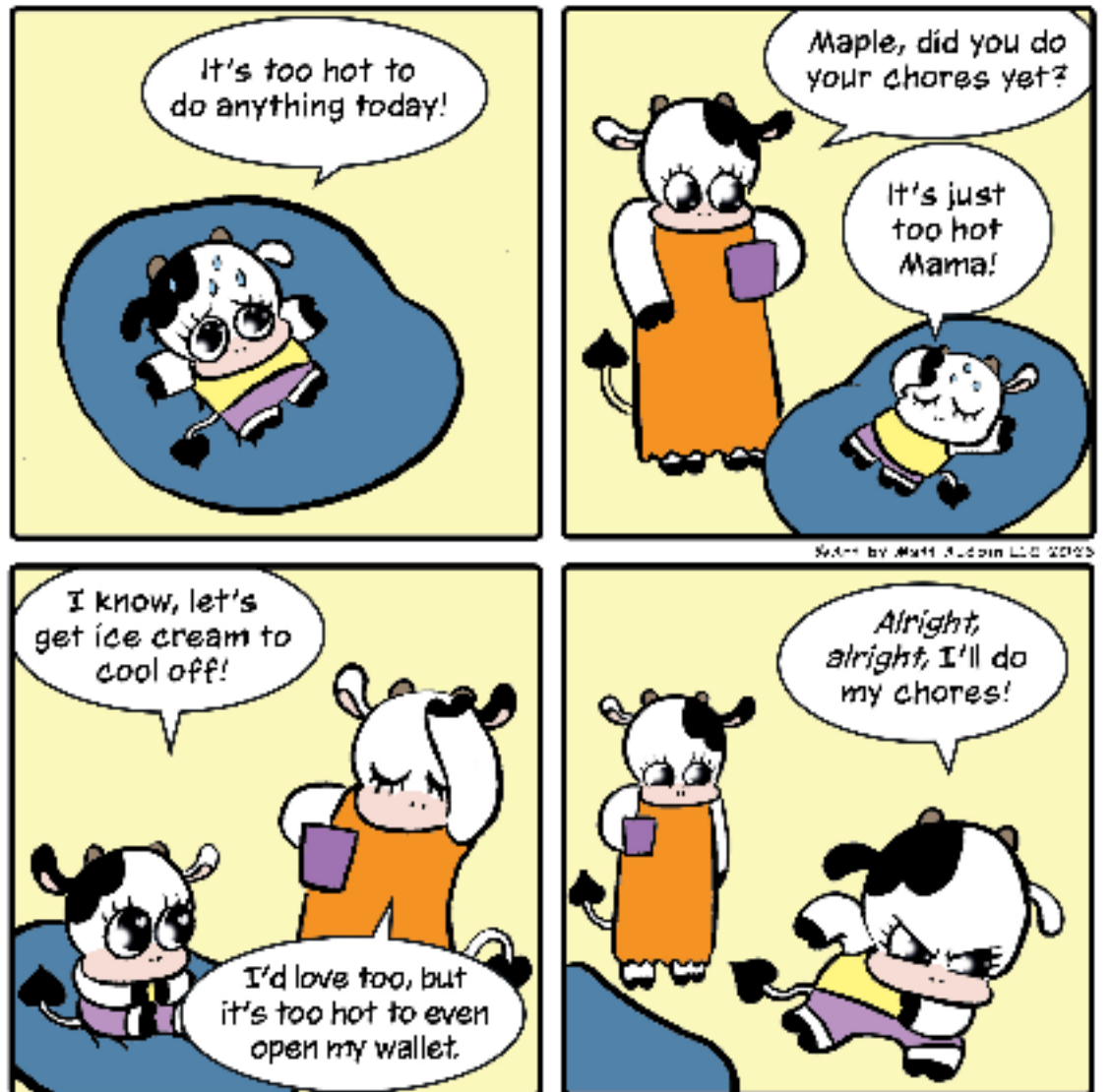
SCHOOL: Neshobe

TITLE: Be You

TEACHER: John Brodowski



MAPLE the COW[®] by Matt Aucoin



Gardening Corner

(Continued from Page 7)

up everything that I have planted? Not this year. But it has got me thinking about my terrible habit of buying random plants and adding them willy-nilly, here or there.

The one thing I am so tempted to buy are some shallow stone bowls for bees and butterflies to drink from. This year in particular, on the very hot days, I have been seeing bees and butterflies gathering in muddy holes after a rain to drink. I also saw these same holes used by swallows for their nests. I've decided to research this first before I add anything more to any garden that needs more care.

I'm still fixing hoses and putting timers on hoses this year. When cleaning out the gutters I found I had hundreds of silver maple seedlings, so I've potted some of them up but if I miss a single day of watering they die. I've dug out my timers which I bought several years ago but cannot remember how to use them. This is when I am so happy about having and using the internet. I plan to look it up! Then when I'm done that and all is working, I'll sit back with a pad and paper and think about my gardens. I've finally learned at least to go through the motions of having a plan.



Mim's Photos

Like all things vintage?

are on page 16!



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**THE NIFTY THRIFTY COMES THROUGH AGAIN
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**THIS \$1,000 DONATION WILL HELP
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- THURSDAY OPEN MIC WITH EMILY NELSON • FRIDAY NIGHT, • PAC WRESTLING, • SATURDAY NIGHT ATOM AND THE ORBITS
- SUNDAY AFTERNOON AUTHOR PHIL HALL READS HIS LATEST CHILDREN'S BOOK AND MORE FOR THE KIDS!

**PLUS THE VERMONT
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**FROM LEFT: LUCY ROUSE, LACEY AND ANNA POREMSKI,
DOROTHY BIRD AND MELLY FLYNN!**

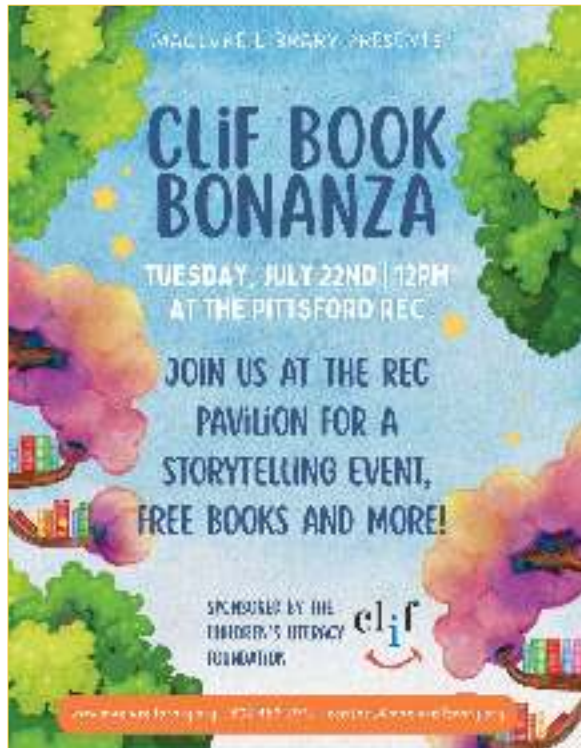
Calendar of events

July

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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



Maclure Library Yoga -

Gentle to moderate Kripalu yoga. Class includes physical movement, breathing techniques & meditation. Please bring a mat & any props you practice with. At 6 pm, \$10 fee. Sign up by emailing Paula Liguori at pali36@aol.com!

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Jessica Abbott from the Rutland County Parent Child Center hosts a weekly family program at the Library from 10 am–12 pm, geared towards kids ages 5 and under with singing, dancing, stories and crafts!

Pokémon Club at the Brandon Free Public Library
3–5 pm. Ages 7+.

Magic the Gathering at the Brandon Free Public Library
5–7pm

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library
Drop in from 5:30–7:00 pm, and bring your projects to work on.

Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library
5–6 pm

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

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

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at www.gmttc.com.

Friends Zone

Need a safe space to socialize? Come join us at the Friends Zone. Open Wednesdays 2-5 p.m. at the Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Meet with old friends and make new ones. Play cards, cribbage, or Yahtzee. Put a puzzle together or bring your arts, crafts, and hobbies to work on. Snacks and beverages provided. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact pastor Vicki Disorda at vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or 802 345-4125.

Crafternoons

Join us from 12–2 pm at Maclure Library every Wednesday & bring your craft projects & supplies for an afternoon of art. Share tips, get ideas & inspiration for new projects with fellow crafters!

Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library
5–6 pm

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

From 10:30–11:30 am at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland, Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth

Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

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

We spend a fair amount of the time exercising in a seated position in the chairs but if possible, we also do exercises standing, using the chairs for support. The exercises can be adjusted for individual needs and we move at a comfortable pace. I think you will soon notice a difference once you start. Looking forward to seeing you in class!

Lina (Parvati) has 20 plus years of experience teaching and a lifelong personal practice.

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on our email list. \$15/class.

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Art Center from 12–1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register. There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Starts at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories and bubbles!

Fridays

Chaffee Art Center All

About the Arts Free Class for kids 3–5

From 11am–Noon...FREE! Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more!

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week.

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

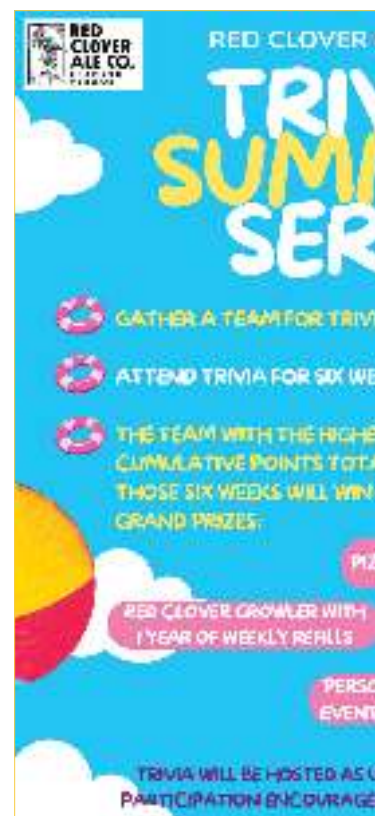
46th Annual M on-the-Green -

Join us for a delightful week of friendly performances at the 46th Middlebury Summer Festival on July 13-19.

The Festival offers a unique blend of and community spirit under the tent on the Middlebury, Vermont, Village. Enjoy "Brown Bag" programs well from 12-1 p.m., perfect for family break entertainment.

In the evenings, live musical performances light up the night from 7-9:45 p.m. through Saturday culminating in

Dance with the Vermont Jazz Ensemble. Free admission; donations welcomed.



Music at the River Bend

Behind the Brandon Inn, 6-8 p.m.

July 16: Bloodroot Gap
Locally sourced free-range bluegrass

July 23: Twangtown Paramours
Soulful Americana duo and retro blues band

July 30: Blues Without Borders
Champlain Valley's premier blues band

Aug 6: Breanna & the Boys
Local folk rock power quartet

Aug 13: Cold Chocolate
Genre-bending Americana band fusing folk, funk & bluegrass

Aug 20: Enerjazz
Vermont's high energy big-band

Aug 27: Ten Rod Road
Classic Brandon band reunites for one show!

Rain location: Town Hall

Brandon Senior Center Game Day

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

First Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

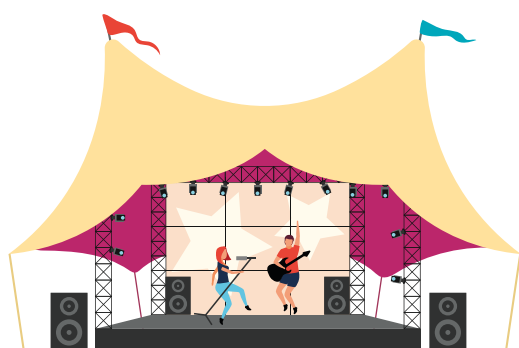
Middlebury Summer Festival — Village Green, Middlebury

July 13-19

Free, family-
n Annual
the-Green,

d of music
big white tent
age Green.
weekdays
es and lunch-

ormances
m., Sunday
a Street
semble.
omed.



Events take place rain or shine. Info: <https://www.festivalonthegreen.org/>



Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Free Medical Care for Adults Wednesdays in July from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

A free walk-in healthcare clinic for uninsured or underinsured adults in Rutland County will be offered by the Rutland County Health Partners (formerly Rutland Free Clinic) every Wednesday in July from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at our offices at 204 North Main Street, Rutland, Vt. No appointment is necessary. Clinics (with recommended appointments) will also be held 7/1 (9-12), 7/7 (3-6), 7/15 (1-4) and 7/21 (3-6). For appointments or any questions, call 802-774-1082.

Chess

Join us at The Greenhouse Dispensary on Conant Square in Brandon for a few casual games of chess on Sunday mornings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All experience levels are welcome. Free and open to adults 21 and older only.

Friday 18th

Sway Wild, plus Jake Klar — Next Stage Arts

Sway Wild's infectious sound explores the corners of rock, pop, funk and folk, but at its nucleus it is undeniably music full of joy. Mandy and Dave's gorgeous harmonies paired with moving lyrics serve to both process and share their jubilation, grief and frustration with a complex and deeply imperfect society. Mandy's electric guitar pyrotechnics and chordal rhythms challenge the listener to comprehend how she manages to extract so much feeling from six strings and an amplifier. Mandy and Dave have toured the US and Europe, performing alongside the likes of Mandolin Orange, Lake Street Dive, Iron & Wine and Charlie Hunter Trio. Mandy also tours as the lead guitarist for Amos Lee and Allison Russell and has recently performed with Brandi Carlile.

Opener Jake Klar is a singer/songwriter and visual artist whose music blends Americana, rock, pop and folk sensibilities, often exploring themes of story-telling and emotional connection.

From 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney.

Saturday 19th

18th Annual Mount Holly Garden Tour

The 18th Annual Mount Holly Garden Tour will be held on Saturday July 19, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., with a rain date of July 20. A self-guided tour of diverse gardens, it features sustainable organic fruit and vegetable practices, as well as lush sanctuaries with fragrant flowers, ponds and stone walls. Picnicking is welcome at Star Lake.

Tickets can be purchased on the day of the tour at the Mount Holly Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, for \$15 per person (12 and under free) and include entry into our garden themed gift raffle.

Bandwagon Summer Series: Armo and JMMR

Armo's intimate and energetic sound focuses on classic and contemporary Afrobeat. Founded by longtime Antibalas bandmates, Armo consists of trumpeter percussionist Jordan McLean, percussionist/vocalist Marcus Farrar, guitarist/keyboardist Nikhil P. Yerawadekar, drummer Kevin Raczka, Justin Kimmel and Dave "Smoota"

Smith on trombone/keyboards. The band creates spontaneous arrangements of the music of Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Tony Allen, Ebo Taylor, William Onyeabor, The Art Ensemble of Chicago, Amayo, and original rhythm-based compositions.

The band features a revolving cast from the Daptone Records family and NY Afrobeat scene. Collectively the members of Armo have performed thousands of concerts around the world

working with such luminaries as David Byrne, Angelique Kidjo, Public Enemy, TV on the Radio, Sharon Jones & The Dapkins, Ornette Coleman, and in the band for the Tony Award-winning musical FELA!

JMMR (Jordan McLean's Musical Resistance) brings you the newest sounds in tempo-based alternative jazz. At the band's core lies a fusion of synthetic and natural elements, where machines enhance human expression. Both familiar and unrecognizable, traditional musical techniques undergo electronic synthesis yielding un-



foreseen outcomes. JMMR is Jordan McLean on trumpet, percussion, synthesizers; Dave "Smoota" Smith on trombone and synthesizers; Tony Jarvis on bass clarinet and synthesizers; and John Walter Bollinger on drums & cymbals.

From 6-8 p.m. at The Putney Inn Field, 57 Putney Landing Road, Putney.

Phantom of the Opera Silent Movie Night — Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site

Join the staff of the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site for a special screening of the 1929 silent classic Phantom of the Opera. Lon Chaney, famous for his monstrous roles, stars in this classic as the illusive phantom that stalks the Paris Opera House. This film was first made in 1923 but it was later "remastered" in 1929 to include colorized scenes.

Come to learn about the technological marvels of the silent movie era and stay to be emersed in the story.

The movie will be screened afterhours in the historic Wilder Barn and the event is rain or shine. Free. Seating is available, but visitors are encouraged to bring a more comfortable lawn chair. Come early to picnic on the grounds or purchase concessions in the Cilley General Store.

From 7-9 p.m. at Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Vermont 100A, Plymouth.

Harmony's Kitchen

Harmony's Kitchen, Vermont's original soul food catering business, is bringing their Summer Soul Food Tour to Brandon! On Friday, July 19, Harmony's Kitchen will pop up at Red Clover Ale Co. from 4-7 p.m., serving their signature soul food classics—including fried chicken, baked mac and cheese, collard greens, and honey-glazed cornbread.

Guests can pre-order meals at <http://www.harmonyskitchenvt.com/takeout> or walk in the day of while supplies last.

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

Live at Kennedy Park Saturdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

July 19

Kevin Kareckas, Singer/Songwriter

July 26

Mark Van Nostrand, folk/rock covers

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

Board to consider consolidating the Board of Cannabis Control Commissioners, the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners, and the Board of Sewer Commissioners with the Selectboard, as all four Boards comprise the same five members. Currently, each Board maintains a separate agenda and records separate minutes. The Board is currently obligated to convene and adjourn in each of its capacities as well. Mr. Hopkins stated that consolidation would streamline meetings and recordkeeping. The Board expressed interest but did not act on the suggestion.

Board Chair Doug Bailey drew attention to the recent progress that Mr. Hopkins and the Brandon Police Department has made in attracting candidates to replace the officers who left earlier this year.

An attendee praised the work on the slate roof of the Town Hall, noting that Sbardella Slate had done an enormous amount of work, even given the cost of the project. Another attendee suggested that any expenses relating to the roof that are not covered by allotted funds should be paid for out of the general reserve fund, a proposal that Mr. Hopkins called wise.

COMMUNITY DEVELOP-

MENT REPORT

Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore delivered his Community Development report to the Board, the full text of which is reprinted in this issue.

Mr. Moore highlighted that the town has taken delivery of the 2025 VW ID Buzz van, which will be used by the Brandon Rec Department in addition to providing public ride-share transit connections. The van was paid for entirely through grants.

Mr. Moore also noted that Youthworks volunteers would be arriving in Brandon to help complete various projects around town at no cost to taxpayers.

FEMA DEMOLITION ON NORTH STREET

The Board unanimously voted to award the contract for the demolition of the FEMA-buy-out house at 317 North Street in Forest Dale to Richard Reed & Son of Proctor.

Reed's bid for the demolition was \$15,000, significantly less than the other 9 bids the town received. The next lowest bid was \$24,130. The highest bid was \$58,000.

Bill Moore stated that Reed has completed similar projects for the town and that "their work was excellent." Board Vice-Chair Cecil Reniche-Smith stated that her reservations about the uniquely low bid were settled by Mr. Hopkins' and Mr. Bailey's assurances that the company could perform the work for the quoted price.

The \$15,000 quote included a \$2,000 reduction for the value of materials that Reed planned to salvage from the property.

REVOLVING LOAN FOR NEW GYM

The Board unanimously approved a loan of \$59,989 from the Revolving Loan Fund to Andrew Doaner, who will use the money for Fit Factory Fitness, a gym that he plans to open in the former Upscale Resale space on Route 7. The gym will be the first in Brandon in many years.

The terms of the loan are 5.5% interest amortized over 120 months with a balloon payment at 60 months. Collateral will be the assets of Fit Factory Fitness and a personal loan guarantee by the principals of Brandon Bakery & Pizza, LLC.

Erynn Doaner, Mr. Doaner's wife, praised the Revolving Loan program, stating that the program "is the reason we're able to do the things we've done." This is the third loan that the Doaners have received from

the fund. The Doaners also own Mae's Place in Brandon and the Hilltop Tavern in Pittsford.

Mr. Doaner said that he anticipates that the gym will be open in late fall, if all goes according to schedule. Look for a profile of Mr. Doaner and this new project in next week's issue of The Reporter.

TERMS SET FOR BRAVO BOARD MEMBERS

Brandon's Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders (BRAVO) requested that the Board set fixed one-year terms for members of its board. The Board approved the proposal unanimously. Previously, board members served at will. The new arrangement will give board members one-year terms, all coinciding with the beginning and end of each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Appointments will now be made annually.

BRAVO works with local law enforcement to find alternative forms of justice for victims outside the penal system. The members of BRAVO's board do not work with victims and offenders. Instead, they oversee the program in an advisory capacity.

The current members of BRAVO's board are:

Mitch Pearl, Chair

Paula Ashley, outgoing Coordinator

Sue Gage, incoming Coordinator

Debbie Boyce, a co-founder

Erin Kilpeck

REVIEW OF TOWN ORDINANCES

The Board agreed to begin review of the Town's full set of ordinances, to determine which should remain in force, which should be revised, and which should be repealed entirely. Board Vice-Chair Cecil Reniche-Smith, a retired municipal attorney, has volunteered to lead the review.

Mr. Hopkins had also suggested that the Board could hire an outside firm to undertake the review at a cost of roughly \$15,000.

"I'm free and that's better than \$15,000," said Ms. Reniche-Smith.

Mr. Hopkins also suggested that the ordinances, which are currently kept in a three-ring binder, need to be organized thematically rather than alphabetically, as they are now. Board member Jeff Haylon suggested that the ordinances be digitized as part of the review process as well.

The Board performed its first review at the meeting, voting

unanimously to repeal a 1952 ordinance that regulated the operation of pool halls and bowling alleys, of which there are currently none in Brandon. The obsolete ordinance concerned itself with what it appeared to view as the unwholesome influence of such establishments on Brandon's youth.

Brandon residents now have 44 days to petition for a town-wide vote on the repeal. If no valid petition is submitted by August 28, the repeal will go into effect on September 15.

Town Appointment Policy

The discussion of town ordinances prompted one attendee to ask the Board whether it was itself bound to comply with the town's written policies. Specifically, the attendee argued that it was a violation of town policy for the Board to offer incumbent members of town committees automatic reappointments rather than allow other residents to apply for those seats.

Several weeks ago, the Board had reappointed several people to committee seats rather than accept applications for those seats from other residents.

"Equal opportunity begins with opportunity," said the attendee, holding that the town should be seeking to increase opportunities for residents to participate in town governance.

Ms. Reniche-Smith replied that the seats in question had not been vacated and that the policy that the attendee had quoted applied only when a seat was given up by its holder.

The attendee then asked why the seats even had terms if they could be held as long as the appointees wanted.

Another attendee noted that members of the Budget Committee had to reapply for reappointment last year. The attendee argued that the Board needed a consistent policy.

Board Chair Doug Bailey said that the Board would review its appointment policy as well.

FY2027 BUDGET COMMITTEE TO FORM

Following the discussion on appointments, Mr. Bailey announced that the Budget Committee would soon convene to begin work on the FY2026-2027 budget. Mr. Bailey stated that last year's Committee members would receive emails asking if they wanted to return to the Committee this year. The town will also post the positions for anyone else who may be interested in applying, with interviews to begin in early August.

Mr. Bailey noted that the bud-

(See Brandon SB, Page 20)

Restaurant guide



Café Provence

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 for more information

Brandon Town Manager's report, June 24–July 11

FOR AWARENESS OF THE COMMUNITY

Work on the Sanderson Covered Bridge has been reconfirmed for the week of July 14. Pearl Street will be dead ended at the bridge from both directions from 7:30AM - 2:30PM daily for about a week.

Vacancies exist in the following positions. Interested Brandon residents should please submit a cover sheet and letter of interest to the town manager:

- Member (voting)
- Energy Committee — meets 1st Monday 4:30PM
- Alternate (attends/discusses at meetings; only votes in absence of a voting member)
- Planning Commission — meets 1st Monday 6PM
- Development Review Board — meets 4th Thursday 7PM

PUBLIC WORKS

Wilk Paving may have opportunity to perform the Town Farm Road resurfacing in the next six weeks or so. This is earlier than we often have had road paving done recently, because the selectboard created an advance plan that allowed us to go out to bid earlier in the year.

All fuel contracts and purchase orders for wastewater chemicals approved by the selectboard at its most recent meeting have been finalized with the respective suppliers for FY26.

Town staff replaced a lamppost that was struck by a motorist in Central Park; this exhausted our on-hand stock and we are working on replenishment because lead time is so long.

We have tentative plans for a selectboard site visit at 6PM before the next meeting (July 28) to the state highway barn for a look-around as we consider a course of action to address our deficient town highway barn.

The north car charging station was replaced under warranty due to a mechanical fault. Upon request of a selectboard member, I have been given written confirmation that the current price to replace one out of warranty would be \$5,220 for the station and \$540 for installation.

I'm working with the Congregational Church regarding the upcoming steeple and clock repair. The clock belongs to the Town. We will be repainting the face and hands. The clockworks themselves are still an open issue with a knowledgeable local person working with

Work on the replacement of the slate roof on the Town Hall is nearly complete as of this report; the scaffolding will come down and job site cleared out in coming days. For those curious about conditions and progress, I have posted some photos taken by Sbardella Slate at this page of the Town website:

<https://www.townofbrandon.com/town-hall-roof-re-slating-summer-2025/>

TOWN FINANCES

The list for tax sale is down from the initial 75 reported around Town Meeting time to the current list of 17 property owners. Many taxpayers have availed themselves of payment plans, making their first payments to stay out of the tax sale by becoming current.

For the next couple of meetings, I'll include the FY25 department budget summary as that year's bills trickle in, as well as the FY26 (current year) department budget summary.

I recommend the selectboard consider the FY27 budget workshop process including budget advisory committee, workshop series dates, and communication to the voters. Last year's process was thorough, started early, brought creative solutions, and earned a strong endorsement from the voters at Town Meeting.

STAFFING

Chief Kachajian conducted a successful interview with a candidate for police officer on Wednesday of this week a successful interview with another candidate later in the week. Both are advancing in Brandon's accession process.

Officer Fontana is in field training with Chief Kachajian here in Brandon, and they and Officer Kelleher are pleased to be assisted by Emily Taylor in the (part-time/temporary) administrative position while the usual person is on leave. Highway, Wastewater, Recreation, and Admin/Finance are staffed at full authorized strength.

FOLLOW-UP

I participated in the Vermont Emergency Management local liaison activation drill on June 25th and with EMC Jeff Haylon in the VEM in-person tabletop exercise at the North Chittenden Grange that same day. Brandon is considered a "community champion" in the Rutland Region but we identified lots of ways we can improve in preparedness.

I fulfilled a periodic require-

ment of Brandon's Certified Local Government status through an in-person meeting with State architectural historian Elizabeth Peebles. This was informative and will assist us in complying with the requirements of this certification which benefits our community through the Designated Downtown program and benefits individual property owners through tax credits for historic preservation. I followed up in-person with the chair of our historic preservation commission Dennis Reisenweaver.

I created and distributed an "instructable" for hybrid/Zoom meetings held by all boards and commissions at the Town Hall.

I had many meetings with residents, town officials, staff, and filled a number of requests for information.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

As of Friday, July 11:

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance	\$596,316
1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Obligation	\$307,149
Known Grants / Matches Not Yet Designated	UNION STREET (~\$300,000)
Delinquent property taxes	\$633,841 (was \$660,798)
Delinquent wastewater (1/over 30 days)	\$189,917 (was \$194,750)

Seth M. Hopkins

Charlie Murphy - 3 to 7 Weekdays





Mim's Photos

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



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

Or call us at 247-8080



Recognized



Terry Ferson recognized (from left to right) Joan Foster, John Gentile, Bill Root, Ellen Root, Charles Foster and Lee Foster (Charles's father). Mr. Ferson reports, "This picture was taken in 1987 when John and Bill were both fellow chiropractic students with Charles. So they were [in Brandon] for a visit."



Terry Ferson and Kurt Kimball recognized John Meyers on the left in this photo taken during a play. Mr. Ferson also couldn't help but recognize his sister Sally Ferson Bell.



Maridon Gibson recognized Ray Thornton dancing in the Town Hall, as Dave Gibson and Velma Thornton look on (far right). Terry Ferson also recognized Mr. Gibson. Ms. Gibson identified Harmon Thurston on the left, and added, "I still have those shiny, black shoes, but the sweater is long-gone," which we think means she's Mr. Thornton's dancing partner!



Terry Ferson, Kurt Kimball and Sue Wetmore recognized Richard Parker on the right in this photo. Mr. Ferson and Ms. Wetmore recognized Sue Baker Parker on the left, while Mr. Kimball and Mr. Ferson recognized Milt June in the center.

Mr. Parker took over June's Hardware Store in the 1970s, renaming it Parker Brothers Hardware.

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Resorts
- 5. One point south of southwest
- 9. Musical performances
- 11. Matched
- 13. Four-footed animal part
- 15. Express severe disapproval of
- 16. Type of leaf
- 17. Preparatory
- 19. Walk heavily
- 21. Succulent plants
- 22. Rectangle of grass
- 23. Lump in yarn
- 25. Too
- 26. Foot (Latin)
- 27. Afflicts
- 29. Smoothed
- 31. Mind (Greek)
- 33. Tampa ballclub
- 34. Semitic language
- 36. Sheltered sides
- 38. Ocean
- 39. Electronic point of sale
- 41. Thrust a knife into
- 43. 12th month (abbr.)
- 44. Ringworm
- 46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
- 48. Fighting back
- 52. Cease to exist
- 53. Insects in adult stage
- 54. Freestanding sculpture
- 56. Caps
- 57. Repents
- 58. Brown and Wallace are two
- 59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Goes bad
- 2. Yard structure
- 3. They ___
- 4. Marine invertebrate
- 5. European river
- 6. Office supplies firm
- 7. Physically abused
- 8. Service stations in Australia
- 9. Kills
- 10. Liquid body substances
- 11. Particular to a given individual
- 12. Brave or noble act
- 14. Sicilian city
- 15. Conqueror
- 18. Elected officials
- 20. Type of "pig"
- 24. Drop of viscous substance
- 26. Monetary unit of Spain
- 28. Guarantees
- 30. Coloring materials
- 32. Reddish browns
- 34. Square measure
- 35. Will not
- 37. Canned fish
- 38. Appeared
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Took off
- 43. Negligible amount
- 45. Posts in a Greek temple
- 47. Witnesses
- 49. Phil ___, former CIA
- 50. Places to park
- 51. Guns
- 55. Dance to pop music

	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			

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 .

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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Keep Pets Safe in the Summer Heat

As temperatures rise, it's important to remember that summer heat can be dangerous, even deadly, for our furry friends. The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) urges all pet owners to take extra precautions to keep animals safe and comfortable during the hottest days of the year. Here are a few key tips to help your pets beat the heat: Never leave pets in parked cars, even with the windows cracked. Temperatures inside a car can soar in minutes, leading to heatstroke or death. Limit outdoor activity during peak heat hours. Walk dogs early in the morning or later in the evening when it's cooler. Provide shade and fresh water at all times, especially for outdoor animals. Watch for signs of heatstroke, including excessive panting, drooling, weakness, vomiting, or collapse. Seek veterinary help immediately if you suspect overheating. Protect their paws. Hot pavement can burn sensitive paw pads. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their feet. Keeping your pets cool, hydrated, and indoors, when possible, can make all the difference. Let's enjoy summer safely, together. Let's keep our pets safe, healthy, and happy during these hot days.

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



MEET GENJI - ADULT. MALE. AMERICAN GUINEA PIG. WHITE.

Genji is a handsome little guinea pig with a soft white coat and unique swirly patterns that make him truly one of a kind. He's a bit shy at first, but with gentle handling and some daily patience, Genji is sure to come out of his shell. He's curious, calm, and full of potential to become a loving little companion. If you're looking for a gentle piggy to bond with and help blossom, Genji might just be the perfect match! Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

MEET GLORIA - 7 1/2-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. PITBULL TERRIER. BRINDLE.

Gloria is ready to glow up. This big lovebug lives for belly rubs and outdoor adventures! Gloria is brushing up on her leash manners and enjoys stretching her legs on walks (especially since she's working on slimming down; go, Gloria!). She hasn't shown much interest in toys yet, but we think that might change once she's settled into a cozy home. Gloria takes a little time to warm up to new people, but once she does, she's all heart and tail wags. She prefers to be the queen of her castle and isn't a fan of most other dogs, though with the right match and a proper introduction, it might work out. Got a dog at home? A meet and greet is a must! Gloria might be a bit much for young kids or super chill cats, but older children and confident kitties could be a good fit. If you're looking for a loyal companion with lots of love to give, come meet Gloria!



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



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



New adult fiction

Dungeon Crawler Carl by Matt Dinniman

Books 1-6. The adventures of a Coast Guard veteran who enters a deadly tournament when aliens turn Earth's subterranean into deadly tournament dungeons for a game show.

If You Love It Let It Kill You by Hannah Pittard

Divorced and childless, Hana P.—the metafictional version—has built a cozy life in Lexington, Kentucky, teaching at the university, living with a fellow academic, and helping raise his pre-teen daughter. One day, Hana learns that an unflattering version of herself will appear prominently . . . in her ex-husband's debut novel. For a week, her life continues largely unaffected by the news, and then one morning she wakes up changed. The contentment she's long been enjoying is gone. In its place: nothing. A remarkably ridiculous mid-life crisis ensues, featuring a talking cat, a visit to the dean's office, a shadowy figure from the past, a Greek-like chorus of indignant students whose primary complaints concern Hana's auto-fictional narrative, and a game called Dead Body.

Victorian Psycho by Virginia Feito

In Grim Wolds, England, Winifred Notty takes on the role of governess at Ensor House, where she must navigate the twisted dynamics of the dysfunctional Pounds

family while suppressing her own violent past; as Christmas approaches, she plans sinister gifts for her charges, revealing her true nature.

We Used to Live Here by Marcus Kliever

While her girlfriend is out picking up dinner, Eve receives a knock at the door. A man claiming he used to live in the house asks if he and his family can take a look around. She reluctantly agrees. But as soon as they enter, inexplicable things start to happen. A child goes missing, something ghostly is in the basement, and Eve starts to wonder if she's losing her grip on reality.

The Nightshade God by Hannah Whitten. (The Nightshade Crown Book 3)

Lore has failed. She couldn't save King Bastian from the rotten god speaking voices in his mind. She couldn't save her allies from being scattered across the continent. She couldn't save her beautiful, corrupt city from the dark power beneath the catacombs. And she couldn't save herself. Banished to the Burnt Isles, Lore must use every skill she earned on the streets of Dellaire to survive the prison colony and figure out a way to defeat the power that's captured everything and everyone she holds dear.

DID YOU KNOW?

Vermont artist Aja Ewing will be teaching the Japanese art of Shibori dyeing on July 19 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. (Contact us at info@brandonpubliclibrary.org or 247-8230). Please bring your own cloth item to dye; we will have a few items available as well.

Salt Bones by Jennifer Givhan

Malamar Veracruz has never left the dust-choked town of El Valle. Here, Mal has done her best to build a good life: She's raised two children, worked hard, and tried to forget the painful, unexplained disappearance of her sister, Elena. When another local girl goes missing, Mal plunges into a fresh yet familiar nightmare. As a desperate Mal hunts for answers, her search becomes increasingly tangled with inscrutable visions of a horse-headed woman, a local legend who Mal feels compelled to follow. Mal's perspective is joined by the voices of her two daughters, all three of whom must work to uncover the truth about the missing girls in their community before it's too late.

Inner Space by Jakub Szamaek

American and Russian astronauts are trapped together in the International Space Station as war breaks out in Ukraine and life support functions begin to fail.

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 p.m./6 p.m. until 8 a.m., 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.

July 7

- Responded to a threat and harassment complaint on Pearl Street.
- Received a report via telephone of a minor vehicle crash that was understood to have occurred at the Hannaford Supermarket in Brandon. It was later determined that the crash actually occurred in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada and not in Brandon, Vermont. The caller was provided with the phone number for the Brandon, Manitoba Police Services so that he could report the incident to them.
- Received a late report of a non-reportable crash that occurred on Park Street.
- Responded to a domestic disturbance call on Pearl Street between a man and woman at the residence.
- Served a restraining order at a residence on Pearl Street.

July 8

- Responded to a welfare check on Conant Square. The woman in question was determined to be in good spirits and health.
- Received a complaint that hubcaps had been stolen from a residence on East Prospect Street.
- Responded to a residence

on Park Street for a 911 hang-up call. It was later determined that the homeowner was having issues with his phone.

- Took possession of a wallet that was brought to the BPD that had been found on Shackett Road in Leicester. The owner of the wallet was identified and contacted.

- Received a report of a landlord/tenant dispute on Forest Dale Road. Officers spoke with the landlord and it was determined to be a civil issue.

July 9

- Received a late report of a crash that occurred in the parking lot of the Hannaford Supermarket. The incident was documented for insurance purposes.
- Started a criminal background check on a volunteer for the Restorative Justice Board at BRAVO.
- Assisted an individual on Town Farm Road who reported a possible debt collection scam that is occurring.
- Attempted to stop a motorcycle that was operating at high speed on Forest Dale Road with a passenger who was not wearing a helmet. The motorcycle fled from the officer on Town Farm Road. Anyone with information is requested to contact the BPD.
- Assisted the Vergennes Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations with transporting and processing an individual who was arrested by the Vergennes Police Department in Brandon.

July 11

- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.

Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 6)

Board Chair Alicia Malay.

A neighbor who has been complaining to the Board about the Fire Hill properties for years said that Mr. Biasuzzi had told him a week earlier that he had

already gone out to visit the properties and formed a plan, though Ms. Reed's comments during that meeting made him question the accuracy of Mr. Biasuzzi's claims.

"I'm not feeling warm and

fuzzy," he said.

Ms. Reed stated that the next step would be to send new letters of violation by certified mail to the property owners in question.

Call 247-8080 for details.

Yard Sale?

Advertise it in the Reporter!

5 West Seminary

(Continued from Page 2)
According to the Brandon Union, “Brandon’s first newspaper had fallen low in the opinion

and then he died in 1880, leaving the house to his only son Henry, 32, who already lived there with his wife Nellie and



GIPSON’S LUMBER, CA. 1910, now home to Sister Wicked.

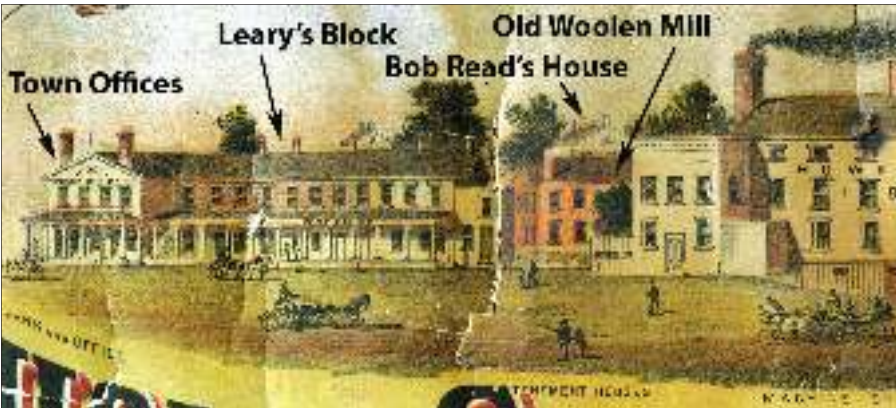
of churchmen. Its editor, Orson S. Murray, devoted a column and a half editorial to explain why he considered it ‘monstrously unnatural and vastly hurtful’ to shave the face or cut the hair. In the same issue, that of October 4, 1843, he announced the end of the Telegraph and denounced the churches as ‘relics of ignorance.’”
Murray moved on to Ohio, where he continued his prominence as a fiery anti-slavery publisher and lecturer, never shaving or cutting his hair, forsaking alcohol and tobacco, not eating meat and renouncing all religion until his death at 78 in 1885.
THE WOOL MERCHANT
A few years after Orson Murray left town, a rich wool merchant, named Chester Kingsley bought the house, which was just above his brick woolen mill on the Neshobe. Kingsley would live there until 1873, when he sold the mill to Howe Scale and the house to Carlos Gipson from Salisbury.
GIPSON LUMBER
Carlos Jonathan Gipson was 54 and a successful merchant in Brandon when he bought the house. Three years after they bought it, his wife Laura died

two small children. Henry was then clerking for J. F. Knapp’s lumber yard on Center Street not far away on the north side of the stone bridge.
In 1884, Henry Gipson bought out Knapp and started Gipson Lumber in the same spot (now where the brick building is at 4 Conant Square). Under Gipson’s management and thanks to the economic boom in Brandon, the business took off. Then, in November of 1906, a devastating fire destroyed the lumber yard and the three adjacent buildings of the grist mill property along the lower falls. The Gipson lumber yard was destroyed and only partially covered by insurance.
Gipson quickly rebuilt his lumber yard, this time on the north side of the river just below his house (now 3 West Seminary Street). He bought the land there from the town in 1907 and erected a 3-story, 24-by-80-foot building to be used for his office and lumber warehouse. In 1906, Gipson also bought the former brick woolen mill building there to use as a tenement building.
In 1912, more lumber sheds went up along with a 43-foot addition to the rear of the warehouse building. In 1913, another

2-story lumber-milling shop was built to the far east by the river.
GIPSON SONS
Henry and Nellie’s two sons,

los’s family until her death at 86 in 1934.
The Gipson brothers ran the business into the 1950s. They were both prominent in Bran-

BRANDON LUMBER
In 1954, Gipson Lumber and Carlos’ Gipson’s brick house at 5 West Seminary were sold to Edward Gerow who renamed the business Brandon Lumber & Millwork. The Gerows only lived in the house a few years. He ran the business until 1967, when he sold it to John Read along with the house.
JOHN READ



Arthur and Carlos, worked at the lumber yard from their teens on. In 1907, Henry gave 23-year-old Arthur the lot at what is now 7 West Seminary where he built the house that is still there today (now owned by Dr. Kevin Thornton).

Henry Gipson was very prominent in town affairs, serving as town representative and as a selectman and was also the superintendent of the Rutland County Fair for many years.


In 1917, Henry Gipson passed away at age 68 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Arthur and Carlos took over the reins of the business, renaming it Gipson Brothers Lumber. Carlos inherited the old brick Murray house from his father and his mother Nellie continued living there with Car-



TOP: A VIEW of Center Street, ca. 1864; Bottom: 5 West Seminary St. today.

don’s church, civic and political activities. Carlos was a selectman.
Younger brother Carlos died first, of a heart condition in 1951 at only 65, while at work in the Gipson Brothers office. Arthur passed away two years later, at 78, in 1953.

John Read was born in 1920 in New Jersey, became a talented mechanical engineer, then served as a captain in WWII redesigning planes to fly injured soldiers back home from Europe. He married Patricia Langley in 1949.
(See 5 West Seminary, Page 21)



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Love and joy surround you, and this week is ideal for connecting with someone special or deepening an important bond, Leo. Your heart feels open, and good things are flowing your way.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
A chance to help or support someone brings a deeper sense of purpose. Kindness flows easily from you now, Virgo, and the gratitude you receive in return is both touching and inspiring.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
This week your relationships are in harmony, Libra. You’re feeling strongly supported. Conversations flow with ease, and people are drawn to your warm personality.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
A milestone is within reach, and the progress you’ve made starts to emerge this week, Scorpio. Your persistence and inner fire have been guiding you forward.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Sagittarius, a fresh perspective allows you to release old worries or doubts. This is a week of clarity and growth during which inspiration meets personal freedom.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Practical matters – especially career or finances – are looking up, Capricorn. A smart decision made now could lead to something even better down the line.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Aquarius, you’ve had your eye on the prize for some time now, and the good news is that the finish line is within arm’s length. Stick with things for just a little longer.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Pisces, you have been making some changes this week. Your perspective and surroundings at home have changed. This can be a refreshing endeavor.

ARIES March 21-April 20
Aries, the week kicks off with a surge of vitality and determination. You’re eager to take action, and the universe backs you. It’s a perfect week to push ahead with goals.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
Creative energy flows in and a long-dormant idea may spark back to life, Taurus. You’re in the right mindset to pursue something artistic and innovative. Reconsider a refreshing hobby.

GEMINI May 22-June 21
Gemini, you’re in your element this week and buzzing with charm and curiosity. Engaging conversations abound. Opportunities to connect, both socially and professionally, come easily.

CANCER June 22-July 22
Cancer, a small act of courage pays off in a big way, and you’ll find that trusting yourself leads to a fulfilling outcome this week. Embrace your instincts.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

July 18	Nelson Mandela, anti-Apartheid activist, President of South Africa (d)
July 19	Edgar Degas, painter (d)
July 20	Sandra Oh, actor (44)
July 21	Robin Williams, actor & comedian (d)
July 22	Selena Gomez, singer-songwriter (33)
July 23	Alison Kraus, singer (54)
July 24	Kristin Chenoweth, actor (56)

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 14)
get workshops will begin early again this year, likely by the end of August, on Mondays when the Selectboard does not meet.
The Budget Committee is an advisory panel that assists the Selectboard in crafting a town budget. Members of the Committee offer advice and opinions on behalf of the community but do not vote on the final budget

proposal that is put before voters at Town Meeting.
WARRANTS
The Board unanimously approved two warrants in the amounts of \$168,911.88 and \$198,389.82. There were two warrants in this period because one warrant covered expenses left over from FY25, which ended on June 30.

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Senior spotlight A chat with Joe Frankiewicz

Joseph “Joe” Frankiewicz was born in Rutland, Vt. in 1952. His father, Carl, was a machinist at Patch/Wagner, while his mother, Mary Pokrywka, was a homemaker. She worked at Howe Scale during WWII and also worked the night shift at Loretto Home, once the kids were grown. Joe grew up with two brothers and a sister: Mike, Carl, and Anne. He attended St. Peter’s School and Mount St. Joseph Academy. He was a long-haul truck driver but didn’t care for it because “I sat too long.” He switched to a more local delivery company, working for St. Johnsbury, Holmes, and Yellow Trucking. Although never married, he had a life partner, Annie Robbins, who sadly has passed away. When asked what was the best thing that ever happened to him, his response was, “Graduating from college.” He attended New Hampshire Technical School, Keene State, and UVM, where he majored in education. He then went on to teach for four years and decided it wasn’t for him. The most embarrassing thing that ever happened to him was, “Nothing really—I’ve heard & done it all!” His hobbies and interests include bee keeping, fishing, walking, and a drive

in the country. His favorite thing to do is work with honeybees at his home in South Carolina. The most exciting experience that he was willing to share was when he got to drive a tractor-trailer for the first time by himself.

Profile and photo courtesy of the Brandon Senior Center in Forest Dale.



Brandon Senior Center’s “Spotlighted Senior”
Joe Frankiewicz



Brandon’s got new wheels!

BRANDON REC TOOK delivery of a new electric VW van on Monday. The van will be used for Rec activities and to transport Brandon residents. The \$64K vehicle was completely paid for with an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

Photo provided

Battle of Hubbardton comes alive



HUBBARDTON BATTLEFIELD HOSTED the annual Revolutionary War re-enactment this past weekend. Hundreds of history buffs in period costume spent the weekend on the field, living in a period-appropriate encampment.

Photos by Dale Christie

5 West Seminary

(Continued from Page 19)

John was 47 when he bought Brandon Lumber and moved into the old brick Murray House next door with his wife and three young children: Carolyn, Bob, and Marjorie. He would run Brandon Lumber for the next 25 years.

John was an important founding member of both the Brandon Area Rescue Squad and the Brandon Historical Society. He loved the history of the town and helped publicize it many years. Pat Read was very active in the Brandon Garden Club, Brandon Thrift Shop, and Friends of the Library.

In 1986, John Read deeded all the business and residence lands and buildings to his son Bob Read, who was then living in Rochester, Vt. John and Pat built a house at Mount Pleasant Acres and moved there in 1987.

Bob Read rented the house to locals over the next few years. In 1989, Bob moved Brandon Lumber to 11 Grove Street where it still is today. Bob sold the business in 2008 and it's now a part of Ace Hardware.

Today, Bob Read lives in the 187-year-old brick Murray House and rents out most of the old warehouse building (the front has been a funky shop called Sister Wicked since 2019), but he retains the lumber-milling shop where he does periodic jobs.

The lumber used to build many of the houses in Brandon came from Gipson and Brandon Lumber for over 100 years. Just as importantly, the impact of Orson Murray's first Brandon newspaper and his progressive views still ring true in Brandon almost 200 years later.

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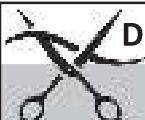


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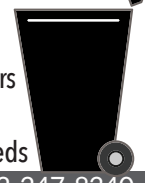
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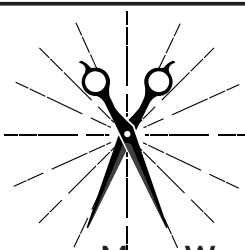
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Blacklegged ticks

(Continued from Page 4)
they're not here, but it doesn't mean that they can't geographically expand to be in Vermont in the future," Kwit said.
To prevent tick bites, Casey suggests wearing long pants tucked into socks and long-

cleaning the area with rubbing alcohol, soap and water. The Vermont Department of Health provides detailed guidelines on how to remove ticks.
The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets allows people to send ticks to be identified. The

and Prevention, collecting ticks across Vermont to test them and gather data on tick species, their habitats and the diseases they may carry.
Casey said the program has been temporarily suspended this year due to uncertainty surround-

ing funding. The priority has instead shifted to mosquito surveillance to track illnesses such as Eastern equine encephalitis.
"Most of us live in Vermont, in part, because it's so beautiful, and we like to be outdoors in it. And it's just that things have

changed a little bit, and now we need to be very vigilant about interactions with ticks to try to avoid tick bites," Casey said. "The good news is that if we're careful, we can really drastically lower our risk for contracting a tick-borne illness."



A BLACKLEGGED TICK, also known as a deer tick, which is a carrier of Lyme disease.
Photo courtesy of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via AP

sleeve shirts when spending time outdoors in areas where ticks prosper to spot ticks more easily if they end up on clothes. Spraying EPA-registered repellents or treating clothes with permethrin is also recommended to keep ticks away.
Once home, it's advisable to put the clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill potential ticks and take a shower, checking the body and scalp to

agency doesn't test the ticks for diseases, but it will inform people of the species, sex and age of the tick, giving them information they can tell their doctor to assess the best course of treatment in case they later develop symptoms.
Since many people don't realize they have been bitten by a tick, experts recommend being on the lookout for potential symptoms, especially after out-



A LONE STAR tick. Photo by Judy Gallagher via Wikimedia Commons

spot bumps.
In case there is a tick, it should be removed quickly using tweezers, grabbing the tick as close as possible to the skin surface and pulling upward steadily, and then

door activities.
The agency also conducts a tick surveillance program in collaboration with the Vermont Health Department and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

Classified

ESTATE SALE

Estate Sale. Friday, July 18th, and Saturday, July 19th. 8-5 370 Wheeler Rd, Brandon, VT. Tools, Antiques, Carpentry Tools, Furniture, Hunting and Fishing Gear, Guns, Ammo, Ice Fishing Equipment, Vintage Sports Cards, Furniture, Household Items & so much more.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF GOSHEN ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

Town Hill Road in Goshen will be **CLOSED** for construction
Monday, July 14th through August 1st.
Complete closure from **Route 73 to the bridge at the intersection of Carlisle Hill, Town Hill, and Capen Hill Roads.**
Detour signs posted. Emergency services notified.
Questions: selectboard@goshenvt.org (802) 247-6455

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Brandon Development Review Board (DRB)

On Thursday July 24 2025, 7:00 PM, the Brandon DRB will hold in-person and via Zoom remote conferencing, Public Hearings to review the following applications:
Application # 072625-A from Emrose Luxury Resort LLC, Kamil Jablonsk (Landowner/Applicant) for a setback waiver. The purposed setback waiver is construction of an addition on the main building of the property to extend 50 additional feet at 1246 Franklin Street (Parcel # 024-0086-1246).
Application # 0722625-B- from Stephanie Davis (Landowner/Applicant) for a setback waiver. The purposed request is for the building of a greenhouse on

the property at McConnell Road (Parcel # 0084-3186). The setback request is for 30' from the property line.

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 (Town Hall Meeting room), or have submitted written testimony to the Town, by 7:00 PM of the Hearing date or they may forfeit their right to appeal any decision of the DRB to VT Superior Court (Environmental Division).

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT Repeal of Pool Hall Regulations (1952)

www.brandonvermont.gov

At its July 14, 2025, regular meeting, the Brandon Selectboard voted to repeal the 1952 pool hall and bowling alley regulations. The full text is available for review at the town office, 49 Center Street, and on the Town website at this page: <https://www.townofbrandon.com/pool-hall-ordinance-repeal/>

Questions or comments may be directed to Seth Hopkins, Town Manager (manager@brandonvermont.gov), Brandon Town Office, 49 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733. (802) 247-3635.

The public is advised that citizens have the right to petition for a townwide vote on the Selectboard's action to repeal per 24 VSA § 1973. The public is further advised that if no voter petition is received by 44 days from the vote of the Selectboard (August 28, 2025), the ordinance repeal will become effective 60 days from the vote of the Selectboard (September 15, 2025).

Summer fun in Proctor as kids enjoy the Color Run



MEGAN CANNUCCI SENT us these photos of kids enjoying the summer at the Little Phantoms Summer Camp and Children Center Color Run in Proctor. What a great way to enjoy the time off from school!

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