

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

A community supported newspaper

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\$1



GARY STANLEY WILL mark 50 years at Miller & Ketcham next year. He still considers himself "a country undertaker."

Photos by Steven Jupiter

## 'A country undertaker': Gary Stanley approaches 50 years at Miller & Ketcham

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Gary Stanley has seen a lot as Funeral Director at Miller & Ketcham in Brandon. He's seen the anguish of grief as well as the joy of remembrance. And he

has had to be the unflappable guide for bereft families trying to make important decisions at some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

(See Gary Stanley, Page 7)

## Brandon SB talks wastewater, newspapers, & budgets

BY STEVEN JUPITER

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

At the beginning of the meeting, Board Chair Doug Bailey

asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Brandon Town Manager David Atherton, who passed unexpectedly last week. Mr. Bailey recognized the work that Mr. Atherton had put into the

(See Brandon SB, Page 11)



## Powwow at Estabrook

NATIVE AMERICANS AND their admirers gathered at Estabrook Park in Brandon last weekend for the 2nd annual Eagle Feather Powwow. Please see page 14 for more.

Photos by Colleen Wright

## In memory of David Atherton (1971–2025)

Our community was shocked and saddened to learn last week of the untimely passing of David Atherton. Our hearts go out to David's wife, Heather, and their children, Ben and Elizabeth.

Dave grew up in Bristol, graduated from Mount Abe, and remained a Vermonter his whole life. He and Heather made Brandon their home for 15 years, during which time Dave threw himself into community service, eventually serving as Chair of the Brandon Selectboard and then as Town Manager.

His time as Brandon Town Manager was consequential and left a big legacy for the Brandon community. He oversaw the entirety of the multiyear Segment 6 renovation, a project that had been decades in the planning and which consisted of a complete overhaul of downtown Brandon. One of the largest such projects in Vermont history, it affected nearly all public infrastructure in Brandon Village. And despite the size of the project, and the potential for disarray, Dave proved his skill and professionalism in delivering a result Brandon

will always be proud of.

Dave left his position in Brandon in 2023 to become Town Manager in Pittsford, a job he held for just two years before moving on to become Town Manager in Killington this past spring, moving up the ladder of the profession. "Killington is the big leagues," he told me when he first got the job, excited at the prospect of working with major developers on multimillion-dollar projects in the popular ski town. He was a man who relished a challenge.

A few years ago, Dave called me

to ask whether I'd write something for The Reporter about his daughter, Elizabeth, who had been chosen for the Girls State Program by the American Legion. I could hear the pride swell in his voice when I immediately said yes. It was a pleasure to talk to Elizabeth about her accomplishment at their home in Forest Dale while Dave and Heather beamed next to her. And he was always encouraging everyone he knew to come hear his son Ben's band whenever they played in the area. He clearly adored his family.

Though the Athertons had recently moved to Rutland, to be closer to Killington, we hope that Heather, Ben, and Elizabeth will feel a sense of pride whenever they visit their many friends in Brandon and see the results of Dave's talent and hard work all around our town.

—Steven Jupiter

See pg.6 for the full obituary.





## Sixteenth in a series on Brandon's historic buildings

# Congregational Church, (slightly) oldest church building in Brandon

BY JAMES PECK

Brandon Village has five historic churches, but the oldest, by a slim six months, is the Congregational Church, which has overlooked Central Park since 1832. In seven short years, it will celebrate its 200th birthday.

### FIRST CHURCH BUILDINGS & MINISTERS

On September 23, 1785, a group of ten Brandon townspeople (5 men and 5 women) founded the Brandon Congregational Church. They had no pastor for the first seven years, but Jedediah Winslow was the moderator and scribe. Like most New England towns, the Brandon Congregational Church was at first supported by town taxes, up until 1795.

The members first met in private dwellings, often at Loring Larkin's house located at what is now 60 Park Street. Sometime before 1790, the first church building was built there, a log house. At that time there were only a few rudimentary houses on Park, none of which remain today.

The first pastor, Reverend Enos Bliss, started in 1792, but he was dismissed less than two years later. In 1793, the church adopted the Yale College church covenant used in admitting new members.

In 1797, a one-story framed "meetinghouse" was built where the present-day church now stands. However, it burned down before it was completed. The members rallied and another one was then built on the same footprint that would "afford sufficient accommodation until the year 1831."

In 1800, Reverend Ebenezer Hebard was ordained as minister, and he would preach there for the next 21 years. He was deeded a tract of land somewhere nearby in the village and also received a meager pay, and periodically the members raised funds for him including for an \$18 cow at one point.

Hebard left in 1821 and guest preachers filled the 18-month gap until 1823, when the fiery abolitionist Beriah Green was ordained. Green was given a parsonage house at 31 Franklin Street that the Society had bought. (That house, now Rosebelle's Inn was not as ornate then as it is today.) Rev. Green left in 1829.

### CHURCH BUILT

In 1831 and 1832, David Warren, a talented builder and church member, designed and built the current church using wood, bricks and marble from Brandon at a cost of \$5,000. A bronze plaque still hangs in the sanctuary dedicated to him and his wife Ade-

line, though it doesn't say he was the builder. Niram Clark was the chief mason, using bricks from John Conant's brickyard on lower Carver Street. Both Warren and Clark would build the Baptist Church six months later, completed in 1833.

The new church measured 75 by 52 feet and was 110 feet high at the top of the spire.

In the National Historic Register, the building is described as follows: "A good example of the early Gothic Revival Style. Similar in design to Federal style churches of the same period, the building derives its 'gothic' character only from its details. The broad front elevation is approached by marble stairs, and contains two entrances composed

of side-lit doors surmounted by wood panels above which are pointed-arched windows with a simple tracery pattern. The doorways are each set into shallow relieving arches of the same Gothic shape. The arches are connected by a horizontal band of white marble and have keystones of the same material."

"The wooden tower is set

"When built, there was a gallery around three sides of the room. The meetings were long, cold, and austere. For two or three hours, two or three times every Sabbath, the men, women, and children sat bundled up, their feet sometimes on little stoves. The only other source of heat was a large stove in the middle of the room."

Another description said: "At noon time, the old ladies would transfer the coals from the large stove to their foot-stoves, hover around this apology for a fire, warm their fingers, eat their doughnuts and cheese and discuss the sermon. The men and boys would adjourn to Landlord Birchard's bar-room [Birchard's tavern, the predecessor to the Brandon Inn], where they always found a good fire, warmed themselves and discussed the news."

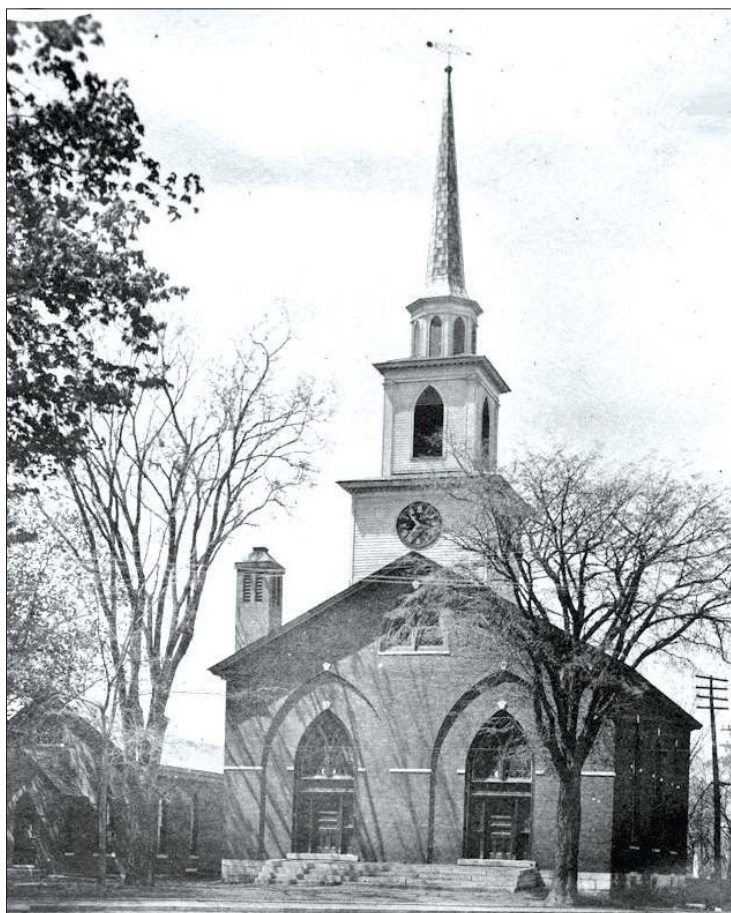
The ministers also toughed it out, one wearing an overcoat and striped mittens in the pulpit.

After Reverend Green left, the church was generally hostile to anti-slavery and actually expelled prominent Brandon abolitionist Jedediah Holcombe in 1842, but then embraced the movement after 1845.

In 1858, \$3,000 of extensive repairs were made to the church, some by David Warren again, not including a beautiful white marble pulpit, communion table, and pulpit steps which were donated by Deacon Edward D. Selden. The



THE 1885 CENTENNIAL Celebration of the Congregational Church, taken at the Brandon Town Hall. Photo courtesy of Phil Marks



THE BRANDON CONGREGATIONAL Church in the early 1900s.



A PLAQUE AT the Congregational Church in memory of David and Adeline Warren. David Warren was the builder of the church. David Warren also helped construct the Brandon Baptist Church.

slightly behind the façade gable and is composed of four sections: a square base with a clock on three faces, a smaller boxed belfry with pilasters and a louvers pointed-arched opening on each face, an octagonal lantern with louvered, pointed-arched openings; and a polygonal spire."

According to the History of Brandon book written in 1961,

pure white translucent statuary marble came from his quarry in the west side of town.

### CHAPEL BUILT

In 1860, church members bought the land just south of the church and a 24 by 40 foot brick "session room" that accommodated 100 persons was built costing \$805.25. This became the vestry (See Congregational Church, Page 8)



# Brandon's Zach Hoffman is the 'PhotoMan' of Middlebury

BY GEORGE FJELD  
MIDDLEBURY—Brandon

ried photographs from around the world. The current showing

from aerial views of a river delta to dramatic sunsets, and a startling image of a desiccated pelican on dramatic rocks. These are photos that demand attention and reward viewing. Trees and Seasons (October) is showing next, with Monochrome (November) followed by Frozen (December).

In a distinct break from the usual gallery framework based on commission sales of art, PhotoPlace charges a fee to submit five photographs to be judged by a professional juror. Typically, four artists are chosen and each supplies up to 10 images. The chosen photographs are displayed in person at the gallery in Middlebury and online at photoplacgallery.com. The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and hosts an opening re-

ception on the first Friday of each month from 4 to 7 p.m. When you visit, please give Pika, the gallery dog, a kind pat. Prints are available for order, and small-format books are available in both hardcover and softcover formats.

A relatively new Brandonite, Hoffman is one of many young people moving to Brandon to experience our great quality of life. A highly trained artist with a

Master's of Fine Arts degree from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he recently opened at the new Aleshire Gallery located in the Granary on Union Street in Brandon. Hoffman taught photography at Montana State University and ran a community darkroom in Bozeman, Montana. Zach moved here with his wife, Emily Hoffman, and they are expecting their first child this fall.



**ZACH HOFFMAN WITH his collection of vintage camera equipment in the gallery.**

resident Zach Hoffman has assumed ownership of PhotoPlace in Middlebury, a gallery of ju-

is called Coastal Landscape and was judged by two photographers from Maine. The images vary

## Sweet Sappy's and Blooming Bungalow add flair to downtown Brandon

BY LYN DESMARAIS

Allie Walter and Kevin Maichen are the fabulous talents behind Blooming Bungalow and Sweet Sappy's, two of our newest store offerings in Brandon. Allie has been in retail her entire life. Her mom, Ellen, started Bristol Cottons in Bristol when Allie was a baby, moved it into Middlebury, where it became Blue Moon Clothing & Gifts, and then moved it as Blue Moon to Brandon in 2011. Ellen purchased the brick building next to Kennedy Park, once the home of LaDuke's. If you have never been in it, it is a gorgeous place with a mesmerizing view of Neshobe falls.

Allie has been helping out in the

shops since she could walk, and her first job was curling ribbons on gift bags. She has been helping her

older, tended toward the gift section. She has a passion for buying and merchandising and enjoys making fun and festive seasonal displays with the gift selections. Together the mother/daughter duo expanded that offering when Liza Myers' art studio was up for sale. Blooming Bungalow was born. This space allowed Allie more room to expand unique gift offerings and an



**SWEET SAPPY'S (L) and Blooming Bungalow (r) in downtown Brandon.**

store from age 9. Allie went on to attend St. Lawrence University, getting her BA in Studio Art. She later returned to Brandon and continued to work alongside her mom.

Allie's passion, as she grew

mother choose products at the art classroom space on the lower level. Classes were offered in the spring and were very popular—painting, embroidery, etc. She plans to continue them. Allie is a gifted potter and artist. She brings that flair to all she does.

(See Sweet Sappy's, Page 20)

## Spotlight On Business FOSTERING WELLNESS



At FOSTERing Wellness, we believe your body is designed to heal. Since 1986, Dr. Charles Foster and our Brandon clinic have helped patients—from infants to seniors—achieve lifelong wellness through chiropractic care and health coaching. More than care, we offer a partnership built on trust

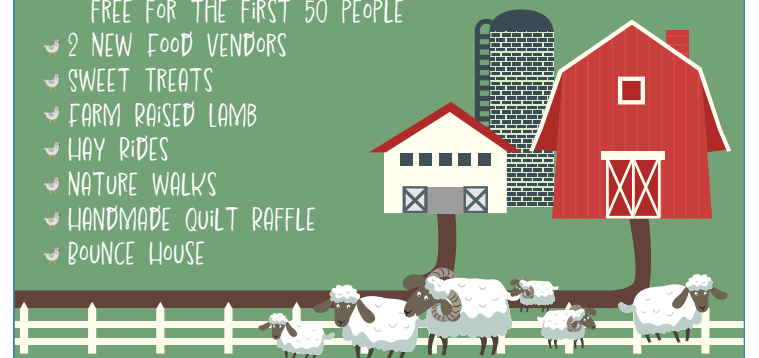
and a warm, welcoming environment. By focusing on spinal health, nervous system function, and whole-body wellness, we help our community thrive with compassionate, individualized care.

## 2ND ANNUAL OPEN FARM DAY AT WILLIS TOWNE FARM SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> 11AM — 4PM.

### NEW THIS YEAR

- LIVE MUSIC
- FREE KIDS CRAFT
- \$5 MAKE & TAKE LAVENDER SACHET, FREE FOR THE FIRST 50 PEOPLE
- 2 NEW FOOD VENDORS
- SWEET TREATS
- FARM RAISED LAMB
- HAY RIDES
- NATURE WALKS
- HANDMADE QUILT RAFFLE
- BOUNCE HOUSE

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## Blueberry Hill

### PIZZA BY THE POND

Wood-fired pizza from our outside hearth in the quintessential fall setting!

RESERVATIONS STRONGLY SUGGESTED

Music and pizza start at 5.

[www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza](http://www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza)

Last event of the Season:  
Brisson, Boss & Pelletier



Friday, Oct. 3, 5-7 PM



# Community Development Report September 22, 2025

**Correction:**  
**New Session of Aikido**  
**starting October 4th**

November 23rd's Neshobe Pie-Gobbler Fun Run registration is open! <https://www.runreg.com/pie-gobbler-fun-run>

- Run, walk, stroll with a chance to win your Thanksgiving Day pie!
- Every 10th finisher receives a freshly made pie, plus the winning male and female.
- Distance: Approximately 3 miles over hill and dale at Neshobe Golf Course.
- This is a rain/snow or shine event.

The Brandon & Pittsford Rec departments are headed to see the Boston Celtics play the Denver Nuggets on January 7th. First 15 PAID registrations for kids ages 7-15 are eligible to participate in

the Anthem Buddies program. They will stand on the court in front of the Boston Celtics during the national anthem. Buy your tickets today at [Brandonrec.com](http://Brandonrec.com)

The Forest Dale Scoping Study committee has tentatively scheduled a public meeting on October 22nd.

Dennis Marden will be hosting Brandon's Got Talent auditions at the Town Hall on October 4th and 5th.

Colleen Wright Events is facilitating the HarvestFest on October 5th at Estabrook Park.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Moore



**Halloween is coming, thus I sing my witchedy song**  
**THIS IS A female common yellowthroat. Loves brushy damp areas and sings "witchedy witchedy."**  
Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums Enjoy Dead Creek Wildlife Day on Oct. 4

ADDISON—If you enjoy wildlife be sure to make plans to attend the 24th annual Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison, Vermont on Saturday, October 4. Activities at Dead Creek Wildlife Day are especially for people who enjoy hunting, fishing, bird-watching, or learning about Vermont's diverse wildlife and eco-

systems. The event will be held at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on Route 17, west of Route 22A. Early risers can begin the day with a bird banding demonstration at 7 a.m. Two large tents at Dead Creek WMA headquarters will open at 9:30 a.m. featuring

wildlife-related exhibits and activities such as decoy carving, building bluebird boxes and nature crafts. The Dead Creek Visitor Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring displays about conservation and wildlife management in Vermont. Enjoy a  
(See Dead Creek, Page 9)

## No burning permits shall be issued Vermont issues statewide ban on debris burning

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) has issued an order for all Town Forest Fire Wardens to cease issuing burning permits from noon on September 22, 2025, until this order is revoked. This order may

be revoked on a statewide basis or on a county-by-county basis, depending upon the fire danger and weather conditions. Abnormally dry summer conditions have persisted throughout Vermont and the Northeast. The US Drought Monitor reports

78% of Vermont is experiencing severe drought. Neighboring states are also in similar drought conditions, with 73% of New Hampshire experiencing severe drought, 23% of which is in extreme drought.  
(See Burn ban, Page 9)

## Tree stand safety tips for hunters

Tree stands get hunters out of sight and smell of wary deer and bear, but they can also get hunters into trouble. Here are some tips from Vermont Fish and Wildlife to help stay safe and get the most

out of your tree stand hunting experience: Choose a live, straight tree, and avoid ash that may be in decline due to emerald ash borers. Buy smart. Only use stands

certified by the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA). Inspect them each time you use them. Check your treestand for wear and tear each time you go  
(See Tree stand safety, Page 9)



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# REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

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

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# Letter to the Editor

## When will it be enough?

The question of the day is “When?” When do the voters and supporters of the present-day regime jump ship and say enough is enough?

Is it when you learned of the six bankruptcies and the 25 allegations of sexual assault? Is it when you found out that he has bragged about screwing contractors out of their money and refusing to pay overtime to his many low-level employees?

Could it be when you learned that he employed illegal aliens while threatening to rid the country of these so-called monsters?

Was it when he bragged about his own daughter’s great physique and said he would date her if she wasn’t his daughter?

Maybe it was when he reversed almost everything Obama put in place just out of spite?

Was it when you found out that he avoided the draft during the Vietnam War by claiming he had bone spurs?

Could it have been when he pardoned some 1,600 crazed insurrectionists that attacked America’s Capitol building?

Maybe you gave up on this clown show when his promise of

ending the war in Ukraine didn’t happen? Or when he said food prices would go down?

Sadly enough, there are a lot of “whens.” Way too many to list here, including when he decided to go after the brown-skinned man, snatching any and all right off the street and without due process, sending them to a foreign prison, probably for life.

The list of blatant lies and made-up stories is endless. He cares for no one but himself. What does it take for common sense to kick in and help you see that this administration is on the road to an authoritarian government?

If none of what I have said here has persuaded you to have a change of heart about the choice you made, you know, the lying, the bragging, the thievery, the hatred of gay people and brown people. Then there’s the misogyny, and let’s not forget the play to rid the country of the journalists and the late-night comedians that tell it like it is.

If none of this has helped you to realize that you should have a change of thought about all of it, then maybe this will. This summer, Trump’s goon squads

snatched a little boy that was here in America to get medical treatment for some rare kind of disease that he can’t get in his own country and is sure to kill him. They took him and deported him back to his homeland. Without batting an eye, the goon squad wearing masks grabbed a little boy. And if that doesn’t convince you, I am sure this will: Trump’s henchmen took away the funding for pediatric brain cancer research which has already helped to save the lives of an untold amount of little babies and children. All this and more atrocities have taken place while the dear leader puts his energy into changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico and building a 90,000-square-foot ballroom onto the White House. These are his priorities. Not the children, not the people, not America.

If what I have just told about the children that are about to become Trump’s youngest victims doesn’t faze you, then you deserve all you are about to get or not get from the actions of a mad man, your mad man, Donald J. Trump.

Steve Bryant  
Forest Dale

# Community Forums continued Sudbury Community Club throws fundraiser for the Sudbury Meeting House

The Sudbury Community Club is hosting an event September 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sudbury Meetinghouse to kick off a capital campaign to raise funds to winterize the historic Sudbury Meetinghouse. The event will include live music by the Mean Waltons, a food truck from Whiting (Tailgate with Kate), horse-drawn wagon rides,

a live auction, silent auction, and a presentation about the planned improvements to the building and the grants already received for this important renovation.

The Sudbury Meeting House was built in 1807 and is still the center of community life in Sudbury. It is the site of many events in the summer months: history (See Sudbury fundraiser, Page 23)

# Vermont grouse and woodcock hunting starts Sept. 27

A quiet walk down a hidden woods road, bright fall foliage coloring the canopy overhead and the crisp, cool air of an early morning—these are just some of the elements of a great Vermont upland gamebird hunting experience. Hoping to see the dramatic flush of a grouse or woodcock is, of course, another reason hunters try to get out into Vermont woodlands in the fall.

Vermont’s hunting season for ruffed grouse or “partridge,” is September 27 through December 31 this year. The daily limit is 4 grouse with a possession limit of 8.

The Vermont woodcock hunting season is September 27 through November 10. The daily limit is 3 woodcock with a possession limit of 9.

(See Grouse & woodcock, Page 7)

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# Obituaries

## Don Allen Greeno, 64, Brandon

Don Allen Greeno, 64, of Wodridge, N.Y., passed away on September 13, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Born on December 18, 1960, in Proctor, Vermont, Don graduated from Otter Valley Union High School in Brandon, Vermont in 1978. Shortly after, he enlisted in the United States Army, proudly serving his country for more than two decades. A veteran of Desert Storm (1990–1991), Don retired in 1999 with the rank of Sergeant First Class. His distinguished service was recognized with the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, multiple Army Commendation Medals, and the Army Achieve-

ment Medal.

Following his military career, Don continued his lifelong commitment to service by working as Equipment Maintenance Manager at West Point, where he remained dedicated until the time of his passing.

Don was a man who treasured both the outdoors and his family. He found joy in deer hunting, fishing, and tending to his garden, and he was a devoted fan of the New York Yankees. He loved to cook, especially his pasta sauce with sausage and meatballs, and he perfected the art of the fried Thanksgiving turkey. Don never missed an opportunity to sing karaoke, play a



**DON ALLEN GREENO**

round of cornhole or horseshoes, and—above all—to spend time with his beloved family, especially his grandchildren.

Those who knew Don will remember his generous spirit. His door was always open, and no one ever left without feeling like family—often with a warm smile and a drink of choice in hand. He will be remembered not only for his service and dedication, but for his kindness, warmth, and the way he made everyone feel at home.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Cheryl Ann Greeno; his children Corey Greeno (Jessica), Stephanie McGrath (Chris), Nicole Allewa (Eric), and Josef Greeno; and his adored grandchildren Amelia, Aubrey, Josef, Enzo, Luca, and Weston (expected January

2026). He is also survived by his parents, Edgar and Sandra Greeno; his siblings Teresa Conway (Daniel), Jerry Greeno (Debbie), and Patrick Greeno (Beth); as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The memorial service “In Celebration of His Life” will take place at a later date, time and location to be announced.

Don’s life was marked by dedication, laughter, and love. He will be forever remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

## David Joseph Atherton, 53, Brandon

David Joseph Atherton, 53, passed away unexpectedly in his Rutland, Vt. home on September 15, 2025. He was born to Brian Atherton and Ramona Belanger on December 10, 1971.

Raised in Bristol, Vermont, David graduated from Mount Abraham Union High School in 1989. Often called “David Atherton, MD” (for Music Dictionary), he will be remembered for his passion for music, his devotion to family and friends, and his remarkable ability to give 110% to everything he set his mind to—whether in his work, his community or his many projects.

David earned his Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies from Woodbury College and began his career with the Addison County Public Defender’s Office. He went on to work with John Kirk as a real estate paralegal before opening his own independent office as a title searcher, establishing a respected career built on integrity and thoroughness.

Prior to his move to Rutland,

he and his family resided in Brandon for 15 years. As a proud resident of Brandon, David became deeply involved in the community, attending events, supporting businesses, and serving on the Select board, both as a member and as the Chair. After three years of service, he was hired on as the Town Manager, employed for 8 years, and his main focus was to oversee the important Segment 6 Project and revitalization of Brandon.

He was immensely proud of this work and of all he was able to contribute to the town.

Following the completion of Segment 6, David continued his career in municipal leadership, serving as Vice Chair of Rutland Regional Transportation Council (2019-present), Board Member of VLCT/PACIF (2016-present), State Transportation Board (2024-present),

serving as Town Manager in Pittsford and later in Killington, where he worked the last 6 months of his life.



**DAVID JOSEPH ATHERTON**

David will be remembered not only for his professional accomplishments, but also for the kindness, dedication, and love he shared with those around him. His legacy lives on in the communities he served and in the hearts of all who knew him.

To know David was to hear his opinions, to know that his love and loyalty superseded any

momentary disagreement, and to understand that his people mattered to him above anything else. To be his friend meant you could call on him night or day and he would show up with what was needed. He mowed your lawn when you couldn’t, fixed your faucet, brought you a bottle of wine, and sometimes just showed up unannounced to fix whatever he noticed was broken last time he was visiting. And he always shared his music, whether you liked it or not.

David loved his family above all else and spent every opportunity with them. He traveled the state to attend his daughter’s high school field hockey games, then later to UConn to see her whenever her schedule allowed. He zealously supported his son’s music and was his band’s number one fan. And his first choice in companions to concerts or other events were his wife and kids.

David was pre-deceased by his parents Brian Atherton and

Ramona Belanger and sister-in-law Marie Miller.

He is survived by his wife, Heather Norton, and their two children, Benjamin (22) and Elizabeth (19); siblings William Atherton and wife Cynthia, Stephen Atherton and wife Rita, Mary Atherton, Laura Griggs and husband Carroll, and Robert Atherton; sisters-in-law Amy Norton, Hilary Norton and her partner Matt Lowry, and Ashley (Norton) Vandeweert and her husband Joe; father-in-law Gary Norton; several nieces and nephews; and countless friends, colleagues, and music aficionados.

A service to honor David’s life will be held Sunday, September 28, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Proctor/Pittsford Country Club with a party to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dave Atherton’s Music Education Fund by visiting his page on Ever Loved, at <https://everloved.com/life-of-david-atherton-rutland-vt/>.

## BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

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

(802) 483-2811

Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory

## Cobble Knoll Orchard

Apples available on the stand and pick-your-own

Homemade Cider Donuts and Apple Pies. Fresh Pressed Cider, Maple Syrup, Honey, Vermont artisan cheese, Jams, Pickles, Apple Butter, Pumpkins and Squash

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# Gary Stanley

(Continued from Page 1)

"I want you to feel ok about the decisions you're making, without regrets," he said in a recent conversation at the immaculate Victorian that houses his operations on Franklin Street. "Whatever you want to do, we'll make it work for you."

Stanley is closing in on 50 years at Miller & Ketcham, the oldest continuously operating funeral home in Vermont and one of the 10 oldest in the entire country. Through its predecessors, the business can trace its roots in Brandon back to 1827, making Stanley's 50-year tenure at the helm nearly a quarter of the firm's entire history.



**MILLER'S FURNITURE AND Undertaking was one of a chain of businesses that led to today's Miller & Ketcham.**

Stanley grew up in Virginia and still retains a gentle lilt in his speech. His father was a coalminer who ended up suffering from black lung disease and relocated the family to Fairfax County, VA, where Stanley attended a two-room schoolhouse with 7 kids in his class.

He became familiar with funeral direction through his older brother, who owned Covington & Martin Funeral Home in Fairfax. His brother asked him to help with a removal (the retrieval of the deceased from their home) and he's been in the business ever since.

"My brother taught me to be two hours early for a funeral and never two minutes late," he said.

After a few years in the military in Vietnam, Stanley got a degree in Mortuary Science from the New England Institute of Anatomy in Boston and returned to Covington & Martin. He scored 96 out of 100 on his boards and received his license in 1971.

"Covington & Martin handled a lot of the military funerals from Vietnam," Stanley recalled, estimating that they worked on over 9,000 cases.

Those military funerals were

where Stanley honed his skills at "restorative arts," the craft of restoring the appearance of the deceased. His talents in this area have earned him the admiration of his peers, who to this day still call upon him for help with especially tricky cases, such as victims of accidents.

"I take pride in my work as an embalmer," he said. In fact, his Doctorate in Applied Embalming from the New England Institute of Anatomy hangs in his office. He's so fastidious about embalming that he makes sure the deceased looks as good as possible even when he knows the body will be cremated or there will be a closed casket, often

and when Miller did retire.

Miller ended up retiring in 1976 and Stanley has been the owner ever since.

He's overseen "several" funerals over the years and has watched tastes and trends change.

"Since the 1990s, more and more people are choosing cremation," he said. "It's about half the cost of a traditional burial."

And he's seen a greater openness about a once-taboo topic.

"Death is a closet subject," noted Stanley. "Some people don't want to talk about it, but more people are now wanting to plan their own services and make those decisions while they still can."

People who may be flippant about their deaths while they're healthy sometimes take a greater interest in the details when they're facing their own mortality.

"I had a friend who used to say, 'Just throw me in the manure pile.' But when he was in the hospital at the end, he changed his mind. He ended up having a traditional burial in Pine Hill."

And some folks retain a dark humor about it all until the very end.

"I knew a lawyer who asked to be cremated and have his ashes scattered over everyone he'd ever 'screwed,'" Stanley laughed.

Those details include cremation versus burial, the type of casket, and



**AN UNDERTAKER'S WAGON at Pine Hill Cemetery circa 1900. The vault in the background received the deceased awaiting burial.**

at no additional cost to the family.

"You never know when the family will want to say their last goodbye," he explained. "You want the deceased to be as presentable as humanly possible."

Stanley came to Brandon through a friendship he struck up with Frank Miller on a visit to Vermont back in the early 1970s. Miller was the proprietor of Miller & Ketcham at the time (though no relation to the original Miller in the firm's name!) and indicated to Stanley that he was nearing retirement. Stanley asked to be given first crack at the business if

even the music that will play at the service.

"The favorites are pieces like 'Amazing Grace,' 'How Great Thou Art,' and 'Ave Maria,'" he said. "But we've also arranged to play Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Beach Boys. Nothing's too crazy."

In addition to his management of the funeral home, Stanley is the President of the Brandon Cemetery Association, which oversees the active cemeteries in town: Pine Hill, Forest Dale, St. Mary's. He and his

(See Gary Stanley, Page 11)

# Grouse & Woodcock

(Continued from Page 5)

Woodcock are often found in alders along brooks and near beaver ponds as well as in new-growth small timber where old fields are reverting to forest or recent timber harvests have occurred. Ruffed grouse also frequent the same habitat, and they are particularly fond of the apples they find under wild apple trees.

All migratory game bird (woodcock, common snipe, ducks, and geese) hunters must also be registered with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.) in each state they hunt. You can register on Vermont

Fish and Wildlife Department's website or call toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which is then recorded on your hunting license.

For more information on hunting in Vermont, be sure to get a copy of the 2025 Hunting & Trapping Guide and Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Game Birds available free from license agents statewide and from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Join us in welcoming author  
**Bridget A. Lyons**  
as she discusses her book

**Entwined: Dispatches from the Intersection of Species**

**Sunday, October 19th at 4pm**



"This lovely book, so full of empathy and longing, delivers on its title."

In this journey that is part travelogue, part memoir, and mostly about a natural world that deserves more respect, Bridget Lyons shows us, gently, how we are all, indeed, Entwined."

—Carl Safina, author of *Alfie and Me: What Owls Know, What Humans Believe*



Bridget A. Lyons is a writer, editor, artist, and explorer based in Santa Cruz, California.



## Fall plants are here!

Mums 3 for \$27 • Asters 3 for \$33  
Many house plants and herbs to choose from.

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beautiful ornamental cabbage & kale • colorful millet • graceful grasses • blooming fall perennials

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### New fall hours

12-5 weekdays & Sundays  
10-5 Saturdays

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a fire alarm box on the west side of the church. Keys were kept with the night watchman and in several stores for any citizen to open the box and ring the alarm. It was used for a few fires, but when the huge Simonds Block burned *(See Congregational Church, Page 15)*



**BELOW: THE MECHANISM** for the Town Clock.

FRIENDS OF THE BFPL PRESENT

3rd Annual

# Reading The Green

## GOLF SCRAMBLE

\$500 per team  
of 4, or \$125 per  
individual.

Includes greens  
fees, cart,  
appetizers, dinner  
and live auction.

**4-Person Teams**  
**All levels welcome**

Enjoy a great day on the course with fun opportunities for prizes, 50/50 tickets, mulligans, raffle and live auction—all to benefit the library.

# Friday, October 10, 2025

## NESHOBE GOLF COURSE, BRANDON, VT

11am registration / 12pm shotgun

*Register your team with the QR code  
or the link below, or in person at the  
library. Don't miss this event!*

<https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/golf>

The event is brought to you by the Friends of Brandon Free Public Library and all proceeds will benefit library operations.



# Burn ban

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
“Persistent dry conditions coupled with dry falling leaves create a high risk for rapid fire spread,” said Dan Dillner, Forest Fire Supervisor. “With ground water deficits, fires will burn into the soil, consuming dried organic matter as fuel. These fires require considerable resources to contain and extinguish.”  
“Falling leaves are providing abundant dried fuels,” said FPR

Commissioner Danielle Fitzko. “Many towns have proactively imposed burning restrictions, and we are working with our local and regional partners to raise awareness and increase preparedness.”  
The current fire danger forecast and further information on fire safety and prevention are available on the FPR website.

# Dead Creek

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
walk along the interpretive trail to observe pollinators feeding on native wildflowers. Complete the NatureQuest featuring Steward and the Otter.  
The 2025 Sally Laughlin Award for the Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Species will be announced at noon at the Dead Creek WMA headquarters.  
See live raptors and learn about their ecology. Get your

hands dirty with decoy carving and soap carving, then set out to learn about waterfowl hunting. Walk around a rare clayplain forest with an expert. Enjoy local foods and game samples from Vermont Wild Kitchen. Enjoy a presentation on trout stocking. And watch working dogs including pointing dogs, retrievers, tracking dogs, and conservation detection dogs.  
Waterfowl will be moving through the area, and there will

be plenty of opportunities for viewing around the WMA. Or join the Big Sit and tally birds! Let’s Go Fishing activities and the Giant Lake Champlain Map will be available for exploration. All events are free, and a free shuttle bus will provide regular access to nearby field events throughout the day.  
“We want to welcome visitors to the 24th year of the popular Dead Creek Wildlife Day,” said Amy Alfieri, manager of the

Dead Creek WMA. “We try to bring in new activities and presentations every year and I am excited for what is on the schedule this year. I only ever see smiles on people’s faces as they learn about fish and wildlife in a beautiful setting. Visitors love to see the live animals and working dogs, and the kids love to build their own bluebird box to take home. It’s a great event for everyone.”  
The festival is hosted by the

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Vermont  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Otter Creek Audubon Society. This year’s event is supported by a grant from the Kelsey Trust.  
For more information and a schedule of events visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website and check under Watch Wildlife.

# Tree stand safety

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
out into the woods.  
Know the rules. On state lands, it is illegal to place nails or other hardware into trees or to build permanent structures. On private lands, you must have landowner permission to erect a tree stand, cut or remove trees or other plants, or to cut limbs. All stands, including ground blinds, must be marked with the owner’s name and address.  
Always wear a full-body safety harness, even for climbing. Most falls occur going up and down the tree and getting in and out of the stand. Make sure your safety harness is in good condition. Especially, check the straps.  
Don’t go too high. The higher you go, the smaller the vital zone on a deer becomes, while the likelihood of a serious injury increases. Climb within your personal limit.  
Never carry firearms or bows up and down

trees. Always use a haul line to raise and lower all gear. Make sure your firearm is unloaded.  
Familiarize yourself with your gear before you go. The morning of opening day is a poor time to put your safety belt on for the first time.  
Be careful with long-term placement. Exposure can damage straps, ropes and attachment cords. Also, the stand’s stability can be compromised over time, as the tree grows.  
“Hunter education instructors want you to be safe this coming season,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. “Falls from tree stands contribute to serious injuries or even death, but they are preventable by always wearing a full-body harness and staying connected to the tree.”  
Learn more about Tree Stand Safety here: <https://www.tmastands.com/safety/>

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# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENTS: Savannah Walsh  
GRADE: 6  
SCHOOL: Neshobe  
TITLE: Untitled  
TEACHER: John Brodowski

**STATEMENT FROM SAVANNAH:**  
I got this idea because when my dog is outside he always likes to hang on the fence. One day I came home late and there was a beautiful sunset. My favorite part is the sunset.

**STATEMENT FROM MR. B:**  
Savannah is a very creative artist. Sunsets are a popular subject but Savannah has taken the idea and really made it her own. The detail of the dog on the fence, the colors she chose, and the way she arranged the colors all make this picture stand out as being especially creative.







MILLER & KETCHAM traces its history in Brandon back to 1827.

## Gary Stanley

(Continued from Page 7)

crew make sure that the grounds are maintained and the stones are in good condition. Some of the stones in these cemeteries are over 200 years old and have required repair.

He's also the man to talk to if you'd like to acquire a burial plot. He estimates that Pine Hill, the largest of the local cemeteries, still has enough room in its open fields for 2,000 more years of burials.

Asked whether the sorrow of the cases he handles ever gets to him, he reflected for a moment.

"Very much so. Especially when it's young people and children. We're seeing more overdoses and accidents. It's easier with older people."

Stanley "will turn 39 in December," he said with a wink. After 50 years, he knows there will come a time when he will need to pass the business to the next generation. He and his wife, Andrea, have four children: Todd, Timothy, Danielle, and Jen, who recently passed away.

He's still going strong, but he has been grooming his longtime employee John Sanderson to take the reins when its time.

"John started at age 16 and went to mortuary science school," said Stanley. "He's worked in Middlebury, Maine, and Florida, and came back to work for me. He's close to 60 and fully licensed. I have total confidence in him."

But you can tell as he gives a tour of his operations that he's in his element and in no rush to retire. He's clearly a man who found his calling in life. He loves helping his community through their darkest times, and he loves the history of the business he's run for 50 years. One of the rooms downstairs on Franklin Street is lined with sepia photographs of the various prior iterations of the business. His archives contain the funeral records for almost everyone who's ever been buried in Brandon.

But at the end of the day, he says, "I'm just an old-fashioned country undertaker."

## Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

mammoth Segment 6 renovation of downtown and into reviving Brandon after Tropical Storm Irene.

"More than any other town manager, Dave got things done," said Mr. Bailey.

Board Vice-Chair Cecil Reniche-Smith added, "I knew Dave as someone who really cared about Brandon. He encouraged me to run for Selectboard, and if not for him I wouldn't be on the Board today. He was someone I could always talk to, even when we disagreed."

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

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

In addition to the written report that had been submitted before the meeting, Mr. Hopkins presented several updates:

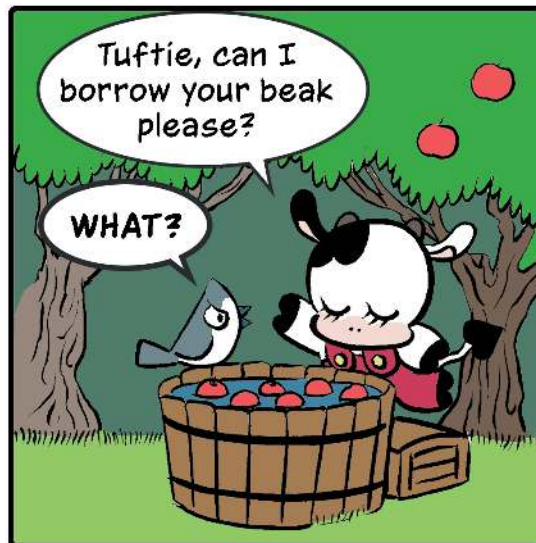
The town will work with Lafaso Electric of Rutland to "inspect the current traffic signals with an objective of improving traffic flow on US7." The traffic signals at the intersections of Route 7, Union, Carver, and Park Streets have been the subject of steady criticism since they were installed

(See Brandon SB, Page 21)

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



©Art by Matt Aucoin LLC 2025



**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**

See page 17

## HAPPY AUTUMN SALE!



**2018 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER**  
SE, V6, Auto, AWD, 3rd Row, 95k miles  
**\$23,995**



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V6, Auto, AWD, Like New! 80k miles  
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4-Cyl, 5-Speed Manual, AWD, 109k miles  
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**2020 TOYOTA TUNDRA**  
TRD Off Road, 5.7L V8, Auto, 4x4, Only 61k miles  
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# Calendar of events

## September

### 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](http://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](mailto:pali36@aol.com)!

### Proctor Fall Festival

Saturday 27, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Music, HulaHoop Show, High School Class Booths, Photo Booth, Pumpkin Decorating, Games. Also join us for a Fall Floral Arrangement Contest. Submit a fall floral arrangement by 12 p.m. The table will be near the gazebo—fill out name and contact information.

### 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

5–7 pm

#### 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.

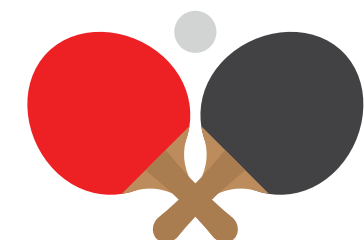
#### Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library

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](http://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](mailto: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 mu-

sic 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.

#### Brandon Senior Center Game Day

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

#### Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

### Saturdays

#### Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

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

#### Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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



### Sundays

#### Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

### Upcoming Audubon

Presentation by Audubon m  
Wednesday, September 24.

gational UCC - 8 Court St, F

Spring Chickens and Rosy F

"It's not just about seeing the

formances as well. Out west,

and Prairie Chickens

have elaborate courtship

rituals in the early spring.

Last April, my brother

and I joined a trip to visit

the display grounds of 5

species of western fowl,

along with other western

specialties such as the 3

species of Rosy Finches.

Learn about these unusual s

and video of their displays, a

birds seen on the trip."

#### Bird Walk - Endless Brook

Tuesday, September 30, 202

Join Slate Valley Trails and th

Society for weekly slow-pac

bird & wildflower walks in th

trails of the SVT system, Tues

of birding experience are we

Bring water and a snack (and

it), binoculars, cameras, or fi

The walks are at a slow pace

for observing & photograph

Meet at the Endless Brook tr

Rd, on left, 0.9 miles in from

Easy to Moderate terrain (25

Contact Joel Tilley for more

[joeltilley@gmail.com](mailto:joeltilley@gmail.com) or 802-598-2583.

is no need to register or rese

### Brandon Co

Thursday, C

The Brandon Congregationa

show in the Fellowship Hall (

There will be a diverse select

dry pastel paintings, reverse

sculpture, woodwork, theate

Many items will be for sale. A



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

#### 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.

## Thursday 25th

### Audubon events

Member Mike Blust  
6:30-8 p.m. Grace Congregational Church, Rutland, Vt. 05701

inches  
m, but watching their per-  
several species of Grouse



species and enjoy photos  
along with some of the other

25. 7:30-11:00 a.m.  
the Rutland County Audubon  
ed (3 to 4 miles, 3 to 4 hours)  
e Poultney area, on the  
days at 7:30 a.m. All levels  
elcome.

and insect repellent if you use  
eld guides, if you have them.  
with lots of opportunities  
ing.

trailhead (Endless Brook  
VT Rte 30). 3 miles, 3 hours,  
0 ft elevation gain).

information: jptilley50@  
evenings 7 to 8 p.m. There  
erve a spot.

### Congregational art show

October 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

al Creatives group is holding their autumn art  
next to Walgreens) on Saturday, October 11.  
tion of fine arts and crafts: oil, watercolor and  
painting on glass, photography, mixed media  
r posters, dolls and fabric sculpture, and more!  
Admission is free!

for building a healthier relationship with money.  
From 6-7:30 p.m. <https://www.getahome.org/hou/>

Marble Valley Dance Collective Adult Classes —  
Rutland  
Join us for Mixed Level Tap. This class is for everyone;

## Goings on around town

for those brand new to tap, for those who haven't put on their shoes for awhile, and for those who have tapped for years. We will learn and review fundamentals like flaps, shuffles, brushes, digs,

time steps, cramp rolls, and maxi fords. You will learn rhythmic phrases set to contemporary upbeat music (like BTS and Sabrina Carpenter) that will be sure to get your body movin' and your booty shakin'. We will do warm-ups, across the floors, and culminate class with a combination that incorporates fundamentals and transitions. Needless to say you'll probably sweat a little. If you're reading this and thinking, I'm a newbie and I don't know what ANY of this means, don't worry! Please come join us—layers of challenge will be offered so that this class is truly all inclusive.

\$15 drop-in classes. Memberships and punch cards available. 7:30-8:45 p.m. Marble City School of Dance, 217G Woodstock Avenue, Rutland.

## Friday 26th

### Food & Art Friday: Queer Dance Party — Sable Arts Projects

All are welcome for Sable's end of season disco dance party! With live music from Burlington-based super-group Gay4Disco! They'll be playing new-wave & disco classics that will be sure to make you wanna shake your groove thing! Outdoors and off-grid on the beautiful Sable Land, with made-to-order wood-fired pizza from Fat Dragon Farm.

More info at <https://www.thesableproject.org/food-and-art-BYOB!> All ages! Rain or Shine! 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sable Arts Projects, Inc. 588 N Taggart Hill Road, Stockbridge

### Manhattan Short Film Festival 2025 — Hubbard Hall - Center for the Arts and Education

You Be the Judge! Discover your inner film critic by casting your vote for Best Film and Best Actor in the 28th Annual Manhattan Short Film Festival. You'll join film lovers in over 500 venues across the globe gathering to see the ten finalists in this year's event.

With past finalists garnering Oscar nominations and short films continuing to move into the Hollywood

mainstream, come see this entertaining program featuring the best short films in the world today! Ballots supplied upon entry. 6 p.m. (Length of show 2 hrs and 34 min).

Location: Freight Depot. Tickets: \$15

## Saturday 27th

### Community Dinner —

#### Brandon United Methodist Church

Ziti, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert. From 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free Will Donation. All Welcome. 2 Union Street, Brandon.

## Tuesday, 30th

### What does it take to be a Vermont State Legislator? — Orwell Free Library

Discuss what it's like to be a Vermont State legislator. Robin Scheu (Middlebury), Peter Conlon (Cornwall) and Joe Andriano (Orwell) will talk about their experiences, what qualifications are most helpful, and how rewarding public service can be. Public meeting open to all, with time for audience questions and comments.

Event starts at 7 p.m.; refreshments and handouts provided. Meeting organized by Orwell Democrats and Whiting Democratic Town Committee.

## The Climb-Team Rutland

Friday, Oct. 3, from 4-5:30 p.m.

The Climb honors pregnant/postpartum individuals struggling or recovering from mental health challenges: postpartum depression, anxiety and other difficulties. The adjustment to parenting is HARD. Imagine: it is crisp and sunny, Friday afternoon. You leave early from work or pick up the kids from school or care. You head to Pine Hill, where you meet with other Climbers—parents with lived experience with postpartum depression, anxiety, OCD. You take part in a small hike, representing the Climb that is faced when parents struggle to emerge from a difficult period around childbirth or adoption or caregiving. You pick up some resources and schwag, and you head home in time for dinner! Join us Friday, Oct. 3 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Pine Hill Park, Oak St Ext, Rutland, Vt.

We Climb with each other. We Climb FOR each other. We hope you will join us.

Register at: <https://give.postpartum.net/team/636614>



Vermont Progressive Party Goshen Town Caucus  
6 p.m. at the Goshen Town Hall, 50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen. RSVP at [progressiveparty.org](https://progressiveparty.org). All attendees must be registered voters of Goshen and may not participate in more than one political party membership committee.

# October

## Saturday 18th

### St Peter's Cemetery Association Craft Fair-Bake Sale & Raffle

Bake Sale, Luncheon & Raffle. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish Hall, Maple Street, Vergennes.

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# Celebrating Native American culture at the Eagle Feather Pow Wow in Brandon



**BY COLLEEN WRIGHT**

The Eagle Feather Pow Wow was celebrated this past weekend at Estabrook Field in Brandon. With over 20 vendors of Native goods, 3 drums and numerous dancers from around New England, it was a cultural event that educated and entranced everyone in attendance.

Peggie Rozell is the coordinator of the Eagle Feather Pow Wow. This year was a difficult year for Peggie; losing her husband to cancer this spring and changing professions, it would be understandable if she had cancelled. But Peggie is made of strength and determination, as many have seen at her Brandon Idol performances, and made the POW Wow happen!

Many thanks to those drummers, dancers, musicians who travelled from far away to educate and entertain. It was a wonderful weekend! On to 2026!



# Congregational Church

(Continued from Page 8)  
down in 1889, unfortunately it malfunctioned.

In 1892, a new 52-inch bell weighing 3,000 pounds was bought for \$800 from the Me-

lenge to life." The metal tube carillon had 25 miniature bells which were projected to four amplifiers in the belfry. Music could be heard 1 to 5 miles depending on weather & wind conditions. The organist

was replaced by a new digital carillon for \$13,000, made by the Maas-Rowe Co. of Encino, CA. It rang from prerecorded tapes on the ¼ hour, ½ hour, and hour in the same pattern as Big Ben. A CD player was tied to the system that would play pre-recorded seasonal songs three times a day at 9:02, 12:02 and 5:02. A small keyboard was connected allowing the organist or other carillonneur to play through the 25 bells either inside or outside, or both.

## ORGAN

A hand-pumped tracker pipe organ made by J. W. Steere was installed in 1907 at a cost of \$2,580 to replace the original organ about which little is known, and it was electrified in 1920. It was damaged in the hurricane of 1950, which also damaged the steeple, the same storm that tore down the Baptist Church steeple (restored in 2000). Today, the organ is going strong in its 118th year.

## MINISTERS

Since 1792, there have been 30 ministers for the church, the longest for 25 years. As said before, they were provided with a parsonage starting in 1823. In 1849, the minister stayed with a deacon's family, then in 1877 the church bought the house at 66 Park, which was used until 1946. For only seven years, the minister lived at 23 Carver. Then in 1953, the church was donated the old Anderson Dana House at 74 Park, which remained the parsonage until 2014. That house was sold in 2016, and the last three ministers have been given a housing allowance.

Reverend Sara Rossigg is the current pastor, in her fourth



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH today.

neely Bell Company of Troy, New York and installed. The old bell was sold for \$120 in scrap. The new bell was inscribed with sixteen names, including Rev. Wm. S. Smart, the four deacons, the six members of the Prudential Committee, the chorister, the organist, and the heads of the Sunday School.

Also in 1892, a new clock was purchased by the town from E. Howard Clock Co. of Boston for \$500 and installed by a Howard employee and local jeweler George W. Olmstead in the 11-by-11-foot clock tower. Olmstead also hooked up the fire alarm wire to the alarm box on the south outside wall. The clock faces and figures from the old clock were reused, but the hands were new as was the machinery.

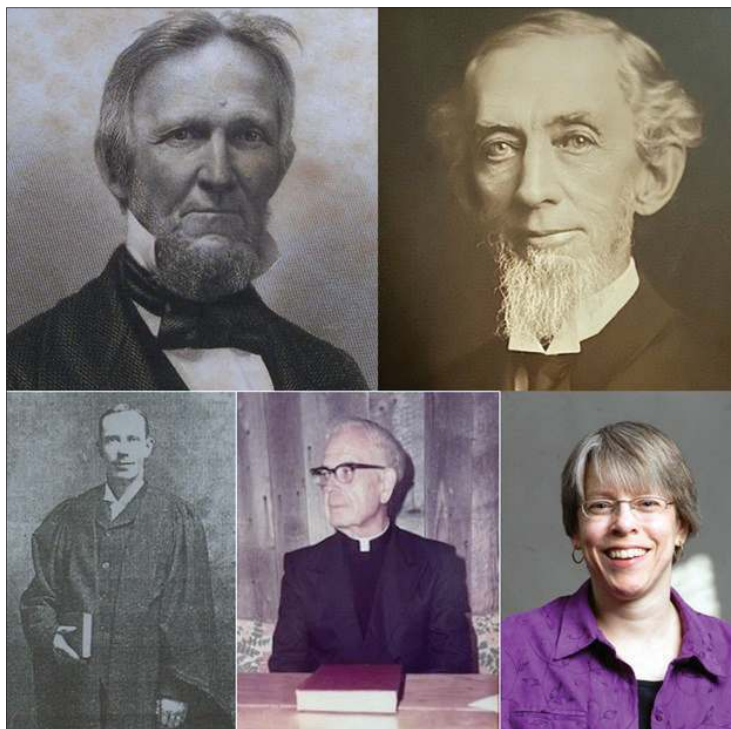
In 1916, a new white marble baptismal fount was donated by the grandchildren of Dr. Anderson G. Dana and his wife Eliza Fuller Dana and dedicated.

## CARILLON BELLS

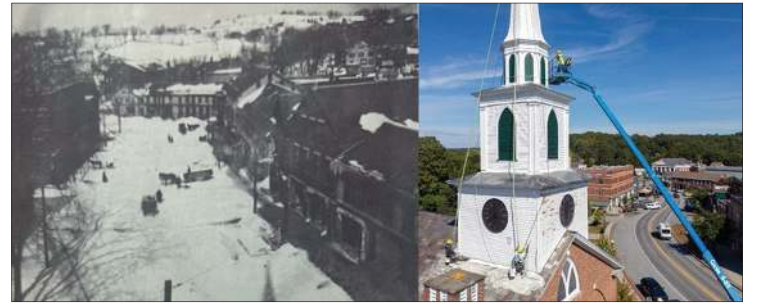
In 1948, the choir raised funds for the purchase of carillon bells "To bring glory to God and a chal-

would come in and play daily.

This original carillon broke down completely in 1990 then



MINISTERS BERAH GREEN, William Smart, Walter Thorpe, Bowen Shattuck, and Sara Rossigg.



THE 1800S VIEW of Center Street from the steeple, being repaired on the right.

year, dedicated to continuing the church's important role in the community.

## STEEPLE REPAIRS

The steeple is subject to the intense New England weather and has needed many periodic repairs over the years, the most recent done by the Robert Morgan Com-

pany in 1982, 1998, 2000 and now underway in 2025.

The steeple repair and painting actually includes the four sections described above in the NHR document- the spire at top, the lantern, the belfry and the clock tower. Metal roofing, flashing, damaged (See Congregational Church, Page 18)

## Restaurant guide

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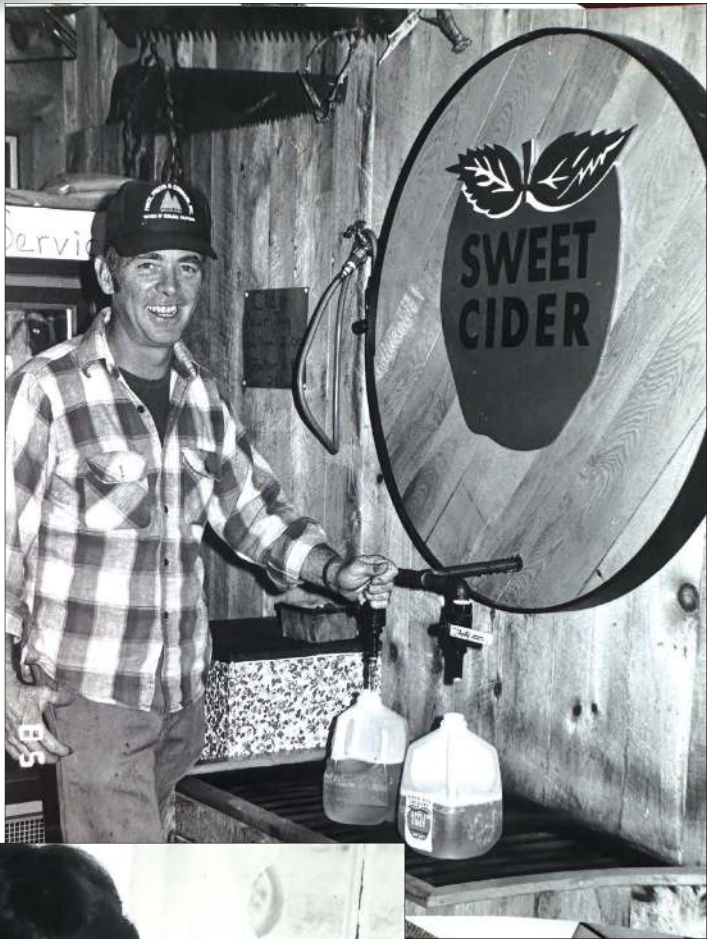
# Mim's Photos

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



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

Or call us at 247-8080









# OFF THE SHELF

## NEW BOOKS AND NEWS

### DID YOU KNOW?

We're on Facebook, Instagram, and have a newsletter online. Follow us to be in the know about all of our upcoming events. Links and schedule at our website, [brandonpubliclibrary.org](http://brandonpubliclibrary.org).

#### HERE'S OUR SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY EVENTS:

##### Tuesday

- 3-5 p.m., Pokémon (ages 5-10)
- 5-7 p.m., Magic the Gathering (ages 16+)
- 5-6 p.m., Tech Help Drop In - bring in phones, laptops, etc!
- 5:30-7 p.m., Pins and Needles - bring your craft projects and hang out!
- 1st Tues. 6-7 p.m., Serious Reads Book Talk

##### Wednesday

- 10:30 a.m., Toddler Time (ages 0-3)
- 5-6 p.m., Tech Help Drop In
- 2nd Wed. 5:30-7 p.m., Grief Group
- 4th Wed. 6-7 p.m., Fun Reads Book Talk
- 1st and 3rd Wed. 6-7 p.m., Brush Hour Art Club - paint by numbers with friends!

##### Thursday

- 10:30 a.m., Storytime and Bubbles
- 3-5 p.m., Teen Retro G a.m.es - Monopoly, Scrabble, and more (ages 11-16)
- 4-5 p.m., American Sign Language Club
- 3rd Thurs. 5:30-7 p.m., Cookbook Club - pick a recipe, join the potluck
- 3rd Thurs. 6-8 p.m.,

Game Night

##### Friday

- 3-5 p.m., Tech Help Drop-In
- 1st Fri. 3:30-5 p.m., Teen Advisory Group (ages 11-16) - pizza and fun!
- Teen and Adult D&D, ask for info

##### Saturday

- 10:30 a.m., Storytime and Bubbles
- 1st Sat. 1-3 p.m., Sensory-Friendly Art (ages 6-10)
- 2nd Sat. 1-3:30 p.m., Cuss and Cut Block Printing
- 4th Sat. 1-4 p.m., Wargaming

##### Friday Oct 10

3rd Annual Reading the Green Golf Scramble  
Sign up online or at the library

## Congregational Church

(Continued from Page 15)

and rotted wood will be replaced and everything painted with two coats of Benjamin Moore paint. The total cost is expected to exceed \$75,000, depending on unforeseen discoveries and the number of roofing slates that needed to be repaired, an extra that was not part of the original estimate.

ers might say that ours is a little slow. One thing can be said of the clock, it is right at least twice a day anyhow.”

Over the course of its 133 years, the clock and its four faces have had increasing issues as they have aged. One time, someone shot an arrow that stopped the hands on one face and the town’s Mike

stantly visible icon overlooking the heart of the village. It’s hard to imagine it not there.

It has sometimes been said that a town clock is a type of the town itself, Strangers might say that ours is a little slow. One thing can be said of the clock, it is right at least twice a day anyhow.

CLIPPING FROM THE Brandon Union mocking the unreliability of Brandon’s town clock.

This project is funded by grants and donations from parishioners and friends of the church. Should anyone wish to donate, you can mail it to Brandon Congregational Church, U.C.C, Box 97, Brandon, VT 05733, care of the steeple fund.

### CLOCK

As related above, the original clock had its issues from its installation in 1832 to its replacement in 1892 by the current one. A year before the new one went in, the Brandon Union stated: “It is sometimes said that a town clock is a type of the town itself. Strang-

Snow had to climb out and remove it.

In the past several years, it has stopped a few times and was stuck at 12:35. The hands have now been repainted and once the steeple repairs are completed, which include the clock faces and hands, the town will fix the gearing once they secure a new gear part and hopefully the clock will be working correctly once more.

### ICONIC BUILDING

The Brandon Congregational Church has been an intricate part of the Brandon community and the impressive building a con-

## 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.

#### September 15

- Assisted Rutland City Police Department (RCPD) with a welfare check on Franklin Street.
- Received a call regarding a possible larceny on Forest Dale Road.
- Received a call from Otter Valley Union High School (OVUHS) concerning a middle school student who had left the building and was refusing to come back inside.
- Took fingerprints for employment.

#### September 16

- Responded to an alarm activation at Hannaford Supermarket.

#### September 17

- Received a late reported walk-in complaint of sus-

picious activity on Conant Square.

- Assisted the RCPD with serving a stalking order at the Brandon Motor Lodge on Franklin Street.
- Received a call from a resident on Rossiter Street who reported that he was approached by a suspicious man near the intersection of Carver Street who wanted to walk with the complainant and asked uncomfortable questions.
- Received a complaint from an individual regarding on-line harassment by an ex-girlfriend. It was later determined that the complainant resided in Rutland City and that the incident did not take place in Brandon.
- Received an animal complaint regarding a case under investigation by the VSP-Rutland regarding a request for service/referral by the Brandon Animal Control Officer.

#### September 18

- Received a report of suspicious activity on Franklin Street.
- Received a call from residents on Churchill Road reporting that a suspect had assaulted a male resident at the home the previous night, had driven

(See Police report, Page 23)

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

inner voice will lead you to what will ultimately bring security and comfort.

**LEO** July 23-Aug. 23  
Leo, you are shining brightly right now. This is your time to be seen and celebrated. Step into the spotlight at work or in your social circle. Your confidence will be contagious.

**ARIES** March 21-April 20  
Your energy is off the charts this week, Aries. This is the perfect time to start a new fitness regimen or tackle projects that you've been putting off for a while.

**TAURUS** April 21-May 21  
Focus on your finances this week, Taurus. A new opportunity to increase your income or make an investment comes your way. Your practical nature will facilitate sound decision-making.

**GEMINI** May 22-June 21  
Your communication skills are very powerful right now, Gemini. Whether it is a difficult conversation or a creative collaboration, you will find the right words to express yourself.

**CANCER** June 22-July 22  
Take some time for self-care this week, Cancer. Your intuition is strong and your

project or trying a new restaurant, you will be seeking novel experiences this week.

**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 20  
Take some time for deep reflection, Capricorn. You can find clarity by looking inward and understanding what drives you. Expect some good news by midweek.

**AQUARIUS** Jan. 21-Feb. 18  
Your relationships are a great source of joy this week, Aquarius. You may connect with others who share your unique vision and ideas. Don't be afraid to be yourself.

**PISCES** Feb. 19-March 20  
Creativity is flowing right now, Pisces. Devote some time to a passion project, whether it is art, music or writing. It is alright to daydream a little while as well.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 26 Serena Williams, tennis player (44)  
Sept. 27 Jenny Ortega, actor (23)  
Sept. 28 Candice Bergen, actor (61)  
Sept. 29 Elizabeth Gaskell, novelist (d)  
Sept. 30 Martina Hingis, tennis player (45)  
Oct. 2 Brie Larson, actor (36)  
Oct. 3 Annie Leibowitz, photographer (76)



# A trip to the Emerald Isle revealed the joys of solo travel

BY LYLA FULLER

I joined my high-school friend, her sister, and her sister's husband in Dublin for a stay in a 200-year-old house in county Langford, which is in the middle of Ireland. Our plan was to go in a different direction from the house each day and explore. This didn't happen. Met Bob's family in Granard and they decided to go on to Italy and Germany. Not me. I have seen one town that was interesting, home of Kitty Kiernan's family hotel. Kiernan was revolutionary Michael Collins' girlfriend. And there was so much more to see.

We returned the car at the airport. I rented a small one, made arrangements to return home in ten days, and set off. The first alone trip to see Ireland and Northern Ireland. My first stop was New Grange, the site of Druid ruins, a place I had read about and similar to the Tulum in Mexico with a small window facing the rising sun at solstices and striking a specific spot on the floor of the temple. I had been in that ruin only a year earlier.

Driving on toward Belfast took me through Drogheda, a seaside town with a wonderful old arched gateway "the Gate of St. Lawrence." I think the Australian ranch in the book *The Thornbirds* is called Drogheda. I wonder if there is a connection.

It was raining as I drove in Belfast. After parking and walking a few blocks, I stopped for tea in a small tea and catering shop. Three

shopladies are the only ones there. They are curious about a mature American woman who was traveling alone and asked where I was from, where I planned to go, and then gave me suggestions. Time to go and I realized that I did not have

British sterling to pay with, only Irish punt and American dollars. I had not realized I was in a different country! After a short conference they took the Irish punt, didn't want the American money since the US value was down.

After a stop at the tourist office to book my B & B for the night and get directions on the most scenic route, I began the journey to Portrush on the North Sea. England and Ireland have wonderful tourist offices, very knowledgeable and helpful. They booked a B & B for me each night from the previous day's drive. The drive was beautiful even though a drizzle of rain and intermittent clouds followed me all day. The hill sides were

years ago that look like a huge staircase. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Abercorn House is a large two-story house overlooking the town. The owner and her 3 children run it. I had dinner at the Pub and breakfast at the B & B. Irish breakfasts are huge: cold cereal, sweet rolls, coffee, tea, then eggs, sausage, bacon, ham, and toast with jams and honey. Certainly stays with you until the evening's Guinness and



A GRAVEYARD NEAR the house rented by the author.



A DRUID SHELTER.

green with gray stone fences (like Vermont) and white sheep dotting the hillside. The North Sea waves crashed on the rocks below the narrow winding road. Balley Castle and the Giant's Causeway are great stops along the way. The Giant's Causeway is a formation of basalt rock columns formed 60 million

pub food.

I drove on to Londonderry, which is surrounded by an ancient stone wall about 20 feet high and 5 or 6 feet thick. with the newer part of the city flowing out to surrounding areas. It is probably the most historic city I visited on this trip.

(See *Emerald Isle*, Page 23)

## Kevin Sandwich - 10am to 3pm Weekdays





REAL ESTATE



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ALLIE WALTER HELPING a canine customer with a pup cup.

Sweet Sappy's

(Continued from Page 3)

Outside the two businesses, Ellen and Allie create and maintain the most beautiful window boxes and planted pots. In 2017, Ellen bought the plants for, and designed the island garden at, Kennedy Park. Although she no longer maintains it, visitors and residents enjoy the garden with its three seasons of color.

About five years ago Allie met Kevin. Kevin was working at Killington, where they met. He was teaching school and working on Killington Mountain, as so many young people do, holding down multiple jobs. They both say that it was love at first sight. They have been a couple ever since.

In January, Ellen decided, after 30 years running her own business, to retire. Allie and Kevin dreamed up a fun shop that would provide shopping and a memorable time for visitors and the locals of Brandon: real maple creemees and locally made goods. Allie and Kevin work hard to make their businesses complementary. Blooming Bungalow offers a selection of house plants, beautiful cards, candles, and a collection of women's clothing and accessories. Across the street, at Sweet Sappy's, there are maple creemees made with rich and delicious dairy from the Northeast Kingdom mixed with local maple syrup. As well as an assortment of nostalgic gifts and Vermont goods for the whole family, they thought up the shop's wonderful name from their veneration for the sugar maple tree.

Kevin wanted to have maple creemees as a foundation item in his store. "It is just so quintessentially Vermont," he said. He has complemented the creemees with local products of all sorts, from bees wrap and honey to postcards, mugs, tee-shirts, and penny candy.

Allie's skills of ordering of products, honed over many, many years, ensures that each store maintains its distinctive flavor. It is wonderful to see these young people running businesses on Main Street. It's great to see businesses

turning over into younger hands. We applaud Allie's and Kevin's hard work and are so excited to see what they plan to add in 2026.

Kevin is still getting his feet on the ground with Sweet Sappy's, but one thing he does assure me of is that the maple creemee will be available all winter long for all of us who keep finding an excuse or a reason to go into town-just to get a maple creemee and sit and eat it by the waterfall. They even have a pup cup! That's a very thoughtful detail.



KEVIN MAICHEN WITH one of Sweet Sappy's delicious maple creemees.



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# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 11)  
during the Segment 6 project several years ago.

The town will request a grant from the Brandon Trustees of Public Funds to assist with the costs of the Historic Preservation Committee's update of the Brandon Workbook. Attempts to secure funds from the Vermont Community Fund and the Walter Cerf Fund were not successful. In a later email to The Reporter, Mr. Hopkins stated that the town will likely ask for \$12,000 from the Trustees and that the request is still in line with the principle that the trust should fund municipal projects only.

The repeal of the "pool hall ordinance" on July 14 was not challenged by town residents and took official effect on September 15.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

After his report, Board Vice-Chair Cecil Reniche-Smith asked whether it was true that Brandon would host the 2026 Whoopie Pie Festival that is normally held in downtown Rutland. Mr. Moore confirmed that the Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region had asked whether Brandon could host the popular event next year, as it was

uncertain whether the downtown streets could be reserved. No final determination has been made, but Mr. Moore did say that the event would bring hundreds of people to Brandon.

## BUDGET MEETING RECAP

Board Chair Doug Bailey offered a recap of the Budget Workshop that had been held on 9/15, noting that it had been an informative meeting even if poorly attended by the public.

At that meeting, the Board had heard from some of the town's department heads: Police Chief David Kachajian, Highway Chief Jeremy Disorda, Rec & Comm Development Director Bill Moore, and Town Manager Seth Hopkins. The department heads each gave the Board a brief overview of their budgets for the previous and current fiscal years and a sense of what the department will need for the next fiscal year.

Of particular note at the budget meeting was a discussion with Mr. Disorda regarding the need for a new garage for the Highway Department. The current facility is too small and in suboptimal condition. A new garage would require that the town borrow funds for the construction.

On Monday night, Mr. Hopkins shared a chart with the Board that shows that Brandon's financial condition is secure enough to take on a bond for the construction, if the Board chooses to put the

question before voters. He commended town leadership for leaving Brandon in a strong financial position, especially compared to other towns its size.

## REPORTING NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

Town Manager Seth Hopkins asked the Board to reconsider the town's current accounting process with regard to non-operating expenses. He used as an example the recent repaving of Town Farm Road, which was paid for with money from the 1% Local Option Tax fund but which was accounted for in the Highway Department's operating budget. This made it appear as if the Highway Department was significantly overbudget when it was not.

Mr. Hopkins suggested that the Board adopt a different accounting method by which all non-operating expenses would be accounted for in the funds from which the monies were actually drawn. For example, the Town Farm project would not be included in the Highway Department's operating budget but rather in the 1% fund.

The intent is to make clear to residents how departments are managing their budgets and where money for projects actually comes from.

The Board unanimously agreed to make the requested change.

## DESIGNATING A NEW NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Because The Reporter will cease publication on October 1, the town is obligated to designate

a new "paper of record."

Vermont law stipulates that every municipality must have a paper of record in which it publishes legal notices, in addition to the posting of those notices elsewhere. The Reporter had been serving this purpose for years, with The Rutland Herald as an alternative.

Town Manager Seth Hopkins presented the Board with a comparison of circulation and costs for The Rutland Herald and The Addison Independent. A typical legal notice that might cost \$39 in The Reporter would cost \$129 in the Herald and roughly \$60 in the Independent. The Herald's circulation is substantially larger than the Independent's, however.

An attendee expressed concern that the Independent is twice as expensive as The Reporter per issue.

Ultimately, the Board unanimously agreed to designate The Addison Independent as Brandon's new paper of record, with The Rutland Herald as an alternative.

## WASTEWATER CAPACITY STUDY

Town Manager Seth Hopkins presented the results of a wastewater capacity study that had been undertaken by Elaine Smith in the Town Office. The purpose of the study was to measure the actual maximum capacity of properties currently using the municipal sewer system in order to determine how much additional usage the system could handle.

According to Mr. Hopkins, the town's wastewater system was designed to handle up to 750,000 gallons per day. According to the results of the study, the current maximum capacity of properties using the system is 500,000 per day. However, the actual output of those properties is only 250,000 per day.

This means that the town has significant unused capacity that could allow additional development without straining the wastewater treatment system.

A discussion ensued between the Board and an attendee regarding the best way to charge wastewater customers for their usage. Currently, the town charges a flat fee with a relatively low per-gallon usage rate. This is to ensure a steady flow of revenue to support the wastewater department, which is expensive and also carries debt that needs to be serviced.

Board Chair Doug Bailey suggested that the topic is sufficiently complex to warrant a public meeting on its own.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

An attendee asked for a follow-up regarding Town Manager Seth Hopkins's request at the 9/15 Budget Meeting for a waiver from the town's normal purchasing policy to allow him to investigate the possible acquisition of an electric police cruiser.

Mr. Hopkins said that the circumstances that had prompted the request no longer applied and the waiver wasn't necessary, as (See Brandon SB, Page 23)

# Brandon Town Manager's report, Sept. 9–19 2025

## FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- Volunteer board seats open: Development Review Board Alternate; Planning Commission Alternate; Energy Cmte Member. Apply to town manager for consideration by selectboard.

## PUBLIC WORKS MISSION

- The Highway Department has followed up Birch Hill Road drainage work with regrading including application of "rock fines" to the mix. This addition tends to fill in voids and make a harder surface. We are going to try regrading a portion of Town Farm Road next week that has been problematic; this should assist with dust control there.

- Kyle replaced the plexiglass on the bulletin boards outside the town office to improve visibility of public notices.

- The Public Works crews (WW & HWY) worked on a new method conceived by our assistant wastewater treatment system operator Ian Buckley to perform the periodic heavy cleanout of the two large oval oxidation ditches at the WWTF. One is entirely cleaned while the other operates so the ditches can be alternated in times of low flow (such as this dry summer) to reduce wear on the motors and moving equip-

ment. What used to be an unpleasant task done by two men with shovels and buckets over the course of several days was accomplished in much less time and with lesser physical risk, through utilization of a rented mini-skid steer. The three-to-five foot depth of sludge was removed for drying before it will be hauled away to our authorized acceptance facility. Thank you to our Town staff for thinking creatively and for sourcing this rental. This will be the Town's preferred method going forward.

- Elaine has completed a very intense project of documenting the wastewater capacity for all 900+ sewer accounts. This was a massive undertaking as individual capacities had never historically been tabulated or in most cases even calculated or assigned. Systemwide capacity is absolutely essential to understanding our ability to facilitate development in Brandon with our existing wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure.

## PUBLIC SAFETY MISSION

- Service weapon exchange is pending arrival of the replacements at the firearms dealer.

- Procuring quotes on deliverable electric vehicles (that could be delivered and put

into service by 30 September) for your consideration was unsuccessful due to intense demand for the same reason we had interest (expiring federal incentive). So I recommend that we drop the idea and the board initiate the standard purchasing procedure to solicit bids for a cruiser, both internal combustion and electric models to be considered per the Green Fleet policy.

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE MISSION

- In light of the impending at-least-pause in the publication of The Reporter, I have reached out to the Addison Independent and Rutland Herald regarding their legal ad rates as well as requesting their Brandon readership by subscription or circulation. I will report to the board at the meeting. It would be advisable to designate a replacement newspaper of record.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MISSION

- Also in light of the impending at-least-pause in the publication of The Reporter, we are looking to migrate the Town website to a platform that is tailored to government units. We have had presentations and quotes from three platform providers; the one we are selecting will be a good fit for our needs

and our finances. The key benefits include a way to subscribe so whenever the Town posts an agenda or minutes or public notice (etc) those will manager@brandonvermont.gov 49 Center St, Brandon VT 05733 Voice or text (802) 247-3300

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT TO SELECTBOARD

9 — 19 September 2025 automatically be emailed to subscribers. This will facilitate robust citizen participation in local government.

## FOLLOW-UP

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

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

- Delinquent tax: was \$546,133 now \$540,480 / Wastewater: was \$204,514 now \$202,238

- Unrestricted fund balance \$729,336 Local option tax (1%) fund balance \$456,777

- FY25 operating budget projected surplus \$144,333 (3.8% of total spending [\$3,768,035])

Respectfully submitted,

*Seth M. Hopkins*



# Business & Service Directory

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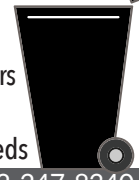
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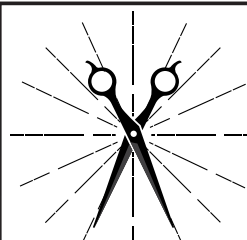
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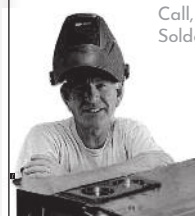


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# Emerald Isle

(Continued from Page 19)

It was busy with people and TV cameras, and trucks. I learned later that the commotion was because of the National Inquiries into Bloody Sunday.

My next B & B was on the Burren near Doolin, which is a small fishing village noted for its fine wool sweaters and great music.

The Burren is a flat open area with small farms and big winds. I think of it as the area where people got their peat!

Not much there, but no rooms available in Doolin. Here was where I first saw the druid caves or shrines, two stones on each side of the opening with a huge flat stone across the top. Some call them standing

stones. There is a place in New Hampshire not far from Brandon called "Americas Stonehenge" but it looks more like a Druid shrine to me.

Back at our house in Abbyshruel, I spent a couple of days resting from my drive around Ireland before traveling on to Galway Dingle Isle and back to Dublin.

First stop was Spanish Point, a lovely village set on a point the Spanish were expected to invade in a long-past war. I think some Spanish made it ashore because there were several dark-eyed people around in a blue-eyed country!

Youghal in county Cork was my stop, again arranged by the tourist office. It is the town the John Huston movie "Moby Dick" was located in.

John Wayne is also known here from his movie "The Quiet Man." I had dinner

at the pub where Huston and Wayne drank during the filming.

Missed the Blarney Stone but enjoyed the Waterford Crystal factory. Ireland is so many shades of green it is difficult to describe. Rains daily but it is worth it for the beauty of the country. My last B & B was near the airport. I had to drive through Dublin at 5:00 traffic on the wrong side of the road! We all survived.

Up early for my flight home and was surprised to be asked if I would mind being moved to first class on the flight home. What a question! There are perks of traveling alone...

# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 21)

the cruiser could not be obtained before the deadline for certain grants.

The same attendee also cautioned against the town issuing its own summaries of its meetings in the absence of The Reporter, which will cease publication on October 1.

Another attendee suggested that the town make more use of the News & Notices section on its own website.

## WARRANT

The Board unanimously approved a warrant in the amount of \$426,617.08 to cover its obligations and expenses. The amount of this warrant was especially high because it included the yearly service for the town's debt.

# Sudbury fundraiser

(Continued from Page 5)

talks, bingo, potlucks, and dances are just a few of these. The Sudbury Meeting House closes each year in the fall due to lack of insulation and heat. A kerosene heater has sufficed to warm the building up just enough for Town Meeting Day, but it goes back into hibernation thereafter until late spring. The renovations will weatherize the building and install a new heating system allowing the building to be utilized year-round. \$330,000 is needed for the first phase of a three-phase approach to a total Meeting House renovation. The planned phased approach will allow the renovations to be completed in sections as the funds are raised.

The Sudbury Meeting House restoration is being supported in part by a Paul Bruhn Historic

Revitalization Grant from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Town of Sudbury was awarded a \$75,000 Bruhn grant that will support the restoration of the Meetinghouse's historic wood windows, exterior repairs, and energy efficiency improvements.

The Town of Sudbury has also received a \$30,000 Cultural Facilities Grant from the Vermont Arts Council that will help fund this restoration. The Sudbury Community Club has an additional \$10,000 in a fund reserved for the Meeting House. The SCC has launched this capital campaign to raise an additional \$200,000 from the community. The Town is simultaneously seeking more grant opportunities.

The silent auction is now open and available online at <https://givebutter.com/c/26186D/auction> and will close on Saturday, September 27, at 1:15 p.m. Those in attendance at the fundraiser will also get the opportunity to bid in a live auction for three hand-picked items with special Sudbury significance.

The original Sudbury Community Club was formed as a volunteer committee to promote the country's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. In the years thereafter the Club sponsored community wide social events at the Meeting House and fundraised for Meeting House renovations. The Sudbury Community Club is proud to perform the same function today: sponsoring events and fundraising to restore the Meeting House.

# Classified

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**RESPITE CARE BRANDON** - Currently seeking respite caregiver to provide care for an elderly developmentally disabled individual in your home. Currently daytime hours available and some overnight shifts. This position is per diem with excellent pay. For more information please email me at [respite2022@yahoo.com](mailto:respite2022@yahoo.com) text/call 802-398-5657.

## TOWN OF PROCTOR WATER DEPARTMENT WATER SYSTEM FLUSHING NOTICE

The annual or semi-annual flushing of water mains, via fire hydrants, will take place from Monday, October 6th, through Friday, October 10th, 2025. Please contact the Water Department at (802) 342-1900 or the Town Manager at (802) 459-3333 ex.4 with any questions. During flushing users may experience cloudy water. Please run the water until the water clears.

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# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

by the house, harassing them, but had since left the area. Officers from Brandon were tied up with a violent prisoner and were not able to respond to the house at the time.

## September 19

- Responded to a vehicle complaint on Pine Tree Drive.
- Helped with a lift assist requested by Brandon Area Rescue Squad at N. Conant Drive.
- Took fingerprints from a community member for employment.
- Responded to a call on Wood Lane for an individual who was unlawfully camping on private property. A tent was located on the property, but it was unoccupied and appeared

to be abandoned.

- Received a complaint of a landlord stealing a tenant's dog at a residence on Forest Dale Road.

- Received a complaint from a concerned neighbor regarding an individual who had set up a tent on his neighbor's property without her permission. The complainant was advised that the police department had already responded to the home on a similar complaint and found the tent unoccupied and apparently abandoned.

- Received a report of an alleged burglary at a residence on Forest Dale Road.

- Received a request for a restraining order service at a residence on North Street.

## September 20

- Received a call from a resident at a home on Deer Run Road advising that he was out of state and observed his wife, who had a Relief from Abuse Order against him, breaking into their home. The VSP-Rutland took the complaint because no Brandon officers were on duty.

## September 21

- Received an alarm activation at the OVUHS. The alarm was later cancelled by the alarm company as it was determined to be false.

- Received a report of suspicious activity on Deer Run Road in which the VSP also responded.

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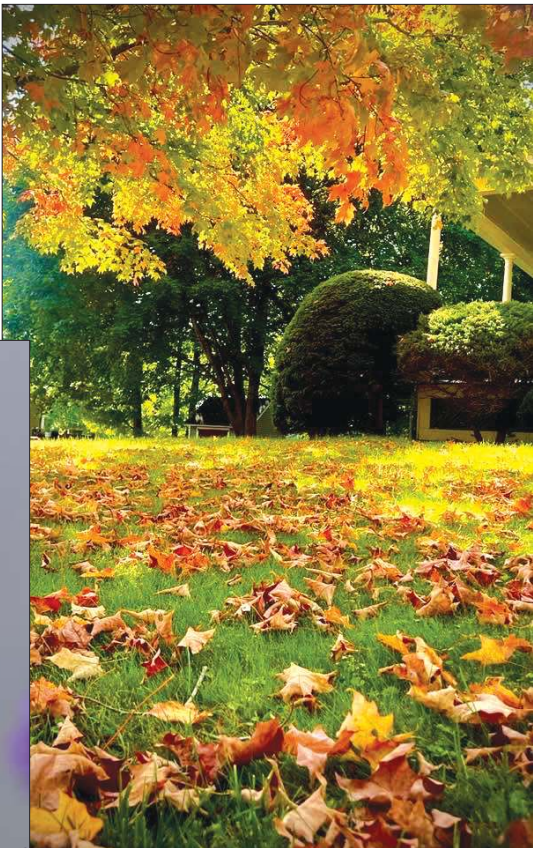
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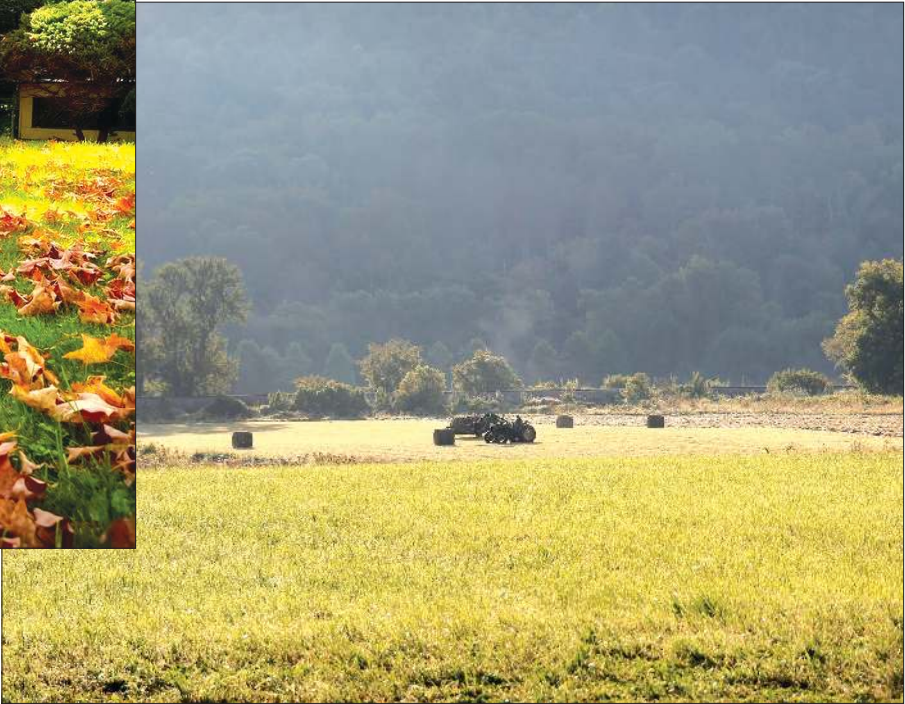
# Black Bear Tree, Land & Forest



# Autumn ascends as summer fades...



THESE PHOTOS WERE sent to us by Dale Christie. They capture Proctor in that bittersweet transition between summer and fall. Dale took the farm field photo and the moth lighting on the flower. The fall foliage photo was taken by Kiah Oechsle.



Eric Mallory, Shop Owner • Chuck Havens, Technician

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