

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

*A community supported newspaper*

Vol. 30, No. 39

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

\$1



## COMING TO AMERICA

When they moved from Poland to Florence, Vt. in the early 1900s, Martin and Mary Markowski could not have known the legacy they would leave behind in their new home.

PG. 2



## 42 PARK

Before it became the address of Heelyn Anderson's historic home, this location was the site of Brandon's first Baptist meeting house in 1800.

PG. 3



## GARDENING CORNER

Let us give thanks to all who beautify Brandon.

PG. 13



## SCOUT'S HONOR

Otter Valley's Jacob Warrell completed his most difficult challenge yet: becoming an Eagle Scout.

PG. 29



## JOY ON FRANKLIN STREET

Franklin's Street's small park is a testament to what community can do when it works together.

PG. 34



# Thank you all for this unique experience

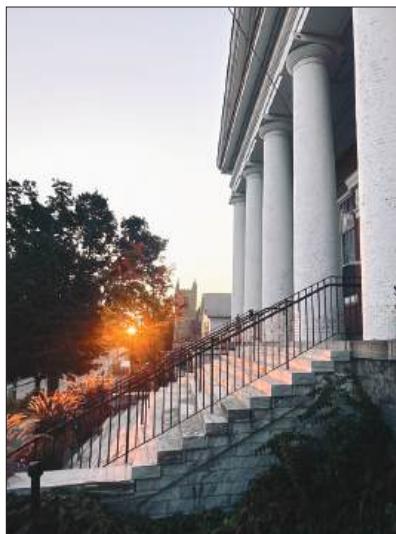
BY STEVEN JUPITER

My involvement with The Reporter began with a chance encounter. In spring of 2022, my husband, David, ran into Angelo Lynn, the publisher of The Addison Independent, on a walk through the woods. They struck up a conversation and Angelo told David he was looking for an editor for The Reporter, since longtime editor Lee Kahrs had left a few years earlier and Angelo had taken up the slack.

Before we came to Vermont in 2014, I'd worked in publishing in New York for 20+ years.

Always my best booster, David gave Angelo my contact info. Angelo and I met for coffee, and he explained some of his ideas to keep The Reporter going.

One of those ideas seemed a bit daring but also worth



a shot: convert The Reporter to an independent nonprofit community-based newspaper. Angelo hired Mat Clouser as editor, with the understanding that Mat and I would work toward making The Reporter a

nonprofit. When Mat decided to step back in October 2022, I roped in George Fjeld and Barbara Ebling, and we agreed to form that nonprofit, to which The Addison Independent then donated The Reporter. We published our first independent issue as a nonprofit in December 2022.

And so began a remarkable experience that, unfortunately, comes to an end this week.

The last three years have been exhilarating, exhausting, and enlightening. I've been privileged to get to know my

(See Thank you, Page 36)



THE 43RD ANNUAL OV Homecoming Raft Race took place at Branbury State Park on Sunday, September 28. See pgs 16 & 17 for photos!

# OTTER VALLEY HOLDS 43RD ANNUAL HOME-COMING RAFT RACE AT BRANBURY STATE PARK

COURTESY OF  
RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

Otter Valley students, families, and community members gathered Sunday, September 28, for the 43rd annual Homecoming Raft Race, one of the school's longest-running traditions.

First launched in 1982, the Raft Race is typically held on

Otter Creek. This year, however, low water levels prompted a move to Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore. Teams set off from the boat launch, paddled west around a buoy, then powered back down the length of the beach before returning to the start.

Eighteen students, spread

# The future of local climate resilience: a conversation with Ethan Swift

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Tropical Storm Irene proved back in 2011 that Vermont was not going to be exempt from the devastation of climate change. Though Vermont had a history of floods, it had been decades since the state had seen the kind of damage that Irene wrought. Two days of solid rain dumped almost 8 inches of precipitation on the Green Mountains, overwhelming waterways like the Neshobe River, which overran its banks and flooded

downtown Brandon. The locally iconic image of Irene is the photo of the old Brandon House of Pizza (BHOP) ripped off its foundation and sitting in the street like a discarded toy.

Ethan Swift was on the Brandon Selectboard at the time. He also happens to be a program manager for the Vermont Department of Natural Resources, specializing in watershed management. He's also the namesake of "Swifty," the overflow culvert under Route

(See Climate resilience, Page 29)



U.S. REP. BECCA Balint (center) visited the "Swifty" overflow culvert in Brandon in August.

# Coming to America, No.9: Martin and Mary (Salwiez) Markowski

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

For over twenty years, my Otter Valley classroom faced west, overlooking the varsity playing fields. With great excitement in the summer of 2009, we watched the Markowski Excavation Company install proper drainage in the fields and erect concrete stands that can seat 500. In honor of their volunteer labor, the field was named the Markowski Field. During warm weather, I would bring my students outside to sit in what I reimagined as a Greek amphitheater. As my quest began to bring to life the story of the Markowski brothers' grandfather, Marcin [pronounced "Mar-ceen," but anglicized to Martin] Markowski, a Polish immigrant, I soon discovered this would be a wider and deeper exploration than previous articles because two Martin Markowskis, just a year apart in age, lived in Rutland at the same time. Of course, they had to be related, but to what degree?

This family has been blessed with diligent genealogists both here and in Poland. They have traced the Markowski lineage in the village of Chrząstów in southeast Poland to the middle of the 18th century. The region remained under the control of Austria until after World War I.

A chart below shows how the two Martins were second cousins.

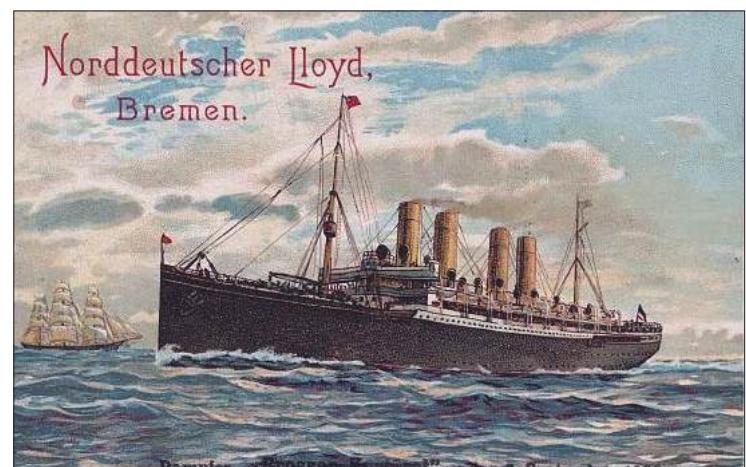
family lived for a time in Florence: an older brother named Frank and a younger brother

## Barttomiej Markowski (1759–1815)

Mathias Markowski (1803–1854)	[brothers]	Gasparus Markowski (1801–1880)
Albertus Markowski (1836–1916)	[first cousins]	Jacobus Markowski (1835–1894)
Martin Markowski (1883–1947)	[second cousins]	Martin Markowski (1882–1967)

The elder of the pair, whom we will call Cousin Martin, came first, arriving in 1906, destined for New Jersey. By 1910, however, he was working at the Fowler Mill of the Vermont Marble Company. He wed Apolonia Zmuda on May 1, 1910. Rev. Valentine Michulka noted in the parish register of St. Stanislaus Church, they were married in "Fowler, Vermont," a name used for Florence roughly between 1908 and 1913. They would have nine children: Frances [twin with Francis, who lived 15 days], Matilda, Sophia, Joseph, Stephania, Laudislaus, Anna, and Helen. Cousin Martin lived until 1967—the only one of his children who stayed in Florence was son Joseph Markowski. Other members of Cousin Martin's

named Joseph. Thanks to remembered family lore, we know a bit more about Martin Markowski's life in Poland that goes beyond the dates. As the second son, he would not have inherited the farm which would go to his elder brother Joseph. He was already smitten with a local village girl, Marya Salwiez. It is said that her parents discouraged the match with Martin. In 1906, she was sent to Hamilton, Ontario, to live with her brother Anton. Seeking better prospects, in November 1907, with \$10 in his pocket, Martin traveled approximately 500 miles to Bremen to board the Grosser Kurfust ["Great Elector," in honor of Prince Frederick William of Brandenburg, Elector of the Holy Ro-



THE SHIP GROSSE KURFURST, which brought Martin Markowski to America.

REGISTRATION CARD				
SERIAL NUMBER	61			
Martin — Markowski				
(First name)	(Middle name)			
PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: Florence, Rutland, Vt.				
(No.)	(Street or R. P. D. No.)	(City or town)	(County)	(State)
age in Years	Date of Birth			
34	4 October 18 1883			
(Month)	(Day)	(Year)		
RACE				
White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	Mongolian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	7	8	9
U. S. CITIZEN				
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
0	11	12	13	14
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true				
P. M. G. O. (Red)	6171	(Registrant's signature or mark)	(OVER)	
Martin Markowski O. O. Box 162.				

MARTIN MARKOWSKI, WORLD War I draft registration.

man Empire] destined for New York. Its steerage held 1600 passengers. Surprisingly, there were blanks in information on the manifest that would have revealed who Martin's contacts were in the United States. Martin and Marya were reunited when she entered the United States on a train through Niagara Falls in April 1909, with her occupation listed as a cigar maker! She soon wed Martin on September 19, 1909—the marriage performed by Rev. Michulka in "Fowler." Cousin Martin was a witness to the marriage. The 1910 census reveals they all lived together in a boarding house with other Polish immigrants. Martin and Mary had eight children, born between 1911 and 1926: Albert, Frances, Pauline, Josephine, Genevieve, Stella, John [died as an infant of pneumonia], and Peter. Martin sponsored two other members of his family to immigrate to the United States, a younger brother Stanley, who lived in Florence for a time and then left Vermont, and a sister Mary, who married Joseph Wojcik. She died in 1945, leaving eight children. Martin's registration for the World War I draft reveals his place of employment with the Vermont Marble Company. He (See Coming to America, Page 15)

# Town Hall! Brandon, Vermont October 19th

SUNDAY NITE

Sponsored by Warren "Cookie" Kimble (for his 90 3/4 birthday)  
Free will donations benefiting the Brandon Independence Day Celebration

18 and older Cash bar

18 piece LC Jazz orchestra plays classic Big Band music in a variety of genres. Haul out your dancing shoes as they play great jazz spanning nearly 100 years!

LC JAZZ BRANDON BIG BAND

Just Have Fun!! Sing, hum, tap your feet or dance your heart out!

Come swing away doing the Foxtrot, Lindy, Cha-Cha, Jitterbug and the Charleston!!



**HELYN ANDERSON STANDS** on the front steps of her house at 42 Park Street in Brandon. Anderson is only the third owner of the house, which was built circa 1850.

## Seventeenth in a series on Brandon's historic buildings Helyn Anderson's house, 42 Park Street, location of first Baptist Church then home of Dr. Case

BY JAMES PECK

Helyn Anderson has lived at 42 Park Street in Brandon for almost 50 years. Located only steps from downtown, it was where John Conant built the first Baptist meeting house in 1800. Then the meetinghouse was removed and replaced in 1850 by the current house by Barzillai Davenport, longtime town clerk and brother of the famous inventor. Since 1852, only three families have owned the property: the Cases, the Wrights, and the Andersons.

### BAPTIST MEETINGHOUSE

In his memoirs, John Conant, the prominent Brandon financier, builder, and landowner,

The building was owned by the Baptist Church Society which had bought the lot at what is now 42 Park for \$25. Conant was its clerk and the senior deacon most of his life.

In 1832, Deacon Conant and his sons built the current brick Baptist Church on the corner of Grove and Champlain Streets, which was completed in 1833. A wood parsonage was built behind it.

That same year, the Conants also built the Seminary building on Seminary Hill where a new school, the Vermont Literary and Scientific Institution (VLSI) was started for both boys and

How they got to the Seminary building which was just across the river must have been via the Center Street bridge, unless they swam!

In 1841, the Baptists decided to sell the old meetinghouse and lot on Park Street for the benefit of the VLSI. The meetinghouse itself was then removed by oxen purportedly to Center Street just north of the Congregational Cemetery. There it was modified into the two-story Engels Block and used as the town offices downstairs and the Episcopal Church upstairs. Both moved out in 1861 after the Town Hall and the Episcopal Church were built.

The lot on Park Street was then sold for \$420 to Barzillai Davenport, the town clerk, who then built the current house around 1850. In 1852, Davenport sold the house to Dr. Chauncey Case for \$1,500, removing the east wing further east and building a new house there. That house, which was between 42 and 44, is no longer there as it was moved to Rossiter Street in 1915.

### DOCTOR CASE

Chauncey Lee Case was born in Fairfield, Vt. in 1819 and got his medical degree in 1845 at Castleton Medical College. That

(See 42 Park Street, Page 33)

Case Chauncy	54	16	20	Drapgint	1000	1500
Lydia	40	5	20	Keepg House		

**CLIPPING FROM THE 1870 census showing Dr. Chauncey Case and his wife Lydia residing at 42 Park Street.**

wrote about building the Baptist meetinghouse to replace a log cabin on Grove Street used by parishioners: "In 1800, the church, 12 brethren only who could pay anything, joined their efforts and built a House of God, 40 by 34, of wood, in which the church met for about 33 years, when the present brick church was opened."

girls (later the Brandon Graded School, which burned down in 1959).

The plan was to have the girls boarded in the old meeting house on Park Street. There was ample room as the church had bought the land behind it to the Neshobe in 1817, increasing the lot to over an acre. The girls would only be there from 1838 to 1841.

## Spotlight On Business THE STEVENS FARMSTEAD



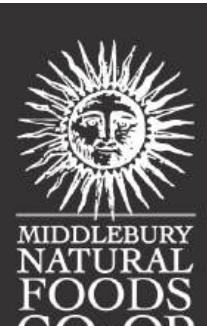
of Commerce

Brandon.org for more info

The Stevens Farmstead, owned and operated by Jane Costello, is a small catering and vegetable farm in Sudbury. We offer weekly meal delivery, catering, event planning and Holiday wreaths and decor. Want dinner and dessert, soup or salad delivered to your door every week? We can provide that for you using high



quality local and home-grown ingredients. Email us at [thestevefarmstead@gmail.com](mailto:thestevefarmstead@gmail.com) Or call 8023496854 for all the details!



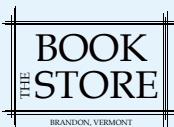
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**Entwined: Dispatches from the Intersection of Species**  
with author Bridget A. Lyons

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

8 Conant Square, Brandon, Vermont

Author presentation, conversation, art sale, and book signing



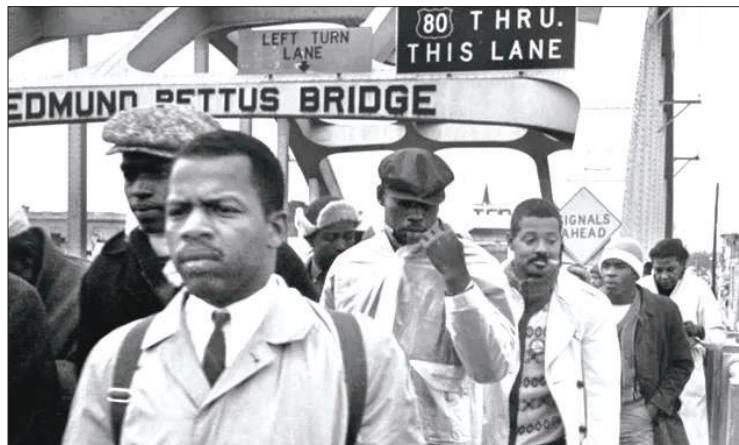
Praise for Entwined: "These vivid, original, inventive essays took me by surprise at every turn and led me to think about even ordinary creatures in new ways."

Bridget Lyons is a wonderful writer, a maverick, and a free thinker, and I enjoyed her company on every page of this fascinating book." —Sy Montgomery, author of *The Soul of an Octopus*

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



# Opinion



JOHN LEWIS (FOREGROUND) on the infamous Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965.

## Agents of Change

BY JILL FREELAND

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope...which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

-Robert Francis Kennedy, June 6, 1966.

John Lewis was such a man. Born in rural Alabama in 1940, John grew up in the South, where sharecropping and Jim Crow laws maintained a rigid separation of facilities and opportunities between whites and blacks.

At 17, John attended college in Nashville, where he became committed to justice, equality, and human rights. There he met Jim Lawson, a former missionary to India, who taught that Gandhi believed it was immoral to obey an immoral law. Lawson stressed that civil disobedience must always be nonviolent, and he taught his students to meet violence with nonviolence.

In 1961, John joined the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in challenging the federal government to enforce the recent Supreme Court ruling that banned segregation in all interstate travel facilities. In the South, white passengers rode in the front of

(See Agents of change, Page 32)



### Being a night owl is overrated.

THIS SNOWY OWL was seen a couple of years ago on a beach in Massachusetts. I waited some time for this moment when the bird yawned.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

### Can you say ‘Semiquincentennial?’ Brandon Independence Day Celebration 2026

Brandon’s Independence Day Celebration Committee (BIDCC) is pleased to announce their 2026 festivities to honor the nation’s “semiquincentennial.” It’s a big word! What does it mean? “Half of five hundred years,” which is

the term used to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Brandon’s celebration is scheduled for Friday, July 3, 2026. This is a break from the town’s tradition to always hold their party on the

“Saturday closest to the 4th.” Early scheduling has already found bands and parade units with conflicts for Saturday precisely because the 4th is on a Saturday and because of the nation’s 250th, which will find (See Semiquincentennial, Page 7)

## History walk at Mount Independence, Oct. 5

ORWELL—The Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, Vermont, is offering an autumn guided history walk on Sunday, October 5, 2025, from 1-3 p.m. Learn about the American and British Revolutionary War activities at Mount

Independence back in the autumn of 1776 and 1777, very different times.

Your guides will be site administrator Elsa Gilbertson and Stephen Zeoli, president of the Mount Independence Coalition, the site friends group.

Meet at the museum. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring water if you like. Admission is \$8.00 for ages 15 and up, \$1.00 for children 6-14, and under 6 free. It includes the hike, museum, and all the trails. Call (See History walk, Page 7)

## Pumpkin and squash harvest and storage advice from UVM Master Gardener Program

In general, the timing of pumpkin and squash harvest can be tricky as picking them too early, before they are mature, results in poor flavor and color but harvesting too late leads to cold injury and quicker breakdown. Hopefully, your crops have made it to maturity with pumpkins hav-

ing a uniform orange color. Winter squashes—acorn, hubbard, buttercup, butternut, and others—should have solid color and hardened, thumbnail-resistant skins.

If you have yet to harvest, use a sharp knife or pruners to cut pumpkins and squash from their vines,

keeping a few inches of stem attached. Handle them as little as possible. It is always advised to hold pumpkins like a ball and not by their stems. Wearing gloves during harvest will protect both you and the squashes.

(See Storage advice, Page 7)

# The 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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# Letters to the Editor

## Dave Atherton was a great soul

This being the last edition of The Reporter has made it so that I want to write one last letter to the editor. In hopes that Steven will publish this for me, I have gone back and forth on what to write. After this Sunday, I made my decision.

The topic of this letter is none other than Dave Atherton.

Sunday was the Celebration of Dave's Life.. I can truly say that I have never seen as many people at one person's celebration as I did at Dave's. If the amount of people that attend a funeral service is the measure of a person, then Dave is way up high on the scale.

It was a beautiful service, and I learned a lot about Dave. The

main thing I took away from the people that spoke about Dave is that he was a good soul. But not only was he a good soul, he was a great soul. Just ask his beautiful family. Yes, Dave was a great soul and he had so much more to give to all of us. Sometimes there are mysteries that can't be solved and losing a young man like Dave is one of those mysteries that can't be explained.

So to the rest of us who are left behind to do the living, we will move forward as best we can, even though we will do it with a piece of our hearts and souls missing—rest in peace, Dave, rest in peace.

Steven Bryant  
Forest Dale

## We must all choose love rather than hate

What is truly important in this life? Each of us faces a choice: to live with love and forgiveness in our hearts, or to live with hate.

When we want to critique something, hate drives us to search for faults—whether real or imagined. Hate does not pause to ask if what is being said is true. Instead, it feeds on negativity and spreads it further. By contrast, when love and forgiveness guide us, we look deeper. We seek reasons, go to the source, and try to understand.

To live with hate is to be blind

and to thrive on gossip. To live with love is to find freedom. Hate may come more easily, while love requires effort, patience, and time. Yet in the end, love is far more rewarding.

The first step is honesty with ourselves—admitting where we stand today. From that point, we can begin the journey toward living with love and forgiveness, which not only heals us but can transform the world around us

Aida Nielsen  
Brandon

## Community Forums continued

## Fundraising luncheon at the Shoreham Congregational Church on Oct. 8

The Shoreham Congregational Church will host a Fund-Raising Luncheon on Saturday, October 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and share hot soup and friendship as you support the Church Res-

toration Fund. You can choose from 4 different kinds of soup, and makings for sandwiches, along with beverages and homemade desserts. The cost is only \$10 a person or \$30 a family.

All proceeds will go toward the Church Restoration Fund to aid in the effort to maintain this beautiful and historic church building.



## A response to the letter from Aida Nielsen in the Sept. 17 issue

I would like to respond to the letter from Aida Nielsen published in the September 17th Reporter. She writes that we should have an open debate without the harsh rhetoric we read in social media. Unfortunately, this attitude is not reflected in the statements from the Trump Administration and the President himself. If there is going to be a real change in the tone of our political debate, the change should start at the top.

If Ms. Nielsen's letter is a call for a more civil debate by the Brandon Republican Party, it is most welcome. Her examples of inappropriate language focuses on the Democrats: a sign with the words "F\*\*\* Trump" or a promotional code that reads "Tuck Frump." However, local Republican officials have recently indulged in the same harsh rhetoric Ms. Nielsen criticizes. Until fairly recently, a local Republican official had plastered the side of his house on Union Street with the words "F\*\*\* Biden" in large letters. This language was there for everyone to see for months, if not years. Not too long before that, the state Republican Party held a large rally in downtown Brandon based on the slogan "Let's go, Brandon." Everybody knew this was a code for "F\*\*\* Joe Biden." The idea for the rally apparently came from the head of the Vermont

Republican Party, a former Brandon resident. During the last campaign, our local Democratic State Representative received a number of hate-filled emails from the Republican Town Chair at the time full of lies and distortions.

It wasn't so long ago that the relationship between the political parties in Brandon was quite civil. I recently retired as Chair of the Brandon Democratic Party after serving for around 10 years. During that time, the Chairs of the Democratic, Republican, and Progressive parties had a respectful relationship. During the height of the COVID crisis, the Chairs of the Republican, Democratic, and Progressive parties sent a joint letter to The Reporter urging people to get vaccinated as a way to protect the health of everyone in the community.

I hope Ms. Nielsen's letter means that we can return to civility at the local level in our political discourse. I wish the Trump Administration and its allies would stop using overheated rhetoric and divisive tactics, but I'm not holding my breath.

Bob Clark  
Brandon

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10/1/25

## Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 26



# Obituary

## Kelly Lee Bruce, 42, Brandon

Kelly Lee Bruce, Jr., age 42, died on September 9, 2025.

Kelly was born in Middlebury on May 15, 1983. He was the son of Kelly Bruce, Sr. and Sherry Lynn Ingalls. He graduated from Lake Region Union High School in Orleans, Vt. He most recently resided in Lyndonville, Vt. Kelly's various occupations included berry picking, pizza place, grocery store, and his true profession was as a meat cutter. He loved working at the country club, where he enjoyed playing golf. Kelly had a heart of gold; he would do anything to help someone in need. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed talking in different accents, often impersonating char-



KELLY LEE BRUCE

acters from different shows and movies. He loved decorating for the holidays. His greatest love was spending time with his boys. They would play sports, build ice castles and snowmen, and just hang out together.

Kelly is survived by children: Camden Henderson-Bruce, Kelly Bruce III, Connor Bruce, and Karson Bruce; sister Sarah Lynn Bruce; adopted brother Andrew Servidas; adopted sister Kristan Parsiak; and his parents, his step-father Russell Ingalls, and his uncle, Richard Counter.

A gathering "In Celebration of His Life" will take place on October 11, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Brandon American Legion.



## Autumn Rainbow

MICHELE ADAMS SENT us this stunning photo of a rainbow over fall foliage on Park Street in Brandon last week. The combination of colors is just lovely. Thanks, Michele!



## UP IN ROCK 'N ROLL HEAVEN, THEY'VE GOT A NEW MD (MUSICAL DICTIONARY) IN TOWN

Hundreds of friends, municipal and state leaders, and family filled the Proctor Pittsford Country Club on a picture-perfect Sunday afternoon to say goodbye to one of Rutland County's strongest and most charismatic leaders.

Dave Atherton made his mark in Rutland County and beyond, taking on projects that others avoided and getting them done. Municipal changes are never easy, and confrontation is understood, but managing to keep everyone going forward is a special skill that Dave had.

Seeing Brandon through Segment Six—a project initiated in the last century—and completed under his leadership was a remarkable task. And going to Pittsford to reclaim and initiate an often-delayed bridge project was another success.

But as immense as these successes were, they paled in comparison to his pride in Heather, Benjamin, and Elizabeth. Whenever you saw him, it was always a story about what they were doing, their new adventures and their dreams.

And Dave would've been proud that his kids' friends came out to be with them, and help them through this terrible time. Because, at heart, Dave was a helper. He wanted things to be better for everyone. And you know what? His legacy will be that of a leader and a helper.

Goodbye, Dave. The world is a lot less fun without you. Keep rockin'.

— Colleen Wright



# Storage advice

(Continued from Page 4)

Remove any soil from the surface of your pumpkins and squash. You can wash them too but make sure they are thoroughly dried before storage.

Most pumpkins and squash (except acorn) benefit from a curing stage that may heal any surface wounds and harden their rinds. Curing can also increase their sugar content leading to better tasting fruit. To cure your pumpkins and squash, leave them in a well-ventilated spot for five to 10 days after harvest. Keep them out of the sun but aim for temperatures above

60°F, ideally 80 to 85°F during the curing phase.

Store your pumpkins and squash off the ground in a well-ventilated location away from sunlight. Ideal storage temperatures should be a consistent 50 to 55°F, making sure to avoid temperature fluctuations. Ideal humidity should be between 50% and 70%. A cool basement can provide these conditions. Keep pumpkins away from apples and ripening tomatoes to avoid the ethylene produced by those fruits that accelerates ripening.

Under these conditions, pumpkins and acorn squash can last up

to 2 to 3 months, while butternut squash can store well up to 3 to 4 months. Hubbard and buttercup squash can last up to 4 to 6 months under the right conditions.

With some planning and an ideal spot, you will be able to enjoy the fruits of your garden through the end of the year.

As always, for home gardening questions, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline online at <https://go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline> or by phone at 802-656-5421, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. from April to October.

# Semiquincentennial

(Continued from Page 4)

many communities holding events. Accordingly, the committee decided that Brandon will commemorate on the 3rd.

So, get out your 2026 calendars or fire up the Google calendar and make a note – you will want to be in Brandon on Friday, July 3rd, 2026. The country will only have one semiquincentennial and you'll want to start this once-in-a-lifetime party right here at home!

What can you do now? Sign a petition and volunteer! Every five

years, the non-profit organizations that receive an annual appropriation from the town of Brandon need to circulate a petition in order to stay on the ballot for Town Meeting. 2026 is BIDCC's year and petitions are in local businesses. If you are a Brandon registered voter and see a bright pink petition on a countertop, please consider signing it.

Now is a good time to remind the community that the committee is still looking for people to help put it all together. We won't make you come to meetings. Please reach out

and see how you can help.

A final and huge thank you to Steven Jupiter and the team at The Reporter for the excellent service they have provided for the past few years. The committee has relied upon Steven for his dedication to this event – always printing press releases, articles, interviews, and photographs – and we appreciate it.

If you'd like to help and be an active part of Brandon's celebration of the nation's 250th, please contact committee chair Jessie Mohan at [jessica.m.mohan@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.m.mohan@gmail.com) or 914 629 4820.

# History walk

(Continued from Page 4)

802-948-2000 for more information.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site is one of the best-preserved Revolutionary War archeological sites. It is located at 497 Mount Independence Road, six miles west of the intersection of Vermont

Routes 22A and 73 near Orwell village. Carefully follow the signs. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through October 19, the last day of the 2025 season.

For more information about the Vermont State-owned Historic Sites, visit: [www.historicsites.vermont.gov](http://www.historicsites.vermont.gov).



**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

Open Daily 9 AM - 5 PM through Oct. 26  
1672 East Road, Benson, VT 05743

Check availabilities at [CobbleKnollOrchard.com](http://CobbleKnollOrchard.com), Facebook or Instagram.



# WINTER IS COMING

**ENERGY NAVIGATORS & BRANDON ENERGY COMMITTEE HOST:**

**Home Heating Workshop by VEEP**  
Wed. Oct. 29, 5-7p  
Senior Center, Forestdale

**Home Energy Office Hours & DIY Weatherization**  
Wednesdays in November, 5:30-6:30p  
Brandon Free Public Library

**BROC, Weatherization, & Energy Navigators**  
Tues. Dec. 2, 5-7p  
Brandon Town Hall meeting room

**Sign up for a free energy consultation**  
[www.energynavigators.org](http://www.energynavigators.org) or (802)587-2550

**SAVE MONEY, FIX THAT DRAFT**

# Statements from community leaders on 'The Reporter'

## From Doug Bailey, Chair of Brandon Selectboard

I am so disappointed to be writing a letter that will be printed in the last Reporter. I believe that towns that have a local newspaper to keep its citizens informed of news and events is vital in today's fast paced life. Unfortunately, The Reporter like many print outlets has been struggling to continue operations.

Steven Jupiter and a very small staff have printed our local news for the last three plus years covering everything from elections, 4th of July events, and everything in between. For me personally, his constant coverage of Brandon's Selectboard meetings has been information that allows everyone knowledge of items that our local government is processing.

Without The Reporter, people will need to attend meetings or contact a Board member to obtain factual details.

In my 42 years living in Brandon, I have always looked forward to reading about our Town each week. There have been many versions of the paper from Mim's Dateline to our current Reporter. All have provided local necessary stories that have helped make Brandon a successful town. We must all hope that a new group will establish a paper to fill the void.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steven and his staff for all their hard work to bring us the Reporter. They have provided a great service to us all.

## From Devon Fuller, President of Downtown Brandon Alliance

Should I start by thanking the folks that have been running The Reporter these last few years because it is such a vital part of our community? Should I start with a plea to the community to keep some form of The Reporter going because of the importance of having local news in our lives? Should I just take a moment to reflect on how much joy, information, and clean news I have received from The Reporter over the years? Or should I just be grateful that we had The Reporter for as long as we did?

The Reporter has been a part of this community for long before I moved here, with Lee Kahrs working like the world would end if she didn't cover

every board meeting in the area. This is why she was the winner of 11 New England Newspaper and Press Association First Place Awards. She was also a friend of everyone that took the time to get to know her.

Then we, well, drifted while Angelo Lynn the publisher of The Reporter tried to find a way to keep it going. Lynn was able to work out a deal for the current group to take over the paper to continue providing solid information to our community. George, Mitch, Barbara, Shelly, and of course Steven have done an outstanding job covering the news for all of us. They have gotten help from the community over the years with wonderful

sections on gardening, help with school board-dom meetings, sweet stories about world travel, and the many, many, many letters to the editor during election season. Steven in particular spent endless hours attending board meetings to keep us well informed about how our local government is working. He also spent untold hours searching out human interest stories that gave us all a better understanding and awareness of our neighbors, their interests, struggles, and triumphs.

I am going to really, really miss it. I'll miss the sound of the paper as it rustles in my hands, I'll miss the smell of the news-

(See Devon Fuller, Page 13)

## From Bernie Carr, Executive Director of Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce

Brandon has had many incarnations of newspapers over the past 200 years and the Brandon Chamber thanks Steven Jupiter and his partners and staff for their fine work over the last three years with The Reporter. We have made great use of it for our advertising purposes and for events and functions. The Chamber has

always had the health of the town and our businesses at the forefront of our thoughts and actions, helping to make this such a vibrant and energized town! The Reporter was a valuable resource for us.

Our thanks go out to town officials, our many partner  
(See Bernie Carr, Page 29)

## From Seth Hopkins, Brandon Town Manager

The Reporter has filled so many needs for Brandon. We are all saddened that this is the final issue in its current format and hope that the occasion represents only a hiatus — that our beloved community news source will return tanned, rested, and ready in a new form.

If we want to be a welcoming community, if we want Brandon to thrive, if we want the people of the town to be all on the same page of understanding each other, a community newspaper fills that mission better than almost anything else we could try. It provides newcomers with an orientation to the people and priorities of their new hometown so they can get a fuller sense of the place that attracted them to

move here. It provides multi-generation Brandon folks with opportunities to look back (Michael Dwyer's family studies, James Peck's notable building histories, Mim's Photos) but also to look forward: finding opportunities to extend the Brandon family heritage entrusted to them by starting up or leading or participating in or simply enjoying any of the many wonderful community efforts of today's Brandon. The Reporter introduces us to new businesses so we can "keep it local" and move those dollars around to our own neighbors rather than dropping them north or south on Route 7 or sending them to wherever Amazon is. As the free press, it provides an

(See Seth Hopkins, Page 27)

## From Ann Reed, Interim Town Manager of Pittsford

Over the next several months, the Town of Pittsford will continue to update the Zoning Regulations, Town Plan, Five-year Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Town policies and ordinances. These updates occur within the

Planning Commission and Selectboard meetings, with public notice being given for hearings. The budget will be on the Selectboard agenda starting October 1, 2025. All meetings are open to the public. Your input is wanted!

Agendas and hearing notices are posted before the meetings at the Town Offices, Town website, and the boxes at Keith's and Kamuda's Stores.

If you have any questions,  
(See Ann Reed, Page 27)

## From Todd Nielsen, State Representative for Brandon

I was honored when I received a request to be in the last printed issue of the Brandon Reporter. The Reporter has been around since I moved here (and way before) supplying residents with the news and keeping everyone up to date on important issues along with printing personal comments. I would like to thank Steven Jupiter, George Fjeld, and all the contributors over the years, for a job well done.

After completing my first year

as your House Representative and trying to keep everyone informed by the myriad of requested avenues, I'm sad to see the Reporter go.

I'm hoping that the Reporter will emerge in a different format to keep all the fine residents of Brandon up to date.

I'm excited to get started on my next term and you will see me around town, knocking on doors and visiting neighbors. I have always made myself avail-

able to anyone who has questions and will continue to do so. I was able to fulfil my promises made during my campaign and want to do more for the residents of Brandon. There have been a lot of changes with a lot more to come.

Brandon just competed its town Caucus for both the Republican and Democrat parties.

With that, I'm sure we will have some new, fresh voices

(See Todd Nielsen, Page 26)

## From Alicia Malay, State Representative for Pittsford-Proctor and Chair of Pittsford Selectboard

It was heartbreaking to hear The Reporter will no longer be published, at least in its current iteration. The ability to accurately and consistently receive local information, be it happenings, gatherings, events, or coverage of meetings is integral to our society.

As a Vermont State Representative, as well as Pittsford Selectboard Chair, it's important to me to facilitate transparency of government, and The Reporter did a great job of providing that avenue. With its closing, I will attempt to find other avenues

(See Alicia Malay, Page 13)

# Opera Vermont launches historic cycle of William Grant Still's operas

RANDOLPH—Opera Vermont proudly announces a groundbreaking, first-of-its-kind multi-year cycle dedicated to the operatic works of William Grant Still, known as the “Dean of African American Composers.” This eight-year journey will present Still’s music in its full depth and diversity, beginning November 14 & 15, 2025, with *A Bayou Legend*, and continuing November 13 & 14, 2026, with the long-awaited world premiere of his opera *Costaso*.

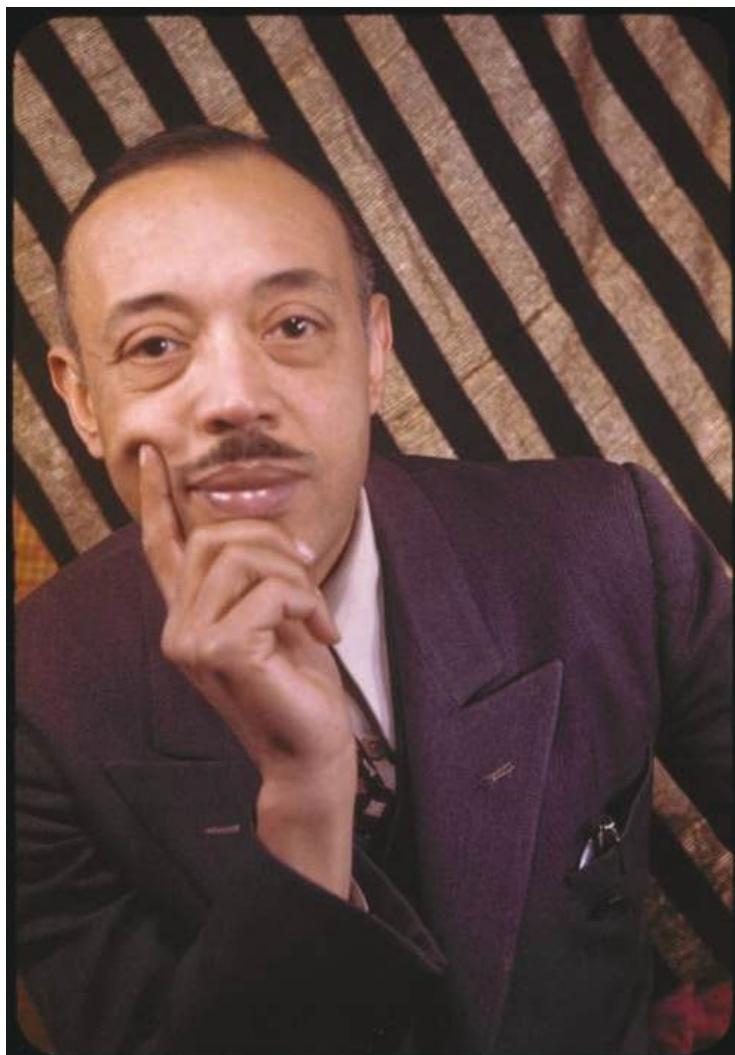
All performances will take place at the historic Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, Vermont, which will become the epicenter of a new cultural tradition: November will soon be recognized as William Grant Still Month for the arts in Vermont. Opera Vermont invites music lovers, history enthusiasts, and cultural explorers from across America and beyond to join in this historic celebration.

“This is not just an operatic endeavor,” said Joshua Collier, Artistic Director of Opera Vermont. “This is a cultural commitment to honor William Grant Still’s legacy, to bring long-overlooked masterworks into the repertoire, and to ensure that Vermont becomes a place where history, music, and community converge in celebration.”

The inaugural production, *A Bayou Legend* (1941), is a poignant opera that weaves themes of love, betrayal, and redemption with Still’s signature lyricism. The following year will

mark an extraordinary milestone with the world premiere of *Costaso*, offering audiences the rare chance to experience a never-before-heard opera from one of America’s greatest musical voices.

## REGIONAL



## COLLABORATIONS

Opera Vermont is equally committed to ensuring that this cycle has regional impact and educational resonance. Through partnerships with leading academic institutions made possible by Opera Vermont’s music

director, and one of the pre-eminent Black conductor of our time, Cailin Marcel Manson, A Bayou Legend will reach audiences beyond Vermont:

Clark University (Worcester, MA): A Full orchestral concert performance of *A Bayou Legend* will introduce Still’s work to new audiences in Central Massachusetts, highlighting his place within the broader American symphonic tradition.

Longy School of Music of Bard College (Cambridge, MA): Graduate students will perform comprimario roles and cover principal artists in Opera Vermont’s Randolph production, while also presenting their own fully staged fall semester production of the opera, with Opera Vermont’s Joshua Collier directing, and Cailin Marcel Manson conducting the production as well. This partnership offers essential professional opportunities to the next generation of singers while expanding the reach of Still’s operatic music in the Greater Boston area accompanied by members of the New England Repertory Orchestra, Maestro Manson’s orchestra dedicated to the promotion of BIPOC instrumentalists in the region.

Judith Anne Still, daughter of the composer and steward of his legacy, expressed her enthusiasm for Opera Vermont’s initiative:

“It fills me with gratitude and joy to see Opera Vermont em-

brace my father’s vision and music with such care and dedication. This multi-year cycle represents a dream long deferred—the opportunity for audiences to hear William Grant Still’s operas not as isolated works, but as part of a living, breathing continuum of American artistry. I am thrilled that Opera Vermont and Joshua Collier will lead the way in honoring my father’s legacy, and I know that my father is also looking forward to sharing these extraordinary works with the world.”

By dedicating eight consecutive Novembers to Still’s operatic output, Opera Vermont reaffirms its mission to broaden the canon, amplify underrepresented voices, and ensure that Still’s contributions to music are celebrated with the prominence they deserve—while also investing in the training and future of young musicians.

## ABOUT WILLIAM GRANT STILL

William Grant Still (1895–1978) composed over 200 works, including symphonies, ballets, operas, chamber music, and spirituals. He was the first African American to conduct a major American orchestra, the first to have a symphony performed by a leading orchestra, and the first to have an opera performed by a major opera company. His legacy as a pioneer of American music is unmatched, yet his operatic works remain underperformed. Opera Vermont’s cycle courageously seeks to change that narrative.

## ABOUT OPERA VERMONT

Opera Vermont is committed to presenting powerful, inclusive productions that connect audiences with the richness of operatic tradition while simultaneously forging new paths for the art form. By situating William Grant Still’s operas at the heart of its future programming, Opera Vermont continues to champion works that challenge, inspire, and resonate across generations.

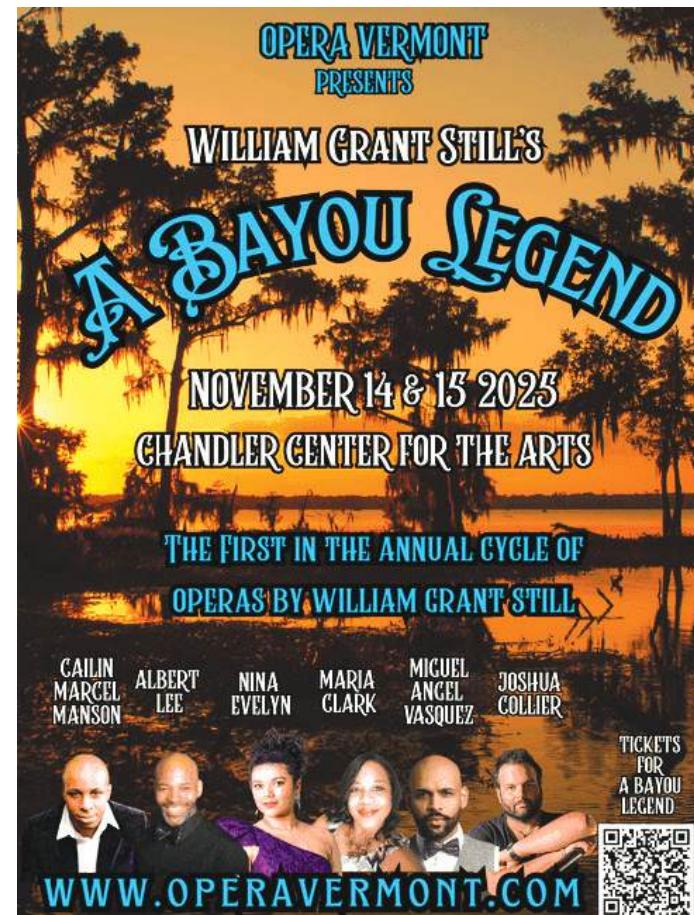
## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

*A Bayou Legend*—November 14 & 15, 2025—Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph, VT

*A Bayou Legend* (Concert Performance)—November 19, 2025—Clark University, Worcester, MA

*A Bayou Legend* (Fall Semester Production)—December 2025—Longy School of Music of Bard College, Cambridge, MA

*Costaso* (World Premiere)—November 13 & 14, 2026—Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph, VT



# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

**STUDENT:** Jasmine Simpson

**GRADE:** 3

**SCHOOL:** Neshobe

**TITLE:** Unicorns Flying in the Night Sky

**TEACHER:** John Brodowski

**STATEMENT FROM JASMINE:**

I wanted to draw a picture of unicorns flying because I love horses. I did not want the first unicorn to be alone so I added a teenage unicorn. I am proud of drawing the unicorns.

**STATEMENT FROM MR. B:**

Jasmine is another one of Neshobe's great artists. Thank you so much to everyone at the Reporter for creating a space where students like Jasmine can share their awesome work. It has been such a great way to connect with the community. We will miss it.



# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Savannah Walsh

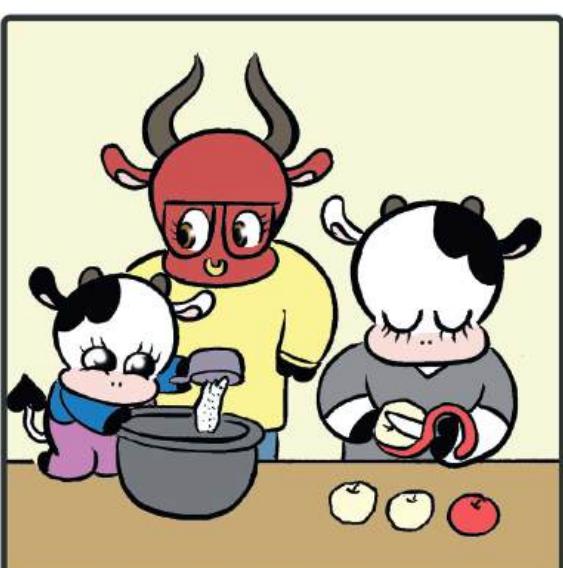
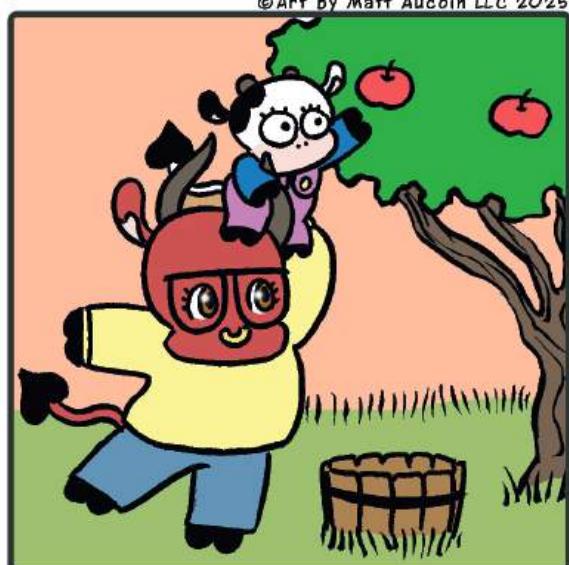
GRADE: 4

SCHOOL: Lothrop

MEDIUM: Markers

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin







## GARDENING CORNER

Final thanks to everyone who works hard to keep Brandon beautiful

BY LYN DESMARAIS

As this may be my last column, I wanted my last words to be of gratitude, yet again, to everyone who beautifies Brandon. The overwhelming impression Brandon gives to those who drive to or through it is, "What a pretty town: what beautiful trees and gardens." Thank you to every homeowner who beautifies their property. Thank you to the shopkeepers who water the town pots from Green Mountain Garage to the Post Office and especially to those that go the extra mile with extra plantings. Thank you to our highway department, who oversee and keep our public spaces neat, clean, and beautiful: Chief Jeremy Disorda, Brian Kilpeck, Bob La Porte, and Kyle Leedom. Thank you,

Luanne Merkert, for the lovely plants inside the town offices and the pots outside.

Thank you volunteer gardeners. What a talented group of folks you are!!! To all of you who give your precious spare time, in town and at the schools, weeding, mulching, planting, and watering. I'd like a huge shout out to Nancy Spaulding Ness who treats all of us to all those beautiful flowers in Central Park: tulips, hundreds planted every fall and taken out, and then those glorious African marigolds planted in. What a show! We are so fortunate to have five volunteer gardening schemes: the DBA flowerpots, the town pocket gardens, the town rain gardens, the school gardens, and the hillside garden on the Neshobe

river.

The DBA pots were the brainchild of Judy Bunde, 14 years ago. The first year, real half-barrels were used, a gift from Jon and Courtney Satz of Woods Market. Although pretty, they were too old to reuse, so, Judy raised money and bought 20 gray plastic pots we still use. This last year, there were more than 60 pots. For years, the core group of Cindy Thomas, Joan Rowe, and Jean Somerset made the plan, decided on the flowers, and ordered them. Judy then put out a plea for help, and about 20 to 30 volunteers came.

As part of the pre planning process, Judy and crew talked to the merchants to get them to water and care for the pots, (See Gardening corner, Page 39)

## Devon Fuller

(Continued from Page 8)

print, I'll even miss re-reading the old stories as I wad it up to start a fire in the wood stove. I will follow the news in our community in whatever way it is provided, because it's vital that we all stay informed or that freedom of information can be taken away.

But I fear it will only be online which fills me with a sadness for my friends, neighbors, and the youth of our wonderful

community. Reading The Reporter online just adds one more reason for me (all of us) to gaze into that soulless device I carry in my pocket. I already allow these phones, tablets, etc. far too much time in my life and now, I'll have to turn over just that much more time. I know it's up to me to decide how much time I spend on the device, and how well I handle my addiction to it, but it is beginning to feel like my choice is not mine alone after

all. With national newspapers' online presence becoming so normal, it's the only way I read them. It was always nice to hold The Reporter in my hand and not gawk at it on an eight-by-four-inch piece of glass.

So, I guess to answer my original question I just want to say thank you so very, very much to everyone who contributed in all the many ways you have in making The Reporter as successful as it's been.

## Alicia Malay

(Continued from Page 8) to keep constituents aware of what is happening at the local and state levels. I have spent my time off session attending many meetings, in-person and online, to gather information regarding

what is happening in our area, as well as hearing people's concerns. I continue to want to hear from you, so please feel free to reach out anytime.

amalay@leg.state.vt.us  
(802) 282-2691

## Fall plants are here!

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

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

### Specials:

30% off all  
trees, bushes &  
perennials

Veggies & pumpkins  
from local farms

Many new  
items in our  
vintage area!

New fall hours  
12-5 weekdays & Sundays  
10-5 Saturdays  
Open until Halloween Oct. 31



2473 Franklin Street (Rt. 7 South) • Brandon  
802-247-0062 • Cell 324-0613  
Tim and Mary Shields, owners

Virgil  
AND  
Constance

## Welcome Home

### Schedule Today

Transformative Life Coaching • Guided  
Meditations • Forest Bathing • Energy  
Healing • Breathwork for Deep Healing

Throughout all the noise and stress of our lives,  
our hearts yearn for us to come home



## Trillium Healing Arts

Deep healing through journeying within.

Julia Wolf, CTLC  
802-881-1668 • www.theyurtattrillium.com

**Mim's  
Photos**  
are on page 22!  
Like all things vintage?





To the Most Exciting  
Man in Brandon



HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY  
BILL MOORE



From the Most Boring  
Man in Brandon

\*Not paid for at taxpayer expense.

# Coming to America

(Continued from Page 2)

worked, standing in milky, musty water, for seven-and-a-half cents an hour polishing freshly-sawn slabs of white marble. In 1919, "fed up with coming home cold and feverish each night from the mill," as great-granddaughter Hilary Poremski wrote in her Middlebury College thesis, Martin struck out on his own, quitting the marble sheds, and purchased plots for dairy farming off Whipple Hollow Road

in Florence. Mary continued to manage a large household with meals for boarders. Over the next two decades, Martin added to his holdings, which eventually totaled 475 acres. Martin became a naturalized United States Citizen in 1926. Martin and Mary's eldest son Albert died on September 9, 1937, age 26, from internal injuries sustained in a logging accident, leaving behind his widow Jane and their son John. Albert's funeral notice stated



MARTIN AND MARY Markowski at the time of their marriage in 1909.



THE MARKOWSKI FAMILY in early 1926. Mary was pregnant with her last child Peter.

that St. Stanislaus Church was filled to capacity with an overflow crowd standing outside.

Shortly before World War II, still a lean time for farmers, Martin's barn was destroyed by fire, forcing him to take out another mort-

gage for the building of a new barn and storage sheds. Fortuitous mortgage relief came about when the government purchased rock maple trees that grew on the property that would be turned into logs used in the war effort. A sign of the great respect the community had for Martin is evident

from his funeral notice published in the Rutland Herald on April 12, 1947, which read, "The most impressive funeral services held at St. Stanislaus Church in the last 30 years were held at 9 o'clock for Martin Markowski of Whipple Hollow Road." (See *Coming to America*, Page 19)

## DON'T HIBERNATE. BUTTON UP.

### Sign up for Weatherization Wednesdays!

- **October 1:** How to use home energy tax credits before they expire
- **October 8:** Is it time to (re)insulate your attic and basement?
- **October 15:** Why heating your home isn't as simple as you may think
- **October 22:** How to button up your home
- **October 29:** Demystifying heat pumps



Register at  
[ButtonUpVermont.org/events](http://ButtonUpVermont.org/events)

(Recordings will be online and sent to registrants after each webinar.)

Efficiency  
Vermont

ButtonUp  
Vermont

All offers subject to eligibility and availability.



# Raft race

*(Continued from Page 1)*  
across six homemade rafts, showed impressive perseverance and sportsmanship, lending a hand to competing teams both before and during the race. While not every raft crossed the finish line, the spirit of fun and camaraderie carried the day.

Spectators and participants alike capped off the event with

hot dogs, hamburgers, and plenty of laughter—whether they stayed dry or ended up in the water.

Congratulations to this year's winning team: Nick L., Landyn B., Teagan W., Bailey W., and Dayton G. whose sea-worthy raft brought them across the line first.





# Sudbury Community Club fundraiser was a success

BY ELI FOX

SUDSBURY—The Sudbury Community Club (SCC) kicked off their capital campaign raising money to restore the Sudbury Meeting House on Saturday, September 27th. The event was a rousing success with \$42,700 raised towards a goal of \$200,000.

The day was beautiful, cool to start but sunny and warm by the time the Mean Waltons went on stage for their second set in the afternoon. Inside the Meeting House, the silent auction items were arrayed neatly with QR codes directing people to place their bids. The current

highest bid was updated manually throughout the event and volunteers assisted with tech support to ensure all could bid easily.

Mocktails were served by Sudbury Social, the business venture recently awarded a conditional-use permit to open a coffee shop in Sudbury. Seasonal non-alcoholic beverages were as pretty as they were tasty and much exclaimed over. Every dollar they made on Saturday was donated to the Meeting House fund.

SCC Directors Larry Rowe, Eli Fox, Jim Germond, and former SCC Director Ted Rus-

sell presented a speech detailing the history of the Meeting House, its recent past, and potential future. Following the speech there was a live auction. Brent Greeno auctioned off a set of Liza Myers prints, a vintage Howe scale, and a signed Warren Kimble piece with remarkable style. The Sudbury local artist Liza Myer's set of three beautiful nature themed artworks were the source of furious bidding that culminated in a winning bid of \$1,000.

Outside the Meeting House, the food from Tailgate with Kate was delicious and plentiful. Groups congregated under

the shade of the maple trees just starting to change color to laugh and chat while they snacked and waited for their turn on the horse-drawn wagon rides offered by Ted Russell. Community members gave generously and spoke warmly of their favorite memories that happened at the Meeting House.

The Sudbury Community Club would like to offer heartfelt gratitude to all of those who attended, donated money and auction items, those who volunteered, those who told their friends and family members and all of those who care about

our town's beautiful Meeting House. If you are interested in helping with the continuing efforts to raise money to restore the Meeting House you can reach out to the Sudbury Community Club directly at [sudburyccvt@gmail.com](mailto:sudburyccvt@gmail.com).

Community members can track the fundraising progress online at <https://givebutter.com/c/26186D> or by checking the classic fundraising thermometer displayed outside the Sudbury Meeting House.

FRIENDS OF THE BFPL PRESENT

## 3rd Annual Reading The Green GOLF SCRABBLE

\$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

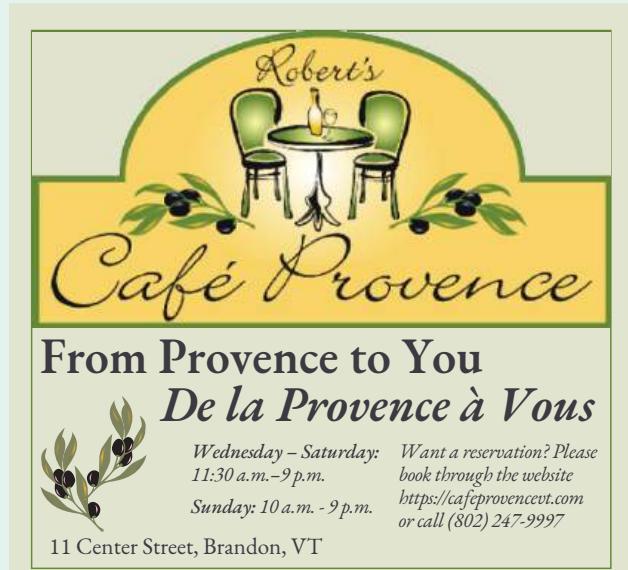


Register your team with the QR code  
or the link below, or in person at the  
library. Don't miss this event!  
<https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/golf>



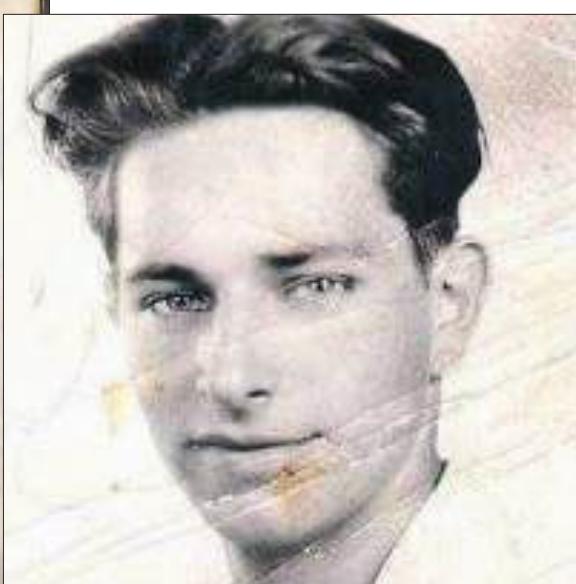
The event is brought to you by the Friends of Brandon Free Public Library and all proceeds will benefit library operations.

## Restaurant guide

  
Robert's  
*Café Provence*  
From Provence to You  
*De la Provence à Vous*  
Wednesday – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Want a reservation? Please book through the website <https://cafeprovencevt.com> or call (802) 247-9997  
11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

  
**Franklin's**  
FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN  
Full Menu 7 days a week  
Eat In or Take Out  
Available for Parties  
Prime Rib Every Friday & Saturday from 4–9 p.m.  
25 North Street, Proctor 802-459-3320

Ad design included in pricing  
Call 802 236-4662, or email [george@brandonreporter.com](mailto:george@brandonreporter.com) for more information



LEFT: PETER MARKOWSKI and Sophie Czachor wedding photo, 1948. Above: Peter Markowski, circa 1944.

## Coming to America

*(Continued from Page 15)*  
 Prior to his Requiem Mass, the usual custom for most families at that time would be to hold the wake at home, but road conditions [mud season!] in Florence prompted the body to be moved to the Mullin funeral home in West Rutland. His death dealt a double tragedy to his daughter Stella Poremski. Her husband Al Poremski's mother Rosalia died the same day. The two families would be buried in St. Stanislaus Cemetery with adjacent gravestones.

Following Martin's death, Mary lived with her daughter Pauline Sutkoski. Mary became a citizen in her own right, swearing an oath of allegiance on June 1, 1950. Her naturalization record revealed her height: 5' 9," tall for a woman born in 1886!

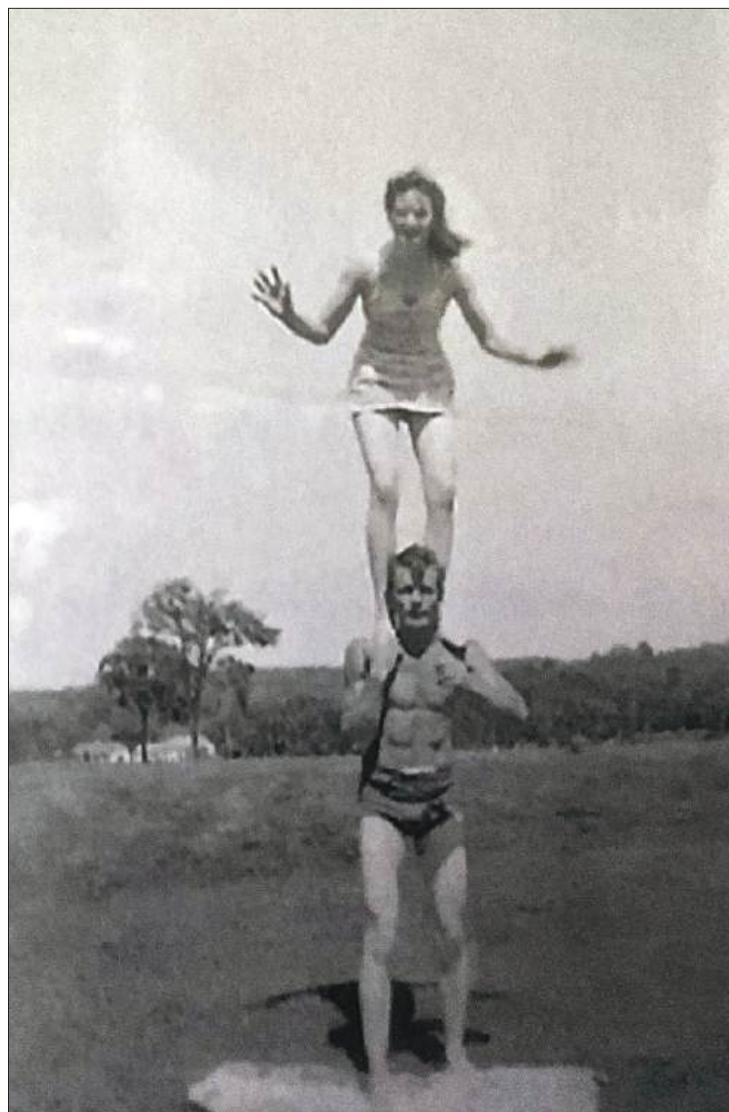
Of Martin and Mary's eight children, their youngest son Peter became the one to carry on the family name. He married Sophie Czachor on April 24, 1948. A graduate of the Rutland Hospital School of Nursing, Sophie served fourteen months in Europe as an Army Corp nurse during World War II. They would have eight children: Peter, Martin, Victoria, David, Stanley "Sam," Gregory, Lorraine, and Christine.

With the challenges that faced Vermont dairy farmers, Peter traded two horses and \$1700 dollars to purchase his first bulldozer. As he transitioned from farming to landscaping and excavation, by 1966, he was full time in his new profession with the purchase of a Caterpillar 922 loader. With his four sons,

David, Marty, Sam and Greg, in 1974 they formed a partnership and incorporated the business as Markowski Excavating. Peter died in 1988, with the legacy of a company that continued to

flourish with many large projects throughout Vermont and elsewhere. A true success story for the son of an immigrant.

Postscript: Through this series, *(See Coming to America, Page 28)*



AL POREMSKI AND Stella Markowski in 1938.



**WONDER YEAR: A GUIDE TO LONG-TERM FAMILY TRAVEL AND WORLDSCHOOLING**

Meet author Julie Frieder Wednesday, October 8th when she makes a stop - pedaling from coastal Maine to Vermont - on her Inn to Indie Book Tour

"It makes sense that an adventure travel book would have an adventurous book tour. It's a darn good excuse to drink good coffee, eat popovers, and bike through New England in the fall - while supporting local bookstores one pedal stroke at a time."




**Golf Course**

**NESHOBEC**  
Est. 1958

**LONG IRON RESTAURANT**  
Open Wednesday-Sunday

Wednesday—Wing night  
Thursday—Burgers and Beer  
Friday—Dinner Specials  
Saturday—Lunch  
Sunday—Brunch

The restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor seating options, with stunning views of the golf course and surrounding mountains. The indoor seating area features large windows that allow guests to take in the beautiful scenery while they dine.

Follow us on Facebook for updates and daily specials

.....

**The golf course is now open for the season!!**

**Simulator hours:**  
Wed-Fri 10-8, Sat 10-4, Sun 10-2

**Price:**  
\$34/hour except Wed-Fri 10-4 is \$25/hr

<https://neshobe.com> • (802) 247-3611

# Calendar of events

## October

### 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)!

### 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

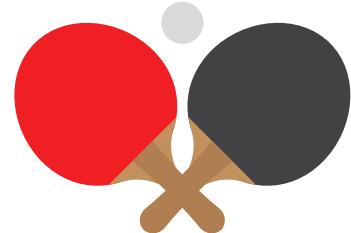
#### Ping Pong

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 music by musician Steven Wilson. All levels are welcome.

#### Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

**Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
Starts at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories and bubbles!

### Fridays

**Chaffee Art Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3–5**

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

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our

### Grace Congregation Ministries Fall

Thursday, Oct. 9 (6–9 p.m.) and

Our Fellowship Hall is packed full of household small appliances, linens, and children's toys and a Boutique for jewelry and home decor. Help support Ministries biggest fundraiser. Please bring your Bag Sale on Friday—fill a bag at a lower price Street, Rutland, Vt. 05701. Enter through the Office entrance. Parking is available in our West accessible. Thursday, Oct. 9 (6–9 p.m.) and Friday (6–9 p.m.) Bag Sale. \*\*Sorry, no early birds or ven

[www.gracechurchvt.org](http://www.gracechurchvt.org)

### 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>



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!



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## Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center  
First Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and

## UCC Women's Rummage Sale

Friday, Oct. 10 (9 a.m.- Noon)



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)

"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 2nd

### Singo Bingo at the Sparkle Barn!

Join us for SINGO Bingo Night up in the Bloom Room! Singo is just like Bingo but with music! Come join us for a night of fun! 3 Games / 3 Prizes: \$25 GC to the Sparkle Barn; \$25 GC to Sweet Birch Bakery in Wallingford; \$25 GC to The Village Market in Wallingford; + 1 Mystery Prize. Plus you get to keep your Dazzle Bingo Dauber! This is an 18+ event. BYOB! Must be 21+ to drink alcoholic beverages. \$10 entry fee. Limited seating. Tickets must be purchased in advance. From 6-7:30 p.m. at The Sparkle Barn, 1509 U.S. 7, Wallingford.

## Brandon Area Food Shelf

Community time of socialization known as the Food Shelf will be moving from Tuesday evenings to Wednesday afternoons 2-5 p.m. Come to attend.

Brandon Area Food Shelf will also be open hours from Tuesday afternoons to Wednesday afternoons 2-5 p.m.



The Food Shelf is also open on Sunday afternoons from 12:30-2 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact pastor Vicki Disorda at (802)345-4125 or [vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com](mailto:vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com).

## Goings on around town

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

Cocoon is a special evening of true stories told live without notes. This year's storytellers include Hafez Sami- Sadeghi '28.5; faculty members James Fitzsimmons (Anthropology), Jerry Philogene (Black Studies), and Susan DeSimone (Biology); Director of Middlebury's Abenaki School Jesse Bowman Bruchac, and three-time Moth GrandSLAM champion and educator Dr. Christine Gentry. They'll be telling stories on the theme "Before I Die," in association with the public art installation in the lower lobby. Stay for a reception with the storytellers and organizers after the show. Cash bar. Tickets: \$15/10/8/5. Presented with real-time captioning. For mature audiences. An encore stream of this event will be available starting Wednesday, October 8 on the Robison Hall YouTube channel.

**BAG Artist Talk — Jeannie Podolak, Printmaker**  
October "Artist of the Month" at Brandon Artists Guild is North Chittenden, Vermont printmaker Jeannie Podolak. We invite you to the gallery to learn more about Jeannie's background as a public school art teacher and her current studio journey making beautiful prints. Jeannie will have on hand some of the mediums she uses to create her work including lithography, and etching. Doors open at 6 p.m. for complimentary refreshments and time to mingle with our artists and your art-loving friends and neighbors. Jeannie will begin her talk promptly at 7 p.m. and will allow plenty of time for

Q & A. Please join us!

## Friday 3rd

**Cocoon — Middlebury College**  
Inspired by the popular story-telling phenomenon The Moth,

Arts, Putney. A night of wit, absurdity, and unforgettable stand-up.

## Saturday 4th

**Exploring Environmental Art: Found-Wood Sculpture Workshop with Lee Williams**

Join Shaftsbury, Vermont-based sculptor Lee Williams to make a wood sculpture at Merck Forest & Farmland Center. Draw inspiration from the backdrop of dazzling foliage, walk the trails to collect material, and create sculpture using wood sourced from the forest floor. Arrive early or stay after to catch one of Merck Forest's Fall Foliage Wagon Rides, running hourly from 10 a.m. through 1 p.m., \$5 per person. Merck Forest & Farmland Center, 3270 Vermont 315, Rupert.

## 37th Annual Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival — Tunbridge

The Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival celebrates local farms and natural fibers. The event

features a variety of vendors offering fleece and yarn, fiber animals, handspinning and fiber crafting equipment

and supplies, handcrafted natural fiber products and local meat and cheese. The Festival includes contests, fiber arts classes and demonstrations, pattern designers, shepherd workshops, herding demos, fleece sale and more set against a backdrop of rolling hills during the peak of Vermont fall foliage.

The 2025 Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival celebrates Pattern Designers. The creative and talented knitters, crocheters and other fiber artists who design patterns are an inspiration to all fiber crafting enthusiasts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairgrounds Road, Tunbridge.

## Brandon Congregational art show

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

The Brandon Congregational Creatives group is holding their autumn art show in the Fellowship Hall (next to Walgreens) on Saturday, October 11. There will be a diverse selection of fine arts and crafts: oil, watercolor and dry pastel paintings, reverse painting on glass, photography, mixed media sculpture, woodwork, theater posters, dolls and fabric sculpture, and more! Many items will be for sale. Admission is free!

### Vermont Comedy All Stars Live Stand-up Comedy Showcase!

Get ready for a night of big laughs as Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All Stars return to Next Stage! This stacked lineup features:

Tim Lovett—founder of Comedy as a Weapon, festival favorite, and opener for comedy greats like Joe List, Mike Epps, and Jessica Kirson.

Toni Nagy—stand-up comic and viral content creator with 850K+ followers, known for her hilariously wild, thought-provoking shows.

Deb Reiser—the "Flatlander from Flatbush," a back-to-back Long Island Laugh-Off winner with sharp Brooklyn-born humor.

Brian Thompson—Burlington comic and winner of Best Newcomer at the 2025 Vermont Comedy Awards.

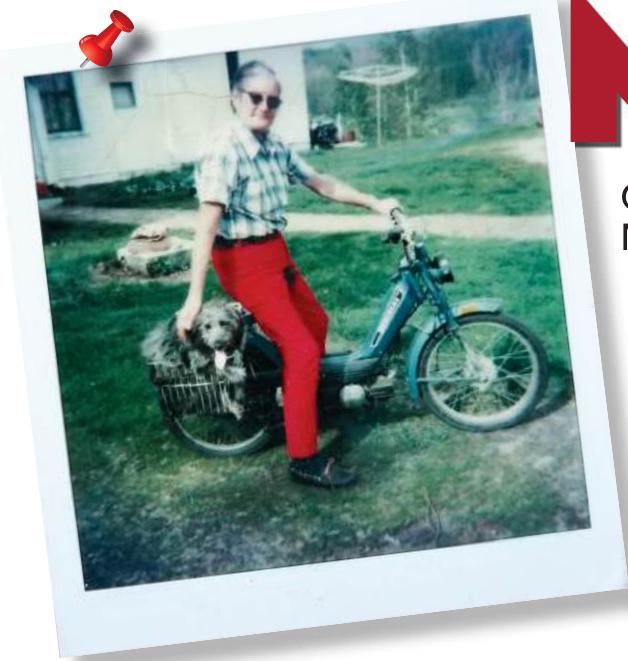
Hosted by Gordon Clark, director of Vermont Comedy All Stars and producer of over 100 comedy shows across the state. Next Stage

## Free Medical Care for Adults

Wednesdays in Oct. from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

A free walk-in healthcare clinic for uninsured or underinsured adults in Rutland County will be offered by the Rutland County Health Partners (formerly Rutland Free Clinic) every Wednesday in October from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at our offices at 204 North Main Street, Rutland, Vt. No appointment is necessary. For appointments or any questions, call 802-774-1082.





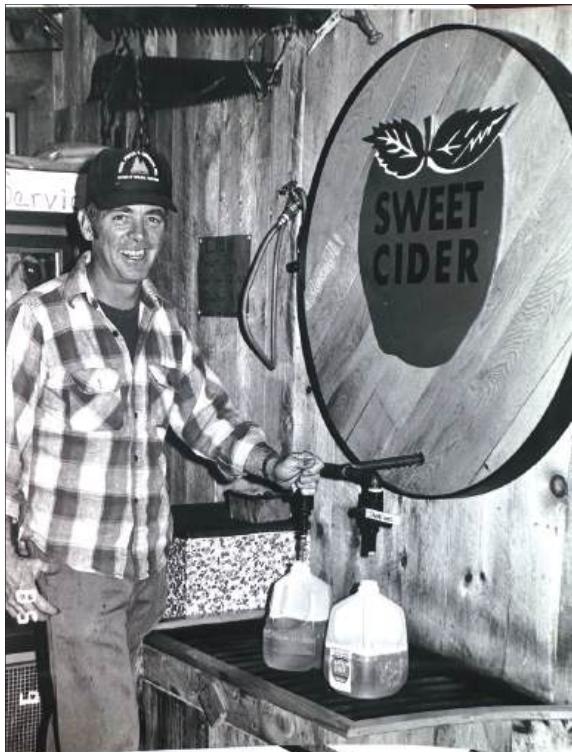
# Mim's Photos

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



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

## Recognized



Terry Ferson and Sue Wetmore recognized John McDonough in this photo. Mr. McDonough used to run the Birch Hill Orchard and now owns McDonough Fuels in Brandon.

*Thank you to everyone who has  
written in over the years to identify  
the people in these beloved photos!*



Terry Ferson and Sue Wetmore recognized Howard Willard standing on the hassock in the center of this photo. Mr. Ferson further recognized Howard's wife Sylvia on the left. The couple ran Shapiro's Store for many years. The woman on the far right is Wilda Harris who was the town clerk and treasurer of Brandon for many years.



Joan Rowe recognized Mary Bowers (right) and Doug Flanagan (left) in this photo. Mary owned and operated the Moffett House, which is now The Inn at Park Street.

# Mim's Photos

## Special Mim's section!

If you can identify any of the people in these vintage photos from Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon newspaper archives we will put your answers up online! Emails only. [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com)



1



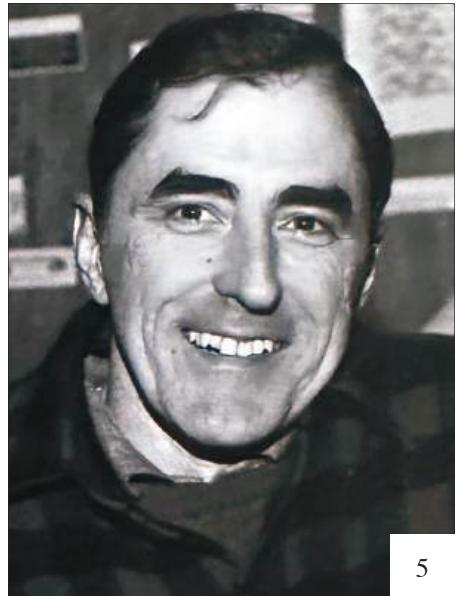
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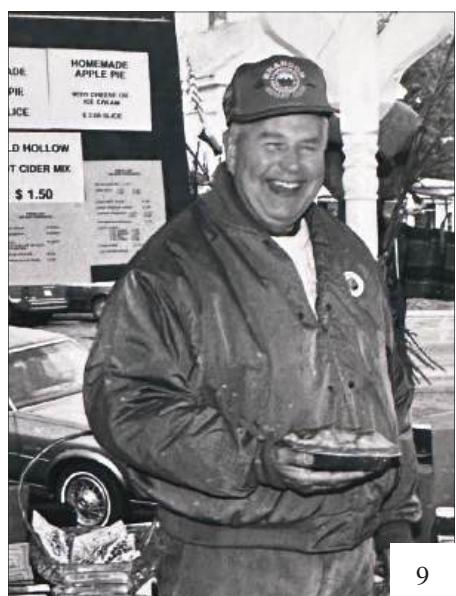
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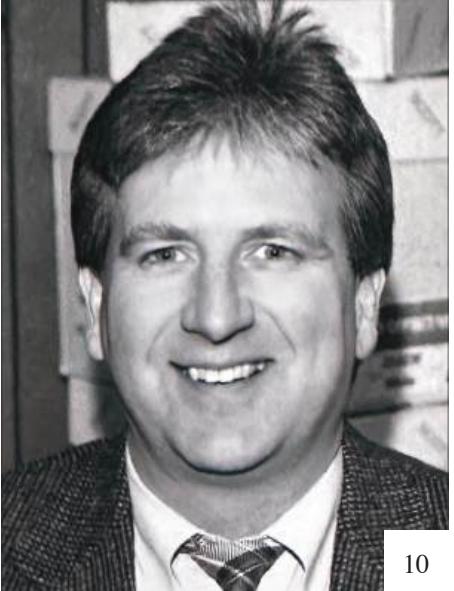
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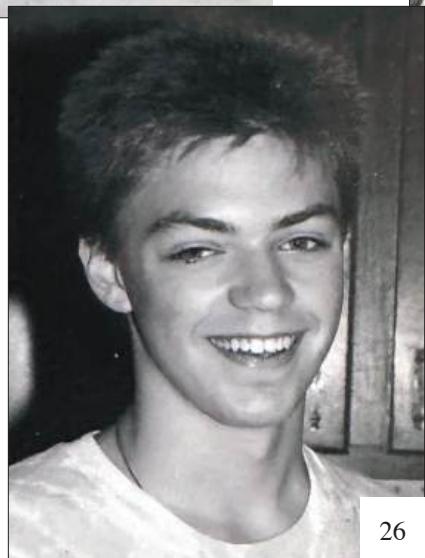
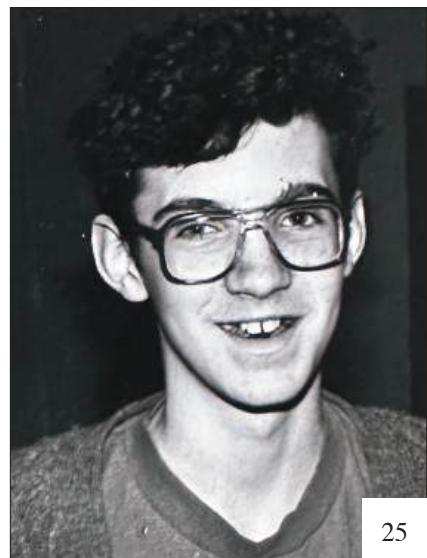
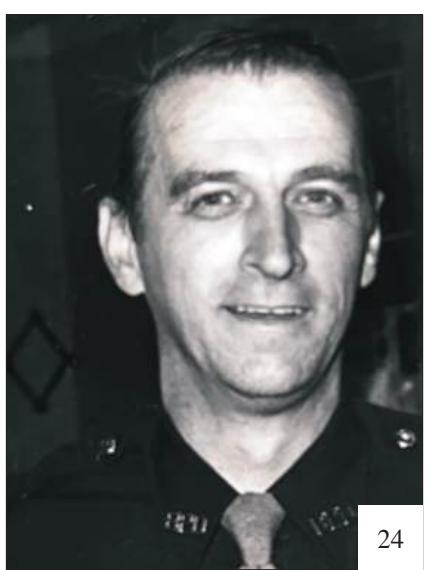
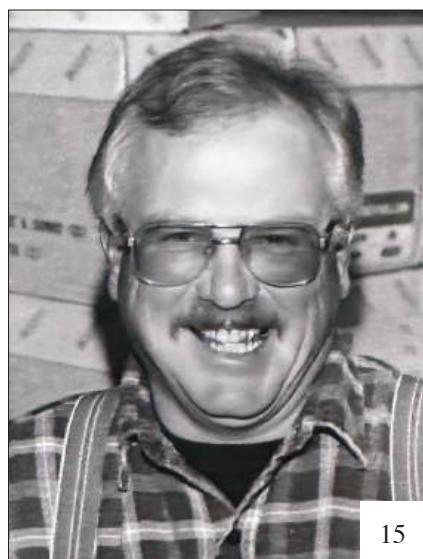
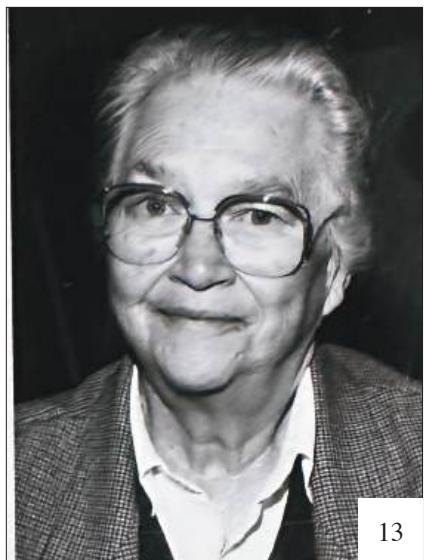
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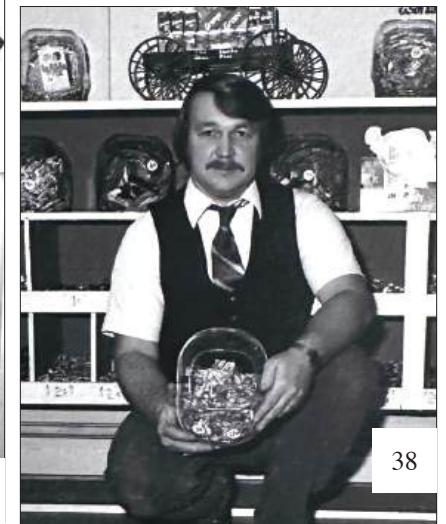


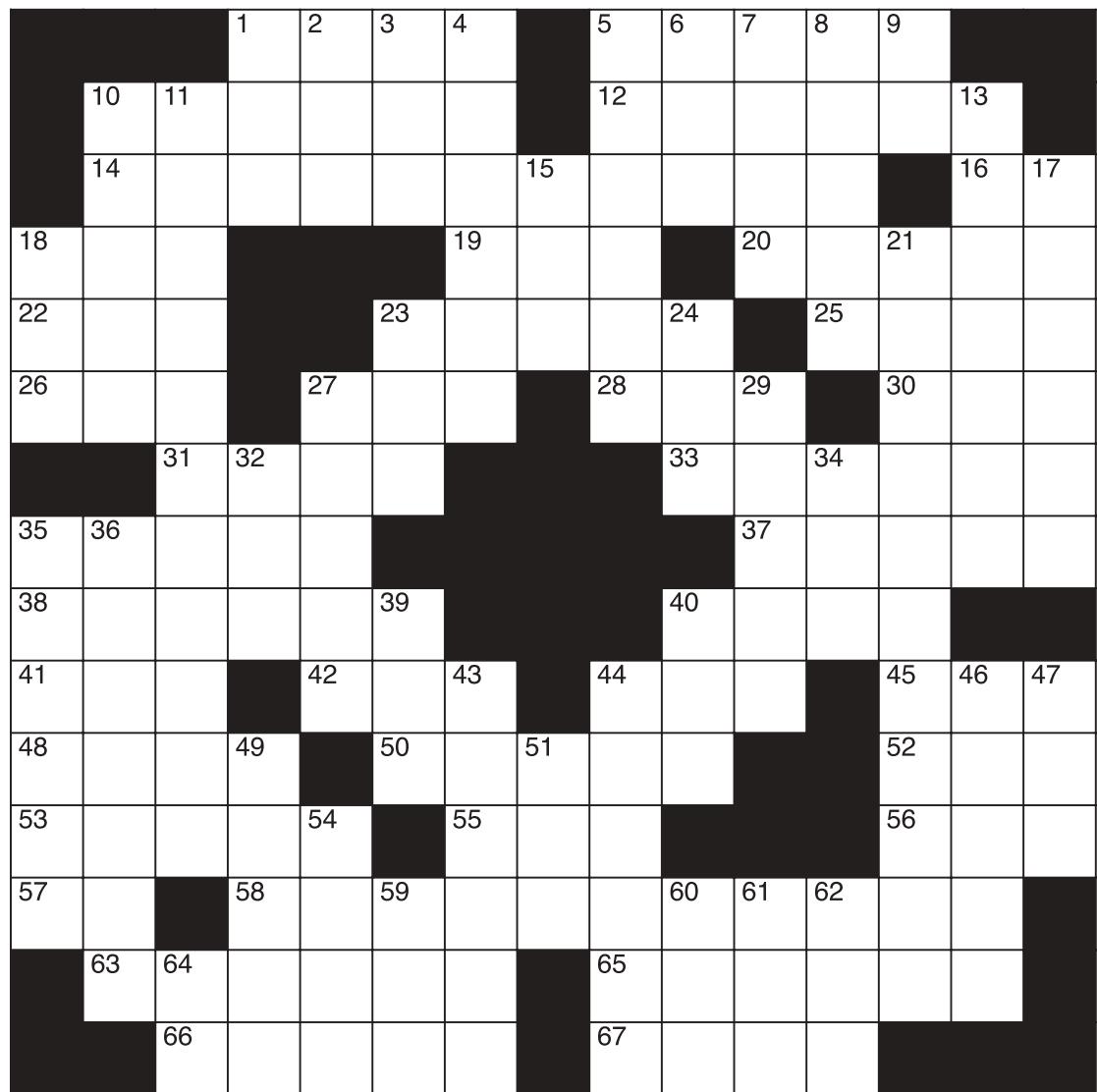
11



12







## Crossword

### CLUES ACROSS

- Native American people of CA
- Long periods of time (Brit.)
- Classroom tool
- Rods
- One who renews
- They start the alphabet
- Periodical (slang)
- Smooth singer Cole
- Dorsal sclerites in insects
- One from Utah
- The world of the dead
- Singer Redding
- Mafia head
- Wrongly
- Unhappy
- Anger
- Dark olive black
- Places to sit and eat
- Made a mistake
- Damp
- Banned fuel type
- Actor Damon
- What thespians do
- A polite address for a woman
- Disallow
- Swiss river
- A banana has one
- Afrikaans
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Agave
- Journalist Tarbell
- One-time tech leader
- Incidentally (abbr.)
- Intestinal bacterium
- Loose sheats around the spinal cord
- Accompanies nook
- Vogue
- Highly excited

### CLUES DOWN

- Witch
- Utilize
- Writing utensil
- Where rockers work
- Becomes less intense
- Consume
- Type of catfish
- "Horsetown, U.S.A."
- Atomic #50
- The Muse of lyric poetry
- Brings back to life
- Humorous critiques
- Cool!
- Worst
- Wet dirt
- Useful
- Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- High schoolers' test
- Internet device
- City in India
- A place to rest
- Chat responder
- A way to move on
- What consumers are given
- Digital audiotape
- More (Spanish)
- Disfigured
- White (Spanish)
- Church building
- Georgia rockers
- Surgeon's tool
- "Much \_\_\_ about nothing"
- Make by braiding
- Local area network
- Unit of work
- Indigenous person of Thailand
- Liquefied natural gas
- Distance to top

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

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

## Adopt A Pet This Fall with the Rutland County Humane Society!

Fall is the perfect season to welcome a new best friend into your life, and the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) has so many wonderful dogs waiting for homes! From younger pups with playful energy, to smaller companions ready to snuggle, to older dogs who are calm and wise, there's a match for every family this season. Each one is looking for the same thing: a warm, loving home where they can belong. When you adopt from RCHS, you're not only giving an animal a second chance, you are also opening space for us to help more pets in need. This fall, consider making adoption part of your story. Visit us Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., or start your application online at [www.rchsvt.org](http://www.rchsvt.org).

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



### MEET EMILY - 7-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. MIXED BREED. BLACK WITH WHITE.

Emily is a 7-month-old small mixed-breed pup with a soft black coat and a big heart! We're not sure of her exact breed mix, but at around 15 lbs with petite paws, she's likely to stay on the smaller side as she grows. Emily is playful, affectionate, and absolutely loves attention. She's happiest when she's around people who shower her with love. She gets along well with other dogs and enjoys playtime, though her puppy energy might be a bit much for very small children or cats right now. With time and continued socialization, she has great potential to be a calm, well-adjusted companion. She's treat-motivated, which makes training much easier, and she's already showing signs of being a smart, eager-to-please pup. Like many young dogs, she's still learning her manners, but with consistency and positive reinforcement, she'll thrive. If you're looking for a sweet, spunky pup who's full of potential, Emily might just be your perfect match.

### MEET OAKLEIGH - 8-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. PIT BULL TERRIER MIX. BRINDLE WITH WHITE.

Oakleigh is a sweet and soulful 8-year-old girl with a heart full of love and a story that deserves a happy ending. She came to us as a surrender, anxious and uncomfortable with painfully long nails. But once those were clipped, Oakleigh blossomed into a whole new dog, relaxed, affectionate, and ready to enjoy life. She adores gentle pets and leisurely walks, and she's happiest when she's by your side. Oakleigh gets along well with other dogs and has previously lived with children, making her a great companion for a family. We're not sure how she feels about cats just yet, but she's open to new experiences with the right introduction. Oakleigh is looking for a calm, loving home where she can continue to thrive and be the loyal friend she was always meant to be.



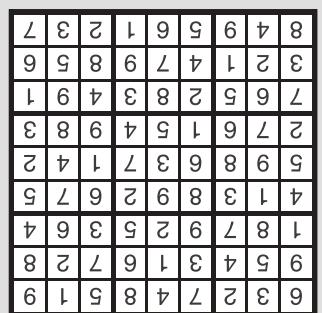
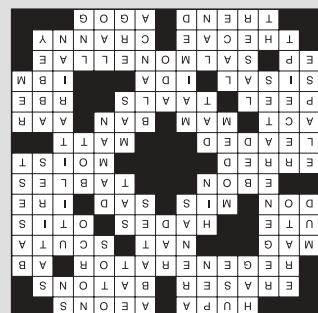
**RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY**

802-483-6700 • [WWW.RCHSVT.ORG](http://WWW.RCHSVT.ORG)  
765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



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

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



# OFF THE SHELF

## NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



### Upcoming Events and New Programming!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates. You can also join our email newsletter - link on our website.

**Friday, October 10** - Our third annual Reading the Green Golf Tournament. Enjoy a great day on the course with fun opportunities for prizes. Tickets available

at the library or online at <https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/golf>. Proceeds to benefit library operations.

**Sensory-Friendly Art Time- First Saturdays.** A calm space for kids (up to age 12) to enjoy different art mediums in the quiet company of others. 1-3 p.m.

**Brush Hour - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays** - Paint By Numbers for adults! 6-7 p.m.

**Tech Support Drop In - Tuesdays and Wednesdays**



5-6 p.m. and Fridays 3-5 p.m. Phones, tablets, and computers - FREE help!

**Cuss and Cut** - Once a month we explore block carving and printing - check our website for the date.

**Fun Reads Book Club - Last Wednesdays** of the month, 6-7 p.m. Different genres each month!

**Toddler Time - Wednesdays** 10:30 to 11:30 - ages up to 3.

# Seth Hopkins

(Continued from Page 8)  
irreplaceable neutral third-party fair assessment of the deliberations and actions of local officials so valuable to informing voters.

A community newspaper is one mark that a town benefits from a vibrant climate for business, civic life, socialization, and self-government. Towns that don't "need" a local newspaper are towns where not much is happening (and that's

ok for those places!). But Brandon is bustling. Brandon ought to have its own community paper.

The Town of Brandon has been well-served by a Brandon-centered local publication offering its readers news that they cannot find anywhere else. We thank Steven Jupiter and his team for putting out a quality newspaper week after week and hope we will continue to see him and them around town for many years to come. While the Town as a municipality cannot and ought not to try to fund or staff such an enterprise, the Town would prioritize being supportive of those folks who take up the baton. The Reporter is now passing, through providing timely information, being responsive to their questions, and affirming the role that a free press plays in the preservation of democracy at the local level.



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Your leadership skills are on full display, Leo. This week you'll be called upon to inspire and guide others. Don't be shy about stepping into the spotlight at work or in a group setting.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

This is a week for practical improvements, Virgo. Take a look at your daily routines and find small ways that you can be more efficient. Organize your space or adopt a new health habit. Don't hesitate to jump on the first step.

### ARIES March 21-April 20

This week is all about fresh starts, Aries. The stars are aligning to give you the green light on a new project or personal goal. Don't hesitate to jump on the first step.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Focus on building a solid foundation this week, Taurus. Whether it's in your career or personal life, your hard work and persistence will pay off in a big way.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

Your social calendar is buzzing, Gemini. This week you could be a magnet for interesting conversations and new ideas. Don't be afraid to network and share your thoughts.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Expect a breakthrough in your personal life, Cancer. You'll gain a new sense of clarity and emotional understanding, allowing you to move forward with confidence.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

A powerful transformation might be underway, Scorpio. You might feel an urge to dig deeper and uncover hidden truths, both in yourself and in your life. Embrace the process of growth.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Expand your horizons this week, Sagittarius. You'll feel a strong pull to learn something new, whether it is a skill or a different language. Your optimistic outlook is contagious.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Your hard work is about to pay off, Capricorn. This week you may see progress on a long-term professional goal. Some well-deserved recognition may be on the horizon.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

This week you could find joy and inspiration by connecting with like-minded people, Aquarius. A collaborative project or a group event will be particularly successful.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, dedicate some time this week to new pursuits. You may be itching to try something new and this is the time to sign up for a class or get out and meet new people.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 4	Buster Keaton, silent filmmaker (d)
Oct. 5	Bob Geldof, musician & activist (74)
Oct. 6	Fannie Lou Hamer, activist (d)
Oct. 7	Yo-Yo Ma, cellist (70)
Oct. 8	Faith Ringgold, artist (95)
Oct. 9	John Lennon, musician (d)
Oct. 10	Thelonious Monk, Jazz musician (d)

# Brandon Police Report

### Sept. 22

- Fingerprinting done for volunteer work and ATF permitting.
- Officers responded to an animal incident involving reports of an emaciated horse on Forest Dale Road. The call was later determined to be unfounded as no horse was located at the reported address.

- A trespass complaint was made at an apartment building on Forest Dale Road regarding an individual that wanted to retrieve her trailer from the landlord and was refusing to come onto the property. Arrangements were later made to have some representatives of the former tenant come and retrieve her trailer.

### Sept. 23

- Officers provided a civil standby while a camper and a car were removed from a residence on Forest Dale Road.

- Officers received a late report of a suspicious person on Conant Square.
- Officers received a report of drug activity on Maple Street.
- Officers responded to a citizen dispute on Forest Dale Road.
- Officers received a report of suspicious activity on Franklin Street.

### Sept. 24

- Officers received a walk-in complaint of found property on Pine Tree Drive.
- Officers responded to a citizen dispute on Church Street.
- Officers received a complaint about trespassing on Wood Lane.
- Officers conducted a VIN verification on Railroad Avenue.

### Sept. 25

- Brandon Police responded to a resident on Church Street for an active domestic disturbance involving a male and a female at the home armed with handguns. Officers arrived on scene and secured all of the involved parties for safety. Upon further investigation, the female party involved in the disturbance was placed under arrest for First

### Sept. 26

- The Brandon Police Department attempted to serve a subpoena on a witness at a residence on Champlain Street. The individual was not located and no service was made on the order.

- Brandon Police received a report of a downed wire causing a traffic hazard on Arnold District Road. Green Mountain Power was contacted and repaired the utility line.

- Brandon Police received a report of a hate crime assault on a middle-school student at OVUMS. The incident is under active investigation with criminal charges most likely being sought against the juvenile suspect.

- Brandon Police received an alarm activation at Bar Harbor Bank on Park Street. Police response was later cancelled as the alarm was determined to have been set off accidentally.
- A report of vandalism to a motor vehicle was reported on Grove Street.

### Sept. 27

- Burglary alarm activation reported at OVUHS on Franklin Street.

### Sept. 28

- Report made concerning a possible unlawful touching of a vulnerable adult on Park Street by a family member.

## Ann Reed

(Continued from Page 8)  
please feel free to reach out to Ann Reed at (802) 483-6500 x 200 or [manager@pittsfordvermont.com](mailto:manager@pittsfordvermont.com). Hearing Notices will also be advertised in the Rutland Herald.

leading up to the hearings. Due to the closing of the Brandon Reporter, we have had to elect a new paper of record. For now, that paper is the Rutland

Herald. I, Ann Reed, as Interim Town Manager, have also been posting updates and information within the Facebook group "The Pittsford VT Community". I have an open-door policy and am willing to listen to citizens' concerns. Please feel free to stop by the office and ask questions, give constructive suggestions, or positive feedback.

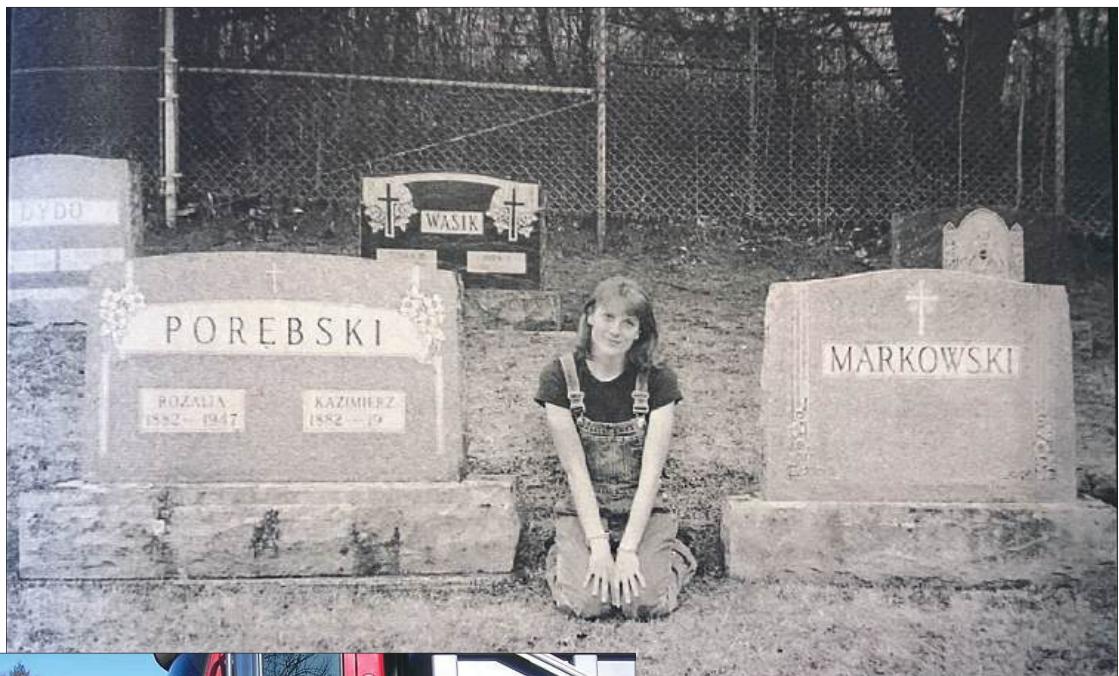
# Coming to America

*(Continued from Page 19)*

we have explored the courage, tenacity, and perseverance of immigrants who moved to Vermont for a better life than the one they left behind. These families did that through hard work, and over time, without losing sight of their ethnic heritage, they all have thoroughly integrated as members of our community today. One fact I'd like to highlight is that twice in the 20th century, the United States Census reported that Vermont lost population: first between 1910 and 1920, and then again between 1930 and 1940, through hardships exacerbated by the Depression. Were it

not for immigrant families, the exodus from Vermont would have been an even greater population drain. Many more immigrant stories have yet to be told. I am grateful that The Reporter provided that vehicle, and perhaps, one day, we will find a way to continue publishing and promoting "Coming to America." Thank you to The Reporter team for all their efforts to sustain the journal as they did!

Acknowledgements: Sam and Debra Markowski, William Markowski, Hilary Poremski Beitzel, and Olivia Boughton.



ABOVE: HILARY POREMSKI at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in 2000. Far left: Markowski Field at OCUHS. Near left: The Markowski Brothers: David, Sam, Peter, and Greg.

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# OV Student Jacob Warrell inducted into the Eagle Scouts

BY NATE MCKAY

This past Saturday, September 13, 2025, a local Pittsford scout from Troop 110 was inducted into the small percentage (less than 4%) of Eagle Scouts. Jacob Warrell, a local Pittsford Boy Scout and student at Otter Valley Union High School is the son of Rob and Ann Warrell. Jacob is 17 years old and a Junior at OVUHS.

Jacob started his scout career at age 8 while in 2nd grade and knew early on he wanted to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Jacob said he always enjoyed scouting, especially camping, hiking and fishing. Jacob spent time at Boy Scout Camp Mt Norris in Eden, Vt. Jacob said his most difficult merit badge to earn was Personal Management. Jacob has earned 26 merit badges and one Palm, 21 being required for Eagle Scout. The Palm award is awarded for each 5 merit badges in addition to the 21 achieved for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jacob said the 2nd Class rank was a little tougher to achieve but

he stayed the course. Jacob credits his scout leaders, Jeff Cararra and Bill Bushbaum, for his success

Part of the final attainment of rank of Eagle Scout is a service project approved by the Boy Scout



and also  
n e e d s  
to thank  
his  
par-  
ents Rob  
and Ann  
Warrell,  
Sarah  
Cararra, and Tom  
Austin.

**JACOB WARELL BECOMES an Eagle Scout. Left: Jacob's many scouting awards. Right: Jacob with his parents. Photos by Jim Lacoille and Rob & Ann Warrell.**

Council. Jacob planned, fund raised and organized the construction of a concession stand at the varsity

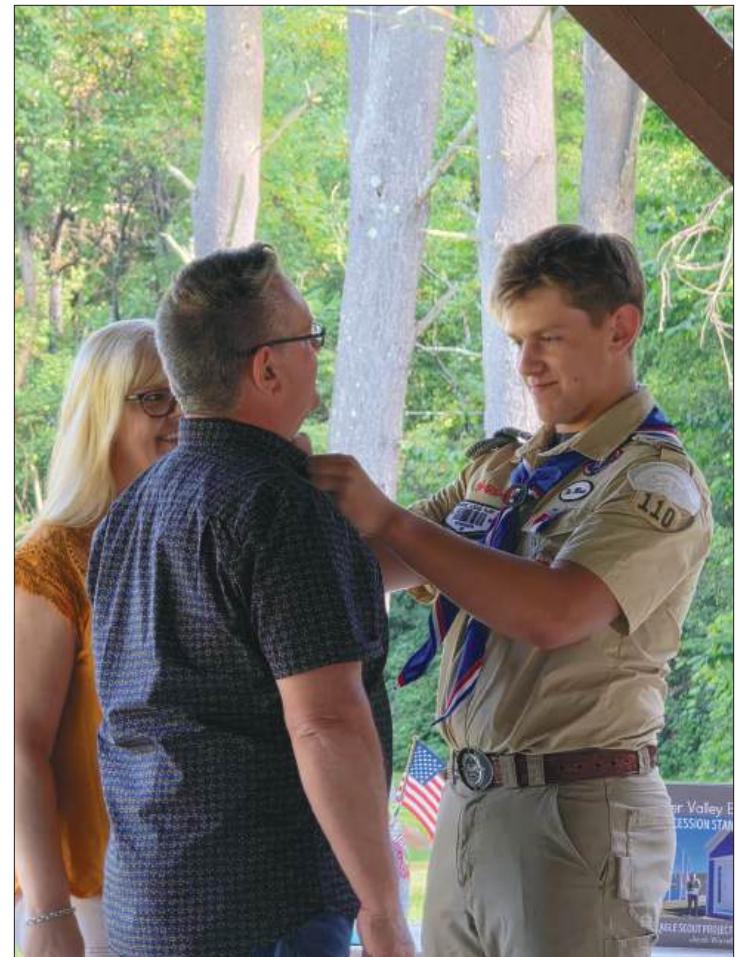


baseball field at OVUHS. He had a rough shell to start with, compliments of the Tech Ed program at the school and he built onto that with the help of many volunteers.

Approximately 250 hours of labor brought this project to fruition. This project is now being used to fundraise during baseball games at

smaller business/finance. His 94.4 GPA and National Honor Society membership help him along the way. Jacob has a full schedule until college. He works part time at Killington and plays multiple sports at OVUHS all while maintaining high grades with his full class load.

Congratulations and best



OV.  
Jacob's plans for the future include college and maybe the field of

of luck to this outstanding scout, student, and community member.

## Bernie Carr

*(Continued from Page 8)*

organizations, and our fellow citizens for their support over these many years. We are humbled by the caring and philanthropic community we live in. The Chamber is inspired by what Vermont is all about, the beauty of the landscapes, the pace and quality of life and, of course, the people that we live and work with each and every day.

Along with folks that have lived here for generations, there are so many

people in this little town that have come here, maybe from the big city or some entirely different lifestyle. They often have stories, and those stories come out after a year or two living here. It involves them finding something here that they hadn't found before. It's an energy, it's a compassion, it's a kindness to each other. In a small town with 4100 people, you're never alone. Through happy times and sad times, it's a comforting, peaceful existence. They have adapted to this and

continue to add to the threads that are the fabric of what our community is! We're a lucky little town.

With the strength and determination shown by our townspeople and after the hard work and struggles we faced over the past 14 years the Chamber looks forward to maintaining our strong partnerships working to ensure that Brandon continues to be a jewel in the state of Vermont.

## Climate resilience

*(Continued from Page 1)*  
7 in downtown Brandon that has helped spare Brandon additional flood damage since its completion in 2017.

A recent visit by Vermont's U.S. Representative Becca Balint

to view Swift prompted this look back at its conception and a look ahead at the future of climate resilience in the Brandon area.

"With Irene, we could see bands of precipitation moving up the east coast," Swift said in a re-

cent conversation. "We could tell from the trajectory of the storm and the amount of precipitation that we were going to see flooding. I was surprised by the significance of the storm as a statewide event."

Swift went downtown to assess the situation. He recalled seeing the Neshobe River covering Center Street by several feet. Water was pouring through the 19th-century building that now houses Sweet Sappy's, which was the

Watershed Tavern at the time.

"BHOP was bobbing around," he said.

When the waters finally receded, the damage was extensive. Brandon pulled together to clean (See Climate resilience, Page 37)

# Pittsford Village Farm digs into its renovation

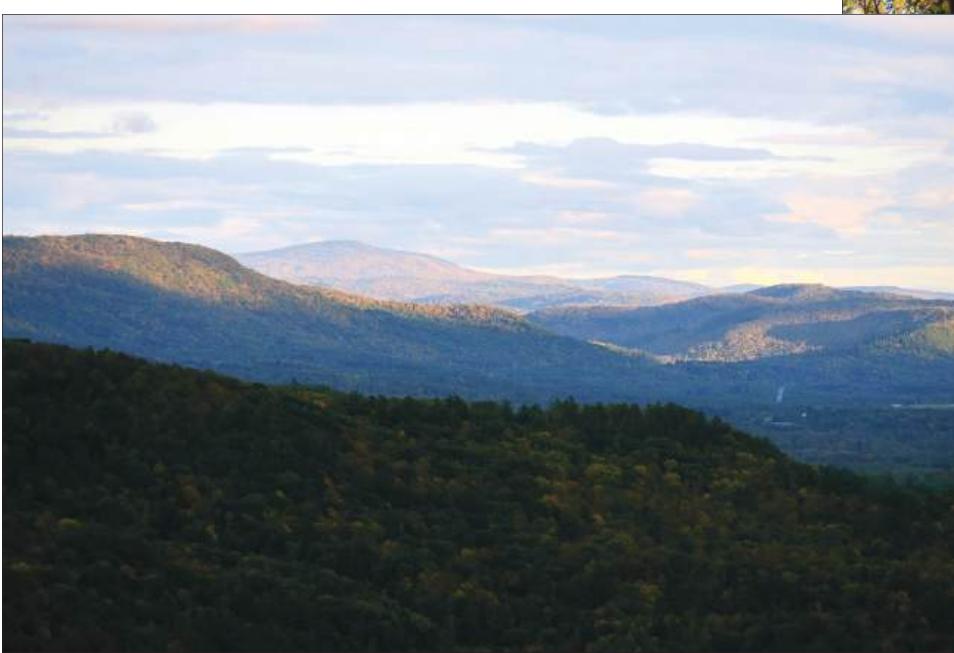


SHOTS OF THE progress at Pittsford Village Farm as the renovation begins on its long-awaited renovation. The historic house will contain apartments, a café, and the Rutland Parent-Child Center, among other uses. Once complete, it will add vitality to Pittsford's village center.

Photos by Sam Stone

# Scenes of Vermont by Dale Christie

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Jim & Liz McRae

# Agents of change

*(Continued from Page 4)*

the bus while black passengers rode in the back. John Lewis joined twelve activists, black and white, male and female, to board two Greyhound buses traveling from Washington, D.C. to New Orleans. In South Carolina, the bus was met by a violent mob. John and another rider were beaten by the mob, but they continued on.

In Anniston, Alabama, the first bus was firebombed, and the Freedom Riders were beaten as they fled. Eight Ku Klux Klan members boarded the second bus and beat the riders. Arriving in Birmingham, Alabama, once again, the bus was attacked by people with baseball bats and bicycle chains. In Montgomery, John was attacked a second time and left lying in a pool of his own blood. On May 29th, Robert Kennedy, the U.S. Attorney General, petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission to ban segregation on interstate buses. As a result, bus waiting rooms, water faucets, and washrooms were desegregated.

John was a founding member of the SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and a leader alongside Martin Luther King in the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). On August 28, 1963, he joined Martin Luther King at the Lincoln Memorial, where he said: "I appeal to all of you to get into this great revolution that is sweeping this nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village, and hamlet of this nation until true freedom comes, until the revolution of 1776 is complete."

In Selma, Alabama, in 1965, John Lewis led a peaceful march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Despite many attempts by Black citizens in Selma to register to vote, only 2% were actually registered. Jim Crow laws were used to disenfran-



**JOHN LEWIS (RIGHT, in overcoat) and other protestors meet the police awaiting them at the Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965**

chise black voters by issuing a literacy test, which was so difficult that many Advanced Placement students would not be able to pass.

White voters were exempted from such tests by a grandfather clause, which said that if your grandfather voted, you could vote, too. Protesting the unfairness of this policy, on March 7, 1965, John Lewis led 600 demonstrators across the bridge.

Waiting on the other side was a blockade of armed troopers. The troopers charged forward, and John was violently beaten, suffering a serious concussion. This became known as Bloody Sunday and led to a national movement of support. Two weeks later, 2,000 marchers, led by Mar-

tin Luther King and John Lewis, walked across the bridge and continued to Birmingham. On August 6, LBJ signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in voting. In 1987, John was elected to represent the Georgia 5th District in Congress. He served until his death on July 17, 2020. He relentlessly worked for civil rights and social justice, becoming known as the

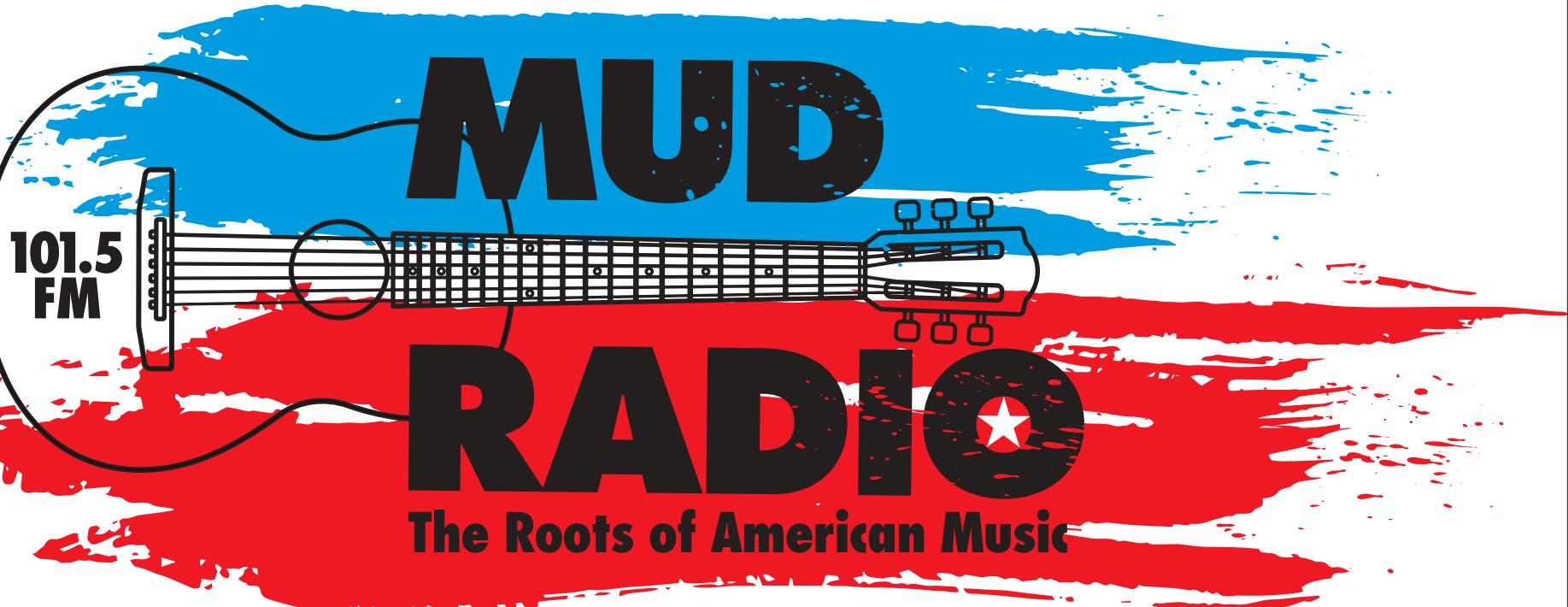
"Conscience of the Congress."

In a New York Times op ed, John said, "Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble." This reflects John's belief that we all have the right, and the obliga-

tion, to oppose unjust and immoral laws. Until his death, he fought for equality and justice for all. He inspired others with his belief that good trouble could bring about a better world, saying, "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something."

Men, women, children, black people, and white people fought for racial justice in the 1960s. John Lewis was one of them. His life and words still inspire us to strive for a fair and inclusive society.

## Kevin Sandwich - 10am to 3pm Weekdays



# 42 Park Street

(Continued from Page 3)

same year, he married Lydia Harris from Brandon and began his practice here. He also started the first drug store in Brandon in 1850 at 4 Park Street, just past the corner of Center Street.

On the 1860 and 1870 censuses, Dr. Case was recorded as a "druggist" as that was his predominant source of income. In his drug store, C. L. Case's, he sold all kinds of drugs and medicines, as well as perfumes, candies, soaps, cigars, paints, and even window glass. He ran the drug store until 1877, when he sold to Boynton & Manchester.

Meanwhile, Dr. Case's other pursuits included an investment in a vineyard along with Dr. Olin G. Dyer which was located in the 1860s through 1880s along what is now East Prospect Street (then Vineyard Street). There is a Case Street still there today.

He was also a sought-after lecturer on many subjects, including music, Latin in schools, and abolition.

In 1880, Chauncey was recorded as a "physician" with a net worth of \$25,000, a very comfortable amount for that time.

Dr. Case was a staunch Baptist but often played the Episcopal Church organ. He was also a very accomplished on his seven-octave piano which often could be heard along Park Street.

In his childhood in Fairfield, Dr. Case had lived only a quarter of a mile from the boyhood home of Chester A. Arthur, the 21st U.S. President. Case was 9 years older than Arthur, but they went to the same school. Later, Dr. Case's memories were used by historians who said the following about Dr. Case as a source:

"Dr. Case's statements deserve particular attention because he is quite clear as to details, and because he is a citizen of high standing in Brandon. His tastes are refined and his mental faculties vigorous. His large library is lined with scientific works, the best fiction, and leading magazines. He is also a man of musical culture, and has studied several works on musical composition and theory."

Apparently, Chester Arthur would visit with Dr. Case before he became President and Case lived to see him become President in 1881 when James Garfield was assassinated.

Chauncey and Lydia had no children. According to her obituary, Lydia "had a genius for friendship. Her friends—and there were many—were her most prized earthly treasure. She

loved children and they were attracted to her. She loved her country and hoped for peace in the whole world."

Chancey died first at age 64 of pneumonia in 1883. Lydia continued to live at the house until she passed in 1907 six days after her 88th birthday of a cerebral hemorrhage.

## THE WRIGHTS

In 1907, the house and lot were sold out of Lydia Case's estate for \$3,750 to Alma Wright. The Wright family would own the property for the next 73 years until 1980.

Alma Smith Wright was 59 when she bought the property. She was born in Orwell in 1848, the daughter of Theron B. Smith and Almeda Warren. Theron had become a rich merchant and landowner in Brandon, owning the rebuilt Smith Block from 1893 which would stay in the Wright family until 1979. Alma's grandfather was the builder David Warren, who built many buildings in Brandon including the Congregational and Baptist churches.

The Wrights wouldn't live at 42 Park, as they already lived next door at #44. Alma's husband was a prominent dentist in town, Doctor William H. Wright, whose office was in Smith's Block. They would stay at 44 and rent 42 over the years.

In 1913, Alma bought the lot between 42 and 44, which had the former east wing of 44, and sold that house, which was the one moved to 7 Rossiter Street. Now she owned all the land of 42 and 44.

Dr. Wright died in 1918 and Alma in 1933, both in the house at 44 Park. Both houses at 42 and 44 Park went to their son William Theron Wright, who lived in Kansas. He and his wife then rented both houses until 1979.

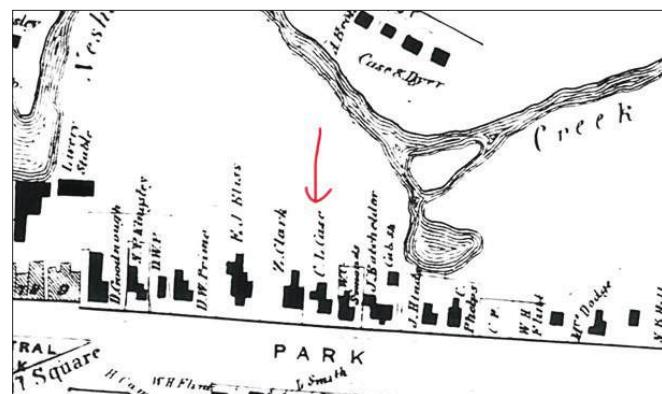
Some of the renters of 42 Park over the years included Henry Bissell, who was the proprietor of the Brandon Inn for many years, and Dr. Frederick Mason, who had his office there from 1932-1939.

## HELYN ANDERSON

In 1980, the Wright grandchildren sold the property at 42 Park to Helyn and Norman Anderson for \$25,000. The Andersons then moved from across the street, where they were living at 43 Park, with the help of many in town.

They cleaned up the house, replaced a 1929 boiler, replaced windowsills, put in a functional bathroom, and did other needed structural work.

In the barns, they found a treasure trove of farm implements.



RIGHT AND NEAR below: 42 Park Street as it appeared on 19th-century maps. Far below: 42 Park Street as it appears today.



Max grew up at 42 Park, attending Neshobe and Otter Valley Union High School.

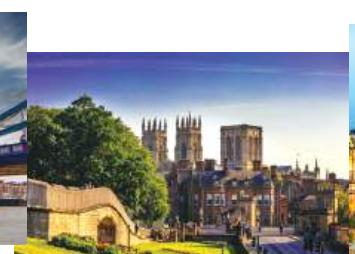
Over the years, 42 Park became a real community gathering place, with many birthdays and other social gatherings. Son Max was even married in the back yard in 2013. The many handprints on the inside walls of the kitchen and bathroom, traced in marker at Helyn's invitation

over the years, are testimony to the unusual uniqueness of the place. Maybe your handprint is there?

Today Helyn lives alone in the historic house, in her words, "enjoying my home, its woods and our town!"

## British Landscapes tour featuring England, Scotland and Wales

The Chamber of Commerce recently partnered with Collette Tours to start offering exciting adventures around the world! This was the first group of six intrepid adventurers from our inaugural travels to the incredible British landscapes! With Chamber executive director Bernie Carr (left) and Chamber trip Ambassador Dennis Marden (right), the crew of six happy travelers consisted of Fred Putnam, Kay Pelletier, Shan Ko, Nancy Winchenbach, Janet Coolidge and Joan Stone. They had a great time and encourage all of you to watch for the next exciting destination in 2026!



# 'A Little Park for a Little While' - The Story of 17 Franklin Street

BY ROBERT BLACK

One of the great things I love about living in Brandon is that I am surrounded by beautiful Nature in all her seasons and expressions. I also enjoy that I am surrounded by a diversity of caring people who often find ways to help each other—even though they may hold different opinions about Life. I experienced such open-hearted kindness as we all joined together to repair and rebuild our beloved little community in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene in 2011.

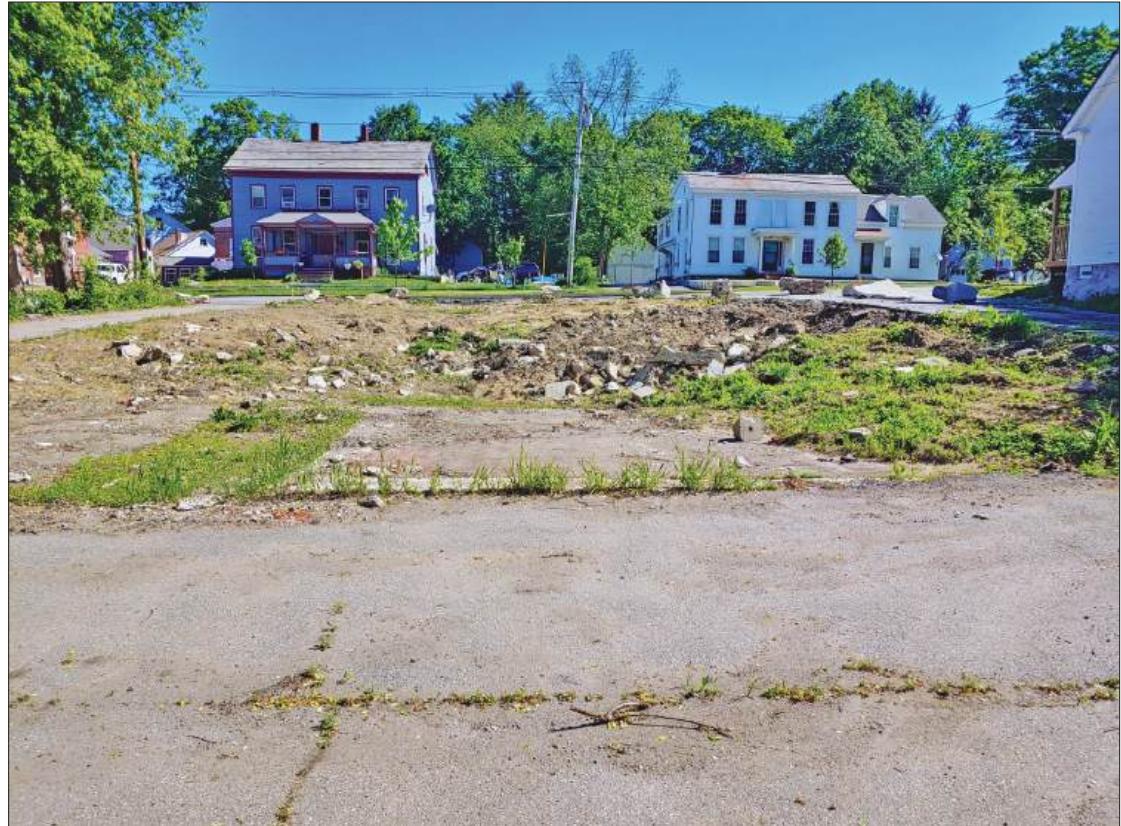
But for me, the coolest example of this kind of “community-cooperation” began 10 years later in 2021 with the idea of converting a vacant lot at 17 Franklin Street into what I called “A Little Park for a Little While.” Allie Walter, a Brandon Planning Commissioner at the time, asked property owner Kirk Thomas what he might do with the property. Since we were all just coming out of Covid, Kirk didn’t want to rebuild then. So, I contacted him to see if he would be willing to consider a volunteer clean-up of the property. He was!

I brought the idea to fellow Brandonites who had already been working together on Zoom during Covid. We had generated a walking/biking pathways plan to link Brandon parks and neighborhoods with Forest Dale and Park Village. The Brandon Greenways project was thus born out of a desire to benefit residents and visitors of all ages.

This same spirit drew us to the 17 Franklin project, especially now that we could be outside in the fresh air and sunlight, after being indoors for so long.

Our core group grew to include Melly, Joe, Pat, Lynn, Susan, Jack, Devon, Cathy, Dennis, Wyatt, Ellen, Bill, Ethan, Tim, Kirk, Sue, Allie, and many others. Everyone was thrilled to gather at the property in May 2021 and dream up ideas about how the rubble of a torn-down house could be cleaned up and re-shaped into a safe, playful, and restful place for the enjoyment of neighborhood kids, sidewalk pedestrians, and the hundreds of visitors and travelers driving past on Route 7 in and out of town. We made up fun games and diagramed a wide range of practical and even outrageous ideas, including picnic tables, benches, swings, trees, chess tables, flowers, gateways, a grassy lawn, sand play area, a sledding hill, bike racks, herb gardens, a labyrinth, possibly an amphitheater, or a “music park” with natural wood and metal instruments. We had a blast playing “what could be”, as we stood before the broken concrete, buried stones, metal pieces and other debris. Until then, Kirk did his best to mask the debris. Each fall he set out a row of evergreen trees in tubs along Franklin Street that were lighted during the winter holiday season to decorate the property.

By late September that year, we had sorted through the rub-



17 FRANKLIN STREET before the transformation into “A Little Park for a Little While.”

Photos by Robert Black

ble, bagged up loose debris and stacked 12 pallets of old stones that would be used to make planters and walls around the edges of the lot. Kirk’s guys with heavy equipment cleared away the large rubble pieces and did an initial regrade of the land according to our plan. Lot improvements (plantings, stone edging, trees, flowers, and shrubs) were placed around the sides and back of the lot, preserving the central area where

a future home might be built. The front of the lot along the sidewalk was defined by donated marble blocks, a center gateway, and a garden of lovely perennial flowers.

Within a few weeks, the transformation took shape and the overall look and feel of 17 Franklin Street came alive through the willing hearts and hands of this dedicated group of volunteers. We laughed a lot, told stories, got on our hands and knees, dug, planted, raked and watered diligently together in a spirit of harmonious collaboration. What joy to work this way and see the wonderful results generated through kindness and effort! Plants, materials, benches and a picnic table were donated. A lovely mini “lending library” was built by Joe. The few items we purchased were offered at a discount by friendly local businesses like Miller Hill Farm Nursery & Gardens, Virgil and Constance Home & Garden, and Blue Seal Brandon. Carl, Tim, Beth and others stepped up to help us carry out our vision. The total budget for the project came to \$511.35—quite a reasonable cost/benefit ratio.

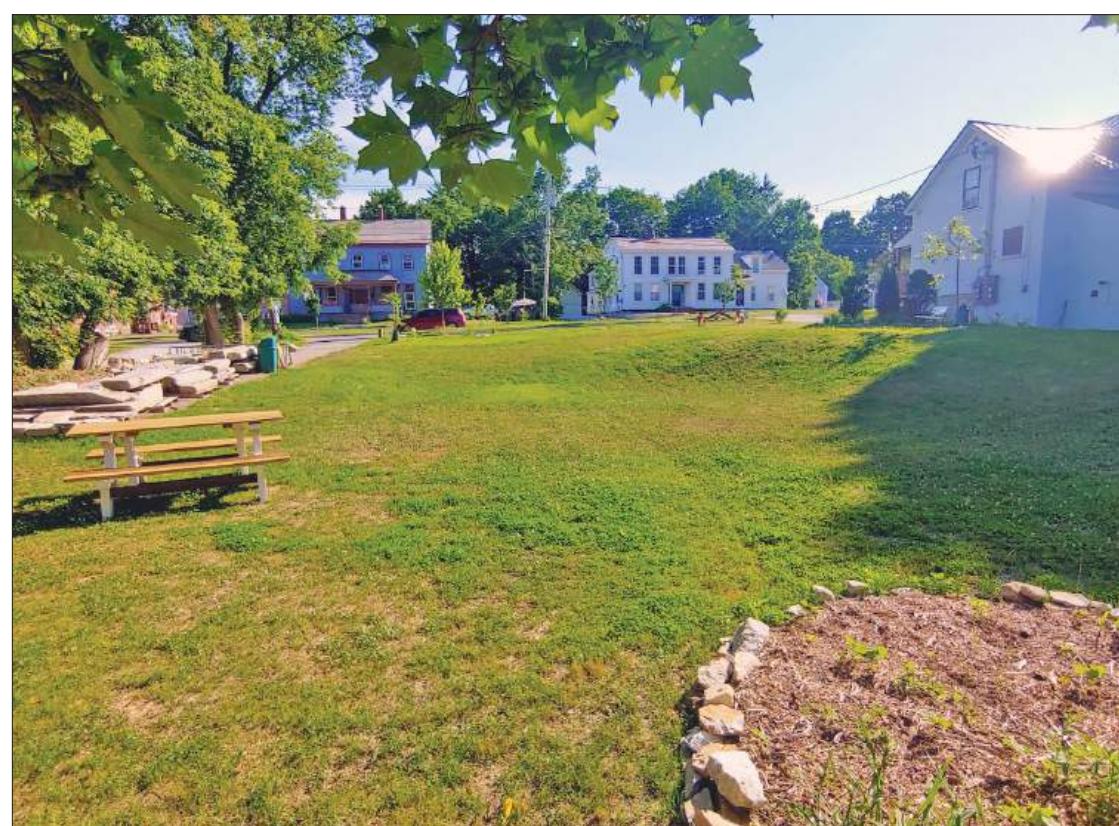
But here’s the miracle of “serendipity” that comes when human beings are aligned to the right purpose. One Friday, Lynn Wilson arrived at our afternoon worktime with an envelope from Nifty Thrifty Thrift Shop. In it was a check for \$500!! Their serendipitous gift (they hadn’t known our budget!) covered

the bulk of our expenses, and Devon chipped in the \$11.35 budget balance to complete the project. Could there be a message here, that simple, heartfelt giving might be a way forward for humanity?

To add a lovely coda to this story, Cathy contacted American Meadows (“Meadowscaping” experts in Burlington) and they graciously donated several packets of their special perennial wildflowers seed mix that we planted along the front sidewalk. That delightful array of colorful flowers blooms each year as a testament to our good work together. With a little watering, pruning, weeding and mowing, A Little Park for a Little While (also known affectionately as “Kirk Park”) continues to offer its beauty and welcoming presence to Downtown Brandon. A big thank you to the coalition of volunteers who readily gave their labor and love to make this story possible.

Footnote to 17 Franklin Street’s History:

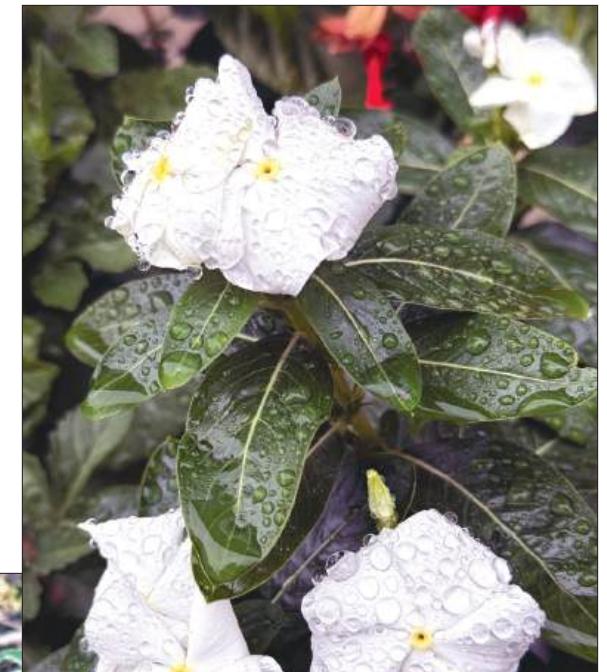
Built in 1880, the stately 2-story residence served to beautify its tree-lined street and even found a new life in the early 20th century as “Baker’s Tourist Lodge.” But 17 Franklin’s charm gradually wore away over decades as a multi-tenant rental property—until it became a vacant remnant of its former dignified past. It was sold in 2019 and ultimately razed.



17 FRANKLIN STREET after the community effort to turn the empty lot into a neighborhood resource everyone can enjoy.

# Rain at last!

JULIE LONERGAN SENT us these beautiful photos of raindrops on flowers and plants, a welcome sight after a hot, dry summer that left many lawns brown and crispy. Thanks, Julie!



Eric Mallory, Shop Owner • Chuck Havens, Technician

## Undercoating

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# Thank you

(Continued from Page 1)  
 neighbors in ways I wouldn't have been able to otherwise. I took the responsibility to heart and hope my efforts made our community a more informed, more cohesive place, a place where we all take pride in each other's accomplishments, help each other through difficulties, and come together to solve our common problems.

I didn't do it alone.

First and foremost, my deepest appreciation goes to The Reporter's Board and staff. George, Barbara, and I were the first Board members, later welcoming Mitchell Pearl and Shelly Williams. Both proved invaluable. George deserves special recognition for his behind-the-scenes efforts as Business Manager, an essential, stressful role that too often went unheralded. Our talented graphic designer, Sepi Alavi, and our fastidious operations coordinator, Kate Saunders, made a crazy, relentless job manageable and fun. Our delivery crew—Billy Bullock, Doug Robinson, and Sam Glaser—made sure the paper got to our readers. Thank you all.

We also owe profound thanks to the team at The Addison Independent, without whose con-

tinuous support we would not have been able to publish at all. Angelo, Christy, and Elsie Lynn, whose family has published The Independent for decades, went above and beyond to help us make a go of it. Even if we were not able to sustain operations indefinitely, their assistance made this experiment possible.

I'd also like to recognize their News Editor, John McCright, for his unfailing generosity. Vicki Nollette, Jenna Hunsinger, Sarah Pope, Sean Dougherty, and Tom Van Sant also helped us with tasks large and small.

Our contributors merit a huge round of applause as well. Their submissions became the beating heart of the paper, with many of them developing followings of their own. There are way too many to list here, but special thanks

go to Michael Dwyer, Sue Wetmore, Lyn DesMarais, Matt Aucoin, John Brodowski, Dasha Kalisz, Tiffiny St. Michaud, Jim Peck, Kevin White, Dale Christie, Kathy Mathis, Laura Peterson, Lorynda Fish, and Dave Praamsma for their regular and excellent contributions. All our contributors made time

*Thanks as well to everyone who agreed to sit down and tell me about their lives. It was a privilege to be entrusted with your stories. One of my greatest joys over the last three years was getting notes from people I'd written about who thought I had done right by them.*

in their busy lives to share their talents, interests, and insights. I was always happy to open my inbox and see submissions from community members.

McKinley, the Brandon Selectboard, the Pittsford Selectboard, Chief David Kachajian, Chief Tom Kilpeck, Ray Counter, Laurie Bertrand, Rene Sanchez, Kristin Hubert, former Rep. Butch Shaw, former Rep. Stephanie Jerome, Rep. Alicia Malay, and Rep. Todd Nielsen.

Thanks as well to everyone who agreed to sit down and tell me about their lives. It was a privilege to be entrusted with your stories. One of my greatest joys over the last three years was getting notes from people I'd written about who thought I had done right by them. It was a great feeling to bring recognition to folks who deserved it. There were many more people I'd hoped to write about, and I regret not being able to interview them all.

Recognition also goes to our elected officials, town management, town staff, and local educators who were always willing to keep our communities informed. This job would have been impossible without their help. Particular thanks to Dave Atherton, Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Sue Gage, Ann Reed, Helen

experience and common cause. In a time of national divides, we need to remember that we are all neighbors and that the success of our community depends on our ability to remain united despite our differences. My experience on the paper has only strengthened my commitment to this community and deepened my conviction that we are all in it together.

From the Brandon Union (and others) in the 1800s to Mim Welton's Dateline, Frank Farnsworth's Bugle, and Roy Newton's Reporter (which eventually came to us via The Addison Independent), there has been a newspaper in Brandon for almost as long as Brandon has existed. It's distressing to end this tradition, but we're hopeful that this will be just a pause. No specific plan has been made, but we're optimistic we'll be able to find a team to carry on after us. We will keep you updated on that progress.

So, thanks again, everyone. We hope you enjoyed reading our paper as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

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## Nielsen

(Continued from Page 8)  
 around the town.

On the Republican side, Sharon Stearns completed her two-year term as Brandon GOP Chair. I would like to thank Sharon for leading the Brandon GOP and helping me get elected with all the voters. Sharon was always willing to stand up for the Brandon GOP.

The Brandon GOP held its Caucus September 17th, and Elections were held for the officers. Please welcome your newly elected Brandon GOP officers:

Chair: Scott E. Scribner  
Vice Chair: Stephen Wyman  
Secretary: Janet Coolidge  
Treasurer: Aida Nielsen

Thank you to those who stepped up to fill the positions and to those who retained their positions. I know each one of

these members, like me, wants to try and make Brandon a better and affordable place to live and work.

If you would like to join the Brandon GOP, the members meet every 3rd Wednesday at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace - The Brandon Museum and Visitors Center, located at 4 Grove Street in Brandon. Extra parking can be found in the Church parking lot.

Meeting times are 6 -7:30 monthly.

Thank you all for your votes and I'm looking forward to your support during the next election. In the meantime, please consider joining us at our meetings for some like-minded conversations and planning for Brandon's future.

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# Climate resilience

*(Continued from Page 29)*  
itself up. The errant BHOP building was carted off, with the business moving across the street to its current location. Things got back to normal. But Swift knew Brandon was still in danger. The circumstances that had allowed the Neshobe to cause so much damage were still in place: the excess water had had nowhere to go but into the street.

The early settlers of Brandon village clustered around the double falls of the Neshobe in what is now downtown, harnessing the waterpower for mills and industry. But they also altered the course of the river, damming the upper falls and erecting buildings with little regard for the needs of the waterway itself.

"Rivers are dynamic systems. They need room to move. The Neshobe takes a tortuous journey around the Leary Block [home of Red Clover Ale Company and Morningside Bakery] and through the bridge," said Swift. "It wants to take the path of least resistance. You could see if we had an overflow structure, it would relieve the pressure and be a good way to keep Route 7 from washing away. We needed a longer-term solution."

Brandon was on the cusp of

the massive Segment 6 overhaul of downtown and it seemed prudent to try to incorporate some flood-mitigation measures into the project.

"We'd already had meetings with VTrans and wondered if we could influence the design of the renovation," said Swift. "But VTrans was very reluctant to change their plans and were concerned about all the infrastructure that was already under the roadway. The idea of an overflow culvert seemed like a non-starter."

Swift said they began to look upstream as well, to see where the Neshobe had been modified from its natural course.

"Forest Dale was a perfect place to harness the power of the river," said Swift. They could see that the river had been straightened and bermed [i.e. raised banks]. The consequences of the modifications were still there. It was an unsustainable situation." Residents of Newton Road can attest to the consequences of those modifications, as the Neshobe habitually seeks to use the area as a floodplain when it's overburdened. The town has rebuilt the road numerous times, with several homes and buildings demolished through FEMA's buyout program.

The alteration of the Neshobe all along its course, from its headwaters in the hills of Goshen to downtown Brandon, had kept the waterway from following its natural path. And after every flood there was what Swift called "flood amnesia," in which people seem to forget the damage they've sustained.

"We kept putting rivers back in the same places," said Swift, who estimates that more than 75% of rivers in Vermont have been modified to some degree for industry or logging.

Since there wasn't room to re-route the Neshobe in downtown Brandon, Swift came up with the idea for the overflow culvert that now bears his name. The idea was simple: when the river was beyond its capacity, the excess water would be split between the usual course around the Leary Block and the culvert, which would direct water under Route 7 and rejoin the Neshobe in the lower falls, where there was more capacity to absorb the excess.

Though there was initial concern about the cost and complexity of the proposal, especially when combined with the upcoming Segment 6 project, prudence prevailed.

"We could see the merit of

the project," Swift said. And the multimillion-dollar cost was mitigated by grants from the federal and state governments to the point where the town had to cover only 7.5% of the total cost. Brandon ended up approving a bond for approximately \$750,000, said Swift.

The funding was lined up in 2013. Construction began in 2014. It was completed in 2017.

It was money well spent.

"Right after it was completed, it was tested," recalled Swift. "There was a huge storm and people could see that the overflow culvert did what it was supposed to do."

In fact, the culvert has spared Brandon from flooding that damaged many other Vermont towns, most recently in July of 2023. Those storms caused major damage in towns like Barre and Ludlow, while Brandon remained

unharmed.

Though Swift now lives in the Northeast Kingdom, he said, "There's a good deal of satisfaction in seeing the culvert do what it's supposed to do." He also emphasized that the project was a "team effort" and would not have happened without the participation of other town officials and staff.

## LOOKING AHEAD

While Swift doesn't want to insist on manmade versus natural causes, he does acknowledge that what used to be known as "100-year storms" are occurring with increasing frequency. And the geographic circumstances of Vermont make it particularly vulnerable to flooding, since warm weather systems that originate down south travel up the east coast until blocked by the Green Mountains, where contact with

*(See Climate resilience, Page 39)*

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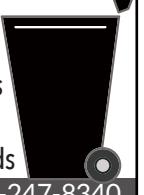
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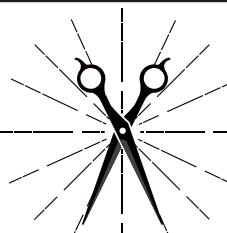
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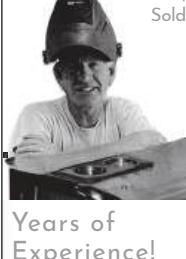
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# Climate resilience

*(Continued from Page 37)*  
cool northern air causes condensation and massive precipitation.

"Systems park themselves over the Green Mountains and dump tremendous amounts of water," he said. The sudden increase in volume causes local rivers to turn into "firehoses," with pressure building to the point where riverbanks can't contain their contents, particularly when the waterways have been artificially narrowed or constrained.

"We need to do restoration work," said Swift. "We need to reconnect rivers with their natural floodplains."

Swift noted that during Irene, Middlebury largely avoided damage from Otter Creek because

that waterway had several points along its course where water could spill out and be absorbed into the ground.

"Access to floodplains prevented millions of dollars in damage to Middlebury from Otter Creek," he said.

Since the Neshobe can't be reconnected to its floodplain in downtown Brandon, looking farther upstream, in the mountains of Goshen, may provide opportunities to lessen the pressure before the water reaches Forest Dale.

"It's important to look for mitigation opportunities," said Swift. He also acknowledged the difficulty of suggesting that affected homes in river corridors not be

rebuilt, since residents of those vulnerable communities often lack the resources that would make relocation possible. Areas prone to flooding tend not to be affluent.

"There's absolutely an aspect of environmental justice here as well," he said. He added, however, that in the long run it's cheaper and safer to restrict development in river corridors rather than regularly provide emergency funds for the same spots.

The Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO) has an entire section on permitted and nonpermitted uses of land in designated flood zones. The lessons of Irene, and the ongoing flooding of certain specific areas, have prompted

the town to take a proactive approach to flood mitigation. And now that the current federal administration has sharply curtailed FEMA assistance, it will be especially important for towns like Brandon to manage their waterways carefully.

"Brandon has become much more resilient," said Swift. "The town has used many tools to manage the situation. But the culvert addresses a symptom, not the cause."

Even so, Swift recommends that the town look at spots like Wheeler Road and North Street, both of which are currently on the Brandon Selectboard's radar. Brandon was also the site of a 2023 forum on climate resilience

and adaptation. Rep. Balint's recent visit to see "Swifty" is testament to Brandon's place ahead of the mitigation curve in Vermont.

Though Mr. Swift no longer lives in Brandon, his former home for 17 years still holds a special place in his heart.

"There's good community spirit in Brandon," he said.

And the willingness to undertake a major, expensive, somewhat experimental project to protect the town is evidence of that spirit indeed. As these storms become more frequent, with less federal assistance available in their aftermath, Brandon can be proud that it had the foresight to take early measures to defend itself.

## Gardening corner

*(Continued from Page 13)*  
they also gave the money for the pots. Since Covid, and the Segment 6 road work, Judy gets donations from the public. We received a very generous gift of \$1500 from Nifty Thrifty this year. That, with the donations from the public, allowed us to expand the program and pay for the Christmas lights. The DBA welcomed a new group this year, a new committee under the chair Pat van der Heijden. They tried 6 different designs. The drought made it hard to tell what worked and what didn't. They learned a lot about plants along the way. They got their plants from Virgil & Constance. They plan to redesign and simplify next year. Pat was astounded by the number of volunteers. "We planted the pots in 1/2 an hour."

The 24 pocket gardens were part of Segment 6 as they rerouted roads and sidewalks. The town was required to maintain them but there was no money for the labor and as we all know gardening is labor! Sarah Patis saw gardens in a town, similar to Brandon, where the town gardens were up for adoption. She came back and asked Brandon if that idea could work here. Brandon thought it was a great idea. Sarah asked for adoptive gardeners. The program is in its fourth summer now. Ed Thomas makes the signs, Robin Kent paints the signs, and adoptive gardeners weed, mulch and plant.

Sarah is ordering 1000 tulips and 300 daffodils this year. She keeps a close eye on what

is needed as these gardens mature, and the plants reach their full height and width. She is very pleased with the great spring showing. She'd like to propose a modest budget for additional perennials this year to add a bit more color with drought resistant perennials like lavender, bee balm, colored cone flowers, wallflowers, and catmint. She'd also like to add more annuals and figure out with the town a more robust watering system. The drought has definitely been stressful. Sarah cannot in fairness pick a gardener or two for their outstanding work. So, I will. Cecil Reniche-Smith and her two gardens, Tracy Holden, Sarah Patis and her husband Louis, who I see out there weeding nonstop, and Nancy Spaulding Ness.

Pat Wood has spent 4 summers hour after hour moving stone and planting and watering plants on a 45-degree slope of rock. "Well," said Pat, "it's because you look at it when you're having a coffee outside the bakery or walking through town and I thought, well I know Bob," so I said, 'Hey Bob, what are you thinking about that hill,' and he said, 'Yeah I'm thinking we got to do something with it.' Neither he nor I, I think, realized how many actual stones were in it and how little dirt. First year we put some plants in, but you had to dig the stones out first. So, we dug and dug and dug. Then we bought dirt. We got donated plants. The next year we dug some more, made stone retaining walls and planted more. It

looked scraggly. This year, the fourth year, it looks good. In 2026. I'd love more purples, blues, whites, pinks, and reds. Jonathan helps me in the spring and autumn. I'm very sensitive to the fact that this is not a public garden so I'm reluctant to ask for help or donations, but it does, I think, benefit all of us." I heartily agree with Pat and hope you will too.

Wendy Fjeld took on the rain gardens for the town. They were planned and planted by contractors then left for the town of Brandon to maintain. As happens, not all the plants survived the first year. They struggled and succumbed to weeds. Wendy worked with Seth Hopkins and Bill Moore, who swiftly got funds together to replace the plants and all of them worked with Carl Phelps at Miller Hill to put in the right shrubs and plants. "It's been a pleasure," said Wendy. "I've been helped by Lisa Wolcott and Sam Glaser. Neighbors come out and help as well." Wendy, like Sarah, thanks the Brandon Highway Department so much for all their help with all the big things—removing the piles of weeds, delivering mulch and soil and helping in any way they can. Like others, she'd love a bit more volunteer help and a few more flowers.

Heather Nelson has still been weeding and tending to the gardens at Neshobe School as she can. We hope to gather this winter, share stories and opportunities with each other. What a great bunch of gardeners. Thank you, every one of you!

## Classified

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# Brandon~Pittsford Reporter

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Vol. 1, No. 1

May 2, 1996

& Lake Dunmore

## In Pittsford - Flea Market This Saturday

There will be a Flea Market and Bazaar this Saturday, May 4 at the United Methodist Church on Route 7 in Pittsford. The show goes on from 9 am until 3 pm. Join in the fun and support local organizations!



The Tri Delta Sorority was recently welcomed by the Brandon inn, and these two sisters would like to welcome you to the first edition of the Brandon-Pittsford Reporter! See page four.

## Pittsford Historical Society

The Pittsford Historical Society is participating in Vermont's Archaeology Week with a "family friendly" slide, talk, and artifact presentation given by archaeologist David Lacy. The program's focus is Pittsford's Native American History, to be held on Tuesday, May 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 at Eaton Hall.

The Pittsford Historical Society will meet at the Mount Independence Visitor's Center on May 11 at 10:30 am. This will be an all-day outing so please bring your lunch.

## Bits & Pieces by Frank To Start Next Week

The Brandon Pittsford Reporter is pleased to announce that the column written by Frank Sullivan for the former Brandon Dateline will start appearing in this newspaper next week. We look forward to our association with Frank.

## Lions Club In Pittsford

The Pittsford Lions Club will have their Flea Market every weekend, Saturday and Sunday, starting with the weekend of May 11 and 12. The Flea Market is located at the Wagon Train on Route 7 near Sawdi's Steakhouse.

## Clean Up Day This Saturday In Brandon

Clean up day is almost here! On Saturday May 4, 1996 the Town of Brandon is trying to get volunteers to help in a spring clean up of the downtown. We need willing and able townspeople to sweep, rake, mulch, paint, and generally to spruce up the downtown area. It is time to say goodbye to winter and hello to spring! Any interested volunteers should meet at the Central Park bandstand at 8:30 a.m. or call Glen Cutitta at the Town Office. We need everyone's help to make this a successful day. RAIN OR SHINE

## Town Dedicates New Flags To Mim Welton

The Town of Brandon and the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce will purchase and install new flags, dedicated to Brandon Dateline publisher Miriam "Mim" Welton who died April 10, 1996. Three flags, American, Vermont, and Canadian, will be installed on the Lower Falls Bridge, opposite the Town Offices, on Saturday, May 4, 1996 during a 2:00 pm ceremony. The entire day has been dubbed "Green Up is Clean up Day" in Brandon and volunteer forces will be out sweeping, brushing, raking, and polishing downtown as the kick-off event for Brandon Village Partnership (BVP). BVP is a new town-wide group dedicated toward realizing downtown revitalization. All townspeople interested in helping clean-up downtown are invited to come to the Central park bandstand on Saturday after 8:30 am.



"With the flood season upon us again, please use caution when travelling the roadways that are prone to flooding." Brandon Officer J.J. Bixby More on the flooding in Brandon and Pittsford see page 5.

---Reminder: Brandon  
Town Clerk Bill Dick  
reminds Brandon  
taxpayers that property  
taxes are due May 15th.

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## First Edition of the Brandon Pittsford Reporter

This is the first edition of the Brandon Pittsford Reporter, published by Vermont Ski News, Inc. The Brandon Pittsford Reporter is one of the new newspapers formed to fill the void left by the sudden death Mim Welton, our friend and longtime publisher of the Brandon Dateline. Mim was a great lady and to meet her talents will be difficult but we can try. The residents and visitors to the Brandon Pittsford area and surrounding communities will be up to date information events in the area.

There are many reasons why the Town of Pittsford, which does not have a newspaper, is being included in our paper. Number one, because Otter Valley Union High School brings the two communities together in many ways. We want the Brandon Pittsford Reporter to become an extension of the effort. The two towns are joined by legislative representation, by family and friends, by business and employees. For these reasons we believe the Brandon Pittsford Reporter will be of benefit to everyone. The name will also help the paper become a viable business venture because everyone who advertises will benefit from the exposure to both communities.

Please mail material about birth, deaths, anniversaries and events to Brandon Pittsford Reporter, PO Box 51, Brandon, Vermont 05733 or leave in the drop off box at the Vermont Ski Museum behind the Brandon Inn. Deadline is Tuesday at 5 pm. Please enclose your name, address and phone number with all material submitted. Clear pictures with captions accepted. Pictures submitted will be returned. For more information about the paper see page 11.

THE REPORTER BEGAN under Roy Newton in 1996. This is the front page of the inaugural issue. It felt fitting to close this issue with this image. Though this may be the end of the current iteration of the paper, we hope it will not be

the last of the paper overall. We will keep you posted as to any progress we make assembling a new team to take the baton from us. Until then, thank you all for your support over the years.