

# The REPORTER

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

Vol. 27, No. 37

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

75¢



## GARDENING CORNER

Wondering what to do about deer in your garden? Take a look inside to see some helpful hints.

PG. 10

## OVUU SCHOOL BOARD

The OVUU schoolboard faces a number of ongoing challenges and looks to build off of lessons learned during the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PG. 3



## GOLF ROYALTY

The Politanos, Brandon's "first family" of golf, boast more than their fair share of successes on and off the links.

PG. 3



## PROCTOR HEMP

The former site of the Proctor Marble Company is about to bring new industry and opportunity to the area thanks to the Vermont Preservation Trust and ZION Growers.

PG. 14



FROM LEFT, LOLLIE Hoxie, Jim Emerson, and Jack Schneider represented the Brandon Energy Committee during Saturday's SolarFest. Photo by Mat Clouser

## For Brandon, SolarFest proves there is something new under the sun

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — By all accounts, Saturday's first Brandon-based iteration of the long-standing art and music shindig SolarFest was a success. If anything, the criticism might

have been that it was a bit too sunny, as if the sun gods—you know, Appollo, Sól, Ra, Mithra, Kisosen, and the lot—had conspired to make the party as true to its heliocentric name as possible.

As the saying goes, only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun. Well, mad dogs, Englishmen, and now Brandonites and other lovers of SolarFest, anyway.

(See SolarFest, Page 8)

## Brandon SB fills vacant seat under shroud of controversy

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — During the Brandon selectboard's final meeting last month, the board accepted an invitation to join IDEAL Vermont, a state program focused on inclusion, diversity, equality, action, and leadership.

Vermont's Racial Equity Director Xusana Davis said

Brandon was invited to join because "it has demonstrated a willingness to confront and overcome inequity, including racial/ethnic inequity, through actions such as the adoption of the Declaration of Inclusion."

In the first real test of its willingness to put some of those principles into action, however, the board elected to fill its va-

cant selectboard seat with more of a demographic it already has in spades. In this case, white men—of which the board was and now continues to be entirely comprised of following the appointment of Ralph Ethier, a long-time Brandon resident who recently served on the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board.

## State Police investigating suspicious fire in Leicester

LEICESTER — State police responded to a third-party report of a domestic disturbance at 1691 US Route 7 in Leicester just after 11 pm. on the night of Sunday, Sept. 4, only to find the residence partially engulfed in flames upon their arrival.

Troopers from the New Haven Barracks attempted to extinguish the fire while checking the building for occupants. The officers contacted the Leicester Fire Department to assist in putting out the fire, and it was ultimately determined that no one had been inside the residence during the fire.

Additionally, the Vermont State Police Fire and Explosion Unit was contacted to investigate the fire's origin and cause. At that time, the fire's cause was deemed suspicious.

Detectives from the state police and investigators from the Division of Fire Safety were able to ascertain that a male and female had been inside the residence prior to the fire. An altercation occurred, and the female was said to have fled the residence, leaving the male behind.

The investigators also obtained information that revealed the male had left the residence shortly after the female, only to return soon after that—leaving again just moments before the arrival of the State Troopers.

The fire is currently still under investigation and is considered (See Leicester fire report, Page 2)



# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)  
tions, including extensive legal, educational, restorative justice, and a history of civic involvements, as outlined in their letters of interest, which The Reporter published in full on August 31. Brandon has not had a woman on its selectboard in over a decade.

Following several weeks of controversy and discourse, in which the selectboard was publicly castigated for a perceived lack of transparency, accused of nefarious dealings, and generally derided for failing to go so far as to interview the three candidates before the board's initial vote (on August 10) in executive session. That vote was a self-reported tie, of which Board Chair Seth Hopkins said, "We were not ready to vote [that night]."

Although it took nearly a month, all three candidates were eventually interviewed by the selectboard—for roughly fifteen minutes each—again in an executive session (in keeping with Vermont Open Meeting Law 1 VSA § 313) held prior to the board's recent meeting on Monday, Sept. 12.

Several members of the public were on hand to voice their displeasure with the board during the public comment period of the subsequent selectboard meeting—which occurred before the board's eventual public vote to appoint Mr. Ethier.

Many of those who spoke became emotional, echoing many of the previous accusations of transparency.

Ms. Blais spoke first. "My concern was that when the applications were requested... the selectboard was going to make a decision without even letting the public know who the applicants were," she said. "I know it wasn't a violation of public meeting law... but I don't think it's good practice. I think people do want to know who the applicants are."

"There's been a lot of talk since Brandon adopted a statement of inclusivity," Blais continued. "I would urge the board

to think about what representation means... It is important for people to see people who resemble them in public arenas—please keep that in mind."

Claire Astone spoke next, taking a decidedly less diplomatic approach. "I'm not going to be so nice," she said, "because this process has been not a process at all—I don't know who you're trying to serve... I know you [interviewed] people

*"Nobody is saying you broke the rules. What you broke was a connection and communication with this town... to keep it quiet and behind closed doors when you serve this town is ridiculous... it was a flat-out betrayal of a process and democracy—and shame on all of you for doing it this way when you didn't have to."*

—Marielle Blais

body is saying you broke the rules. What you broke was a connection and communication with this town."

"To keep it quiet and behind closed doors when you serve this town is ridiculous," she said. "It was a flat-out betrayal of a process and democracy—and shame on all of you for doing it this way when you didn't have to."

Town Manager Dave Atherton stepped in to assuage some of the tension in the room. "I think the board did follow the process that's set forth, but I also realize... that there's this new level of transparency that's not really written in a book [yet] that we need to start following," he said, offering to research what other organizations might be doing along similar lines given the state of national and global turmoil in recent years, particularly as equity is concerned. "I think that's what the public is expecting."

"I will say that I consider nothing that we've done to be un-transparent. This is one of the roles of the board," said selectboardsman Tim Guiles. "It's not a public referendum. I don't think we kept anybody

from knowing anything. We're going through our process in an honest way... I have no regret for the way we've handled this policy."

Mr. Hopkins acknowledged his past interest in creating a form for potential candidates for public office that would establish basic information such as their residence in Brandon and their willingness to disclose their interests in holding office publicly. However, he said the idea had not received much "purchase."

"I think at this point, that would head off a potential re-run of a situation where people felt left out," he said, offering the solution again and stating that he would take it upon himself to start work on a draft.

Tree Warden Neil Silins then made a brief comment reiterating his disappointment at a perceived lack of transparency following his learning of how the letters of interest were disclosed. "If this keeps up, we won't even have to have an election," he said.

"We have direct democracy at points in the year," responded Mr. Hopkins, "where absolutely everybody has the opportunity to weigh in. We then have representative democracy the rest of the year—that's what the town asks the selectboard to do for them."

Hopkins continued by expressing his admiration for the citizens of Brandon who are able to attend board meetings and other civic activities but acknowledged that not everyone can do so. "The 4,000 people in Brandon, through their votes, entrust the selectboard to act on their behalf and in their interests," he said.

"It's a legitimate form of democracy," he continued, "that we all take very seriously. I'm happy to stand for election every year as part of that open and direct democracy."

Eventually, the board did come to a vote on the matter, with Mr. Guiles making a motion to appoint Ms. Reniche-Smith to the vacant seat. However, the vote again fell 2-to-2, with selectmen Coolidge and

Wyman casting votes against Reniche-Smith.

Immediately following that vote, Mr. Wyman motioned to

appoint Mr. Ethier to the seat, saying, "I've talked to a number of my constituents... female and male... and there's been a lot of support for Ralph."

As part of the continuing discussion, Mr. Guiles said, "I think it's important to point out that this is a temporary position. The voters will speak in March."

There was no further public comment following Mr. Guiles' statement, and Mr. Ethier was successfully appointed to the select board by a vote of 3-to-1, with Mr. Hopkins casting the lone dissenting vote.

Ms. Blais expressed her disappointment following the vote, saying, "I am disappointed that the selectboard had a chance to make the board a little more diverse and couldn't see clear their way to do it... it speaks volumes about the town and not in a good way."

Selectman Coolidge responded to Blais, saying, "Actually, the last three elections, there's been a woman

or women on that ballot, and the voters have been the ones that have decided."

"I think you're not learning," said Ms. Astone, "and that's sad. I do hope the voters remember this well because change is coming—it can't be the straight-white-boy-club forever."

In other business, the board:

- Appointed Town Manager Dave Atherton as its Town Fair voting delegate;

- Appointed Doug Bailey as the new alternate to the town's Otter Creek Watershed

Insect Control Board seat.

- Announced the vacancy of the Town Constable position;

*"We have direct democracy at points in the year where absolutely everybody has the opportunity to weigh in. We then have representative democracy the rest of the year—that's what the town asks the selectboard to do for them."*

—Seth Hopkins,  
Selectboard Chairman

- Moved into the finalization phase of the town's new hazard mitigation plan;

- Heard a brief presentation from Selectboardman Guiles on this year's "Green Fleet Policy" showing the town's overall carbon footprint. The report showed that the town's 337.2 metric tons of CO2 emissions are back up to

pre-COVID pandemic levels, and identified a number of areas where it can strive to improve and meet the state's mandate of net-zero emissions by 2050. "We're ready to make these changes," said Guiles;

- Heard from Rep. Stephanie Jerome about the upcoming legislative agenda, including a brief note about the possibility of a Vermont Film Council and its ties to the potential for rural economic development;

- Heard the Town Manager's report which mentioned demolition process had begun on the Arnold District Culver project, which is anticipated to continue through mid-October; the Town Farm Road construction as being so far successful and under budget, and exploratory work with Watershed Consulting discussing the next steps on the stormwater mitigation project at N.E. Woodcraft;

- Heard from Rec. Department updates including the starting of a new disc golf program for youth ages 6-12 on Thursdays at the Neshobe School during October and the beginning of the first Lego Robotics club which starts Sept. 14th thanks to the help of two new instructors, Jonathan Fries and Kevin Booth, who will be working with "fearless Robotics commissioner and Otter Valley Tech Ed mastermind" Devin Karpak. Registration for kids in grades six through nine remains open through the end of the month.

# Otter Valley school board faced with a number of challenges

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — New Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) Superintendent Kristin Hubert was on hand for the first Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school board meeting following the board's retreat in August.

As part of Hubert's informational report, she spoke at length about a number of challenges facing OVUU, such as the ongoing fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, equity and staffing, as well as trauma, mental health, and cyberbullying issues.

## COVID FALLOUT

Hubert said that pandemic-related effects such as short and long-term closures, remote and virtual learning, and record high truancy numbers throughout Rutland County had led to declines in local, state, and federal assessment scores.

Her report stated that "the declines [in testing] spanned almost all races and income levels and were markedly worse for the lowest performing students. Much of the students' pre-pandemic progress was "erased," and inequalities of all kinds had been exacerbated.

According to the report, student performers in the 90th percentile showed "a modest drop," but students in the bottom 10th percentile showed a more drastic fall off (12 points in math).

## EQUITY AND STAFFING

Hubert mentioned equity and staffing issues as being somewhat tied together, saying that each had a kind of "ripple" effect on the other—particularly where access to technology, LGBTQIA+ issues, racial and socio-economic impacts, and access to learning environments were concerned.

Much like many parts of modern America, staffing shortages are affecting all levels of OVUU, according to Hubert. "When positions are unfilled, high-needs students suffer the most," she said. In particular,

bus driver shortages were said to be leading to longer bus rides, something Hubert noted that a recent study by Temple and Syracuse universities had tied to "chronic absenteeism."

## TRAUMA, MENTAL HEALTH, AND CYBERBULLYING

OVUU's students are no different from their parents or the communities in which they reside, and Hubert identified that they had "significant needs" which would require additional staff training and resources re-

lated to things like mental health, nutrition, clothing, healthcare, homelessness, and other ongoing issues.

Hubert cited the influence of social media's impacts on children, specifically mentioning an uptick in cyberbullying as an area of concern that she hopes to address via an increased focus on social-emotional learning, engagement

and personalization strategies, and "21st-century skills with a focus on the 'whole child.'"

In other business, the board; •Heard from new OV principal Michael Ruppel and new Associate principal Patrick Binder. The enthusiastic pair introduced themselves to the board and discussed their current state of assessment and reflection on OV's operations, stating that they acknowledged a number of issues at the school—especially with regard to behavioral issues. "What we're hoping people see early on," said Ruppel, "is that we've done a lot of work around the discipline system—being more communicative with families and being more consistent with our approach."

•Discussed the district's ongoing Global Ends policy assessment—a function of its policy governance that "exists so that students of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to prepare

(See OVUU, Page 5)

*The declines [in testing] spanned almost all races and income levels and were markedly worse for the lowest performing students. Much of the students' pre-pandemic progress was "erased," and inequalities of all kinds had been exacerbated.*

—From the report by Kristin Hubert, RNESU Superintendent



LAST MONTH, MIDDLEBURY College rising sophomore Mia Politano (center) won the Vermont Women's Amateur Championship at Neshobe Golf Club in Brandon. She is pictured with her mother, Erika (left), who won the 2009 Vermont Women's Mid-Amateur, and her grandmother Diane Neuse, also an avid golfer.

# Brandon's first family of golf

BY KARL LINDHOLF

BRANDON — Paul Politano hardly played golf while growing up in southern Vermont (Wilmington). "My dad never let me play," he said in a conversation last week outside the golf shop at Middlebury's Ralph Myhre Golf Course, where Paul has been the golf pro since 2017. "He felt that unless you caddied, the golf

course was no place for a kid." After Paul became a golf pro, his dad became an avid golfer.

Instead, Paul played other sports and was on the soccer, skiing, and baseball teams at Avon Old Farms in Connecticut, where he went to high school. In college at St. Lawrence University, he played on the soccer team and "messed around" with golf. "My dorm

freshman year was right on the golf course, so my friends and I would grab some clubs, sneak on the course and play a three-hole loop."

While at St. Lawrence (1984-89), he knew Erika Neuse of Middlebury, also a student there, but not very well. It was four years later that they met again (under interesting circumstances). (See *Golfing family*, Page 11)



## Brandon Has Talent Now It's Time to SHOW it!

Sunday, September 25, 3:00 - 7:00 pm

Monday, September 26, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Auditions for the 8th Annual **Brandon Has Talent Show** will be held on Sunday, September 25 from 3:00 - 7:00 pm and Monday, September 26 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

The **dress rehearsal** for the show will be on Thursday, October 6. The show is **Saturday, October 8.**

To make an appointment to audition contact Dennis Marden at [denniswarden@gmail.com](mailto:denniswarden@gmail.com) or leave a message at 802-247-5420.

## Friends of BrandonTown Hall

Handicap Accessible...501(c)(3) organization • [brandontownhall.com](http://brandontownhall.com)



BRANDON REPORTER

# Guest Editorial

## Trump's troubling trove

BY ANGELO LYNN

The latest news that a top-secret document describing a foreign government's military defense readiness, including its nuclear capabilities, was found among the documents at ex-president Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence is the proof the public needs to understand why the Department of Justice and the FBI acted as they did.

In hundreds of cases, the documents found were not personal notes or mementos that Trump and his attorneys — and his many political apologists — have sought to portray. Rather, many contained highly sensitive information of national and international importance. They are, by necessity, owned by the government, not by an ex-president. That Trump is so careless with such information and has already demonstrated nefarious uses of information only heightened the government's concern that Trump's possession of them could cause irreparable harm — to this country or internationally.

To reason to make this information public is to push back against the GOP's false narrative that the documents the government sought were of little concern and of little value. Rather, they demonstrate the validity of the government's action to raid Mar-a-Lago — after, it should be emphasized, the government tried for the past year to have Trump return the stolen documents on his own.

Now that the severity of the crime is coming to light, Trump and his lawyers are trying to create a diversion by suggesting leaks of the nature of the material is unfair and possibly damaging

to his reputation, but that's all nonsense. The nature of the material found at Trump's residence will be revealed in due time, most likely in a criminal trial, which will show that Trump illegally took the documents out of the White House, and that he and his staff purposely obstructed their retrieval.

Combine his knowing theft of such sensitive information with his demonstrated fondness for dictators like Russia's Vladimir Putin, and the gravity of the crime is even more serious.

As former Trump Attorney General William Barr told Fox News this past Friday: "People say this (the FBI raid on Mar-A-Lago) was unprecedented, but it's also unprecedented for a president to take all this classified information and put them in a country club, okay?"

In short, Trump's action was careless, reckless, and illegal. Sadly, it's also in character with his four years in office.

\*\*\*\*\*

As if to add an exclamation mark to Trump's turbulent term in office, and in particular to his refusal to peaceably relinquish the office in 2020 after legal challenge after legal challenge confirmed President Joe Biden legitimately won the election, over a dozen top Pentagon officials and former defense secretaries released an open letter this week saying that Trump's refusal to accept his election loss had worsened "an extremely adverse environment" for the U.S. military.

The letter seeks to set in stone the obligation of the military to only obey orders that are "legal" and to emphasize the military's (See *Trump's trove* Page 7)



### Busy as a...

BEES ARE WORKING overtime to collect the late summer pollen.

Photo by Sepi Alavi

## Community Forums

# Family-to-Family program to provide aid to families dealing with mental health issues

WILLISTON — The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont (NAMI Vermont) is offering a virtual NAMI Family-to-Family education program for family members of people diagnosed with mental health conditions.

Family-to-Family is an evidence-based program proven to significantly improve the coping and problem-solving abilities of parents, siblings, spouses, teenage and adult children, and significant others of people living with a mental health condition.

This free eight-week program is taught by trained volunteers who are family members caring for their loved ones themselves.

The course provides family

members and caregivers with education about various mental health diagnoses, such as schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, and co-occurring mental health and addiction conditions. Participants will learn how to empathize and communicate with their loved ones, as well as how to address their own needs as they care for a person with mental illness.

The course offers family members the invaluable opportunity of open conversation and mutual support in a stigma-free environment.

Course participants find that

the Family-to-Family experience empowers them to understand and pursue paths toward healthy recovery for their loved ones, their families, and themselves.

The first class will take place Thursday, October 6, at 6:30 p.m. The class will meet via Zoom every following Thursday at 6:30 p.m. through December 1, 2022. There will be no class on Thanksgiving.

Participants must register to receive the Zoom link. Attendance of all eight classes is expected for those who register.

Register online at <https://namivt.org/programs/family-to-family-class/> or call 800-639-6480.

## The Reporter

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



Angelo Lynn  
Editor/Publisher



Christy Lynn  
Director of Sales,  
Associate Publisher



Mat Clouser  
News Editor



Tom Van Sant  
Marketing Account  
Executive



Sepi Alavi  
Graphic Designer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by the Addison Press, Inc., 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753.  
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$45.00 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$55.00  
The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur.

# Secretary Condos promotes National Voter Registration Month

Montpelier — On Sept. 6, Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos promoted September as National Voter Registration Month and encouraged eligible Vermonters to register to vote.

“Your vote is your voice,” said Secretary Condos. “While Vermont’s voter-friendly policies like automatic, online, and same-day voter registration mean that Vermont’s voter registration rate is high, National Voter Registration Month in September serves as an important opportunity for us to engage more eligible but unregistered voters in the civic process. When we all participate, our democracy grows stronger!”

National Voter Registration Month was established by Secretaries of State in 2002 to promote voter participation and increase

civic knowledge of state voter registration policies.

“While some states around the country are restricting the rights of eligible voters to register and vote, in Vermont, we have worked to remove barriers to the ballot box for eligible voters,” said Condos. “It is easy to register to vote online or automatically while at the Department of Motor Vehicles through automatic voter registration, and same-day voter registration means that no eligible voter will be denied their right to register and cast a ballot on Election Day. During National Voter Registration Month, we should be proud of Vermont’s status as one of the most voter-friendly states in the country.”

Voting reforms like automatic

voter registration save both time and money, are good for voters, and provide regular updates to Vermont’s voter checklist. Secretary Condos has advocated for this commonsense policy to become a national standard, in addition to establishing minimum voter registration standards for all states.

“In Vermont, we make it easy for every eligible voter who wishes to register and vote to be able to,” said Condos. “If you’re 18, or will be by the General Election on November 8, 2022, a U.S. citizen, and a Vermont resident, you are eligible to register to vote, so what are you waiting for? Register during National Voter Registration Month at

<https://olvr.vermont.gov> or directly with your Town Clerk!

## OVUU

(Continued from Page 3)

them for the next stage of their lives as successful and contributing members of a global society.”

In particular, the board paid special attention to its policy regarding the “naming, de-naming, and re-naming” of facilities policy. Although no action was taken, it was noted that the current policy allows naming to fall under the superintendent’s authority, and

former superintendent Jeanné Collins had recommended that the board discuss whether they wanted to amend the policy to acquire full naming approval.

•Set new dates for the next three OVUU board meetings as Sept. 22, (6 p.m. at Lothrop Elementary,) Oct. 4 (6 p.m. at OVUHS,) and Oct. 18 (6 p.m. at OV north campus) due to scheduling conflicts with Superintendent Hubert.

**SUBSCRIBE**  
to THE BRANDON REPORTER  
Annual subscription for just \$45.  
[brandonreporter.com](http://brandonreporter.com)  
**WE NEED U**

## COVID-19 Update

### New COVID-19 booster now available in Vermont

BURLINGTON — State health officials announced last week that Vermonters would be able to receive the newly approved COVID-19 vaccine booster shots effective Wednesday, Sept. 7. The updated boosters are designed to be a match for the BA.5 Omicron variant currently affecting most people.

Last week, the CDC recommended the use of the new vaccine booster doses. That action came after authorization for use by the FDA and a unanimous recommendation by the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, said these boosters come at just the right time. “As the weather cools, we start spending more time inside—and that is when we see increases in cases of respiratory viruses like colds and flu, and now COVID-19,” said Dr. Levine. “This fast-evolving virus continues to demand our attention, and I am pleased we now have an updated vaccine that targets the variants we see circulating in Vermont.”

There are two types of the new boosters, which are known as bivalent — meaning they cover both the original SARS-CoV2 virus and the more recent Omicron (BA.5) variant. The Pfizer booster is for people ages 12 and older, while Moderna’s is authorized for those 18 and older.

Eligible individuals may choose either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent booster, regardless of which primary series vaccine or original booster dose they received.

To receive either of the new boost-

ers, you must have completed your primary vaccination series (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson).

Individuals who have recently received Novavax are not yet eligible for any booster.

The booster vaccine will be available starting Sept. 7 at limited walk-in-only clinics listed on the Health Department website. For more information, visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine).

Flu shots will also be available at many of the clinics, except for the high-dose vaccine for older individuals. People can go to a pharmacy or contact their provider for the high-dose flu vaccine.

As the new booster shot becomes more widely available over the next few weeks, Vermonters will be able to get it from their provider, a pharmacy,

or wherever they would normally get vaccinated.

The Health Department preordered approximately 17,000 doses of the bivalent boosters, some of which have already been received, and thousands more doses will be available for ordering starting later this week.

Vermont health care providers will soon begin to receive their vaccine orders, and doses are being sent directly to pharmacies and Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Dr. Levine said that while the vaccines don’t necessarily prevent people from getting the virus, they will reduce the likelihood of serious illness. “Getting this new booster will help build protection for when you do encounter the virus. This can reduce cases of serious illness and hospitalizations — and, most important, help prevent additional deaths and loss from this terrible pandemic.”

For information about the COVID-19 vaccine, boosters, and where to get your vaccination, visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine).

If you do not have a health care provider, call 2-1-1 for referral to services and vaccination opportunities.



**RUSTY ZIA OF Shelburne gets a booster shot at a Covid-19 vaccination clinic held by the Vermont Health Equity Initiative focused on BIPOC households in Burlington in February.**

Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

## Vermont Coronavirus report

AS OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7


- 53 new cases reported today, with 35 hospitalized (4 in ICU)
- 11.5% seven-day test positivity rate
- Most recent death reported August 30, totaling 715 deaths statewide
- 88% of Vermonters age 5+ have received at least one vaccine dose
- 69% of vaccinated Vermonters have received a booster dose

The department reported eight additional Covid deaths the last week of August, for a total of 715 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. That brings August’s total to 19 deaths, higher than the June and July total of 12 deaths each, but lower than May’s 32 deaths.

No deaths have been reported so far in September. Because of the delay in processing death certificates, the health department often takes days or weeks to update death data. Data retrieved from the Vermont Department of Health, updated every weekday representing the previous day’s report. Vaccination percentage is based on the number of Vermonters age 5 and above, per Vermont Department of Health Population numbers (2019).

The Vermont Department of Health publishes daily Covid-19 case counts for the prior week every Wednesday. The daily counts include only positive PCR test results. As of January 2022, officials estimate that case counts far exceed this figure due to the increased use of at-home rapid antigen tests. The department publishes separate data on self-reported antigen test results, noting that that data is also partial.


*This report is compiled from data from Vt-Digger.*



**HARMON FRANKLIN  
THURSTON, 94, BRANDON**

BRANDON—The "Celebration of Life" for Harmon Franklin Thurston, who passed away August 3, 2022, at Porter Hospital in Middlebury, will take place on Saturday, September 17, from 1 to 4 p.m., with stories at 3 p.m. at the family home at 2973 Hemenway Hill Road in Shoreham, also known as "The Farm."

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.



## USDA looks to survey beekeepers in Vermont, Nationwide

HARRISBURG, PA—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be collecting information about colony loss in the honey industry throughout the United States and Vermont.

The next Quarterly Colony Loss survey will be conducted in September and October 2022. The survey collects information about colony inventory and loss from more than 400 producers with honeybee colonies in the Northeastern Region of the United States.

"The information from these surveys directly impacts our region's beekeepers and honey producers," said King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern

Regional Field Office. "Beekeepers and producers can use the survey results when making business plans and marketing decisions. Cooperative Extensions use the data to provide needed outreach and education, and State Departments and Agencies of Agriculture use the information to set insurance values," added Whetstone.

In this survey, NASS asks participants to answer various questions about their colonies. To ensure all survey participants have an opportunity to respond, NASS interviewers will contact producers who do not respond by mail or online to conduct telephone interviews.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes

only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Results of these quarterly surveys are published annually in the Honey Bee Colonies report, which will be available on August 1, 2023.

These and all NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/).

For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.



BRANDON POLICE ARE the first-ever to employ the Kolter ES1 electric motorcycle for police use. Photo by Mat Clouser

## Brandon PD's new E-Bike is the first in Vermont

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — The Brandon Police Department (BPD) made national news last week as it became the first police department in the US to incorporate the affordable Kollter ES1 electric motorcycle as part of its fleet—fitting for the town where the electric motor was invented.

BPD Chief David Kachajian said the \$6,995 bike (before BPD's 15% governmental discount) was paid for by grant funding from Green Mountain Power and approved funds from a budgetary surplus—a much smaller expenditure than typical police "motors" whose costs can stretch into tens of thousands of dollars.

BPD currently has one officer with the training and licensing required to operate the bike, although Kachajian intimated that more officers might be trained soon.

In a recent interview with [electrek.com](http://electrek.com)—a national website dedicated to electric transportation and sustainable energy—Kachajian outlined BPD's plans for the new bike. "[It] will be primarily used for traffic enforcement and patrol, but we will also be using it in a hybrid capacity as a sort of 'bike patrol' in the downtown area of Brandon," he said.

"When you use a regular bi-

cycle for patrol, if an emergency comes in where you have to respond a far distance away, an officer on a bicycle would have to secure the bicycle on his/her cruiser and then respond to a call," he continued. "With the electric motorcycle, it can be used as a motorized substitute for a normal bicycle, with all of its benefits and capabilities, but yet it has the ability to respond to calls that are far away that would normally require an officer to jump in their cruiser to respond to."

In addition to the bike's flexibility, Kachajian was quick to point out the economic aspects. "It can charge on a 240-volt charger in about two hours," he said, adding that the bike has a top speed of around 70 mph and a range of approximately 100 miles.

"The bike should cost between .88 cents and \$1.00 to run for a full 8-10-hour shift, depending on how it's ridden," said Kachajian, who added that a typical shift in a police cruiser is about 100 miles in driving, or roughly \$30 in fuel—massive savings over the long term.

Kachajian also said he hoped the acquisition of the bike would serve as a sign of good faith in BPD's efforts to move towards an all-electric fleet of vehicles in the future.

## Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com). Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.



**BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.** 

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

(802) 483-2811  Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory 

# Trump's trove

(Continued from Page 4)

obligation is to the Constitution and the American people, not to Trump or any other president.

The letter outlines 16 points on the principles that are supposed to define civil-military relations — a rebuke of Trump and his legion of supporters who, as the New York Times wrote, “called on the military to support his false claims that the election was stolen from him.”

In response to what seems to be an increasing misunderstanding of the role of the military by many of Trump’s supporters, the letter tries to explain the role of the U.S. military and its relationship with elected civilian leaders.

“Military officers swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution, not an oath of fealty to an individual or to an office,” the bipartisan group wrote, adding later, “It is the responsibility of senior military and civilian leaders to ensure that any order they receive from the president is legal.”

According to the Times story, “two former defense secretaries who served under Mr. Trump, Jim Mattis and Mark T. Esper, were among those who signed the letter, which was published Tuesday on War on the Rocks, an online platform for analysis of national security and foreign affairs issues.

In part the letter reads:

“We are in an exceptionally challenging civil-military environment. Many of the factors that shape civil-military relations have undergone extreme strain in recent years... Politically, military professionals confront an extremely adverse environment characterized by the divisiveness of affective polarization that culminated in the first election in

over a century when the peaceful transfer of political power was disrupted and in doubt. Looking ahead, all of these factors could well get worse before they get better. In such an environment, it is helpful to review the core principles and best practices by which civilian and military professionals have conducted healthy American civil-military relations in the past — and can continue to do so, if vigilant and mindful.

Civilian control of the military is part of the bedrock foundation of American democracy. The democratic project is not threatened by the existence of a powerful standing military so long as civilian and military leaders — and the rank-and-file they lead — embrace and implement effective civilian control.

Civilian control operates within a constitutional framework under the rule of law. Military officers swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution, not an oath of fealty to an individual or to an office. All civilians, whether they swear an oath or not, are likewise obligated to support and defend the Constitution as their highest duty.

Under the U.S. Constitution, civilian control of the military is shared across all three branches of government. Ultimately, civilian control is wielded by the will of the American people as expressed through elections.”

It’s a primer in U.S. civil-military relations, a good civics lesson for all to read — and a welcome refrain to know that many leaders within the military were equally worried by Trump’s all-too-frequent transgressions.

Angelo Lynn



THE AFTERMATH OF a “suspicious” fire at a residence in Leicester.

Photos by Mat Clouser

## Leicester fire

(Continued from Page 1)

suspicious. Anyone with information concerning this fire is asked to contact Det. Sgt. James Wright of the Vermont State Police at 802-

442-5421.

People with information may also contact the Vermont Arson Tip Award Program at 800-32-ARSON. The Arson Tip Award Program is a separate

entity from the state police, and funding from insurance companies offers a reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case.

## MID SEPTEMBER SALE



2016 HONDA CRV SE,  
4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, 95k miles  
**\$19,895**



2015 SUBARU FORESTER PREMIUM,  
4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, 112k miles  
**\$16,995**



2016 SUBARU FORESTER PREMIUM,  
4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, 115k miles  
**\$17,995**



2014 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE,  
V6, Auto, AWD, Loaded, 87k miles  
**\$24,995**



2013 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE,  
V6, Auto, AWD, 144k miles  
**\$15,995**

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE  
USED CARS AND TRUCKS

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

Wimett Trading Company

at the Big White Barn in Leicester  
Michael Jackman, 50 Years Experience  
David Wimett, 37 Years Experience  
Mark Grant, 9 Years Experience

**802-465-4688**

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

More than  
a decade  
of delivering  
Quality!

**Colorful Mums \$8 or 3/\$7.50 each**  
**Delicious Corn, Veggies and Pumpkins from Local Farms**  
**Vermont Apples**

**Virgil AND Constance**

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

**Fall Hours**  
12-6,  
Saturday 10-6  
Closed  
Tuesdays

**Go out and play in the dirt!**

# SolarFest

(Continued from Page 1)

The festival—which has been raising awareness for solar and renewable energy as far back as 1995—recently announced that it had put down permanent roots in Brandon following a brief COVID-induced hiatus, and Saturday's events were as much a "test-run" for the site and facilities and their future as it was about rocking out for a cause this year.

In years past, SolarFest was a full weekend event, something that COVID and the recent relocation proved to make prohibitively tricky this year—although organizers say that's what they intend to get back to starting as soon as next year. SolarFest president Bill Laberge said, "It was wonderful to work with the community of Brandon for the launch of our new home. This was a fun launch, with greater things to come."

On offer this year were food, workshops, demonstrations on the latest solar and renewable energy news and tech, EV viewings, a science of energy display, a kid's corner with face painting and a petting zoo, and, of course, music from the likes of Cam Gilmour, the Andris Berry Band, the Krishna Guthrie Band, Fern Maddie, Phil Henry, Lara Herscovitch, Cloudbelly, Dylan

Patrick Ward, Luminous Crush, and Satyrdagg.

Following the event, The Reporter caught up with one of SolarFest's trustees, Mike Bailey, to get a sense of how organizers felt this year's festival came off. The following is an excerpt of that exchange:

TR: How did the planning for this year's fest go?

MB: As a non-profit organization, we are fortunate to have volunteers who are dedicated to our mission of education and to fostering this next era of growth. We had four committees who worked together seamlessly for site improvement, musical performances, renewable power production, and festival activities.

TR: How many people attended SolarFest on Saturday?

MB: We had over 600 people attend our "Homecoming Celebration" on Sept. 10, which allowed a successful test run of the site and facilities... [which] demonstrated the ability to safely and enjoyably handle the logistics of parking, performances, food, and all the other activities involved with creating complete, family-friendly festivals going forward.

TR: What is SolarFest most excited about moving forward?

MB: There are many important



**KRISHNA GUTHRIE BROUGHT his family's musical legacy to the stage at SolarFest on Saturday.**

Photo by Mat Clouser

conversations happening right now connecting SolarFest with a wide variety of organizations where we can work together and share resources to help resolve issues. These include the areas of energy conservation, equitably expanding renewable power, creating workforce development opportunities, providing new possibilities for regenerative agriculture, and other ways to build

a better, more sustainable future for our community.

TR: Are there any updates on the plans for the future of SolarFest's space or its programming?

MB: Now that we've showcased some of the potentials for our new home, we will be working to refine the permanent improvements needed to hold events, classes, and other activi-

ties. Before year-end, we will be introducing a calendar of events for 2023 as a baseline that will be subject to expansion as we move ahead.

TR: Is there anything else that readers of The Reporter should know?

MB: SolarFest is thrilled to be home in Brandon!



**MISSY AND STEVE Gilbert fried up some dough at SolarFest to raise money and awareness for the Little Red Barn Farm Sanctuary.**

Photo by Mat Clouser



**MORE THAN 600 attendees soaked up some rays at the first-ever SolarFest in its new permanent Brandon home.**

Photo by Mat Clouser



## Ruth Stone House recipient of Vermont Art Council grant

MONTPELIER — Two Addison County institutions were among the 16 Vermont arts and community organizations that shared in a pot of \$300,000 in Cultural Facilities Grants recently announced by the Vermont Arts Council. The money will provide critical funds to enhance, create or expand the capacity of an existing building offering cultural activities for the public.

The Cultural Facilities Grant Program supports up to \$30,000 in capital improvements to town halls, theaters, library buildings, museums, community centers, and other public spaces where Vermonters gather for arts and cultural activities.

Qualifying improvements include bringing public buildings into compliance with fire codes, supporting the installation of new HVAC or ventilation systems, and increasing accessibility through elevators, assistive listening systems, and ramps, among others. Town Hall Theater in Middlebury was among four institutions that received \$30,000 grants. The Arts Council said THT would use the money to help buy a new sound system that integrates with current assistive listening devices.

In Goshen, the Ruth Stone House received an \$18,538 grant to support the installation of a new heating system at the late poet's home.

Since the program began 20 years ago, grants totaling \$4 million have enabled over 340 arts and cultural institutions across Vermont to make essential improvements to their buildings. Grant funds also support local Vermont contractors, such as electricians, plumbers, and construction crews, typically hired to complete the projects.

For more information about the Cultural Facilities program, head online to [tinyurl.com/VtArtsFacilities](http://tinyurl.com/VtArtsFacilities).

# VT Agency of Transportation Public Transit program offers new free app for bus riders

BARRE — The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) Public Transit program, Go! Vermont, is now providing a free enhanced app subscription to all bus riders to better plan and track their trips.

Since 2019, the official rider app for Go! Vermont has been Transit. Now, with the free upgrade to Transit Royale, planning and tracking trips will be easier than ever. All Vermont riders who already use the app will have access to a free Transit Royale subscription, which un-

locks additional features, special agency branding, new customization options, and complete access to the app in more than 300 cities worldwide.

"AOT and the Go! Vermont Program are excited to offer this free upgrade of the statewide bus location application to all bus riders in Vermont," said Go! Vermont Program Manager Dan Currier. "We are striving to make efficient transportation easier to access and more enjoyable to use, and to help Vermonters save the money and environmental

impacts of driving alone."

As the update rolls out, riders in Vermont who already have the Transit app downloaded will see a screen informing them that Go! Vermont is upgrading them to Transit Royale.

From there, users can simply tap to redeem their free subscription. New app users will get instant access to Transit Royale when they download the Transit app for the first time.

With Transit Royale, riders have access to advanced features such as customizable themes,

personalized emoji avatars that allow them to become celebrities on their local bus line, and leaderboards.

Riders will also be able to switch the app icon and theme to match Go! Vermont's branding so Vermonters who use public transit can enjoy a world-class mobile app experience that is at once universal and locally branded.

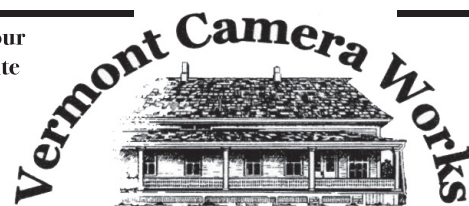
The Transit app is available in the App Store, Google Play, or by visiting [www.transitapp.com](http://www.transitapp.com).

## Local student merits scholastic recognition

Brandon's Christina Wiles was named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2022 President's List. The summer terms run from May to Au-

gust. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List.

Visit our website



Hours Thu - Sat 10-5

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

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

(802)483-9357 3200 US RT 7, Pittsford [vcw@vermontcamera.com](mailto:vcw@vermontcamera.com) Jim & Liz McRae

## Gagnon Lumber



### Native Vermont Lumber

Bark Mulch – Delivery Available

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

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



Call 247-8080 for details.

## Yard Sale?



Advertise it in the Reporter!

## We do Trees!

Planting • Pruning • Removing • Repairing  
Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood

Educated, Experienced and Fully Insured Professionals



## Black Bear Tree, Land & Forest

Thad Poremski  
(802) 345-2815



Middlebury Quarry  
**Open House**  
Saturday, Sept. 24  
10am-2pm Rain or Shine

Come see what we do!

## Geology ROCKS!

- Guided bus tours
- Display of heavy trucks & equipment
- Learn how marble is processed for use in thousands of products
- Meet Omya employees & our contractors Shelburne Limestone Corporation (SLC)
- Collect a souvenir & enjoy a light lunch

The quarry access road (1333 Dairy Road) is located on the east side of Rt. 7, 2 miles south of Middlebury, VT and 1 mile north of the Rt. 125 & Rt. 7 intersection to East Middlebury. The turn will be prominently marked.

For more information, call our Community Feedback Line at: 802-770-7644

or visit: [www.omya.com/vermont](http://www.omya.com/vermont)

No Animals, Except trained Service Animals. This is a Tobacco Free Zone

# GARDENING CORNER



## What can I do about deer eating my garden?

BY LYN DES MARAIS

**BRANDON** — In Abby Adam's delightfully funny and irreverent book on gardening, *The Gardener's Gripe Book*, deer kick off the chapter entitled "Enemies List."

"I used to be at peace with nature," wrote Adams. "An animal-lover, I took my children to the zoo and taught them about our fellow members of the animal kingdom.... Walking in the woods, I treasured the occasional glimpse of deer or raccoon. I used to lose sleep worrying about endangered species. Then I got my garden, and instead of a Peaceable Kingdom, I found

a battlefield. All creatures great and small were bent upon the undoing of my fledgling garden."

I was going to write about echinacea (coneflower) this week, but I have repeatedly been asked what people can grow in their gardens that deer won't want to eat. Deer, if hungry enough, will eat anything.

To deliberately misquote Paul Newman—yes, they have their "hamburger" in the woods and fields, but you, dear gardener, are offering them filet mignon.

Deer may be many things, but they aren't stupid. Abby Adams suggests three ways to deal with deer: electric fences, a barking

dog, and moving. If you want, you may stop reading now.

### MOVING NOT AN OPTION?

I gardened for almost 16 years in suburban woods where we had deer. The absolute best deterrent I ever found was fencing. Because we had animals, we had lots of fencing. The deer, therefore, enjoyed my neighbors' open yards and gardens.

Fences, house walls, foundations, wooden pallets, chicken wire, chicken coops, and other outbuildings are great garden backdrops and will deter deer. To add to the physical barrier, deer steer clear of plants with strong smells and certain textures.

Some people use radios, water features, or hang shiny or loud objects that blow or bang in the wind. Others swear by collecting and spreading the urine or manure of predators. I never had any luck with these devices, nor, may I add, did Abby (who goes into hilarious detail). Fencing and plant combinations have worked for me in areas with significant deer pressure.

### STRONG SMELLING PERENNIALS

Here are some of my favorite perennials that are easy to grow, which I have found deer leave alone: bee balm, black-eyed Susan, coneflower, coreopsis, goldenrod, hyssop, iris (bearded or german), Joe Pye weed, lavender, perennial oregano, peonies, sage, shasta daisy, and sweet William.

These plants can be grown from seed, and most can be purchased as plants at local nurseries. In addition, think of growing onion, garlic, allium, and daffodils around your favorite plants. Some of the prettiest gardens I have seen in Brandon liberally combine flowers and fruits or flowers and vegetables in close proximity.

### STRONG SMELLING ANNUALS

Onions, marigolds, lavender, sages, nasturtiums, rosemary, and oregano can be planted in front of or near your favorite perennials to deter deer.

Plants with texture

Deer seem not to prefer fuzzy textures such as lamb's ear, milkweed, pumpkins, squash, and yarrow. It is also rumored that they dislike prickly plants such as holly, blackberries, raspberries, roses, or spirea.

The University of Vermont's website (<https://www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry/oh64.html>) has a fairly exhaustive list of deer-resistant plants. It also has specific ideas about fences that work. Their plant list needs updating as it includes ajuga, mint, purple loosestrife, vinca, and scilla. These plants are either known to be invasive or have invasive varieties. I don't believe it's to anyone's benefit to plant invasive species, no matter how pretty they are.

### GOOD LUCK

Smelly, spiked, and fuzzy plants won't keep deer away if deer are truly hungry, but I hope this article helps. Please let me know if you have other tried and true deer deterrents. One person told me, "I just plant extra." Meanwhile, as all you gardeners know, deer are just the largest, most visible 'guests' feasting on our gardens. Happy gardening.



## Drivers: Watch for moose

**MONTPELIER** — Drivers need to be alert and cautious because moose are on the move, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Moose are more likely to cross roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning because this is the breeding season for moose.

"Motorists hit 49 moose on Vermont highways during 2021, and 23 so far this year," said State Game Warden Major Justin Stedman. "We are asking drivers to be especially careful and for people to enjoy watching moose from a distance. Moose can be unpredictable and dangerous if you get too close and they feel cornered or get irritated."

Moose are a threat to motorists, but there are measures you can take to avoid hitting them, according to Fish and Wildlife:

- Always be aware of the danger—moose cross the road randomly, as well as at their regular crossings.

- Increase your roadside awareness and reduce your speed when you see MOOSE CROSSING signs along the highway. On secondary roads, the recommended speed is 40 mph or less in these moose crossing areas.

- Drive defensively, and don't overdrive your headlights. Moose are more active at night and early morning, and they are difficult to see because of their dark color.

- If you see a moose ahead, slow down or stop. Trying to speed past them before they can move can be a serious mistake.

Vermont highway sections most frequented by moose:

- Rt.105 from Island Pond to Bloomfield.

- Rt.114 from East Burke to Canaan.

- Rt.2 from Lunenburg to East St. Johnsbury.

- Interstate 91 at Sheffield Heights.

- Interstate 89 from Bolton to Montpelier.

- Rt. 12 from Worcester to Elmore.

- Rt 118 near Belvidere Corners and the Rt. 109 intersection.

Nineteen people have died in motor vehicle collisions with moose on Vermont highways since 1985.

# Golfing family

(Continued from Page 3)  
 cumstances), married, settled in Brandon, and set about raising four extraordinary kids; Mia, now 19, a sophomore at Middlebury College; twins, Thomas and Elena, 17, seniors at Otter Valley Union High School (OVUHS), and Lucas, 15, a sophomore at OVUHS.

But we get ahead of ourselves.

When Paul graduated from St. Lawrence, he got his real estate license and planned to pursue a career selling homes. A downturn in the real estate market in the '80s and early '90s ended that. Other enterprises followed; short-term, he managed a nightclub at Haystack. He started to play golf more seriously and "got good at it pretty quickly," so he headed for Arizona in 1991 to a recently opened golf club outside Phoenix in "the middle of the desert," doing whatever it took, "cleaning clubs, working the range, anything."

In Arizona, Paul decided to take the steps required to become a PGA pro. He bought a house and assumed a life there. In the fall of 1994, however, his mother became ill with cancer, and he took what he thought would be a "sabbatical" for the next summer. He got a job teaching golf at the Stratton Golf School in Stratton, Vt.

This is where Erika comes back in.

After she graduated from St. Lawrence in '91, she came home to Middlebury for a year, assisted Gail Jette in coaching

the MUHS field hockey team, and worked at Mister Ups while applying to graduate schools. She attended Syracuse University and earned a master's in social work. Since 1994, Erika has been a counselor and social worker for Rutland City schools.

She was an athlete growing up in Middlebury (field hockey and tennis) and enjoyed playing golf at Ralph Myhre. In the summer of '95, she and her family took a golf vacation at Stratton Mountain that included lessons at the golf school. It was Serendipity—she and Paul remembered one another from their college days and were engaged three months later.

Paul became the first PGA pro at Brandon's Neshobe Golf Course in 1996, and he and Erika bought a house in Brandon, where they still reside. Other postings in Vermont followed at Crown Point Golf Club in Springfield, where Paul was the pro for 12 years and then five years at Montague GC in Randolph. All along, Paul commuted to these posts from Brandon.

In 2009, Erika won the Vermont Women's Mid-Amateur Championship at Haystack Golf Course in Wilmington. That was the course where Paul's dad was a member. He had died just a few months earlier, and Erika had played many rounds with him. Paul had proposed to Erika on the 10th hole at Haystack.

"It was very emotional," she recalled. "One of the other players said, 'I think your father-in-

law is with you.'" She won the tournament with the benefit of a hole-in-one.

Now, to those talented Politano children:

They are all golfers, but they are old-fashioned athletes: They play multiple sports, enjoying the sport that is in-season while still concentrating on golf, even to the point of playing on both the OVUHS soccer and golf teams in the fall.

Mia, the oldest at 19, was the high school state individual champion in golf her sophomore and junior years. She also played on the soccer, basketball, and softball teams at Otter Valley. Last spring, as a first-year at Middlebury College, she played on the women's golf team that finished third in NES-CAC, despite two of their best players studying abroad.

Just last month, Mia won the Vermont State Women's Amateur Championship, a 54-hole tournament at Neshobe, defeating the best amateur women golfers of all ages in Vermont.

Mia's sister Elena (17) likes to golf, but soccer is her passion. She plays on the OVUHS basketball and soccer teams — and for Fusion Soccer, a highly competitive travel team in the summer. "She's got a great swing in golf," her father says, "but she likes the faster-moving sports." She hopes to play soccer in college.

Elena's twin brother Thomas and younger brother Lucas led the Otters to the Division II state championship in boys' golf last year. He is a four-sport athlete: Soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and is a good golfer (low to mid-80s), who would like to play in college, but his keenest interest is in the golf course itself. He worked in course maintenance at Ralph Myhre this summer and "fell in love with getting up early," his dad says. He hopes to attend a college that offers courses in turf management.

Lucas (15) is the best young golfer in the state of Vermont, certainly one of the best in New England and perhaps in the country. He is ranked in the top 100 golfers



**THE POLITANO BOYS**, Lucas (left), a sophomore at Otter Valley Union High School, and Thomas, a senior at OVUHS, pose for a photo in Mayakoba, Mexico, last February. Thomas was a leader of the state champion Otter boys' golf team. At 15, Lucas is ranked in the top 100 golfers in the country in his age group.

his age in the U.S. by Junior Golf Scoreboard.

Lucas has been playing in tournaments throughout New England and farther afield for the past two summers and doing well. In 2021, he played in the New England Junior (13-18) "Elite" Tour and won two of the tournaments (at age 14), one in New Hampshire and another in Massachusetts.

This summer, he played in the American Junior Golf Association tournament in Killington "with kids from all over the world" (13-18) and finished 5th of 92. Then he played in the New England Junior PGA Championship in Shaker Hills,

Mass. — and won, again against players older than he.

In this sophomore year at OVUHS, Lucas will play on the soccer and golf teams this fall and then basketball this winter.

It will be fun to watch Lucas progress in his golf career.

We'll give Thomas the last word. When asked what he likes about golf, he responded in an email: "I love being on the course, especially on the greens, just watching the ball roll over the grass and right into the cup, and the noise it makes."

Karl Lindholm can be contacted at [lindholm@middlebury.edu](mailto:lindholm@middlebury.edu).



**PAUL POLITANO**, HERE giving a lesson on the practice range, has been the PGA professional at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course in Middlebury since 2017. Paul is the dad in a family of terrific golfers. Photo courtesy of Ralph Myhre Golf Course

## Cobble Knoll Orchard

Over 70 varieties for pick-your-own and pre-picked

Now offering homemade fresh cider donuts and apple pies on Saturdays and Sundays

Fresh-pressed cider, sunflowers, pumpkins, decorative corn and corn stalks available at the stand

Open daily from 9 AM - 5 PM through Oct. 30

1672 East Road, Benson, VT 05743

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



# Calendar of events

## September 2 January 7:

### Tuesday:

#### Chess Club

Join us every Tuesday evening for a fun night of chess from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland.

#### Brandon Public Library Pins & Needles Crafting Group

The club will meet 5:30–7 p.m.

#### Brandon Public Library Teen Advisory Group

This advisory group meets every first Tuesday of the month from 3:30–5 p.m.

#### Brandon Public Library Book Discussion Group

Starting at 6 p.m., this group also meets every first Tuesday of the month.

#### Brain Club: Virtual Weekly Community Education Series

Brain Club is a weekly community education series (6–7 pm resuming July 12) where we will be joined by professionals from various fields to teach us about different ways that brains of all types navigate everyday life, followed by Q&A from the audience. Each week will have a presenter or panel about a different topic, oriented around a monthly theme. All webinars are recorded for on-demand viewing.

### Wednesdays:

#### Brandon Public Library Meditation Group

Meet us for an hour of calm from 12:30–1:30 p.m.

#### Music At The Riverbend Summer Concerts

The warmth of the late-day sun on your face . . . the swell of music and the smell of popcorn carried on an evening breeze . . . Brandon's wonderful summer concert series have attracted over 100 folks to each performance and over 200 to some of them!! Every Wednesday night in July and August, the beautiful grounds behind the Brandon Inn is the site of free concerts for our community. We have an eclectic line-up of bands on tap. Join the folks who come out and relax with some quality music with their friends and neighbors. The kids have fun running around the pretty grounds next to the Neshobe River, and we all enjoy free popcorn! Adult beverages are served up by the Brandon Inn, available in the outdoor lounge area, so you don't miss a note of the music. At this time rain outs will NOT be held inside the Inn. We'll try to put a sign out that states "No Concert Tonight". Thanks for your support in our fundraisers and for coming out to support the great bands we have year after year. It's great to be part of live community music! Make a secure online donation here to help support the Brandon Summer Concert Series. Many thanks to the generosity of the Brandon Inn for sharing their space with us! For more information, contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or info@brandon.org

### Thursdays:

#### Summer Storytime Playgroup with Sophie

Join us at 10 am at the Maclure Library. for stories, crafts, snacks and free play!

#### Sheldon Museum's "Artists in the Archives: Community, History, and Collage"

Local history museums and archives are vital to building healthy communities and anchoring our understanding of the world. Collage artists have unique skills that are particularly useful in our historical moment.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Sheldon Stewart-Swift Research Center, an international network of collage artists was invited to engage the Sheldon archival collections. Under the curatorial direction of Kolaj Institute Director Ric Kasini Kadour and with the support of the Research Center staff, twenty-three artists from seven countries created collage prints that reflect the idea of community in the 21st-century world.

In this exhibit, artists from Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Ukraine, and several US states created collages to explore how the archival material expresses an aspect of a community. The resulting artwork offers commentary on how community ties formed around food, local industries, and social activities, how the natural environment fostered social connections and the intimate lives of women.

Artists also probed the Eurocentric character of the local community and the marginalization of people of Asian, African, and Jewish descent, largely absent from the Sheldon's collections.

### 14:

#### Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club Kicks Off 2022 Season

As summer winds down, contemporary square dancing is winding up. The Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club has been dancing again for more than a year, and now, with reduced COVID restrictions, the club is ready to kick off the fall season at 7-8:30 pm, Lothrop School, Pittsford, VT

Just as social dance took off after the pandemic of 1918, all forms of community participatory dance are taking off now. Contemporary square dance is a great way to be active, meet new people and get back into a lively lifestyle after these many months of restricted activity. Square dancing has evolved a great deal compared to the grade school memories people have; it is an upbeat and vibrant activity.

Interested community members can come out for free square dancing this September on Wednesdays at Lothrop School. No experience necessary! Dust off your comfortable shoes and come dance the evenings away. There are several free square dance nights on Wednesdays: September 14, 21, and 28th at 7 pm, at Lothrop School in Pittsford. The 28th includes an ice cream social.

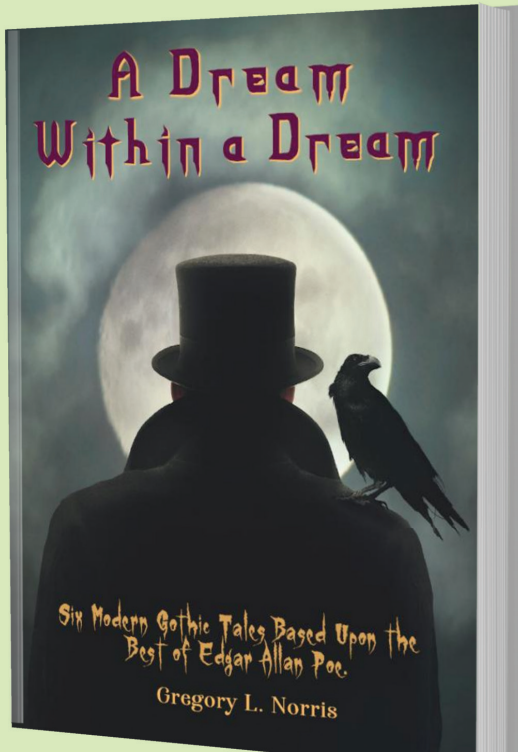
Try out some easy square dance calls and have a good time dancing to pop, rock, country, hip hop, and other popular music. Individuals and couples are equally welcome; there are others to dance with.

If you have a good time, you may wish to join the fall class, a low-cost activity held in 9-10 week segments. There is no pressure to join, but the benefits are a healthy body, mind, and social life. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Check the website at [www.castoff8s.com](http://www.castoff8s.com) or Facebook at Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club for more information.

### 16 17:

#### BARN OPERA presents Strauss' Comedy *Ariadne auf Naxos*

BARN OPERA, is thrilled to return to live performance with Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Known for innovative takes on masterworks, this BARN OPERA production will be no exception. Artistic director (Joshua Collier) has a new concept that takes the already comedic opera, and turns it on its head, providing a night of operatic self-deprecation, and airing the perennial rivalry between the Operatic and the Musical theatre mediums. While the first act will be sung in colloquial English, the second act will be in the original German—the first time a German opera will be sung in its original language at BARN OPERA. The production centers around "The Richest Man in Vermont" who, for a dinner party, rents out the most



**Book reading and signing with Gregory L. Norris, Friday, Sept. 30, Maclure Library, 6 and 7:30 p.m.**

Gregory L. Norris writes regularly for numerous short story anthologies, national magazines, novels, and the occasional episode for TV or film.

Gregory novelized the NBC TV classic by Gerry Anderson, *The Day After Tomorrow: Into Infinity*. Gregory won HM in the 2016 Roswell Awards in Short SF Writing and placed in 2021.

In 2019, Gregory sold his modern noir feature film screenplay, *Amandine*, to the new Hollywood production company Snarkhunter, owned by actor Dan Lench, a devotee of Gregory's writing.

In late 2020, Snarkhunter optioned Gregory's tetralogy horror film—based on four of his short stories—*Ride Along*.

Twice Norris has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. He is the author of *Ex Marks the Spot* and *The Lost City of Books*.

spect  
the re  
House  
missio  
from c  
up-an  
to be  
howev  
and m  
review  
The fir  
the ot  
first. T  
assista  
rather  
shows  
With c  
ing in

### 17:

West  
The ar  
Town  
Marbl  
closed  
game  
tainm  
Band,  
an eve  
Admis  
Vend  
welco  
more

### Snake

Blue g  
tion w  
deligh  
7:30 p  
Alway  
forme  
tain's  
tradit  
songs  
to sof  
their v  
plus a  
Conce  
for \$3  
mend  
[www.k](http://www.k)  
mail i  
inform

### Moos

Travel  
Cross  
tunes  
and b  
on ro  
Bruno  
Starti  
dents

### 18:

Celeb  
choru  
Robert  
to cel  
At 3:0  
ruses  
figure  
Voce  
sity C  
Choru  
Orche  
Admis  
nounc

acular event space in  
gion—the BARN OPERA  
e—for which he has com-  
oned a new opera seria  
one of the most famous  
d-coming composers  
premiered. His wife,  
ver, hates the opera,  
uch prefers a Broadway  
y for the evening's entertainment.

st act sees both groups, equally disdainful toward  
her, arguing about which performance would happen  
There are petty insults and witty barbs, but then the  
ant for the "Richest Man in Vermont" announces that  
than two individual shows, they would combine the  
to create one show, all to be complete by 10pm.  
only half an hour to organize, and with many compet-  
terests, sparks fly and hijinks ensue.

#### Rutland hosts annual Block Party

annual West Rutland Block Party will take place on the  
Hall Green and Marble Street from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
e Street from Campbell Street to Main Street will be  
d to traffic to host the festivities. The day will feature  
s, craft vendors, and food trucks. The musical enter-  
ent will feature West Rutland's Rock Lab, Tony's Polka  
and Satin & Steel. The event will be topped off with  
ening fireworks display.

ssion is free. Bring a chair and your dancing shoes.

ors featuring ethnic food, artisans, and makers are  
med. A 10' x 10' space is \$20. Call 802-438-2263 for  
information.

#### Mountain Bluegrass at Brandon Music

grass is the ultimate good-time music, honoring tradi-  
whilst encouraging innovation. So, Brandon Music is  
nted to welcome back Snake Mountain Bluegrass at  
m.

s a favorite with Brandon Music audiences, (they per-  
d in November 2021 to a full house), Snake Moun-  
"toe-tapping tunes combine the best of modern and  
onal bluegrass" (Seven Days) with harmonies and  
t that vary in tempo from hard driving 'breakdowns'  
ter, folk-type arrangements. The group is known for  
vocal, instrumental, and original songwriting talents,  
great sense of humor and onstage banter.

ert tickets are \$25. A pre-concert dinner is available  
5. Reservations are required for dinners and recom-  
ed for the show and can be made on-line at <https://brandon-music.net/> BYOB. Call (802) 247 4295 or e-  
info@brandon-music.net for reservations or for more  
nation.

#### Classic Jazz Band

ing to Brandon Town Hall from Poultney, "Moose  
ing" plays youthful, energized takes on classic jazz  
from Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington,  
eyond. They also perform funkier jazz-infused takes  
ck and pop tunes from the Beatles, Stevie Wonder,  
Mars, the Doors, and more.

ng at 7:30 p.m., tickets: Adults, \$8, Seniors and Stu-  
y, \$6.

#### Robert De Cormier's centennial with 6 Vermont uses at the Grace Church in Rutland

rt De Cormier was born in 1922, and Vermont is going  
ebrate his centennial in style.

0pm at Grace Church in Rutland, six Vermont cho-  
will join forces to celebrate the legacy of this key  
in Vermont's musical history. Come hear the Bella  
Women's Chorus of Vermont, The Castleton Univer-  
chamber Singers, The Greater Burlington Children's  
s, Solaris Vocal Ensemble, The Vermont Symphony  
stra Chorus, and, of course, Counterpoint.

ssion is free, and you are welcome to show up unan-  
ced.

## Kennedy Park Concerts

September 24 Patrick Fitzsimmons

All shows 11a-1p in Kennedy Park.  
Sponsored by the Downtown Brandon Alliance.

**Fall mushroom exploration  
walk at Mount Independence**  
Mushroom expert Meg Madden  
is back at the Mount Indepen-  
dence State Historic Site in  
Orwell to lead another of her  
popular mushroom exploration  
walks.

The walk runs from 1 to 4 p.m.

Look for and learn about mushrooms on Mount Indepen-  
dence. Are the mushrooms you see this time of year differ-  
ent from the ones people observed in her June program?

Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather.  
Admission for the event, which includes the museum and  
all trails, is \$6.00 for adults and free for children under 15.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site is one of the  
best-preserved Revolutionary War sites in America. It is  
located at 497 Mount Independence Road, six miles west  
of the intersections of Vermont Routes 22A and 73 near  
Orwell village; carefully follow the signs. Regular hours  
are Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily  
through October 9. For more information about the state-  
owned historic sites: [www.historicsites.vermont.gov](http://www.historicsites.vermont.gov).

## 24:

### Dissipated Eight a Capella Group

The Dissipated Eight, Middlebury College's male a  
Cappella group, returns for their 6th year at 7:30 p.m at  
Brandon's Town Hall. Their signature harmonies, touches  
of comedy, and interaction with the audience make them a  
Town Hall favorite.

The group sings a range of songs from modern-day pop to  
traditional barbershop. Their stage presence, and comedic  
routines, in addition to some solos and group numbers,  
will be sure to entertain.

Tickets: Adults, \$8, Seniors and Students, \$6.

## 29:

### Brandon Congregational Church; A service of remem- brance and celebration of life

Starting at 6:30 p.m. the Board of Deacons of the Brandon  
Congregational Church wishes to invite you and your family  
to a special service to honor and remember those in our  
broader community who have passed away within the last  
year.

They will be asking the name of your loved one when you  
come into the church to be prepared to call you forward. This  
is a participatory service during which you will be invited to  
light one candle in memory of your loved one.

There will also be an opportunity to remember other family  
members and friends who have passed away, and there will  
be a special remembrance for those who have passed during  
the two pandemic years.

Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be served after  
the service in the Fellowship Hall, located next to the church.  
If you have any questions, please contact BCC at 802-247-  
6121.

## Goings on around town

## Many of the activities at this year's Dead Creek Wildlife Day are tailored to children, Saturday, October 1, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you enjoy wildlife, be sure to  
make plans to attend the 20th annual  
Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison,  
Vermont, on Saturday, October 1.

Activities at Dead Creek Wildlife  
Day are especially for people who  
enjoy hunting, fishing, birdwatching,  
or learning about Vermont's diverse  
wildlife and ecosystems. The event  
will be held at the Vermont Fish and  
Wildlife Department's Dead Creek  
Wildlife Management Area (WMA)  
on Route 17, west of Route 22A.

Early risers can begin the day with  
a bird banding demonstration at 7 a.m.  
Two large tents at Dead Creek WMA  
headquarters will open at 9:30 a.m.  
featuring wildlife-related exhibits  
and activities such as decoy carving,  
building bluebird boxes, and nature  
crafts.

The Dead Creek Visitor Center will  
be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
featuring displays about conservation  
and wildlife management in Vermont.  
This year, enjoy a guided walk along  
with Visitor Center interpretive trail to  
learn about various features and habi-  
tats.

Live critters will include a selection  
of snakes, turtles, raptors, and more  
that visitors can see up close and learn  
about their ecology. New this year  
will be a bat house building program,  
and Wild Kitchen will be on the road  
with campfire cooking. There will be  
a presentation on the Eastern mead-



owlark and an hour of learning how to  
take photographs of wildlife.

This will also be the last year to see  
Warden Dog Crockett in action sniff-  
ing out gunpowder as he retires from  
the department in October. Retriever  
dogs will be working in the area  
ponds, and all of the favorite nature  
walks will be happening. All events  
are free, and a free shuttle bus will  
provide regular access to nearby field  
events throughout the day.

"We want to welcome visitors to the  
20th year of the popular Dead Creek  
Wildlife Day," said Amy Alfieri, man-  
ager of the Dead Creek WMA. "The  
activities are fun, the demonstrations

are very exciting, and the setting is  
beautiful. Visitors love to see the live  
animals and working dogs, and the  
kids love to build their own bluebird  
box to take home."

The festival is hosted by the Ver-  
mont Fish and Wildlife Department,  
Vermont.

Department of Forests, Parks, and  
Recreation, Delta Waterfowl, and Ot-  
ter Creek Audubon Society.

For more information and events  
schedule, visit Vermont Fish and  
Wildlife's website ([www.vtfishand-wildlife.com](http://www.vtfishand-wildlife.com)) and check under Watch  
Wildlife.

## VT Fish and Wildlife tree stand safety tips for hunters

VERMONT — Tree stands get hunters out of the sight and smell of wary deer, but they can also get hunters into trouble. Here are some tips from Vermont Fish and Wildlife to help you stay safe and get the most out of your tree stand hunting experience:

- Choose a live, straight tree, and avoid ash that may be in decline due to emerald ash borers.

- Buy smart. Only use stands certified by the Tree Stand Manufacturers Association (TMA).

- Inspect them each time you use them. Check your tree stand for wear and tear each time you go out into the woods.

- Know the rules. On state lands, it is illegal to place nails or other hardware into trees or to build permanent structures. On private lands, you must have landowner permission to erect a tree

stand, cut or remove trees or other plants, or cut limbs. All stands, including ground blinds, must be marked with the owner's name and address.

- Always wear a full-body safety harness, even for climbing. Most falls occur going up and down the tree and getting in and out of the stand. Make sure your safety harness is in good condition. Especially, check the straps.

- Don't go too high. The higher you go, the smaller the vital zone on a deer becomes, while the likelihood of a serious injury increases. Climb within your personal limit.

- Never carry firearms or bows up and down trees. Always use a haul line to raise and lower all gear. Make sure your firearm is unloaded.

(See *Tree stand safety*, Page 23)



BRANDON MCFARLANE, LEFT, and Travis Samuels, right, pose in front of the future home of ZION Growers in Proctor.

## Preservation Trust of Vermont partners with ZION Growers for new industry in Proctor

PROCTOR — After a decade of ownership and successfully securing the collections of the Vermont Marble Museum, the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) has transferred ownership of the former Vermont Marble Company facility in Proctor to ZION Growers, a Vermont-based industrial hemp processing company.

“Our partnership with ZION Growers achieves the goals that the trust identified when it stepped in to purchase the 52 Main Street building,” said PTV President Ben Doyle. “As a result of our efforts, the building and collections of the Vermont Marble Museum will be preserved so that residents and visitors alike can understand the important history of the marble industry in Vermont.”

“In addition,” he continued, “the Trust is proud to bring economic opportunity to Rutland County with a promising new business coming to Proctor.”

ZION Growers plans to use much of the 84,000-sq. Ft. building for processing locally sourced industrial hemp into fiber for use in a variety of value-added products, including paper, textiles, and green building materials.

“The emerging industrial hemp market is an opportunity for Vermont,” said ZION CEO Brandon McFarlane. “The fact that this opportunity can be re-

alized while honoring the industrial heritage of the site is why we are excited to work with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Town of Proctor, and regional economic development partners.”

In 2012, when the building and museum collections were at risk of being sold piecemeal, the PTV stepped in to purchase the building and collections and begin the process of securing the museum's future.

Under the terms of the transfer to ZION Growers, the PTV will continue to own the collections, maintain a 99-year lease for the museum, and co-hold a historic preservation easement on the entire building with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. “The Vermont Marble Museum shares the important story of the marble industry in Proctor, Vermont, and the nation. We are excited to have secured our home at 52 Main and hope to reopen soon in partnership with the Preservation Trust of Vermont and ZION Growers,” said Vermont Marble Museum Board Chair Bob Young.

Proctor Town Manager, Michael Ramsey, is equally excited. “The Town is very happy to see more activity at 52 Main. Combining the history of the site with new industry is a win-win for Proctor.”

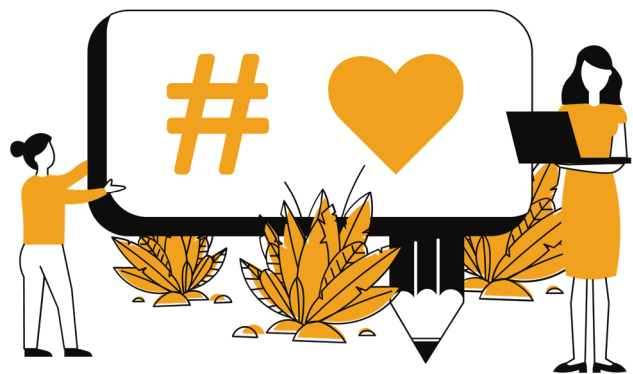
Lyle Jepson from the Chamber & Economic Development

of the Rutland Region is working with ZION Growers to identify businesses that might co-locate at the site and to support future redevelopment efforts. “Visionary entrepreneurs like ZION Growers are key to the Rutland region's economy,” says Jepson. “We look forward to helping ZION grow their business and connecting them with other entities that might be interested in renting additional space in 52 Main.”

During its ownership of 52 Main, the PTV made numerous improvements to the property, including significant work on the fire suppression system, electrical system, water and wastewater systems, roof, and parapets.

In addition, with assistance from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, PTV completed brownfields remediation. “Any preservation or community and economic development project of this scale is a team effort. We are grateful to our partners at the Town of Proctor, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development,” said Doyle. “I also want to acknowledge and thank the many donors who helped make this project happen. By working together, we've preserved a historic building, a wonderful museum, and an opportunity for the future.”

### INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing



**FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE EVERYTHING. MAKE YOURS COUNT.**

#### Independent Digital Marketing Services:

- ✓ Post to your company's social media pages
- ✓ Monitor & respond to customer reviews
- ✓ Update your business info across dozens of channels
- ✓ All in one easy-to-use platform!



# Sports

## Vermont's archery season for deer starts October 1

VERMONT—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says hunters are looking forward to Vermont's upcoming October 1- November 11 and November 28 to December 15 archery deer hunting season.

A hunter may take up to four deer in Vermont's two-part archery season if they do not shoot any deer in the other deer seasons. The purchase of an archery deer license and tag is required for each deer.

No more than one of the deer taken during the archery season may be a legal buck if no buck is taken in the other deer seasons. Antlerless deer hunting is allowed during archery season statewide this year.

In Wildlife Management Units (WMU) C, D1, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q, a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler three inches or more in length.

In WMUs A, B, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O, a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

Hunters must have a standard hunting license in order to purchase an add-on archery deer hunting license, except that nonresidents may purchase an "archery only deer license" costing \$75. Licenses may be quickly and easily purchased on Fish and Wildlife's website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

Hunters planning a Vermont archery deer hunting trip will find it helpful to download a copy of the 2021 Deer Harvest Report from Fish and Wildlife's website with this link: [tinyurl.com/2fddm9x9](http://tinyurl.com/2fddm9x9).

It has the number of deer taken in each town in last year's deer hunting seasons.

For more information and a summary of regulations, down-



VERMONT'S ARCHERY DEER season starts Saturday, October 1.

VTF&W photo

load the 2021 Deer Seasons Wildlife's website, or pick up a free copy of the 2022 HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE from any license agent.

## Otter Valley Sports wrap-up

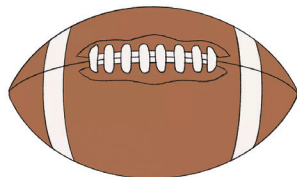
### OV LOSES TO MILL RIVER, 12-7

In a Sunday match-up with Mill River, the Otter Valley varsity football team saw two untimely interceptions and an unfortunate fourth-quarter penalty hinder the Otter's chance to notch a win as Mill River held on 12-7 to beat the Otters.

Senior quarterback Caleb Whitney had led the Otters to a 7-0 lead in the first half with a one-run touchdown run, set up by a long pass reception by junior Lucca Polli. Down five points in the fourth quarter Whitney, playing defense, had intercepted a Mill River pass and ran down the sideline untouched for what appeared to be a game-winning touchdown, but it was called back by an Otter blocking penalty. The Otters maintained possession of the ball but could not score, and another interception allowed Mill River to run out the clock.

### OV DEFEATS WINDSOR, 2-1

On Monday, the Otter's field hockey team scored a dramatic 2-1 victory over defending Division III champion, Windsor. After the Yellow Jackets scored first, the Otters came back to tie the score in the first quarter on a



Ryleigh LaPorte goal set up by freshman Breanna Bovey. Then, after two periods of scoreless play, Otter attack Mackenzie McKay fired the game-winner with 5:27 left in the fourth. OV goalie Lily Morgan had three saves.

Otter Valley, now 3-1, will host Brattleboro this Saturday at 11 a.m.

### OV GOLF WINS

In a meet at Woodstock hosted by Killington Mountain School, the OV golf team was tops out of four teams on Sept. 12. The Otters posted a team score of 164, with Woodstock in second with 183, KMS with 225, and MAU with 261.

Scoring for the Otters was: Lucas Politano, 35, Thomas Politano, 41, Jackson Howe, 43, and Matthew Bryant, 45. Politano won individual honors with Woodstock's lead golfer (Ethan) posting a 37. Thomas Politano was third, Howe was fourth, and Bryant finished fifth.

**Don't Miss the Action!**

**Subscribe today.**

VISIT [BRANDONREPORTER.COM](http://BRANDONREPORTER.COM)  
OR FILL OUT THIS FORM AND MAIL IT IN WITH PAYMENT.

**ALL ACCESS SUBSCRIPTION - PRINT & ONLINE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(email address required for online subscriptions)*

IN STATE \$50/year 65+ \$45/year	OUT-OF-STATE \$60/year 65+ \$55/year	Method of Payment: Check Enclosed \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Amex <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card # _____ CCV _____ Exp. Date _____
--	--	---

**Mail to: Brandon Reporter  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury Vt. 05753**



# 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!



## Recognized



Grace Aines of Brandon called to identify the three children pictured here, they are her niece and nephews. From left to right, Autumn Aines, Travis and Jarod Rawson, who are twins. The photo was taken around 1997 / 1998 at Grace's mother's house, Marian Aines in Brandon. The children all lived in Brandon. The Easter Lily was the focus of the photo as they had never seen one grow so tall.

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

Or call us at 247-8080



# Crossword

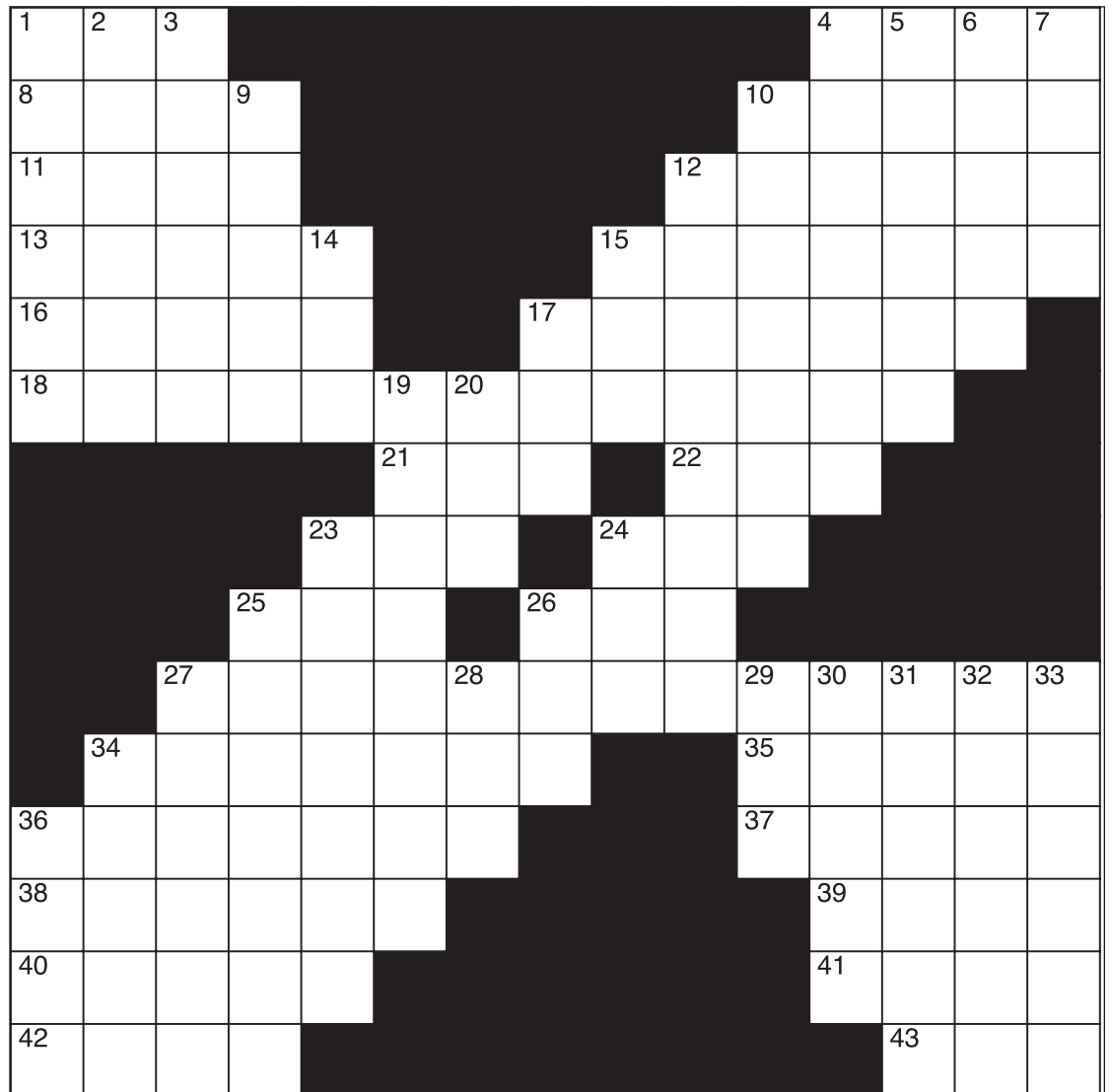
## CLUES ACROSS

1. Autonomic nervous system
4. Kids love it in summer
8. Dashes
10. Polynesian sarong
11. Chapter of the Koran
12. Evildoer
13. Japanese commercial city
15. A way of binding
16. Early Christianity French historian
17. Kids' term for bugs
18. Beloved family holiday activity
21. Work unit
22. Bundle
23. A number or amount not specified
24. Military official (abbr.)
25. Queens ballplayer
26. Type of gibbon
27. Norma Jean's stage name
34. Places
35. Bluish greens
36. Argued publicly
37. Having the shape of a cube
38. They star at weddings
39. Indian god associated with reproduction
40. Ocean sunfishes
41. Slowly leak through
42. Plant part
43. Midway between south and

## southeast

## CLUES DOWN

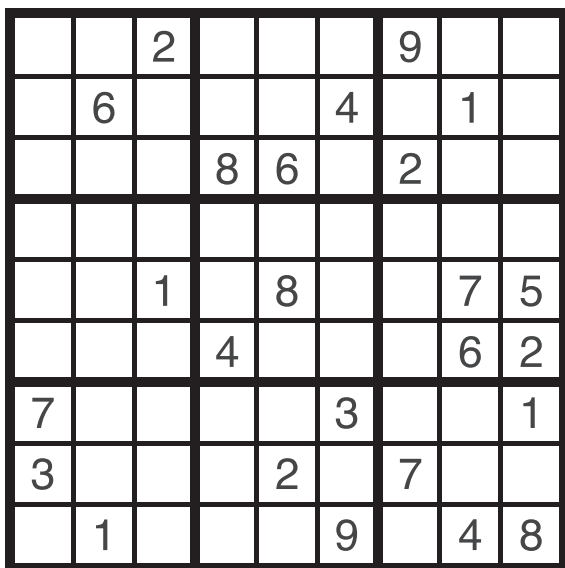
1. Accumulate on the surface of
2. Not a good feeling
3. Got smaller
4. Helped a golfer get around
5. Military forces
6. Partner to ways
7. Low, one-horse sleigh
9. Japanese seaport
10. Inclined to favor
12. Avid reader
14. Lead singer of Heart
15. Pigeon sound
17. Vital part
19. People who are not Jewish
20. Shed tears
23. Pokes holes in the ground
24. Beverage receptacle
25. Stone used to surface roads
26. French-Belgian river
27. Type of phone
28. Long-lasting light bulb
29. Type of medication (abbr.)
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. They're in martinis
33. Get away from
34. Dormouse
36. Database management system



# Sudoku

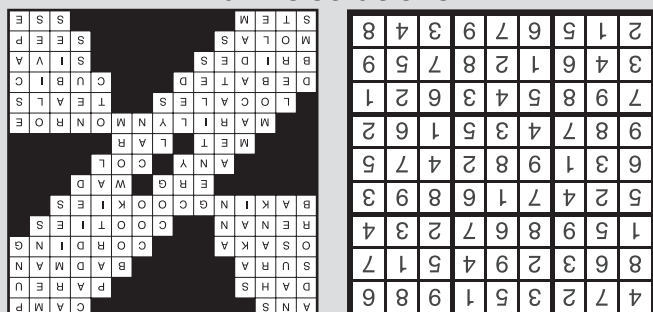
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

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



Level: Intermediate

## Puzzle solutions



## RCHS "Duck Derby" – Adopt a Duck or Two!

There is still time to adopt your little plastic ducks for the Rutland Humane Society's Duck Derby! The Duck Derby will take place at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 22, at Pittsford Recreation Center. The first 4 ducks to reach the finish line win cash prizes. We'll also have a cash prize for the last duck! You can adopt a single duck for \$3, a Quack-Pack (4 ducks) for \$10 or a 6-Quack (6 ducks) for \$15. Ducks are available for adoption online at [rchsvt.org](http://rchsvt.org) or can be adopted at the event! All proceeds go towards the care of homeless animals in our community. We have beaten our goal with 3,083 ducks, help us get to our stretch goal of 3,250. For more information contact Sam at 802-483-9171, ext 203, or email [Sam@rchsvt.org](mailto:Sam@rchsvt.org).



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



### MEET FREDDIE - 1-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. LAB MIX. BLACK WITH WHITE.

Freddie is a high-energy boy looking for an active family. He loves to be in water, and he loves to take his tennis ball everywhere with him. We have noticed that he can be grumbly when you try to take toys away from him, so we don't think being in a home with kids is a good idea. He does not like being restrained, or messing with his neck or face area. Due to him not liking to share his toys and food, he may be best suited as an only dog. He would love to be a part of an active family, but will need someone to help him work through some of his behaviors. He could play fetch all day with his tennis ball. He will even drop it for you to throw and does a little dance as he waits.

### MEET SLYTHERIN - 4-MONTH-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC MEDIUM HAIR.

Tabby with White If you are looking for an energetic ball of energy, please consider checking out our kittens. They are goofy and playful and ready to keep you entertained. They have all been spayed and neutered and have received their age-appropriate vaccines. It will be important to get them into your vet shortly after adoption to ensure they stay up to date on their vaccines. They are all using the litter box well at the shelter. They play with toys and their friends' tails! They enjoy being handled and are anxious to find their forever home.



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



**ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

This week's Off the Shelf features some new items you might not have heard about in our "Library of Things". Some of the items below were made possible by grants from VTDOL, the VT Arts Council and Big Heavy World.

Items marked with an asterisk are in-library use only.

### ROBOTS!:

Ideal for toddlers through elementary grades. First is Dash, a three-wheeled robot that can self-drive and explore, but also be coded through an app. He's also available to play with in the library- just ask at the desk. Our second new robot friend is Indi, a small blue car who can be coded with colored squares or an app. Both robots offer unique and imaginative ways to play (and learn!). Indi is also available at the desk.

### 3-D Printer\*:

Our new 3-D printer is ready and available to print! Prices start at \$2 and go by weight after 30 grams. It's an ideal machine for printing mini-figures or something of your own creation. Stop in with your files or send an

### Did you know?

We'll be offering computer classes? Thanks to a grant, we'll have a number of classes coming up. Watch our website, Facebook or Front Porch Forum for details.

email to [info@brandonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@brandonpubliclibrary.org) to get more info.

### Portable Projector:

Host your very own outdoor movie night. Now's the perfect time of year!

### Button Maker\*:

Makes fun 1" buttons. Print off designs right at the library or bring in your own.

### Sewing Machine and Serger\*:

Bring in your sewing projects or finish up your seams with our new serger!

### Ukuleles:

We have eight ready to check

out - along with tuners and tutorial book. Winter is the perfect time to learn a new hobby.

### Green Screen:

Film those youtube tutorials you've been thinking about doing, or finally start that movie. Our huge green screen will give you plenty of space for your cool custom film backgrounds.

### RØDE Microphone:

Recording a podcast? Mic broken on your computer and you've got a google meet in an hour? We've got you covered with this studio quality mic.

### Portable Power Station:

Going camping? Take along this rechargeable system to plug in multiple items at once.

### Moisture Meter:

With winter just around the corner, now is the perfect time to check your firewood and make sure it's seasoned and ready to burn.

### Coming Soon - a Cricut\*!

Create decals, die cut stickers, have fun!

# BPD knows, love is a burnout-ing thing

## Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Animal incidents and death investigations kept police busy this week. Around 3 p.m. on Aug. 6, police got a complaint from a Barlow Avenue resident that her neighbor's dogs were walking outside and were being aggressive. Police contacted the owner, and when police patrolled the area shortly thereafter, no dogs were observed.

Not long afterward, a call came in of an untimely death in a Conant Square residence. Police investigated and found that the death was due to natural causes.

A Franklin Street resident called in later in the day when her neighbor's dog was walking in the roadway. Police located the dog and returned it to its owner.

After a relatively quiet day on Aug. 7, police received a report of multiple gunshots in the area of Wheeler Road. An investigation found that the noises were not gunshots but came from nearby construction equipment.

A few hours later, police received a report of a large amount of trash and construction materials/debris illegally dumped on a farmer's property on Syndicate Road. The dumping is currently under investigation.

When a report of a multi-car accident came into the station, police went to the alleged scene on Union Street, only to find a disabled vehicle in the Brandon Wastewater treatment plant driveway and no accident.

At around 8 p.m., issues with animals once again cropped up. An officer on patrol around Forest Dale Road and Stone Mill Dam Road located two dogs at

large. The officer found the dogs' owner and advised that she keep her dogs on the property.

A domestic disturbance on Basin Road was reported just after 9 p.m. A male at the residence would not give his girlfriend her cell phone. Officers were able to retrieve the phone.

Police were called to assist with a child custody dispute on Aug. 9. An investigation determined that nothing illegal had occurred, and the complainant was advised to contact the police should the custody situation escalate.

They were also called to investigate an untimely death at a residence on Franklin Street, which is under investigation by the Vermont State Police.

In the early hours of Aug. 10, loud music and singing were reported on Maple Street. Other emergency calls at the time took precedent, so the responding officer could not get to the call until some time later. Upon arrival, the officer did not locate any signs of a disturbance in the area.

Shortly after 2 p.m. on Aug. 10, police responded to the victim of a dog bite on Franklin St. The dog owner was interviewed, and the dog was found to be up-to-date on its rabies vaccine. The case is ongoing with animal control and the Brandon health officer.

In the evening, Police respond-

*(See Police report, Page 19)*

## Notice of Road Closure: Arnold District Road, Brandon

The Arnold District Road will be closed to through traffic starting Monday, September 5, 2022, to install a box culvert

over Arnold Brook.

The road will be closed at Adams Road and Arnold Brook intersection to approximately

500 feet north. Vehicles are to use Cram Road in Leicester as the detour.



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

whelmed by responsibilities, so take time to figure out what you need to do.

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

A turning point in your love life may come this week, Leo. It may hit you in a most unexpected way. Even a relatively simple gesture may sway your feelings.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, your social circle could open up this week and expand your prospects even further. Use the new connections to get out of the house more than ever before.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

An unexpected financial windfall could come your way this week, Libra. While it could be tempting to spend all this extra money right away, save some for a rainy day.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Your desire for excitement could lead you on a wild goose chase, Scorpio. You may find that it's not excitement you need, just a change of scenery. Book a trip.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, this week you may find that one day you are calm and collected, and the next you are all riled up. Find a balance between them both to get through

the days.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, though making sudden changes in your life seems like a good idea, it's best to take some time mulling things over before you dive into any new situations.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Even the best plans can use a little tweaking from time to time. Go with the flow, Aquarius. Enjoy this more laid back approach and consider taking it more often.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, a professional change will happen soon. All that hard work you have been putting in is sure to pay off in the weeks ahead.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 15 Agatha Christie, writer (d)
- Sept. 16 Ching Shi, Pirate (d)
- Sept. 17 William Carlos Williams, poet (d)
- Sept. 18 Jason Sudeikis, actor (47)
- Sept. 19 Sunita Williams, astronaut (57)
- Sept. 20 Red Cloud, First-Nation politician, (d)
- Sept. 21 Faith Hill, singer (55)

**ARIES March 21-April 20**  
Teaching what you know to others is a continuous theme for you this week, Aries. You want to impart wisdom any way that you can and you'll have the opportunity to do so.

**TAURUS April 21-May 21**  
Taurus, you'll finally gain greater control over your thoughts this week when someone close to you helps you see the bigger picture. Now you can focus on important things.

**GEMINI May 22-June 21**  
Your love life may seem confusing this week, Gemini. It may wax and wane from fevered passion to apathy. Rough patches are not unusual and you need to see this through.

**CANCER June 22-July 22**  
Cancer, a change in routine is necessary. Lately you may have been feeling over

A 44-Year Middlebury Tradition of Trusted & Caring Dental Excellence!

**\$0 Cleanings!**

For most insured patients. Call for details.

Further Heightened Sterilization Standards

**Middlebury DENTAL GROUP**

1330 Exchange Street, Suite 107  
• Middlebury •

**802-388-3553**

MiddleburyDentalVT.com

Welcome Before & After Work or School!

# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

ed to a report of a pickup truck doing a burnout on North Street. The vehicle operator was located and told the police that it was his wedding today and admitted that he had been celebrating by doing the burnout. Because of the circumstances involved and the sincere apologetic nature of the subject, the officers decided to issue a verbal warning.

In the early hours of Aug. 11, while patrolling Center Street on foot, police encountered a suspicious vehicle idling in Lot A on Park Street. The license plates on the vehicle were not assigned to it, so police seized them and issued a ticket to the operator. Several warnings were issued for other motor vehicle offenses.

Later in the day, officers responded to a complaint of an animal welfare case on Conway Terrace. The owner was interviewed, and though the animal appeared old and thin, it did not rise to the level of concern.

In other activities, police:

## On Aug. 6

- Made a welfare check at the request of the manager at a Champlain Street business on an employee that did not show up for work. Police located the employee, who had overslept.
- Stopped a motorist on Forest Dale Road at McConnell Road. Warning issued to the operator.
- Responded to an animal complaint on Barlow Avenue.
- Investigated an untimely death on Conant Square. The

cause of death was determined to be natural causes.

- Located a stray dog on Franklin Street.
- Assisted Brandon Rescue with a lift assist on Conant Drive.

## On Aug. 7

- Patrolled Center Street on foot.
- Conducted a property watch on Richmond Road
- Took fingerprints for school employment, LNA licensing, and a school chaperone.
- Received a lost license plate and returned it to the owner.
- Enforced speed on Grove Street.

## On Aug. 8

- Patrolled Center Street on foot.
- Took fingerprints for school employment and teaching licensure.
- Investigated suspicious activity around Wheeler Road.
- Investigated illegal littering on a Syndicate Road property.
- Investigated a report of a multi-car accident on Union Street.

- Made motor vehicle stops on Grove Street and Franklin Street. One for using a cell phone while driving and the other for a turn signal violation and speeding. Both operators were issued tickets.

- Patrolled Long Swamp Road and observed nothing suspicious.
- Addressed loose dogs around Forest Dale Road and Stone Mill Dam Road.
- Responded to a domestic

disturbance on Basin Road.

- Responded to an alarm activation at the Masonic Lodge on Park Street. The building was checked and appeared to be secure.

## On Aug. 9

- Received a late report that a new vehicle had sustained minor damage sometime over the past week. The owner of the vehicle believed that his car might have been hit while it was parked in a parking lot somewhere around town and requested a that a report be placed on file for insurance documentation purposes.

- Assisted the Vermont of Children and Families with serving an emergency care order to a parent residing on Mulcahy Drive.

- Made motor vehicle stops on Grove Street, Champlain Street, and Franklin Street for speeding, stop sign violations, and defective equipment. Police issued four warnings and tickets for operating without insurance and expired insurance.

- Enforced speed on Grove Street and stopped one driver for speeding.
- Assisted with a child custody dispute.
- Responded to an untimely death on Franklin Street.

## On Aug. 10

- Received a report of a noise disturbance on Maple Street.
- Responded to a motor vehicle crash on Wheeler Road with property damage. The operator was not injured, and the vehicle

was towed from the scene.

- Made traffic stops on Center Street and Carver Street for speeding, cell phone use, and driving with no taillights. Police issued a ticket and a warning.

- Responded to a dog bite incident on Franklin Street.

- Responded to an alarm at the old Heritage Family Credit Union on West Seminary Street. The alarm resulted from a wiring issue that has since been fixed.

- Investigated a motor vehicle complaint on North Street

- Responded to a report of a missing person from River Street. The person was later found at his residence.

## On Aug. 11

- Patrolled Center Street on foot and located a suspicious vehicle.

- Assisted a disabled motor vehicle on Prospect Street.

- Assisted a vehicle stalled out on Franklin Street. The operator removed the vehicle without assistance.

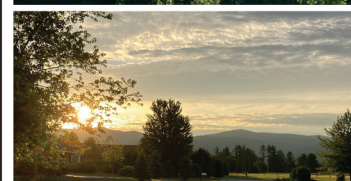
- Responded to a residential burglary alarm on High Pond Road. The residence appeared to be secure, and the owners were contacted.

- Responded to a complaint of an ill-treated animal on Conway Terrace.

- Made a routine property check at the quarry on Grove Street for ongoing trespassing complaints. No activity was observed.

# REAL ESTATE

## Views in All Directions



### BRANDON: Mt. Pleasant Building Lots Fiber Optic Cable Available

Plan for tomorrow by securing your future home site now. 17 lots ready for your new 'energy efficient' home. 3/4 to 1 A± with all utilities & enjoying gorgeous mountain & pastoral views. Located in the quaint village of Brandon with art galleries, shops, shopping & professional services. Convenient to Middlebury & Rutland & 45 min. +/- to Killington, Pico & Middlebury Snow Bowl. Ski, hike, bike & enjoy nearby lakes. Owner/Broker/Developer. Prices starting at \$49,000.



WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633  
(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)  
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com  
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

### We've Moved to

14 Mt. Pleasant Dr. Brandon  
Same phone: 802-247-6633  
Same People - Same Expertise  
802-236-9075 (C); 802-236-9076 (T)

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE



## ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Impressive 2-story commercial building with 6,614 sq. ft. This meticulously maintained building was entirely renovated in 2007. Features a spacious commercial kitchen, office space, conference room, and a yoga/pilates room. All rooms are large and bright with ample lighting and natural light. The building is well insulated, with a state-of-the-art heating system with radiant heat and 3 separate Buderus Logamax furnaces. ADA compliant with a lift/elevator, 4 restrooms, ample paved parking, 3-bay garage and a spacious back yard. There are a multitude of potential uses for this building. Located in Historic Brandon Village. A great investment opportunity offered at

**\$425,000**



802-247-3449  
Marty@RoweRealEstate.com  
RoweRealEstate.com



## Solar powered

CONCERT GOERS DANCED to the sounds of Krishna Guthrie at Saturday's SolarFest.

Reporter photo/Mat Clouser

# Get your business noticed! ONLY \$10/week!

## Business & Service Directory

### Accounting

**Laurie L. Bertrand**  
Certified Public Accountant

*Bookkeeping & Payroll Services  
Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation*  
**Experience You Can Count On**  
4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only  
465-8362 • fax 465-8438



### Accounting

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

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

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

### Archery Supplies

**Tom Mohan's Archery**  
New & Used Bows for sale.

All Archery Supplies, arrows, releases and broadheads.

6 N. Railroad Ave.,  
Brandon, VT  
802-247-3463



### Auto Body Shop

**Certified Collision Experts**



All Makes and Models  
Working with all  
Insurance companies

(802) 388-9961  
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm  
2196 Rt 7 South,  
Middlebury  
stonecdjr.com



### Auto Repair

**Hometown Service from  
Your Hometown Dealers!**



Factory-Trained Technicians  
Servicing all makes and models



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

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

### Hair Salon

**SHEILA'S**  
HAIR STYLING

Cuts, Colors, Wash & Sets  
Men, Women & Children  
Walk-Ins Welcome  
Accepting New Clients

3 Franklin St. | Brandon, VT | 802-247-6829



### Events, Meetings & Functions



*Book Your Holiday  
Party Now!*

One Stop for your Unique and Memorable Events  
Family Reunions • Baby Showers  
Wedding Shower/Rehearsal Dinners/Receptions  
Celebrations of Life • Pool and Theme Parties  
Full Catering and On-Site Liquor License  
"Make A Little History of Your Own"

20 Park Street, Brandon, Vermont • (802) 247-5766  
email: events@brandoninn.com • BrandonInn.com



### Excavating

1963 — Celebrating Over 50 Years — 2022

**Markowski**  
Excavating, Inc.

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

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

### Home Care

**Wintergreen**

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

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

Owners, Mary and Mike Jensen

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

### Massage

*Charlotte Bishop*  
MASSAGE THERAPY

Destress your body and rejuvenate with the gift of touch.  
Therapeutic ♦ Soft Tissue  
Swedish/Esian ♦ Cupping  
Certified and registered.

28+ years of experience. (802) 247-8106



### Plumbing & Heating



Heat Pumps  
and Heat Pump  
Water Heaters

Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels  
New Construction • Outdoor Faucets  
Family-owned and operated.

*We return phone calls!*

Tony Johnson  
Brandon, VT (802) 345-1110 • (802) 345-3201

### Restoration

**Disaster Recovery, Inc.**

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



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

**877-765-6340**  
Fully insured & certified

### Storage Containers

**STORAGE CONTAINERS**  
Rentals & Sales

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



483-9900 • Pittsford, VT



Ad design included in price.  
Call The Reporter today at  
802-247-8080 or email  
ads@brandonreporter.com



Energy Action Network report:

## Vermont not on track to meet 2030 climate requirements

Montpelier — A new report from the non-profit Energy Action Network finds that Vermont is not on track to meet its legally mandated emissions reduction requirements under the Global Warming Solutions Act.

“While there is a lot of important information in this comprehensive, 40-page report, a key takeaway is that Vermont is not on track to meet our emissions reduction commitments by 2030,” said Jared Duval, Executive Director of the non-profit Energy Action Network and the member of the Vermont Climate Council appointed to provide expertise in energy data and analysis.

“A big reason why is that Vermont has so far failed to adopt at least one of the policies that have been proven by other states and countries to provide a high degree of confidence in reducing emissions—emissions caps and/or performance standards—for our two most fossil fuel-intensive and climate polluting energy sectors: transportation and heating,” said Duval.

In contrast, for the electricity sector, Vermont has already adopted an emissions cap policy (the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) and a performance standard (the Renewable Energy Standard), which together have helped to drive down emissions from Vermont’s electricity portfolio.

However, Vermont’s largely fos-

sil-free electricity portfolio produces only two percent of Vermont’s overall greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, the transportation and thermal sectors account for nearly three-quarters of statewide greenhouse gas emissions.

The report also reinforces that meeting Vermont’s climate commitments is technically possible with existing technology and best practices—and that doing so, as modeled by the Vermont Climate Council, forecasts to save Vermonters money.

Independent analysis contracted by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources found that Vermont stands to benefit from \$6.4 billion in net economic savings and avoided damages between now and 2050 by meeting emissions reduction requirements via the pathways outlined in the Climate Action Plan adopted by the Vermont Climate Council in 2021.

However, the two most signifi-

cant policy pillars of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that could help ensure those targets are achieved—the Clean Heat Standard and the Transportation and Climate Initiative—have thus far failed to be adopted.

The report comes in the wake of continued international scientific warnings, including from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which stated earlier this year that humanity has “a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a livable future.”

The burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of the climate challenge. Only 5% of Vermont’s electricity portfolio comes from fossil fuel generation. However, nearly 95% of Vermont’s transportation energy use is fossil-fueled (primarily gasoline and diesel), and nearly 75% of Vermont’s thermal energy use is fossil-fueled (primarily fuel oil, fossil gas, and propane).

---

*The burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of the climate challenge. Only 5% of Vermont’s electricity portfolio comes from fossil fuel generation. However, nearly 95% of Vermont’s transportation energy use is fossil-fueled (primarily gasoline and diesel), and nearly 75% of Vermont’s thermal energy use is fossil-fueled (primarily fuel oil, fossil gas, and propane).*

---

The report notes that fossil fuels create far more climate pollution and are generally more expensive and price-volatile than electricity in Vermont. Therefore, one of the best ways to simultaneously reduce climate pollution and cut energy costs for Vermonters is to efficiently electrify how we get around and heat our homes.

The report states, “Transitioning away from high-cost, price-volatile fossil fuels that are 100% imported towards lower-cost, price-stable renewable alternatives that keep more of our money local can result in a win-win-win for our climate commitments, consumer protection, and economic resilience.”

After the last year of near-record prices for gasoline, diesel, fuel oil, and propane, many Vermonters have been especially challenged by high energy costs. The report details how moving to electric and/or renewable transportation and heating options can save consumers money on energy.

For instance, compared to roughly \$4 per gallon for gasoline, the cost of charging an electric vehicle (EV) is the equivalent of about \$1 per gallon in most of Vermont—and EVs have lower maintenance costs than fossil-fueled vehicles.

Additionally, federal, state, and utility incentives often bring the upfront price of EVs down lower than the cost of comparable gas or

diesel models. The report shares similar consumer data about heating, with heat pump water heaters, heat pumps, and advanced wood heating systems all enabling sizable fuel cost savings and often costing less up front to install than fossil options, after incentives.

To ensure that all Vermonters can access pollution-reducing, money-saving options, the report also emphasizes that policies and incentives need to be equitably designed, prioritizing lower-income Vermonters for assistance, in particular.

“Energy is a complex and nuanced topic that does not lend itself to simple headlines. If you want to more fully understand Vermont’s energy system and where we stand in relation to our state climate requirements, there is no better place to start and no more accessible and comprehensive overview than EAN’s Annual Progress Report for Vermont. What this year’s report is telling us very clearly is, while we have made progress in terms of renewable electricity, we need additional policy action in the thermal and transportation sectors to reach Vermont’s critical climate commitments,” said Darren Springer, General Manager of Burlington Electric Department.

To read the full report, visit: <https://www.eanvt.org/2022-EAN-report>

# New audit shows the Vermont Criminal Justice Council did not confirm law enforcement officers met training requirements

MONTPELIER — State Auditor Doug Hoffer released a new audit on Sept. 6 of Vermont's

efforts to ensure Vermont law enforcement officers have received the required training and that law enforcement agencies have adopted the required policies.

Housed within the Department of Public Safety, the Vermont

Criminal Justice Council (VCJC) is responsible for certifying more than 1,300 law enforcement officers working at 80 law enforcement agencies, including their training requirements.

"There may be no greater power granted by the State than that which it gives law enforcement to perform their public safety functions," Hoffer said. "With

that power comes enormous responsibility. The training and policies required by Vermont statutes are there for a reason— to

make sure officers are continuously trained to deliver the highest level of public service and to protect the rights of Vermonters."

The audit found that the VCJC has not established policies to ensure officers receive their minimum annual training hours. In addition, the VCJC does not have a system in place to determine if law enforcement agencies have required policies in place, such as Fair and Impartial Policing.

Failure to adopt acceptable policies could have significant consequences since state law prohibits an agency's officers from receiving certification if they are not in place.

"Law enforcement officers have extremely difficult jobs.

Most of the training requirements are in place to help them do their jobs right," said Hoffer. "Anti-bias training, use of force, domestic violence. These and other vital training topics help the officer, and they protect Vermonters. Everyone is at greater risk if these trainings aren't received."

"VCJC also has work to do to make sure agencies have proper policies in place," he continued. "When an agency alters the Conducted Electrical Weapon model policy, for example, safety may be jeopardized. Same for Fair and Impartial policing – if an officer is following a local policy that falls short of the model policy, he or she may inadvertently trample on the rights of a

Vermonters."

Notable findings from the audit include:

- An examination of 60 officers found significant differences between the summary of

officers' hours on agencies' training affidavits and supporting documentation. In at

least 12 cases, there was insufficient documentation to support the officers' assertions

that they had met the 30-hour minimum requirement in one or both years evaluated. In

addition, for 11 of the 60 selected officers, the documentation did not support that they

took one or more specifically required courses or that they took those courses for the minimum number of hours (e.g., took two or three hours instead of the required four

hours of use-of-force training).

- To satisfy training requirements; law enforcement agencies included activities that

VCJC staff members stated should not be treated as training under Rule 13; recorded

a different number of hours for the same training courses; did (See *Training requirements*, Page 23)

## Classifieds

### GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE: - Sat Sept 17th 8am Wagner

Road, Brandon/Forest Dale. 2 families, old and new: oil lamps, linens, artwork,

freezer, books, grain box, etc.



**SHARD VILLA**  
LEVEL 3 RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

**NOW HIRING**  
~CAREGIVERS~

Full-Time ✦ Part-Time

**All Shifts**

~ Competitive Pay ~

~ Shift Differentials ~  
(for evenings, nights and weekends)

For more information  
Visit our website [www.shardvilla.org](http://www.shardvilla.org)

802-352-4369



**DENTON & SON IS HIRING!**

We are looking to fill 2 positions immediately:

- CDL truck driver- Full-time position
- Non CDL driver- Part-time position

Must be able to lift 50lbs consistently  
And have a clean driving record.  
Competitive pay offered.

Call our office to set up an interview: **(802) 247-8340**



FORMERLY ACTR & STAGECOACH

**FLEET MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**

**\$1,000 SIGNING BONUS**

*Are you interested in doing valuable work that supports our community and environment?*

Join our Operations Team and work in one of Addison County's best equipped, modern, and spacious facilities, designed with mechanics in mind! This position works a day shift, Monday-Friday, 40 hours per week. We seek a motivated individual with basic maintenance technician skills, a desire to learn new ones and be a team player!

**We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits, including:**

- 24 paid days off to start (Holidays & PTO)
- 100% employer paid health insurance for the employee + funds towards deductible (HRA plan)
- Retirement plan with employer match
- Long & short-term disability insurance
- Life Insurance
- Access to low-cost dental and vision insurance
- Employee Assistance Program
- Uniform and footwear allowance
- Annual CDL and DOT Medical Certificate payments
- Annual tool stipend
- Ongoing training opportunities

**Starting rate a minimum of \$25 for highly qualified candidates.**

Please visit <https://www.trivalleytransit.org/job-openings/> for more details and to complete our application in addition to submitting your resume for consideration of employment.

Submit resume via email to: [kirstie@trivalleytransit.org](mailto:kirstie@trivalleytransit.org).

**Employment is contingent upon passing required background checks and pre-employment drug testing.**

**TVT is an AA/EEO Employer**

# Training requirements

*(Continued from Page 22)*  
 not always document that a class was taught by an authorized instructor and did not always have documents that showed the participant's name, and the name, date, and number of hours of a course.

- Out of 12 law enforcement agencies reviewed; four had policies that differed from

the Fair and Impartial Policing model policy; seven had policies that differed from the Conducted Electrical Weapon model policy, and four had policies that differed from the body camera model policy. While not all differences were significant, some were concerning—one agency removed the guidance not to use conducted electrical weapons, commonly referred to as Taser-

sTM, on the abdomen of pregnant women.  
 Hoffer said, "I'm glad the VCJC agrees with all our findings and has begun to improve their training and policy oversight. Everyone wins when we know officers are informed by the right training and are guided by appropriate policies."



WITH VERMONT'S ARCHERY deer season starting October 1, Vermont Fish and Wildlife urge hunters to take the time to follow basic safety procedures to avoid falls from tree stands.

## Tree stand safety

*(Continued from Page 14)*  
 • Familiarize yourself with your gear before you go. The morning of opening day is a poor time to put your safety belt on for the first time.  
 • Be careful with long-term placement. Exposure can damage straps, ropes, and attachment cords. Also, as the tree grows, the stand's stability can be compromised over time.  
 "Hunter education instructors want you to be safe this coming season," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. "Falls from tree stands are a major cause of death and serious injury to deer hunters, but they are preventable by always wearing a full-body harness and staying connected to the tree."  
 Learn more about Tree Stand Safety here: <https://www.tmastands.com/safety/>

# CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

BRANDON REPORTER  
 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 0575  
 802-247-8080  
 email: ads@brandonreporter.com

**RATES**

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- minimum 2 insertions

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free!

Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Help Wanted Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, & For Rent).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

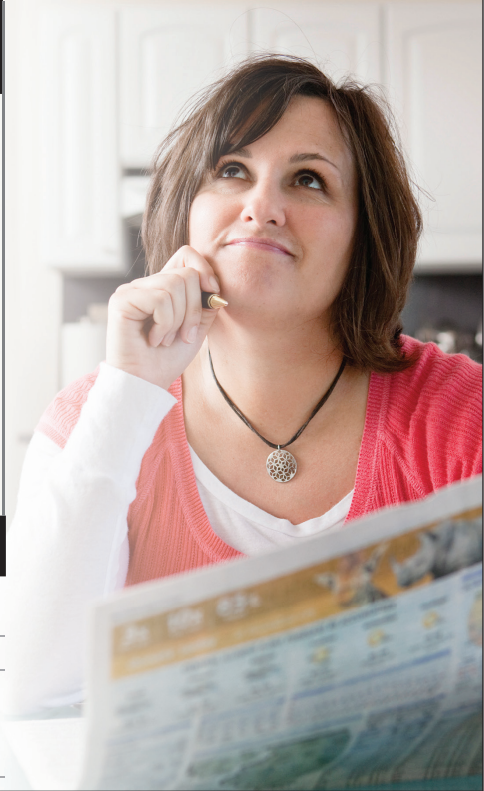
Or Submit Your Classified Ads On Our Website! [brandonreporter.com](http://brandonreporter.com)

**DEADLINES**  
 Friday noon for Wednesday paper

**CATEGORIES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Notices	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals
<input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings**	<input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers
<input type="checkbox"/> Personals	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles
<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Cars
<input type="checkbox"/> Free**	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost & Found**	<input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> SUVs
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Boats
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat	

\*\* No charge for these ads



**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD HERE**

The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun the ad in which the error occurred at no charge. No refunds will be made. Advertisers will please notify us of any errors noted.

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

# of runs: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_



## Housekeeping Careers at Mountain Top Resort




**HOUSEKEEPERS & HK SUPERVISOR**

If you enjoy working in beautiful surroundings, with a supportive team & appreciative guests - we've got the job for you! Our Housekeeping Team is crucial in delivering the luxurious experience Mountain Top is known for. Reward your hard work with a career you can be proud of & premium compensation! **EMAIL resume: [hr@mountaintopinn.com](mailto:hr@mountaintopinn.com)**

**HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR:** \$20/hr+gratuities • \$1000 Sign-on Bonus • Paid Vacation • Benefits • Resort Perks • Full-time/Yr-round • Reports to HK Director

**HOUSEKEEPERS:** \$16/hr+gratuities • \$500 Sign-on Bonus • Full (w/benefits, vacation) & Part-time Positions • Resort Perks • Training Available

**MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT**

195 Mountain Top Rd Chittenden VT • [www.mountaintopinn.com](http://www.mountaintopinn.com)

# Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival successfully concludes 8th annual event

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF) has wrapped up its 8th Annual event, successfully concluding its largest festival to date, with 138 films screened at five venues on six screens over its five-day run.

Attendance was strong at MNFF8, with nearly 1,000 pass and ticket holders in Middlebury for some or all of the event and 2,800 filmgoers attending at least one screening during the Fest.

Also joining the festivities were 55 filmmakers from around the world who participated in Q&As for their films, networked with fellow filmmakers, and interacted with attendees during their stay.

Growth over 2021 in all relevant categories was evident, and festival organizers were especially pleased with the enthusiasm and involvement of attendees.

"Each edition of MNFF provides resonant moments that endure," said Jay Craven, the festival's Artistic Director. "And each round is different, owing to the unique mix of films, emerging filmmakers,

special guests, and audience members. From the entertaining and culturally relevant opening night screening of *The Automat*—and through a series of events with our special guests, who took us deep into their work as groundbreaking filmmakers, I felt each day brought fresh revelation and enjoyment of what makes this world so captivating. Thanks to all who made this year's festival come to life."

"After struggling through two years of a profound COVID overlay on the vitality of the festival, we were thrilled to see the significant revival of attendance and engagement at this year's event," noted Lloyd Komesar, MNFF producer. "With the 5th Annual Fest in 2019 still representing the peak of our journey thus far, it was nonetheless really encouraging to see this year's numbers coming close to that pre-COVID high water mark. As planning for next year's Fest begins, we have a lot of wind in our sails."

At the close of MNFF8, the Festival announced its winners of the coveted VTeddy Awards and Prizes:

- Best Documentary Feature: *The High Rock*, directed by Ellen Moore
- Best Documentary Short: *Freedom Hill*, directed by Resita Cox
- Best Narrative Feature: *The Unknown Country*, directed by Morris Maltz
- Best Narrative Short: *Lunch Break*, directed by Nina Kopek
- Audience Award, Best Feature Film: *Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest*, directed by Nancy Svendsen
- Audience Award, Best Short Film: *Monsieur Le Butch*, directed by Jude Dry
- Vermont Symphony Orchestra Award for Best Integration of Music into Film (two awardees): *The Social Chameleon*, directed by Alex Ross; *Born Under Punches*, directed by Gaoyang Ganjin
- AICEF Prize for Cross Cultural Filmmaking: *Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest*, directed by Nancy Svendsen
- Hernandez/Bayliss Prize for Triumph of the Human Spirit: *Charm Circle*, directed by Nira Burstein
- Clio Visualizing His-

tory Prize for the Advancement of Women in Film (two awardees): *The Automat*, directed by Lisa Hurwitz; *Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest*, directed by Nancy Svendsen

• Gaia Prize for Environmental Filmmaking: *Hiding in the Walls*, directed by David Sebastiao and Angel King Wilson

• Shouldice Family Prize for Best Vermont-Made Film: *The Life of Stephen Bates*, directed by Chris Spencer

• Thaddeus Stevens Prize for Social Engagement (2 Awardees): *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*, directed by Emily and Sarah Kunstler; *Bad Axe*, directed by David Siev

• Ralph Steiner Prize for Poetic Cinema: *The Unknown Country*, directed by Morrisa Maltz

• Kate Hearst Prize for Human Connectivity: *The Pomegranate Tree*, directed by Kanika Vora

• Gamble-Paison Prize for Best International Feature Film: *Clouds of Chernobyl*, directed by Ligia Ciornei

Additionally, an outstanding roster of MNFF8 Honorees received their VTeddy Awards on Closing Night:

• Maggie Gyllenhaal, Outstanding Achievement on Both Sides of the Camera

• Marc Levin, Sustained Excellence in Independent Filmmaking

• Tyler Davidson, Sustained Excellence in Film Producing

• Nora Jacobson, Sustained Excellence in Independent Filmmaking

• Judy Hyman and Jeff Claus, Sustained Excellence in Film Scoring

• Lindsay Crouse, Pioneer in Pursuing Film as Journalism

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival has set August 23-27, 2023, for its 9th Annual event. The Festival's submission window for new films by first and second-time filmmakers will open on the FilmFree-way platform on January 3, 2023, and remain open through the end of May. Additional details will be announced in the months to come.

## Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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

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

