

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

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, April 26, 2023

\$1



TIME TRAVEL

Brandon Town Hall to screen videos of Neshobe School Players productions from the 90s.

PG. 3

DAVE ATHERTON

Pittsford Town Manager David Atherton discusses his time as Brandon TM and the future in Pittsford.

PG. 3

HARD TELLIN'

Dave Praamsma questions the "Happiest Country in the World."

PG. 11



LOCAL MOVIE

"The Farm Boy": a love story about a Vermont boy who goes to fight in WWII.

PG. 23



REV YOUR ENGINES!

Devil's Bowl to open for the season..

PG. 22



Rainbow over the 'Sunshine Village'

A BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW arcs perfectly over Maclure Library in Pittsford Village as trees send out the first green buds of the season.

Photo by Donna Bedard



HARRY HUNT BEAMS as he poses with the ax he received to mark 50 years as a volunteer with the Brandon Fire Department

Photo by George Fjeld

Harry Hunt celebrates 50 years on the Brandon Fire Dept.

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- Harry E. Hunt was recently honored for 50 years with the Brandon Fire Department with the presentation of a shiny

new fire ax. Hunt, now 80 years old, belonged to the Pittsford Fire Department for 6 years before joining Brandon. Reflecting on (See Harry Hunt, Page 24)

Brandon SB seeks replacement for outgoing Seth Hopkins

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard on Monday night made a formal offer to Seth Hopkins to assume the role of town manager

at a salary of \$75,000. Mr. Hopkins now officially occupies the position. Bill Moore, who had been acting as interim town manager since Dave (See Brandon SB, Page 22)

Brandon Methodist Church reaches out and looks within

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Methodist Church (BMC) has stood at the intersection of Franklin and Carver Streets in downtown Brandon since 1876. The beautiful building has taken some hits over the years—it's seen fires and floods and even lost its steeple—but it's

still rooted to its place, a fitting edifice for a congregation that's determined not to disappear.

The sanctuary is large enough to hold over a hundred worshippers; these days, however, not more than 7 or 8 are likely to show up for services.

"When I got here, it was (See Brandon Methodist, Page 8)



(L TO R) Vicki Disorda, Carol Houle, Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman, Mike Clarke, and Janet Galusha stand in the sanctuary of the Brandon Methodist Church. The tiny congregation is working hard to revive the church and has recently implemented several successful new programs.

Photo: Steven Jupiter



GET READY FOR 2023 AT YOUR BRANDON TOWN HALL AND COMMUNITY CENTER



Friday, May 12, 6:00 pm

Neshobe School Players Film Festival

6:00 pm... "Hollywood Hoedown" (1998)
Free Will Donation

Saturday, May 13, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Neshobe School Players Film Festival

1:00 pm... "Flapper" (2002)
3:00 pm... "Westward Whoa" (1995)
5:00 pm... "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory" (1990)
Free Will Donation

Sunday, May 14, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Neshobe School Players Film Festival

1:00 pm... "Peter Pan" (1996)
3:00 pm... "Kilroy Was Here" (1999)
Free Will Donation

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Pilgrim" (1923) with Charlie Chaplin

Free Will Donation

Friday, June 2, 7:00 pm

A Brandon Museum Presentation

Thomas Davenport film, "The Indomitable Blacksmith"
& Kevin Thornton's classic, "Death in The Wilderness"
Free Will Donation

Saturday, June 3, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Temptress" (1926) with Greta Garbo

Free Will Donation

June 30 - July 8, Various times

Brandon Chamber of Commerce Auction

Upstairs in the Town Hall. Check the Chamber Website or Reporter for hours.

Saturday, July 1, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

4th of July Celebration & Open House

Visit/tour your town hall, concession will be open for cold drinks & snacks. Watch the parade at 10:00 am from the front steps of the hall.

Saturday, July 15, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The General" (1926) with Buster Keaton

Free Will Donation

Saturday, July 29, 7:00 pm

L.C. Jazz Dance Band

Fundraiser for the band's scholarship program and the Town Hall renovations.

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$7, Couples - \$14

Saturday, August 5, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Town Wide Yard Sale Day

Vendors upstairs only. Concession area open for drinks and snacks. 8 x 10 vendor space plus one 6' table available for \$20. Contact Dennis at denniswwarden@gmail.com or leave a message at 802-247-5420 to reserve a space.

Saturday, August 19, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Ten Commandments" (1923) with Cecil B. DeMille

Free Will Donation

Saturday, August 26, 7:30 pm

Onion River Jazz Dance Band

7-piece traditional Dixieland Jazz Band with local resident Gene Childers.

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$7, Couples - \$14

Saturday, September 9, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Freshman" (1925) with Harold Lloyd

Free Will Donation

Saturday, September 30, 7:30 pm

Blues Without Borders Band

Covers of blues, rock tunes, and a few classics. Plus original blues music.

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$7, Couples - \$14

Friday, October 6, 7:30 pm

Mamajamas, Middlebury College's co-ed a cappella group

Tunes from Michael Jackson to Adele and everything in between.

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$6

Saturday, October 7, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "My Best Girl" (1927) with Mary Pickford

Free Will Donation

Sunday, October 8, 3 - 6 pm & Monday, October 9, 6 - 8 pm

Auditions for "Brandon Has Talent"

Call 802-247-5420 or email Dennis at denniswwarden@gmail.com to schedule a day and time.

Friday, October 27, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Cat and The Canary" (1927)

Our annual Chiller Theater!

Free Will Donation

Saturday, October 28, 7:00 pm

Michele Fay Band

Original & Americana music with folk, swing, and bluegrass-influenced songs.

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$6

Saturday, November 4, 7:00 pm

"9th Annual Brandon Has Talent Show"

Lots of fun for the cast and audience!

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$5, Children 5 & Under - Free

Friday, November 10, 7:30 pm

Dissipated 8, Middlebury College's male a capella group

Great harmonies, a touch of comedy, and interaction with the audience combine to make this a Town Hall favorite.

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$6

Saturday, November 11, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Big Parade" (1925)

Salute Veterans Day with this saga about U.S. Doughboys in France in 1917.

Free Will Donation

Saturday, November 18, 2:00 pm

No Strings Marionettes presents "A Christmas Carol"

Special finger puppet workshop from 1:00 - 1:45.

Tickets: Adults - \$8, Seniors & Students - \$5, Children 5 & under - Free

Sunday, November 26, 3:30 pm

Memory Tree Lighting

Start the holiday season off with this meaningful & enduring tradition of remembrance.

Wednesday, December 6 & Friday, December 8

Town Wide Moonlight Madness, 4 - 8 pm

Two nights, different vendors up and downstairs. Soup, chili, and hot chocolate for sale at the concession area. If you would like to reserve a space on either night, send an email to Dennis at denniswwarden@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 802-247-5420.

Brandon Town Hall to screen 90s Neshobe school plays

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—An entire generation of Brandon Millennials is about to be embarrassed, in the best possible way. Dennis Marden, former Neshobe art teacher and current President of the Friends of Town Hall, has scrounged up VHS tapes of some of the productions put on

(1996), “Hollywood Hoedown” (1998), “Kilroy Was Here” (1999), and “Flapper” (2002).

The kids in these productions were in 5th and 6th grades when they performed. They are now in their 30s and 40s, many with kids of their own, but they’re instantly recognizable even in their miniature

would memorize everyone’s lines and mouth them while the other kids were speaking.

The plays were put on the school gymnasium, on a stage that was built specifically for the purpose. Students helped with the lighting and sound as well. Parents supervised costumes, makeup, and set design. Several of the hundreds of students who participated in the productions over the years have gone on to careers in theater. Marden noted that Eric Mallette, who now manages the Paramount in Rutland, was in two plays at Neshobe.

Marden still lives in Brandon and sometimes runs into former students around town.

“I was at the store and this girl was looking at me and finally asks ‘Aren’t you Mr. Marden? I was in King Arthur.’ She must’ve been about 40 already,” he said.

Marden wants these now-grown students to enjoy seeing themselves putting so much sincere effort and talent into their performances, and even to bring their own children to see mom and/or dad putting on a show. When you’re a kid, it’s always so hard to believe that your own parents were ever kids themselves. But the proof is right there on tape, and Dennis Marden is eager to share it with the community.

The schedule of showings at Brandon Town Hall is as follows:



DAN NELSON AS Willy Wonka in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”



EMILY NELSON AS Mrs. Bucket in 1990’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

Screenshots from provided video.

by the Neshobe School Players in the 90s and early 00s and will be screening them at Town Hall over the entire weekend of May 12.

“I watched every single tape,” said Marden. “I chose the videos that were the best for clarity and for performance.”

Even though the series began with “The Wizard of Oz” in 1988, the chosen productions are “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” (1990), “Westward Whoa!” (1995), “Peter Pan”

form. “It’s amazing how small they were,” said Marden. “I’m 6 foot and they were just about up to my waist.”

“Everyone had to audition with an easy song and a reading,” Marden said, “though we never turned anyone down. We have every kid at least one line in the play.” Even with as many as 92 kids in a production, Marden recalled that no one ever had trouble memorizing their lines. In fact, it was often quite the opposite: the kids



SCENE FROM 1999’S “Kilroy Was Here.” (L to R) Nyssa Lee, Brianna Reed, Heidi Fjeld, Kyle Merkert, Connor Horvath, Andrew Schauwacker.

- Fri May 12 at 6pm: *Hollywood Hoedown!*
- Sat May 13 at 1pm: *Flapper*
- Sat May 13 at 3pm: *Westward Whoa!*
- Sat May 13 at 5pm: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

- Sun May 14 at 1pm: *Peter Pan*
- Sun May 14 at 3pm: *Kilroy was Here!*

Pittsford Town Manager Dave Atherton settles in and looks back

PITTSFORD—A few months have passed since Dave Atherton’s resignation as Brandon town manager and his assumption of the same role in Pittsford. The Reporter sat down with him at the Town Offices in Pittsford for a conversation about his new role in Pittsford and his days in Brandon.

A 5th-generation Vermonter—he grew up in Bristol—Atherton moved to Brandon in 2010. He’d been running a title-search company for 20 years when he made the decision to run for Brandon Selectboard. At a candidate forum before the election, someone asked him about Segment 6, the long-debated, long-postponed infrastructure plan to renovate and reconfigure Brandon’s downtown. In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, which did significant physical damage to Brandon, the topic was especially relevant: how was the town going to pull itself back together?

“I don’t remember what my answer was,” said Atherton. “But it must’ve been better than the other candidate’s because I got elected.”

After his election to the Selectboard, unseating a longtime incumbent in a surprise victory, Atherton “began seeing lots of invoices but not a lot of progress” with regard to Segment 6. There were several entities that had been contracted to provide services in connection with the project, but Atherton wasn’t seeing results.

“I thought I could do better,” he said, referring to the way in which these matters were being handled at the time. Atherton was on the Selectboard through the tenures of two different town managers and when the second resigned, the board asked him to take the job in 2015.

“I figured I’d give it a try.” Atherton “jumped in with both feet to clean the town up.” Working with Daryl Burlett—the public

works manager at the time—Atherton made it a priority to open up the Town Office and town parks that had been closed since Irene. That the Office and parks remained closed nearly 4 years after the storm very much annoyed him. And he felt that the previous town managers should’ve been able to restore them to public use. “I learned a lot about process from Daryl,” Atherton said. “I learned a lot about how to get things done.”

Another priority as town manager was Segment 6 itself.

“Segment 6 was like folklore you tell around a campfire,” Atherton laughed. “No one believed it was ever going to happen.”

One of Atherton’s first moves was to terminate the contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), the multistate firm that had been hired as project manager for Segment 6. VHB had been one of the entities submitting invoices without much to show for

it, in Atherton’s view.

“I got calls from the state asking what I was thinking letting VHB go,” he said. The project was still in the right-of-way stage, in which permissions from landowners abutting the project area were being gathered. “The state thought it would take me 3 years to get all the signatures. It took me 1.5.” The difference, Atherton reckons, was that he was able to meet with them personally. One holdout finally gave in “after three beers.”

According to Atherton, a big key to his success in getting Segment 6 off the ground and then completed was in having a great team.

“Having the folks to work with was key to our success. It wasn’t just me,” said Atherton.

In addition to Burlett, Atherton gives particular credit to Town Treasurer and Clerk Sue Gage.

“Working together on budgets

and financing got us in a good position to get grants.”

In fact, obtaining grants is one of the less obvious aspects of the town manager position. The job is much more than making sure potholes are fixed and streets are plowed. The town manager is responsible for finding the money to complete all the town’s necessary projects, many of which exceed the town’s own resources. Atherton estimates that in his time as town manager he brought in close to \$5 million in grants to cover projects such as flood mitigation, water and waste management, and bridge repair. He counted 6 ongoing grant projects at the time of his resignation from Brandon.

But Segment 6 was undoubtedly Atherton’s most complex and costly project. Indeed, it was one of the most complex and costly infrastructure projects in Vermont’s history.

“The project was kind of fun, (See Dave Atherton, Page 15)

BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Empathy is key to true communication

BY HILARY COLLIER,

Neshobe Elementary School—Every day, I go to work, and my two young daughters and I spend the day in a school where they are able to pursue their right to education and I am able to pursue my passion for working with young minds.

But education can only happen effectively when that atmosphere remains one of safety and support, and every day that opportunity is taken away from children and educators all over our country, because our schools have become battlegrounds. Many of us feel powerless in our ability to create any kind

of meaningful change around this issue, particularly when our world has become so divisive that the kind of “communication” modeled for young people today is more likely to include

name-calling and bullying than any level of compassion or understanding. But the truth is that we can all effect more change than we think if we focus our efforts towards empathy.

I have had the chance this year to participate in a book group run by a colleague looking at Nonviolent Communication by Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD. It provides a toolbox for getting to the root of our actual needs so that we can find solutions to problems, not just Band-Aids, and one of the big-

gest pieces of using nonviolent communication (NVC) successfully is empathy.

Most of us think we understand empathy, and many of us probably even think we are empathetic towards others. But the truth is that empathy actually requires far less than we think or, as Marshall Rosenberg says, “Don’t just do something, stand there.” True empathy requires “emptying our minds and listening with our whole being,” and frequently our intellectual understanding of a problem gets in the way of being present in the way that empathy requires. We are quick to provide emotional support, or a solution for some-

thing, or share a time when we had a similar experience, but very rarely do we just listen.

When we listen without any other motive but to hear the other person, we can actually comprehend

We don't have to agree with someone to show them empathy, we just need to give them the space to feel heard.

and reflect back what they are needing, and in that way develop the necessary perspective to allow the person to feel heard and understood. We as humans like to fix things, and that desire blocks our ability to effectively help someone who just needs to feel heard. If we can change how we communicate with others so that we leave room for developing perspective and understanding, and recognize the actual needs that others are trying to communicate through

(See *empathy*, Page 6)



Sing a song of sweet joy

THIS PINE WARBLER is one of the earlier warbler migrants. Unlike most warblers this one winters in the south states. This bird was one of several at Mt. Independence.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Celebrate Green-Up Day on May 6th

Green Up Day is coming! Green Up Day is always the first Saturday in May and falls on May 6 this year! Every year, a group of Brandon volunteers of all ages, sizes, and dispositions “celebrates” Green Up Day by picking up trash along the roadsides in our community and cleaning away the accumulated debris from the past year. Those efforts greatly improve the appearance of our town and neighborhoods and contribute to the overall beauty of the state.

For those not familiar with this annual event, Green Up Day is organized by a state coordinator and local volunteers. Green Up Day is not funded by the State of Vermont but, rather, through private donations and contributions by individual towns. This truly is a local effort, supported by local people. Volunteers walk the routes

(usually about an hour or two) and collect roadside debris into plastic bags that are provided. There is no charge for the disposal of the debris, and arrangements for pickup and delivery to the town dump are made when needed.

Green Up Day is not funded by the State of Vermont but, rather, through private donations and contributions by individual towns.

If you would like to help clean up our community, I will be available at the gazebo in Central Park (across from the Brandon Inn) on Saturday morning, May 6, from 8AM to 10AM, to provide Green Up Day garbage bags and route assignments. Volunteers with pick-up trucks are helpful, as we typically need help getting the trash delivered from the roadsides to the “Green Up” dumpster. If you’d like to help with “truck duty” please plan to meet at 10AM at the gazebo in Central Park for route assignments. Please call me in advance of Green Up Day if

you are aware of an illegal dump site or an especially hard-hit area that could use some special attention and resources.

Green Up Day bags and/or route assignments are available for those who would like to get an early start or who otherwise will not be available on Green Up Day. Please call me.

I recommend that volunteers wear sturdy work gloves as some items along our roadsides can be harmful and unhealthy (i.e., broken bottles, dirty diapers, etc.). We also recommend that you keep an eye on our younger Green Up Day volunteers to ensure that they don’t pick up any items that may pose a hazard to them or others. Let’s have a fun, safe, and productive Green Up Day! I hope to see you on Saturday, May 6!

Thank you,
Jim Leary

Brandon Green Up
Day Coordinator
jimleary54@gmail.com
247-9595

The REPORTER

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Letter to the Editor

Thank you to the Brandon Selectboard for your work

I would like to commend the Select Board for the exemplary candidates they selected for consideration as town manager. Each was undoubtedly qualified and interviewed well. The interviews were fair and consistent. The interview committee was given an opportunity to ask questions of each applicant as well as the Select Board. In my opinion, three of the four candidates demonstrated a genuine and vested interest in Brandon. This could not have been an easy decision to make. Kudos to the Select Board for making it so expeditiously.

Thank you to those who applied for the position and to the Select Board for giving me and others an opportunity to peek behind the curtain. As a Brandon native, the vision for the town of one of the candidates in particular resonated with me. I am grateful to this person for stepping up to apply for the job and to know that the Select Board had the opportunity to hear him. Going forward, I hope to see each of these local candidates participate in town planning and leadership roles as they are able.

One thing that strikes me personally about Seth Hopkins as a candidate for town manager was how he conducted himself in the Select Board meetings leading up to the interviews. In each instance the topic of the town manager position came up, Seth recused himself from the meeting and in no way tried to influence the outcome of the process. To my mind and experience, Seth demonstrated exceptional ethical behavior. Brandon should expect no less from any of our town leaders. I have every confidence Mr. Hopkins will put the needs of the silent majority and marginalized citizens of Brandon ahead of any personal agendas.

Congratulations Seth and best of luck.

*Sincerely & Respectfully
Submitted,
Vicki Disorda
Brandon*

Ms. Disorda was a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee that aided the Brandon Selectboard in its recently completed search for a new town manager.

Community Forums Homeless Prevention Center to Host Spring Sprockets

Most days of the week the Homeless Prevention Center is focused on getting people indoors...and keeping them in housing. On Saturday, May 6th, that's being flipped as the local nonprofit organization hosts their second annual Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its fun ride & walk at Pine Hill Park

"This is our little celebration of Spring, of getting back to those outdoor activities we enjoy as a community, and of these fantastic trails at Pine Hill," said Angus Chaney, Executive Director of HPC. "It's been an intense couple of years for the many Vermonters we work with. One thing we see, once people secure stable housing and have their emergency needs met, is the importance of things like community, fun, outdoor time, a little exercise. Life is more than just stably existing, right?"

The event's sponsors include Heritage Family Credit Union, Alpine Bike Works, Commu-

nity Care Network, Engineering Services of Vermont, the Granite Group, Come Alive Outside, Vermont Bedrooms, Installation Station, Peter Lakatos D.M.D., Jay Kullman, and Goodro Lumbar.

Local Vermont businesses such as Baird Farm, Green Mountain Bikes, Roots, Phoenix Books, and Wild Kind Toys also donate prizes for the trail scrambles.

This year's Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its will run 10ish to 2ish. In addition to social rides and walks, scavenger hunts and nature activities, DJ Bill Moore and the Rollin' Rooster food truck will be there to entertain and feed.

Date: Saturday, May 6

Location: Pine Hill Park, Rutland City, Vermont.

More information on this event and the work of the Homeless Prevention Center can be found at: www.hpcvt.org

Brandon Police seek help ID'ing thief

The Brandon Police Department is investigating the theft of a pride sign/flag from a residence on Rydon Acres in the Town of Brandon on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Video footage of the theft was obtained and shared online by someone believed to be uninvolved in the crime, but the perpetrator has not yet been identified.

Anyone with information relating to the theft or to the identity of the perpetrator is asked to contact the Brandon Police Department.



Letters to the editor

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

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

former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

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

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

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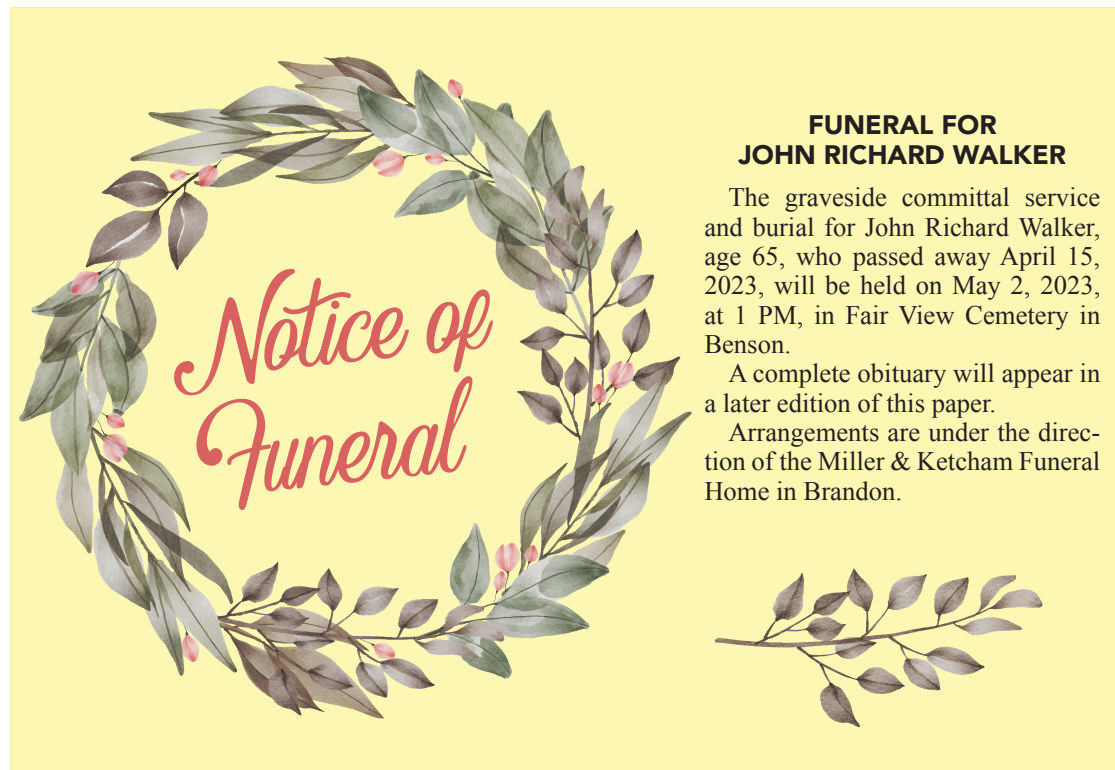
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**FUNERAL FOR
JOHN RICHARD WALKER**

The graveside committal service and burial for John Richard Walker, age 65, who passed away April 15, 2023, will be held on May 2, 2023, at 1 PM, in Fair View Cemetery in Benson.

A complete obituary will appear in a later edition of this paper.

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

Reviving Earth Day in Brandon

BY JIM EMERSON

Brandon — In some traditions (particularly in the West), man's relationship to the earth is about learning to "take dominion" over it. Contrary to this mindset, many of us started to recognize the wisdom of the many native traditions of listening to the earth and its many life forms, of stewarding the earth, and of serving its life force. As we strive to recognize the extent of our impact on 'Mother Earth' as our population has quadrupled in the lifetimes of most of us, perhaps it is time to step back and ponder how we might best listen to the needs of our home.

Kathy Clark and Robert Black, volunteers with the Brandon Energy Committee, took inspiration to call on our community to do just this.

When asked why we should revive Earth Day in Brandon, Kathy Clark replied, "I just think we should not let Earth Day pass by without thinking about reducing our footprint on the earth. We can and should all of us be mindful of our limited resources." Robert Black's response:

"Whether we realize it or not, we are all connected in a living web of water, air, plants, and animals. Especially here in Brandon, we sometimes take for granted the natural beauty of this place and forget that we are responsible to care for this beauty in caring for our own livelihoods."

—Robert Black

"Whether we realize it or not, we are all connected in a living web of water, air, plants, and animals. Especially here in Brandon, we sometimes take for granted the natural beauty of this place and forget that we are responsible to care for this beauty in caring for our own livelihoods. Working together, we can nurture the diversity we are blessed with each day, among our friends and relatives, and within the environment of this amazing place we call Brandon. Earth Day is another opportunity to remember our gratitude for life."

At the Energy Committee's Earth Day event, Robert spoke of Earth Day as being about "engaging in a conversation." I took this to mean a conversation among ourselves about what our earth needs. On another level, he may have implied engaging in a conversation with Mother Earth. For just as we converse with our children before they speak and understand, or with our dog or

cat, even with our plants; just as we strive to attune to the needs of these nonverbal beings, so might we strive to attune ourselves to the non-verbally expressed needs of our Mother Earth.

Our native ancestors had an instinctual connection to the earth and even to the cosmos as living beings, imbued with spirit. As our consciousness has evolved, (assuming for a moment it is not devolving!), we, especially in the western world, have turned toward seeing the world as merely a material resource. And, at that, mostly a resource we are free to exploit to satisfy our desires.

Perhaps it is high time to shift our attention, our attunement, if

you will. Not to an unthinking connection to Mother Earth, but to a genuine "living thinking". An attuned thinking, that listens to the call of nature, that contemplates its needs.

I heard a claim recently that this "alive" thinking is only born out of adopting an attitude of awe or even astonishment toward what meets us in the natural world. That fos-

tering a disposition of awe and reverence for nature in all of its expressions is the foundation for not just awareness, but for the experience of a living, mutually nurturing connection with life.

Perhaps our contemplations can renew our relationships with all we encounter. Perhaps Earth Day is an invitation to awaken a new perspective on developing harmony with our own lives and the world.

Let us renew Earth Day in Brandon, every day!

This year's approach was to build wildflower beds at the new temporary entrance to the Town Library as well as plant wildflowers at the delightful 17 Franklin Street private lot brought to life by many volunteers for use as a temporary park by the neighborhood and the community.

Watch for more engaging undertakings in years to come, as Earth Day deserves our mindful attention!!

Empathy

(Continued from Page 4)

their sometimes-misplaced words or actions, we gain the ability to see a way forward, rather than run into a roadblock to communication.

We can take the mental time and space to understand that "people who seem like monsters are simply human beings whose language and behavior sometimes keep us from seeing their humanness." We don't have to agree with someone to show them empathy, we just need to give them the space to feel heard. Empathy gives us an opportunity "to re-perceive [our] world in a new way and go on."

So, if empathy is actually such a simple thing, why aren't more of us better at it? Some of the problem lies in our need to fix things, or relate our own experiences to those of others, but another huge piece of this is that we cannot show empathy to others if we are not empathetic with ourselves. Marshall Rosenberg highlights this when


he says, "The most crucial application of NVC may be in the way we treat ourselves."

One of the interesting things about NVC is that as individuals, we can practice these strategies, even if the person we are interacting with has no knowledge of or interest in NVC or its components. If we are able to use NVC to show empathy to ourselves and recognize what our own needs are, we are far more effective at doing this with others. In society today, we have been trained to judge ourselves and others based on a model of competition and acquisition of material entities. Unfortunately, this means that we evaluate ourselves in a way that promotes more self-hatred than learning, and that kind of negative evaluation can stop creativity and intellectual development in its tracks. We are too busy comparing ourselves to others to recognize our own authentic needs.

But we can choose to learn from failure and grow intellec-

tually rather than seeing it as a flaw or a reason to quit. We can regain the growth mindset that is necessary for effective social emotional development if we choose to be intentional in our communication and understanding of needs, both with others and with ourselves.

School is so much more than just a place for children to learn and develop academic skills. It is the place where they spend a huge portion of their day, and a place where they need to feel supported and safe before they can begin to succeed academically. We can help our students thrive by showing them the beauty in being empathetic with themselves, and in giving themselves the space and resources to figure out their own needs and address them effectively. And by giving them that, they are able to give that to others. Children are indeed our future, so let's help them develop the toolbox they need in order to begin fixing this broken world.



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Pittsford Selectboard talks history, website, and solar

BY WILL ROSS

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard gathered on Wednesday, April 19 to go over town business. In attendance were members of the Crown Point Road Association. The association's president, Barry Griffith, informed the Selectboard about an upcoming event in the town of Pittsford.

The Crown Point Road was constructed in 1759–1760 and played a significant role in the history of Vermont. Originally built to connect the stone fort at Crown Point with Charlestown, New Hampshire, the road traversed northwest from Charlestown and crossed Otter Creek around Rutland. From here, it continued northward up the creek through Pittsford. The road was originally navigated by following a series of stone markers, and though many of these have been lost to the hands of time, the Crown Point Road Association is doing its part to preserve this history by placing new monuments along the route that the road once

took. One such monument is being relocated to a more historically accurate location, and the association felt it would be appropriate to host a rededication ceremony. The ceremony will occur on Sunday, May 7th, at 1:00 PM. It will be located at 7565 Whipple Hollow Road in Florence and will include a few speakers from the Crown Point Road Association and the Pittsford Historical Society.

Another talking point was the decision to update the town website. The current website is out of date and has presented many technical problems when it comes to updating town positions and changing representatives. The new website will take 1-3 months to complete and will cost around \$3,600 to develop, not including the annual maintenance and domain fees. Town Manager David Atherton stated he would like to see the new website include policies and ordinances to make information more accessible for residents.

A third point of discussion

was the town's preferred solar site selection. As the number of large solar projects continues to grow, a sunny town like Pittsford is an ideal candidate for a solar site. However, Atherton felt that there needs to be more regulation around these sites' locations. Board member Mark Winslow stated, "I think the time is right. We have put in our portion. I think we are almost even with what the state recommends we have for solar." The ideal location for sites would be on parcels with industrial zoning that are no longer in use. The Selectboard decided to recommend the planning commission take this into consideration and draft guidelines for preferred solar site selection.

IN OTHER NEWS:

- The interior of the town offices will be painted.
- Light poles were selected for the upcoming bridge project on Route 7.
- There is a siren test planned for May 9th for the Chittenden Dam spillway.

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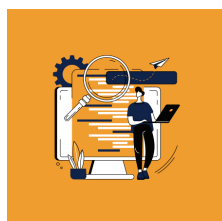
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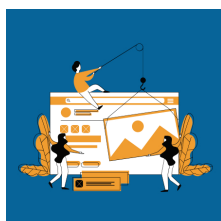
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THE BRANDON METHODIST Church has stood at the intersection of Carver and Franklin Streets since the 1870s. The physical maintenance of the building is a daunting task but the congregation has recently replaced the roof and is working to obtain further grants.

Brandon Methodist

(Continued from Page 1)

just us four,” said Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman, referring to himself, Myron “Mike” Clarke, Janet Galusha, and Carol Houle. The four of them, along with Vicki Disorda, gathered at the church on a recent afternoon to talk about the challenges of keeping BMC going and the success they’ve been having with some of their newest initiatives.

Hardman-Zimmerman came to BMC in 2021, determined to revitalize what had once been a thriving congregation. The Pastor and his wife live in Poultney and divide their time among

6 local congregations, a sign not only of their commitment to their faith but also of the struggle of Mainline Protestant churches to maintain ample numbers. In fact, a rumor had been circulating in Brandon that BMC would be closed by the Methodist Conference and the building would be sold. When Hardman-Zimmerman arrived at BMC, word was that he had been sent by the Methodist Conference to wind things down.

“There was never any intention to wrap things up,” Hard-

man-Zimmerman said.

“Our previous pastor, Kenneth Bevan, wrote an article for The Reporter to dispel those rumors,” added Carol Houle, who has been a congregant at BMC for 25 years or so. “But apparently no one paid attention to it.”

But neither the Methodist Conference nor Pastor Hardman-Zimmerman nor any worshipper at BMC had any desire to see the congregation phased

“If you’re wanting to cultivate your inner life, this is a good place to do it,”
— Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman

out. But the task of resuscitating a moribund church, best intentions notwithstanding, was daunting.

“It looked like a phenomenal challenge,” said Hardman-Zimmerman. “A miracle was needed. And I think that miracle is underway.”

Early attempts at attracting new members fell flat. Mike Clarke, organist and in-house composer, pulled out all the stops decorating the church for Christmas services in 2022.

“The church was stunningly beautiful. No one came,” said Hardman-Zimmerman.

Clarke was crestfallen: “It was demoralizing.” But the congregation soldiered on, confident that it had something special to offer the Brandon

community but unsure how to draw people in.

“The quality of our services is top notch,” said Hardman-Zimmerman. “And every week Mike has one or two original compositions.”

The congregation tried organizing a 7-session prayer course, to teach people how they can integrate prayer into their daily lives in different ways.

“We got the basic course from the internet,” said Janet Galusha, “but we expanded on it here.”

The Pastor even reached out to The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS), hoping to initiate a sincere dialogue with them about their work investigating paranormal activity. But TAPS ultimately declined the invitation, apparently worried that the experience would be adversarial rather than collegial. “I thought it would be stimulating. Their history with churches hasn’t been positive,” said Hardman-Zimmerman.

But BMC has historically not been a typical church.

In years past, BMC was known as an open, progressive place. Jennie Masterson, who grew up in Brandon and whose family was involved with the church in the late 60s and early 70s, recalled that it was a great place for kids.

“It was very liberal, and we (See Brandon Methodist, Page 9)

Brandon Methodist

(Continued from Page 8)
had some really neat pastors who worked closely with teenagers, taking lots of trips and getting them out of Brandon to see the world,” Masterson said. “We had rap [60s/70s slang for conversation] nights when we would stay overnight at the church in sleeping bags, play guitar, watch movies, discuss world issues. Anybody was welcome from any denomination.”

But over the years, participation in organized religion

member, one of the more recent additions to the congregation. She had not been affiliated with a church for many years and originally approached BMC simply to see whether the church would be willing to get involved in community charity work, such as the Brandon Food Shelf. But once she began getting to know BMC, she felt a strong connection and now leads services when Pastor Hardman-Zimmerman is at one of his other congregations.

“I came out of curiosity,”

and connection. The program was created in the wake of the pandemic, which had left many people feeling isolated and alone.

“It didn’t take long to catch on,” said Hardman-Zimmerman. In recent weeks, as many as 17 people have shown up.

“There seemed to be a core group that was very eager,” added Galusha.

Friends Zone is a place to socialize, play board games, talk, have homemade soup.

“We always have goodies on Tuesday,” laughed Disorda.

Friends Zone is not a religious event, and the point is not to convert anyone to Methodism, but some attendees of the program have become regular church members and one has been baptized. In contrast to the meager attendance at Christmas, the more robust attendance at Easter was heartening.

“You have to give the love away,” said Clarke, speaking of the need to engage with the larger community in order to sustain the community at BMC.

“Spiritual growth has to be expressed in outward ways,” added Hardman-Zimmerman.

The future at BMC is looking bright, thanks to the renewed energy of the pastor and the committed crew he shepherds. The dormancy of recent years is being replaced by action and optimism, even as concerns the physical structure of the church itself.

“There’s been concern that we weren’t taking care of the building,” said Carol Houle. It frustrated the congregation to hear people around town propose other uses for their spiritual home, as if it had been abandoned.

“We’re actively pursuing grants,” said the pastor. “If we had the money, we’d take care of it all. But we are doing what we can.”

In addition to grants, BMC raises money with a small in-house store that sells used items, much like a scaled-down version of Nifty Thrifty, with whom BMC often partners.

“Outreach is key,” said Hardman-Zimmerman. “We want to be a community resource.”

“Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead,” said Disorda, referencing James 2:17.

“If you’re wanting to cultivate your inner life, this is a good place to do it,” added the pastor.

“It’s real here,” said Disorda. “We’re just getting started.”



THE METHODIST CHURCH as it appeared in the late 1800s, before it lost its steeple.

has declined in the Northeast. Mainline denominations, such as the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal Churches, have all seen steep drops in numbers, as congregations age out and younger generations opt not to get involved. Vermont, in particular, has been dubbed “the least religious state” in the U.S.

The only Christian denominations that have seen increases among the young are evangelical, a trend that Hardman-Zimmerman attributes to those denominations’ propensity for boisterous services with rock music.

“Our appeal is to more mature worshippers,” he offered. “We’re introspective, contemplative, meditative. We ask the big questions about life. It doesn’t have to be all hype. We try to bring everything back to the love of God.”

Vicki Disorda is a current

Disorda said. “It was so welcoming; I came back every Sunday.”

“Vicki has been a godsend,” said Hardman-Zimmerman. “She’s been a real initiator of the new activity here. We’re very open to trying new things.”

“That’s what I love about this church,” Disorda responded. “Nothing is outside the realm of possibility here.”

The “new activity” that the Pastor referenced includes a new home for the Brandon Food Shelf, which relocated from the Brandon Congregational Church to the Brandon Senior Center during the pandemic and is now housed at BMC.

It also includes a successful new effort called Friends Zone, which takes place every Tuesday from noon to 3 pm and is designed to give community members a time and place to gather for camaraderie

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STATEMENT FROM AUBREE:

I was just making a big drawing (the original picture is 18 x 24 inches) and I let the pencil go where it wanted to go. Then I decided to splatter paint on it and boom, you have a splash of color.

STATEMENT FROM MR. B:

This picture is big, bright, and lots of fun. Aubree is a great art student and always brings a smile to class. Her creativity and positive attitude inspire me and her classmates. Hopefully this picture will brighten your day too!



Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

Why it's hard to be happy about Finland's "Happiness Streak"

Finland has just been awarded "Happiest Country in the World" for its sixth straight year, and while I'm sure they are all marvelously joyful people, I for one would like to call for a full audit.

I guess anything is possible, but that one country might dominate this title for six years running is a little problematic for the rest of us.

On behalf of less-than-happy countries, let me just say that we can handle coming in the moderately-to-partially happy category. But I think I speak for the rest of the planet when I say it feels like a kind of happiness monopoly is going on. That the Finns seem to have a lock on happiness for the last half-decade can only spell increasing unhappiness for the rest of us. In fact, just writing this makes me feel like my numbers are dropping.

Actually, the whole "Happiest Country" business reminds me of an old neighbor of mine. Judging by the constant traffic of cars and

friends in his driveway, you could have concluded his place was Happiness Central. Come summer time, his backyard was a near-constant barbeque party: lights in the trees, jovial people milling around lawn chairs, laughter. Endless games of cornhole. This guy was Finland personified. If I had lived within earshot, I most certainly would have been calling in a complaint or two.

But since the rest of the world can't really phone in a complaint about the endless happiness party that seems to be Finland, I think we are at least entitled to a little clarification. Finland,

to be blunt, really needs to explain their happiness.

Of course, I'm sure the folks on the UN Committee will tell you there are established rules and criteria and all that. Longevity. Nice social supports, I suppose. No ugly economic disparities between the haves and have-nots. "Sense of Fulfillment" (Yada, Yada, Yada).

Aside from all the statistical stuff, what I and the rest of the world are really struggling with is "why Finland?" I'm sure (See Hard Tellin', Page 21)

But at best the Finns themselves describe it as a spirit of "silent relentlessness" or "grim determination in the face of hardships." Happiness apparently has more to do with contentment and not complaining than with endless barbeques.

Leicester News Green Up Day is coming soon!

Bags are available at the Town Office and will be available at the town shed the morning of Green Up. The annual volunteer lunch will be held Sat, May 6, from 11:30 to 1:00, in front of the Senior Center. Lunch tickets, that double as raffle tickets, will be available at the trailer at the Town Shed the morning of Green Up. The goal is for 100% of the roads to be cleared; we did it last year and hope to repeat the feat this year. A map of town roads has been prepared to highlight the areas that are currently being done and will be posted at the Town Office. For an update or to find out where you can volunteer to clean up, contact Diane at 247-3786 or 458-7234.

Ready to win at Prize Bingo?

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., May 13, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Refreshments served and all are welcome.

Register your dog to avoid penalties

Animal Control Officer Rob Devoid has begun the task of locating owners of yet unregistered dogs. To avoid possible civil penalties, please get your dog registered as soon as possible.

Call 247-8080 for details.

Yard Sale?

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Calendar of events

April

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2-5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives. The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hazfm@hotmail.com) or (802) 282-7532 or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com) or (802) 345-4125).

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!

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

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

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

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

Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

Free math tutoring is available in downtown Brandon on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-4 p.m. at Fellowship Hall — the smaller brick building next to the Brandon Congregational Church.

Larry Rowe is offering help to any Otter Valley students who have questions or difficulties with mathematics or would like help with their math homework. Rev. Sara Rossigg will be in her office — 20 feet away from the worktable — during these sessions to ensure everyone feels comfortable and is safe.

Call 802-236-9130 for more information.

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

From 10:30–11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making tradi-

tional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

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

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

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

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

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

reserve.

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

Chaffee Arts Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3-5

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

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

Come join us weekly to share projects from noon – 2:00 p.m.

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event! Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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

\$5 donation suggested.

Thursday 27th

Sip n Dip at the Chaffee Arts Center Are YOU ready for some fun! Perfect for a date night or just out with friends!

Attendees follow along with an instructor and leave with a finished acrylic painting.

\$35 per person includes all supplies Min: 5



The Brandon Museum hosts Artifact Roadshow with Castleton University Archeology Department April 27

Have you ever found an artifact in your garden and wondered how old it is? Do you have objects that date to the early history of Brandon? If so, bring them to the Artifact Roadshow provided by Castleton University Archaeology from 6:00–8:00 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall. While there will not be financial appraisals, Castleton archaeologists Matthew and Ellen Moriarty and their students will help identify your artifacts and

determine their age and function. If you have no artifacts, come anyway to see this unique event. Information from the roadshow will become part of a local project documenting the history of Castleton and surrounding areas. Time permitting, they will also take photos and create 3D models of the artifacts.



Fairgrounds East P April

Sponsored by Rutland County Audubon Society and Slate Valley Trails. All levels of birding experience welcome. Bring water, a snack, cameras, field guides, and binoculars if you have them. Slow pace with lots of opportunities for observing and photographing. Meet at the Fairgrounds Trail park-

Going up the Country, A musical playing April 28–May 7



Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents *Going Up The Country*. The play has been adapted from Yvonne Daley's book of the same name. Yvonne was a Vermont journalist who died this past August, and who wrote about the hippie invasion of the 1960's and 70's into the lives of native Vermonters and how each group transformed the other. Play and music written by Eric Peterson and John Foley.

Length of show: Approximately 120 minutes including intermission

West Rutland Town Hall
35 Marble Street
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Cash or check only at the door
This is a handicap accessible venue.
Face masks and social distancing are encouraged.

Fri- day 28th

"The Farm Boy," movie at the Brandon Town Hall
George Woodard is a 3rd-generation dairy farmer up in Waterbury. He still lives on

All are invited to come set up an easel and paint or draw what we see – landscapes, animals, plants, even buildings. Even if you're not an artist but are interested in art and nature you are welcome to stop by! Sharing art and nature knowledge is encouraged! Our first plein air group meetup will be on April 29th, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. at the West Rutland Marsh Marble Street boardwalk. Bring your own supplies and don't forget protection from the weather. Our first plein air group meetup will be on April 29th, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. at the West Rutland Marsh Marble Street boardwalk.

Artists may sign up using the form linked below:
<https://forms.gle/gY78wwupy36ZvnuBA>

2023 Vermont Homeschool And Alternative Prom at Brandon Town Hall. Open to ALL Vermont students
Open to ALL Vermont students, homeschool or otherwise ages 12–19.

No need for a date!

Please come meet people and have fun.

Free! Food and drinks are Pot Luck style, please bring a food or drink to add to the sharing tables.

The party starts at 7:00 p.m., and ends Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Questions to harmonyjvaneaton@gmail.com, please use subject line "Brandon Prom"



Image: yellow boots and flowers

Note: Sip n Dips are offered monthly. Private classes available. We can also host your friends and family for a special event (bridal shower, birthday, etc.)

Must Pre-register.

From 6–8 p.m. with instructor: Sally Hogan.

An Evening with Breanna Elaine at Merchants Hall

Fresh off the release of her debut album *Seedlings*, Breanna Elaine will stage an intimate performance

Breanna Elaine is a full time musician, singer/songwriter based out of Vermont. Breanna's music is dripping with plenty of earthy folk sounds, but also has undertones of rock, bluegrass and even punk. She performs a mix of originals as well as a wide array of covers on both guitar and banjo. Comparisons have included singer/songwriter Jewel,

as well as legends Alanis Morissette and Stevie Nicks. Breanna is recognized around Vermont and surrounding areas for her unique sound and songwriting talent. With over 100 original songs that have still yet to be recorded, this is just the beginning for Breanna Elaine, a true star on the rise.

\$10 - ALL AGES - 6:30 p.m. Doors - 7 p.m show

The Dark Shad-ows Entertainment 2022/2023 Concert Series is sponsored by Mountain Music, Killington Resort, Atomic Pro Audio, The Underground Recording Studio, Sky Trail Studios, and Price Chopper.

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www.breannaelaine.bandcamp.com

the family farm, purchased by his grandfather back in 1912. He's mostly retired from farming now—"I still milk one cow"—and has turned his attention once again to something he's done on and off for years: filmmaking. His latest film, "The Farm Boy," will be shown on Friday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Brandon Town Hall.

"The Farm Boy" is Woodard's second full-length feature, after "The Summer of Walter Hacks," which he filmed in 2004 and released in 2010 (it's hard to find time to edit a film when you still have a herd of 25 cows to milk). Both films star Woodard's son, Henry, who filmed "Walter Hacks" as an 11-year-old and "The Farm Boy" as an adult. In "The Farm Boy," Henry Woodard plays Calvin Dillard, a young man who drives a milk truck for his father in rural Vermont during World War II. He marries a girl named Mary (played by Grace Woodruff) he met at a dance, yet barely has time to settle into marriage when he's drafted and sent to war in Belgium. While in Europe, he meets another woman, Renée (Coco Moseley), and his experiences with her change him in profound ways.

Saturday 29th

Pine Hill Park Community Work Day
Help spiff the park up. We have several projects happening for the community work day. Bark mulch to be spread on the gardens at the front entrance. Finish work on trail tread we did not finish last year.

Meet at the Giorgetti Athletic Complex, Oak Street Extension, in Rutland. We'll start at 9:00 a.m. and finish by noon.

Sara Juli's "Naughty": A Work in Development

Join Next Stage for a special presentation by solo-performance artist Sara Juli of her work-in-progress, "Naughty," which explores the impacts of trauma on the brain stemming from sexual assault as a child. Interweaving regressed thinking with a conflicted inner voice, coupled with finding the humor in the tragic, the work breaks down victimhood to ultimately reclaim the mind. In addition to the performance, there will be an interactive discussion with the audience, allowing for a deeper exploration of the themes and ideas presented in the piece. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to engage with a dynamic artist and thought-provoking work.

Admission is free.

Show lasts two hours with multiple showings starting at 11 a.m., and 2 p.m.

Plein Air painting at West Rutland Marsh

Calling all artists! Join fellow artists for an afternoon of painting en plein air – paint nature out in nature!

The Brandon Artists Guild presents "Five New Members" Opening reception Friday May 5, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Garrett Sadler, brings functional and decorative fused glass to the table.

Woodcrafter Guy Rossi highlights the unique elements found in wood.

Brian Hewitt shares his love of New England landscapes using intense colors mixed with sharp contrasts.

Lynn Austin captures her love of animals and nature

with her pastels.

Returning founding member, Liza Myers, sculptor and Realism painter.

The show will run through October.

The gallery is open Monday - Saturday 10am- 5pm, and Sunday 10am - 4pm

7 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733, (802) 247-4956

Saturday 29th Sunday 30th

The Brandon Congregational Creatives group invites you to visit "Celebrating the Creative Arts" our Spring multi-media art show

It will take place on Saturday, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. and Sunday, from 11:00–2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall next to the Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St., Brandon. Your attended children are welcome and there will be a children's craft table! Admission and refreshments are free but a food shelf item donation would be welcome.

*Goings on
around town*



Poultney Bird Walk – April 25

ing area (131 Town Farm Road, Poultney, 2.5 miles east of the East Poultney green) at 7:30 am. About 3 miles on easy to moderate terrain. Contact Joel Tilley for more information: jptilley50@gmail.com (preferred method), or 802-598-2583, evenings 7 to 8pm.



HELP YOUR LOCAL BOOK STORE THRIVE

BY BARBARA EBLING

Brandon VT — On Saturday, April 29th, The Bookstore joins more than 900 bookstores nationwide in celebrating Independent Bookstore Day (IBD). This marks the 10th anniversary of the annual event, which occurs on the last Saturday in April and was established in 2013 by the American Booksellers Association to promote, celebrate, and highlight the value of indie bookstores to their local communities.

When The Bookstore opened in Brandon in December 2019, its mission was to keep the vibrancy of an indie bookstore in town, and to provide a space for people to encounter fellow book-lovers, discover new books, and

find serendipity through the written word. In 2020, due to COVID, The Bookstore's plans for its first IBD celebration in April were postponed until August, by which time the party was about more than just indie bookstores: it was about being able to come together again.

Ever since, The Bookstore has celebrated the day with author signings, story hours, scavenger hunts, cool merchandise, storewide

savings, and more fun events. Independent Bookstore Day is a great time to show some love for what a small town bookstore provides, and it's a wonderful opportunity for The Bookstore to thank its supporting community.

In the spirit of reciprocity and appreciation — and thanks to a generous partnership with Red Clover Ale Company — The Bookstore kicks off its local celebration by host-

ing Literary Trivia Takeover on Friday, April 28, at 6:00 PM. Contestants will need to sharpen their bibliophilic knowledge to prevail and earn special prizes! On Saturday, the brewery-bookstore pairing continues: customers who spend \$20 at Red Clover will get \$2 off Bookstore purchases; customers who spend \$20 at The Bookstore will get \$2 off Red Clover merchandise (beer not included).

On Saturday, April 29, in addition to a storewide sale, exclusive IBD items will be available (some for purchase, some complimentary), including special editions of Jane Mount Bibliophile:

Banned Books jigsaw puzzle, and Elizabeth Acevedo's

award-winning novel *The Poet X*; "We Love Indies" coloring books; "Independent Bookstore Day 2023 Blackwing Pencils" "Meet Me at The Bookstore" tote bags and collapsible water bottles; London Seance Society box with scarf, pin, and candle; Richard Scarry "On My Way to the Bookstore!" infant onesies; Lowly Worm plushies; Pete the Cat pins; Jonathan Van Ness Love That Story bookmarks; TJ Klune *The House in the Cerulean Sea* stickers; and more!

For more information about The Bookstore, call (802) 465-8009 or visit thebookstorevt.indielite.org; to learn more about Independent Bookstore Day nationwide, visit indiebound.org/independent-bookstore-day.

When The Bookstore opened in Brandon in December 2019, its mission was to keep the vibrancy of an indie bookstore in town, and to provide a space for people to encounter fellow book-lovers.

Restaurant *guide*

Robert's
Café Provence
From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

Wednesday – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Want a reservation? Please book through the website <https://cafeprovencet.com> or call (802) 247-9997

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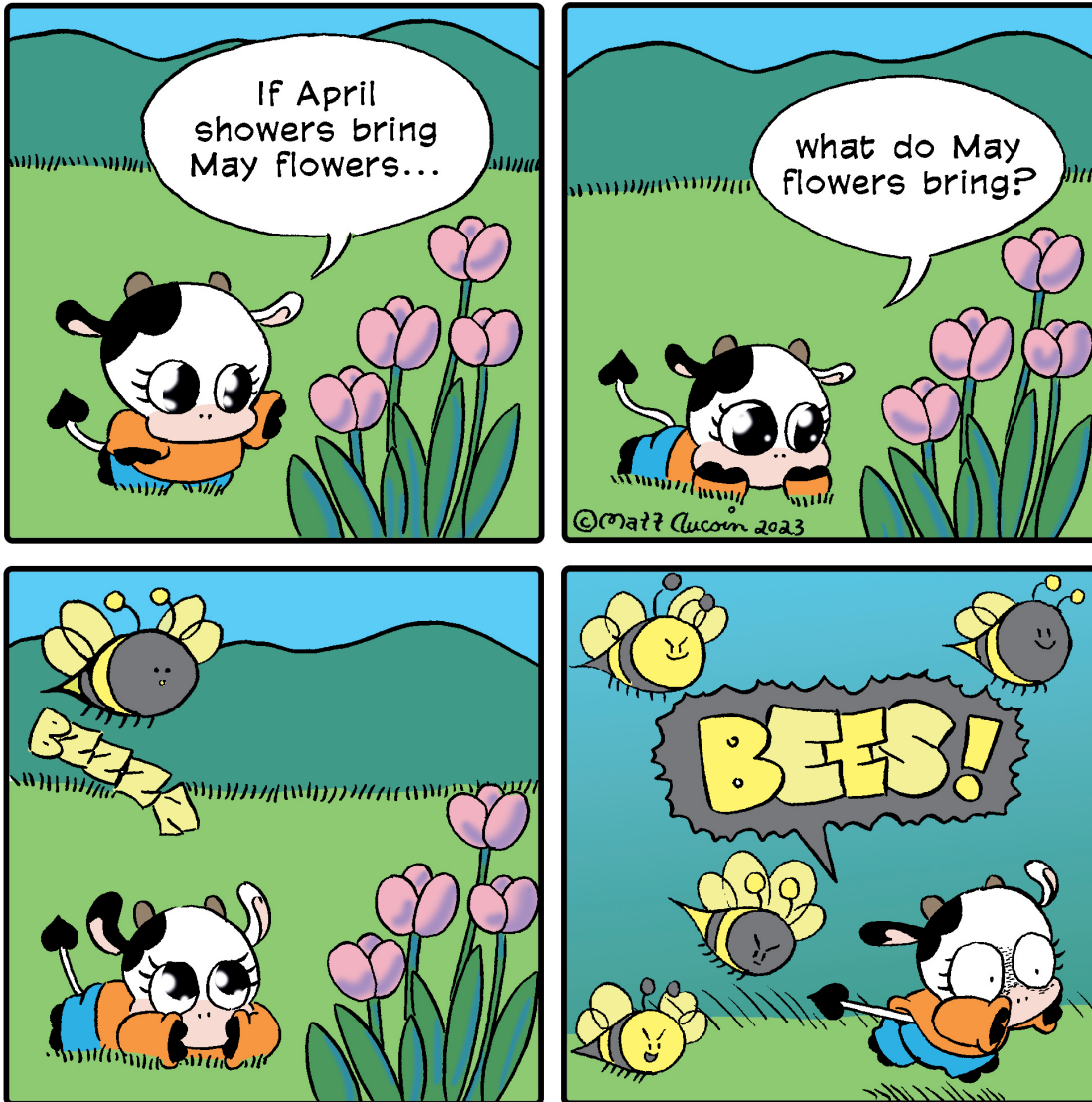
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802.465.8010

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Maple the Cow by Matt Lucchin



Dave Atherton

(Continued from Page 3)
to be honest," said Atherton. "Having a result at the end of the day is rewarding. And it was fun to rebuild Brandon. But we closed the books on Segment 6 just before last Christmas. I needed new challenges," he said.

So Atherton agreed to become town manager in Pittsford when Brenda Fox-Howard abruptly resigned after a short and bumpy tenure earlier this year.

"I'd applied for the position when John Haverstock left and was offered the job," Atherton said. But the timing wasn't right. When the position became vacant again, he reached out to Alicia Malay and Dave Mills, both members of the Pittsford Selectboard. Once again, they extended an offer. This time, he accepted. To quell any speculation that he left Brandon for money, he stipulated that his new salary be exactly one dollar less than what he'd been earning.

"I wanted to dig some more holes in Route 7," he joked.

Much work will be done in Pittsford village to create a more of a downtown. The area around Keith's, the library, post office, and Kamuda's is now a Designated Village District, which qualifies the town for certain development grants it could otherwise not obtain. Unlike Brandon, Pittsford does not own its stretch of Route 7; it remains a state highway throughout its entire length in the town. Sidewalks will be replaced. It is hoped that the town water and sewer lines will be extended to make development of open land easier for new housing, bringing in new residents and increasing the tax base.

"We want to sell this town," Atherton said. "We want people to see what it's going to look like. Get in now before it's too late."

Mother's Day

Let your mom know you love her

We're running a Mother's Day special feature in the May 10th issue of *The Reporter*!

For only \$10, you can take out a 2.25" x 3" ad with a message of up to 20 words and your choice of vintage, modern, floral, or playful graphic.

Please send your message and a check to **Brandon Reporter, 294 Wheeler Road, Brandon, VT 05733**. You may drop off your message & check at that address as well. Please include a phone number or email where we can reach you if we have questions. **Or you can scan the QR code below to pay online.**

Messages received after 5/7 will not be included. Messages without payment will not be included.



Sample Message



We do Trees!

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Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood

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Tree, Land & Forest

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Mon-Fri: 7AM-4PM & Sat: 8AM-12PM | www.gagnonlumber.com



Mim's Photos

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



E-mail
ads@brandonreporter.com if you can identify
someone in these photos.
Or call us at 247-8080

Recognized



Terry Ferson recognizes some people in the Old Brandon High School Gym. The woman with her hand raised is Carolyn Nemo, a long time teacher in Brandon. The man in the back, with his hand raised is Sid Rosen, who ran a store in Brandon. And the lady on the far right, with her hand raised is Nancy Gekula who was a classmate of Terry's.

Sue Wetmore also recognizes some people in this photo. In the middle row,

second from the left is David Gibson, and the woman next to him with raised hand is Carolyn Memoe.

Polly Goodspeed recognizes her parents Maridon and David Gibson, in the second row on the left. She believes it would have been late 60s/early 70s, gymnasium at the old Brandon School, Seminary St., Pauline Coates may be one in white sweater but she was not positive.



Sue Wetmore recognizes the man on the phone as Terry Kline, John Moulton is seated man, and she believes the woman is Marguerite Baker.

Sandford "Sandy" Rouse also recognizes Terry Kline and John Moulton, and he thinks the woman is Debbie Kirby.

Terry Ferson also recognizes Terry Kline as the man on the phone. He was the president of the First Brandon Bank and lived on Park St., Brandon. Terry says the woman sitting on the couch is Helen Noel who lived at Conant Sq., Brandon and was the legal secretary for Frank Bunting. The man sitting next to her is John Moulton, who was an employee of Brandon Lumber and lived on Pearl St. Ext., Brandon.

Molly Merkert believes the photo was taken in 1978, the year they moved to Brandon as her father, Terry Kline, had just accepted the job as President of First Brandon Bank. Her mother, Dottie Kline, had encouraged her father to be in the play as a way for him to meet many of his future customers. Helen Noel and John Moulton were in the play as well. As her mother remembers, at one point in the play as her father was bending over, John (using either a slingshot or a pea shooter) shot something at her father's backside, hitting his target and causing much hilarity for all. She believes it was a total surprise to her father as it was not actually part of the play.

Can anyone verify the identity of the seated woman? Is she Marguerite Baker, Debbie Kirby, or Helen Noel?

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. It's all over the beach
5. A cirque
8. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
11. Influential report author
13. Satisfaction
14. Recurring only at long intervals
15. Islamic calendar month
16. Neither
17. Gelatinous substance
18. American electronic music producer
20. Old computer system
21. Professional organization
22. Malaria mosquitoes
25. Not composed of matter
30. It's in the ocean
31. Peyton's little brother
32. French commune
33. Eyelashes
38. Equal (prefix)
41. Quality of little or no rain
43. One who beheads
45. Sung to
48. Influential punk artist
49. Amount of time
50. Polio vaccine developer
55. Abba ___, Israeli politician
56. Job
57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
59. Japanese wooden clog
60. Folk singer DiFranco
61. FL city
62. Naturally occurring solid
63. Language of indigenous Asian people
64. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

1. Soviet Socialist Republic
2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
3. Venomous snake genus
4. Uninteresting
5. Straightforwardness
6. Expression of wild excitement
7. Arrange in order
8. East Indian cereal grass
9. Hillsides
10. Bird beak covering
12. Baseball stat
14. Edge of a surfboard
19. Wrapping accessory
23. Express approval
24. Deduce
25. Similar
26. Born of
27. Automobile
28. Obligated to repay
29. Live in
34. Influential journalist Tarbell
35. Set aflame
36. OJ trial judge
37. Scottish town
39. African nation
40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
41. Mimic
42. Frees
44. In slow tempo
45. Sword
46. Related on the mother's side
47. Mars crater
48. Plant of the lily family
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. Hillside
53. Metrical foot
54. Amazon river tributary
58. Adult male human

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12		13				14			
15						16				17			
	18				19	20				21			
					22	23				24			
25	26	27	28	29									
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	45	46	47										
48						49			50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57			58
59						60				61			
62						63					64		

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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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

N	O	E		L	A			O
V	W	T		I	N	V		G
M	V	P		G	I	N		E

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

Let Us Help You Find Homes for Your Kittens and Puppies!

The Rutland County Humane Society's "Spay The Mom" program is simple and free. If you're a Rutland County resident with a mom cat or dog with offspring, we can help! We will schedule a time for you to bring all the kittens or puppies to us. In exchange, the Humane Society will schedule an appointment to "Spay the Mom", give her rabies and distemper vaccines at no cost. The kittens and puppies will be adopted into loving new homes after being spayed and neutered and mom won't have any more litters. Please help spread the word if you know of a female cat or dog with kittens or puppies or who is currently pregnant! For more information, please call the RCHS Adoption Center at 802.483.6700 or visit www.rchsvt.org.

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

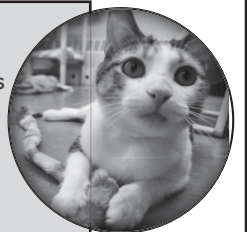


MEET BO - 2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. TERRIER MIX. WHITE/BLACK

It's not a coincidence that "Bo" rhymes with "go!" Bo is always on the move and loves to go on adventures. Bo came to RCHS from a busy shelter in the south. Bo would make a great partner for an active family who can take him along on their outings. If you are looking for that playful and adventure-seeking pup, Bo is your guy. Please call the Adoption Center at 802-483-6700 to schedule a time to meet him!

MEET PETUNIA - 1-YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. CALICO.

Petunia is a "make the most of every moment" girl! She zips around the room playing with toys and is delighted if you play with her. She loves to explore everywhere and everything. She seems to do well with other cats but can be pushy, so she may be a good companion for another playful cat. She does like to keep moving and find ways to entertain herself. Sometimes that is running around the room, and sometimes that consists of playing with toys. She is currently at Petco in Rutland, so stop by to meet her!



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM 11AM-4PM. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



The following Large Print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker:

On the Line by Fern Michaels, donated in memory of Yvonne Churchill

Mateo Castillo is a rising star chef on the Manhattan culinary scene. But just as he's about to reap the rewards of his skill and hard work by being featured on a major TV cooking competition, Mateo collapses in his restaurant's kitchen—and regains consciousness in a hospital emergency room. The cause of his sudden illness is as mysterious as it is worrying, and Mateo and his family undergo a battery of genetic tests. Yet the answers that start to emerge only raise more questions.

Mateo's parents fled their home in Colombia many years ago, seeking refuge from the infamous cartels. Now the test results threaten to uncover a dark secret that exposes his family to dangers in the past while clouding the investigation into who is trying to hurt Mateo in the present . . .

The Golden Spoon by Jessa Maxwell, donated in memory of Florence LaRock

Over the past ten years, six bakers have descended on the grounds of Grafton, an imposing Vermont estate that is not only the filming site for "Bake Week," but also the childhood home of the show's famous host, celebrated baker Betsy Martin. The author of numerous bestselling cookbooks and "America's Grandmother," Betsy Martin isn't as warm off-screen as on, though she hides it well. She has always demanded perfection, and gotten it with a smile, but this year something is off. As the baking competition commences, things begin to go awry. At first, it's merely sabotage—sugar replaced with salt, a burner turned to high—but when a body is discovered, everyone is a suspect.

Loyalty by Lisa Scotoline, donated in memory of Marion Philipson

The lives of several men and women intertwine because of a kidnapped boy, lemon-growers, a cheese maker, an albino

girl, and the mafia during the early 1800s in Sicily.

Dark Angel by John Sandford, donated in memory of Andy Livak

Letty Davenport's days working a desk job are behind her. Her previous actions at a gunfight in Texas—and her incredible skills with firearms—draw the attention of several branches of the U.S. government and make her a perfect fit for even more dangerous work. The Department of Homeland Security and the NSA have tasked her with infiltrating a hacker group, known only as Ordinary People. Letty and her reluctant partner from the NSA pose as free-spirited programmers for hire and embark on a cross-country road trip to the group's California headquarters. While the two work to make inroads with Ordinary People and uncover their plans, they begin to suspect that the hackers are not their only enemy. Someone within their own circle may have betrayed them and has ulterior motives that place their mission—and their lives—in grave danger.

If you're running from the cops, don't run out of gas

April 17

• Brandon Police responded to an untimely death on Wheeler Road. Further investigation by BPD and the Assistant Medical Examiner assigned to the case determined the death to have been from natural causes.

• A lost wallet was dropped off at BPD and later returned to its owner.

• BPD responded to a two-car accident on Union Street that was caused by road rage. Both drivers were issued tickets.

• Fingerprints were taken for a teaching license.

• A larceny was reported at the Brandon Motor Lodge on Franklin Street. Items were taken from a car.

April 18

• BPD and the Brandon Animal Control Officer (ACO) responded to a report of livestock being neglected on Town Farm Road. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the animals were not neglected and were receiving adequate care.

• BPD received a report of a stolen mailbox from a town-owned property on Newton Road.

• Fingerprints taken for school employment.

• BPD received complaints of a black truck failing to stay in lane in Conant Square area. Officers were unable to locate the truck.

• BPD responded to call about a "suspicious" vehicle near Brandon/Goshen line, on the road to Brandon Gap. The vehicle had interior lights on and a blanket covering the windows. Vehicle was not located by officers and may actually have been in Goshen.

April 19

• Accidental residential burglary alarm on Forest Dale Drive. Homeowner inadvertently set off alarm.

• Fingerprints taken for nursing school application and for teaching license.

• BPD responded to calls about a dark-colored vehicle traveling southbound in excess of 100 mph on Route 7 near Arnold District Road. Vehicle was not located.

April 20

• Officers served a court order to a resident of Richmond Road.

• BPD responded to an apartment building on West Seminary Street for an untimely death. The death is under investigation by BPD and the State Medical Examiner's office but is believed to be due to natural causes.

• BPD received complaints about an individual knocking on people's windows on Grove Street. Officers were unable to locate the individual.

• Fingerprints taken for school volunteer and school chaperone.

April 21

• BPD responded to a residential burglary alarm on Furnace Road. The responding officer found an

Brandon Police Report

unlocked door and investigated the residence. The home appeared to be secure.

• BPD received reports of an erratic red Subaru traveling south on Grove Street, tailgating and passing recklessly. The vehicle was not located.

• Woman on Wyman Road requested trespass order against an ex-boyfriend.

• BPD responded to complaints on Center Street of an adult male harassing juveniles. Officers located the man, who attempted to provide false information as to his identity. He was subsequently identified and issued citations for an unrelated matter being investigated by Rutland City Police. Further investigation underway and criminal charges will likely be filed.

• Reports were received about an overflowing water fountain in Central Park. Town of Brandon employees were contacted about the issue.

• BPD received reports of a suspicious vehicle parked in a fenced-in area at Otter Valley Union High School late at night. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

April 22

• Officers responded to a medical event on Deer Run Road. The patient was ultimately transported to Rutland Hospital by a family member.

• A warning was issued to a driver on Franklin Street for significantly faded license plates. The driver was advised that the plates would need to be replaced.

• Officer assisted Brandon Rescue with a lift in the Conant Square area.

• A warning was issued to a driver for failure to observe a stop sign at the intersection of Park and High Streets.

• A warning was issued to a driver for failure to observe a stop sign at the intersection of Champlain and Grove Streets.

• BPD was conducting speed enforcement on Arnold District Road. No violations were observed. However, a car ran out of gas in front of the officer. The officer interacted with the two occupants of the vehicle and discovered that they were both wanted by police. The occupants were identified as Edward Loso, 41, and Cheyenne Giddings, 21. Both had warrants out for failure to appear in court. Loso was issued a citation to appear at Rutland County Superior Court on 4/24/23. Drugs were found on Giddings's person and she was arrested and held at the Marble Valley Correc-

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION



Storytime is back on Thursdays at 11 am! Join Ariana for stories and a craft!

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a DVD player available for check out from our Library of Things. We also have a projector and a portable power station- perfect for a movie night outside!



Coming soon...

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

at the Franklin St. building. Stay tuned for details!

THIS AD IS GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Open at the Town Hall

Tuesday 10 am–7 pm

Wednesday 10 am–7 pm

Thursday 10 am–6 pm

Friday 10 am–6 pm

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

tional Facility and ordered to appear in Rutland on 6/26/23 to answer for the charge of driving with a criminally suspended license. Additional charges to follow.

- Brandon Town Manager reported a broken bench on West Seminary Street. It is unclear whether the bench was vandalized.

- BPD received a request for a welfare check, which was subsequently canceled because the caller was able to contact the subject of the check.

- A mother on Carver Street reported that her ex-husband was possibly intoxicated while picking up their child during custody transfer. Officers were unable to locate him. Outside agencies were advised to look out for him.

- BPD received reports of an open door at the back of the car

wash under construction on Conant Square. Investigation revealed nothing out of order. The keyholder of the premises was notified.

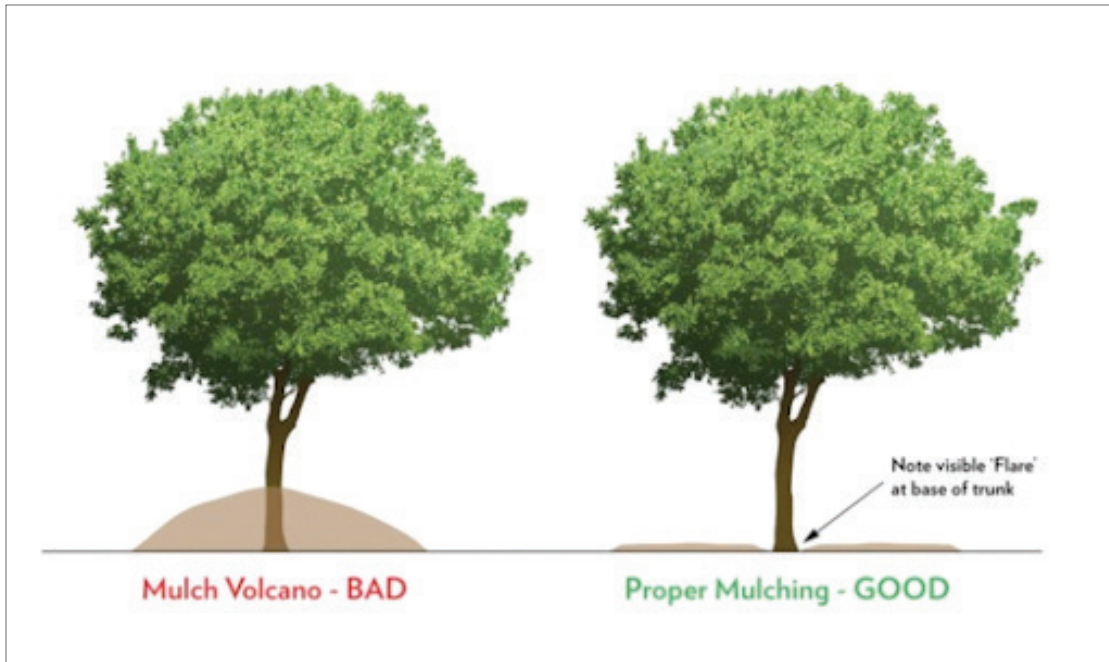
- A group of juveniles reported an adult male screaming at them in downtown Brandon. Police were able to locate the man, who provided his account of the incident. The man has a pending criminal charge for disorderly conduct.

April 23

- A faulty landline caused two false 911 calls at a residence on Fox Road. Homeowner is contacting the phone company.

- BPD received complaint on Valley View Drive of criminal threatening. The incident is under investigation.

- BPD assisted Brandon Rescue with a medical incident on Mulcahy Drive.



Spring tree mulching requires a specific method

BY NEIL SILINS,
BRANDON TREE WARDEN

Now that spring is here, many of us are cleaning up our yards from the mess winter left. After the thatching and raking, a lot of us mulch our trees. It adds a “finished” look to your work. Here are some suggestions to get the biggest bang for your mulching efforts.

Properly applied mulch should be 2-4 inches deep. Leave 2-4 inches between the mulch and the trunk and extend the mulch out as far as you can. This kind of mulching benefits the tree in several ways:

- It insulates the soil and provides a buffer from heat and cold.

- It retains water to keep the roots moist.

- It keeps out weeds.
- It prevents soil compaction and root damage.

- It reduces lawn-mower damage (to the tree).

Don't let the mulch touch the tree, and don't mound the mulch up the trunk. This is called “volcano mulching.” In addition to using a lot of mulch, volcano mulching actually harms trees:

- It causes girdling root systems that choke the tree.

- It causes root rot from excess moisture.

- It can cause issues with rodents,

insects, and diseases.

The ‘root flare’ is where the trunk and the root system meet. A thickened area around the tree is present at the flare. It should stay visible when you're done mulching.

The damage we do to trees might not be apparent for a long time after the damage is caused (by volcano mulching, for example). Proper mulching can be very beneficial to your tree and your property. Girdling roots and diseases might not show up for years, but the damage to the tree is not reversible.

*The Brandon Tree Warden
brandontreewarden@gmail.com*



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

and they are not to be taken lightly. Give each ample time and consider all angles. some changes you've been planning. Embrace this newfound resolve.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

An opportunity all but falls into your lap, Leo. Make sure you jump on this because opportunity may not knock again. The benefits are too big to pass up.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

There is not much more help you can lend to a situation, Virgo. This week you may have to accept that you have simply done all that you could do. Move on and focus on the future.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Expect some strange things to happen to you this week, Libra. The unexpected could be the breath of fresh air you need, especially if your schedule has been stagnant.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, assist a loved one as much as you can this week. You may need to be a devoted caregiver or a listening ear. Whatever the case, handle it with undivided attention.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, a deep focus on health may compel you to get around to making

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, allow others to take the lead when a project ends up coming across your desk. You could learn something from the expertise of others if you emulate their actions.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, you have left no stone unturned in a situation that involves relocation. Now it is just a matter of wait and see. Give it a few weeks, then move on.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, others have very positive things to say about you, especially during the course of the next few days. Relish in their attention.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- April 27 August Wilson, playwright (d)
- April 28 Sir Terry Pratchett, author (d)
- April 29 Daniel Day Lewis, actor (65)
- April 30 Willie Nelson, musician (89)
- May 1 Calamity Jane, frontierswoman (d)
- May 2 Christine Baranski, actor (70)
- May 3 Niccolò Machiavelli, philosopher (d)

ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, even though you have been making great progress, you have some more work ahead of you this week. Overcome any distractions that get in your way.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, you may want to avoid crowds this week. Use this opportunity to enjoy some quiet, alone time to recharge. There will be time for socialization in the weeks ahead.

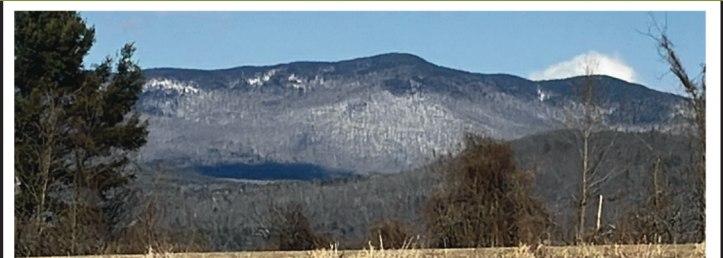
GEMINI May 22-June 21

You may be called in as a mediator this week, Gemini. It may be challenging to remain impartial, as you are friendly with both people involved. Tread carefully.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, there are a few decisions that you will need to make in the days to come

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Imagination station

ARTIST ETHAN NELSON and Library Director Molly Kennedy stand beneath the mural that Nelson painted (with Matt Aucoin, John Brodowski, and Josh Hummel) for the kids' corner in the temporary library space at Brandon Town Hall. Nelson wanted to set "the mythological mood for kids exploring books and imagination."

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Hard Tellin'

(Continued from Page 11)

the folks there are quite charming and all, but aren't they that smallish Nordic country frigidly positioned on the Arctic Circle? The one with 2:30 sunsets, record-long winters, and that nice long border with Russia. The country that claims "family saunas" as the high-water mark for favorite pastimes?

I suppose if there are deeper questions deserving immediate answers, they might better be directed at the UN folks themselves. Beyond just having an innocent and friendly little Happiness contest, it seems that world leaders are more interested in promoting a new "Economic Paradigm." (I wasn't happy that I had to look this up.) Forget "Gross National Product," the powers behind the curtain really want us to start thinking in terms of "Gross National Happiness." Now, I'm sure a lot of discussion went into this concept (and yes, it appears there is now officially a "GNHP" Wikipedia page), but can I just say the whole thing feels a bit un-American. Changing the Happiness rules of the road from consumption and accumulation to something as nebulous as well-being feels too much like an unwinnable contest. (That the parameters of this Happiest Country vote are not being gerrymandered in some way will really need to be defended.)

But maybe the real question the world wants to know is whether the Finns are genuinely experiencing a kind of rigorous, sustainable, boots-on-the-ground, nothing-can-burst-my-bubble kind of Happiness? I

mean, if I sat down on a subway on a rain-drenched Monday morning commute in Helsinki, what sort of expressions would folks really be wearing? (For the record I'm sad to report that even their subways are highly rated.)

Now I don't know if this is the answer, but one tidbit of an explanation surfaced in an article I read recently. If there's anything the Finns want the rest of the world to know, it is that they are quite surprised at their own international Happiness Streak. (In addition to being the Happiest, it seems they are also the Humblest.) However, if there exists any kind of genetic superpower or secret sauce in Frigid Finland, the article reports, it might have something to do with the concept of "Sisu." Now, it may sadden (further) the non-Finns of the world that this is something of a unique and untranslatable word. But at best the Finns themselves describe it as a spirit of "silent relentlessness" or "grim determination in the face of hardships." Happiness apparently has more to do with contentment and not complaining than with endless barbeques.

Of course, even International Happiness contests call for good sportsmanship. In the Spirit of Finland, I will pledge to adopt my own brand of Sisu first thing in the New Year. And if the Finns win a 7th consecutive title, I promise I will contain my grumbling.

Please just don't expect me to try the sauna thing anytime soon.

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Devil's Bowl Speedway ready for season opener

WEST HAVEN, Vt. — Stock car racing season has arrived in Vermont, and West Haven's Devil's Bowl Speedway will be the first track in the Green Mountain State to swing its gates open on Saturday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. The track's 57th annual lid-lifter offers a jam-packed, six-division program of dirt track action, and the headline Sportsman Modified class will get the year started with a bang with a 30-lap "draw" handicap feature paying a cool \$3,000 to win.

Devil's Bowl Speedway has established itself as "The Great Crate Place" as the Northeast's top track for Sportsman-type Modified cars. Three divisions compete with the competitive and economical General Motors "602 crate" engine program, and as such, the Sportsman Modified, Limited Sportsman, and Novice Sportsman divisions combined to average nearly 70 cars in 2022; all indications point to similar numbers in 2023.

A stout mix of established stars and promising young up-and-comers is expected for Saturday night's opener. The Sportsman Modified title fight is wide open as reigning champion Todd Stone has scaled back his own driving to focus on the budding career of his son, Justin. That leaves Middlebury, Vt., native Justin Comes — who is now a Devil's Bowl hometown hero living in nearby Fair Haven — in the catbird seat; the 30-year-old former Mini Stock champ finished second in Sportsman Modified point standings in each of the last two years and is eyeing his first crown.

Chasing Comes will be former Devil's Bowl champions Tim LaDuc, Vince Quenneville, and Frank Hoard III, along with veteran favorites Jimmy Ryan, Billy Lussier, Brian Whittemore, Kevin Chaffee, James Hanson, Wayne Stearns, and the Canaan, N.H., trio of Allan Hammond, Walt Hammond Jr., and Walter J. Hammond. The new

generation of stars is represented by Tanner Siemons, Marty Kelly III, Anthony Warren, Brent Warren, Troy Audet, Adam Piper, and Austin Comes, with exciting newcomers Evan Roberts, Josh LeClaire, and Kyle Huntington running for Rookie of the Year honors.

The Limited Sportsman division is also anyone's to win with champion Roberts jumping up. Last year's runner-up, Randy Ryan, of Orwell, Vt., leads the charge as one of the more experienced drivers in the intermediate-level class, along with familiar names John Gosselein, Bob Kilburn, Steve Miller, Anthony Ryan, and former Pro Stock champion Freddie Little. Tough young guns include Katrina Bean, Jason Quenneville, A.J. Munger, Alex Layn, Gary English, Timmy Aldrighetti, and Justin Lilly, and Novice Sportsman graduates Daryl Gebo, Kamden Duffy, and William Lussier Jr. — a talented trio that combined to win 11 races last summer.

The Novice Sportsman class — a new addition last year — will race for weekly points and a track championship for the first time in

Bradford, Donald Williams, Bobbi Jo Hults, Matt Wade, and Allen Hewitt.

The 500cc Mini Sprint division



2023. The development ground for aspiring Modified racers is nearly overflowing with pre-season registrations; feature winners from 2022 who are returning include Josh Busino, Robert Gauthier, Adam LaFountain, Tyler Travis, and Randy Edson, while other entries include former Super Stock and Mini Stock stars like Mike Clark, Chuck

has encouraging pre-season registration numbers and an interesting mix of youth and graybeards. Orwell, Vt.'s Roger LaDuc, 67, was a three-time race winner in 2022, and he'll face off against defending champion Logan Denis of Whiting, Vt., who won the title as a rookie at age 14 last year. The rest

(See Devil's Bowl, Page 23)

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

Atherton's resignation in January, will continue in town management in a still-unspecified role that will expand his duties beyond the positions he will continue to hold as economic development officer and director of Brandon Rec.

The board must now replace Mr. Hopkins in two capacities: as a member and, more specifically, as chair.

The board announced, after executive session, that it will seek letters of interest from anyone who would like to be considered for Mr. Hopkins's now-vacant seat. Letters will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5. All applicants must also submit an "appointments cover sheet," which can be found in the Resources section of the Town of Brandon website. Both the cover sheet and the letter of intent should be submitted to the town manager (manager@townofbrandon.com) by the May 5 deadline.

The board will warn a special meeting for 6 p.m. on Monday, May 8 to discuss and potentially interview applicants. Anyone who submitted an application for the seat must attend this meeting. After any and all interviews are conducted, the board will deliberate in executive session and then publicly vote for the applicant they will appoint to the seat. The selected applicant will be sworn in and will join the board for the regular meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. that evening.

Once the new member has been

seated, the board will choose its officers in regular session. Mr. Hopkins was chair of the board for many years. It is not clear who will succeed him in the position. The chair presides over meetings and is generally responsible for the smooth operation of the board. The five board members will decide among themselves who will replace Mr. Hopkins as chair and who will be vice-chair (currently Tracy Wyman) and secretary (currently Brian Coolidge).

The regular meeting on Monday began with the usual adoption of the agenda and approval of the previous meetings' minutes. Interim Town Manager Bill Moore gave a brief report:

The Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade monthly meeting was held on Thursday, April 20. The site is being prepped for the summer shutdown. Naylor & Breen will return in late summer to restart the project.

Spring clean-up continued around town, including turning on the water fountains.

A flashing pedestrian light will be installed at the crosswalk that goes from Bar Harbor bank to the Congregational Church at the top of Center Street. Attendees raised questions about replacing the "pedestrian crossing" sandwich boards that used to warn drivers to stop at crosswalks.

Archery will return to Estabrook Park in May.

The Brandon Fire Department

will offer "Safety Day" at its volunteer-recruitment day on May 13th.

During the public-comment segment that following the town manager's report:

Green-Up Day Coordinator Jim Leary reminded the community about the event on Saturday, May 6. Anyone interested in helping clean up trash along Brandon's roadsides can participate. Please see Mr. Leary's piece in this week's issue of The Reporter for more details.

Brent Buehler, a member of the citizens advisory committee that assisted the board in selecting the new town manager, expressed concern that the creation of a new "assistant town manager" position for Bill Moore was unnecessary and "out of left field." The board countered that no title or duties have yet been specified for Mr. Moore and that the position had been created to take advantage of the complementary skill sets the two men possess. The board also asserted that no additional money would be needed for compensation beyond what had already been budgeted for the town manager and Mr. Moore's current positions.

Concerns were also voiced that the new position had not been advertised, to allow others to apply for it. The board replied that it was not a new position so much as a reallocation of duties between two town employees.

Devon Fuller, a former member of the board and current President of the Downtown Brandon Alliance, congratulated both Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Moore on their new positions and thanked Mr. Moore for his work as interim town manager, to applause from the room.

Steven Jupiter, President of the Brandon Museum (and author of this article), then presented a proposal to the board for a digital-scanning project at the historic cemetery next to the Congregational Church. The Archaeology Department at Castleton University would use laser technology to scan all 800 headstones in the cemetery and create precise 3-D digital files to preserve in perpetuity all the surface details, including inscriptions, in their current condition. The project has a quoted cost of \$3,500 to \$4,000, which would include the preparation, scanning, and processing of each stone and digital file.

Dennis Reisenweaver, member of the town Historic Preservation Committee, questioned both the utility and cost of the project, stating that photographs of the stones are available on findagrave.com and that the cost seemed excessive. He also questioned why the project had not been submitted first to his committee before submission to the full board.

After discussion in which other attendees expressed interest in and support for the project, the board voted to grant permission for the Museum to proceed with the project while seeking funding elsewhere.

The board voted to renew its Public Works Mutual Aid agreement with neighboring towns. The program allows towns to borrow needed equipment from participating municipalities. Interim Town Manager Bill Moore stated that he wasn't aware of any instance in which Brandon had borrowed or loaned equipment, but the board maintained the importance of the program for emergency

preparedness.

Bill Moore, on behalf of the Rec Department, presented a request from the Friends of the Town Hall for matching funds to replace the floor of the main room at the Town Hall at a total cost of \$54,000, of which the Friends would contribute 1/3, grants would provide 1/3, and 1/3 would be sought from the town. The current maple wood floor would be replaced by sturdier hickory.

Questions were raised as to the cost and necessity of replacing the entire floor. Board member Tim Guiles asked whether sanding and/or refinishing would be sufficient to maintain the floor in usable condition. Mr. Moore stated that refinishing would simply kick the can down the road for a few years.

The board ultimately voted to take no action and encourage the Friends to seek other sources of funding, though it did leave open the possibility of using ARPA funds.

The board voted to maintain its enrollment in the VTrans Grants in Aid program and to adopt the updated policies of the Vermont Community Development Program. Both decisions keep Brandon eligible for grant monies for public projects through those entities.

As its last public business before executive session, the board approved a warrant for \$275,280.83 for bills, debts, and expenses incurred since the previous warrant.

As the public session came to a close, Tree Warden Neil Silins stated that he was formulating a 50-year plan for an "urban forest canopy" in Brandon, to avoid having bare streets as older trees die off.

Devil's Bowl

(Continued from Page 22)

of the division runs the gamut in age and experience, with teenagers Raelin Dunham, Chayton Young, and Gage Provencher squaring off against veterans Kevin Smith, Vern Woodard, and former champion Ray Hanson.

The four-cylinder Mini Stock class — arguably one of the top entry-level divisions in the Northeast — enjoyed fields of 30-plus cars every week last season and is expected to produce similar numbers in 2023. Past feature winners who are expected to return include Jake Barrows, Chase Allen, Austin McKirryher, Griff and Mark Mahoney, Jarrod Colburn, Jake Mallory, and former champion Craig Kirby of St.

Albans, Vt.

A new division has created a lot of buzz and excitement, as the self-explanatory “Crown Vic” class makes its debut on opening night, featuring exclusively Ford Crown Victorias — many of them ex-police cars. Norman Morrill, Derek St. George, Jackson Ducharme, and Rob Steele have filed early registrations, and as many as 10 cars could enter the first event.

Racing on Saturday, April 29 begins at 6:00 p.m. Grandstand general admission is \$15 for adults and free for children aged 12 and under. Pit passes are \$28 for members and \$38 for non-members; the minimum age in the pit area is 10 years old, per Vermont state law.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is located on Route 22A in West Haven, Vt., four miles north of U.S. Route

4, Exit 2, and just 20 minutes from Rutland, Vt. For more information, visit www.DevilsBowlSpeedwayVT.com or call (802) 265-3112. Devil's Bowl Speedway is on Facebook at facebook.com/DevilsBowlSpeedway, and on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat at @DevilsBowlSpeed; follow the action using the #DevilsBowl hashtag.



HENRY WOODARD AS Calvin Dillard in “The Farm Boy,” a wartime love story about a Vermont man who goes to fight in WWII. The film, by George Woodard, will be shown at Brandon Town Hall on Friday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m.

‘The Farm Boy’ is a wartime love story about Vermonters

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—George Woodard is a 3rd-generation dairy farmer up in Waterbury. He still lives on the family farm, purchased by his grandfather back in 1912. He's mostly retired from farming now—“I still milk one cow”—and has turned his attention once again to something he's done on and off for years: filmmaking. His latest film, “The Farm Boy,” will be shown on Friday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Brandon Town Hall.

“The Farm Boy” is Woodard's second full-length feature, after “The Summer of Walter Hacks,” which he filmed in 2004 and released in 2010 (it's hard to find time to edit a film when you still have a herd of 25 cows to milk). Both films star Woodard's son, Henry, who filmed “Walter Hacks” as an 11-year-old and “The Farm Boy” as an adult. In “The Farm Boy,” Henry Woodard plays Calvin Dillard, a young man who drives a milk truck for his father in rural Vermont during World War II. He marries a girl named Mary (played by Grace Woodruff) he met at a dance, yet barely has time to settle into marriage when he's drafted and sent to

war in Belgium. While in Europe, he meets another woman, Renée (Coco Moseley), and his experiences with her change him in profound ways.

Woodard filmed “The Farm Boy” on his 60-acre farm in Waterbury, parts of which resemble the pine forests of the Ardennes in Belgium, where one of the most famous WWII battles—the Battle of the Bulge—took place. For those scenes, Woodard managed to assemble a troop of WWII reenactors, some army trucks, and a bunch of fireworks.

“It was a heck of a good time,” laughed Woodard.

Woodard takes many of his cues from classic American directors, such as John Ford, John Sturgis, and Anthony Mann, who all worked in a frank, direct way that focused on the story rather than on elaborate stylistic tics that can obscure the narrative. Even Woodard's choice to film in black and white is a nod to a certain era in American cinema.

“Ford just put the camera there and let whatever was going to happen happen,” Woodard said. “Lots of times if stuff is shot conventionally, the story comes through bet-

ter.”

The story has two main acts: Calvin's life in Vermont and then his experiences in Belgium. For Woodard, capturing the realities of wartime accurately was paramount, and not just in battle but also at home.

“Most WWII movies don't give enough home life,” he said. “A big hole was left in communities when men went to war.” What Calvin left behind was just as important to the story as what he encountered in Europe. You can't understand a character's choices unless you know a bit of their history.

The movie was produced by Joan Brace O'Neal, who won acclaim for her 2001 documentary “A Moment in Time,” about the aftermath of a car accident that left 2 teenagers dead in Montpelier.

Woodard and O'Neal are Vermonters who make movies about Vermonters. “The Farm Boy” is also a bit personal for Woodard: it's loosely based on his own parents' experiences during WWII.

“It's a love story with action and adventure,” he said. “There's a lot of heart to it and it's a lot of fun to watch.”

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VT Invitation for bids

The Town of Pittsford is requesting bids for fuel deliveries from **July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026** to the following Town locations, as specified below on an annual basis:

- 12,000 gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel to the Town Highway Garage, Pleasant St.
- 2,000 gallons of off-road diesel fuel to the Transfer Station, Depot St.
- 1,600 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Town Highway Garage, Pleasant St.
- 2,000 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Fire Department, Pleasant St.
- 1,200 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Town Office, Plains Rd.
- 2,000 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Maclure Library, Arch St.
- 500 gallons of propane to the Fire Department Auxiliary Station, Florence
- 1,000 gallons of propane to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lab, Arch St.
- 1,300 gallons of propane to the Water Department (former WWTPlant), Arch St.
- 1,000 gallons of propane to the Pittsford First Response, Arch St.
- 100 gallons of propane for Fire Station Generator, Pleasant St.
- 100 gallons propane for Town Office generator, Plains Rd.
- 250 gallons of propane to water well house, River St., Florence
- 200 gallons of propane to water pump shed, Route 7 Red Barn

Sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Pittsford Town Manager at the above address, until Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. at which time they will be opened and read. Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked Pittsford Fuel Bid.

Selection of the supplier will be based upon bidders' qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects (ie: prompt service) and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the Town to be the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

Payment will be made within 30 days of the delivery of fuel and submission of an invoice.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days. (Saturday, Sundays and legal holidays excluded) after the opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Town.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD
David Atherton, Town Manager

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VT RFP Auditing Services

The Town of Pittsford seeks auditing services for the Town for the fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025. A full description of the required services is available on the Town's website pittsfordvermont.com or by contacting Town Manager David Atherton at manager@pittsfordvermont.com or at 802-483-6500 x 200. The deadline for submittals is Noon on May 31, 2023.

GOSHEN CEMETERIES & GROUNDS Invitation to bid

The Town of Goshen is accepting bids to provide grounds maintenance for Fiscal Year 2024. For more information and a bid spec sheet contact: Ken Brown. 802-247-3194 or kennethbrown@myfairpoint.net

Plainly marked sealed bids must be delivered to Goshen Town Office by 12:00 Noon Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Bids will be Opened at the Goshen Town Hall on May 18, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

Harry Hunt

(Continued from Page 1)

his lifetime of civic commitment, he said, "I've been very proud to work with many good guys in my time. I've worked with a good many fire chiefs but I never desired to be an officer. The chiefs always appreciated me because I could communicate with everyone, old and young."

Born in Windsor Vermont, he moved to Brandon at age 3. After high school he spent 6 years in the U.S. Navy, including during the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Upon returning to Vermont, he married Arlene Fay in June 1966 and they settled in Pittsford. He joined the Fire Department "to do something for my community." They moved to Grove Street in Brandon in 1972 and still live in the same house. They have one son, Harry L. Hunt. Young Harry joined his father in the fire department while still in high school and has 30 years in himself. After the Navy, Hunt was employed by the phone company for 30 years as a lineman, and then spent the next 25 as the maintenance person at Keewaydin Camp.

Back in the 1970s, the fire siren would go off and its code of long and short blasts indicated where the fire was. The siren could be

heard all over town. Bob and Joan Thomas of Thomas' Answering Service would let the fire station know the exact location. Recalling one memorable fire out on Pearl Street, where Ralph Ethier lives now, Harry didn't need to know the code, he could see the flames when he ran out the front door of his house on Grove Street.

Hunt responded to 1000's of fire calls and accidents but among the biggest ones were Torrey's Barn on McConnell Road, the dry cleaners (where the Falls Park is now), The Newton Thompson factory in Forestdale, and the New England Woodcraft fire, where he was the most scared. Charged with keeping the line of propane tanks close to the building cool by spraying water on them, he was asked by a fellow young fireman what would happen if they blew up. Hunt responded, "If that happens, we won't know!"

The worst thing Harry experienced as a firefighter was when someone didn't make it, recalling the loss of life in the dry cleaner building fire and the family with kids that died in a Route 7 crash where they were buried under a truck. Hunt has fallen through the floor of a burning building and battled a fire at 20 degrees



HARRY HUNT IS an avid fisherman and caught the record rainbow trout in 2006.

below zero. That cold winter fire was in the Bardwell Hotel in the seventies where firemen were transported to Rutland Hospital to thaw out and return to fight fire again. Arlene Hunt says "He's lucky to make it to 80!"

When not fighting fires, Hunt loves to hunt and fish although he's a little restricted now with weak legs. He's proud of the

12-point deer he harvested in Goshen as well as the state record rainbow trout he caught ice fishing on Lake Dunmore in March of 2006. He survived a heart attack while deer hunting in Pennsylvania years back. He's also belonged to the Lions and the American Legion for decades. Faced with declining volunteerism across the nation,

Hunt encourages young people to "make a commitment to the fire department, it will bring a lifetime of rewards."

Due to his health, Hunt now runs the radio during fires. Harry E. Hunt sums up his lifetime in the fire department with these simple words: "I miss being on the fire truck when it goes out!"

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