

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 11

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

\$1



## ONE-ACT WONDERS

OV's Walking Stick Theater presents an evening of one-act plays mostly written and directed by students.

PG. 2



## SPRING IS COMING

In anticipation of spring, Lyn Desmarais shares the symbolism of flowers, as seen by 19th-century illustrator Kate Greenway.

PG. 3



## STILL SWINGING

Jim Peck presents the third, and final, installment in his 3-part series on golf courses in Brandon's history. In this issue, he focus on the Neshobe Golf Club, still very much in operation.

PG. 9

## UP UP AND AWAY

Veteran flight attendant Connie M. Nite offers more secrets of the trade in this week's "Let's Fly."

PG. 15

## GOSHEN TOWN MEETING

Carolyn Van Vleck shares her observations of last week's Town Meeting in Goshen.

PG. 18



## Dr. Bill Mathis retires after 61 years in education

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—William Jefferson Mathis, PhD retired from education officially and finally on March 1, 2024 due to a chronic illness. Many of our readers will remember him from his time as the superintendent of schools in the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNEU), a position he held for 27 years. This alone was a remarkable achievement, as the average Vermont superintendent's tenure has a duration of 4 years. But it is not the only claim to fame of this soft-spoken Tennessean.

Dr. Mathis has done national and state work in the field of education policy. He has published or presented research on finance, assessment, accountability, standards, cost-effectiveness, education reform, history, and constitutional issues. He has co-edited several books and

(See *Dr. Bill Mathis*, Page 20)



BILL MATHIS ON his last day at RNEU.

Photos by George Fjeld

## Pittsford Selectboard discusses emergency vehicles and bad neighbors

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—At its first meeting after Town Meeting last week, the Pittsford Selectboard last Wednesday re-elected Alicia Malay as its Chair and David Mills as Vice-Chair. It was the first meeting of new Board member Dan Adams, who was elected to the seat vacated by Joe Gagnon.

The Board decided to table the slate of appointments to other town and committee positions that it had prepared because Board member Mark Winslow was absent. These appointments will be made at the next regular Selectboard meeting.

The bulk of the meeting was taken up by a discussion of a set of properties on Fire Hill Road in Florence that have been the source of numerous complaints from adjacent landowners for their state of disrepair and neglect. Several of those landowners appeared at the meeting to seek the town's help in ad-

ressing what they described as dangerous and unsanitary conditions. At least one of the properties is not inhabited but is regularly visited by its owner, who lives in Brandon and, neighbors claim, uses the Florence property to dispose of trash.

According to neighbors, the properties are covered with debris and garbage, animal carcasses, leaking tanks, and abandoned vehicles. Moreover, the landowners use the land to house pigs, dogs, and even a peacock. Recently, adjacent properties have been invaded by rats who have taken up residence. Neighbors are concerned about contaminated runoff from the property infiltrating the ground water that feeds their home wells.

Town Manager David Atherton explained to attendees in the room and on Zoom that the town is limited in its ability to force landowners to comply with zoning laws. The town

(See *Pittsford SB*, Page 8)

## Brandon SB picks new officers, discusses pumps & parking

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In its first meeting since Town Meeting last week, the Brandon Selectboard welcomed newly elected members Doug Bailey, Ralph Ethier, and Heather Nelson, all of whom have previously served on the Board. Ms. Nelson successfully retained her seat and Mr. Bailey and Mr. Ethier reclaimed seats they had once held. Brian Coolidge and Tim Guiles continue in their seats.

As the first order of business, the Board elected Mr. Bailey as Chair, Ms. Nelson as Vice-Chair, and Mr. Ethier as Clerk (this last position traditionally going to the most junior member).

The Board then had to rotate through its various other incarnations in order to establish itself with its new members: Board of Liquor Control, Board of Health, Board of Cannabis Control, Housing Board of Review, and Board of Sewer Commissioners.

### SEWER TREATMENT AND NEW PUMP

As the Board of Sewer Commissioners, the Board heard from

Steven Cjika, Chief Operator at the town wastewater treatment plant on Union Street. Mr. Cjika explained that the plant had been overwhelmed by the sudden deluge during the heavy rains over the weekend and had had to release some untreated water, which it duly reported to the state.

Mr. Cjika explained to the Board that one of the plant's two main sludge pumps was broken and could be repaired at a cost of \$20,000 or replaced at a cost of \$25,000. His recommendation was to spend the extra money and replace the pump entirely. The Board agreed and unanimously approved the purchase.

Mr. Cjika also cautioned the Board that the town's sewer pipes, many of which date to the 1930s, will eventually need to be replaced at an aggregate cost of roughly \$20 million. Mr. Guiles agreed that the Board should be proactive in maintaining the system and not wait until there's a crisis.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

• The Board approved the following (See *Brandon SB*, Page 19)

# An evening of short plays at OVUHS showcases student creations

BY MITCH PEARL

This past weekend saw the annual presentation of short plays (also known as “The One-Acts”) at Otter Valley. Jeffrey Hull, Otter Valley’s theatre director, started these productions 25 years ago to let students learn the art of directing. Over the years, Otter Valley’s Walking Stick Theatre group has presented a program of short plays directed by, and often written by, the students. While the program has always had student-written plays,

this is the fourth year that the student directors all wrote their own plays. This started during the pandemic, since the actors had to be distanced from each other and only a small number of actors could be in each play. Seeing the student-written plays provides a good reflection of the students’ worldviews, their interests, and what they find entertaining.

The only play presented that was not written by a student was the last play, which is the festival

piece to be presented at Vermont’s regional drama festival. The last play of the evening is always a short play by a published author and directed by theatre director Jeff Hull.

The first play of the evening, “Wizards to Falkum,” was written and directed by students Chloe Derepentigny and Dillon Ladd. This was a funny and energetic play with an innovative concept. There was one group of actors literally at audience level playing Dungeons and Dragons while their role-playing game went on above them on the stage. On stage, the superbly costumed characters—including a “mud monster” and a wizard—played out the game, while the players, down below, aired their own disagreements and “mom” brought them snacks.

The second play, “Tales of a Dojo,” was written and directed by Jaylee MacJarrett. The characters’ “real life” struggles found resolution through a martial-arts

competition involving a great “slow-mo” simulated fight. The lighting and sound were particularly well done, with fitting—and comedic—use of music to support the drama.

The third play, “Battle of the Bands,” was written and directed by Dani Polli and Alyssa Raymond. This was both a funny tribute to and critique of the culture of making every event into a contest. The ending was adorable, with the contest’s announcer finding her xylophone so she could join one of the bands. The

young concert attendees were hilarious.

The next play, entitled “The Best Thieves in Paris,” was written and directed by Sally O’Brien. Effective use of costume and visuals evoked the feeling of being in Paris, outside the Louvre art museum. A group of comic and ineffectual guards can’t seem to prevent the museum’s most famous artwork—including Van Gogh’s Sunflowers and DaVinci’s Mona Lisa—from being stolen by a similarly com-

(See Short plays, Page 14)



“FORMIDABLE FUNERAL,” WRITTEN & directed by Bryce Connaughton and Nate Gaissert: a whodunit in which the lead actress (Roni O’Brien) had the thespian’s delight of dying on stage 15 times.



“WIZARDS TO FALKUM,” written & directed by Chloe Derepentigny and Dillon Ladd. In this clever piece, a group of friends play Dungeons & Dragons and the game comes to life for the audience. Photos by Mitchell Pearl

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# GARDENING CORNER



## A floral interlude for a (nearly) spring day

BY LYN DESMARAIS

In 1884, artist and writer Kate Greenaway wrote a book called *The Language of Flowers*. Her illustrations are exquisite. You will probably recognize her style. In it she created a veritable dictionary of words and phrases and corresponding flowers. The book begins with a long list of common, and some Latin, names of flowers and their corresponding meaning. Vernal grass means “poor but happy,” corn means “riches,” potato means “benevolence,” the snapdragon means “presumption,” and this startling one, basil means “hated.” I’ve never thought that humans have had a difficult

time expressing that emotion, nor had a need of a flower to express it for them. And what on earth did the humble, sweet-tasting basil do to deserve that coupling?

The second part of the book is another set of lists starting with words and phrases like this one: “Your qualities, like your charms are unequalled,” and the corresponding flower is peach blossom. “Coldheartedness” is paired with lettuce. Would you give someone you didn’t like a head of lettuce, wouldn’t a look or just avoiding them be more effective and less work?

The third part of the book includes poems where flowers

are the star. With a lot of selections by Burns, Shelly, and Wordsworth, the modern audience might find these poems well, overly flowery. There is even a poem written about how to arrange flowers. To me, after reading this particular poem, it seems like it would create a very large, crowded arrange-

ment if one were to add all the flowers the poem mentions. Let me know if any one of you attempts it.

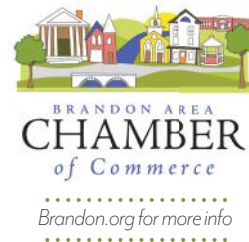


ter all, flowers have been used to express all sorts of human feelings for thousands of years.

We have courtiers of the Middle Ages with a “secret” language (See Gardening corner, Page 7)



## Spotlight On Business THE BOOKSTORE



The Bookstore

Now in our fifth year, The Bookstore arose through the efforts of book lovers, volunteers, writers, artists, and supporters who value the Brandon community. We strive to be an essential piece of the town’s culture,

welcoming visitors from near and far, sharing books and stories, and enjoying the serendipity of paths that cross in our little store. We pack a lot into a small space, including an awesome team of booksellers! Come say hi!



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BRANDON REPORTER

## Editorial

### A missed opportunity: Pittsford should reconsider the 1% tax

BY STEVEN JUPITER

Last week, Pittsford voters declined to implement a local option tax that would have levied an additional 1% on most retail sales within the town. Certainly, Pittsford residents are capable of deciding for themselves what they're willing to accept, but it may be in their long-term best interest to reconsider their position here, especially in light of their approval last week of a \$400K bond.

In a year when school taxes are expected to increase dramatically, perhaps a new tax just didn't stand a chance. But the Pittsford Selectboard and town management didn't do much outreach to explain to the town's residents how the tax would work or what the benefit would be.

A local option tax tacks on an additional 1% to our existing sales tax. A town can also opt to levy that additional 1% on meals, alcohol, and rooms. So, instead of the state-mandated 6% sales tax, Pittsford would levy 7%. Instead of the state-mandated 9% meal tax, Pittsford could levy 10%. And so on.

The 1% tax is collected by businesses and remitted to the state, just like regular sales tax. However, 70% of the local option tax is then remitted back to the municipality that collected it (30% is retained by the state). So, for every \$100 spent in Pittsford, the town would send \$1 in extra sales tax to the state and would receive back \$0.70 in additional tax revenue. Though this is a small amount per transaction, it adds up quickly over the course of a year.

Brandon has had a local option tax since 2016 and, according to its 2023 Town Report, the town has since received back from the

state a total of \$1,372,232, with 2023 bringing in \$266,946 alone. The most recent payment to Brandon from the state, for the last quarter of 2023, was \$63,000.

Brandon's option tax has come in quite handy, helping to cover the cost of expenses that would otherwise have required dipping into property-tax revenues. Last year, Brandon was able to pay for much of a new \$250,000 truck with its 1% fund.

Granted, Pittsford is a smaller town with less commercial activity than Brandon, but the revenue from a 1% local option tax will still be significant. Pittsford Town Manager Dave Atherton estimated that the town could see roughly \$100,000 per year from the tax. And a good chunk of that revenue will come from non-Pittsford residents patronizing Pittsford's businesses, stores, and restaurants. People traveling on Route 7 who stop at Kamuda's or Keith's will pay into the fund. Folks who dine at the Pittsford-Proctor golf course or at Hilltop Tavern will pay into the fund. Anyone who stops at the town's gas stations will pay into the fund. Unlike property tax, the burden is not on residents alone.

There was something a bit self-contradictory in Pittsford's simultaneous approval of a \$400,000 bond and rejection of a mechanism to pay for it, especially when that mechanism would apply to anyone who spent money in Pittsford and not just to town residents. Pittsford has now taken on significant new debt without a new source of revenue to pay for it. It's going to take a lot of 50/50 raffles and bake sales to service the debt on this new bond without raising taxes.

(See *Pittsford tax*, Page 8)



### An actual 'snowbird'

THIS PINE WARBLER, now wintering in Florida, will soon be returning to Vermont.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

### New high-tech data helps identify habitat connections for conservation

MONTPELIER — Towns, planners and conservation organizations in Vermont can now take advantage of new high-resolution data to find and protect important habitat features like wildlife road crossings.

The new data are available in the most recent update to BioFinder, a free mapping tool that uses Vermont

Conservation Design to show Vermont's most important landscapes for wildlife and climate resilience.

"This update is a major step forward in mapping the connections between Vermont's most important wildlife habitats," said Jens Hawkins-Hilke, conservation planning biologist with the Vermont

Fish and Wildlife Department. "As wildlife populations adjust their ranges to a changing climate these connections will become even more important."

The updated Vermont Conservation Design analysis uses new data that is 60 times more detailed than (See *Habitat conservation*, Page 8)

### Some cliff tops and overlooks closed to protect nesting peregrines

Hiking Vermont's hillsides is a great way to enjoy a spring day, but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont recommend people check to see if the area they are planning to hike or climb is open. In addition to trail closures to reduce impacts during mud season, several cliff areas are

also closed to protect nesting peregrine falcons.

"Peregrine falcons are very sensitive to human presence during their breeding season, so we ask climbers and hikers to please maintain a respectful distance from their nests," said Nongame Bird Biologist Jillian Kilborn with Fish and

Wildlife. "The areas closed include the portions of the cliffs where the birds are nesting and the trails leading to cliff tops or overlooks."

Over the next couple months, biologists and community scientists will be identifying cliffs occupied by peregrines this year. Sites listed (See *Nesting peregrines*, Page 8)

## The REPORTER

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# Letters to the Editor

## Thank you to all who supported me in my campaign for Brandon Selectboard

I would like to thank all of the voters that supported me during the recent election. Let's hope the newly elected Selectboard sees the budget fail as an opportunity to craft a new fiscally responsible one that meets the town's needs with a realistic increase.

Please hold your Selectboard accountable, especially for the budget and remember that it is their sole responsibility (not the Town Manager's) to present a reasonable budget to the people.

I would also like to respond to a couple of our elected officials and our current town

manager(s) who made the decision to discredit a couple of Selectboard candidates through dirty tactics. This came as surprise to me, especially after a couple of these folks were quoted in the January 25, 2023 issue of The Reporter as saying this:

In an email sent to The Reporter, Board chair Seth Hopkins stated, "The Selectboard regretfully accepted Mr. Atherton's resignation with deep appreciation for his dedication to the Town and with real admiration for all that he has achieved for Brandon, first as a selectboard member elected twice

and then as our professional town manager since 2015. His record as town manager has been truly transformative, and he leaves a positive legacy which will benefit the community for long years into the future. The Sselectboard congratulates Mr. Atherton on all he accomplished for Brandon and wishes him every success in his future endeavors. He will be greatly missed."

Selectboard member Tim Guiles stated in an emailed comment, "It's important to note that Dave Atherton left on a positive note, at the top of

his game. The town is in great shape—and Dave has decided to move on to a new opportunity. The selectboard will now start a deliberative process to find our next town manager."

It's no secret that Brent Buehler has had a disdain for me since the early days of the Route 7 Segment 6 project. However, I was not the first town manager to be taunted by him and I'm sure I won't be the last. He has tried to sue the Town more than once at the expense of the taxpayers and, to the best of my knowledge, hasn't won a case yet. The part

that bothers me about his posts on social media and in this paper is that all of his data was handed to him from the town office by the two individuals that are quoted above. Interesting?

So, thanks again to all of you that supported me during my previous tenure as Selectboard member and town manager and during the recent elections. And be sure to hold our Selectboard and town managers accountable and never be afraid to ask them questions.

David Atherton  
Brandon

## Selectboard members should consider VLCT training

Thanks to all of the candidates for Selectboard for this year. It certainly is not easy to "put yourself out there." And thanks to the Selectboard members who are continuing their service. It's a lot of work.

Being a Selectboard member is not easy. It requires a shift in perspective along with the separation of public and personal attitudes. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns offers a class called "Select Board Es-

entials." I wonder if current and new Selectboard members would be interested in taking this class to learn about the Board's responsibilities and techniques.

I think taking this training could lay a foundation for an efficient and successful Selectboard and possibly curtail a lot of false starts.

Neil Silins  
Brandon

## Community letter

### I've chosen Vermont as my home

As I introduce myself as Esther Charlestin, a candidate for your next governor, I am met with skepticism. "Who do you think you are?," "Where did you come from?," "Why are you here?"

Behind many statements, questions, gestures—lies those questions around my candidacy. More pointedly, Who do you think you are? You can not be the executive leader in our State and you are wasting your time. You did not follow the rules, you do not have the money, connections, or power—who do you think you are? One has been selected; And you, a black woman who chose Vermont, are not what we envisioned.

The beauty of a democracy is that each Vermonter gets to decide. As a candidate, I am looking to give the people a choice. My aim is to activate hearts and

empower those who feel they are outsiders living in this great state.

The sentiment of waiting your turn can be saved for those that believe it applies to them. As for me, I have announced my candidacy for Governor of Vermont with a clear purpose: to provide strong leadership that reflects fresh perspective and bold action. Because Vermont is changing, we can not be afraid of the change, we need to embrace it and we need to shape it. I am running to shape the future of Vermont, and that journey begins today.

I am Esther Charlestin, a Vermonter by choice.

I love Vermont and it has been my chosen community for the past five years. My family and I have been able to create an incredible life for ourselves. It has come with its hills and (See *Vermont by choice*, Page 7)

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# Obituaries

## Calvin Merritte Griffin, 80, Sudbury

Calvin Merritte Griffin, age 80, passed peacefully March 4, 2024, at his home in Sudbury.

Calvin was born in Rutland on February 5, 1944. He was the son of Murray and Jennie (Paine) Griffin. He grew up and worked on the family farm in Sudbury and received his early education at Sudbury Burr Pond School. He graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1962. Calvin served in the United States Army in Viet Nam. Following his honorable discharge, he returned home and began a working career at Standard Register in Middlebury, where he worked for 45 years as a Material Handler. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed going to the races at Devil's Bowl and other tracks around the region, working in his garden, and cutting firewood.



**CALVIN GRIFFEN**

Surviving is his wife, Mary (Koktowski) Griffin of Sudbury, whom he married in Crown Point, NY on December 6, 1969; one daughter, Vicki Griffin of Sudbury; and a son, Kevin Griffin (Brooke) of Rutland. Also surviving are 2 sisters, Lila Stebbin and Florence Beauregard; a

granddaughter, Amber Young, and her children, Bailey and Tanner; a granddaughter, Lauren Alger & her husband, Ben, and their children, Ila and Tucker; a grandson, Ryan Crossman, and his daughter, Everleigh; a grandson, Matt, and his wife, Lindsey, and their son, Mason. He was predeceased by his son Albert Griffin and his brother Carl Griffin.

The graveside committal service and burial, with Military Honors, will take place at a later date in Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to the Brandon American Legion Post #55, P.O. Box 25, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

## Joyce Heath, 98, New Haven

Joyce Heath, 98, of New Haven, Vermont passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024, with her family by her side.

She was born to Basil and Mae (Thorpe) Walsh on July 31, 1925, in Proctor, Vermont. Joyce attended Proctor Elementary School and graduated from Proctor High School in 1943. She graduated from Middlebury College, class of 1947, and continued her post-graduate studies at the College of St. Joseph and the University of Vermont.

Joyce was married to Benjamin W. (Bill) Heath of Derby Line, Vermont on August 28, 1949. They lived in many Vermont towns, including Winooski, Burlington, Rochester, Derby, Canaan, Newport, Goshen, Brandon, Middlebury, and most recently in New Haven. They also lived in Montreal, Quebec for 6 years, accommodating Bill's career as a US Customs Officer.

Joyce was employed by the State



**JOYCE HEATH**

of Vermont, Department of Social Welfare, as a Social Worker in the St. Johnsbury and Burlington District Offices from 1947-1951. She was a teacher at Rochester High School, 1953-1954. Joyce was the Director and Treasurer of Camp Thorpe in Goshen from 1966-1991 and continued as Treasurer and Trustee of Camp Thorpe until 2006.

Joyce was very involved in the communities where she lived, holding many elected offices and appointed positions. She was a member of the School Board at North Country Union High School, Newport, Vermont and a member of the School Board at Neshobe Elementary School in Brandon, Vermont. In Brandon, she was Justice of the Peace, officiating at a multitude of wedding ceremonies. She was particularly proud to have officiated at many same-sex civil unions and marriages. She also was the Chairman of Brandon's Board of Civil Authority and Abatement; Lister; Treasurer of the Otter Valley Union District High School from

1982-2010; Treasurer of Brandon Senior Citizens and Brandon Thrift Shop and a member of the Brandon Garden Club and Brandon Monday Club. Joyce served on the State Board of Directors of the Vermont Girl Scout Council and Vermont YWCA Council.

Joyce is survived by her eight children: Barry Heath, MD of Burlington; David Heath, Newport Center; Jean Maxwell, Coventry; Janet Heath, New Haven; Alan Heath, Randolph; Mary Heath, Sudbury; Jeffrey Heath, New Haven; and Nancy Heath, Coronado, California. She is also survived by a cousin, Barry Lamont of Mission Viejo, CA. She is also survived by twenty grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Bill, in 1996, by her sister, Jean T. Walsh, in 2015, and by a granddaughter, Andrea Heath in 1994.

Joyce enjoyed traveling and had the opportunity to visit the Caribbean, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, England, Panama, Scotland, Germany, and Turkey.

Her hobbies included knitting, basket-weaving, folk-art painting, and crafts. A prolific knitter, she made hundreds of baby sweaters and hats that she donated to various local charities helping families.

Respecting her wishes, her body will be donated to the University of Vermont College of Medicine. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon.

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

## Gardening corner

(Continued from Page 3)  
of flowers, Shakespeare follows suit in Hamlet with some “secret” floral messaging. I’m not quite sure how a secret language works. I suppose it could work between two people, but among hundreds? “Someone grab a pen or a tablet, we need to write this down! I’ve forgotten what basil means!” There’s certainly room for error here.

We don’t know exactly when flowers became so important in human communication, but we do know from art, dating back at least 5,000 years, that many humans grew and used flowers in religious ceremonies, in offerings to the gods, and in public rituals, symbolically, and for their own private enjoyment. To this day, we refer to the hanging gardens of Babylon as being some of the finest gardens in the world. Writers described them as being a man-made mountain of terraces and fountains with trees shrubs and flowers cascading down it, an engineering wonder. Others ascribe it as a gift of love from a king to his homesick spouse. They’re one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World,

but there’s a lot of controversy around their location and the lack of physical evidence of them. So, they were an absolute marvel, if they even existed.

Also, in antiquity, we have references that roses were being grown in gardens in China more than 5,000 years ago. The beloved cherry blossoms of Japan have been revered for at least 1,000 years. In fact, there is supposed to be a weeping cherry tree in Japan that is 1,000 years old. The Japanese have an ancient ritual called Hanami, which is commonly known as “flower gazing.” I love this idea! I want this holiday here! Marigolds have been part of Mexican culture since the pre-Columbian era (2,000 to 3,000 years ago). Marigolds were imported into India over 350 years ago and now have a major role in Indian wedding celebrations and other Hindu festivals. Today in Vermont, we use flowers to celebrate just about everything. They’re pretty, they can smell nice, and if you receive red roses, well, they’re not sending you basil.

So, what are flowers, actually?



Botanically speaking, flowers are the physical manifestations of the reproductive structure of angiosperms. What a mouthful! Angiosperms are a species of plant, with over 350,000 varieties, that flower and produce seeds in order to reproduce. Flowers come in every imaginable shape, size, color, and smell. Most flowers have evolved to attract pollinators by their scent, look, and nectar, which allows both the plant and pollinators “to live long and prosper.” We humans have given them a starring role in our emotional lives, now isn’t that interesting?

## Vermonters by choice

(Continued from Page 5)

I was twice elected to the Middlebury Selectboard. I was selected to be the Dean of Culture and Climate, but left after a year of witnessing the system’s cracks and experiencing them firsthand. Facing racial attacks and systemic failures in support, I have chosen to advocate for change through my company Conversation Compass, LLC, striving to foster understanding of justice, equity and inclusions in schools and organizations.

I believe in Vermont. The experience of living in this great state has to be better for all of us and this year each Vermonter gets one vote to make their choice.

I envision a Vermont where everyone has access to attainable housing, quality education, fosters

a dynamic and inclusive workforce, and builds resilient communities that can withstand the challenges of climate change.

Despite the doubts and barriers placed before me, I stand firm in my belief in the transformative power of democracy. In the face of adversity, I choose hope, believing in a Vermont united by our shared values of community, resilience and progress. Together, we can shape a Vermont that embraces diversity, equity and opportunity for all. As I embark on this journey, I invite you to join me in envisioning a future where every Vermonter’s voice is heard and every dream is within reach. Together, let us write the next chapter of Vermont’s story- one of hope, progress and inclusive prosperity.

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\*Subject to availability and eligibility.



Learn More

# Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

cannot enter a property to force compliance. The only recourse is to take the landowner to court. Zoning administrator Jeff Biasuzzi, attending via Zoom, explained the limitations of his office to address the issue.

One neighbor stated that he had been in touch with state authorities and was told that any state ac-

tion needed to be predicated on an action at the town level and suggested that the town health officer make a visit to the site to view the conditions for himself.

Mr. Atherton stated that the presence of rats could present an actionable health violation. Mr. Atherton and the Board agreed to make a visit to the site later in the week to assess conditions. A

resident of Fire Hill Road immediately adjacent to the property in question offered access to her land so that the town contingent could get a close view of the subject property without having to enter it.

Attendees also indicated that the landowners had threatened neighbors who complained, leading some to fear “repercussions from these people.”

“This is a public health problem,” said Mr. Atherton. “It’s disgusting and we’ll do what we can to fix it.”

The Board went on to discuss the need to purchase a new vehicle for Pittsford’s first responders, who currently use a 1990 Suburban SUV that Mr. Atherton described as being “in bad shape” and no longer capable of passing inspection. The vehicle is used only for first responders and their gear. It is not used to transport patients.

Mr. Atherton stated that it had been difficult to find a suitable replacement vehicle that fit the town’s budget, but a used Du-

rango had been found at Pittsford Auto Center that could be outfitted with all the necessary equipment for significantly less than the town had allocated for the purchase.

The Board ultimately agreed to purchase the Durango for no more than \$25K, including all necessary equipment, contingent upon satisfactory inspection.

The Board’s final piece of public business was the approval of orders in the amounts of \$10,396.07 and \$83,618.25 to meet the town’s expenses and obligations.

## Nesting peregrines

(Continued from Page 4)

will remain closed until August 1 or until Fish and Wildlife determines the risk to nesting falcons has passed. The majority of the sites are visited in April, and nesting falcons can choose new sites, so additional sites may be added or removed from the closed list which will be updated and provided on Fish and

Wildlife’s website.

- Bolton Notch (Bolton) – UUW cliff – cliff access and climbing closed
- Bone Mountain (Bolton) – portions closed to climbing
- Deer Leap (Bristol) – cliff-top and climbing closed
- Eagle Ledge (Vershire) – closed to hiking and climbing

- Dummerston Quarry (Dummerston) – upper quarry closed
- Fairlee Palisades (Fairlee) – cliff-top closed
- Marshfield Mt (Marshfield) – portions closed to climbing
- Mt Horrid (Rochester) – Great Cliff overlook closed
- Nichols Ledge (Woodbury) – cliff-top and climbing closed
- Prospect Rock (Johnson) – cliff-top overlook and climbing closed
- Red Rocks Park (S. Burlington) – southern cliff access closed
- Rattlesnake Point (Salisbury) –

southern overlook closed

- Snake Mountain (Addison) – entire western trail closed

Audubon Vermont conservation biologist Margaret Fowle works with volunteers and other conservation professionals to monitor the sites throughout the nesting season. “Peregrine falcons were removed from Vermont’s endangered species list in 2005, and the population continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers and partners,” said Fowle. “In many cases the lower portions of the trails remain open, and we en-

courage people to enjoy watching peregrine falcons from a distance that requires using binoculars or a spotting scope.”

What you can do to help Vermont peregrines:

Respect cliff closures, and retreat from any cliff where you see peregrines

Report any disturbance of nesting peregrines to your local State Game Warden

Report any sightings to Margaret Fowle at [margaret.fowle@audubon.org](mailto:margaret.fowle@audubon.org)

## INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

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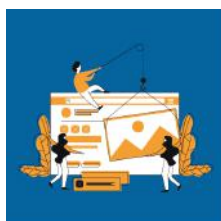
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## Habitat conservation

(Continued from Page 4)

previous versions. Higher resolution data allows Vermont Conservation Design to accurately capture the edges of large areas of uninterrupted habitat, and the connections between them. The online BioFinder tool lets planners and conservation organizations see those connecting landscapes in the areas where they work.

“We are watching species move in real time as a result of our changing climate,” said Gus Goodwin, senior conservation planner and ecologist with The Nature Conservancy. “Our state plays an outsized role in supporting that movement throughout the entire Northern Appalachians, a vision supported by the BioFinder tool. With these updates, Vermont Conservation De-

sign is ready to help us meet the conservation challenges of the coming decade.”

Vermont Conservation Design and BioFinder were developed by a team led by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, along with scientists from the Nature Conservancy, the Northeast Wilderness Trust, the Vermont Land Trust, and the University of Vermont.

“This partnership brought together critical perspectives needed in assessing Vermont’s landscape for climate and ecological resilience, and the results will help guide our future conservation work,” said Tracy Zschau, president of the Vermont Land Trust.

Updating Vermont Conservation Design and BioFinder offered collaborators an opportunity to re-

visit the science that underpins both products. The Vermont Conservation Design team reaffirmed this underlying research, even taking into account evolving climate data over the last decade.

“I was consistently impressed with the amount of expertise in the room developing this updated model,” said Shelby Perry, wildlands ecologist with the Northeast Wilderness Trust. “Everyone on the team was motivated by protecting an ecologically functioning landscape here in Vermont, and it was an honor to work together on this.”

BioFinder is available online for free, for everyone from scientists and town managers to students and private landowners, on the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources’ website.

## Pittsford tax

(Continued from Page 4)

I am not a Pittsford resident, but I’ve gotten to know the town a bit through my work on this paper. I see a town that prides itself on frugality and practicality, a town that doesn’t like to ask its residents to reach into their pockets unless absolutely necessary. I respect that. However, the 1% local option tax should be seen as a boon and not a

burden. It adds one cent to every dollar spent and, unlike conventional sales tax which goes into the state’s coffers, it returns a majority of its revenue to the town that generated it.

Understandably, a new tax is a tough sell, especially at a time when we’re being squeezed by an increasing cost of living. But the best aspect of the 1% tax is that

it brings money to the town from consumers who don’t live there. 23 other Vermont communities already levy the 1% local option tax, with some having adopted it as far back as the 1990s. It’s not an experimental program. It works.

Pittsford residents should reconsider their opposition to it.



# The new Nesh, founded on old farmland, still thriving

## Final installment of a 3-part series on Brandon's golf courses.

BY JAMES PECK

BRANDON—After the Brandon Country Club closed in 1944, the town went without a golf course for thirteen years until, in 1957, a group of Brandon golfers started investigating places in town to build a new one. One of the first places they looked was the old Brandon Country Club. The clubhouse was still intact though in disrepair, and the land available

option to buy it.

On October 8, 1958, the group, led by Herb LaRock, Bob Naylor, Stan English, M. J. LaDuke and Hanford Davis, legally formed the new Neshobe Golf Club, Inc. with \$25,000 in capitalization. They sold shares at \$50 per share and quickly raised \$7,500, with more coming in daily.

On December 3, 1958, they signed the deed and bought the 45-

Jennings, Emile Racine, Herman Rowe, and Gilbert Casey joined the board along with Dr. Estabrook. The board stepped up the membership drive and formed committees to include local women players, including Dot Rivers, Alta Naylor, and Doris LaRock.

The membership built the clubhouse themselves with their own equipment. The clubhouse featured a bar, large dining area, and kitchen upstairs with a large porch along the back with great views of the course. Downstairs were locker rooms and toilets for men and women. Today, the layout is the same.

The course was off and running. I couldn't find what the exact annual membership fees were at first, but I believe a member had to buy at least one \$50 share of Neshobe stock. Greens fees in 1961 for the general public were just \$2 on weekdays and \$2.50 on the weekend. You could play for \$1 if you started after 6:30.

The first ever hole-in-one on Neshobe was tallied by H. Vaughn Griffin on September 5, 1963 on the 175-yard 4th hole.

The annual tournaments included the Club Championship, the President's Cup, the Whalon Open, the Neshobe Invitational, a Member-Member Championship and a Member-Guest. The names Naylor, Breen, Jennings, Tobey, Rivers, Griffin and LaRock were often among the winners.

By 1976, a membership was



A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING announcing the opening of the new golf course in Brandon—the Neshobe Golf Club—on June 5, 1959.

\$90 and a junior membership \$35. In 1979 it was still only \$100 and \$40. The board tried to keep it affordable, and the members continued to volunteer to maintain the course though there was a pro, a groundskeeper, and grounds workers.

By 1991, greens fees were \$18 on weekends and \$16 on weekdays.

Golf had become very popular around the country and the Neshobe was no exception, with the parking lot at capacity during peak times. In June of 1988, they had bought 74 acres of farmland over the river and ridge from the River Echo Farm for \$95,000, with the idea of expanding to 18 holes.

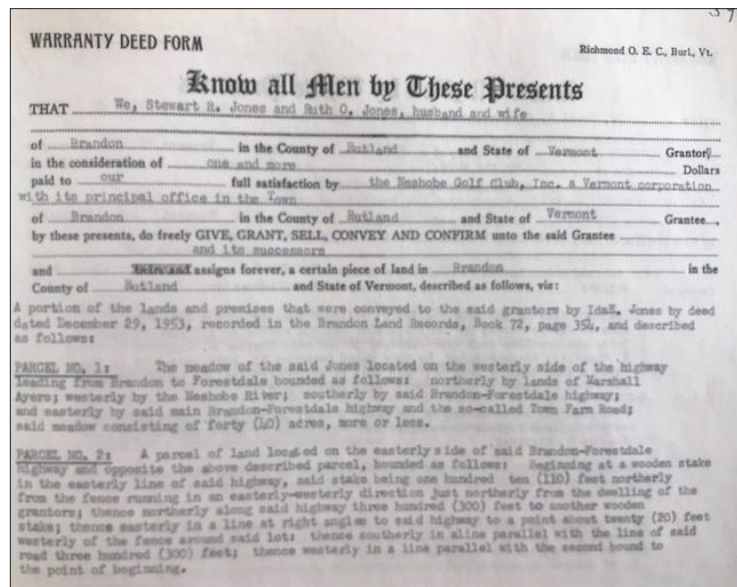
The club asked course archi-

tect Steve Durkee to look over this land to see if it would work. Durkee gave the go-ahead and in 1992, they hired him to lay out the new holes. They bought another 11 acres from the same farm (owned by Brian and Jean Rivers).

Durkee designed the new holes and the club hired Moulton Construction of West Lebanon, NH in mid-1994 to be the main contractor with a 360-day completion date for the \$1.3 million project (\$906,158 to Moulton).

In August of 1994, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held and Governor Howard Dean stood for a picture with Club President Stan English with shovels near the new storage pond (required by Act 250) by the planned 18th green.

(See The Nesh, Page 11)



THE DEED FROM the Joneses to the Neshobe Golf Club, 1958. The land that is now NGC was once part of a large farm.

for sale.

According to Skip Jennings, now 92 and one of the original members of the new Neshobe Golf Club: "Dr. Seeley Estabrook, Herb LaRock, myself, and others walked the old course and uncovered the old tee boxes and greens, then looked over the old clubhouse. We made an offer of \$5,000 and submitted it through [lawyer] Hanford Davis, but they turned it down because they thought the land would be bought to build a new school."

In fact, the town was looking for a spot to build both a new graded school and a new high school at that time. Both the old Graded School building and the Brandon High School building on Seminary Hill were too small, and there was talk of a new Otter Valley Union High School to be built in Brandon but further towards Pittsford, to serve both communities. The Graded School would burn down in 1959 and Otter Valley Union High School would open in 1961.

When their offer fell through, the group moved on to another location only one-and-a-half miles away, farmland owned by Stewart and Ruth Jones along Town Farm Road. This was an ideal spot along its eventual namesake, the Neshobe River, so they took an

acre Stewart property for \$10,000. The new members had already started cutting trees and brush and rolling the fairways under the supervision of Henry Dussett, who had built the Pittsford course and others. The Neshobe would be completely built by members and volunteers.

In January of 1959, at the first shareholders' meeting, Herb LaRock was elected President, with Bob Naylor as Vice President, Hanford Davis as Clerk, and Don Wetmore as Treasurer. The first Board of Directors were the four officers along with Dr. Seeley Estabrook. They set the ambitious goal of opening the course on Memorial Day.

Sure enough, the Neshobe course grand opening was on Memorial Day, Saturday, May 30, 1959. A tournament was held, with a chicken barbecue. Anyone who wished to compete could do so. Despite a few rain showers, many players competed in the flag tournament run by Skip Jennings and Herman Rowe, and 200 were at the barbecue. That night, a benefit dance was held at the Brandon Inn and 50 couples attended.

In 1959, Mary Force was the first women's champion and Bob Naylor was the first for the men.

In 1960, the same officers were re-elected, and Stan English, Skip

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STUDENT: Aubrey Norris  
GRADE: 5  
SCHOOL: Otter Creek Academy  
TITLE: Kindness Bookmarks  
MEDIUM: Marker and Paint  
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin

# OUR CREATIVE KIDS



**Statement from Mr. Aucoin:**

The assignment was to study the artwork of contemporary artist Dean Russo and use his art for inspiration. Aubrey used this opportunity to create artwork that was very powerful and meaningful.

**Statement from Mr. Aubrey:**

This is a dedication to my late dog, Buck. I am happy to use his memory to make art.

# The Nesh

(Continued from Page 9)

The course was designed to be a championship course following the U. S. Golf Association's strict slope and layout specifications. While construction mostly proceeded smoothly in 1995, there were delays and construction deficiencies and on November 10, the

membership stepped forward once again and finished the course in the spring of 1996. On Thursday, May 16, 1996, the new course was opened with outgoing Club President English, incoming President Peter Breen, club professional Paul Politano, and Dr. George Fjeld playing first. Regrettably, we



**SKIP JENNINGS, NOW in his 90s, is seen here in his younger years. He was one of the founders of the Neshobe Golf Club.**

club declared a contract default and sued Moulton for incomplete and defective work along with failure to pay subcontractors.

While the suit went on, the

don't have a record of their scores!

The grand opening was held on Saturday, May 25, Memorial Day weekend, almost exactly thirty-seven years after the Neshobe first

opened on Memorial Day 1959.

The expansion was a huge success, with rave reviews by all playing the beautiful new course. Bob Fredette, the Rutland Herald's golf scribe, amongst others, played the course and wrote a glowing review: "a visit to Neshobe is a must, take my word. They've got themselves a winner."

The club had taken a large bank loan to pay for the expansion and was forced into raising greens and membership fees. In 1996, memberships went for \$400 plus the purchase of one \$50 share for men and \$5 less for women (what a deal, ladies!)

As the century turned, the club kept going despite increasing financial difficulties, thanks to the dedication and volunteer work of the officers and membership.

In 2001, the club decided to raise much needed cash by selling lifetime memberships in two categories- a Gold Membership for \$10,000, which included lifetime membership plus additional guest and cart privileges, and a Silver for \$3,000, with just lifetime membership. This worked for several years but wasn't a permanent solution.

The weather didn't cooperate, particularly in 2011 when Tropical Storm Irene wreaked havoc on the course, with extensive damage. Once again, the membership rallied as "Neshobe Strong" and righted the ship.

Finally, the financial situation came to a head with the banks on the verge of foreclosure and things looked dim. The officers valiantly scrambled to come up with a solution and decided in 2018-19 to seek a buyer.

The Club President, Jeff Wallin, wrote a letter to the Vermont Golf Association saying they had been foreclosed upon and needed a buyer so the club wouldn't go to

auction and the land be developed.

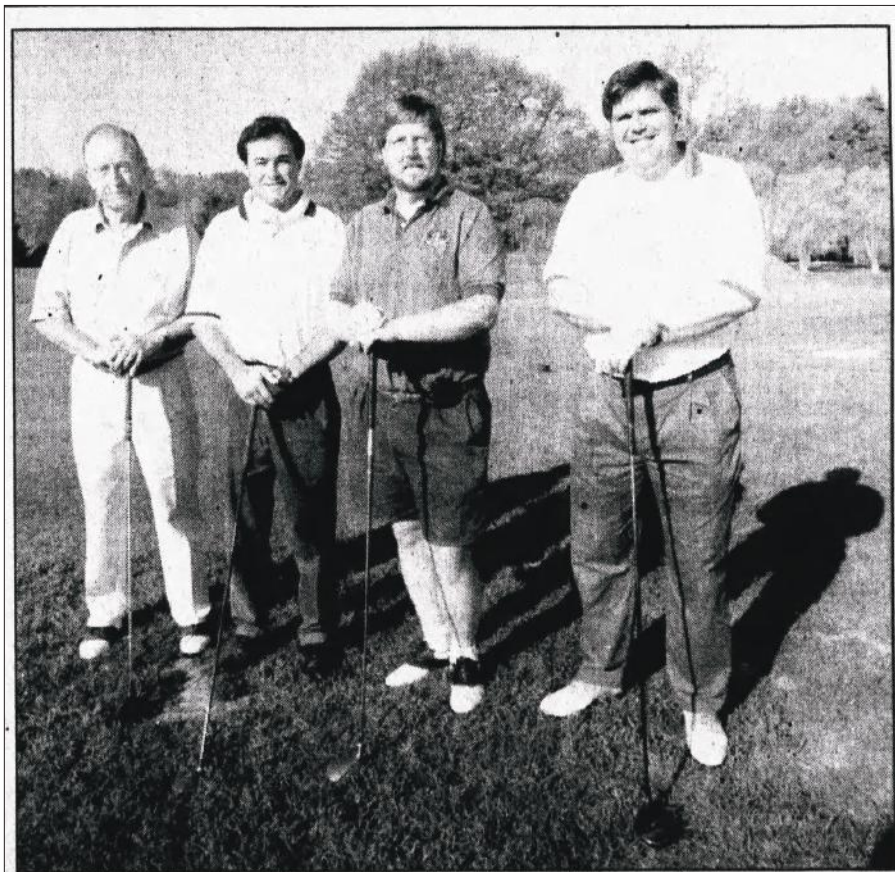
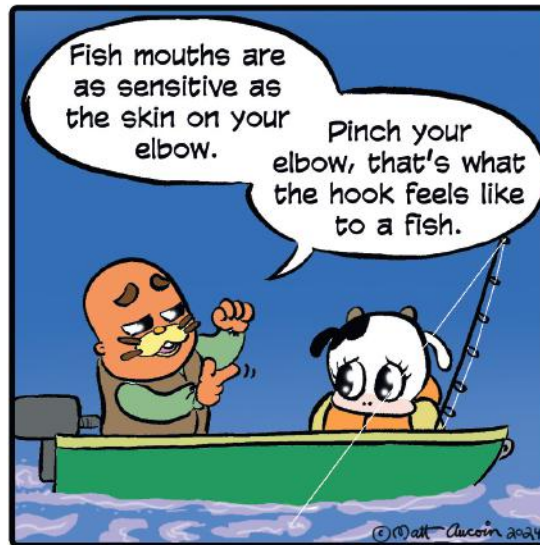
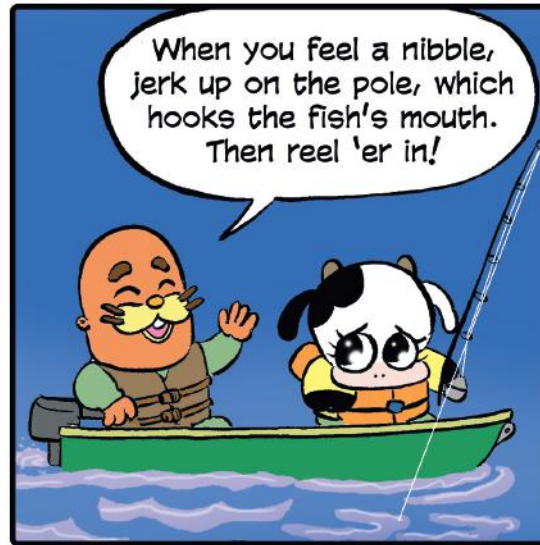
Just in the nick of time, a knight in shining armor appeared in the form of Jon Milne, a longtime golf management professional and Vermont native. Milne Golf, LLC made an offer and the club and bank approved it. The deal closed on January 7, 2020 and the Nesh was saved!

Since then, the Milnes have done a superlative job of maintaining the course while retaining all the traditions, including its reputation as the last to close in the fall and the first to open in the spring.

The new Nesh will celebrate its 65-year anniversary on Memorial Day this year. That's 63 years more than the first Neshobe (1900-1902) and 45 more than the Brandon Country Club (1927-1944).

It's time to congratulate the Milnes and all those members and club officers who love the course and kept it running so far. In particular, be sure to congratulate the longest-time members: Skip Jennings, Bruce Blanch, Peter Breen, Rob Naylor, Bob Beauregard, Ross Nagy and Tom Soderbergh (apologies if I missed anyone!).

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



Staff photo by A.J. Marro

### And on the Tee ...

... Were (from left to right) Neshobe Golf Club president Stan English, club professional Paul Politano, Dr. George Fjeld and incoming president Peter Breen Thursday to be the first group to play Neshobe with its new 10 holes. The grand opening of the course as an 18-hole layout will take place Saturday.

(L TO R) Outgoing club president Stan English, club pro Paul Politano, Dr. George Fjeld, and incoming club president Peter Breen play on the newly expanded 18-hole course in 1996.

# Calendar of events

## March

### Monday

#### Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Come to Brandon Town Hall for Youth classes at 5 p.m., and adult classes at 6 p.m. Beginners and spectators welcome. Visit [www.aikidovermont.org](http://www.aikidovermont.org) for more information, including fees.

### Tuesday

#### 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](mailto:allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org) with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.



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

### Wednesday

#### 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](http://www.gmttc.com).

and a lifelong personal practice.

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

### Thursday

#### Ukulele Group

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

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

**Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon**  
Join us starting at 6 p.m. for a rousing good time!

### Friday

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

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

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

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

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

### Saturday

#### Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

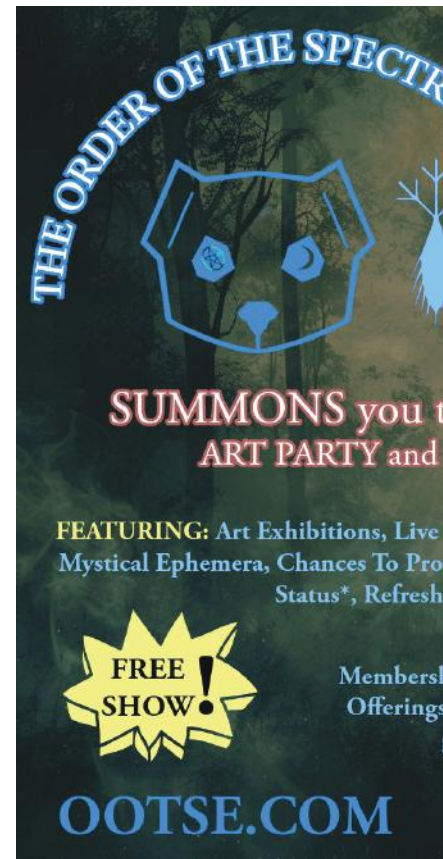
First Saturday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

#### Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Sunday

**Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal**  
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!



## Homeward Bound announces 2024 low-cost rabies clinics schedule

The clinics are open to both dogs and cats and are offered at 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on the following Saturdays:

March 16  
April 20

The clinics take place at the shelter, which is located at 236 Boardman Street in Middlebury. Pre-registration is highly recommended and can be completed through the shelter's website, [homewardbound-animals.org](http://homewardbound-animals.org). The cost is \$20.

All animals must be 12 weeks

of age or older to receive the rabies vaccine. In order to receive a 3-year rabies vaccine, pet owners must provide proof of prior vaccination.

No physical exams will be performed. This is a drive-through vaccine clinic.

All dogs

are required to be on leash and cats in carriers for this event.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals. In Vermont, rabies is most commonly found in wild animals, however the state requires that dogs and cats be vaccinated by a veterinarian. The owner of a dog must provide evidence of current rabies vaccination status to obtain the required municipal license by April 1 of each year.



### 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 ([hzm@hotmail.com](mailto:hzm@hotmail.com) or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda ([vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com](mailto:vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com) or (802) 345-4125).

## Goings on around town



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."



**Saturday, March 23**  
Initiations begin at 6:30 p.m. @ Ruth Stone House, 788 Hathaway Rd, Goshen, VT

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Cyanotype Printing, Music, Tarot & Give Your Devotion For Preferred Cult Elements & Prizes!

Membership\* is not required, however, \* (aka at-will donations) are gratefully accepted.

\*not that kind of cult, silly

## Wednesday 13th

### Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series—Extra Stout

Extra Stout is the Green Mountains of Vermont's favorite traditional Irish band who have been playing together for upwards of twenty years. They bring all of the variety that Irish music has to offer from raucous drinking songs to ballads of home and county; from slow and haunting airs to rocking reels, jigs and polkas. Suggested donations of \$15 per person at the door. From 7–9 pm. For more information, call the Town Administrator at (802) 446-2872.

**NXT Rockumentary Film Series: 20 Feet from Stardom (2013)**  
Filmmaker Morgan Neville shines a long-over-

due spotlight on the hit-making contributions of longtime backup singers like Darlene Love and Merry Clayton.

Rich, insightful, and occasionally heartbreaking, *20 Feet From Stardom* is an energetic tribute to the passion, talent, and hard work of backup singers.

Co-presented with Next Chapter Records. From 7–9 pm at Next Stage Arts Project. \$10.00

## Friday 15th

**Roots & Wings Coffeehouse at UUCUV—Tracy Grammer**  
Called "a musician and singer of dazzling versatility" (*No Depression*), Tracy Grammer is among contemporary folk music's most beloved artists. Renowned for her pure voice, deft guitar and violin work, and incantatory storytelling, Grammer has recorded and performed with Joan Baez and Mary Chapin Carpenter, headlined several of the nation's top folk festivals, including Philadelphia Folk Festival and Falcon Ridge, and enjoyed 12 consecutive years as one of folk radio's 50 top-played artists, both solo and with the late Dave Carter. Grammer is currently on tour celebrating her highly anticipated eleventh release, *LOW TIDE*, which is the first of her albums to showcase her original songs. *LOW TIDE* was the ninth most-played album on folk radio in 2018 and was voted a Top 10 Album of the Year by Fish Records UK. \$20. 7–9 pm.

## Saturday 16th

### African Dance Workshop at Barnard Town Hall

Crocodile River Music will be offering a free African dance workshop at 12 pm at the Barnard Town Hall ahead of their headlining performance at BarnArts Masquerade Jazz & Funk Winter Music Carnival that evening. All ages are welcome at this free workshop to learn African dance moves from this wonderful group of talented educators! Crocodile River Music's performance is funded in part by the New Eng-

land States Touring program of the New England Foundation

for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.

**BarnArts Masquerade Jazz & Funk Winter Music Carnival**  
12th annual Masquerade Jazz & Funk Winter Music Carnival from 6–10 p.m. at the Barnard Town Hall (115 North Rd). Tickets include music, food, and more!

Adults \$25, Students \$15, 6 & under free. Purchase tickets online or pay at the door via cash or check. More info: barnarts.org

Join us for an all-ages celebration of music and fun with mask making, a photo booth, an expansive taco bar, and 4 hours of music including jazz, swing & African dance party! This Year's Line Up: 6 pm Michael Zsoldos & Sonny Saul (classic & modern jazz via Tadd Demeron & Coleman Hawkins compositions & arrangements); 7 pm Sonny & the Grey Cats (swing); 8:15 pm Crocodile River Music (African music & African dance party). Special additional event: African Dance Workshop at 12 noon! Headliner Crocodile River Music will be offering a free African dance workshop at 12:00 at the Barnard Town Hall. Stop by before we've gotten far in our decorating magic and learn some African dance moves to show off later! BYOB Costumes Welcome – Masks Encouraged – Fun Inevitable! More Info or to Purchase Tickets: <https://barnarts.org/main-stage/masquerade-jazz-and-funk-winter-music-carnival/>

Crocodile River Music's performance is funded in part by the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.

### Soaring: An Evening of Circus and Song at Next Stage Arts Project

Join soprano-aerialist Elizabeth Wohl, pianist Ivan Tan, and special guest artists for an evening of circus and song, performing music by Mozart, Gounod, Bizet, and Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker with original aerial choreography. Wohl is a professional classically trained opera singer based in New England. She adds aerial acrobatics to well-loved arias to complement each aria's inherent dramatic arc. She delights in developing innovative interpretations of beloved classical music. She draws her audiences into every performance through the alchemy of vocal and aerial arts—inspiring wonder, delight and awe. She believes each of us is an artist, and that we shape the world together through every interaction. She has performed her aerial arias as part of a one-woman show entitled "Three French Birds," at the Providence Fringe Festival, and separately throughout the New England region for concerts, non-profit fundraising events, and weddings. When she's not singing in the air, you can find Wohl singing on the ground as a soloist with the Friends of Music at Guilford, the Keene Chorale, and the Windham Philharmonic. 7:30–9:30 pm. \$15.

## Saturday 16th Sunday 17th

### 24 Hours of Stratton—FREE

The 24 Hours of Stratton is an epic weekend and your ONLY chance to ski Stratton through the night under lighted trails and starry skies into sunrise for a great cause.

Snow Much of a Good Thing! From 9 am–9 am, the 24 Hours of Stratton is an epic festival weekend for the whole family. Wear your bib for two-day access to lifts. Ride the mountain to your heart's content. Start a team, join one, or participate as an individual.

Wear a tracking chip and download the App to track your progress and earn points and badges for participating in different games, races and activities. Plus . . . fireworks, overnight, food, music and more!

You can also join the #Shred4Nate race for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention at dusk. Racers will love the dual panel slalom format.

Join one or both events! Proceeds support the Stratton Community Foundation's mission to help Vermont children in need—Hunger, Basic Necessities, Health, and Education. Every child deserves a strong foundation.

## Sunday 17th

### "Ourself, Behind Ourself Concealed," featuring Dave Eggar & Tasha Warren at Next Stage Arts Project

Introducing to the Vermont area, for the very first time, the music from the Grammy-nominated record "Ourself, Behind Ourself Concealed," by Tasha Warren & Dave Eggar. Classical virtuosos Tasha Warren (clarinet and bass clarinet) and Dave Eggar (cello) invite the audience on a captivating musical odyssey through the realms of classical, jazz, tango, and beyond. Joining forces with the duo is the exceptional Martha Redbone, who brings her distinctive blend of folk, gospel, and blues, accompanied by the masterful guitar virtuoso Phil Faconti. Together, they create an unforgettable evening, weaving an immersive tapestry of musical storytelling that promises to be a unique and enriching experience. "Ourself, Behind Ourself Concealed," released in 2022,



## Maple season is upon us

When cold nights and warm spring days trigger the flow of sap in Vermont's sugarbushes, they experience their very own gold rush. Vermont makes more than half the country's maple syrup. With more than 3,000 sugarhouses statewide, all that sap turns into cocktail infusions, dry rubs, sauces, and candy in addition to pure Vermont maple syrup and sugar.

### Spring Maple Open House Weekend March 23 – March 24, 2024

Vermont's Spring Maple Open House Weekend is the most anticipated event of the season. Join us in a celebration of the current season's crop of liquid gold. Journey across the state and visit one of dozens of sugar houses. Grab the freshest syrup around!

[www.vermontmaple.org/mohw](http://www.vermontmaple.org/mohw)

### Vermont Maple Festival April 26–28

Live music, syrup tastings, carnival rides, pancake breakfasts, and a parade down Main Street in St. Albans round out this 57-year-strong Vermont spring tradition.

[www.vtmaplefestival.org/schedule-of-events](http://www.vtmaplefestival.org/schedule-of-events)

presents world premieres of chamber works by six of today's most dynamic and influential composers: Nathalie Joachim, Paquito D'Rivera, Meg Okura, Martha Redbone, Pascal Le Boeuf, and Cornelius Boots. As the world simultaneously stood still and transformed across the globe, these six pieces came into the world during the pandemic lockdown in 2020/2021, each emerging as a reflection of our complex global landscape. From the Far East to the Haitian Caribbean, to the plains of Africa journeying through Cuba to New York, tales whisper and weave to form a beautiful and poignant collision of genres. These stunning new works come to life on the contemporary classical music stage by way of the shape-shifting, chameleon-like natures of these two complementary instruments. The result is an explosion of beauty, power, joy, ecstasy, isolation, and unity; uniquely inspired by personal narrative, identity, and the time in which they were written. 7–9 pm. \$10–\$25.

# Short plays

(Continued from Page 2)  
ic and ineffectual set of thieves. This was a madcap play featuring intriguing comic interludes between scenes and a surprise ending.

The last student play of the evening was “Formidable Funeral,” written and directed by Bryce Connaughton and Nate Gaissert. Rival family members each accuse the others of murdering the deceased, “Patty,” leading to a series of flashbacks showing how Patty might have died. Roni O’Brien, who played “Patty,” had an actress’s dream role, as she got to die about 15 times during the play. Each death was different, dramatic, and well-played. Oliver Lavette, who played Doc, also stood out using his skill with a puppet.

The final play of the evening, as always, is the festival piece, directed by OV’s theatre director Jeffrey Hull. This year, the ensemble presented “Sea Change,” written by Alan Haehnel. Haehnel is a Vermonter who has written and published over 120 plays that have been produced around the world. “Sea Change” features two main characters—a youth who has dropped out of school and her mental-health professional—and also an ensemble of players that takes on many individual and collective roles as the play progresses.

Dani Polli, who played the youth, and Alyssa Raymond, who played her therapist, ably tackled very difficult roles. The

youth’s role was particularly challenging, as she was shown re-imagining and re-living the past experiences that had brought her to the day. But the real “star” of the show was the ensemble. Different members of the ensemble slipped in and out of various roles, sometimes individually, sometimes in groups, and sometimes forming visual images. One particularly poignant moment had the ensemble reenacting the breakup of the youth’s parents. At the end of the play, the ensemble became the sea.

Otter Valley’s festival piece will be shown this coming weekend at the regional drama festival, held this year at Mill River Union High School. “Sea Change” will be performed on Saturday, March 16, at 6:30. The regional festivals offer the opportunity for OV’s students to meet like-minded students from other schools, see their productions, and compete for a chance to go on to larger festivals. In some years, Otter Valley’s Walking Stick Theatre has gone on to perform at the Vermont State Drama Festival and at the New England Festival. They have also participated with the American High School Theatre festival at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

If you missed the plays last weekend, there is another chance to see “Sea Change” this Saturday at Mill River.



**“BATTLE OF THE Bands,”** written & directed by Dani Polli and Alyssa Raymond. A comedic commentary on the ubiquity of competitions these days.



**“SEA CHANGE,”** WRITTEN by Alan Haehnel and directed by OV theater director Jeff Hull. The play chronicles the psychological journey of a youth, played by Dani Polli, as she comes to terms with the experiences that have affected her mental health. The play will be performed by OV at the theater festival this weekend at Mill River.



**“THE BEST THIEVES in Paris,”** written & directed by Sally O’Brien. The comic piece follows a band of thieves at the famed Louvre art museum in Paris as they attempt to steal works by van Gogh and DaVinci.



**“TALES OF A Dojo,”** written & directed by Jaylee MacJarrett. The story uses combat to symbolize the conflicts faced by entrants in a martial-arts competition.

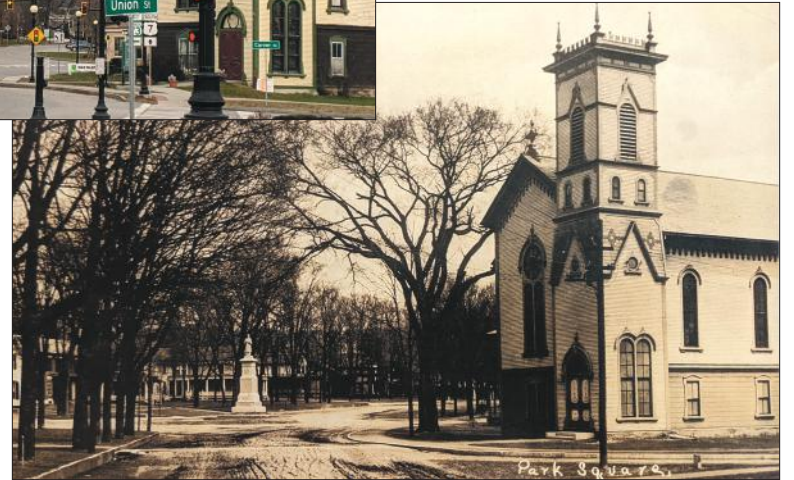
# Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Last week was not a tricky location. Thankfully the Brandon Methodist Church looks almost exactly as it did a hundred years ago. The church has lost one of the stories on its steeple and a finial from the roof, but it is instantly recognizable. Even the houses in the background of the photo are identifiable. I notice that the photo is labeled 'Park Square'. That's a nice name for the town center.



'PARK SQUARE' TODAY, and in the past.



Do you know this one?

**Let's Fly: A weekly series on tips and tricks for air travel**

## Airplane design has not improved

BY CONNIE M. NITE

Good day to you! I hope you've had a good week and if you were traveling...good flights! We're on week three of my series on the tips and tricks to airline travel! This "senior mama" flight attendant of twenty-five years sincerely hopes you've enjoyed my past two articles. I'm so excited about this week's article!

This week I'm delving into some behind the scenes information regarding the airplanes. You see, I've

always been amazed at the idea of an airplane. Think about it...this heavy metal object flying in the sky, full of a squished little city of people. I understand the dynamics of flight, but it still leaves me in awe to see airplanes take off and land, and to actually work in one! The idea you can use a restroom at 35,000 feet, brew hot coffee, and heat up food in an oven! If we could zip on back in time to, say, the 1800s and start talking about "flying machines," they would call us witches

and burn us at the stake! Well, that took a twist in the discussion...now back to airplanes. I think airplanes are wonderful inventions and it makes our world feel not so big and our loved ones feel not so far away! Years ago, I used to fly the McDonnell Douglas DC10. It was a huge aircraft by industry standards back then and held 270 people. I really enjoyed flying it because right behind the first-class seats was a large kitchen-like island. The crew

(See *Let's Fly*, Page 23)

## REAL ESTATE



This Victorian home with its beautifully adorned turret welcomes you. Stunning foyer with ornate woodwork. Comfortable living room with fireplace and pellet stove insert. The turret lets in wonderful natural light, and the downstairs rooms are connected with grand double doors. The large, bright family kitchen features unique imported hardware throughout. Large primary bedroom full of light from the turret. Lovely rose gardens and a large 19th century vertical board barn. Offered at \$385,000



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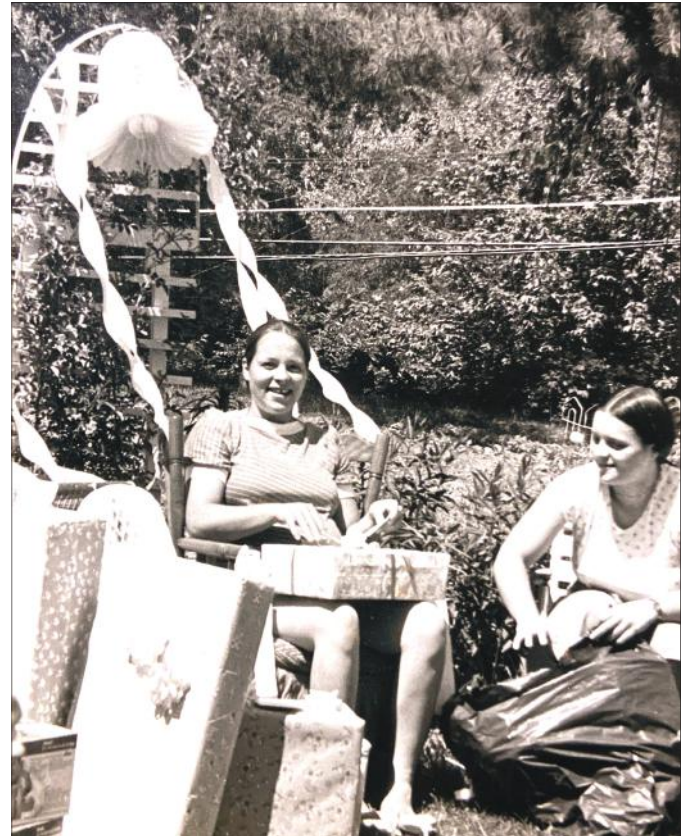
# Mim's Photos



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

Or call us at 247-8080

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





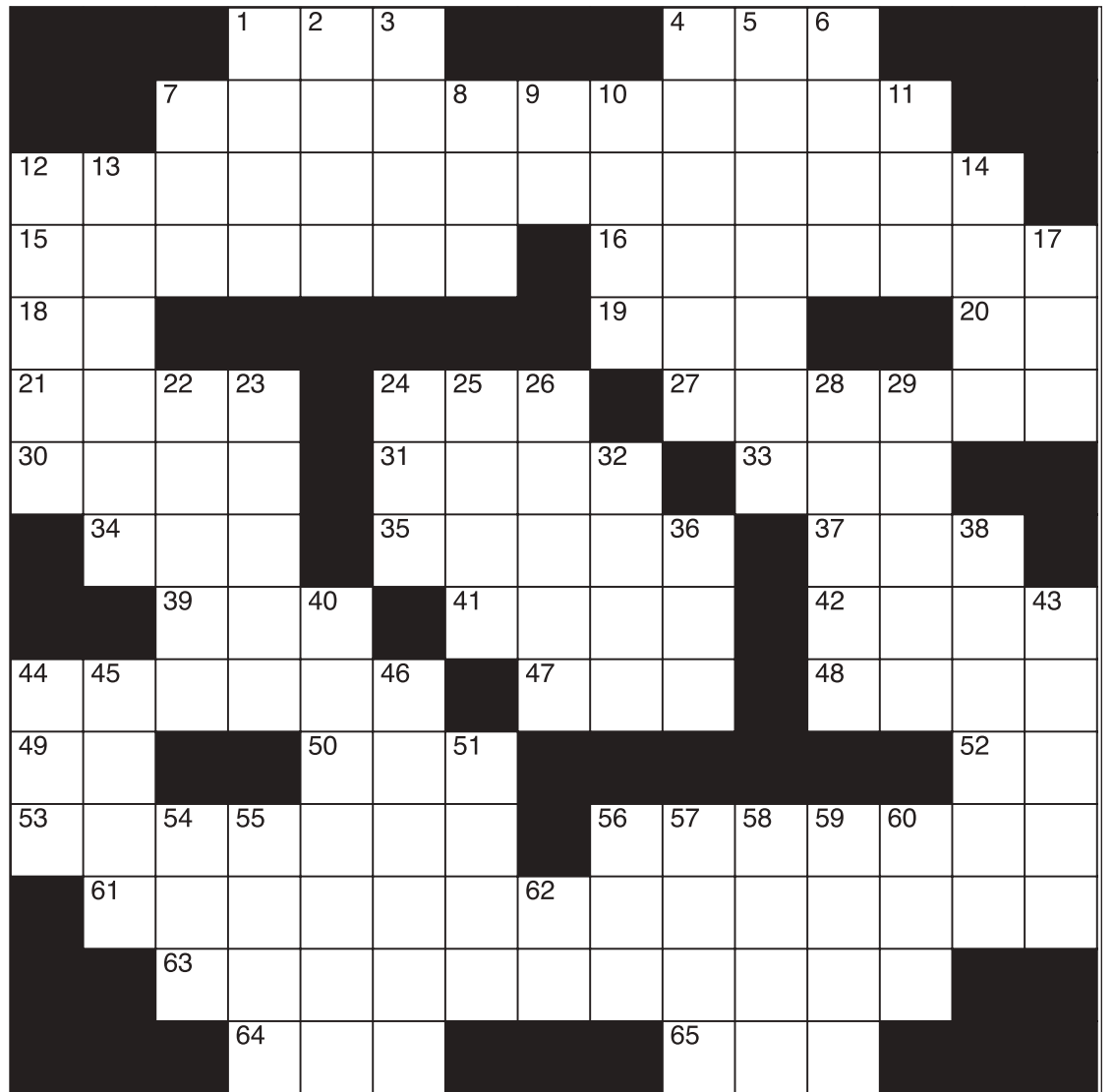
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Helps little firms
4. Political action committee
7. Allowed
12. Olivia Colman played one
15. Open
16. He had a notable lamp
18. Promotional material
19. Domesticated animal
20. Larry and Curly's buddy
21. The best ever
24. TV network
27. Checked for
30. Dry or withered
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Dash
34. Fifth note of a major scale
35. A secret clique
37. Partner to cheese
39. \_\_\_ school: where to learn healing
41. City in ancient Syria
42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
44. Established practice
47. Thanksgiving side dish
48. District in Peru
49. It's becoming more prevalent
50. State in India
52. Measure of illumination
53. Raised platform
56. Japanese warrior
61. R.L. Stevenson novel
63. Transitory
64. Advanced degree
65. Fiddler crabs

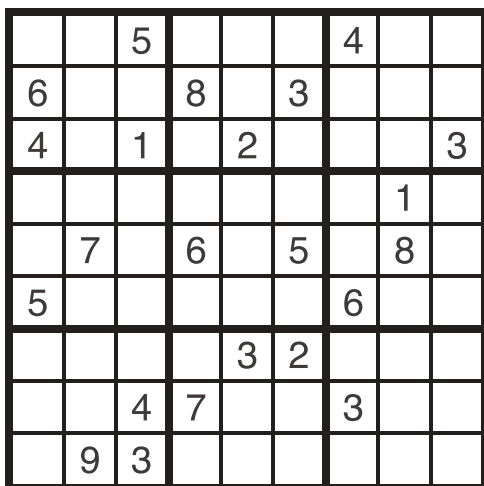
## CLUES DOWN

1. Prevent from seeing
2. Czech city
3. \_\_\_ and Andy, TV show
4. A young pig
5. Removed surgically
6. Covered with
7. Chest muscle (slang)
8. Nigerian City
9. Midway between south and east
10. A way to shut
11. Stop playing
12. Marshy places
13. Takes apart
14. Ten cents
17. A gesture of assent
22. Scent
23. Teletypewriter
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Hillside
26. Taxi driver
28. Semitic Sun god
29. Town in India
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on the \_\_\_
38. Type of dance
40. Two letters, one sound
43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
44. Golf score
45. Mayhem
46. Drenched
51. River in northeastern Asia
54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
55. Part-time employee
56. A very large body of water
57. Aboriginal people of Japan
58. Millisecond
59. Forearm bone
60. Subway dweller
62. Royal Mail



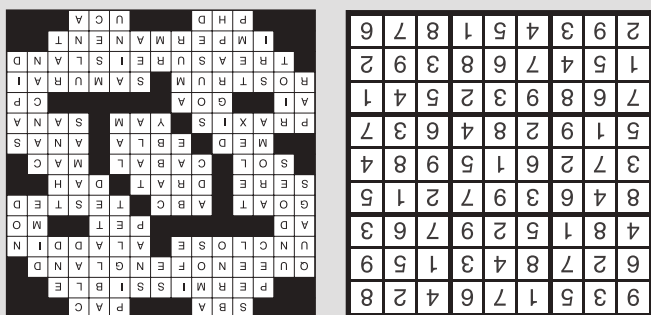
# Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



## Don't forget to license your dog!

It's that time of year again! The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) wants to remind you to license your dog(s) by April 1st. Did you know that Vermont state law requires all dogs 6 months and older to be registered with the town clerk in which a Vermont resident resides and must be renewed every year? To get them registered with your town, you will need to have them up to date on their rabies shot. It is also state law that all cats must have a Rabies vaccination. Please check with your veterinarian to ensure your dog and cat are up to date on their shots and make an appointment, if necessary. If you have any questions on how to go about registering your dog, please reach out to your town clerk!

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

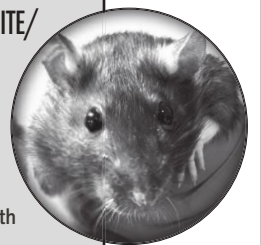


#### MEET CHICO - 10 MONTH-OLD, NEUTERED-MALE. MIXED BREED. RED.

Chico the Big Red Dog is 82 lbs and growing. He and his friend Squid were recently brought to us from South Korea. Chico loves attention, treats and time with people, and approaches new situations with cautious curiosity. Chico does well with other dogs in the shelter, though his high energy and large size may be intimidating to other pets in the household. Chico is a very large puppy and known to jump on his people for affection, so he needs someone to teach him how to be a family pet. If you would like to meet Chico, please stop by to visit him! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.

#### MEET PENELOPE BONDED WITH TILDA - 1 YEAR OLD. FEMALE. FANCY. WHITE/BROWN.

Penelope came in with her friend Tilda, and they are the sweetest rats you will ever meet! They like to snuggle and interact with people! They are very well mannered and have a great temperament. Penelope and Tilda were surrendered to us on March 1st because their previous owner was moving. Rats are very social animals and tend to do better in pairs. These sweet girls are best friends and find comfort with each other. Therefore, they are bonded and must go home together! Make sure to stock up on treats because they love their snacks! If these lovely ladies sound like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with them! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.



## 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 large-print books donated by Brenda Whittaker

### Every Man a King by Walter Mosley, donated in memory of "Judge" Chet Ketcham

When friend-of-the-family and multi-billionaire Roger Ferris comes to Joe with an assignment, Joe's got no choice but to accept, even if the case is a tough one to stomach. White nationalist Alfred Quiller has been accused of murder and the sale of sensitive information to the Russians. Ferris has reason to believe Quiller's been set up and he needs King to see if the charges hold. As King gets closer to exposing the truth, he and his loved ones barrel towards grave danger.

### The Summer Book Club, donated by Susan Mallery in memory of "Tish" Holmes Washburn Morris

This year, the book club is all about fill-your-heart reads, an escape from the chaos of the everyday—running a business, raising a family, juggling a hundred todos. Even the dog is demanding. Since Laurel's divorce, she feels like the Worst Mom Ever. Cassie has an unfortunate habit of falling for ridiculous man-boys who dump her once she fixes them. Paris knows good men exist but she's still reeling after chasing off the only one brave enough—and foolish enough—to marry her. Inspired by the heroines who risk everything for fulfillment, Laurel, Paris, and Cassie begin to take big chances—in life and in love. Facing an unwritten chapter can be terrifying but it can be exhilarating.

## New in nonfiction

### Otter Country by Miriam Darlington

Mysterious, graceful, and ever-clever, otters have captivated our

imaginations even though few people have encountered one in the wild. Darlington captures the fascination she's had for these playful animals since childhood and chronicles her immersive journey into their watery world. Over the course of a single year, Darlington takes readers on a winding expedition in pursuit of these elusive creatures—from her home in Devon, England, through the wilds of Scotland, Wales, the Lake District, and the countryside of Cornwall.

### Supercommunicators: How to Unlock the Secret Language of Connection by Charles Duhigg

We all know people who seem capable of connecting with almost anyone. They are the ones we turn to for advice, the ones who ask deep questions but also seem to hear what we are trying to say. What do they know about conversation that makes them so special? And what can they tell us about how communication really works? Supercommunicators, Charles Duhigg argues, understand—some by intuition, some by hard-won experience—that there is a science to how human beings connect through words. They understand that whenever we speak, we're actually participating in one of three distinct conversations: What is this really about? How do we feel? And who are we? They know the importance of recognizing—and then matching—each kind of conversation, and how to hear the complex emotions, subtle negotiations and hidden beliefs that color and inform everything we say. Our pasts, our values, our affiliations—our identities—shape every discussion we have, from who will pick up the kids to how we want to be treated at work.

### Why We Remember: Unlocking Memory's Power to Hold on to What Matters by Charan Ranganath, PhD

One of the world's top

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have an antique sock machine demonstration this Saturday, 3/16, from 2 to 3 pm and a Plant Swap on 3/23 from 1 to 3 pm. Thank you for voting YES for the library!

memory researchers reveals the powerful role memory plays in nearly every aspect of our lives, from recalling faces and names, to learning, decision-making, trauma and healing. A new understanding of memory is emerging from the latest scientific research. Dr. Ranganath reveals the surprising ways our brains record the past and how we use that information to understand who we are in the present, and to imagine and plan for the future. Including fascinating studies and examples from pop culture, and drawing on Ranganath's life as a scientist, father, and child of immigrants, *Why We Remember* is a captivating read that unveils the hidden role memory plays throughout our lives. When we understand its power—and its quirks—we can cut through the clutter and remember the things we want to remember. We can make freer choices and plan a happier future.

# Town Meeting results

## Goshen meeting relies on the goodwill of past officers

BY CAROLYN VAN VLECK

GOSHEN—The Goshen Town Meeting started a half hour late due to the lack of a moderator. Jeff Whiting, past moderator, offered to step in and was sworn in by a local Justice of the Peace, as a temporary appointment. The meeting was well attended, and a congenial group munched on cookies and sipped hot drinks in the basement of Goshen's Town Hall.

The Selectboard reported that many road upgrades were coming, due to grants, as well as some town hall improvements, all of which were shared with the group. They have contracted with Brandon Fire Dept for one year to cover Goshen. There was discussion about a new generator that will be covering both buildings. There was an animated discussion on doing away with the two town constables, both for and against, as well as the hiring of an animal control officer. (There was later discussion on the legal liability of constables with firearms.)

The treasurer, Vickee Whiting, who had retired, had graciously returned to take up the job again, as the person who had been in training for quite a while was no longer in the position. There was some lively discussion on what makes a good treasurer and that the board is going to advertise for the position

with a higher wage as this makes it more competitive.


Senator Ruth Hardy showed up and explained her work in Montpelier: Health and Welfare and Government Operations Committee. She shared that a bill had recently passed that would lower the dreaded upswing in anticipated taxes. She was asked about the potential disbanding of the VT Fish and Game Board that Chris Bray (Chair) has proposed. It is a work in progress, with the point being that they were trying to get an array of people interested in wildlife and nature. Finally, there was concerned discussion about whether the town needed to continue to get "rid of" elected officials, which would put all the power of running the town and making decisions into the Selectboard's hands.

Big thanks were given to Vickee Whiting for returning temporarily as treasurer, to Jimmy Hayes for his long-term work as road foreman, Barb Walsh for her work as lister, Dick Conrad for his work as a Selectman, and Martin Fjeld as the new town clerk.

Peter Conlon, state representative, popped in at this point and shared that the Legislature had passed the budget adjustment act (hotel/motel program for home-

(See Goshen TM, Page 23)

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



**ARIES** March 21–April 20  
Aries, this week you need to get back to business, especially if hobbies or other interests have been taking up much of your time lately. Avoid distractions at all costs.

**TAURUS** April 21–May 21  
You may be excited about new prospects that are on the horizon, Taurus. With so much change coming, it can be exciting to see what lies in wait.

**GEMINI** May 22–June 21  
Gemini, you may discover that you are devoting a lot of attention to others of late, sometimes cutting into your own needs. Be attentive and caring, but pay attention to your own needs as well.

**CANCER** June 22–July 22  
Cancer, if you check the calendar lately you are bound to find a number of dates are filled. You may want to consider slowing

down; otherwise, you may prematurely burnout.

**LEO** July 23–Aug. 23  
Leo, if expenses and finances have been troubling you of late, you can breathe a sigh of relief when things lighten up this week. Right now you are in a good spot financially.

**VIRGO** Aug. 24–Sept. 22  
Virgo, you will need to uphold your end of the bargain for the time being as others are counting on you delivering. You cannot dodge any responsibilities right now.

**LIBRA** Sept. 23–Oct. 23  
Libra, over the next few days you may receive some offers from employers or entrepreneurs that seem very appealing. Before you jump into something new, do your homework.


**SCORPIO** Oct. 24–Nov. 22  
Scorpio, it will become obvious how others rely on you for advice and to get jobs done correctly. All of that responsibility can put extra pressure on you, so take it all in stride.

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 23–Dec. 21  
This week you may discover that people are flocking to you left and right, Sagittarius. You will not have trouble making new friends if you so desire.

**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22–Jan. 20  
Capricorn, take ownership of any actions that may have put you into a strained relationship with those close to you. Admitting mistakes is the first step in mending fences.

**AQUARIUS** Jan. 21–Feb. 18  
Aquarius, you may only now be getting to those resolutions you made a few months ago, but better late than never. Focus on projects around the home that will revitalize your spaces.

**PISCES** Feb. 19–March 20  
Physical activity can do wonders for you, Pisces. If you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or even tired, take a walk or hit the gym for some exercise that can alleviate many symptoms.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

March 15	Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court justice (d)
March 16	Jorge Ramos, news anchor (66)
March 17	Rudolph Nureyev, ballet dancer, choreographer (d)
March 18	Wilfred Owen, poet (d)
March 19	Glenn Close, actor (77)
March 20	Spike Lee, filmmaker (67)
March 21	Gary Oldman, actor (66)

# Brandon

## Police Report

This week's Brandon Police Log was not available at press time. We will publish it along with next week's log in next week's issue. We apologize for any inconvenience.

# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

ing one-year appointments:

- Fence viewers: Olya Hopkins, Jon Wyman, Tracy Wyman
- Green-Up Day Coordinator: Jim Leary
- Inspector of Lumber, Shingles, and Wood: Bob Kilpeck
- Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District: Sharon Stearns (two other openings remain)
- Rutland Co. Solid Waste Dist. Rep.: Gabe McGuigan, Tracy Wyman (alternate)
- Tree Warden: Neil Silins
- Weigher of Coal: Lou Faivre, Olya Hopkins
- Otter Creek Communications Union Dist: Peter Werner, Bill Moore (alternate). These appointments will run from April 1, 2024 until March 31, 2025.

## MEETING TIME

### AND PLACE

As part of its annual housekeeping after Town Meeting, the Board selected the time and place for its regular meetings. As usual, the meetings will continue to take place on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7 p.m.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Guiles to hold the meetings in the main upstairs hall at Town Hall rather than in the basement lobby, where meetings have been held since the Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) moved into the Board's usual room during the renovation of the library building on Park Street.

BFPL is scheduled to move back into its own building this summer, but Mr. Guiles took the opportunity to advocate for a change in venue in order to give the Board and attendees more space.

Some attendees questioned the need for the move, suggesting that the main hall might be too large to be effective for Zoom attendance or too difficult to heat. Ultimately, the Board agreed to move the meetings to the upstairs hall, designating the downstairs lobby as an alternative if the hall were somehow unavailable.

Brandon resident Vicki Disorda also suggested that the Board consider providing childcare during meetings for residents with kids.

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The full text of the report submitted by Town Manager Seth Hopkins is printed following this article. Not mentioned in that report:

- Mr. Coolidge asked what portion of the \$60K in ARPA funds that had been allocated to the proposed solar bond would be returned to the town now that the bond had failed at the ballot. Mr. Hopkins stated that there would be costs of \$5,000 to \$7,000 for engineers, lawyers, and mandated advertising, but all other monies would be returned and therefore available for reallocation.

• There is currently no plan to put the solar bond before voters again. The Brandon Energy Committee, which spearheaded the project, has not produced any final report on it, according to Mr. Hopkins.

• The estimate to repair the Brandon police cruiser that was damaged last week was \$2070. It remains to be seen whether the town's insurer will consider the car totaled.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Rec Director Bill Moore gave his report to the Board, the full text of which can be found in the Selectboard packet for 3/11/24 on the town website. Of note:

• The town did not receive the VOREC grant it had sought to build a disc golf course. Mr. Moore stated that the Department will continue to seek sources of funding for the project.

• Brandon Idol will return to Town Hall on March 22 for its Rock n' Roll installment.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

An attendee asked the Board why the town did not insist that organizations seeking appropriations on the town ballot raise funds on their own to be matched by the town. The attendee felt that organizations such as the American Legion, the BFPL, and the Rescue Squad should do more to obtain funding on their own.

Mr. Hopkins replied that this is essentially what already occurs, since most organizations seeking appropriations use the money to fill gaps that their own fundraising is not able to fill. Mr. Guiles added that the library, as a particular example, served a public need and should be supported by the town. Ms. Nelson pointed out that the Board has no control over which appropriations appear on the ballot, the sole criterion for inclusion being the collection of at least 150 voters' signatures on a petition.

An attendee suggested that Selectboard members attend the training session offered by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Mr. Bailey stated that he'd attended such trainings in the past and would be happy to do so again. Ms. Nelson indicated that she was already signed up for the session.

An attendee reiterated his concern that David Atherton's candidacy for Selectboard had posed a conflict of interest since Mr. Atherton is currently town manager in Pittsford. The Board restated that there was nothing in town policy or state law to prevent Mr. Atherton from joining the Selectboard if he had won.

Another attendee suggested that the Board provide rules of conduct for its meetings so that residents who are new to attendance can understand what is and is not per-

mitted. Mr. Hopkins said he would make that information available on the town website.

## BUDGET WORKSHOP

In light of the failure of the town budget at last week's ballot, the Board scheduled a new budget workshop for Monday, March 18 at

7 p.m. in the main hall of Brandon Town Hall.

The public is welcome to attend (See Brandon SB, Page 23)

# Brandon Town Manager's Report for the week of March 11th

Congratulations to Heather Nelson, Ralph Ethier, and Doug Bailey, who are beginning new terms of service as elected members of the selectboard at this meeting. Thank you to Tim Guiles and Brian Coolidge who are continuing their service. I look forward to working with the selectboard to heave in the same direction to advance the interests of our community.

## FOR THE AWARENESS OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE

Elaine Smith canvassed incumbent appointed officials regarding their interest in continuing service. Her results appear in the board packet. This is the official announcement that the Town seeks one representative and one alternate to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District.

Likewise, Tracy Wyman has resigned as Brandon's representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Council (TAC). The TAC meets on the last Thursday of nine months a year in Rutland, at the Planning Commission office at the Opera House. The selectboard will be in a position to appoint a new representative at its March 25th meeting. Thanks to Dan Snow for serving as alternate for the January and February TAC meetings.

The Brandon Police conducted a traffic stop during which K9 Guinness detected a quantity of crack cocaine which was seized along with a few thousand dollars of counterfeit bills. Four individuals were charged, and this incident was covered by The Reporter and by WCAX. In an unrelated incident a few days later, a Brandon cruiser was heavily damaged by being sideswiped by a suspect driving on the wrong side of the road. K9 Guinness also detected drugs in the suspect's car; again this was crack cocaine. A passenger in the suspect's car was taken to the hospital and the incident is under investigation.

Thanks to Michael Schick and Claire Babyak-Schick who contributed many hours of volunteer labor to repair and weatherize downstairs windows at the Town Hall.

## FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Thanks to Devon Fuller and the DBA for removing the twinkly lights in the downtown last month.

The new boiler for the lower level of the Town Hall was installed by Plouffe Boiler & Mechanical Service and is direct-vented, allowing the discontinuation of use of the damaged chimney.

## FOCUS AREAS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Collaborative work with FEMA and town staff is ongoing to obtain funds to reimburse the Town for its response to the July 2023 floods yielded positive FEMA progress reports for all four projects.

Collective bargaining with NEPBA (police union) is ongoing with a team from the selectboard.

I had many meetings with town officers, staff, and townspeople.

required reports.

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is offering its Selectboard Essentials training in person at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee on Saturday 23 March from 9AM - 2:30PM. I would respectfully encourage any selectboard members who have not taken the general VLCT overview training, whether titled Selectboard Institute or Selectboard Essentials, to consider attending this session which will focus on selectboard roles and responsibilities; sunshine laws (open meeting, public records, and conflict of interest); and conducting effective meetings. You will also connect with VLCT municipal assistance center staff who may become resources to you during your selectboard service. Please contact me if you would like to be registered or establish a vlct.org account and self-register.

A 2024 Brandon Selectboard Handbook is respectfully offered to new and returning board members by the town management team at this meeting.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
Operating Expenses	75% thru funds / 71% thru year
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance	\$718,865
1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated	\$247,778
Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated	UNION STREET
Delinquent property taxes (prior years)	\$341,988 (was \$341,417)
Delinquent wastewater (prior years [over 120 days])	\$191,571 (was \$190,009)
Number of payment plans for delinquent accounts	23 active; 3 await taxpayer signature

## FOR AWARENESS OF THE SELECTBOARD

The Town has received its 2023 Q4 local option tax (1% tax) of \$63,000 (included above).

Heavy rains March 6-7 resulted in an overflow at Wastewater. As the facility is being upgraded currently, less than all of its built capacity was available, making a bad situation worse. Wastewater staff called in appropriate response and submitted

## TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA:

I recommend approval / adoption of all warned items presented tonight.

For the budget workshop, I recommend requesting the participation of the previous budget committee.

For the parking plan, I recommend the board form a task force including residents and business owners to workshop proposed solutions.

# Dr. Bill Mathis

*(Continued from Page 1)*  
 been featured in several periodicals. His national work has gotten a great deal of recognition. Mathis was the managing director of the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado from his retirement from RNESU in 2009 until 2019. He then became a Senior National Policy Advisor. Working from his office in the McKernon building on the old Training School campus in Brandon, he was surrounded by plaques and medals celebrating his contributions to the field. He is the former president of The Horace

Mann League, which advocates that “public education is the cornerstone of democracy.” The League presented him their Outstanding Public Educator Award at their annual meeting in 2018. Mathis was commended as a National Citizen for Education as a consistent national advocate in education. He was a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year from the American Association of School Administrators. Mathis’s state work includes 10 years on the Vermont Board of Education. He has written op-eds regularly for 22 newspapers, in-

cluding the Burlington Free Press, The Rutland Herald, and The Barre Times Argus. Many were published nationally. State awards include Superintendent of the Year in 2003, Frederick Tuttle Service Award in 2002, and the John Dewey Award from the Vermont Society for the Study of Education in 2007. The Vermont Alliance for Arts Education presented the 1990-91 Administrator Award to Dr. William Mathis in recognition of his commitment to excellence in arts education.

As an adjunct professor at the University of Vermont, Dr. Mathis taught an annual class in educational administration to new superintendents in our state. During the 10 in-person class days, Mathis would invite guests including governors and even state supreme court justices to meet with his class and discuss current issues in education.

In 2012 and 2013, Dr. Mathis wrote the annual update for education for the Encyclopedia Britan-

nica. Dr. Mathis admits to making a few mistakes in his career and thinks he may have hurt a few people. “They were mistakes of being human” said Mathis. He regrets these mistakes.

During Mathis’s tenure at RNE-SU from 1982 until 2009, he attended over 3,600 school board meetings, many of which finished at 11pm or midnight. He considered these meetings “not

survival but a duty.” His school boards included Otter Valley UHS, Brandon, Pittsford, Leicester, Sudbury, Whiting, Chittenden, Mendon, and RNESU. Mathis worked to find solutions to needs and dilemmas that were individual to a particular community. “The same solution may not work for the schools in Whiting and Chittenden” he said. Bill takes great pride in the fact that

two of his successors were also his students: Jeanne Collins and John Castle. Dr. Mathis supervised close to 100 principals over his tenure at RNESU. His major admonition to these administrators was “You have to be very careful with money.”

*“People criticize the government when they should celebrate and contribute to it.”*

Mathis was hired as superintendent at RNE-SU in 1982. Upon arriving in Brandon at the Ayrshire Building, Dr. Mathis found a real friend in Lois Fjeld, the circulating school nurse for the supervisory union. They worked out of the same office and she was one of the few employees who went to all the schools. Mathis has very proud memories of former OV music teacher Steve Morse, who took the Otter Valley band and chorus to Carnegie Hall in New York City. “From little Brandon all the way to”  
*(See Dr. Bill Mathis, Page 21)*

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**DR. BILL MATHIS** in his office in Brandon. He’s retiring this year after 61 years as an educator, including a remarkable 27-year tenure as superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union. Along the way, he’s written numerous books and articles on education and racked up many awards and accolades for his work.

# Dr. Bill Mathis

(Continued from Page 20)

Carnegie” he said. He’s also proud of Ray Miro, whom he refers to as a saint, for recruiting, helping, and nurturing kids from all backgrounds through his superb wrestling program.

William Jefferson Mathis, PhD was born and brought up in Tennessee, the great-grandson of William Anderson Mathis, who was a Union Army cavalry sergeant in a Confederate world. W. A. Mathis was forced to sneak out of Tennessee in the night to join the Union Army. After the war, he spent his time building community in east Tennessee, where the family and most of their neighbors practiced subsistence farming. Sergeant Mathis’s son and Dr. Mathis’s grandfather, William Jefferson Mathis, earned his teaching certificate in Hancock County, TN. The family subsequently moved to Knoxville, where Dr. Mathis was born.

Dr. Mathis was learning to build and repair vacuum tube radios in high school when his plan was unexpectedly derailed. His brother brought home a 9-transistor radio, making his anticipated occupation as radio repairman a non-starter. That moved him from the first floor to the fourth floor of his high school, where he could pursue an academic program which readied him for college. Mathis attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for \$75 per quarter and was in the ROTC. From 1963 to 1967, Mathis worked as a guidance counselor, school psychologist, and long-term substitute in Tennessee while working

on his master’s degree. Mathis said, “I got my commission, my master’s degree and my Camaro convertible in March 1967 and never looked back.” He volunteered and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Air Force in 1967. During his four years on active duty he got a few plum assignments, including studying computers in Santa Monica, California and teaching psychology at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. His master’s thesis focused on peak experiences and self-actualization. He based a lot of this work on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. Mathis found a significant connection later when a mom stood up at a school board meeting and said she wanted the school to help her raise her son to be a contributing member of society and a loving father and husband, basically a good man.

After the Air Force, Mathis finished his doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin. There he met the famous atheist, Madeline Murray O’Hair. For his dissertation he studied the students of Eagle Pass, Texas and wrote, “Learning of political attitudes and values of Hispanic children.” He then spent time with UNESCO in Paris and at the Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro.

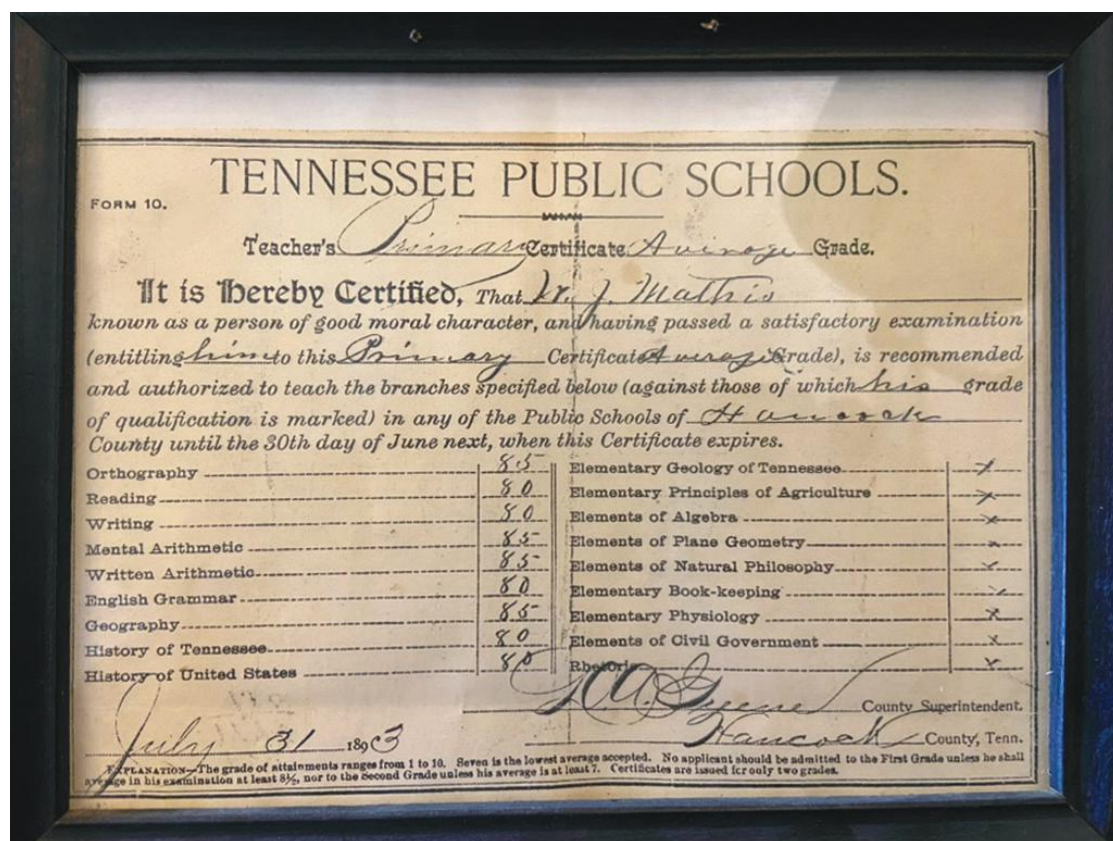
Mathis’s next stint was Deputy Assistant Commissioner with the New Jersey Department of Education, where he pursued his fascination with statistics and developed a state-wide testing system, eventu-

ally testing 440,000 students each year. He then helped implement student testing in all 50 states. Mathis got into the educational equity business when NJ inequitably distributed \$50 million of compensatory education dollars to already succeeding schools instead of poor performing ones. “I worked at getting it right,” said Mathis. This solution was borrowed by the federal government and applied to \$4 billion (with a b) and is much larger now. It is known as Title I.

Mathis moved to Vermont in 1982, following his young daughter Alexandra as her mother had accepted a position at Dartmouth College. He lived for a short time in Pittsford before moving to Goshen which he likes for its “solitariness and tight social connections.”

The educational equity issue followed Mathis to Vermont when he was to be the primary witness in the Brigham case, brought by a Whiting resident and others against Vermont to force the state to provide an equal education/opportunity throughout the state. The Vermont Supreme Court case was settled the evening before the trial and Mathis did not have to testify. His questioner would have been present U.S. Senator Peter Welch. Brandonite Mitchell Pearl was also on the case. Interestingly, Mathis relates, the towns of Brandon and Pittsford were involved in the educational reform movement of the 1850’s: “Common Schools.” Both towns invited students from outlying areas to “educational conferences.” Pittsford, notably, invited students

*“I’ve spent my whole life in government in one form or another”*



THE 1893 TENNESSEE teaching certificate of Bill Mathis’s grandfather, William Jefferson Mathis. Education is a Mathis family profession.

from across the state while Brandon was more regional.

Mathis continues to live in Goshen enjoying the solitude of rural life and his townwide connections. He is the chairman of the Goshen select

board. You may see him driving his vintage Camaro convertible around town any day now as well as in the Independence Day Parade in July!

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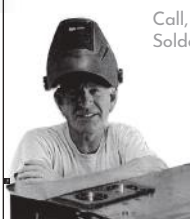
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# Let's Fly

(Continued from Page 15)

and passengers would always hang out together, have snacks, and of course there would always be a gambling game going on with the airline-brand playing cards. It was fun! The kitchen island is long gone and so are the playing cards. They've been replaced with more and smaller seats, smaller bathrooms, and smaller aisles. I fly the 737 MAX 8/9 on most days when I travel domestically and boy oh boy, I can't even pull up my pantyhose in the bathroom without banging one of my elbows against the bathroom wall!

It's funny to watch the news when an airline manufacturer gets ready to release a new airplane design. They always show a mockup picture of the new airplane with a bowling alley or swimming pool in it. I just shake my head. No airline is ever going to add a bowling alley or swimming pool! The bottom line for airlines is profit and the amount of space a bowling alley would take up in the airplane would cut into their bottom line. My airline reconverted some of our older 757s and out went a galley and in went more seats. In order for me to arm my door for departure, I have to lean over and almost place my chest in a passenger's face to reach the arming lever. How and why FAA allowed that to happen is still unbelievable to me! So, if you ever do see a door right next your seat with some space around it, be prepared and sorry in advance for the reach over and chest in your face!

I'll give you some other interesting bits of information about airplane types! Truthfully, I don't know what Boeing or Airbus was thinking when designing some of these newer airplanes! Let's start with the Boeing 737-900! Did you know that a certain series of the Boeing 737-900 are called "tail tipper," which means it has a weight and balance issue in the design. Once we land, we have to hold off deplaning for a few minutes in order to give the ramp crew time to install a small football goal post looking like device to the back bottom aft of the airplane. This device has to be in place before passengers deplane

or else the aircraft will tip back and land on its back side. On occasion, the "goal post" will bend and sometimes break and you definitely feel the drop!

Another interesting fact is that all airplanes have ashtrays attached to the outside and inside of the bathroom doors. Why you ask? There's been a no-smoking ban in place on airplanes since 1988! All I can say is people do what they want to do, and some people still try to get away with smoking while on the airplane. These people for some reason don't think the crew will notice the smell of smoke coming from under the bathroom door. Most times if the crew isn't around the bathroom door to smell it, there is always a passenger who comes running in a tizzy to the back or front of the airplane to tell the crew they smell smoke. The crew member will go knock on the bathroom door and the FAA has found that people panic when they think the crew is going to "catch them" and they look around for an ashtray. If they can't find one, they'll often throw the still-lit cigarette into the trash receptacle! I give them credit for trying not to get caught but throwing a cigarette butt into a trash receptacle with a bunch of paper towels might not be a great idea on an airplane. Actually, it's just a horrible idea and has caused enough airline bathroom fires to continue having ashtrays installed on all airplanes!

Let's keep the conversation on the bathroom door! Now that you all know why every airplane has ashtrays and why they are located on the inside and outside of the bathroom door let's talk about how to open and close the bathroom doors. I swear the designers of the bathroom doors have the biggest sense of humor ever! I can just imagine all the bathroom-door designers sitting around a big conference table and saying, "Hey, how can we mess with the flight attendants and make the bathroom door so that they have to say push or pull all flight long." Think about it, how many times you've been on an airplane and (1) tried to find the bathroom door and (2) tried to figure out how to open the bathroom door! I would

be a millionaire if I got \$1 for every time I've helped a passenger by saying "push" or "pull" to open the bathroom door! My main piece of advice regarding airplane bathroom doors is to "read the door!" Most every airplane has a sign on their bathroom doors that says "pull" next to a handle or "push" and that's how to open the door! I know it may sound silly for some of you who travel on airplanes, but not everyone has traveled on an airplane. We all need a little help at one point in time or another and I don't mind helping nor do most of my other crew members when it comes to the airplane bathroom door or anything else for that matter!

The last airplane bathroom door I want to talk about is by far the most horrible bathroom door ever designed. It's on a newer model airplane too! The designers had a field day with this one! Our Airbus N321NX has a flight-attendant jump seat attached to the front of a bathroom door. Yes, it's true, I have to sit on a seat that comes out of the bathroom door! On behalf of all flight attendants worldwide, I'd like to say, "Really, Airbus what were you thinking?!" In this day and age, there was absolutely no other place to put a jump seat other than the outside of a bathroom door? This door is so confusing to passengers that most flights I just stand for hours and become a bathroom-door concierge.

There are so many more tips and tricks I want to talk to you about, like how to find the secret button to lift some of the arm rests so you're more comfortable, why the Boeing 787 can't fly with nicks in its paint job, when airlines will cover hotel expenses, and a whole bunch more! I have to say bye for now because this article on airplanes could go on forever and frankly no one has time for that! So, take a look at those bathroom doors, find those ashtrays, and ask if you're flying on a "tail tipper." Signing off from this "senior mama" have a fantastic week and if you do go flying this week fly safe! Oh, don't forget the chocolates for your crews...we love chocolate! Fly on!

# Goshen TM

(Continued from Page 18)

less) and then explained about the uprise in the education costs (He was challenged by one voter who asked about the continual rise of educational monies that are being poured continuously into the schools.). There was some discussion of it.

Conlon's responses were that now that the federal pandemic dol-

lars have come to a halt, the state has to make up the difference. The three biggest challenges are overall inflation, healthcare for teachers going up, and there is an increased need for students with an upsurge in mental health issues. He chairs the House Education Committee. They will be saying "no" to new initiatives and try to maintain and keep the current programs.

Next, the town roads were addressed by Tammy Walsh, town foreman. The trucks and equipment (loader) are basically in terrible condition. Brad, who works on the pieces, explained to the room that they have to put more into steady maintenance, which will lead to fewer repairs. He stated that the green truck is trashed, the black truck is in fairly good

# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 19)

this meeting and is asked to submit its suggestions for budget cuts to the Committee and/or Selectboard.

Mr. Hopkins anticipates that the new budget will be presented for a vote in the latter half of April.

The Board also agreed to post warnings for meetings and town business at the following locations:

- The Junction Store in Forest Dale
- The Brandon Town Office
- The Brandon Post Office

## PARKING

As a continuation of an ongoing conversation about inadequate parking in downtown Brandon, Ms. Nelson brought up for discussion the creation of 15-minute parking spots at popular locations in downtown, such as Brandon House of Pizza, Mae's/Li's, and the Town Office. The spots would be reserved for people running quick errands and picking up food.

The lack of parking downtown is a "good problem to have" but has been a frustration for locals and visitors for years.

The discussion led to the cre-

ation of a working group that will hopefully have the participation of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Brandon Alliance. Ms. Nelson volunteered to be the Selectboard rep to the committee. No official meeting of the group has been announced.

## Winter Operations Policy

The Board received information about Brandon's winter operations policies but held off on approving them until next meeting, to give Board members an opportunity to review and digest the material.

Mr. Hopkins thanked the community for its patience during the heavy snow on Monday morning, which had caught the area by surprise. Brandon's highway crew is down a member since the retirement of Foreman Shawn Erickson and the promotion of Jeremy Disorda, leaving the town short-staffed during the morning storm.

## WARRANT

The final piece of public business for the evening was the unanimous approval of a warrant in the amount of \$191,406.50 to pay the town's obligations and expenses.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT

#### Notice of Public Hearing - Brandon Development Review Board (DRB)

On Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:00 PM, via conferencing, the Brandon DRB will hold in-person, and via Zoom remote conferencing, Public Hearings to review the following applications:

**Application #6304** from Briggs Lane of Brandon LLC a request for a change of use from a commercial space to a residential space at 8 Conant Square (Parcel # 22-51-23). This requires a conditional use permit.

**Application #6304(A)** from Briggs Lane of Brandon LLC, a request for a change of use to change an existing storefront to a residential area with access at 8 Conant Square (Parcel # 22-51-23). This requires a variance permit.

**Application #6305** from Middlebury National Corp (Owner) and Doug Cummings (Applicant) a request to replace the former carwash property with a laundry mat. This requires a conditional use permit to conform with Commercial 1 Use. This is in the Neighborhood Residential Zoning District (Parcel # 23-51-68).

This Meeting & Hearing will be conducted remotely by Zoom audio & visual programs; and access instructions are posted on Town website, Town and Post Offices.

Interested Parties are to be registered and present testimony, or have submitted written testimony to the Town, by 7:00 pm of the Hearing date or they may forfeit their right to appeal any decision of the DRB to VT Superior Court (Environmental Division).

shape and will be getting the box repaired, and the grader and the loader are both being worked on, but he would recommend buying a used 550 or 600 truck. When asked by a voter how the town would purchase this, it was pointed out that in the past, they used a c.d. or loaned themselves the money. Some discussion on where to purchase new truck.

The end of the meeting flew by with the passing of a variety of articles with a minimum of discussion. Thomasina Magoon (select board) pointed out that a new town-wide reappraisal was coming up and would be done on all properties in town. The financial arrangement for this was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned.

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 • 2023 •  
  
 FRIDAY, MARCH 29 | 7:30 PM

**ACE FREHLEY**  
  
 SATURDAY, MARCH 30 | 7:00 PM

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 SUNDAY, MARCH 31 | 6:00 PM

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**TUSK**  
 THE WORLD'S #1 TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD/MAC  
  
 FRIDAY, APRIL 19 | 7:00 PM

An Evening with  
**David Sedaris**  
  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 20 | 7:00 PM

THE PARAMOUNT PLAYERS & STAGE WRITE PRESENT  
**LITTLE STOP OF HORRORS**  
 THE MUSICAL  
  
 APRIL 26, 27, 28

**Mutts Gone Nuts!**  
 Canine Cabaret  
  
 FRIDAY, MAY 3 | 7:00 PM

**THE WAILIN' JENNYS**  
  
 SUNDAY, MAY 12 | 7:00 PM

**STOMP**  
  
 2 Shows! MAY 28 & 29 | 7:30 PM

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