

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

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NAMES LOST IN VERMONT

Genealogist Michael F. Dwyer shares the history of the Marcy, Burch and Mosher families.

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FIXER UPPER

Repair fair coming to Brandon Town Hall on Saturday, April 21.

PG. 3



TALKING 'BOU TRASH

Representative Butch Shaw shares a legislative update and how to get involved in Green Up Day on May 4.

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LET'S FLY

How to score last-minute airline deals, and an in-flight use for coffee that may change how you see your morning brew.

PG. 14



A RARE FIND

Nifty Thrifty bids farewell to beloved volunteer Marie Bradbury, who is retiring after nearly 50 years of service.

PG. 21



Brandon's Angus Chaney tries to make a difference for Rutland's homeless

BY STEVEN JUPITER

RUTLAND—To those who have always had stable homes, the concept of homelessness can often seem distant and abstract, tinged with stigma, affecting only those who have somehow brought it upon themselves.

As Executive Director of the Homeless Prevention Center (HPC) in Rutland, Brandon's Angus Chaney sees every day how homelessness can keep people down, how it can happen suddenly, how it can rob families of a future.

In a real sense, then, Chaney and HPC traffic in hope. A lot of the people who seek help from HPC—those who are homeless or about to be—come to the organization when they're at their lowest. HPC endeavors to get them housed, often the first step to getting back on their feet.

"People come here on their

worst days," said Chaney at his office in Rutland. "We work with people to get them through to the

other side."

The "other side" is stable housing. HPC, celebrating its

25th year, has a network of landlords it works with to provide housing to people who need it. With 5 full-time case managers and staff, including a landlord liaison, HPC has built up relationships around Rutland County that allow the organization to locate appropriate housing for its clients. HPC works directly with landlords and also with other nonprofits, such as the Housing Trust of Rutland County, which maintains low-income rental units in various towns.

"Homelessness is not all gloom and doom," said Chaney. "We couldn't keep doing this if there weren't success stories. We take chances on people and work through hardships and get them into housing." Chaney added that landlords are often so pleased with HPC clients as tenants that they call asking for

(See Angus Chaney, Page 21)



ANGUS CHANEY (LEFT) has been at Rutland's Homeless Prevention Center (HPC) since 2018, when he took the reins from Deborah Hall (right). The organization is marking 25 years helping people in Rutland County find and retain housing.

Diabetes-prevention workshop, a big success in 2023, back for another year in Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Type 2 diabetes affects a large percentage of our population. Left untreated, it can greatly diminish quality of life. But it can be extremely hard to change the habits that often lead to the condition.

Joanne Lemay wants to change that.

Last year, Lemay ran a very successful diabetes-prevention workshop in Brandon—"Kick Type 2 to the Curb"—and will be beginning a new cycle of the program on June 4. The program is free, sponsored by the Rutland Regional Medical Center in collaboration with myhealthyVT.org. It's designed to teach participants how to prevent diabetes through small-step changes in their diets and exercise habits.

"We're just trying to share the benefits of small steps making big changes," said Lemay recently.

The program consists of 26 "modules" that are intended to teach participants preventative skills, such as how to manage food portions and how to work more physical activity into daily routines. The step-by-step approach of the program celebrates small adjustments rather than trying to impose sudden, massive change. The group meetings create an atmosphere of support and community.

"It was great all learning together," said Lemay. "We had an amazing group."

For the first 16 weeks of the program, the group meets every week. After that, the program tapers off to 2 meetings per month and then 1 meeting per month. The hope is that by the end of the yearlong program, participants will have learned new patterns that they can sustain in their lives by themselves.

"The peer learning environment worked well," (See Diabetes-prevention, Page 6)



THE PRIZE-WINNING AQUARIUM designed by Proctor's Gunner Tuttle at the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies convention in Connecticut.

Local aquarist wins first place at aquarium competition in Connecticut

BY EMILY NELSON

GROTON, CT—While the roughly 130 attendees at the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies convention in

(See Gunner Tuttle, Page 7)



SOME OF THE participants from last year's "Kick Type 2 to the Curb" program. Step by step, they helped each other lower their blood sugar and their weight, all to stave off Type 2 diabetes. The program will kick off for another year on June 4.

Names lost in Vermont, Part 22: Marcy, Burch, and Mosher

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

You may wonder, after 21 installments of this series, why there is always another investigation in the wings. As I continue to document Vermont families born in Canada East [Quebec] before the Civil War, I continue to encounter names that need exploration. Let's start with the Joseph Marcy household as recorded in Middlebury's 1850 census. Joseph Marcy, age 50, laborer, born Canada, is followed by wife Polly, age 38, and their children, Adaline, 15, "deaf and dumb," Malina, 10, Virginia, 6, Joseph 4, and then Louisa, age 1, born in Vermont. Louisa's birthplace allows us to pinpoint family's migration in the late 1840s. Recognizing the surname Marcy as a variation of the surname Mercier led me to discover the marriage record of Joseph Mercier and Appoline [Polly] Mongeon [rendered as Mosher in Vermont records] in St. Hyacinthe, Québec, on January 21, 1834. Until they moved, children of this couple in the same birth order as in the census were baptized in St. Hyacinthe. You may note the long list of Vermont French-Canadian families that came from the environs of St. Hyacinthe.

Middlebury's 1860 census reveals Joseph Marcy's household had expanded to include one more child, Harriet, born in Vermont, followed by three individuals with the surname Burch: Austin, age 21, born L[ower] Canada, Treffley, age 24, also born L[ower] Canada, and Josephine, age 1, born Pa [Pennsylvania]. Why were the Burchs in the Marcy household? I surmised that Austin and Treffley Burch were brothers, but where was the mother of the child Josephine? The answer to that question surfaced in the entry of the "reha-

bilitated" marriage of Augustin [Austin] Lafleur and Josephine Mercier at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Middlebury, on August 29, 1858. Evidently, the couple had been married earlier outside the Catholic Church but now sought validation of their marriage. No doubt, you are already puzzled by the different first and last names.

First, Burch, was an established variant of the name Lafleur, for reasons to be explained momentarily. Secondly, Josephine Mercier turned out to be the second daughter of Joseph and Polly Marcy, baptized as Appoline Melina Mercier, in St. Hyacinthe on 4 April 1840. For nearly all of her long life, she was known as Malany Burch. Her Catholic marriage record also named her husband Augustin's parents: Hubert Lafleur and Louisa Lafine [Brodeur dit Lavigne in Québec records]. Even with this information, I could not connect the dots, especially how anyone could get Burch from Lafleur.

Tracing the migration of both

the Burch [sometimes written as Birch] and Marcy families from Middlebury in 1860 to Poultney

age 27, born Canada, and two children, Hattie and Nettie. They were followed by James Burch, age 76, Louisa Burch, age 74, both listed as boarders born in Canada. Austin, Malany, and Josephine Birch were in the next household. Jennie Burch was the same as Virginia Marcy, age 6, in the 1850 census! Thus, two brothers from the Burch family married two sisters from the Marcy/Mercier family.

Were the older couple, James and Louisa the parents of Augustin and Treffley Burch? By the 1870s, another brother Edwin/Edward Burch migrated to Poultney along with their sister Louisa Langsyne [L'Enseigne] Barney. Perhaps the fervor of the United

States Centennial inspired Austin and Treffley Burch and their nephew-by-marriage, John "Lafflowers," to be sworn in as American citizens in September 1876. Plugging in all these

common denominators into the search engine of Généalogie Québec, with its splendid indices of Québec Catholic parish registers, eventually resulted in my discovery of the marriage of Hubert Gipouloux dit Lafleur and Marie Louise Brodeur dit Lavigne at Beloeil, Québec on March 1, 1813. Their thirteen children included Antoine [Edwin], Trefflé [Treffley], Augustin

[Austin] and Louise. Finding these children in the correct birth order proved their father Hubert Gipouloux became James Burch in Vermont!

Tracing this surname back to the original 17th century ancestor revealed that various generations slipped in spelling between Gipouloux and Giboleau—Boleau, in French, is a birch tree! Pierre Gipouloux dit Lafleur, from Larenque, Aquitaine, France, married Marie-Anne Antrade in Batiscan, Québec, on February 3, 1688. Father of eight children and ancestor of scores of descendants, Pierre lived to be 93 years old. Completing the Poultney chapter of the Birch/Burch family brought me into contact with Suzanne White Parker, Edwin [Antoine] Birch's great-great-granddaughter. She had posted Edwin's photo in her family tree on Ancestry.com. Finding Antoine Gipouloux's baptismal record with the names of his parents, Hubert and Louise, broke down Suzanne's genealogical brick wall stalled at Edwin's generation. Edwin Birch's obituary appeared in The Poult-

(See Names Lost, Page 19)



TINTYPE PHOTO OF Edwin Birch, circa 1880. He was born as Antoine Gipouloux dit Lafleur. Over the years, Gipouloux became Boleau, which is French for "birch."

in 1870 started to make sense of these seemingly disparate pieces. One finds in Poultney's census two Birch households enumerated consecutively: Treffley Birch, age 34, his wife, Jennie,

States Centennial inspired Austin and Treffley Burch and their nephew-by-marriage, John "Lafflowers," to be sworn in as American citizens in September 1876. Plugging in all these

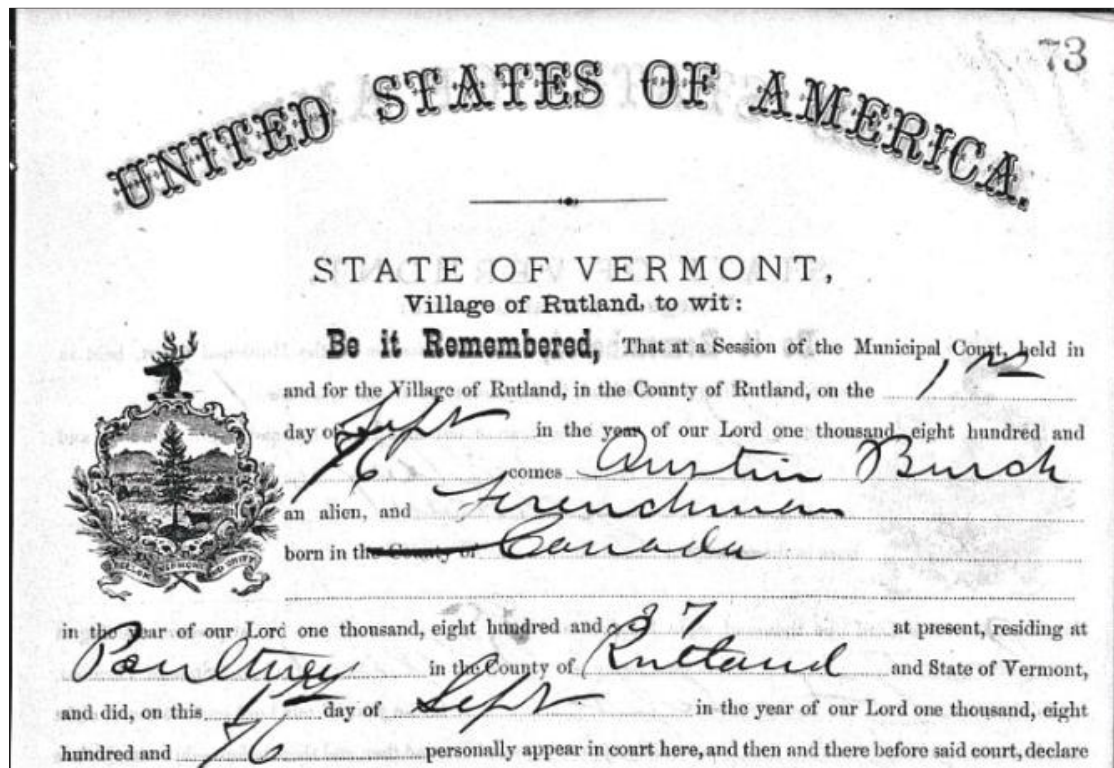
1850 United States Federal Census for Joseph Marcy

| Name | Age | Sex | Color | Married | Address | Birthplace |
|--------------|-----|-----|-------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Joseph Marcy | 50 | M | W | | Canada | Canada |
| Polly | 38 | F | W | | | |
| Adaline | 15 | F | W | | | deaf and dumb |
| Malina | 10 | F | W | | | |
| Virginia | 6 | F | W | | | |
| Joseph | 4 | M | W | | | |
| Louisa | 1 | F | W | | | |

1870 United States Federal Census for Lucy Clarkson

| Name | Age | Sex | Color | Married | Address | Birthplace |
|------------------|-----|-----|-------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Lucy Clarkson | 57 | F | W | | | |
| Charles Clarkson | 57 | M | W | | | |
| Adaline | 27 | F | W | | | deaf and dumb |
| Josephine | 24 | F | W | | | |
| Austin | 21 | M | W | | | |
| Treffley | 19 | M | W | | | |
| John | 14 | M | W | | | |
| Harriet | 12 | F | W | | | |
| Josephine | 1 | F | W | | | |

ABOVE: MIDDLEBURY 1850 census. Note that Adaline is labeled as "deaf and dumb." Below: 1870 census for March and Clarkson family, noting that Charles Clarkson and his wife Adaline were labeled as "deaf and dumb."



NATURALIZATION RECORD OF Austin Burch, 1876. Note that his brother Treffley and nephew were naturalized on the same day.

Brandon Energy Committee and ReBHS to hold Repair Day at Brandon Town Hall

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Do you have a toaster oven that just won't toast? A seat that can't be sat upon? A lamp that won't light? If so, then come on down to Town Hall in Brandon on Saturday, April 21 from 12 to 4 for Repair Day, a fix-a-thon event co-sponsored by the Brandon Energy Committee (BEC) and ReBHS, the organization rehabilitating the old Brandon High School.

"We'll fix anything but vehicles," said David Martin, who's a member of both BEC and ReBHS. Both organizations have a deep interest in "not having things thrown away," according to Martin. Instead of tossing something that could be fixed, consider having it repaired. You'll save money and help slow the depletion of the world's resources. There's no reason to buy something new if what you've got can still get the job done.

"We're really interested in keeping things out of the landfill," added Martin. The general spirit could be described as "repair rather than replace."

The event is open to the public and free, except for any specific parts that would need to be ordered to get the job done. BEC and ReBHS were inspired by a similar event that was held successfully in Middlebury several years ago.

The "repair fair" will be staffed by members of both organizations who have the requisite expertise. For example, Mr. Martin is a lighting designer with experience repairing lamps, so if you have one that needs to be rewired, bring it in. Other special-

ties among the crew include furniture and household appliances, for example. All in all, there will be 10 to 12 people offering to repair what folks bring in.

And if you have something you can't get to the site by yourself, let them know and they'll do what they can to aid with transportation.

Mr. Martin noted that repair is a hot topic at various levels of government these days, with bills pending in Montpelier guaranteeing Vermonters the "right to repair" farm equipment and wheelchairs, for example. This is in response to manufacturers that insist that all repairs be done by their own agents, often costing users unnecessarily large sums when some repairs could be done at home.

In addition to Repair Day, both BEC and ReBHS are busy with other projects.

The Energy Committee was disappointed by the defeat of its town-owned solar array at the polls in March, but it's now exploring private solar options for the proposed site, where the town would benefit from an array but wouldn't own it.

BEC is also working on a project to provide electric-powered landscaping equipment for public use in conjunction with the Brandon Free Public Library's "Library of Things." BEC would purchase from Brandon Lumber 2 electric push mowers, 2 electric leaf blowers, and 2 electric weed whackers that the public could borrow at no cost. The details of the program are still being worked out, but Martin said the equipment would likely be held in a movable shed with



some kind of electronic keypad to which BFPL would provide the code to borrowers.

"We're thinking of calling it the 'tool ship,'" said Martin.

As for ReBHS, the rehab of the high school building is still underway, though progress has been slower than anticipated. The organization is currently pursuing grants and will likely begin painting and repairing windows this summer.

In the meantime, if you've got something broken at home you suspect might still have some life in it, bring to Repair Day. To twist the old saying, if it's broke, fix it!

Town trees need to be inspected by the Warden before cutting or trimming

As winter fades (however slowly) and we start to assess the damage to yards, landscaping, sidewalks, and driveways, it's easy to forget how important trees are in Brandon. Trees are usually regarded as being forest occupants, and we mostly don't really think that trees in the town should get any different treatment.

Living in a town environment, our trees are subject to hazards that don't occur in forests. Traffic, salt, construction, you name it, and our trees have to cope. The urban canopy (town trees) should get special consideration because of these hazards, and the State has several statutes that address town trees.

One of the statutes is that each town in Vermont should have a tree warden. The tree warden is not a forester or an arborist, but a person appointed by the Selectboard whose sole responsibility is to make sure urban trees in the public way are not cut down or excessively pruned without an evaluation of tree health and the risk the trees might pose to individuals, property, and traffic. That evaluation has to be done by the tree warden and professional arborists. The statutes also specify a penalty if a tree in the town's right of way is cut down without tree warden involvement and agreement.

This doesn't mean that the Tree Warden is "against" prop-

erty owners and their trees. It means that we need to work together to keep our trees performing as temperature modulators, noise mitigators, air cleaners, carbon sinks, mood elevators as well as keeping Brandon beautiful. If you have a tree in the right-of-way (between the road and about 25' from the centerline) that needs attention or you think is a hazard, please contact me.

Thanks
Neil Silins
Brandon Tree Warden
brandontreewarden@gmail.com

Game Day

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Spotlight On Business BARN OPERA

BRANDON AREA CHAMBER of Commerce
Brandon.org for more info

Your friends and neighbors at BARN OPERA are endlessly grateful for your support through thick and thin! We are ready to welcome you back to the BARN on May 18th for our "Night at the Opera" and fill you in on all the exciting things happening in the BARN OPERA universe - we couldn't do it without you!

We'll see you at the OPERA soon!
www.barnopera.com

BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Brandon's Selectboard ignores economic status in its definition of 'diversity'

BY VICKI DISORDA

The Brandon town management team may have the appearance of diversity, but its social construct remains largely the same. Perhaps this should not be a surprise given the fact that Brandon is 94% white. However, four of the town's current town management team, including Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey, Town Manager Seth Hopkins, and Board member Tim Guiles, signed the town's Declaration of Inclusion in 2021, which expressly states "fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community."

The one glaring omission in the town's Declaration of Inclusion versus the state's version are the words "socioeconomic status." A point that has not been lost on area residents opposed to the town's revised budget, which still stands to increase town property taxes over 10% in a single year.

Here is the text of the Declaration that was signed by the Selectboard in 2021:

Town of Brandon Declaration of Inclusion

The Town of Brandon condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, and will protect these classes to the fullest extent of the law.

As a Town, we formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community.

The Town of Brandon has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

By the Brandon Select Board on January 25, 2021

Seth Hopkins
Doug Bailey
Tim Guiles
[Signature]
[Signature]

A true record made this 26th day of January 2021, A.D. in the State of Vermont.
 Attest: *[Signature]* Brandon Town Clerk

(See Economic 'diversity', Page 4)



Blue-headed singin' the blues

Blue-headed vireos will once again be singing from the forest canopy.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Green Mountain Conservation Camp 'Work-cation' weekends

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is looking for volunteers to join them for fun-filled weekends to get the camps ready for the 2024 season. This year, the GMCC Kehoe 'workcation' weekend will be May 11-12, and the GMCC Buck Lake workcation weekend will be May 18-19.

"We look forward to workcation weekend all winter long," said Education Specialist Hannah Phelps. "With the help of local volunteers, we spruce

up both camps in preparation for the summer and enjoy being outdoors knowing it's for a good cause -- environmental education for today's youth."

Volunteers can participate for as long as they are able to -- one hour, one day, or both days. They are welcome to stay overnight in onsite cabins or they can bring their own tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided.

The Buck Lake camp is located in Woodbury, and the

Kehoe camp is on Lake Bomoseen in Castleton. This is an excellent community service opportunity for boy scout and girl scout groups, as well as high school and college clubs. The Conservation Camps are looking for help with general repairs, construction, landscaping, painting, cleaning, firewood, and gardening. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tools, but the camps will have some available.

(See Conservation Camp, Page 7)

The Reporter

The Reporter is a nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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Green Up Day is coming!

Green Up Day is always the first Saturday in May and falls on May 4 this year! Every year, a group of Brandon volunteers of all ages, sizes, and dispositions "celebrates" Green Up Day by picking up along the roadsides in our community and cleaning away the accumulated debris from the past year. Those efforts greatly improve the appearance of our town and neighborhoods and contribute to the overall beauty of the state.

For those not familiar with

this annual event, Green Up Day is organized by a state coordinator and local volunteers. Green Up Day is not funded by the State of Vermont but rather through private donations and contributions by individual towns. This truly is a local effort, supported by local people. Volunteers walk the routes (usually about an hour or two) and collect roadside debris into plastic bags that are provided. There is no charge for the disposal of the debris, and arrangements for pickup and

delivery to the town dump are made when needed.

If you would like to help clean up our community, I will be available at the gazebo in Central Park (across from the Brandon Inn) on Saturday morning, May 4, from 8AM - 10AM to provide Green Up Day garbage bags and route assignments. Volunteers with pick-up trucks are helpful, as we typically need help getting the trash delivered from the roadsides to the "Green Up"

(See Green Up Day, Page 7)

Letter to the Editor

The VT legislature needs to worry more about Vermonters than about the image of Vermont

I have grown progressively more uneasy over the past few years with the feeling that our Vermont legislature was losing touch with how our Vermont citizens actually live and try to make a living. I can only comment on the legislature as a whole, or at least the majority. That's where the legislation comes from. I'm sure there are individual legislators who think about and take into account what effect bills they are contemplating will have on the average

individual or small business, but that's not what shows when the legislation turns into laws, regulations, taxes and fees.

With recent news I conclude that the gap is complete. I have read and heard members of our legislature talking of Vermont's duty to "be a model" and "lead by example" for how climate change should be dealt with. An op-ed in the recent weekend Rutland Herald mentioned a Representative by name saying that

Vermont's obligation to lead in climate change mitigation compares to its duty to fight in the Civil War.

This mind set is totally divorced from Vermont's reality. We are a very small state. We have a very small population. We do not have a significant manufacturing or technological base in a national and certainly not in a global sense. Our comparisons to other states might be made to Rhode Island, except that the population of metropolitan

Providence, RI is 1.6 million far exceeding the total population of our state. Unfortunately, this mindset seems now and for some time to reflect what our legislature thinks about "duty" and our capability.

The duty of our legislature is to the citizens and the well-being of our state. Yes, we should do our part toward climate change mitigation. In doing so we must have some sense of the reality and practicability of what our small state

can actually do and how much effect it will have overall. Let us have some modesty here and much less grandiosity. Weatherizing homes, encouraging heat pumps, solar panels, installing electric charging stations. We can do much in those areas within our fiscal means over a period of time. "Fair share" is a term bandied about these days. This is our state's "fair share" of climate change mitigation.

(See VT legislature, Page 7)

Thank you: The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize the whole community for a very successful and memorable eclipse weekend

After a full year of planning and worrying, Mother Nature helped us with an absolutely perfect weekend to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse. The Chamber wants to thank the whole community for their support and participation in all the many events and performances that took place throughout the village. Thank you to all of our great businesses for being open and putting on such a great face for all of our visitors who came from many, many places around the country.

It took a lot of folks a lot of time, energy, planning, and just

plain hard work to pull these events and activities together in such a successful way. The hard-working duo of Colleen Wright and Bill Moore of the Brandon Recreation Department and all the town officials and employees who supported our efforts.

The Chamber of Commerce eclipse celebration committee was formed at the behest of Tom White, one of our directors, and chaired by Pat Wood our recent past president for five years. The committee also included director Lynn Wilson and our current president Nancy Spalding-Ness. Led by the

uber-organized Pat, it achieved all that we set our sights on way back in 2023!!

Barbara Scribner, the new owner of the Inn on Park Street, and Tom White worked tirelessly on various aspects of the celebrations but focused mainly on their favorite part, the Zombie Walk! It was so fun to have Julia Murach and her Neshobe school band lead our hoard of zombies down Park Street with Pittsford Fire Department's world-famous Boo-Mobile bringing up the rear collecting any leftover zombie body parts!

Dennis Marden, president of

the Friends of the Town Hall, contributed his typical yeoman like work to present our various spectacles successfully in the beautiful Town Hall.

We had great attendance at our nightclub-style cabaret at the Town Hall on Saturday night featuring 12 acts of superior talent from the local area. Our deepest thanks to all those who shared their talents for the evening. Big thanks to music director and organizer Kristen Carr for her dedicated work with each of the performers. Thanks also go out to Ross Edmunds for his drum accompaniment and technical stage

help. They all made it look easy and we all sure enjoyed it!

Many other groups and businesses put forward varied offerings that helped to make the weekend successful and entertaining for all of us.

Finally, The Reporter did a fine job with early articles to highlight the eclipse weekend and continued with great reporting on so many aspects of the four days here in our great little town.

The friendliest folks in Vermont stepped up and we can all be proud of our small-town experience of a BIG-time event!

Spring wildflower walk on Mount Independence

ORWELL—It's time for the annual guided walk to look for spring wildflowers at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, Vermont—Sunday, April 28, 2024, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Amy Olmsted, a nursery professional for over 25 years, leads this informative walk. Olmsted is a horticulturist with Rocky Dale Gardens in Bristol, Vermont.

Olmsted will show you early wildflowers, how to identify them, and discuss their habitat. You'll learn their common and Latin names. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, dress for the weather, be prepared for walking the trails (some of which may be wet) and bring water if you like.

This special event brings you to this historic site before the official opening on Friday, May 24. Two other pre-season

events are a guided off-the-trails history hike on Saturday, May 4, from noon to 4:00 p.m., and an early-bird nature walk on Saturday, May 18, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

The program, co-sponsored by the Mount Independence Coalition and Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, is open to the public. The walk fee is \$5.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children ages 6 to 14, free for children under 5, and free for members of the Mount Independence Coalition. Meet by noon outside the Museum. Restrooms will be available before the start of the walk. Call 802-759-2412 for more information.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site, one of the best-preserved Revolutionary War archeological sites in this (See Wildflower walk, Page 7)

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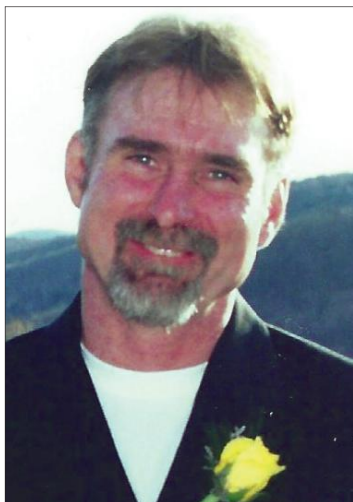
Obituaries

Allen John Anderson, 65, Pittsford

Allen John Anderson, age 65, passed away on March 12, 2024, at his home in Pittsford.

Allen was born in Brockton, Massachusetts on April 16, 1958. He was the son of John and Sheila (Raw) Anderson. Allen grew up in Middletown Springs, VT, where he spent his early education and graduated from Poultney High School, class of 1976. He has been a self-employed automotive mechanic most of his life. He was a former employee of Blue Seal in Brandon, where he was a mechanic, as well as in maintenance. Allen was a talented carpenter, having built his own house in Florence and Hubbardton as well as restored several in Rutland County. He enjoyed hiking, fishing, and was an avid reader. He had a love of restoring classic vehicles.

He is survived by mother,



ALLEN JOHN ANDERSON

Sheila Rivers, his five daughters (Ina Anderson of Forest Dale, Ashley Beatty (Jim) of Whitehall, NY, Jessica Anderson (Broc) of Florence, Niki Garrido (Alex) of Newcomb, NY, and

Danielle Pennine (Sam) of Coventry, R.I.), and two sisters, Lisa Cook of Fair Haven and Claire Yentz of Pittsford. Seven grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive him. He is predeceased by his father, John (Jack) Anderson, his aunt Shirley Newhall, and his dogs, Rose, Bear, Trixie, Max, and Mya.

A private graveside committal service and burial took place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763.

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

Elizabeth H. Laframboise, 80, Brandon

Elizabeth H. Laframboise, age 80, has gone to her heavenly home on Thursday, April 11, 2024. She was born in Randolph, VT on September 9, 1943, the daughter of Jessie and Constance (Kimball) Hunt. She received her early education in Randolph and also attended Beauticians College. On June 23, 1962, she was married to Rock W. Laframboise in Randolph. They had lived in Connecticut for a time before moving back to the Addison County, Vermont area, where she helped her husband operate their family farm over the years in the Cornwall and New Haven areas. She would say she was a "town girl before becoming a farm girl." Elizabeth was a devoted and active member of the Forest Dale Christian



ELIZABETH LAFRAMBOISE

Fellowship Church. She taught Sunday School for many years and loved her church family. She also enjoyed being a foster

grandparent for several years. She loved her flower gardens and watching the birds and other wildlife. Elizabeth was enthusiastic in her faith and she would ask whomever she met, "Do you know Jesus? God Loves You."

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Rutland Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice for the care they provided Elizabeth.

Elizabeth is survived by her husband, Rock Laframboise, one daughter, Sandra Laframboise of New Haven, and one sister, Nancy Ellis of Randolph. She was predeceased by her infant son, Robert Conrad Laframboise, in 1972 and her brother Raymond.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, April 19, 2024 at 10 AM at the Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church. The Rev. Barry Tate, Pastor will officiate. A reception will follow the funeral at the Forest Dale Senior Center. Graveside committal services and burial will follow at the Shelburne Village Cemetery, Shelburne, VT at 3:00 PM. Calling Hours will be held on Thursday from 4-6 PM at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, 26 Franklin St. Brandon.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of the Southwest Region, 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland, VT 05701

Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon is in charge of arrangements.



THE "KICK T2 to the Curb" program was held last year at the Brandon Museum. It will take place this year at the Brandon Town Hall.

Diabetes prevention

(Continued from Page 1) said Lemay. "Group conversations were really beneficial."

Though Lemay emphasizes that it's not a weight-loss program, last year's group lost a total of 87 pounds after the first 16 weeks in the program. And their A1C blood-sugar levels went down, regardless of weight loss. All because of what they'd learned about food and diet.

"Be mindful of what you're putting in your shopping cart," Lemay stated. "Keep an eye on portion control."

Participants often shared tips on healthful substitutions for problematic foods: shredded cabbage instead of carb-laden noodles, for example. Or peanut butter and nonfat yogurt instead of ice cream. Baked potato instead of French fries. And these substitutions don't have to be super expensive.

"We have a whole module on how to shop economically," said Lemay, noting that fresh vegetables can often be expensive but plain frozen veggies are just as nutritious and often a fraction of the price.

Last year's group ranged from age 42 to 75, but Lemay is hoping for younger folks to get involved this year. She'd also like to help pregnant women ex-

periencing gestational diabetes.

Ten of last year's cohort have continued to meet on their own and will return for this year's program.

Colleen Wright, who participated last year, said, "This group was incredible. We learned a lot about nutrition but also developed support systems and found out what our triggers were. For instance, I learned that I need a weekly meet up to keep me on track! Diabetes is a terrible disease and if I can keep healthy by changing my lifestyle, I'm going to do it. And I'll be there when we start back up in June!"

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, June 4 from 5:30 to 6:30 at Brandon Town Hall, with subsequent meetings held on Tuesdays at the same time and place. Lemay emphasized that the first session will be more of an introduction, to let people get a feel for the program to decide whether it's for them. There's no charge for any of the sessions.

So if you're hoping to make lifestyle changes to help stave off diabetes, give the program a chance and know that you're not alone.

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Gunner Tuttle

(Continued from Page 1)
Societies Convention busied themselves on Saturday, April 6th with a solid schedule of lectures and a massive room of vendors, one dedicated hobbyist was painstakingly assembling his carefully thought-out plans for the aquarium aquascape competition—aquascaping is the practice of decorating an aquarium with substrates (such as gravel and bio-soil), decorative rocks, driftwood, and other plants to create a realistic natural habitat.

That hobbyist was Gunner

Tuttle, who lives in Proctor with his wife Jessie and son Dre. He prepared for the competition by selectively breeding the darkest blue dream shrimp. For his entry, he interspersed several varieties of leafy aquarium plants amidst an intricate tiered mountain of dragon stone. Gunner finished his aquascape with a school of Ember tetras and a stunning spire of Malaysian driftwood. Unsurprisingly, his aquascape, appropriately titled “Out of the Box,” handily won first place. Among the judges’ notes was a

great display of technique with excellent use of depth, adding that his “layout will be exceptional over time”

GUNNER TUTTLE OF Proctor assembling his prize-winning aquarium, which incorporated dragon stone, Ember tetras, and Malaysian driftwood. The piece was titled “Out of the Box.”

Photo by Richard W. Pierce



Wildflower walk

(Continued from Page 5)
country, also is well known for its natural resources. It is located at 497 Mount Independence Road, six miles west of the intersections of Vermont Routes 22A and 73 near Orwell village. Carefully follow the

signs. Starting May 24, the site will be open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily through October 20. For more information about the Vermont State-owned Historic Sites, visit: historicsites.vermont.gov.

VT legislature

(Continued from Page 5)

The energy bill from this session of the legislature which will likely become the law of Vermont is, again, wholly unrealistic and far beyond what our state should attempt. We cannot continue to pile this sort of thing on Vermonters. How real is it to envision the scope of conversion to renewable energy within the time specified? Unfortunately, from the beginning of that time actual out-of-pocket costs for our people to stay warm in winter will start an upward path. When those in the

large group of citizens who say that an unexpected bill of \$400 would be a major hardship get an electric or fuel oil bill they can't pay, what happens?

The crusher for me was the requirement that Vermont enter the Renewable Energy Credits market. I was familiar with the REC markets some years ago when working in California. Not recently, but I haven't read anything that indicates any significant change since then. How much research was done by the authors of this bill into the histo-

ry of the REC market? That market has been gamed repeatedly. Prices and availability fluctuate wildly and the validity of the climate benefit of some RECs is questionable. The cost to Vermont is unknown. This is far beyond what our state should be involved in. What we do know now is that it will cost and the cost will be borne by Vermont's citizens. Why would the legislators think this is a good idea for Vermont?

Harold R. Somerset
Brandon

Green Up Day

(Continued from Page 4)

dumpster. If you'd like to help with “truck duty” please plan to meet at 10AM at the gazebo in Central Park for route assignments. Please call me in advance of Green Up Day if you are aware of an illegal dump site or an especially hard-hit area that could use some special attention and resources.

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

I recommend that volunteers

wear sturdy work gloves as some items along our roadsides can be harmful and unhealthy (i.e., broken bottles, dirty diapers, etc.). We also recommend that you keep an eye on our younger Green Up Day volunteers to ensure that they don't pick up any items that may pose a hazard to them or others. Let's have a fun, safe, and productive Green Up Day! I hope to see you on Saturday, May 4!
jimleary54@gmail.com
247-9595

Thank you,
Jim Leary
Brandon Green Up
Day Coordinator

Conservation Camp

(Continued from Page 4)

For more information and to register as a volunteer for one of these weekends, please email Hannah.Phelps@vermont.gov or call 802-249-4199.

Vermont's conservation camp program is unique because it is sponsored and directed by the Fish and Wildlife Department professionals who conserve Vermont's fish and wildlife species. Working biologists, foresters, wardens, and conser-

vation educators teach young people about their role with Vermont's forests, wetlands, wildlife, and fish through interactive activities.

The Green Mountain Conservation Camp program's greatest strength is connecting young people to the outdoors. The camp program is sponsored in part through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

4/20 Grand Opening,

April 20, 10AM – 7PM

**Cookout with store manager
Evan: Maple BBQ Smash-
burgers & Hot Dogs**

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Economic 'diversity'

(Continued from Page 4)
And here is the Declaration as issued by the state:

*Declaration of Inclusion of the Town of _____, Vermont
The Town of _____ condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.*

As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of _____

has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

By _____ the Selectboard on _____ 20__.

Overall, Brandon's town management team demonstrates a clear lack of inclusivity or concern for area residents who fall into lower socioeconomic tiers in its proposed budget. The only nay vote on the budget was Selectboard member Brian Coolidge, who stated, "I know — through my volunteer work — there are some area residents who can't afford this." Each of Coolidge's suggestions, and those of meeting attendees, to further reduce the budget was systematically voted down or ignored by the remaining board members.

Town Manager Seth Hopkins refused to concede any of his "wants," including a \$10,000 computer tracking system of town expenditures. At that time area resident "Claire Astone noted Mr. Coolidge wants to lower the percent of increase and she is not hearing that anything is being given up." (Source: Select Board Meeting minutes April 8th)

For assistance in interpreting terminology, a need is something necessary to live and function. A want is something that can improve your quality of life. Trust and believe that low-income residents, particularly the 16% living in poverty, know intimately the difference between need versus want. As their representatives, elected officials ought to know as well.

Perhaps it's time town leaders do some "Me and White Supremacy" work. "Me and

White Supremacy" is a 28-day process and also the title of a book by Layla Saad, an East African, Arab, British, Black, Muslim woman. "Saad's process involves defining terms like 'white centering' (the belief that white culture, values and norms are the normal center of the world) and 'ally cookies' (the special praise sought by some white people for not being racist). She encourages readers to keep a journal and write answers for tough questions like 'What negative experiences has your white privilege protected you from throughout your life?'"

"This is about learning how to identify how you're seen in the world and how you see yourself so that you can essentially betray it. So you can say, 'I'm not going to play this game anymore. I'm not going to walk on this earth as if I am

superior and treat people as if they are inferior to me.'" (NPR July 9, 2020)

However, the real issue at hand in Brandon is more accurately termed financial privilege or economic inequity. The issue of economic disparity was brought up and recorded in the Otter Valley Unified Union School Board Approved Minutes as long ago as 4/07/2021. "Bill Mathis stated the number one problem in Vermont is equity. What has been skipped over is the greatest inequity is class and socio-economics and is where discrimination is happening." This year's Brandon Selectboard meetings are living proof of Mr. Mathis's accuracy.

Area residents who openly oppose the proposed budget are treated as if they are somehow less intelligent or uninformed by certain members of the board. Of particular note is Tim Guiles, although his most "inappropriate and offensive" words are notably omitted in the town's approved minutes on their website. Nor are recordings of Selectboard meetings available any longer. A letter has since been sent to Selectboard Chair, Doug Bailey, requesting the removal of Tim Guiles from the board.

However, the ultimate insult to the intelligence of audience members was the child-like presentation of the budget by Heather Fjeld Nelson that literally treated participants as if they were grade-school students being introduced to the subject for the first time, not seasoned voters. It was a feminine version of "mansplaining" to say the least. Apparently, if one disagrees with the board, one's intelligence must be questioned. If this isn't discrimination, please tell me what is.



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WE NEED U

GET READY FOR 2024 AT YOUR BRANDON TOWN HALL AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 pm

"The Doughboys"

The Doughboys are back and ready to play their signature mix of highly danceable soul and rock music from the 1950s to today.

Saturday, May 11, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Gold Rush" (1925) Starring Charlie Chaplin

The Little Tramp prospects in the Klondike in this Chaplin silent movie epic. "Gold Rush" is full of classic laugh out loud sequences and heartfelt drama.

Saturday, May 18, 7:30 pm

"The Gallison Hill Band"

The Gallison Hill Band, with former Brandon resident Joe Carr on vocals and guitar, play a lot of classic rock, blues, country, grunge and alternative.

Saturday, June 8, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Thief of Bagdad" (1924)

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of this eye-popping cinematic spectacle starring Douglas Fairbanks Sr. who must complete a series of epic tasks to save his beloved.

Friday, July 5 – Saturday, July 13

Annual Brandon Chamber of Commerce Auction

Returning for their 2nd year, this incredible weeklong auction has become a great addition to the Town Hall's commitment to host community events. Check the papers and the Chamber website for times.

Saturday, July 6, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Independence Day Parade/Open House

Come in and visit your Town Hall. Cold drinks & snacks are available at our concession area. Bathrooms will be available downstairs. The parade starts at 10:00 am. Come sit on the steps of the hall for an incredible view of our Great Independence Day Parade.

Saturday, July 20, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Cameraman" (1928)

Buster Keaton tries to impress the gal of his dreams by working as a newsreel photographer. Set in NYC with shots of Midtown Manhattan and the old Yankee Stadium.

Saturday, July 27, 7:00 pm

L.C. Jazz Dance Band

This 17 piece Big Swing Orchestra returns for a night of great music, singing and dancing. This is a fund raiser for the L.C. Jazz Scholarship program and the FOTH Restoration fund.

Saturday, Aug. 10, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" (1921)

This sweeping drama, starring Rudolph Valentino, is about a divided family with members caught up on opposites sides during WWI. Shown in honor of the 110th anniversary of WWI's outbreak and the anniversary of Valentino's untimely death.

Saturday, Aug. 24, 7:00 pm

Middlebury College Community Chorus

Returning after a 3 year hiatus due to covid, the MCCC, under the direction of Ronnie Romano, returns to the Brandon Town Hall with a concert of the group's favorite songs.

Saturday, Sept. 21, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "Speedy" (1928)

Harold Lloyd's final silent feature with a tribute to NYC, baseball, and the idea that nice guys can indeed finish first. Highlighted by an exciting race to the finish and an extended cameo from none other than Babe Ruth!

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2:00 pm

No Strings Marionettes... "Nick of Time"

Finger puppet workshop 12:30–1:45 pm. The No Strings Marionette Company invite you to make a finger puppet at their workshop before the actual show. "Nick of Time" is a time travel adventure complete with dinosaurs from the past and mutants from the future.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 7:00 pm

Snake Mountain Bluegrass

Snake Mountain's "toe-tapping tunes combine the best of modern and traditional bluegrass" (Seven Days) with harmonies and songs that vary in tempo from hard driving breakdowns to softer, folk-type arrangements.

Friday, Oct. 4, 7:30 pm

"The Mamajamas"

Returning for their 3rd year, this co-ed a capella group from Middlebury College brings exciting original arrangements, stretching their harmonic vocabulary, all the while surpassing the value of true camaraderie and & good old-fashioned fun.

Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:30 pm

"Blues Without Borders"

Expect to hear covers of blues rock tunes, a few classics, and many new songs from today's hottest acts plus some original music.

Sunday, Oct. 6, 3-6 pm & Monday, Oct. 7, 6-8 pm

"Brandon Has Talent" Auditions

If you like to sing, dance, or have a special talent, join us for the 10th Annual "Brandon Has Talent" show. To sign up for an audition day & time, e-mail Dennis at denniswmarden@gmail.com or call 802-247-5420 and leave a message.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie... "Phantom of the Opera" (1925)

A repeat performance from 2012 starring Lon Chaney. This silent film adaptation put "Phantom" in the pantheon of both horror and romance. Just in time for Halloween!

Friday, Oct. 25 & Saturday, Oct. 26, 7:00 pm

Radio Plays by the Town Hall Players

A staged reading in a Cabaret style setting featuring comedy and sci-fi thrillers. Cash bar and snacks provided. Additional snacks and drinks available for purchase. Reservations for tables can be made by calling 802-247-5420 and leaving a message or emailing at denniswmarden@gmail.com.

Friday, Nov. 1, 7:30 pm

"Dissipated Eight"

Middlebury College's male a capella group returns for their 8th year of entertaining audiences of all ages. Their signature harmonies, touch of comedy and interaction with the audience make them a Town Hall favorite.

Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:00 pm

"Maiden Vermont"

This a capella chorus of 30 women specializes in everything from country to pop movie themes and plenty of classic barbershop tunes.

Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:00 pm

"Brandon Has Talent"

This 10th edition of one of the most popular shows in the Town Hall promises great entertainment, plenty of laughter, and lots of fun with a few surprises and hopefully no malfunctions!!!

Saturday, Nov. 16, 7:00 pm

"Barbed Wire" (1927)

During WWI, the French government commandeers a family farm for use as a camp for German POWs. An intense drama about forbidden love and the human condition, with a special holiday twist.

Sunday, Dec. 1, 3:00 pm

Lighting of Brandon's Memory Tree

Join us to welcome in the holiday season with caroling, and honor the memory of our loved ones. Site to be determined.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 and Friday, Dec. 6, 4–8 pm

"Moonlight Madness"

Join us for this well-attended annual event with different vendors each night, upstairs and downstairs. Vendors will be selling incredible food, gifts, Christmas décor and a chance to win \$100 in Brandon Bucks.



STUDENT: Anders Rasmussen

GRADE: 4

SCHOOL: Neshobe

TITLE: King Bob

MEDIUM: Paper, markers

TEACHER: John Brodowski

OUR CREATIVE KIDS



Statement from Anders:

I got the idea from the Minions movie. I thought it would be good to draw King Bob. I also like to draw Minions.

Statement from Mr. Brodowski:

Anders is a great art student. One of his greatest strengths is his focus and "art stamina". He will spend three or four art classes working very carefully on a single project. Sometimes this is difficult for students because it's easy to get distracted by new ideas and new things you want to try. Anders helps others see what can be achieved when you develop your focus and art stamina.

Vermont lawmakers, governor at odds over how much to invest in housing

BY CARLY BERLIN/
VTDIGGER

When lawmakers arrived in Montpelier in January, most could agree on one thing: addressing Vermont's crushing housing shortage — and homelessness crisis — would be a priority. As the 2024 legislative session nears its finish line, though, their preferred tactics for tackling the problem appear in conflict.

Earlier this month, the House passed an ambitious spending bill that creates new revenue streams for a wide range of housing programs, from bolstering shelter capacity, to eviction prevention, to boosting affordable rental housing production. With a stated intent to invest \$900 million in housing initiatives over the next 10 years, H.829 has been lauded by its supporters as a long-overdue plan to transition Vermonters out of homelessness — and reduce the state's reliance on motels for shelter.

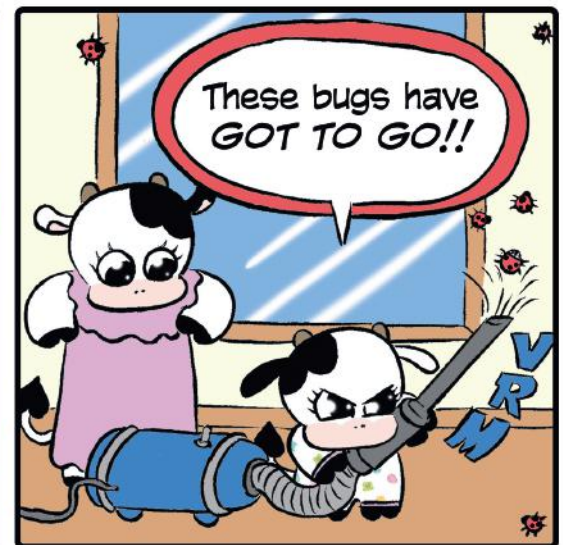
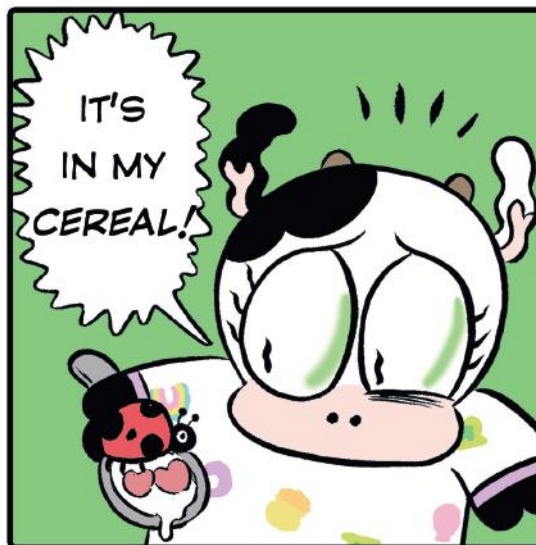
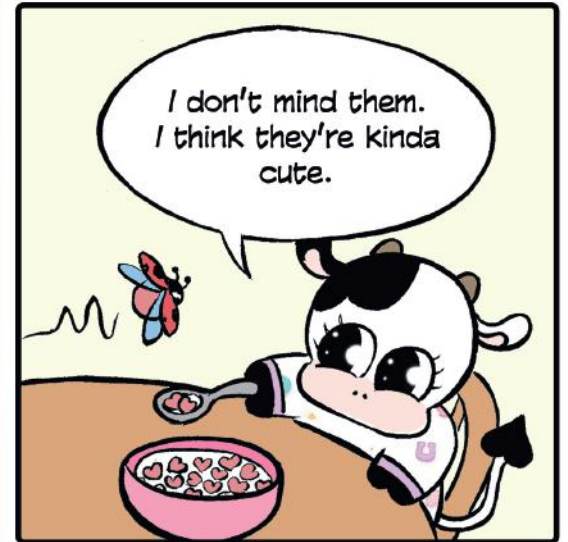
But as that bill arrives in the Senate, it faces headwinds.

Members of the upper chamber have expressed a lack of enthusiasm to continue spending on housing programs to the degree the state has over the last few years, when federal pandemic relief funds made over \$500 million in investments for housing and shelter creation possible.

With other top priorities competing for a limited slice of the post-pandemic budget pie, and a lack of appetite to raise taxes, key senators say this is the year to focus on easing regulations that impede housing development — not continuing to spend.

"We should see how much that half a billion dollars benefited us in the next couple of years before we decide that the path forward is more money," said Sen. Keshia Ram Hinsdale, D/P-Chittenden Southeast, who chairs the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. "My focus this year is on regulatory reform because that unties the (See *Housing shortage*, Page 20)

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Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

Public service announcement, 'Let's Talk Trash'

The House has pushed through the onslaught of House bills that were on our action calendar during the past two weeks. The Senate now has possession of the General Fund Budget, the Transportation Program Budget, and the Capital Construction Budget. Many other proposals were also sent over to the Senate with no guarantee if and when they may be passed back to the House for further amendment or on to the Governor for his signature or disposal.

The work in the House is now centered on Senate bills that were messaged over to the "Lower Chamber" during crossover week. All of the Senate bills are policy bills and I'm sure the House will not agree with the Senate on most of their initiatives, therefore the bill will be amended and sent back to the Senate for further review and possible agreement. Without agreement, many of

these bills will be assigned to a Committee of Conference where three Senators and three House members will possibly come to an agreement and make a decision which will bind their respective colleagues to their decision without further debate. So, "let the fun begin" as the legislative adjournment dance starts.

In recent correspondence to House chairs and vice chairs, speaker Jill Krowinski has set Friday May 10th, 2024, as the target date for the adjournment of the House for the current biennium. The Speaker, along with the President Pro Tem of the Senate, has also agreed to call the General Assembly back into session on June 17 and 18 should the Governor veto a bill and it is determined a veto override session is necessary.

In an extremely complicated process, the Speaker tracks all bills necessary for adjournment.

If our Senate colleagues return to the House the various bills needed for this date to work and the Speaker's crystal ball tracker system doesn't fail, we'll adjourn at the end of the 18th legislative week, right on schedule. Lots of late-night sessions in the near future are predicted which is typical for the end of the biennial session. However, there are still some clouds on the adjournment horizon. One remaining bill needed for adjournment is the ever-elusive Education Property Tax bill known as the "yield bill." As of this writing, the education-per-pupil-spending yield has yet to be set and with

What really drives my interest in this effort is learning how much money is spent by the State of Vermont "picking trash" off the side of our state and Interstate highways.

so many school budgets awaiting approval, the future of this bill is unknown. The House Committee on Ways and Means will attempt to determine the yield using estimated budgets. The committee commences testimony this week and it is unknown what reliable information that committee will use in their work...an interesting legislative conundrum!

My public-service announcement for this week is "Let's Talk Trash." With Green Up Day just around the corner on Saturday,

May 4, it is important for all of us to get involved and help beautify our local communities. This effort can be a huge town-wide effort and I urge you to contact your town clerks or managers to find out how you can assist and cleaning up

our local roadsides after the winter snow has melted. In my local neighborhood, I make it a personal contest to find the strangest and most unusual thrown-away items. It's a fun way to spend a Saturday with my neighbors.

What really drives my interest in this effort is learning how much money is spent by the State of Vermont "picking trash" off the side of our state and Interstate highways. This year's Transportation Program includes an appropriation of \$2 million for our state highway employees to spend their valuable time and resources cleaning up our state's roadsides. Last spring, these dedicated public servants removed 601 tons of trash from our roads. Just think how many more miles of paving highways we could do if people were more respectful of our environment! Please let's do our part on Green Up Day!

Questions, comments, or conversation? Please send me an e-mail at bshaw@leg.state.vt.us or give me a call at 802-483-2398 for more information concerning our legislative district of Pittsford-Proctor. You can also leave a message for me at the Office of the Sergeant at Arms of Vermont State House at 802-828-2228, please leave your contact information.

*Representative Butch Shaw
Pittsford-Proctor Rutland-8
Vice Chair-House
Committee on Transportation
PO Box 197
Pittsford, VT 05763*

Calendar of events

April

Mondays

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 for more information, including fees.

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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



Friends Zone

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

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

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

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.

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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

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

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

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or

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

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

Goings on around town

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

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

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily, making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can



son. All levels are welcome.

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

Chaffee 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!

Spring Fling and Bike Safety Day—Pittsford Village Farm & Maclure Library May 5th Sunday, 2–4 p.m.

Free and open to the public! Join us for Spring Fling and Bike Safety Day. We'll have free helmets sponsored by OMYA, games, treats, seed planting, soccer kick-off and bike safety. At long last, it's time to celebrate spring at Pittsford Village Farm!

See you all there!

practice yoga and reap the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

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

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

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

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

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

Attendees will be led through specific sheet music by musician Steven Wil-



Saturdays

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.

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

Organ Concert



James D. Hicks is a concert organist and working out of California. He is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Yale University, and the University of Cincinnati. Hicks has also studied at the School of Church Music in Boston. He has held liturgical positions throughout his career. Over the course of thirty-five years, he has devoted himself to concert, recording, and teaching projects.

Over the past fifteen years, he has researched the music of the early 20th century and the result is an ongoing project titled Nordic Journey. The endeavor has an emphasis on new music, he has commissioned over sixty compositions from contemporary composers, as well as researching from the past that has either been recorded or published. With the 2023 release of Nordic Journey, the series will consist of twenty-four discs, all produced by the American label Pro Organo. The recordings are distributed by Naxos and available on streaming platforms.

A parallel aspect of the Nordic Journey project is the production of new recordings and editions that include premieres of many of the works James

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

Thursday 18th

TEEN Game Nite at the Chaffee . . . it's free!
Chaffee Art Center, Your Center for Creativity, presents TEEN Game Nite from 5–7pm.

- Pictionary Party
- Board Games
- Stocked Drawing Station
- and more

Snack concessions will be offered. Ages 11+.

Organist James D. Hicks in at Grace Church in Rutland

April 21 at 4 p.m.



ert organist liv-
fon, NJ, USA. A
onservatory of
the University of
studied at the Roy-
n the UK. James
oughout the USA
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publishing, and

rs, James has
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g venture entitled
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has commis-
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as well as being
ne usual digital

ordic Journey
f hardbound
ere publications
s has commis-

sioned as well as several previously unavail-
able compositions from earlier eras. The
Norwegian firm Cantando released the
Nordic Journey Series Volume I in 2018 (now
available at musikkforlagene.no) and Norsk
Musikforlag published The Nordic Journey
Series Volume II in 2020 (musikkforlagene.
no). Norsk Musikforlag has most recently
produced the third volume in October 2022.
A fourth volume of this series is set for a mid
2024 release. In addition, James has collabo-
rated with the Finnish publisher, Edition Tilli
(editiontilli.fi), in the production of premiere
editions of Finnish and Baltic organ music.

Upcoming recording projects include the
double-disc Nordic Journey XVI-North At-
lantic Voyage, an August 2024 recording of
music from Norway, mainland Scotland, the
Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland, Faroe, Iceland,
Greenland and Newfoundland. This en-
deavor will be produced in northern Norway
at Bodø Cathedral.

This recording will include a new piece
by Alastair Stout called Skylark Variations,
commissioned by James Hicks. Hicks will
give the world premiere of the composition
on the Grace Church Aeolian-Skinner pipe
organ. April 21 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary.
Free admission.

Pre-registration appreciated: <https://chaffeeart-center.square.site/>

Classes, camps, events and info: www.chaffeeart-center.org

Friday 19th

**Vermont Pro Wrestling Entertainment
presents World of Hurt Wrestling**

Come out for a great night of pro wrestling, food
and vendors! Presented by Vermont

Pro Wrestling Entertainment. For more informa-
tion, call Gary at 802-373-4632. Doors open at 6
pm and bell time at 7 pm.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at
the door. Cash and credit cards accepted.
\$20–\$25. At O.N.E. Community Center, 20
Allen, Street, Burlington.

Saturday 20th

**SESSION AMERICANA with ELEANOR
BUCKLAND plus SAM ROBBINS at NEXT
STAGE**

Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present
roots and folk/rock quintet "Session Americana" with
Eleanor Buckland, plus singer/songwriter Sam Robbins
on Saturday, April 20 at 7:30 pm at Next Stage at 15
Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, VT.

Tickets are \$22 Advance / \$25 At the Door / \$10
Livestream. Next Stage will
provide a beer, wine, and
cocktail cash bar. Ad-
vance tickets are available
at nextstagearts.org. For
information, call 802-387-
0102 or visit nextstagearts.org.

Tuesday 23rd

**Community Care Network
Developmental
Services Open House at
the Carriage House**

Please join us from 4–6:30
pm for the Community
Care Network – Rutland
Mental Health 2024 Devel-
opmental Services Open
House! Free and open to
the public!

In recognition of the tre-
mendous contributions of
those with developmental
disabilities to our commu-
nities, and as an extension
of CCN's support of Developmental Disabilities Aware-
ness Month 2024, we are hosting this open house to
celebrate our clients, the collaborative work that we do
with them, and what we believe is possible in the future
for individuals who are developmentally disabled.

Stop by and meet up with our developmental services
staff and clients, tour our facility, enjoy some snacks,
and enter a raffle for a chance to win Paramount The-
ater tickets and dinner at Southside Steakhouse. For
more information, call 802-775-2381!

Friday 26th

**Modist & Friends—The
Underground -
Listening Room**

Advance: \$12 (+fees) // Day
of show: \$15 (+fees)
Doors: 7:30 pm // Show:
8:00 pm
All Ages BYOB
Hosted by Mister Burns + Special Guests



Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill— summer film screenings begin

Friday May 3rd at 7pm: Past Lives (2023)

Two childhood sweethearts are reunited for one weekend in
New York after decades apart. A modern romance from debut
filmmaker Celine Song and nominated for five Golden Globe
Awards.

Friday June 21 at 7pm: Showing Up (2023)

A sculptor preparing to open a new show tried to work among
the daily dramas of family and friends. Starring Michelle Williams
and directed by Kelly Reichardt. A captivatingly funny portrait of
art and craft.

Friday July 19th at 7pm: You Hurt My Feelings (2023)

A novelist's marriage is threatened when she overhears her
husband's honest criticism of her new book. A comedy-drama
starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus and directed by Nicole Holofcener.

*All Films are supported by Kanopy in partnership with
Castleton Free Library.

Modist: "Modist is a Vermont emcee who has been part
of the scene for 12+ years. After a two-year hiatus, and
spending the last year and a half producing new music,
Modist is ready to let it be known he's not going away any
time soon. His music is a mixed bag of alternative hip hop,
jazz, and emo."

Claytone: Formerly known as Drive, Claytone is a lyricist
first and foremost. With complex rhyme schemes, multifac-

The Brandon Museum Artifact Roadshow April 25th, 6–8 p.m., Brandon Town Hall

The Artifact Roadshow will give you a fascinat-
ing look into local history through the identifi-
cation and dating of objects you bring to the
event where archeologists will examine and
discuss your artifacts.

The show will also provide a casual opportunity
for mingling with others inter-
ested in historical objects.

No Artifacts? Come anyway to
see what turns up!

Thanks to Professors Matthew
and Ellen Moriarty and their
students of the Vermont State
University Archeology Program
for their time and expertise to
make this event possible.

The Brandon Museum offers events that bring history to life for our community!
For more information contact info@brandonmuseum.org



eted lyrics, and a clear delivery, he is looking to change the
tone of Hip Hop as it's currently known. Whether venting
or just enjoying the aspect of creating music, Claytone
has an emphasis on being true to himself and simply do-
ing whatever comes to mind without worries of outside
expectations.

The Funky Diabetic: The Funky Diabetic, aka Jordan JWill
Farmer is an independent Hip hop artist from Burlington,
Vermont. Born in 1999, JWill is a student of the elements,
craft and culture that we call hip hop today. Pioneer of
duo/collective Cloud 9 Connections, JWill pushes to
connect others thru music, graffiti, and skateboarding.

Vast & Slade: Slade and Vast are two emcees born and
raised in Vermont. They began rapping together when
they met in high school at the end of the Nineties. Slade
(Jesse Newton-Ward) and Vast's (Shane Mcfarlin) style
showcases lyrical intricacies and technical skills matched
with meaningful content. The two share a lifelong love
of hip hop, an authenticity that is clear when they per-
form, and a synergy that only comes from over twenty
years of making music together.



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

How to score last minute deals, the uses of coffee on board, and seatbacks forward

BY CONNIE M. NITE

Hello everyone! Here's to week eight of my tips and tricks to airline travel! Boy oh boy! I'm tired, like T-I-R-E-D, the Spring Breakers have worn me out! I've been flying up, down, in, out, around, and it's been an adventure! We've had three medical emergencies (everyone was ok!), a breakdown in baggage security scanners for an entire airport (try explaining that one, "No, I'm sorry your checked baggage will not be at your final destination when you arrive. I'm sorry, I have no idea when your baggage will arrive and yes, I do understand you're heading on vacation.") I felt so bad for those passengers.

I hope your week was much better and if you did fly this week that you weren't a part of the "on vacation without baggage" passenger group. It's not a very fun group to be in and it honestly is just awful. Ok, no more ranting from me! Let's get back to the tips and tricks to airline travel! This week we're covering ways to get those last-minute deals, airplane coffee and some of its uses, and seatbacks forward please! Let's get this article started!

Since the pandemic, so many people are working from home, which makes many people's schedules much more flexible.

So, with that being said, if you're able to be flexible with your travel plans, by all means do it! I have a few websites I think you should check out! These websites, along with searching the budget airlines, are your best bets to save some money!

"The Flight Deal" is a good place to search for global deals, "Holiday Pirates" has the European market covered, "Secret Flying" is another website where you can search worldwide for cheap ticket deals. Always remember to look for tickets mid-week on a Wednesday but Tuesday and Thursday might work for you too. Stay away from Mondays and Fridays because those are business traveler days and the airlines know it, so they price hike on those days. Also, you'll find cheaper tickets on the early flights the day after a holiday. I'd love to have you save some money and I'm hoping some of my tips and tricks will help you do just that!

Let's switch gears and talk coffee! I'm a Starbucks coffee drinker, although Dunkin Donut's iced matcha latte is really good too! On the airplanes, the crew not only brews coffee but has a ton of uses for the good old coffee bag. Let me first say, there is nothing worse

than being sick on an airplane. It's horrible to be jammed in a middle seat and not be able to just crawl into bed and stay under the covers. With that being said, if you've ever boarded the airplane and it smells strongly like coffee in your area most likely a passenger from the previous flight threw up somewhere close. So, we use coffee grounds because they work great to stop what we call the "sympathizer affect!" For unknown reasons on an airplane when one passenger throws up, it sets off a chain reaction and many more passengers follow. The crew has to work quickly to mask the odor in order to stop what we call the "vomit roll." We'll sprinkle a bag of coffee grounds up and down the aisle very discreetly and this truly neutralizes the odor. I don't know about you, but I'd much rather smell coffee than throw-up.

Coffee bags also come in handy as a great way to neutralize the odors from inside the airplane lavatories. Some of our older airplanes truly are like having a port-a-potty in the air and often times if they're not serviced correctly, they smell horrible. So, again if you ever see a coffee bag attached to the coat hook on the back of the airplane lavatory door

or one tossed on the bathroom counter, just be happy your crew took the time to try and neutralize the odor. The alternative is no joking matter!

Now, let's talk about the coffee we brew on the airplane. Several people will refuse to drink the coffee or tea we make on-board the airplane because they've read an article somewhere about the airplane's water or the airplane's water tanks. Yes, the airlines don't clean out the water tanks on any sort of a regular basis. I will tell you one thing, I've been flying a very long time and I've had thousands of cups of coffee, tea, and hot water with lemon on the airplane. The brewing machines brew everything so hot that if there was anything that was picked up from the water tank it was boiled off in the brewing process. I say, just enjoy your coffee, tea, and hot water on the airplane! Oh! We have decaffeinated coffee too!

Lastly, let's talk about seatbacks! I know it's annoying to have the flight attendants come bother you and tell you to bring your seatbacks forward. Have you ever thought about why? Well, let me give you a little behind-the-scenes information. Flight attendants have to be able to evacuate an airplane in under 90 seconds, regardless of

size or capacity. So, sometimes when you're delayed waiting on a crew member, it's because the airplane needs what's called the "FAA minimum crew" on-board. This is the number of flight attendants it's going to take to evacuate the airplane in under 90 seconds. You can never board without minimum crew on board because on rare occasions we do end up having to evacuate the airplane at the gate and we need the minimum crew to do it! So, let's get back to seatbacks. What the FAA has found during studying past airplane emergency landings and crashes, is that if all the seatbacks are reclined, passengers have a harder time standing, hence taking longer to evacuate the airplane. If it takes the crew longer than 90 seconds to evacuate the passengers from the airplane, the fatality rate rises exponentially! So next time a crew member asks you to bring your seatback forward, you definitely know why!

That's all we have time for this week! Wishing you all a wonderful week with sunny sunshine days ahead! Signing off from this "senior mama" and if you're flying this week, stay safe and don't forget to bring the crews chocolates... we love chocolates! Fly on!

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

I'm going to need some help with this week's mystery photo. The caption says 'Road to Sanderson's'. Does anyone know this stretch of road? Please send in a photo. Extra points if the road is flooded.

Last week's photo is a view we have already seen (Brandon's Center Street with the Town Office on the left and the stretch of shops from Blue Moon to the Brandon Artists Guild), but I took advantage of the snow to match this photo. This is an older photo than the previously published streetscape. This week's photo has carriages rather than cars, and more of the shops are 'labeled'. I can see Arthur B. Ketcham's Furniture store, and F.R. Barker's establishment. A 1909 map I have says it is a grocery store. The map says beyond that there is a restaurant, a millinery shop (hats, fabrics, trims) (the shop between Ketcham and Barker is also a millinery shop), another grocery store, a tobacco-

nist, a stationary store, a barber, ANOTHER grocery store, a feed store, a restaurant, a news store, a hardware store, a barber shop and then the bank on the corner. Busy community!

Seth Clifford of Brandon contacted us to respond to the question, "What sort of businesses were Sanders, Welton's Cut Rate, and GAR?"

Seth agrees this photo was taken circa 1940. He was born around that time and does remember Sanders as a retail store that sold newspapers, books, etc. Mrs. Sanders, who ran the store, lived on Rossiter Street. Seth remembers Welton's Cut Rate as a non-prescription old-time drug store that was run by Max Welton's (Mims husband) parents. Seth wasn't familiar with GAR.

Thanks, Seth!

(Editor's note: GAR stood for Grand Army of the Republic, which was an organization for Union veterans of the Civil War.)



BRANDON'S CENTER STREET with the Town Office on the left circa 1900, and current day.



Your mystery for next week!

WE'RE HAVING A PARTY

Come and visit your local Bookstore

AND YOU ARE INVITED!

A Focus on Sustainability
Since 1961

newenglandwoodcraft.com

REAL ESTATE

JUST LISTED!

Build your dream home on this beautiful 2.09 acre lot with wonderful views of the mountains and rolling farmland. Sited just south of Brandon village, you'll have country quiet - but only minutes to all the amenities that Brandon has to offer! New survey and site plan available, awaiting final approval of the wastewater permit. The rural setting you crave, and access to high speed internet should your lifestyle require it - truly the best options of Vermont living! \$85,000

ROWE
REAL ESTATE
247-3449

802-236-9112 • Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com

Mim's Photos



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



Recognized



Carolyn and Peter Bearor recognized one of the boys in this picture: their son, Kyle Bearor (left). They wrote, "The picture is from 1995 at the Youth VT State Wrestling Championships. Kyle was 11 years old and wrestled in the 80-pound weight class. He was the champion that year for that weight class. Kyle went on to become the Varsity Wrestling coach at Otter Valley for several years. Kyle now lives here in Brandon."

Kyle, meanwhile, was able to identify the other two boys: Jake Wimette (center) and John Rayborn (right).



E-mail
kate@brandonreporter.com
if you can identify someone in
these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080

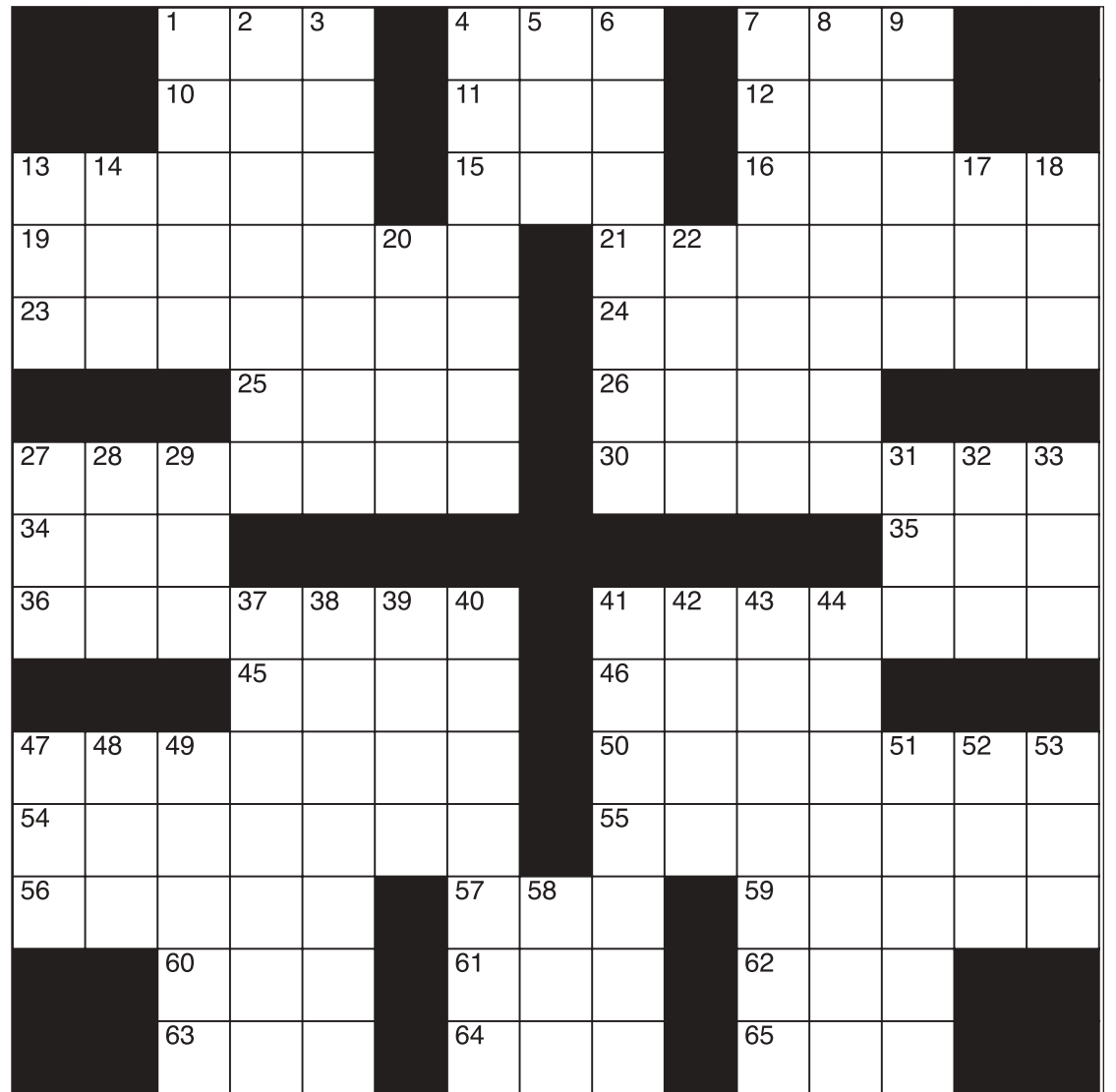
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. For each
7. Airborne (abbr.)
10. Photographs
11. They ___
12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
13. Monetary unit
15. Cool!
16. A son of Jacob
19. Cut off
21. Devour
23. Agent of one's downfall
24. Best
25. Network of nerves
26. Partner to "oohs"
27. Origins
30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias
35. Swiss river
36. Greek mythological figure
41. Type of whiskey
45. Lay to rest
46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
47. Select jury
50. Feeling
54. Action regarded as morally wrong
55. Makes angry
56. Act incorrectly
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
60. To what degree
61. Buzzing insect
62. The human foot
63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
64. A place to stay
65. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN

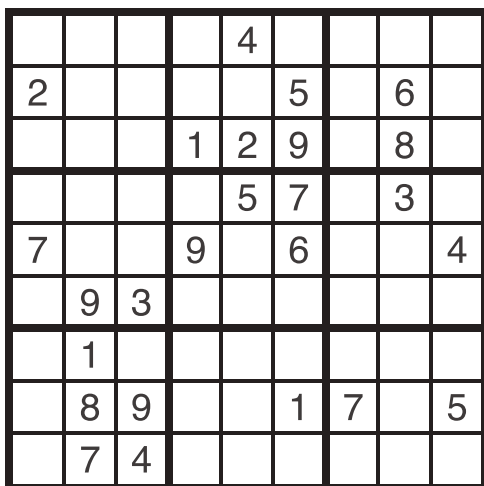
1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. Earnest
3. Cuts out surgically
4. Can't move
5. Baseball stat
6. British soldier
7. Traditional medicine plants
8. Political party controlled by managers
9. Hebrew prophet
13. Supporter
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Liberty Mutual mascot
18. Georgia rockers
20. A place where building is done
22. Large, deep-bodied fish
27. Clothing retailer
28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly
31. Founder of Babism
32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
33. Sea eagle
37. Leave behind
38. Time of day
39. Colorless crystalline compound
40. They lay out course requirements
41. A diamond has three
42. Algerian coastal city
43. Remove cover
44. Rechristened
47. Distinctive practice
48. Defunct phone company
49. Turkish officer of high rank
51. Eliminate from the body
52. Witness
53. Soviet Socialist Republic
58. Founding Father Franklin



Sudoku

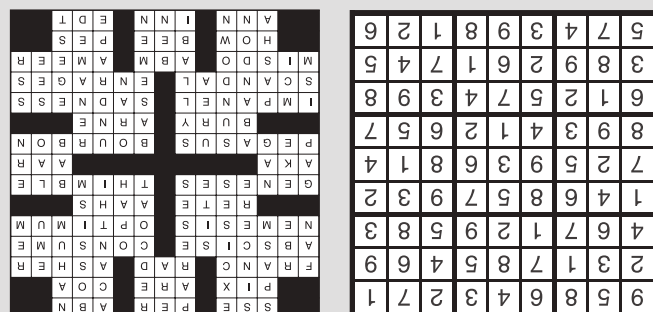
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes.

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



Protect Your Animals As Well As Yourself During Tick Season!

Warmer weather is here and as you make plans to be outdoors, the Rutland County Humane Society wants to remind you to protect yourself and your pets from diseases spread by tick bites. Ticks can be active anytime during the year, but especially during the warmer months including April through September. Ticks like to live in grassy, brushy, wooded areas and/or on animals, like deer. There are several different types of preventatives your veterinarian can recommend that would protect your pet against ticks. Also, talk to your veterinarian about whether your dog should get a Lyme vaccine which can help block the transmission of Lyme disease to your dog. Staying away from heavily wooded areas during tick season and wearing long-sleeved, light-colored clothing will also help. Take extra precautions by making sure that your loose clothing is tucked in to make a barrier preventing ticks from crawling under clothing. After being outside, always conduct a full-body tick check on your dog and yourself. There are a few signs that can indicate that your dog has Lyme, although many symptoms don't show until a few months after the transmission. The most common sign is lameness which can be accompanied by loss of appetite, depression, and possible fever. Other symptoms include lymph node swelling or joint swelling that can be warm to the touch. Symptoms often have a sudden onset and often will come and go. If your pet is showing any symptoms call your local veterinarian's office for an appointment.

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



MEET BENTLEY - 8 MONTHS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. PITBULL. TAN/WHITE.

Meet Bentley! This smart and responsive pup has a drive to learn. Bentley is a big fan of his structured walks and play sessions. He loves his treats and at 8 months old has already worked out how to sit and walk on a loose leash. He was found as a stray in Proctor and was brought to the shelter on March 14th. Therefore, we have no known history on how he will do with dogs, children, or cats, but would be willing to discuss the possibility. If I sound like the puppy for you, please stop by to meet me! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm. I will be waiting for you!

MEET STARDEW - 10 YEARS OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TORBIE.

Meet Stardew, she is the sweetest girl with a heart of gold. She prefers a peaceful corner of a sunlit room, where she can watch the world go by! Stardew can be shy at first, but with time she will blossom with love. Once she trusts you, her affection is limitless! Underneath her shy exterior lies a world of love waiting to be discovered by her forever people who are patient enough to see beyond her shyness. This beautiful girl was surrendered to us on March 28th because she was abandoned by her previous owner. We do believe she likes her feline friends! However, we have no known history on how she will do with children or dogs. If this loveable girl sounds like a fit for you, please stop by and visit with her. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm. 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



The following large-print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker

The Women by Kristin Hannah, donated in memory of Edna Jones

Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, Frankie McGrath has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965 the world was changing, and she suddenly imagined a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed America.

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon, donated in memory of Florence S. LaRock

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, midwife and healer Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. Martha's diary is a record of every birth, death, crime, and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines

her conclusion, Martha investigates the murder on her own. As whispers and prejudices mount, her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves.

The Wager by David Grann, donated in memory of Andy Livak

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up on the coast of Brazil. Inside were thirty emaciated men with an extraordinary tale to tell. Survivors of His Majesty's Ship the Wager, a British vessel that had left England in 1740 and wrecked on a desolate island while chasing a Spanish treasure-filled galleon. After being marooned for months, the starving men built the flimsy craft and sailed for more than 3,000 miles of storm-wracked seas. They were greeted as heroes. But six months later, another, even more decrepit craft landed on the coast of Chile. This boat contained just three castaways, telling a very different story. The thirty sailors were not heroes—they were mutineers. The first group responded with countercharges of their own, of a tyrannical and murderous senior officer and his henchmen.

After Annie by Anna Quindlen, donated in memory of Matilda E. Whittaker

When Annie Brown dies suddenly, her husband, her children, and her closest friend must find a way forward without the woman who has been the lynchpin of all their lives. Bill is overwhelmed without his beloved

DID YOU KNOW?

Our plant swap has been moved to April 27th from 1 to 3 pm. Bring your pest-free plants between 1 and 1:30. Swapping goes from 1:30 to 3:00 or whenever the plants are gone!

wife, and Annemarie wrestles with the bad habits her best friend helped her overcome. And Ali, the eldest of Annie's children, has to grow up overnight, to care for her younger brothers and even her father and to puzzle out for herself many of the mysteries of adult life. Over the next year what saves them all is Annie, ever-present in their minds, loving but not sentimental, a voice in their heads that is funny, sharp, and remarkably clear.

The Hunter by Tana French, donated in memory of Yvonne Churchill

Retired Chicago cop Cal Hooper moved to rural Ireland looking for peace. He's found it, more or less: he's built a relationship with a local woman, Lena, and he's gradually turning Trey Reddy from a half-feral teenager into a good kid going places. But when Trey's long-absent father reappears, bringing along a scheme to find gold in the townland, suddenly everything the three of them have is under threat. Cal and Lena are both ready to do whatever it takes to protect Trey, but Trey doesn't want protection. What she wants is revenge.

Brandon Police Report

April 8

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for a traffic control violation. Warning issued.

- Responded to the Union Street Grocery for a report of a possibly rabid fox that had bitten two people in the parking lot. The fox, which was acting aggressively, charged at the officer, who was forced to shoot the animal. After being shot, the fox again attempted to attack the officer and was killed only after it was shot several more times. A warden from Vermont Fish and Wildlife collected the animal for testing, which concluded that the fox indeed had rabies. The individuals who were bitten sustained injuries to their hands and legs.

- Conducted traffic control at the intersection of Franklin Street/ Union Street and Center Street due to increased vehicle traffic on Route 7. Traffic was directed until the backup was alleviated and the traffic control lights were left on flash to facilitate better flow through downtown Brandon.

- Received a Restraining Order for service by the court. It was determined that the subject of the order did not reside in Brandon and the paperwork was forwarded to the Rutland City Police Department, where the individual resides.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at High Street for a cell phone violation. Warning issued.

- Conducted traffic patrol in the area of Center Street due to an increase in downtown traffic around the eclipse.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for an expired registration. The license plate was later determined valid and no action was taken.

- Received a report of an electric car fire on Grove Street. It was determined that there was no car fire and that the complainant who flagged down the officer likely observed smoke coming from a residence due to a pellet stove backup.

April 9

- Conducted a background check on a tow company and its employees requesting to be placed on the rotational towing list for the Brandon Police.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for illegal window tint. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.

April 10

- Responded to a noise complaint regarding loud music on Barlow Avenue. The area was checked, but the individuals playing the music had left prior to the officer's arrival.

- Received a report of a tractor trailer that was stuck on High Pond Road. An officer responded, but the incident was in Hubbardton, not Brandon. DMV Enforcement was notified.

- Responded to the area around OVUHS for a report of a car and tractor trailer crash. No injuries were reported, but the car was totaled. The tractor trailer also sustained disabling damage and had to be towed.

- Opened an investigation into property damage caused by a vehicle at a local elementary school.

- Assisted the Brandon Area Rescue Squad with a medical call involving an unresponsive man at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for operating with an expired registration. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop for failing to stop at a stop sign on Park Street. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment. Ticket issued for driving with an expired driver's license and for the defective equipment violation.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for following too closely. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop at Conant Square for a defective equipment violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for cell phone violation. Ticket issued.

- Assisted a motorist who was pulled over with their hazards on at the intersection of Grove Street and Champlain Street.

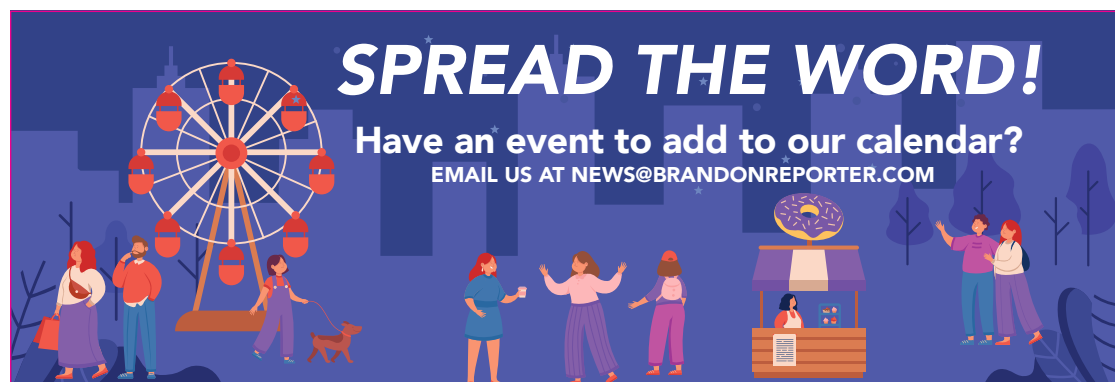
- Vehicle stop on Park Street for driving with restricted vehicle lighting. Warning issued.

- Assisted the Vermont State Police–New Haven with a report of a vehicle having gone off the road along the Leicester Whiting Road in Leicester.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for driving without headlights. Warning issued.

April 11

- Conducted a patrol on Grove Street (See Police report, Page 19)



Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
Street. No violations observed.

- Conducted a patrol on Center Street. No violations observed.
- Obtained information regarding suspicious activity of a vehicle driving around the downtown area.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Conducted traffic enforcement on Forest Dale Road. No violations observed.

April 12

- Responded to a traffic hazard on Grove Street in which debris had blown off a gazebo being towed on a trailer. The debris was removed by the officer and a Be On Lookout was issued for the vehicle that caused the incident.
- Served a subpoena for security camera video footage at the Rutland Northeast Supervisory

Union regarding a fight that occurred earlier in the month at the Otter Valley Union High School.

- Conducted a welfare check, requested by a physician's office, on an elderly man on Mulcahy Drive who had missed appointments and hadn't been heard from. The man was located and determined to be okay.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol near the intersection of Arnold District Road and Grove Street. Multiple operators were stopped for violations.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- Assisted the Vermont State Police-Williston in attempting to locate a suspect regarding an open investigation so that he could be issued a citation.

• Conducted a patrol in the area of North Street and Forest Dale Road. No violations observed.

April 13

- Received notification of a landlord/tenant issue on Mulcahy Drive. The complainant was advised that the issue was of a civil nature and not a police matter.
- Responded to downtown Brandon for a report of a youth who had fallen into Otter Creek and been swept downriver. The youth had climbed out of the river prior to police arrival and subsequently refused EMS evaluation. The youth's parent was contacted and arrived to pick him up.
- K-9 Unit assisted the Rutland County Sheriff's Department with a suspect track and drug sniff resulting from a vehicle stop on Route 7 in Pittsford.
- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street for defective equipment.

Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Carver Street at Rossiter for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.
- Conducted traffic enforcement on Center Street for impaired drivers. No violations observed.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for illegal window tinting. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Rossiter Street for failure to use turn signal. Warning issued.

April 14

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Country Club Road for a cell phone violation. Warning issued.
- Responded to a residential burglary alarm on Pearl Street. The alarm had been falsely activated and officers left the residence.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for improper passing. Warning issued.

Names Lost

(Continued from Page 2)
ney Journal in 1905, describing him as "honest and industrious," also noting he and his wife were members of the Baptist Church. Edwin's brother Treffley and his wife Jenny Burch also appeared several times in The Poultney Journal. Their golden wedding anniversary celebration in May 1906 listed all of the guests who brought presents to the party. The same newspaper also published a detailed obituary of Treffley Birch, "an old and esteemed resident" in August 1915.

One more story needed to be chased down. Back to the 1870 Poultney census with Joseph

Marcy's extended family. Joseph and his wife, Polly, were joined by his son, Joseph Marcy, Jr., and his wife, Maggie, daughter of Edwin Birch. Hattie La-Flower, age 14, wife of John La-Flower, was the youngest child of Joseph and Polly. Charles Clarkson, age 27, occupation "peddling salve," was married to Adaline Marcy, who had been consistently labeled in prior censuses as "deaf and dumb." Was the census correct in describing Charles Clarkson also as deaf and deaf? A headline from The Rutland Herald, "A Man Struck by a Locomotive," from October 5, 1876 confirmed the informa-

tion: "The man proved to be Charles Clarkson of Middlebury, Vt., a deaf and dumb vender of patent medicines." Clarkson recovered from a broken leg.

Adaline (Marcy) Clarkson's life ended disconsolately, as reported in this story from The Windom Reporter (Windom, Minnesota) on 14 March 1896:

A sad and sudden death is reported from Mountain Lake. It is that of Mrs. Adaline Clarkson

who came to Mountain Lake with two or three of her sons some time last fall...She was a mute and her husband lives somewhere in Iowa. The death is so sudden that Coroner Tilford was sent for... Her death was caused by heart failure. Dr. Tilford reports the family is in very destitute circumstances, the clothing the poor woman had on being worn to shreds, and the children poor-

sued.

• Conducted traffic enforcement on Grove Street at the intersection of Champlain Street.

Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on a car that failed to stop for a flashing red light and failed to use a turn signal on Grove Street. Upon investigation, it was determined that the operator was impaired. The officer attempted to screen the driver, but they refused field sobriety tests. The driver was taken into custody, processed at the Brandon Police Department for driving under the influence of alcohol, and transported to Grace House in Rutland City for detox. A citation was issued to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 5/6/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

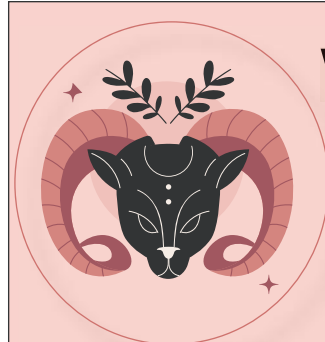
ly clad. He wrote a line to Commissioner Goss asking that the county provide the necessary burial facilities. The boys did not like the idea of their mother being buried at public expense, and showed a determination of repaying the county for money expended as soon as they could earn and spare enough. It seems to be a case calling for more than usual public sympathy.

| 26 | 26 | Joseph Marcy | 49 m | v | Baker | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|--------------|------|---|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Mary | 46 f | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Adaline | 24 f | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Adeline | 20 f | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Jane | 19 f | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Joseph J. | 14 m | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Louisa | 12 f | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Harriet | 5 f | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Austin Birch | 21 m | v | Rembleton | | | | | | | | |
| | | Treffley | 24 m | v | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Josephine | 1 f | v | | | | | | | | | |

| 1870 United States Federal Census for James Birch | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|----|---|---------------|-----|---------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vermont > Rutland > Poultney | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 145/168 | — | Alonzo 24 | F | W | Keeping House | 270 | | | | | | |
| 145/168 | — | Birch Treffley | 34 | M | Farm laborer | 112 | Canada | 1 | 1 | | | |
| | — | Jessie 27 | F | W | Keeping House | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | — | Hattie 8 | F | W | Att. School | | Vermont | 1 | 1 | | | 1 |
| | — | John 4 | F | W | Att. Home | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | — | James 7 1/2 | W | W | Boarding | | Canada | 1 | 1 | | | |
| | — | Louisa 7 1/2 | F | W | Boarding | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 146/169 | — | Birch Austin 32 | M | W | Farm laborer | 573 | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | — | Kalony 30 | F | W | Keeping House | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | — | Josephine 11 | F | W | Att. School | | Vermont | 1 | 1 | | | 1 |

ABOVE: MIDDLEBURY 1860 census. Below: Poultney 1870 census for Birch.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



someone, even if you no longer feel like doing so. Once it is finished, you can go your separate ways.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Leo, if others have underestimated you or written you off in the past, you will have an opportunity to prove them wrong this week, even if you already know the truth.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Your keen eye for detail has you pointing out a mistake that may have cost someone a lot of money, Virgo. Your reward could be a promotion or another commendation.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Making room for your needs right now is challenging as others seem to require all of the attention, Libra. You will have a chance to balance the scales soon enough.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Right now you may be reluctant to commit or comment on an issue that is affecting some in your circle, Scorpio. You can get involved once you dig further and do your own research.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Sagittarius, when you hang out with friends, you may be tempted to spend more than is in your budget at the mo-

ment. Set a limit, and perhaps leave your credit cards at home.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Capricorn, you are ready to move forward, but others in your orbit may be holding you back. Know when to cut loose and do things according to your bigger vision.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Thinking about all of the things in your life that may not be going to plan could have you feeling down, Aquarius. Flip the perspective and start focusing on the right things.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Pisces, you are known for being a dreamer, but right now you have to come down from the clouds and develop a solid plan of action. There will be time for fanciful ideas later.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- April 19 Ali Wong, actor (42)
- April 20 Tito Puente, musician (d)
- April 21 Charlotte Bronte, novelist (d)
- April 22 Charles Mingus, jazz musician (d)
- April 23 Dev Patel, actor (34)
- April 24 Shirley MacLaine, actor (90)
- April 25 Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of radio, Nobel laureate (d)

Housing shortage

(Continued from Page 11)
hands of the rest of our housing developers and providers to provide lower-cost housing for all Vermonters.”

‘WE FELT WE NEEDED BOLD ACTION’

The proposed spending in H.829 is relatively modest for the coming year. The bill directs around \$17 million toward housing initiatives in fiscal year 2025, including programs to represent renters in court and help them pay back-rent when facing eviction, and

efforts to build up homeless shelter and service capacity.

Yet the larger project of the bill is to set up new revenue streams to shore up housing investments in coming years. The bill would create a new marginal personal income tax bracket with a tax rate of 11.75% on income earned above \$500,000 for married households, plus increase property transfer taxes for property purchases exceeding \$750,000, well above Vermont’s median home price. It would also lower the prop-

erty transfer tax threshold for the purchase of lower-value homes.

Those tax changes are intended to funnel new revenue into housing programs over the next 10 years. The bill sets an intent for the Legislature to spend \$900 million through 2034 “to fund programs that advance a long-term solution to Vermont’s housing shortage.”

Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, an architect of the proposed tax changes, said that long-term intent is meant to allow

housing players outside the Statehouse to adequately plan projects. While the goal isn’t binding, Kornheiser said that “by putting it in that intent language, we are asking the public to hold us accountable to this promise.”

Lawmakers envision this 10-year spending commitment as a path to transition away from depending on state-subsidized motel rooms to shelter the bulk of Vermont’s unhoused popu-

lation. While lawmakers have voted time and again to extend the stays of Vermonters in the motel program, they have yet to come up with a long-term

“But if we do the right things on the regulatory front, and then are really, really tactical with the smaller investments that we can still make now that our budget shrunk back down to normal levels, we can continue to feel the benefits.”

— Alex Farrell,
Department of
Housing and Community
Development Commissioner

plan to stop depending heavily on it. Proponents of H.829, including housing advocates, say the bill finally provides such a blueprint: As more shelter space and affordable units come online — along with greater support services — the state can move more Vermonters out of motels.

“It’s a bonafide plan — something that we haven’t had,” said Rep. Theresa Wood, D-Waterbury. “Is it bold? Yes, it’s bold. But we felt we needed bold action in this time.”

In late March, the House advanced a bill that relaxes Act 250’s reach in some municipalities, allowing new development to proceed without triggering the state land-use law. To Wood, focusing solely on updating Vermont’s development regulations won’t provide a track out of homelessness.

More money is needed to do that.

“This trickle-down notion of regulatory reform only creating housing — it’s just a false narrative,” she said. “That’s not going to create sufficient housing on its own in order for us to stem the tide on this homelessness issue.”

‘OUR RESOURCES, THEY ARE FINITE’

Leading senators have expressed skepticism about H.829’s approach — both the fact that it makes major taxing and spending asks outside of the budget and its attempt to direct future lawmakers to dedicate new revenue to housing programs for years to come.

Beyond their concerns about the legislative process, though, lies a more fundamental choice about the tools lawmakers have at their disposal to take on the state’s housing woes. They can direct public money to housing programs, subsidizing the cost of a rental or a home when a household’s income won’t cover it on its own. And they can loosen regulatory hurdles to building more housing overall — increasing the supply of housing and therefore easing pressure on rents and home prices that have skyrocketed in Vermont in recent years.

Shane Phillips, housing initiative project manager at the UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies and an

(See Housing shortage, Page 24)

Restaurant guide



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THE HARBOR PLACE motel in Shelburne.

Photo by Cory Dawson/VTDigger

Angus Chaney

(Continued from Page 1)
more “people like that.”

HPC served 593 Vermonters in FY2023 and generally sees 87% to 92% of its clients still housed a year after placement by HPC.

There are many reasons people become homeless, but almost always the most immediate cause is simply economic: folks sometimes just don't have the money to pay rent.

“Rents are kind of absurd right now,” said Chaney. “We have to ask whether we have a rental economy that works for Vermonters. Renting costs way too much here.”

To help people meet those costs, HPC helps clients obtain state and federal subsidies, the most well-known of which is the Section 8

voucher program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Section 8 vouchers don't cover the entire cost of a rental but often provide enough relief to allow low-income individuals and

families to keep roofs over their heads. HPC's own operating budget comes from a combination of funding from the Vermont Agency of Human Services, federal agencies such as HUD, and private donations.

People facing homelessness often come to HPC through referral from another social-service agency, whether it be the Department of Children and Families or Rutland Mental Health (RMH), to give two common examples. HPC and RMH have a partnership called “Welcome Home” that allows for fast-track referrals from RMH, since mental-health issues can be triggered by homelessness. And HPC sees the housing of children as especially important, given the serious social and physical harms that can come from lack of stable housing.

“Quality of life for kids is so much better once they're housed,” said Chaney. Asthma, gastrointestinal issues, and stress-related conditions are

all made significantly worse when children don't have stable homes.

Homelessness became a hot-button issue during the pandemic, when Vermont contracted with motels around the state to shelter people experiencing homelessness. The motel program has been controversial, given its costs and the public perception that many of those housed through the program were engaging in criminal activity.

“The majority of people in the program were not involved in crime,” stated Chaney, adding that the folks housed at motels were more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators of it. “It takes only a small number to create the impression of a larger problem.”

Chaney was born in Scotland but spent a good deal of his childhood in Windsor County, Vermont. After a period living in various other places, he returned to Vermont with his wife, Molly, in 2001, when he

got a job as Housing Advocate at Addison Community Foundation.

“I experienced homelessness in my younger days,” said Chaney. “I know how hard it is to build yourself back up. We have systems that prey on people who are down on their luck: payday lending, rent-to-own, credit card debt.”

Chaney's struggle with homelessness has given him unique insight into the lives of those he now helps.

“I feel like I was given a second chance,” he said. “Not everybody gets one. Helping others this way is a way to pay back the people who helped me out.”

After three-and-a-half years at the Addison Community Foundation, Chaney moved to the State Office of Economic Opportunity, mostly working on grant administration on projects involving anti-poverty and homelessness. In 2012, he was appointed by Governor Peter Shumlin as Housing Director at

“I feel like I was given a second chance,” he said. “Not everybody gets one. Helping others this way is a way to pay back the people who helped me out.”

—Angus Chaney

Nifty Thrifty thanks Marie Bradbury at her retirement

Nifty Thrifty wants to express a heartfelt Thank-You to Marie Bradbury.

Marie was on the list of original Volunteers at the newly formed thrift shop, Nifty Thrifty in 1975. Almost 50 years later she is regretfully retiring. In those intervening 50 years Marie has been a faithful, cheerful, resourceful, helpful Volunteer. She also served as the shops dependable Treasurer for quite a while.

We want to acknowledge Marie for her years and years of service. She was the last remaining Volunteer still working at the shop, who had started with the original crew back in 1975.

Thank you, Marie, we are so grateful for your nearly half century of volunteering at Nifty Thrifty.



the Agency of Human Services, where he coordinated state policy. In 2018, he became Executive Director of HPC, taking over from Deborah Hall.

“I have a lot of respect for what Deborah did here,” Chaney said. “We stand on the shoulders of all who came before us here.”

HPC itself has its origins in an organization founded in 1999 called the Rutland County Housing Coalition. It became HPC in 2004. Now marking its 25th year in operation, HPC will be hosting its third annual Spring Sprockets and Walk-Its at Pine Hill Park in Rutland on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The bike-and-walking event is a fundraiser for the organization and will feature dancing, a scavenger hunt, a bike clinic, and bicycle art by Hearthunder Arts Collective.

Looking back at the success of the organization, Chaney is grateful for the help it's had.

“We can't do it alone. We're really fortunate in Rutland to have some great partners,” he said. “And I'm really grateful for everyone who's kept the spirit of HPC alive for the last 25 years. When we can give someone a glimpse of hope, there's a lot of power in that. They'll do a lot of work when they see there's a future for them.”

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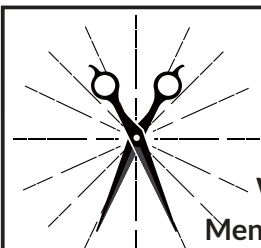
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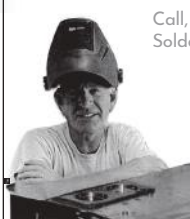
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PUBLIC NOTICES

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT April 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The legal voters of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District (Unified Union District) comprising the voters of the Towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Otter Valley Union High School in the auditorium (virtual option available – Meeting link and dial-in information can be found on the calendar on the RNESU website: <http://www.rnesu.org>) on April 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to conduct the following business:

Article 1: To hear the Board of the School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, April 30, 2024 for the purpose of voting the following article at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to the Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Town of | 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. | Brandon American Legion Post #55 |
| Town of | 9:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. | Goshen Town Hall |
| Town of | 10:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. | Leicester Town Office |

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Town of | 7:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. | Pittsford Town Office |
| Town of | 10:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. | Sudbury Town Hall |
| Town of | 7:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. | Whiting Town Hall |

Article 2: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand and Seventy-Two (\$26,979,072) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? Dated at Brandon, Vermont April 4, 2024

Laurie Bertrand

Laurie Bertrand, Chair
Otter Valley Unified Union School District No. U053

To learn more about the budget scan the qr code below or visit:
<https://www.rnesu.org/page/budget>



Budget Webpage

BARSTOW UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT April 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The legal voters of the Barstow Unified Union School District (Unified Union District) comprising the voters of the Towns of Chittenden and Mendon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Barstow Memorial School (virtual option available – Meeting link and dial-in information can be found on the calendar on the RNESU website: <http://www.rnesu.org>) on April 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to conduct the following business:

Article 1: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, April 30, 2024 for the purpose of voting the following article at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to the Chittenden Town Office following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Town of | 10:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. | Chittenden Town Office |
| Town of | 8:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. | Mendon Town Office |

Article 2: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Six Million Two Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$6,244,737) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

Dated at Chittenden, Vermont
March 28, 2024

Deborah Singiser

Deborah Singiser, Chair
Barstow Unified Union School District No. U049

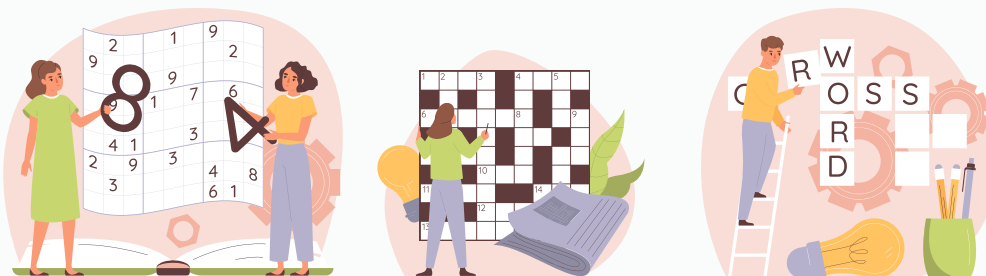
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Budget Webpage

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See page 17



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Housing shortage

(Continued from Page 20)
expert on housing affordability, said he often sees regulatory reform and increased housing subsidies get pitted against each other. But both are critical to addressing housing affordability.

“Having more subsidies makes it easier to build affordable housing, obviously,” he said. And having less restrictive land-use rules make it possible to build more housing overall — which keeps housing prices from rising, and allows subsidies to go further, he said.

“I think we really just need to move beyond this idea that it’s one or the other,” Phillips said. “It really does need to be both.”

Ram Hinsdale acknowledged the need for affordable housing investment. But she noted that pandemic-era federal funding is gone, Vermonters aren’t ready for new taxes, and flood recovery is taking up some of the available budget. This is the year, she said, to tackle regulatory reform, including updating Act 250.

“Developers have been asking for that opportunity to get out from under the mountain

of permits that they’re required to have, and to make housing more affordable for everyone again,” Ram Hinsdale said.

A separate housing bill advanced by Ram Hinsdale’s committee earlier this session, S.311, focuses on regulatory reform, though it also includes investments to rehabilitate run-down rental housing and upgrade manufactured housing communities.

Those priorities align more closely with the approach of Gov. Phil Scott’s administration. Scott has consistently called for reducing regulatory barriers to lower the costs and speed up timelines for housing growth — and to encourage more housing development from the private sector. His administration has also emphasized that the large direct investments of the last few years cannot continue.

“We’re lucky that we had that additional investment, because now it gave us a little bit of a boost during a time that we needed it. And we’ll keep feeling that boost for these next few years,” said Department of Housing and Community De-

velopment Commissioner Alex Farrell, noting that some of the funds allocated in recent years have not yet been spent.

“But if we do the right things on the regulatory front, and then are really, really tactical with the smaller investments that we can still make now that our budget shrunk back down to normal levels, we can continue to feel the benefits,” Farrell said.

Sen. Jane Kitchel, D-Caledonia, who chairs the Senate Committee on Appropriations, acknowledged the pressing need to address Vermont’s housing capacity — and particularly to transition away from the expanded, pandemic-era version of the motel shelter program, which she described as “very expensive.” But when discussing how to proceed, as her committee takes on the House’s budget proposal, she emphasized that funds are limited.

“Our resources, they are finite,” Kitchel said. “People forget, we’re a very small state — our tax base is relatively small. And so what’s realistic, and sustainable, is really something

that is very much on our minds at this point.”

Mission not accomplished
Chris Donnelly, a spokesperson and lobbyist for Champlain Housing Trust, helped draw up the underlying spending plan of H.829, at the request of lawmakers. He agrees that the Legislature must change rules that have subjected development projects to risks and delays.

But when it comes to funding, he said, lawmakers should keep in mind that permit costs for new development are dwarfed by the rising cost of materials and labor. He pointed to a current Champlain Housing Trust project in Shelburne at the site of the Harbor Place motel. The trust plans to build a mix of rentals and homes for sale. For just the rental portion, the estimated cost is roughly \$37 million — and the Act 250 permit came in at about \$100,000.

To him, a departure from continuing, large-scale investments would be akin to declaring victory too early.

“That springs to mind to me when George Bush stood and said, ‘Mission accomplished,’

and then we had another eight years of war in Iraq,” Donnelly said. “I really don’t think we are at that point. I think we really need to continue to invest in creating the housing that working Vermonters need.”

Zeke Davisson, chief operating officer of Summit Properties, which develops both affordable and market-rate housing, has been vocal about the ways in which Act 250 throws cold water on housing development in Vermont. Rents for affordable housing projects are capped based on income levels, Davisson said, which means that when construction prices rise, developers have to rely on more public subsidy dollars.

Construction prices have doubled in the last five to seven years, Davisson said. That means if funding is stagnant, affordable housing construction will slow down.

“Without a big new appropriation, we’ll just have to be comfortable with the fact that we will be building less affordable new construction,” he said.

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