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## Brattleboro rescinds offer to security firm

### Hill Street Security is out after 'cockroach' comment; owner regrets his words

By Virginia Ray  
*The Commons*

BRATTLEBORO—A comment about cockroaches scattering when the lights go on has put Hill Street Security owner John Raffensberger out of the running for his company to contract with the town.

At the June 6 Selectboard meeting, when the issue of hiring unarmed, private security to help ease public safety concerns was raised, Raffensberger's firm was one of two hired. He spoke, saying he believed a private security presence will have an immediate effect.

"It's like cockroaches running

away when you turn the light on," he said of the results he's seen elsewhere when his company comes to a situation.

Later in the meeting, community member Robin Morgan said she was disturbed to hear Raffensberger appearing, to her, to compare people to roaches. She also admitted he "had a point" in that "people are going to flee the space, if they have a perception that what they were planning on doing there is going to not be possible."

At the time, Selectboard member Peter Case said he didn't take the comment that way.

"It was not a reference to the

■ SEE CONTRACT, A7

## County legislators see priorities become state law

### Coffey, Hashim help get funding for transportation, universal school meals

By Joyce Marcel  
*The Commons*

BRATTLEBORO—The Legislature returns to Montpelier this week to see if it can override Gov. Phil Scott's veto of the budget and take care of a few other pressing concerns.

Meanwhile, two of Windham County's legislative leaders are celebrating remarkable victories.

In her first year as chair of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Sara Coffey, D-Guilford, managed to create, negotiate, and pass, in conjunction with the Senate, the \$850 million Transportation Bill that the governor signed into law on June 12.

"This year's T-Bill is the largest ever, making significant investments in Vermont's infrastructure," Scott said when he signed it.

"It includes over \$140 million for paving projects, covering more than 450 miles of improvements; \$18.2 million for bicycle, pedestrian, and transportation alternatives program funding, going to 55 construction projects and the design of 37 additional projects across 77 Vermont communities; historic funding at \$48.8 million for public transit; and \$43 million in rail projects," the governor said.

"It also takes important steps to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector by investing \$27.9 million across multiple efforts, including expanding EV charging," Scott added.

The governor credited Coffey and other leaders for their input.

"I want to thank members of the transportation committees, especially committee chairs Sen. [Richard] Mazza and Rep. Coffey, for their collaboration with my

■ SEE LAWS, A5



Miss Ginger Souless (a.k.a. Paulee Mekdeki) from the Keene Pride Drag Show performs at the Bellows Falls Festival in Bellows Falls on June 11.

## A diverse group comes together to bring a month of Pride Month events in Bellows Falls, a noted destination for LGBTQ people in the days of gay liberation

By Robert F. Smith  
*The Commons*

BRATTLEBORO—What started out as a few random events celebrating LGBTQ Pride month in June has snowballed into a cohesive program of more than a dozen events that have included movies, concerts, a drag show, dances, picnics, an Amtrak whistle stop, displays, a photo exhibit, and more.

"It all just fell into place," said Susan MacNeil, a member of Keene Pride and a founding member of the Pride Planning Committee. "We began by thinking it would be nice to book four films, and then just couldn't stop brainstorming!"

MacNeil has been working on the ad hoc committee organizing the celebration with Aaron Almanza, Michael Bruno, Betsy Thurston, Elijah Zimmer, and Gail Golec.

Almanza is executive director

■ SEE PRIDE, A2



## Vermont's combined fire/EMS stations experience soaring ambulance calls, costs

### As Brattleboro debates joining the ranks, chiefs statewide warn of spikes in public demand and prices for equipment

By Kevin O'Connor  
*VtDigger.org*

BRATTLEBORO—When Steven Locke took his current job, it seemed like a mouthful to say he was chief of the South Burlington Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. But the 30-year veteran firefighter knows the addition of ambulances brings more than just a longer name.

South Burlington reported 74 fires in 2022, according to city records. But its EMS requests totaled 3,154 in the same period — up 16% from the year before.

That's a challenge when the resulting \$950,000 in ambulance insurance reimbursements covered only about 20% of the department's \$4.2 million annual

budget. "The increased reliance on the 911 system for pre-hospital medical services is putting a tremendous strain on our existing services," Locke wrote in South Burlington's most recent annual report. "This is a significant challenge that will tax our services for years to come."

The South Burlington chief is not alone.

Locke, a board officer for the International Association of Fire Chiefs, worked previously in Burlington and Hartford, two of the six other Vermont municipalities with 5,000 or more people that run combined municipal fire and EMS departments. All report similar spikes in ambulance calls and costs — sparked in large part,

■ SEE EMS COSTS, A8



Brattleboro is temporarily contracting with Golden Cross Ambulance to help its fire department respond to medical calls as it studies a permanent takeover.

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We especially invite responses to material that appears in the paper.

We do not publish unsigned or anonymous letters, and we only very rarely withhold names for other pieces. When space is an issue, our priority is to run contributions that have not yet appeared in other publications.

Please check with the editor before writing essays or other original submissions of substance. Email: [voices@commonsnews.org](mailto:voices@commonsnews.org).

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**In memoriam:**  
Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman, Mia Gannon

**Pride**

of the LGBT National Help Center, which operates the oldest LGBT hotline in the nation, dating back to the 1970s. He lived in this area decades ago before moving to San Francisco, and he returned to the Upper Valley when the Covid pandemic started. Living in Claremont, New Hampshire, he has been working for the LGBTQ community in the region since his return.

**From one film, a celebration**

Almanza knew about the Classic Film Series on Wednesday evenings at the Bellows Falls Opera House, where community members and groups can sponsor screenings of specific films. He said that recently, while in line waiting to buy tickets for a film there, he heard two women behind him making derogatory comments about LGBTQ people.

Almanza said that he found the incident upsetting and decided on the spot that the community should have a showing of the 2014 British film *Pride* on a Classic Film Night in June.

The film is based on true events that unfolded in 1984, when Welsh coal miners went on strike for a full year to improve working conditions and wages. A group of lesbian and gay activists in

London decided to raise funds in support of the striking miners to everyone's surprise, including the miners themselves and the extended gay community.

The activists felt that the miners and the gay and lesbian communities were facing the same enemies in the Margaret Thatcher-led government and in a militarized police force that broke up pickets and protests from both groups with clubs and violence.

The gay and lesbian activists faced a backlash, at times a violent one, on two fronts: from the gay community, who felt their efforts should be directed at raising money to fight the developing AIDS epidemic, and from homophobes among the miners. *Pride* is a funny and at times deeply tragic telling of the story of how the two diverse groups eventually learned to appreciate each other and work together.

The LGBT Hotline sponsored the film on June 14.

At the same time, Keene *Pride* had also been involved in creating a *Pride* film event in Bellows Falls for June, booking the cult classic *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* for Wednesday, June 7. When MacNeil and Almanza realized they were working on similar projects, they decided to try to

FROM SECTION FRONT

add two more films and have a full month of *Pride* movies.

They soon had *But I'm a Cheerleader* booked for June 21 and the multi-award-winning film *Moonlight* for June 28.

**'A beautiful,' 'organic,' and 'symbiotic' process**

It wasn't long before more people and more *Pride* Month events began to be added. "It was an incredibly beautiful, organic, symbiotic process," MacNeil said.

Storefronts and businesses decorated their windows in *Pride* colors and displays. Downtown coffee shops Rockingham Roasters and the Flat Iron Cooperative have been offering cookies and cupcakes in *Pride* rainbow colors, and the bridge over the historic Bellows Falls canal has displayed the hues all month.

M&T Bank donated \$1,000 to the *Pride* Planning Committee, and a 30-foot *Pride*-colors banner was created, hanging first at the historic Bellows Falls depot and later in The Square.

The first Bellows Falls Music Festival at the Waypoint Center on June 10 featured the Keene *Pride* Drag Show, which offered performances, to an enthusiastic, supportive crowd.

More events "began to unfold as things fell into place," MacNeil said.

That included local artist and community activist Christie Hunter having a connection with seminal punk rock musician Jon Langford of the highly influential groups The Mekons and the Waco Brothers.

Langford, an activist and a Welshman, is very familiar with the 1984 miners strike and counts among his friends some from the cast of the *Pride* film.

Hunter got Langford to come to Bellows Falls as a special guest for the film event, where he performed a free concert at the Flat Iron Cooperative just before *Pride* was shown on June 14.

On June 11, Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., the first woman and openly LGBTQ person to serve Vermont in Congress, took part in the Amtrak *Pride* Whistlestop Tour when the Vermonter stopped in Bellows Falls on its tour of Amtrak stations all over Vermont and New Hampshire.

On June 17, the Field Center, a performance, dance, and arts education center in Rockingham, hosted a Queer T-Dance and picnic.



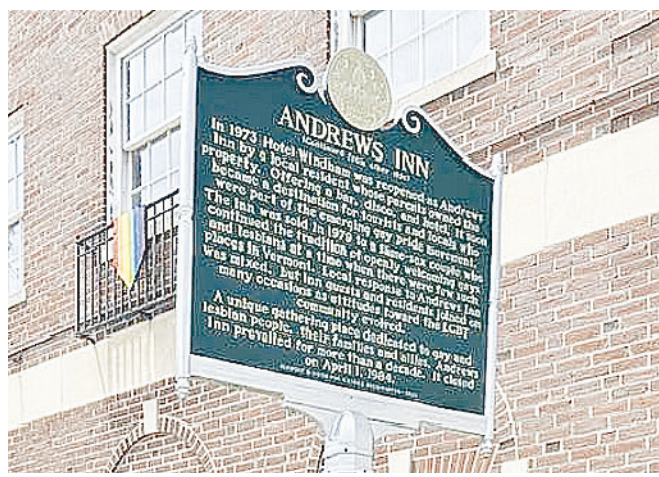
U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., hangs rainbow bunting on the Bellows Falls train station.

SUSAN MACNEIL



Jon Langford gives a performance at the Flat Iron Cooperative as part of *Pride* Month in Bellows Falls.

ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS



A sign marks the history of the former Hotel Windham, later the Andrews Inn, the first, and for a time the only, gay bar in Vermont.

SUSAN MACNEIL

Early in June, the Exner Block Gallery hosted a photo exhibit — "The Cultural Cross Between Mayberry and Fire Island" — about the Andrews Inn, a historic gay bar in the village and key to the region's involvement in the gay rights movement in the 1970s and 1980s.

"There was nothing formal about this," MacNeil said. "This all came out of a community interest to do this work. We had no money. People just volunteered, and we figured out how to make these things happen."

"It all just fell into place," she said.

**Andrews Inn**

In 1973, local resident John Moisis founded the Andrews Inn in the Windham Hotel building on The Square.

Andrews Inn, in business from 1973 to 1984, provided bars, discos, lodging, and food in a place where urban and rural LGBTQ people could freely gather in comparative safety and acceptance.

Gail Golec, a local archaeologist who writes and produces *The Secret Life of Death*, had been working on a six-part series for the podcast which would focus on exploring the complicated and controversial history of Andrews Inn.

One source for her podcast was the Andrews Inn Oral History Project, created by HB Lozito, executive director of the LGBTQ nonprofit Out In the Open in 2015. Through interviews with people involved with the Inn in its heyday, the project created an extensive oral history of the rural LGBTQ community in this area.

The Inn was eventually sold in 1979 to Thom Herman and Jeremy Youst, who operated it until it closed in 1984.

It existed at a time of unprecedented cultural change. Vermont was a center of the back-to-the-land movement, which had both a gay element and a strong feminist and lesbian contingent in the state.

Gay rights and women's rights were in the forefront of the culture, but at the same time the devastating AIDS epidemic broke onto the scene in the 1980s.

Having Andrews Inn as a space for local, rural LGBTQ people, and as a country destination for visitors from Boston and New York, was historic for that tumultuous period.

Golec will be presenting the final episode of her podcast, called "Identity," live at the 33 Bridge listening room in Bellows Falls on Friday, June 23.

One thing became clear as more and more people talked about their experiences at Andrews Inn. While it was definitely a gay bar, it was also regularly attended by straight, cisgender locals, who describe it as a safe place to party, dance, and have a good time.

Robert McBride, one of the participants in the oral history project, said he came to Bellows Falls because of friends and their

connection with Andrews Inn in the very early 1980s.

"This was long before LGBTQ language began to replace the idea of gay rights," McBride said. "It was the climate of the late '70s and early '80s. There just weren't that many places outside of urban areas that were safe for the gay and lesbian community."

"The Inn was a wonderful old railroad hotel," McBride said. "Straight people would come in all the time and dance. We had straight friends come in with their whole wedding party. If you were open to having fun, it was a great place to go dancing."

McBride would soon buy a home and other properties in the village, create the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, and become an integral part of local politics, community activism, and village redevelopment.

He said that he eventually moved permanently to Bellows Falls not because it had a gay inn, but because he "loved that it was such a great village."

**Protests and violence**

Not everyone in the village was happy that it was home to a gay inn. There were protest marches against gay rights. McBride remembers that there would often be local people waiting outside the inn at night looking to cause trouble.

"The only place I've ever been beaten up is Bellows Falls," said McBride, who was with a friend when both were attacked one night after leaving the inn. He was beaten to the ground and had his collarbone broken.

"There are always going to be haters," McBride said. "There are always going to be people who don't want change. But I do believe we've made progress. Things and people evolve."

With so many people exposed to LGBTQ people on television and in movies, with so many people coming to find that they have friends, family, and coworkers who are LGBTQ, he said, how can there not be change?

McBride said he holds no animosity toward the men who attacked him and his friend that night. In fact, he said he'd like to meet and talk to them now.

"Maybe they've evolved," he said. "Maybe they own a local business now. Or maybe they are someone I interact with all the time — my mechanic, or the person who mows my lawn."

"The important thing is for people to come together," he said, "and not stay in your own little compound."

To that end, the final June *Pride* event in Bellows Falls will be a free community dance open to all ages at the Moose Lodge on Friday, June 30 at 7 p.m.

The dance's theme? "Love Will Keep Us Together."

For more information on remaining events in this year's Bellows Falls *Pride* Month celebration, visit [bellowsfallspride.com](http://bellowsfallspride.com).

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## Parks Place gets \$30,000 grant for needed renovations

BELLOWS FALLS—Parks Place Community Resource Center recently received a \$30,000 grant from The Thomas Thompson Trust toward facility improvements.

According to a news release, this grant will be used “to mitigate a water issue in the basement and install new flooring in the lobby, as well as sand and stain the floors in the entryway, meeting room, and living room. These critical improvements will keep Parks Place thriving for many years to come.”

The Thomas Thompson Trust makes grants to not-for-profit organizations that provide health and social services to individuals living in and around Brattleboro. It is one of the oldest charitable foundations in the United States,

and has been making grants for more than a century.

Parks Place describes itself as “a powerful vehicle for concrete action, helping individuals and families make better lives for themselves through its network of social service agencies. Our mission has and continues to be connecting families with the support they need. We believe in equity and accessibility for all.”

Parks Place will be closed Monday through Friday, June 26–30 and Aug. 7–11, for the facility work. During closure, call 211 for any questions regarding social services. For those in need of diapers, extras will be distributed the week before the scheduled closures. For more information, call 802-463-9927.

## Genealogy group explores probate records, Irish genealogical research

BRATTLEBORO—The Windham County Genealogy Interest Group will hold its next meeting online on Saturday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To participate, register at [bit.ly/WCGIGJUNE24](https://bit.ly/WCGIGJUNE24). A Zoom link will be sent to you before the meeting.

Many useful genealogical gems can be found in probate records. Probate is the legal process of settling the estate of a deceased person. The records may include wills, inventories of property, guardianships, and other documents related to the settlement of an estate.

The names of the deceased person’s spouse, children, and other relatives may be included in the records, which can help verify relationships in the family tree. Inventories of property can provide insight into a person’s life based on the possessions and assets of an ancestor. Perhaps the possessions give a hint about a person’s occupation or social status.

Witnesses to a will or other probate document may be related to the deceased or provide other information about them. Many probate records are available online from FamilySearch or

Ancestry, and the databases are the easiest places to start a search. However, not everything is digitized, and research may involve a trip to a state archive, county courthouse, or town clerk’s office.

Do you have Irish roots and don’t know where to begin research? “Dipping Your Toe in Irish Research” will help get your started in the basic resources for finding your Irish ancestors across the pond.

At this meeting, participants will explore the online Irish web site at [IrishGenealogy.ie](https://IrishGenealogy.ie), which has many civil and church records; National Library of Ireland, which has Roman Catholic parish registers online up to approximately 1880; [RootsIreland.ie](https://RootsIreland.ie) with the most extensive Roman Catholic records available; and Griffith’s Valuation (1847–1864), which contains approximately one million individuals who occupied property in Ireland between 1848 and 1864.

The Windham County Genealogy Interest Group is supported by Brooks Memorial Library and Rockingham Free Public Library. For more information, visit [windhamcountygig@gmail.com](mailto:windhamcountygig@gmail.com).

## Former assistant judge faces administrative charges following felony conviction

Vermont Judicial Conduct Board alleges that former judge Patricia Duff, of Newfane, violated the state’s code of judicial conduct by collecting payment based on falsified work hours and by pocketing money intended for judicial training.

By Tiffany Tan  
*VtDigger.org*

A former Windham County assistant judge who is on probation for stealing public funds is now facing related administrative charges.

On June 12, the Vermont Judicial Conduct Board lodged a complaint against former judge Patricia Duff, alleging she violated the state’s code of judicial conduct by collecting payment based on falsified work hours and by pocketing money intended for judicial training.

Since Duff, 61, of Newfane had already resigned from her judicial position last June, the sanctions she faces appear confined to a written warning or public reprimand.

The Judicial Conduct Board filed the complaint less than a week after Duff pleaded guilty June 6 in Bennington Superior criminal court to a felony charge of grand larceny. The court ordered her to undergo three years

of probation, part of a plea deal with prosecutors.

She admitted overreporting by 352 hours the time she’d worked on court cases between Jan. 1 and June 4 of last year, thus collecting from the county \$8,500 to which she wasn’t entitled.

The administrative complaint, prepared by a special counsel to the board, Bonnie Badgewick, alleges that Duff breached several provisions of the Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct: She violated the law, eroded public confidence in the judiciary and abused the prestige of judicial office for personal and economic interests.

The document includes an accusation against Duff that had not previously been reported. It said that, in the spring of 2022, the Windham County treasurer gave Duff a check for \$5,500 that was meant to cover travel and attendance costs for a conference of the National Judges Association in South Carolina.

But, the complaint states, Duff did not attend the conference and returned only \$700 of the money meant for the educational conference.

“Respondent, by and through her actions, has abused her office to advance her personal and economic interests,” Badgewick wrote.

Speaking in general about Judicial Conduct Board procedures, board chair Barbara Blackman said the body can file a complaint against judges up to three years after their departure from the judiciary.

“The three-year look-back provision is there just to promote the public confidence in the judiciary,” Blackman said in an interview.

The disciplinary rules show that judges found to have violated the Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct can face a range of sanctions: a written warning, a public reprimand, limitations on their judicial duties, suspension of a portion or all of their

remaining term in office or other appropriate sanctions.

Duff had not yet submitted a response as of June 19, though board records show that Burlington attorney Robin Cooley has received it on her behalf. Duff was first elected as an assistant judge in 2006 and resigned June 17, 2022.

Assistant judges are leaders of Vermont’s county government system. Each county has two independently elected assistant judges who are responsible for administering the county budget and other county government business.

Assistant judges also serve as finders of fact in civil and family court alongside the presiding superior court judge, and so are also called “side judges.”

Police said that in addition to Duff’s hourly pay for hearing court cases, she received a monthly salary of \$1,700 for her county administrative job.

## New brownfields funding available for assessment and cleanup work

BRATTLEBORO—The Windham Regional Commission (WRC) has been awarded \$500,000 for brownfields assessment work and \$2 million for cleanup from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“This funding is critical to support the work of the Windham Regional Brownfields Reuse Initiative (WRBRI),” the WRC said in a news release. “Assessment funding is used to determine if there is contamination by hazardous materials or petroleum products and the extent of that contamination. Once the contamination issues are clearly

identified, a cleanup plan is developed. Property owners, public and private, can then apply for cleanup funding to make sites safe for redevelopment.”

The state of Vermont is also supporting brownfields work with \$50,000 for assessment work. Together with the EPA funding, the WRC says this money “will enable redevelopment throughout the Windham Region.”

Brownfield sites are often located in downtowns and village centers and along rivers and streams, in part because historic industrial uses relied on water power. Brownfield issues are also often found at the sites

of gas stations and dry cleaners whose processes may have contaminated soil and water. By assessing and cleaning up brownfields, the WRC says important redevelopment sites are brought back to life.

Recent sites cleaned up with funding from the WRBRI include the Garage Project in Bellows Falls, which has been redeveloped by Windham & Windsor Housing Trust for affordable housing, and the New England Youth Theater, who cleaned up and demolished a dangerous structure.

The Bellows Falls train station building will also be cleaned up and redeveloped for continued

use as a train station, as well as a café or brewery.

Those interested in learning more about this funding are encouraged to visit [windhamregional.org/brownfields](https://windhamregional.org/brownfields) or contact WRC Associate Director Susan Westa at [swesta@windhamregional.org](mailto:swesta@windhamregional.org).

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—WENDELL BERRY

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## AROUND THE TOWNS

### Wellness Fair presented in Wilmington

WILMINGTON — Voices of Hope and Senior Solutions invite the community to attend an Open House and a Health & Wellness Fair, at The Old Firehouse, 18 Beaver St., on Wednesday, June 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. Gather with friends (new and old), neighbors, and visitors to the area to meet the folks who are offering a variety of support and advocacy for health and wellness.

They will have free barbeque with desserts and more. Vendors at the event will include the Vermont Department of Health (with a smoothie bike), Deerfield Valley Rescue, SEVCA, Care in Vermont, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, SASH, Deerfield Valley Food Pantry, Valley Vital Needs, Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, and more.

For more information, call 802-490-5645 or 802-275-7232. To learn more about Voices of Hope, visit [voicesofhopevt.org](http://voicesofhopevt.org).

### Dummerston church serves up strawberry shortcakes

DUMMERSTON — The Dummerston Congregational Church will host their annual Strawberry Shortcake Sale and Picnic on Saturday, June 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church at 1535 Middle Road in Dummerston Center.

Individual desserts are \$8 and family-sized shortcakes (serves eight) are available by reservation for \$50 by calling 802-257-0544. Attendees are encouraged to kick off the summer by having dessert for dinner and bring blankets or lawn chairs and friends.

### School's Out celebration in Brattleboro

BRATTLEBORO — On Saturday, June 24, from noon to 3 p.m., on the lawn of Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St., there will be a School's Out celebration for kids and families with music, games, and fun for everyone.

The event free and open to the public, with food for sale.

### Public conversation in Newfane on gender diversity, faith, and spirituality

NEWFANE — On Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m., Newfane Congregational Church will host its fourth public conversation of the year with a focus on gender diversity.

In 2023 alone, more than 530 bills have been introduced nationwide that seek to limit or restrict gender-affirming care (for trans adults as well as youth), criminalize drag performances, and redefine trans people out of (legal) existence, among myriad other harms.

The Rev. Dr. Donnie Anderson, an ordained minister whose credentials are recognized by the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and American Baptist Churches USA, will be on hand to help contextualize these developments and better understand the spiritual and theological issues at play.

Dr. Anderson is a visible activist for the transgender community and will be speaking from lived experience, having out to her family and the world as a transgender woman at the age of 69. She is an educator, counselor, and social activist who received her bachelor's degree in business education from Barrington College, a master's degree in religious studies from Providence College, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Eastern Baptist Seminary, as well as a number of other graduate courses in business and religious studies.

For more information, contact Pastor Matthew Deen at [matt@newfane.church](mailto:matt@newfane.church) or by calling the church at 802-365-4079.

### Senior meal served in Dummerston

DUMMERSTON — Evening Star Grange and Senior Solutions will hold their Fourth Wednesday luncheon at the Grange Hall, 1008 East West Road, Dummerston Center, on Wednesday, June 28. Take-outs will be available between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and the eat-in meal will be served at noon.

A reservation for either take-out or eat-in meals is strongly suggested so that they can have enough food. Call the Grange at 802-254-1138 and leave name, phone number, the number of meals needed and whether they

are for eating in or taking out. The menu will include Chicken à la King with rice, green beans, and vegetarian quiche, with strawberry shortcake for dessert. These meals are open to everyone, with a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and above and \$4 for the younger set.

### Free family dinner and vape education night in Townshend

TOWNSHEND — West River Valley Thrives is hosting a free family dinner and parent education night on Wednesday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m., at Leland & Gray's Dutton Gym on Route 30.

A family meal, will be followed by supervised kid activities while adults attend an education session. The parent education session will focus on kids and vaping, and will also provide info on the transition to middle school. Parents/guardians will receive a handbook appropriate to their child's age which provides guidance on bullying, social media, mental health, substance use, and more, along with how to talk with children about these topics.

All families are welcome. For more information, and to register, go to [bit.ly/720-vape](http://bit.ly/720-vape).

### Strawberry fest in Hinsdale on July 1

HINSDALE, N.H. — The Hinsdale Area Farmers Market, which operates on Main Street in the Millstream Park each Saturday through October, will host a Strawberry Festival on Saturday, July 1.

This collaboration with the Hinsdale Community Recreation Center will take place at the Millstream River Park in downtown Hinsdale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fest will feature multiple farm and flea market vendors as well as activities for all, games for kids, face painting, live music by Tom Woodbury, and more.

The Hinsdale Farmers Market has been operating since 2014 and seeks to promote locally grown food and crafts while making fresh food available to our residents. For more information, contact the Market Manager at [farmersmarketofhinsdalenh@gmail.com](mailto:farmersmarketofhinsdalenh@gmail.com).

### WSWMD offers free food scrap drop-off

BRATTLEBORO — It's veggie season, and that means even more food scraps in the kitchen. For those tired of backyard composting, having problems with bears, or just looking for a simpler way to get those stinky scraps out of your trash, there's a simpler way.

Dropping off food scraps at the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) transfer station on Old Ferry Road is easy and free. In Windham County, every town transfer station, as well as the WSWMD transfer station, takes food scraps at no extra charge. Plus, drop-offs take all food scraps, including meat and bones.

To learn more, check out this 7-minute video the district made at [bit.ly/720-compost](http://bit.ly/720-compost). WSWMD also has shorter versions, specific to town transfer stations in Stratton, Jamaica, Townshend, Wardsboro, Dover, Wilmington, and Readsboro) on their YouTube channel at [youtube.com/WSWMD](http://youtube.com/WSWMD). To talk to a human, call WSWMD at 802-257-0272.

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## Laws

Administration on many initiatives," Scott said. "The investments made in this bill will benefit Vermonters for years to come."

### Working together

Coffey said that in the end, it is all about collaboration.

"The House Transportation Committee did a lot of work to improve upon the initial transportation bill and budget proposed by the governor," Coffey said. "We took testimony from over 100 witnesses to ensure that the \$850 million budget would go toward creating more bikeable and walkable communities, maintaining and building bridges, roadways, and public transit in communities across Vermont, and make important progress in our commitment to addressing climate change in the transportation sector."

The Legislature has been working for several years to come up with a 21st-century transportation system that is clean, accessible, and affordable, Coffey said, especially in light of the fact that public transportation is spotty throughout the state and most people must depend on cars for transportation.

Repairs to roads and bridges are an expensive but absolutely needed priority.

"This year's transportation bill made significant investments in our roads, bridges, and rail infrastructure," Coffey said.

The climate change-inspired initiatives come from the realization that over 40% of Vermont's carbon emissions come from transportation — especially car and truck emissions.

"The bill also included policies and investments to help us

reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping Vermonters transition to more-fuel-efficient vehicles, and supports public transportation and infrastructure that facilitates walking, biking, and public transit options in communities throughout the state," Coffey said.

The Legislature especially emphasized the need to require the state's work on the Vermont Climate Action Plan to engage the Vermont Climate Council and to include recommendations on future funding for climate initiatives in the transportation sector.

Working closely with the Senate and the Agency of Transportation, other specific highlights of the bill are:

- Spending that includes \$95.8 million for town highway programs, \$107.7 million for interstate and state bridges, and \$27.9 million for environmental policy and sustainability.

- Authorizing work to begin the planning of a program to assess a mileage-based user fee for battery electric vehicles. The design and fees for this program will come back to the Legislature in January 2024 and will need to be approved by the full body with a potential launch in 2026 and with the 15% adoption of electric vehicles (as recommended in the Climate Action Plan).

- Updating the state's Complete Streets policies — design standards that incorporate the needs of bicycle users and pedestrians along with the needs of drivers of motor vehicle in road construction projects — and providing training on these policies to municipalities.

### Hungry kids can't learn

Meanwhile, another legislator, first-term Sen. Nadir Hashim, D-Windham, managed to see a project dear to his heart — free school meals — become law.

Since 2020, school meals in Vermont have been universally free for students in a program initially subsidized by federal pandemic relief funds. Those funds are no longer available.

For Hashim, who serves on the Senate Committee for Education, continuing the program was a top priority.

"After I met with students last summer and saw the wide range of positive effects on academics and mental health, I knew this was something that needed to continue," Hashim said. "When kids' basic needs are met, they're much more likely to excel."

For Hashim, "one of my priorities should be to ensure, at a minimum, that people have their basic needs met. It's also a great benefit for our local farmers who can contract with schools and develop an additional reliable income stream."

The governor let the bill (H. 165) pass into law without his signature.

"Vermonters have made their ongoing concerns about the affordability of our state abundantly clear," Scott said. "With H. 165, the Legislature has added \$20-30 million in property tax pressure to pay for school meals for all students, including those from affluent families. This will be paid for by all Vermonters, including those with low incomes. That's not progressive education funding

policy, it's regressive policy that hurts the very families we are trying to help."

In reality, however, Scott said that if he vetoed the bill, it would be overridden and "further distract us from the work we should be prioritizing for our kids, like reversing pandemic learning loss, addressing declining math and reading scores, addressing youth mental health challenges (which inhibit learning), and more."

He also asked the Legislature to "rethink this sincere but regressive policy."

Hashim was not happy with Scott's reaction.

"I was quite disappointed to see the governor refer to providing students with free school meals as a 'regressive policy,'" Hashim told *The Commons*. "Ironically, he listed pandemic learning loss, declining test scores, and mental health challenges as where the general assembly should be prioritizing its work."

"However, when kids come to school hungry, with no assurance that there will be a meal at home, you could easily conclude that test scores will decline and there will be mental health challenges," Hashim continued.

"I don't base this off speculation, I base this off what students, teachers, and faculty have told me and testified to in the education committee," he said.

He added that lawmakers are capable of working on multiple issues at a time.

"So passing universal school meals does not preclude us from also working on other intersecting issues in the education sector," Hashim said.

FROM SECTION FRONT

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### INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Townshend Selectboard is accepting bids from qualified contractors for the repair and restoration of the West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge on Back Windham Road, TH#7. Work must be done by a dry-stone mason of the Dry Walling Association of Great Britain. The Project Leader must hold a current DSWA (GB) Master Craftsman certification.

Portions of the project are being funded by a Save America's Treasures Grant through the Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) can be found on the Vermont Electronic Bid Board located at: [www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidSearch.aspx?type=1](http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidSearch.aspx?type=1).

For more information or to request a print copy of the RFP, contact Connie Holt, Assistant to the Townshend Selectboard, at 802-221-2051 or [cholt@townshendvt.gov](mailto:cholt@townshendvt.gov).

### NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT

June 15, 2023 (Notice 1 of 3)

The Brooks Memorial Library wishes to resolve ownership issues with the items described below, which are listed in more detail on the library website and are available in print on the premise upon request. Please be advised that the following described property is hereby considered abandoned by its prior owners and will become the property of the Brooks Memorial Library, if no person can prove ownership of the property, pursuant to the provisions of Vermont Statutes Title 27: Chapter 12 – Museum Property.

171 items, including 6 clothing and other accessories (handkerchiefs, fans, spectacles, etc.), 35 household items (decorative, cooking, eating, textiles, etc.), 37 dolls, 13 paintings (drawings, sketches, etc.), 37 photographs (stereographs, tints, daguerreotype, postcard collection, etc.), 5 sculptures, 12 documents (letters, legal contracts, articles of association, etc.), 8 map collections, 18 other miscellaneous items.

As provided for in the Vermont statute, anyone intending to claim ownership or presents information about the whereabouts of an owner, has until February 24, 2024 to notify the Brooks Memorial Library in writing. If written assertion of title is not presented by February 24, 2024, the property will be considered abandoned or donated and default to the ownership of Brooks Memorial Library.

Please visit [brookslibraryvt.org](http://brookslibraryvt.org) or the library's circulation desk for a detailed printed description of the items listed above or contact the Library Director, Starr Latronica, for more information or to make a claim.

Contact information:  
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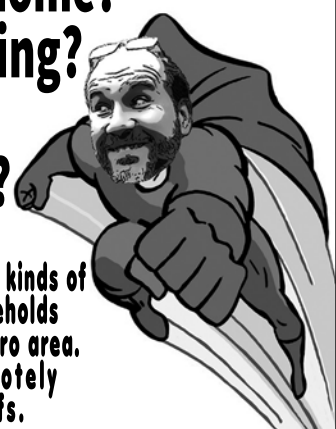
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## MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

### College news

• **Elizabeth Day** of Brattleboro has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts from American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

• The following local students recently graduated from Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts: **Sophia Mark** of Brattleboro, B.A. in fashion design and production; **Kaie Quigley** of West Wardsboro, B.A. in communication (sports communication); and **Olivia Zschirnt** of Whitingham, B.A. in fashion design and production.

• **Lucas Forthofer** of Dummerston was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Quincy (Ill.) University.

• **Michelle Marchica** of Westminster was named to the President's List for the spring 2023 semester at Siena College in Loudonville, New York.

• **Julia Belyung**, an economics major from Brattleboro, and **Elijah Burdo**, a computer science major from Brattleboro, were named to the Dean's Honor List for the spring 2023 semester at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

• **Anna Seiple** of Londonderry was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

### School news

• The University of Vermont named the following local graduating high school seniors among this year's Green & Gold scholarship recipients: **Mary Wallace** of Saxtons River, **Ainsley Meyer** of Newfane, **Ruthie Wright** of Townshend, **Aurelia Ponzio** of Brattleboro, and **Matt Hammond** of Wilmington. UVM's Green & Gold Scholarship is an academic merit scholarship program which considers the nomination of the most academically talented rising senior from every eligible Vermont secondary school, and Vermont residents attending select border schools. The members of the Class of 2027 attending UVM this fall mark a

30-year record high in academic achievement, with the 39 Green & Gold scholars representing more than 60% of the most academically talented students in the state.

• **Phoebe Weinberg** of Putney received a Land Stewards Award presented by the Vermont Land Trust, along with a check for \$300. Nine other students across the state also received awards. A senior, Weinberg has been an Future Farmers of America state champion in winter forestry, Vermont soils, and land judging. In 2022, she participated in the Krocka Expeditions' Arctic to Manhattan semester. She works for Sidelands Sugarbush in Putney and has been a member of Brattleboro Union High School's environmental club. Next year, Weinberg will attend Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, where she plans to major in ecological forestry.

### Obituaries

• **Dorothy Sexton Christie, 99**, of Halifax. Died in her home on Dec. 11, 2022. She was well and active and in full possession of her own mind until just a few days before she passed gracefully. Born Dorothy Leicester Sexton in New Haven, Connecticut in 1923, she earned a master's degree in English Literature from Yale University and married John Aldrich Christie, another Yale graduate student, in 1946. The couple lived and taught at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and in Marlboro and, later, Halifax, during the summer. They raised three sons together, David, John, and Rod Christie, who grew up living at Vassar during the school year and in Halifax each summer. Since 1975, Dorothy has lived full-time at the family homestead in Halifax, often with her sons' families and six grandchildren in residence. Dorothy loved exploring, first on the Connecticut seashore where she grew up and later in the Vermont countryside on her beloved Morgan horse. She taught her children and grandchildren to love exploring too. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 8, at 11 a.m., at the

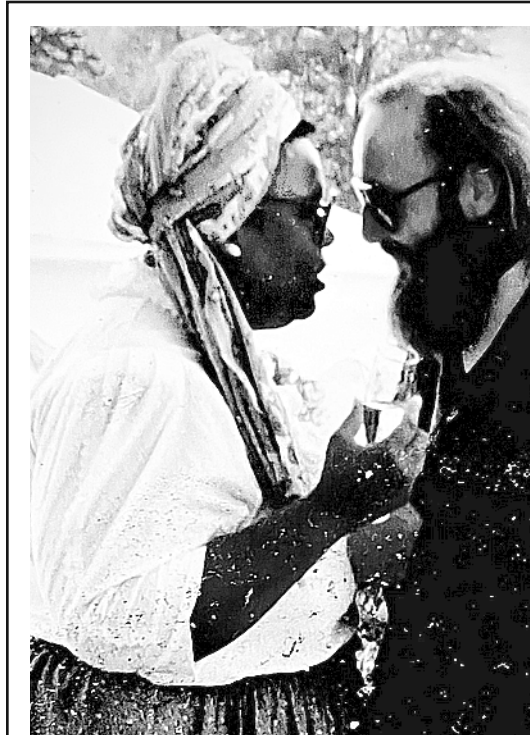
Halifax Union Society, 44 Stowe Mountain Rd., in Halifax Center.



• **Dorothy K. Druke, 84**, of Newfane. Died peacefully at her home on June 14, 2023, following a lengthy illness. Dorothy

was born on December 25, 1938 in Lex, West Virginia, to the late Noah McKinley Addair and Bessie Ruth Hughes Addair. Dorothy graduated from the Woodrow Wilson Business School in Fishersville, Virginia in 1958. While attending she met and later married Joseph Druke of Williamsville. They settled in Williamsville, where she was the postmaster for 27 years, retiring in January of 1998. In addition to her parents, Dorothy was predeceased by four siblings, Mary Phillips, Jack Addair, Danny Addair, and Roger Addair. She was also predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Joseph Druke, and her granddaughter, Dina Mariano. She is survived by her children, Christine (John) Mariano of South Newfane, Stephen (Lori) Druke of St. Johnsbury, and Theresa (Paul) Chapman of West Dummerston; three grandchildren, Rebecca Chapman, Joseph (Erica) Mariano, and Manika (Mitchell) Chase; her brother, Bill (Bonnie) Addair; sisters-in-law, Donna Addair, Patsy Addair, Mindai Druke, and Martha Druke; her dear friend and spiritual advisor, Rev. Patrick Crane; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside service and committal Rites will be conducted June 21, at 12:30 p.m., at the Williamsville New Cemetery. A reception will follow at the NewBrook Fire Department. Donations to St. Michael's School, 48 Walnut St., Brattleboro, VT 05301, attn: Elaine Beam, Principal; or to: NewBrook Volunteer Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box 77, Newfane, VT 05345. To share a memory or offer condolences to Dorothy's family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Geoffrey Lincoln Holt, 82**, formerly of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died June 6, 2023 after a prolonged illness. Over the past year, Geoffrey had resided at Langdon Place and Alpine Healthcare Center, both in Keene, New Hampshire, and lived for many years prior at Stearns Mobile Home Park in Hinsdale. Geoffrey was born on March 27, 1941 in Indianapolis, Indiana, to



Barbara and David Linton at their wedding in 1973.

Margaret (Goddard) and Dr. Lee Holt, who pre-deceased Geoffrey three weeks apart in January 2004. As a child, Geoffrey, and his parents and his sister, Allison Holt, moved from Indiana to Springfield, Massachusetts, where Geoff attended public school until the fifth grade and then transferred and graduated from the Rectory School in Pomfret, Connecticut in 1955. Geoff, then attended and graduated from the George School, a Quaker boarding secondary school in Newtown, Pennsylvania in 1959. He then attended Marlboro College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1963. Geoffrey served in the Navy following his graduation from college. After serving his country, Geoffrey earned a M.A. degree from American International College in Springfield in 1968 and then taught social studies and drivers' education at Thayer High School in Winchester, New Hampshire. Following his brief teaching career, Geoffrey worked for many years for a division of Agway in Brattleboro as a production manager. He retired from full-time work following the closing of this operation. Geoffrey lived most of his adult life in southern New Hampshire, mainly in Hinsdale. His longtime life partner, Thelma Parker, pre-deceased him in 2017. While fundamentally modest and demure, Geoffrey is remembered as an intellectually curious, humorous, and somewhat eccentric gentleman who made friends easily. He was an authority on automobiles and an aficionado of

diecast metal cars as well as model railroading. He was additionally, a lover of animals, especially dogs, and demonstrated a knack for understanding market economics. He was also known for decades as the ever-passionate groundskeeper at Stearns Mobile Home Park. Geoffrey leaves his sister, Allison Holt of Laguna Woods, California, as well as his best friend Edwin O. "Smokey" Smith and his wife Sharron, as well as his dear friend, Mary Desmond, daughter of Thelma Parker. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A private memorial service for family and friends is planned. To offer condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Maurice William "Bob" King, 88**, of Vernon. Died June 13, 2023 at his home, surrounded by his loving family, after a period of declining health. Maurice was born in Enosburg Falls on Aug. 2, 1934, the son of Carl Harrison King and Eva Bushey King. He attended schools in Enosburg Falls, followed by proudly serving in the Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956. He trained as a master barber and enjoyed this profession for more than 40 years. In Brattleboro, on March 29, 1957, he married Marilyn Rena Slicer, and they celebrated 66 wonderful years together. Faith and family were of the utmost importance throughout their married life. He was a member of Tri-State Bible Baptist Church in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, and a devout man of faith who read his Bible daily. He always had a giving heart, turning his ideas into actual creations for the grandchildren. Singing with his grandchildren brought him much joy. Many memories were made hunting, fishing and camping. He loved the beautiful Northeast Kingdom, where he and Marilyn built a home, where many happy times were spent with family. He is survived by his wife; daughter Tammy Osborne (Mark) of Vernon; son Mark (Sylvan) of Westmoreland, New Hampshire; grandchildren Melissa Daniel (Kelly), Sarah Gardner (Joshua), Benjamin Osborne (Jaquie), Katrista Osborne, Joshua Osborne, Caleb Osborne, Susanna Osborne, and Laura Osborne; and 17 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents; sisters Lessie Farnsworth, Janet Garfield, Betty Ennis, and Wilma Aplin; and brothers Newton and Fred. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside service was held on June 17 at Oakwood Cemetery in Townshend. Donations to the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Monadnock Region, 100 Washington St., Keene, NH 03431.

• **Christine Elinor (Norman) (Harrington) Page, 85**, formerly of Newfane. Died June 6, 2023 at

Vernon Green Nursing Home in Vernon. Chris was born in Brattleboro on Dec. 26, 1937 to Charles Emmet Norman and Mildred (Prescott) Norman. She grew up in the Centerville section of Brattleboro, on Brattle Street and Western Avenue, moving to Ames Hill with her parents as a teenager. She graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 1955 and went to work for Barrows Coal Company, then later for Dunham Brothers. On Aug. 9, 1957, she married Bruce Harrington, and they lived in Newfane for most of their married life, during which time Chris worked for the Riverbend Inn in Townshend. On Oct. 23, 1960, Bruce and Chris welcomed a son, Brent Charles Harrington, who died in an accident in 1980 at the age of 19. Chris loved her gardening and her chickens as well as the time she spent with son Brent and his young friends and relatives. During these years she also was very close to her mother, taking many day trips together to entertain Brent. The marriage to Bruce ended in divorce in 1973. On Dec. 21, 1974, Chris married Richard Page and moved to

## Lintons to mark 50th anniversary with food and friends

BRATTLEBORO—Barbara and David Linton invite friends "to come through to share their love with them" on their 50th wedding anniversary, their family writes.

The family-friendly open house with "music, food, and love" takes place Saturday, June 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. at The Root Social Justice Center, 28 Williams St., a space that is physically accessible.

David Linton, a lifelong runner, worked as a bookbinder for over 20 years at the Book Press and retired on its closing in 2000.

Barbara Linton, a retired registered nurse in private practice, has been a social justice advocate.

The Lintons, married June 24, 1973, came to Brattleboro in 1977 and left in the early 2000s to care for family. They returned to town in 2018.

They will mark "50 years of love, sacrifice, and purpose," their daughter, Shela Linton, says. "We celebrate this couple with joy."

Amherst, Massachusetts, where Dick was the director of sports information at the University of Massachusetts. In 1980, they moved to Florida, where they lived until Dick's death in July 2014. In May 2016 Chris returned to Newfane, where she renewed her relationship with her first husband, then became a resident at Vernon Green Nursing Home in February 2020. Chris was very artistically talented, engaging in many creative craft pursuits and producing incredible scrapbooks documenting her life with Dick. She did one amazing album per year, each filled with evidence of her talents, her love of life, love of many, many friends, and careful attention to detail and scrapbooking artistry. She also created wonderful costumes throughout her life for various Halloween and other theme gatherings. Dick and Chris were avid travelers, going on many cruises and visiting many cities, including an especially memorable trip to New Orleans, where Chris earned a diploma from a class in Cajun and Creole cooking at the New Orleans School of Cooking. Because she was celebrating Christmas, her birthday, and her anniversary all in the same week, she was chosen to assist with the class. Her beautiful scrapbooks include numerous certificates and letters acknowledging her involvement in countless volunteer activities and the enormous assistance she provided to others in everything she did. She was an avid golfer as well as line dancer, and taught numerous line dancing classes. Her students honored her with a line dancing retirement party in 2006 in thanks for all the fun they had had with her. A major accomplishment in her work life was completing a lengthy course with the Parker College of Chiropractic to become a Certified Chiropractic Assistant in 1989, which included becoming licensed as a Florida basic x-ray machine operator, the only one in her class completing the rigorous course with a grade of 100%. She continued her work in a chiropractic office until retirement in 2003, then continued working at home doing transcription of records for several more years. In addition to her parents, her son Brent, and her husband Dick Page, Chris was predeceased by her brother, Donald Prescott Norman, her stepdaughter Deborah Page, stepson Donald Page, and ex-husband and lifelong friend, Bruce Harrington. She is survived by her sister Thelma Norman Underwood of Brattleboro, nieces Sheila U. Blecharczyk of West Roxbury, Massachusetts and Sharon U. Viarengo of White River Junction, and stepdaughter Dale Page Morrow of Leominster, Massachusetts. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: At Chris's request, there will be no funeral. Donations in Chris's memory may be made to an Alzheimer's research foundation of one's choice.

• **Janet Reardon, 79**, of Brattleboro. Died unexpectedly May 31, 2023 in the comfort of her home.

A lifelong resident of town, Janet was born in Brattleboro on June 12, 1943, the daughter of Emil M. and Anna (Branka) Kozlowski. She grew up in the Fort Dummer section of Brattleboro, attending Brattleboro schools. She was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School. Janet was an avid reader and enjoyed working at Brooks Memorial Library for many years. Janet was a feisty stubborn woman who would let you know she was the boss. In her later years, she enjoyed visiting with her friends at the VFW on Black Mountain Road. She loved animals, especially her beloved bulldogs. On Dec. 21, 1959, during a simple wedding ceremony for family and close friends, Janet married David Francis Reardon. Her husband of 63 years predeceased her on Aug. 11, 2022. Survivors include three

■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

Milestones are published as community news at no cost to families, thanks to financial support of our members and advertisers. Send them to [news@commonsnews.org](mailto:news@commonsnews.org). Though we ask that content for this column be sent by Friday at 5 p.m., we will do our best to include late obituaries. Please alert the newsroom at 802-246-6397 for post-deadline urgent submissions. We will always do our best to accommodate contributors in their time of grief.

Be Sure To Check Our Full Program Schedule @ [brattleborotv.org](http://brattleborotv.org)

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CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

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### Recent shows

Check website for schedule

<b>Here We Are - Jamie Mohr, Epsilon Spires, E.D.</b> Mon 8p, Tues 12:45p, Wed 10:45a, Thurs 1:30p, Fri 9:30p, Sun 5:30p	<b>Brattleboro Area Middle School - Move Up Day 2023.</b> Wed 6p (LIVE)
<b>The World Fusion Show - Ep # 154 - Christopher Adler.</b> Tuesdays 8p, Wed 11:30a, Sat 12:30p & 6:30p, Sun 9:30a	<b>Brattleboro Union High School - Graduation 2023.</b> Fri 6p (LIVE)
<b>Around Town with Maria - Artful Streets at Gallery Walk.</b> Mon 5:30p, Sat 5p, Sun 2:30p	<b>Leland &amp; Gray Graduation - 2023.</b> Thurs 3:30p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 8:30p
<b>1st Wednesdays Presents - We Are All Fast Food Workers Now: Annelise Orleck.</b> Mon 6:30a, Tues 8:30p, Thurs 2p, Sat 8p	<b>Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 6/12/23.</b> Wed 7p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a
<b>Brooks Memorial Library - The Nethercott Duet.</b> Thurs 9:15p, Fri 10a, Sat 2p, Sun 6p	<b>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 6/12/23.</b> Wed 9:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p
<b>Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce - Awards Soirée 6/1/23.</b> Mon 12:45p, Tues 1p, Wed 9p, Fri 5p, Sun 4p	<b>West River Education District Board Mtg. 6/12/23.</b> Sun 6p
<b>Guilford Broad Brook Grange - Guilford's One Room Schoolhouses 5/30/23.</b> Mon 3p, Tues 10a, Wed 12:40p, Fri 12:45p	<b>Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 6/13/23.</b> Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p
<b>Write Action - Poems Around Town Poetry Reading 4/28/23.</b> Mon 12:5p, Tues 5a & 3:15p, Sun 7:45p	<b>Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 6/15/23.</b> Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p
<b>Energy Week with George Harvey &amp; Tom Fennell.</b> Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	<b>Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 6/14/23.</b> Fri 8p, Sat 6a, Sun 12p
<b>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode.</b> Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	<b>Putney Selectboard Mtg. 6/14/23.</b> Sat 6p, Sun 8:30a
<b>WTSA News.</b> Mon-Fri 12p & 6p	<b>Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 6/14/23.</b> Sat 8:30p, Sun 6a
<b>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service.</b> Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	<b>Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 6/6/23.</b> Mon 6:15p, Tues 10, Wed 12p, Thurs 11:15a
<b>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service.</b> Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a	<b>Windham Central Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 5/31/23.</b> Mon 9a, Tues 2p, Sun 3:45p
<b>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service.</b> Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p	<b>Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 5/22/23.</b> Mon 10:15a, Tues 3:15p, Wed 4p
<b>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service.</b> Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a	<b>Town Matters - Weekly Episode.</b> Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p
<b>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass.</b> Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p.	<b>The David Pakman Show.</b> Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

**Note: Schedule subject to change.**

View full schedule and watch online at [brattleborotv.org](http://brattleborotv.org)

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Hi, my name is **Ivar**! I am a sweet and outgoing young boy who would enjoy hiking and being outside with my people. I seem to like other dogs and may be able to live with one with a slow intro. Cats and small kids would be too much for me. Please stop by and make my sweet dreams come true.

Hi there, I'm **Toby**! I can be a little fearful of new people but give me some time to settle in and I'm very affectionate - I even like belly rubs sometimes! I have been indoors only and have lived with other cats although I tend to be a little afraid of them. I also have lived with small dogs and done well in the past. Kids would be new so everyone should be older and mellow, like me!

Hello new friends, I'm **Shadow**! I'm very affectionate and love hanging out with my human friends. I do have a significant heart murmur which should be monitored and the staff here can tell you more when you visit. Small or medium dogs should be okay with a proper introduction and some time to get to know each other. Older, respectful kids should be okay with some time to adjust. All I want is a home of my own, can it be with you?

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## Contract

people and citizens of this town," Case said.

"Let's not parse out words like that," he said, adding that he "did not interpret what the gentleman said in a negative fashion."

Board members, acting on the recommendation of Police Chief Norma Hardy, agreed at the meeting to contract with Securitas for \$39 per hour for a total of \$2,184 per week to cover the Transportation Center from 3 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and with Hill Street Security for \$35 per hour for a total of \$1,960 per week to cover Brooks Memorial Library and the town municipal and recreation centers from 2 to 10 p.m.

Town Manager John Potter said on June 19 that "as we were putting together final plans for the contracts, Chief Hardy and I discussed whether we wanted

to continue with both security firms or not."

"We were surprised by the comment made at the Selectboard meeting by one of them because it showed something contrary to what we thought that firm was all about," Potter said, confirming, when asked, if he was referring to Raffensberger's comment.

He called the Keene, New Hampshire businessman's words "not appropriate or acceptable."

"We will expect the same level of professionalism, respect, and empathy towards everyone in the community coming from contracted staff as we do every day from town and police department staff," he said. "We are currently discussing increased coverage from the second firm as we finalize a contract there."

At the board meeting on Tuesday night (June 20), the

first since the decision to hire both firms, Potter told Selectboard members that "we're going forward with just one of the security firms."

No further word about it was spoken.

### 'I think we could have made a difference'

Raffensberger said Tuesday that he regrets his words and did not intend them to disparage anyone.

"I shouldn't have said anything to begin with, and I'm sorry I did," he said. "I'm not good at being politically correct. It's really unfortunate that people were offended by the analogy, but I did not call people cockroaches."

Raffensberger said he really likes the town, enjoys visiting here, and loved the former Three

Stones Mexican Mayan Cocina restaurant.

"I cried a little bit when the Three Stones closed, it was one of my favorite restaurants," Raffensberger said. "I was really looking forward to helping out. I think we could have made a difference. I live by the Golden Rule and treat people the way I want to be treated. I'm very upset and sad. I don't like to be accused of what I was accused of being."

"I was really looking forward to working with the Chief and I want to thank the [town] of Brattleboro for the opportunity to bid on the security contract," he continued.

"I'd also like to thank those who supported us and apologize for the extra work and headaches my comment caused," he said. "I wish the residents and the [town] of Brattleboro well."

## Free summer meals for children, teens offered in Windham County

The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU), in cooperation with Fresh Picks Café, is providing free summer meals to children and teens in Brattleboro, Guilford, and Putney.

Summer meals will start on Monday, June 26, and end on Friday, Aug. 11 (no meals on Tuesday, July 4). Meals are limited to one meal type per child per day. Parents/guardians can pick up on behalf of children.

Sign-ups are not required, but are encouraged. Here are the Open Summer Meals sites and the times meals are available:

- Brattleboro Area Middle School (grab & go lunch for that day and breakfast for the following day picked up at the kitchen door, to the left of the entrance to BAMS), 10 to 10:30 a.m.
- Putney Public Library (grab & go lunch for that day and breakfast for the following day from tent outside library), 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro (lunch consumed on-site only, go to Children's Room

upstairs, ends Aug. 4), noon to 1 p.m.

There will also be a Van Run with grab & go lunches for that day and breakfast for the following day available for pick up at the following times and locations:

- Van Run Stop 1: Ledgewood Heights, 7 Ledgewood Heights Road, Brattleboro, 10:30 to 10:35 a.m.
- Van Run Stop 2: Guilford Volunteer Fire Department, 108 Guilford Center Road, 10:40 to 10:45 a.m.
- Van Run Stop 3: Quality Inn & Conference Center, 1380 Putney Road, Brattleboro, 10:54 to 10:59 a.m.
- Van Run Stop 4: Black Mountain Trailer Park, Crescent Drive, Brattleboro, 11:09 to 11:14 a.m.
- Van Run Stop 5: Green Mountain Apartments, Landmark Hill Drive, Brattleboro. 11:25 to 11:30 a.m.
- Van Run Stop 6: Green Street School, 164 Green St., Brattleboro, 11:36 to 11:41 a.m.
- Van Run Stop 7: Mountain

Home Trailer Park, Village Drive, West Brattleboro, 11:58 a.m. to 12:03 p.m.

Van Run Stop 8: Westgate Apartments, 50 Westgate Drive, 12:06 to 12:11 p.m.

Other daily summer meal sites in Windham County include Memorial Hall, 14 West Main St., Wilmington, noon to 12:20 p.m., and Whitingham Library, 2948 Route 100, Jacksonville, 11:40 a.m. to noon.

### Meal kit distribution

Windham Northeast Supervisory Union's School Nutrition program, as well as the Windham Central School District, will both offer free seven-day meal kits this summer.

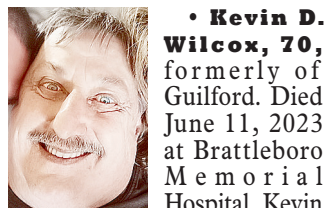
Free meal kits available to any household with children 18 and under, regardless of income. Kits include a combination of bulk and ready-to-eat items equivalent to equal to seven days worth of breakfast and lunch for one child. Households can receive one bag per child, and bags may be picked up without children

present. Bags are filled with high-quality products such as artisan cheeses and local produce, dairy products, and fruit.

Windham Central will begin its meal kit distribution on Friday, June 23. Pick up kits at Leland & Gray Middle and High School, 2042 Route 30, Townshend, or Jamaica Community Church, 7 Depot St., Jamaica, between 3 to 6 p.m. Other distribution dates are July 6, 13, 20, and 27, and Aug. 3, 10, and 17. Email [jgallogly@windhamcentral.org](mailto:jgallogly@windhamcentral.org) with any questions.

In Windham Northeast, weekly distribution starts on Wednesday, June 28, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., at Bellows Falls Union High School, 406 High School Road, Westminster. To sign up, go to [farmtoschoolcafe.org](http://farmtoschoolcafe.org).

sons, Timothy (Kim) of Hartford, Vermont, Vincent (Joanne) of Fletcher, Vermont, and Michael of Brattleboro; one brother, James Kozlowski (Donna) of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; grandchildren Connor, David, Dani, Teagan, and Micheala; and many nieces and nephews. Janet was predeceased by her husband, and a sister, Stacia Bialowski. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In keeping with Janet's final wishes, there are no formal funeral services scheduled. Donations to Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences to the family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



**Kevin D. Wilcox, 70**, formerly of Guilford. Died June 11, 2023 at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Kevin was born on June 12, 1952, the son of the late Frank and Ada (Benware) Wilcox. The youngest of seven children, he attended Charlestown (New Hampshire) schools. He spent much time outdoors, working and then later in life just sitting or watching his grandkids. Kevin worked as a property maintenance manager in Claremont, New Hampshire for many years. Kevin loved being a father. His children, when young, could get him to spend a whole day at a brook easily, swimming and fishing. He enjoyed his simple days at home and could find humor in the best and worst of times. He made friends in any community and talked to people of any walk of life. He could find those good at heart by often finding some common ground human connection over his 70 years of experiences. He liked rock & roll music and keeping up in his grandkids' lives, attending sports and school ceremonies as well as giving as much undivided time and attention as possible. Kevin is survived by his wife, Nancy Wheeler Wilcox, whom he married on July 17, 2007 in Wilmington; son Frank Wilcox of Putney; daughter Alisha Wilcox-Kaepfel (Robert) and granddaughters Colleen and Natalie of Guilford; and his brother Donald Wilcox (Sarah) of Springfield, Vermont. He was preceded in death by his other siblings, as well as a young niece and several nephews as well. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside funeral services for Kevin will be held Saturday, July 8, at 11 a.m., at Forest Hill Cemetery in Charlestown. A reception potluck celebration to follow at noon, located at the Charlestown Town Hall, 29 Summer St.. To send condolences, visit [sheafuneralhomes.com](http://sheafuneralhomes.com).

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## EMS costs

they say, by people who don't want to wait in a doctor's office or emergency room.

In Vermont's biggest city, the Burlington Fire Department recorded 116 fires and 2,931 calls about everything from false alarms to cats in trees in 2022, statistics show. But those combined numbers were less than half of its 6,817 EMS requests, up almost 25% from the year before.

For its work, Burlington collected about \$1.5 million through ambulance billing — leaving taxpayers to pick up the remaining 90% of its nearly \$14 million combined fire and EMS budget.

"The aforementioned significant increase in call volume creates challenges, which are often not seen in the public eye," Deputy Fire Chief Derek Libby wrote in Burlington's most recent annual report.

In the Windsor County town of Hartford — known for its village of White River Junction — 70% of its 2,637 calls the past year were for EMS, compared with 2% for fires and 28% for everything else. Hartford collected \$625,000 in insurance reimbursements, leaving taxpayers to pick up the remaining 80% of its \$3.5 million budget.

"We've seen a progressive increase in demand and costs," said Hartford Fire Chief Scott Cooney, who has worked for the town for 27 years. "EMS is a guaranteed way for someone to gain access to the medical system. Unfortunately, it is the most expensive way. The offsetting revenue doesn't nearly cover it."

In Brattleboro, municipal leaders are considering whether to join the ranks of other Vermont communities with combined fire/EMS stations. A review of records of the seven largest such facilities — which, in addition to Burlington, Hartford and South Burlington, include Barre City, Montpelier, Springfield and Williston — show rising ambulance demand is causing a growing set of challenges.

"Brattleboro definitely has got its work cut out," said Barre City Fire Chief Keith Cushman, whose own department responded to 17 fires and 1,752 EMS calls in 2022 — up 16% in a year. "Staffing, hours of training, delays to the supply chain ... it just continues to trend upward. There are so many moving parts to an EMS system. I don't know if I'd want to try to build one now."

**'Very much a demand but no money to be made'**

Take staff turnover. The Burlington department has hired a dozen new employees in the past year and has yet to fill its vacant head EMS position. Leaders say it's difficult to recruit and retain candidates for jobs that require specialized training in both fire-fighting and emergency medical care.

"We must be prepared in all facets of personal interactions and mental health crises," Battalion Chief Troy Ruggles wrote in Burlington's most recent annual report. "A firefighter who arrives unprepared at an emergency can be faced with life-or-death situations and will find himself or herself under extreme stress to perform."

Williston, with 35 fires and 1,417 EMS calls in the past year, recently hired nine additional employees (a \$785,000 annual expense) after staffers responding to a 2021 emergency could not find on-call replacements, leaving their station empty for almost an hour.

Springfield has been similarly stretched, with 37 fires and 2,420 EMS calls in the past year.

"We struggle with our staffing being inadequate to cover the growing number of calls," recently retired Fire Chief Russ Thompson wrote in Springfield's most recent annual report. "I don't see the trend of higher emergency call volume slowing."

Combined stations also report steeper costs and slower delivery of equipment. Barre City, for example, recently ordered a new \$337,000 ambulance to replace a 15-year-old backup vehicle.

"That's a \$100,000 price increase over just a year or two," Barre City's Cushman said. "The cost of everything is skyrocketing."

Burlington, Hartford and South Burlington also have ordered ambulances for as much as \$432,259 each, only to learn they won't arrive for up to three years because of nationwide supply chain issues. As a result, all anticipate the final price will ultimately increase.

"We've built in \$20,000 for contingencies," Cushman said. "In the meantime, we've got our fingers crossed that our 2008 ambulance makes it."

Unlike for fires, combined stations can bill public and private insurance for EMS calls. But none have found that the resulting payments cover rising budgets.

"Most of the patients we transport rely on Medicare or Medicaid, but the federal government reimburses at a very low rate," South Burlington's Locke said. "That, by and large, is the driving factor on why there's very much a demand but no money to be made."

Departments, in fact, annually have to decide how much to write off in unpaid ambulance bills. Hartford, for example, just logged

FROM SECTION FRONT

a \$138,499 loss from unpaid ambulance bills, up from \$90,000 to \$100,000 in years past.

**'Pushed our fragile system ... to the point of crisis'**

In Brattleboro, former Town Manager Yoshi Manale painted a different picture a year ago when he projected a municipal EMS takeover would reap "\$500,000 to \$700,000 net gain in revenue," just before the Selectboard approved a transition plan with little notice or public debate.

An independent feasibility study conducted after Manale abruptly resigned eight weeks later not only debunked the former Brattleboro manager's figures, but also found the town's former provider, the private non-profit Rescue Inc., was the most economical choice for maintaining current local coverage.

In comparison, the study determined that a proposed Brattleboro Fire Department takeover would increase costs and bolster the town's understaffed system of crisis response.

Brattleboro leaders still have not shared any of the facts or figures that caused them to drop Rescue Inc. But the agenda for Tuesday's Selectboard meeting reports they plan to reveal estimated first-year start-up costs for a combined fire/EMS department that total \$1.3 million to \$1.9 million.

In comparison, Brattleboro had signed a \$285,600 annual contract with Rescue Inc. before the Selectboard dropped the nearly 60-year agreement last year.

Nationally, ambulance operating costs jumped 22% between 2017 and 2020, according to a recent FAIR Health study of 36 billion claim records, while average Medicare reimbursement increased by just 5%.

"Years of inadequate reimbursement for services rendered, unreliable levels of local, state and federal support, and the pressure of the global pandemic have pushed our fragile system and those who serve our communities to the point of crisis," the Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee wrote in a recent report to the state Legislature.

Of Vermont's 28 cities and towns with 5,000 or more people, 13 run their own ambulances through their fire departments or, in the case of six communities, separate municipal facilities. None report making a profit, with taxpayers subsidizing as much as two-thirds of standalone EMS spending after insurance collection, according to a VTDigger survey.

"The department is concerned with our ability to meet the service demands of our community," Locke wrote in South Burlington's most recent annual report. "There does not appear to be any reduction of the medical call frequency on the horizon."

## Windham World Affairs Council hosts talk on 'Antarctica: Axis of Ocean Currents, Climate, and Exploration'

BRATTLEBORO — On Thursday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m., at 118 Elliot, the Windham World Affairs Council (WWAC) will host a timely and moving discussion of Antarctica with physicist and photographer Jack Jewell and his partner, Tina Boniface, who will share their observations having recently returned from the Antarctic region.

Through breathtaking photographs shown on a big screen, their travelogue will prompt a discussion of evolving geopolitics and the worldwide environmental impact of climate change

in Antarctica.

The event is free but a \$10 donation is suggested to support WWAC's work. Reserve your space by registering at [bit.ly/720-axis](http://bit.ly/720-axis).

A mostly retired scientist, entrepreneur, and pioneer in the field of fiber optics, Jewell holds a doctorate in optical sciences from the University of Arizona.

At Bell Laboratories in the 1980s, he spearheaded a collaboration that demonstrated over 1 million lasers on a chip smaller than a pinky nail in a quest to develop computer logic devices based on optics instead of electronics.

That ignited the field of vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSELs), which are now used in fiber communications, laser mice, sensors, atomic clocks, medicine, smartphone/tablet "dot projectors" for facial recognition, and 3D-sensing lidar. Jewell started two companies and holds 79 U.S. Patents.

"What happens in the Antarctic doesn't stay there," Jewell said in a news release. "Climate change in the Antarctic has severe global impacts as it plays a vital role in global climate and oceanographic processes — the massive changes underway affect our whole planet."

For more information about WWAC, visit [windhamworldaffairsCouncil.org](http://windhamworldaffairsCouncil.org), or contact Susan Healy at [windhamworldaffairsCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:windhamworldaffairsCouncil@gmail.com) or 781-422-9485.

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JEFFREY STARRATT

Vermont Jazz Center honored its longtime artistic/executive director Eugene Uman and Elsa Borrero, a graphic designer, lighting technician, and photographer, for the couple's work in building a vibrant jazz scene in southern Vermont.

Eugene Uman and Elsa Borrero earn praise for their quarter century of leadership at the Vermont Jazz Center

# Helping **Jazz** flourish — in Vermont and beyond

By Annie Landenberger

The Commons

**B**RATTLEBORO—A major player on Vermont's lively arts scene, the Vermont Jazz Center (VJC) has a story that goes back some 50 years.

But the driving force for its excellence, inclusivity, and education for half those years has been Eugene Uman, its artistic and executive director, and Elsa Borrero, graphic designer, lighting technician, and photographer.

At a recent private gathering of friends and family honoring the two at the VJC's headquarters at the Cotton Mill, state Reps. Sara Coffey, D-Guilford, and Mollie Burke, D-Brattleboro, presented Uman and Borrero with a House concurrent resolution — a

document to honor not only the couple's nurturing of a world-class jazz hub but also the learning community they created over the past 25 years.

Citing "their quarter century of leadership at the Vermont Jazz Center" and "their individual artistic and educational contributions," the document outlines the couple's history with the nonprofit.

"In 1997, jazz pianist Uman assumed the directorship of the VJC [...] and Borrero became a leader at the institution," the resolution reads. Lawmakers praised the couple for being "dedicated to creating, promoting, and preserving jazz for a broad constituency of artists, students, and the public."

The resolution notes that "the educational offerings of the VJC range from youth ensembles to choruses to an in-house big band to

a summer jazz workshop" and that "stellar performances are held in a dedicated 250-seat hall, and a library and archives offer informative resources."

Uman has "produced over 320 VJC concerts; has written and arranged over 150 jazz compositions" and, "as an educator, has taught at the VJC, the Governor's Institute on the Arts, and Amherst College," as well as at Marlboro College and Greenfield Community College.

He also initiated a jazz studies program at the Universidad EAFIT in Medellín, Colombia, and he was "honored to be named a MacDowell Fellow" at the arts residency program in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

■ SEE QUARTER CENTURY, B4

## 'Latingrass' music comes to Springs Farm in Guilford

**GUILFORD**—Under the maple trees at the Historic Springs Farm, 49 Carpenter Hill Rd., in Guilford Center, the award-winning duo Larry & Joe play Latin music and bluegrass on Saturday, June 24, at 7 p.m. Concert-goers are invited to bring picnics with friends and family.

Larry & Joe is the duo of Joropo maestro Larry Bellorin (Monagas, Venezuela) and Grammy-nominated bluegrass and old-time star Joe Troop (Winston-Salem, North Carolina). These two multi-instrumentalists fuse their respective Venezuelan and Appalachian folk traditions on the harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, upright bass, guitar, and maracas. Their bilingual program includes storytelling, humor, and singalongs.

Bellorin, a legend of Llanera music, was forced into exile and is now an asylum seeker in North Carolina. Troop, after a decade in South America, got stranded back in North Carolina during the pandemic. Bellorin worked in construction to make ends meet, while Troop's acclaimed "latingrass" band Che Apalache was forced into hiatus, and he

shifted into action working with asylum-seeking migrants. Then Larry met Joe, and a collaboration was born.

Currently based in the "Triangle" of North Carolina, both men are multi-instrumentalists and singer-songwriters, and the program they offer features a distinct blend of their musical inheritances and traditions as well as storytelling about the ways that music and social movements coalesce.

The suggested admission is \$10-20, with no one turned away. Children are admitted free. There is limited parking at the farm for anyone who needs close-in access. Otherwise, park off Carpenter Hill Road at the library, lower field, or playscape.

**Larry & Joe is the duo of Joropo maestro Larry Bellorin (Monagas, Venezuela) and bluegrass star Joe Troop (Winston-Salem, North Carolina).**



Publication of this week's Calendar is underwritten by BERKLEY & VELLER GREENWOOD COUNTRY REALTORS • [www.berkleyveller.com](http://www.berkleyveller.com)



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# arts & community CALENDAR

**THURSDAY**

## 22

**Performing arts**  
**BRATTLEBORO Variety Comedy Show: "Free Satan"**: Inspired by the freedom that comes from releasing our own inner demons and laughing at the harder parts of life, features a mix of sketch comedy, stand-up, improv, music, dancing, more. Fans of philosophical content and dark humor will enjoy the monthly monologue and opening dance number. Those who love stand-up, sketch and improv will appreciate the rotating variety of comics brought in and presented in unique and interesting ways. Audience members will also have a chance to participate in various parts of the show and win prizes.  
 ▶ 7:30 p.m. Local comic Monk Imon (comedy stage name for artist Marisa Imon) will host this monthly experimental comedy talk show featuring comedic performers from around New England every 4th Thurs. of the month. This first showing features local celebrity/actor (Clickbait, Blood of the Tribades) and filmmaker (Shiny Diamonds, Just Relax) Seth Chattfield; stand up comic from Concord NH, who will be in the Edinburg Fringe Comedy Festival this summer, Bill Douglas; Bellows Falls martial artist and stage performer Rachel Ekken; Storyteller, performer, philosopher Djeli from Brattleboro; Improviser from Burlington, Theo Krawczyk, and more.  
 ▶ Pay what you want: <https://www.freestatan.com>. All proceeds go to the performers.  
 ▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: 802-281-3232; hookerdunham.org.

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**JUNE 23 - 29**

**ASTERIOD CITY** PG-13  
 FRI. / MON.-THU. 4 & 7  
 SAT. & SUN. 2:15 & 7

**SPIDER-MAN ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE** PG  
 FRI. / MON.-THU. 4 & 6:50  
 SAT. & SUN. 2 & 6:50

**THE FLASH** PG-13  
 FRI. / MON.-THU. 3:45 & 6:40  
 SAT. & SUN. 2:15 & 6:40

**ELEMENTAL** PG  
 FRI. / MON.-THU. 4:15 & 7:10  
 SAT. & SUN. 1:45 & 7:10

**Outdoor Concert**  
**The Rear Defrosters**  
 June 25, 6-7:30pm  
**Marlboro Community Center**  
 Info at [marlborocommunity.center](http://marlborocommunity.center)

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**THURSDAY CONT.**

**Music**  
**BRATTLEBORO "Free Satan": Variety Comedy Talk Show**: Inspired by the freedom that comes from releasing our own inner demons and laughing at the harder parts of life, show features a mix of sketch comedy, stand-up, improv, music, dancing, more. Fans of philosophical content and dark humor will enjoy the monthly monologue and opening dance number. Those who love stand-up, sketch and improv will appreciate the rotating variety of comics brought in and presented in unique and interesting ways.  
 ▶ 7:30 p.m.-8:40 approx. This first showing features local celebrity, comedian, co-owner of Sidestream Studio Toni Nagy; stand-up comic Bill Douglas; martial artist/stage performer Rachel Ekken; improviser Theo Krawczyk, and more!  
 Audience can participate in parts of show and win prizes. Content is uncensored and viewer discretion is advised.  
 ▶ Tickets available on a "pay what you want" basis.  
 ▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: Tickets: [freestatan.com](http://freestatan.com).

**FRIDAY**

## 23

**Pets**  
**Why Does My Dog Do That? (Zoom)**: We love our dogs but let's face it - they can behave in ways that make us frustrated and sometimes even frightened. In this webinar, Townshend-based Janice Zazinski of Janice Z Dog Training discusses why dogs behave the way they do, covers common behavior issues, debunks some dog behavior myths, give ideas for immediate help, and recommends when to consult a professional.  
 ▶ 12:30 p.m. Webinar will also be recorded and sent to registrants. Registration closes 30 min. before scheduled start. Participants also receive 10% off future session with Janice Z Dog Training.  
 ▶ \$25 (shared equally with Windham County Humane Society).  
 ▶ Zoom. Information: Register at [janicezdogtraining.com/webinars](http://janicezdogtraining.com/webinars).

**Community meals**  
**WILLIAMSVILLE Complimentary Monthly Breakfast at Williamsville Hall**: This monthly breakfast is complimentary and open to everyone. Enjoy homemade pastries, tea, coffee, and orange juice. If the weather is good, seating will be outside; if the weather is poor, seating will be inside.  
 ▶ 8-10:30 a.m. ADA compliant.  
 ▶ Donations for the hall are appreciated.  
 ▶ Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd.  
 Information: [williamsvillehall@gmail.com](mailto:williamsvillehall@gmail.com), [williamsvillehall.org](http://williamsvillehall.org).

**Ideas and education**  
**BRATTLEBORO What happens in Antarctica does not stay in the Antarctic!** Antarctica: Axis of Ocean Currents,

**Twilight Music**  
 Twilight on the Tavern Lawn FREE CONCERT SERIES  
**Sunday, June 25 at 6 pm**  
**THE WYLD NIGHTZ BAND**  
 Classic rockin' party music by 6 multi-instrumentalists/vocalists.  
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 Main Street, Putney  
 Info: 802-387-5772  
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[www.twilightmusic.org](http://www.twilightmusic.org)

**Music**  
**GUILDFORD Outdoor Concert: "Latingrass: Larry and Joe"**: Picnic with friends/family under the maple trees at Springs Farm and listen to this award-winning duo play their unique blend of Latin music/bluegrass. Joropo maestro Larry Bellorin (Venezuela) and Grammy-nominated bluegrass/old-time star Joe Troop (NC) are virtuosic multi-instrumentalists fusing their respective Venezuelan and Appalachian folk traditions on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, upright bass, guitar, maracas and prove music has no borders.  
 ▶ 7 p.m. Bilingual (Español/English) program includes sing-alongs, storytelling, humor. The program they offer features a distinct blend of their musical inheritances/traditions as well as storytelling about the ways that music and social movements coalesce. Limited parking at Farm for anyone who needs close access. Otherwise, park off Carpenter Hill Rd. at library, lower field, or playscape.  
 ▶ Suggested admission \$10 to \$20, free for children. No one turned away.  
 ▶ Springs Farm, 49 Carpenter Hill Rd.  
**BRATTLEBORO Estey Organ Museum's Tin Pan Alley Sing-Along**: Join us in song with more than a dozen seniors, "The Estey Pipers," singing music from Tin Pan Alley. Group is directed by Lisa McCormick, singer/songwriter/musician, and accompanied by The Green Mountain Strummers Ukulele Group with Cal Heile, Deb Noe, Susan Rosano, and Laren Shapiro on ukuleles, Dennis Waring on clarinet, Dan DeWalt plays the Estey Organ.  
 ▶ 1-2 p.m. in the main library. Estey Organ Museum's Tin Pan Alley Sing-Along Project is sponsored by a Creative Aging Grant from the Vermont Arts Council Awarded to the Estey Organ Museum. Rosano created the Tin Pan Alley Sing-Along Program for the Estey Organ Museum with Dennis Waring, PhD, President of museum's Board of Trustees. Regular singing can lift your spirits, relieve stress, increase immunity, bring joy into your life.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: More information, email: [rosano754@gmail.com](mailto:rosano754@gmail.com).

**Music**  
**DUMMERSTON Hazelnuts Duo**: 1960s-'90s hits and b-side classics.  
 ▶ 6-8 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Kampfire Campgrounds, 792 US-5. Information: 802-254-2098.

**Farmers' markets**  
**BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Area Farmers Market**: BAFM has over 50 vendors, bringing our region's best farmers, makers, and chefs all to one place. Live music 11 a.m.-1 p.m., special events and workshops throughout the season.  
 ▶ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. Rain or shine.  
 ▶ Through Saturday, October 28.  
 ▶ Brattleboro Farmers Market, 570 Western Ave., Rt. 9, near covered bridge. Information: 802-490-4371; [brattleborofarmersmarket.com](http://brattleborofarmersmarket.com).

**Climate, Exploration**: Presented by Windham World Affairs Council. Through breathtaking photographs shown on a big screen, this travelog will prompt a discussion of evolving geopolitics and the worldwide environmental impact of climate change in Antarctica. Travelog/discussion with physicist/photographer Jack Jewell (scientist, entrepreneur and pioneer in the field of fiber optics) and writer Tina Boniface (world traveler, writer, marketing specialist for solar energy).  
 ▶ 6:30 p.m.  
 ▶ Free (\$10 donation appreciated).  
 ▶ One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliott.com.

**THURSDAY CONT.**

**Climate, Exploration**: Presented by Windham World Affairs Council. Through breathtaking photographs shown on a big screen, this travelog will prompt a discussion of evolving geopolitics and the worldwide environmental impact of climate change in Antarctica. Travelog/discussion with physicist/photographer Jack Jewell (scientist, entrepreneur and pioneer in the field of fiber optics) and writer Tina Boniface (world traveler, writer, marketing specialist for solar energy).  
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**FRIDAY**

## 23

**Well-being**  
**WILLIAMSVILLE Manitou Healing Walk**: This meditative led by Fred Taylor include poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience. The Manitou Project seeks to foster community with Nature on its 235-acre land preserve in Williamsville (300 Sunset Lake Dr). These walks are held every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month until October.  
 ▶ 4 p.m. Meet at parking lot. Walk ends at 5:30 p.m. Rain or shine. Directions: Go 1.4 miles up Sunset Lake Rd. from Williamsville Village, sign on right. Or approx. 5.6 miles over top of Sunset Lake Rd. from Rt. 9.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Manitou Project, 300 Sunset Lake Rd. Information: More information, contact Fred at 802-254-2675.

**Community building**  
**BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Queer Dance Party and Cabaret**: BQDP&C is back this Pride Month with a GLAM themed dance party and cabaret featuring DJ LeFox and performances by Patty Cake and the Glam Dancers, Fanny Lockhart, Edith Ass, Skins, and more with special guest MC Theyde Bedbug. LeFox spins soulful mix of deep house, tribal, indie, nu disco, electro pop, '80s. This is a place where folks are safe to express their deepest selves while celebrating collective dance floor experience.  
 ▶ 9 p.m.-1 a.m. For ages 18 and over. Masks strongly encouraged.  
 ▶ \$10 to \$20 sliding scale.  
 ▶ The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: 802-579-9960; [stonechurchvt.com](http://stonechurchvt.com).

**SATURDAY**

## 24

**Performing arts**  
**BRATTLEBORO Comedy Show: Dave Hill and Toni Nagy**: NYC Comedian Dave Hill joins forces with Brattleboro's Toni Nagy. Elm City Comedy is beyond thrilled to assist Dave on his 2023 tour. Hang with us and support your local comedy scene while seeing hilarious professionals!  
 ▶ 7:30-9 p.m. (doors open 7 p.m.).  
 ▶ \$20 online, \$25 at door.  
 ▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: 802-281-3232; [hookerdunham.org](http://hookerdunham.org).

**Music**  
**GUILDFORD Outdoor Concert: "Latingrass: Larry and Joe"**: Picnic with friends/family under the maple trees at Springs Farm and listen to this award-winning duo play their unique blend of Latin music/bluegrass. Joropo maestro Larry Bellorin (Venezuela) and Grammy-nominated bluegrass/old-time star Joe Troop (NC) are virtuosic multi-instrumentalists fusing their respective Venezuelan and Appalachian folk traditions on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, upright bass, guitar, maracas and prove music has no borders.  
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 ▶ Through Saturday, October 28.  
 ▶ Brattleboro Farmers Market, 570 Western Ave., Rt. 9, near covered bridge. Information: 802-490-4371; [brattleborofarmersmarket.com](http://brattleborofarmersmarket.com).

**SATURDAY CONT.**

**The written word**  
**BELLOWS FALLS Rockingham Free Public Library Book Sale**  
 ▶ 10 a.m.-3 p.m. both days. On 6/24, Friends of the Library are holding a bake sale during the book sale.  
 ▶ Through Sunday, June 25.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; [rockinghamlibrary.org](http://rockinghamlibrary.org).

**WILMINGTON Katherine MacLean Book Launch: "Midnight Water: A Psychedelic Memoir"**: Join groundbreaking psychedelic scientist/author MacLean for a deep dive into "Midnight Water," her debut memoir. Explore the bardos of family life, death, spiritual rebirth through reading, discussion, live music by vibraphonist Chris Dingman (Psychedelic Sangha). Grief/redemption is not only a personal story of psychedelic healing but an inspired vision for a psychedelic future positioning women/family caregivers at the center of home-based healing, from birth to death.  
 ▶ 6 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Bartlelys Books, 17 W. Main St. Information: RSVP: [tinyurl.com/53duev93](http://tinyurl.com/53duev93).

**Kids and families**  
**GUILDFORD Family Garden Party**: Join Laura Lawson Tucker to make the Library a more beautiful place with lots of flowers. We'll serve tea and scones too and send you home with your own garden book.  
 ▶ 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: More information: 802-257-4603.

**DUMMERSTON Dummerston Congregational Church annual Strawberry Shortcake Sale and Picnic**: Bring a blanket or lawn chair and spend time with friends to kick off the Summer by having dessert for dinner!  
 ▶ 4-7 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Dummerston Congregational Church, 1535 Middle Rd. Individual desserts \$8, family-sized shortcakes (serve 8) available by reservation for \$50. Call 802-257-0544. 802-257-0544; [susanna@griefen.com](mailto:susanna@griefen.com).

**BRATTLEBORO Schools Out Celebration (Music, Games, Fun for the entire family)**  
 ▶ 12 noon-3 p.m. on the lawn. Food for sale.  
 ▶ Free and open to the public.  
 ▶ Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. Information: More info: Bonnie Girvan 808 307-1623, [girvangardens@gmail.com](mailto:girvangardens@gmail.com).

**BRATTLEBORO Winston Prouty Center - Par for the Cause fundraiser**: Annual event includes fun activities for young children and their families including a decorated disc-golf game, dramatic play and sensory stations, toddler-size bouncy houses, forest fairy house building, giant bubbles and water play, finger painting, obstacle course, storybook walk, music/puppet performances. Vermont Gelato and Dosa Kitchen will be on site and Jamie Champney from Living Well Naturally will offer a creative and fun snack activity.  
 ▶ 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Event is designed for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Sponsored by The Trust Company of Vermont, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, and Park Place Advisors.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Winston Prouty Campus, 209 Austine Dr. Information: [winstonprouty.org/par](http://winstonprouty.org/par).

**Well-being**  
**WILLIAMSVILLE Half-Day Nature Retreat at Manitou - with Vermont Insight Meditation Center and Amanda Kenyon, Landkind Guide**: Nature reminds us we live in a perpetual state of change and impermanence. We belong in every moment and are an important part of a big whole. This offsite morning retreat is an experiential practice for reconnecting with nature. Inspired by the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, "forest bathing," it integrates principles from Buddhism, wilderness guiding, experiential education.  
 ▶ 9 a.m.-12 noon. The forest bathing practice is a heart-centered approach to nature reconnection that intertwaves present moment awareness, embodiment, the senses, gratitude, and reciprocity. Retreat will be a combination of sitting, walking, and meandering over short distances on gently rolling terrain.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Manitou Project, 300 Sunset Lake Rd. Information: More details / registration: [vermontinsight.org](http://vermontinsight.org).

**Community building**  
**BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Savings & Loan Shred Day**: "Each year at the end of Shred Day, SecurShred gives the bank a check for recycled paper that the Bank then donates to a local charity. This year, BS&L will be taking all the proceeds from this event, and other events throughout this coming year, to create a scholarship offered to local high school seniors involved in making our community better and brighter."  
 ▶ 9 a.m.-12 noon. "While we provide Shred Day as a free community service, we welcome donations which are then added to funds that SecurShred gives to the Bank. Though Shred Day may not exactly be a movie-worthy event, it is a great example of a service that creates a ton (or two) of benefit for our neighbors, our planet, our community."  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brattleboro Savings & Loan, 221 Main St. Information: 888-806-6400.

**Visual arts and shows**  
**BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: Opening of Eight New Exhibitions**: New site-specific installation by Aurora Robson - fantastical forms made from reclaimed plastic debris. Anina Major's ceramic sculptures explore identity/belonging in context of immigration. Alec Egan's paintings tap into our psychological relationship with home. Roberley Bell probes emotive potential of materials/form. Pride 1983: Archival dive into a crucial moment in VT's history. Glasstastic returns for new iteration of glass sculptures inspired by children's drawings.  
 ▶ 5 p.m. Includes outdoor exhibitions by Hannah Morris and Lela Joacks enliven BMAC's facade and grounds. Plus complimentary tacos by Tito's Taqueria, cash bar by Saxtons River Distillery, grooves you can dance to by DJ Bux Wild.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 28 Vernon St. Information: 802-257-0124; [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

**Ideas and education**  
**Windham County Genealogy Interest Group: "Probate Records" and "Resources in Ireland" (via Zoom)**: Wayne Blanchard focuses on 1st topic above. Jerry Carone on the 2nd. Many useful ge-

nealogical gems can be found in probate records - legal process of settling estate of deceased person. But not everything is digitized - research may involve a trip to a state archive/county courthouse/town clerk office. Do you have Irish roots and don't know where to begin? "Dipping your Toe in Irish Research" helps you start w/ basic resources for finding your Irish ancestors.  
 ▶ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Zoom. [windhamcountyig@gmail.com](mailto:windhamcountyig@gmail.com)  
 Register for Zoom: [bit.ly/WCGIGJUNE24](https://bit.ly/WCGIGJUNE24).

**Film and video**  
**BRATTLEBORO CineSLAM Pride Film Festival at the Latchis**: LOVE AND HATE IN THE TIME OF COVID: humorous look at shared experience of pandemic isolation; WORKWEAR: collapse of public and private lives during pandemic; BAR STORIES FROM QUEER MAINE: funny/poignant accounts of gay bars as important community venues, organizing, sex, safety; REWRITTEN: THE SCREENDANCE: multi-disciplinary performance project by Tom Truss/Matthew Cumble exploring mysterious connection/sudden parting of Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville.  
 ▶ 4 p.m. Plus theatrical premiere of *HERE SHE COMES: final years of filmmaker Sybil Patten's grandmother's life in Heartland Four Corners, VT. Sponsored by the Kopkind Colony. CineSLAM is VT's first LGBTQ film festival. CineSLAM 2023 focuses on putting the pandemic behind us/uplifting stories of New England LGBTQ history.*  
 ▶ Tickets are \$12.  
 ▶ Latchis (Films), 50 Main St. Ticketholder after-party features Pride cake and sparkling cider at Latchis Pub. More information/tickets: [visit.cineslam.com](http://visit.cineslam.com).

**SUNDAY**

## 25

**Music**  
**MARLBORO The Rear Defrosters**: Founded in 2012, this is "the best little honkytonk band you've never heard of." They operate with a rotating cast of all-star musicians and their deep repertoire pays tribute to the greats of country music from the last century, from Jimmie Rodgers to Johnny Cash to Dwight Yoakam. In 2018, Lost Honey Records released "Gentleman Farmer," the band's first album of original songs, penned by singer/guitarist Michael Roberts and recorded live.  
 ▶ 6-7:30 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic. If it rains, show moves into upstairs of the Meetinghouse - same address. This is an annual fundraiser for Marlboro Community Center, a space that provides events, gathering space, food for the community. There also will be a \$0/\$50 raffle.  
 ▶ \$10 per person, \$20 per family (tickets at door).  
 ▶ Marlboro Community Center, 524 South Rd. Information: [marlborocommunity.center](http://marlborocommunity.center).

**PUTNEY Twilight on the Tavern Lawn presents The Wyld Nightz Band**: The Wyld Nightz Band features a diverse collection of classic rockin' party music by six multi-instrumentalists/vocalists with decades of combined performing experience in southern Vermont. Michael McKinney (guitar, cornet), Jeff Brewer (guitar, bass, banjo), Tony Speranza Jr (alto sax, recorder, pennywhistle), Tony Speranza (multi-keyboards), Matt Martyn (bass, trombone), and Pete Nichols (drums).  
 ▶ Concert series continues every other Sunday through 8/20. Food available. Co-presented with Next Stage Arts Project and sponsored by Town of Putney, Green Mountain Well, Soundview Paper Company, Rod's, many other Putney area businesses and organizations.  
 ▶ Free to the public (donations accepted).  
 ▶ Putney Tavern Lawn, Main St., downtown Putney. Information: 802-387-5772.

**GRAFTON Grafton Cornet Band Concert on Grafton Library Lawn**: Informal mix of familiar and upbeat music for the whole family on the lawn, in beautiful surroundings with director Glen D'Eon. Any visiting band instrument players who would like to help should come to the rehearsal one hour earlier. Loaner instruments are available, including double-bell euphonium, Eb bass, slide trumpet, and the usual.  
 ▶ 5-6 p.m. Rain venue: Grafton Community Church (great acoustics).  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Grafton Public Library, 35 Grafton Common. Information: 802-843-2404; [librarian@graffonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:librarian@graffonpubliclibrary.org).

**Instruction**  
**WEST DUMMERSTON Nonalcoholic Beer Presentation**: Learn to make it at home!  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Lydia Taft Pratt Library, 156 West St. Information: Register: Email [dauid.schottland@gmail.com](mailto:dauid.schottland@gmail.com).

**Community building**  
**GUILDFORD All Souls Church "Out in the Open: Interfaith Pride Service"**: We'll gather with faith communities celebrating and supporting our GLBTQ friends and family! The Service will be held outdoors under the new pavilion at Guilford Community Park.  
 ▶ 10 a.m.  
 ▶ Guilford Community Park.

**MONDAY**

## 26

**Music**  
**BRATTLEBORO Kevin Parry Hosts Open Mic - for Musicians only - every Monday at River Garden Marketplace**  
 ▶ 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ River Garden Marketplace, 157 Main St. Information: To sign up for a 10-minute set visit [kevinparrymusic.com](http://kevinparrymusic.com) and click on Open Mic.

**MONDAY CONT.**

month of June, how to use them, how to store them, and share our favorite strawberry recipes!  
 ▶ 5-7 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Questions? Contact [cooking@ediblebrattleboro.org](mailto:cooking@ediblebrattleboro.org) Registration recommended: [ediblebrattleboro.org/event/strawberry-palooza/](http://ediblebrattleboro.org/event/strawberry-palooza/).

**TUESDAY**

## 27

**Music**  
**PUTNEY "Some Favored Nook" plus other works by guest composer Eric Nathan**: Plus Tony Arnold, soprano, William Sharp, piano, and Seth Knopp, piano.  
 ▶ 8 p.m.  
 ▶ \$25 (\$21 seniors, \$12 students).  
 ▶ Yellow Barn, 49 Main St. Information: 802-387-6637; [yellowbarn.org](http://yellowbarn.org).

**Well-being**  
**BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic**: Primary medical treatment for patients ages 18 to 64 in our community who do not have health insurance or who cannot afford their high deductibles or co-insurance.  
 ▶ 5-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.  
 ▶ Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic, 191 Clark Ave. Information: 802-251-8484; [brattleborowalkinclinic.com](http://brattleborowalkinclinic.com).

**Community building**  
**NEWFANE Public Conversation on Gender Diversity, Faith, and Spirituality**: In 2023 alone, over 530 bills have been introduced nationwide seeking to limit/restrict gender-affirming care, criminalize drag performances, redefine trans people out of (legal) existence, among myriad other harms. To help contextualize these developments/better understand the spiritual/theological issues at play we'll be joined by Rev. Dr. Donnie Anderson - a visible activist for the transgender community speaking from lived experience.  
 ▶ 7 p.m. Newfane Congregational Church's 4th public conversation of the year focusing on gender diversity. Dr. Anderson came out to her family and the world as a transgender woman at the age of 69. She's an educator, counselor, social activist.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Newfane Congregational Church, 11 Church St. Information: More information, contact Pastor Matt Deen: [matt@newfane.church](mailto:matt@newfane.church), 802-365-4079.

**WEDNESDAY**

## 28

**Music**  
**BRATTLEBORO Eddie 9V with Lexi Weege & JJ Slater Band**  
 ▶ 8 p.m.  
 ▶ \$17 in advance, \$20 at door.  
 ▶ The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: Tickets/more information: [stonechurchvt.com](http://stonechurchvt.com).

**Kids and families**  
**JACKSONVILLE Diane Edgecomb - Storyteller from Boston**  
 ▶ 1 p.m. All ages welcome.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Whitingham Free Public Library, 2948 VT Rte. 100. Information: 802-368-7506.

**Well-being**  
**BRATTLEBORO Zumba Fitness Classes (Brattleboro Rec. & Parks Dept.)**: We take the "work" out of workout by mixing high-intensity/low intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. Once the Latin/World rhythms take over, you'll see why these classes are often called exercise in disguise. Super effective? Check. Super fun? Check. Total workout combines all elements of fitness - boosted energy, flexibility, cardio, balance, muscle conditioning, serious dose of awesome.  
 ▶ 5:30-6:30 p.m. Classes continue: 6/28, 7/12, 7/19, 8/2, 8/9. Open to ages 16 and older (16 to 18 year-olds must have a waiver with parent's signature). Class size minimum is 8 and maximum is 30.  
 ▶ \$8 per class for Brattleboro residents, \$10 non-residents / 10-session punch passes \$50, \$75 non-residents.  
 ▶ Brattleboro Common, btw. Putney Rd. & Linden St. Information: Register: [tinyurl.com/Asrdtnuf](http://tinyurl.com/Asrdtnuf) or stop in: 207 Main St., Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-12 noon or 1-5 p.m.

**Community meals**  
**DUMMERSTON Evening Star Grange and Senior Solutions 4th Wednesday Luncheon**: Menu includes Chicken a la King, Rice, Green Beans, vegetarian quiche, with strawberry shortcake for dessert.  
 ▶ Take-outs: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Eat in: 12 noon. "Meals are open to everyone. Reservation for take-out or eat-in meals is strongly suggested so we have enough food."  
 ▶ \$3 for those 60 and above, \$4 for the younger set.  
 ▶ Evening Star Grange, 1008 East-West Rd. Information: Reservations: 802-254-1138. Leave name, phone #, number of meals, whether you are eating in or taking out.

To submit your event: [calendar@commonsnews.org](mailto:calendar@commonsnews.org)  
 Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday  
 Visit [commonsnews.org](http://commonsnews.org) for more listings with more details



## Epsilon Spires presents the Pink Floyd/Wizard of Oz mash-up 'Dark Side of the Moon' in 3D

BRATTLEBORO—At sundown on Friday, June 30, the Backlot Cinema at Epsilon Spires will present the fabled combination of Pink Floyd's album *Dark Side of the Moon* played at the same time as the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* — producing unexpected synchronicities that have spurred decades of conspiracy theories about whether Pink Floyd intentionally created their album as a soundtrack to the film.

To enhance the experience even further, the version of *The Wizard of Oz* that will be shown during the event will become three-dimensional when viewed through anaglyph glasses provided to audience members.

"Half the fun of exploring this marvel is watching with a group of friends and shouting out the correlations as you make connections," writes journalist Charlie

Savage in a 1995 article in *The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* that is believed to be the first mainstream media piece about the astonishing coincidences. Savage, who went on to win a Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting in 2006, titled his article "Dark Side of the Rainbow," which is now frequently used as a name for the pairing of the album and film.

Many years before the term "mash-up" entered the pop culture lexicon, the combination of *Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wizard of Oz* began delighting viewers with its bizarre concurrences.

These include moments such as the words "home, home again" from the song "Breathe" being sung as the fortune teller tells Dorothy to go home, and the lyrics "the lunatic is on the grass" and "got to keep the loonies on

the path" from the song "Brain Damage" coinciding with shots of the Scarecrow on the grass and the yellow brick road, among many others.

The tendency for humans to derive meaning from perceived patterns is called "apophenia," a term first coined by the German psychiatrist Klaus Conrad in 1958 when he was studying schizophrenia. While extreme versions of this phenomenon are associated with mental illness, it is believed to have developed naturally as an evolutionary advantage that helped our ancestors recognize patterns associated with threats.

When reached for comment, members of Pink Floyd have categorically denied any relationship between the album and the film. In a 2009 *Rolling Stone* article, *Dark Side of the Moon* audio engineer Alan Parsons calls

the theory that the synchronicity was intentional "a complete load of eyewash."

Tickets for *Dark Side of the Rainbow* are available on a sliding scale of \$5 to \$15 and can be purchased in advance at [epsilonspires.org](http://epsilonspires.org). The event is being sponsored by the local recreational cannabis dispensary Vermont Bud Barn; if ticket holders visit the Bud Barn the day of the event and show their ticket confirmation, they will receive free surprises and 20% off of one item.

Doors open at 8 p.m., with the screening beginning at approximately 8:30 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to bring their own blankets, cushions, or folding chairs. Restrooms and refreshments will be available. In the case of rain or low temperature, this event will be moved indoors to the Sanctuary of Epsilon Spires.



Jennifer Cook

## Expert from 'Love on the Spectrum' to deliver keynote at Landmark

PUTNEY—Landmark College will present a free public talk by Jennifer Cook, bestselling author and cast member of the Netflix series *Love on the Spectrum* on Monday, June 26, at 2 p.m. in the Brooks M. O'Brien auditorium, located in the Lewis Academic Building.

The presentation, entitled "Love on the Human Spectrum," draws on Cook's experience as an autistic woman with three children, who are also autistic, to bring audiences a unique insider perspective on the beauty of differently-wired brains.

Cook is the author of eight bestselling books, including the *Asperkids* collection, *Sisterhood of the Spectrum* and *Autism in Heels*. She also serves as the on-camera expert for the U.S. version of *Therapies*.

A graduate of Brown University and the Graduate School of Social Work at

Columbia University, Cook also sits on the Autism Society of America's Council of Autistic Advisors and consults for the U.S. Congressional Autism Research Panel.

Cook's talk is the keynote presentation for Landmark College's annual Summer Institute for Educators, a three-day conference (June 26-28) providing hands-on workshops and world-class research presentations about teaching students who learn differently, including students with learning disabilities (such as dyslexia), ADHD, and autism.

More information about the Summer Institute can be found at [landmark.edu/LCSI](http://landmark.edu/LCSI).

For more information, including directions to campus, contact the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training at [institute@landmark.edu](mailto:institute@landmark.edu) or 802-387-1662.

## Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival returns for 2023 summer season

JAMAICA—Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival (PFCM) is returning to celebrate the 2023 summer season with an admission-free concert series. Concerts begin on Tuesday, Aug. 8, in Jamaica and run through Saturday, Aug. 12.

In the summer of 2012, Susanna Loewy founded a summer festival emphasizing music and visual art. In the foothills of the Green Mountains, Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival

was born.

Since then, PFCM has performed 59 concerts in Southern Vermont, commissioned 13 world premieres, and has shown 13 works of visual art. This year they will add three concerts with a stronger focus on celebrating the community.

The festival highlights musicians from the Grammy-nominated Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Washington, D.C., as well as musicians from in and

around Vermont. As is PFCM's tradition, a piece by the festival's performer-in-residence will be performed at the concluding concert.

Performances open to the public will be held at the Jamaica Town Hall on Aug. 8 and 12 and at the Grafton Community Church on Aug. 10. Throughout the week, PFCM also performs for Southern Vermont assisted living facilities in Manchester and Townshend. Additionally, PFCM

will celebrate and join the community in hosting a garden party on Aug. 9.

For more information on the Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival, visit [pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com](http://pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com), or contact Executive Director Susanna Loewy at [info@pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com](mailto:info@pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com) or Managing Director Andy Sabol at [andysabol@pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com](mailto:andysabol@pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com).

## BMC's Music Under the Stars kicks off with PESO Pan Evolution Steel Orchestra

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Music Center and Retreat Farm kick off their "Music Under the Stars" summer concert series Saturday, June 24, with a performance by the PESO Pan Evolution Steel Orchestra.

Admission is free. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. at Retreat Farm, with the concert at 6:30 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, June 25. All are welcome to bring lawn chairs

and a picnic, and to enjoy food truck fare and craft beers at The Thirsty Goat bar, and cool treats from Vermont Gelato.

The PESO Pan Evolution Steel Orchestra, a steel pan band, brings world class music to audiences around the U.S. and overseas. Founded in 2015 and based in Brooklyn, New York, the band uses its platform to promote unity throughout the culture and steel

pan community, all while personifying the band motto of "Together As One."

Other scheduled concerts include the Vermont Jazz Center Big Band Saturday, July 22 (rain date July 23), and Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy with special guests Saturday, Aug. 19 (rain date Aug. 20).

The Music Under the Stars series sponsors include Guilford

Sound and other generous donors, and is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Vermont Arts Council.

For more information about Music Under the Stars, contact the BMC at 802-257-4523 or email [info@bmcvt.org](mailto:info@bmcvt.org).

## Gallery in the Woods hosts artist Bobby DiTrani's second solo show

BRATTLEBORO—Artist Bobby DiTrani opens his second solo show at Gallery in the Woods, 145 Main St., on Friday, July 7, during Gallery Walk. According to the gallery, DiTrani's "masterly oil paintings evoke an atmosphere balanced precariously between serene beauty and cataclysmic chaos."

DiTrani is presenting new and past works the gallery says "combine his skill and talent with

figures and faces, smoky forests and far away mountains, and how they might shine in a sunset or the glow of a nearby burning industrial refinery."

Working in oil paints on canvas and panel, DiTrani layers the colors using classical techniques, bringing what the gallery calls "an inner light" to each form.

DiTrani is a multi-talented artist and musician. He studied classical drawing and painting under

Juliette Aristedes at her classical Atelier at the Gage Academy of Art in Seattle, Washington, and his work has been shown extensively on both coasts.

When not painting, he follows many muses. He created more than 200 illustrations for New York Times bestselling author GennaRose Nethercott to accompany a series of narrative prose.

In addition to painting and art, DiTrani and his brother,

Walker, formed a band called the DiTrani Brothers. Together with a drummer and bass player, they travel the country combining the magic of Gypsy jazz with the ribald nonchalance of Tin Pan Alley classics.

For more information, visit [galleryinthewoods.com](http://galleryinthewoods.com) or call 802-257-4777.

## Tin Pan Alley sing-along concert at Estey museum

BRATTLEBORO—The Estey Pipers will perform at Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St., for a Tin Pan Alley sing-along concert on Saturday, June 24, at 1 p.m. in the main area of the library.

Accompanying the 16 Estey Pipers will be the Green Mountain Strummers Ukulele Band, featuring Cal Heile, Deb Noe, Susan Rosano, and Karen Shapiro on ukuleles; Dennis

Waring on clarinet; and Dan DeWalt playing the library's Estey organ.

A Creative Aging Grant from the Vermont Arts Council was awarded to the Estey Organ Museum to support older adults aged 55+ in discovering singing and performing Tin Pan Alley songs through a collaboration with the museum.

Susan Rosano, a Vermont Master Teaching Artist, was

trained by Lifetime Arts of Vermont to design creative aging programs that include skill-based instructional lessons and social engagement opportunities. Rosano says research has shown that regular singing can lift one's spirits, relieve stress, increase immunity, and bring joy to life.

She created the Tin Pan Alley Sing-Along program for the Estey Organ Museum in cooperation with Waring, president of the

museum's board of trustees. Rosano is working in partnership with Lisa McCormick — local singer, songwriter, and musician — who is teaching senior singers in the program.

If you have any questions about the program, contact Rosano at 802-254-6201 or [srosano754@gmail.com](mailto:srosano754@gmail.com).

## Colonial Performing Arts Center announces 2023–24 season

KEENE, N.H.—The Colonial Performing Arts Center, a non-profit leader in both arts education and outreach, announced the 2023–24 season of their organization's main stage.

The Colonial Theatre, with recent major renovations to its lobby, concessions area, stage, and backstage, will be celebrating its 100th birthday in January 2024 and will be offering special birthday events all season.

Enhancements to the stage house structure and riggings at the Colonial accommodate nationally touring aerial acts that have not previously performed in the Monadnock Region.

The internationally touring dance company, Momix, will bring their live-action psychodrama production of *Alice* (inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*) to the stage on Oct. 14. And on April 11, 2024, Cirque Flip Fabrique presents *Blizzard*, a show of exciting circus performers and aerial acrobats set in scenes of wintry wonder.

The Colonial will once again

present popular musical entertainment at the 95 Main St. venue: Scheduled acts include 20-time Grammy Award-winning Pat Metheny in a special solo show (9/15); the return of quint-essential Led Zeppelin tribute band, Get The Led Out (11/10); the Hybrid Tribute Fusion Act of Pink Talking Fish (12/2); the singer-songwriter ensemble of On a Winter's Night, with Patty Larkin, Cliff Eberhardt, John Gorke, and Lucy Kaplansky (1/26); The Machine, performing the music of Pink Floyd (2/24); The Queen's Cartoonists, playing a brilliant blend of jazz and classical music to bring energy to 100 years of animation (3/15); and a high-energy trip back in time to the music and events of the 1960s with *The Sixties Show* (4/19).

Also scheduled to appear at the Colonial are Leon Etienne's family-friendly show *Magic Rocks* (9/30); comedian Brian Regan (10/19); Maria Bamford with her deeply personal and experimental stand-up comedy (11/17); the improvisers of *Broadway's*

*Next Hit Musical* (4/6); and John Cameron Mitchell with cabaret star Amber Martin presenting *Cassette Roulette*, a witty night of songs and stories (5/18).

Throughout the season, the Colonial Performing Arts Center will partner with The Metropolitan Opera to offer *The Met: Live in HD's* 2023–24 season. Presented in the Colonial's Showroom, The Met Live performances offer singing and orchestration, lavish costumes, spectacular scenery, and one-of-a-kind backstage access.

Family and cultural entertainment abound in the 2023–24 season, including the Irish Christmas celebration, *Christmas in Killarney*, combining Irish dance with traditional Christmas classics (12/16); The National Dance Company of Ireland with *Rhythm of the Dance* (3/8); the wadaiko drums of Drum Tao (3/23); and *Dinosaur World Live*, the puppetry of life-like dinosaurs (4/26).

The Colonial's Student Matinee Series will offer a variety

of in-school programming and on-stage performances this season. Serving more than 7,000 students each year, this educational outreach program introduces children to live theater while seamlessly blending curriculum-based topics such as literature, music, social studies, science, and math. The series is central to realizing the theater's vision to excite, educate, and challenge audiences of all ages.

In addition to Colonial main-stage presentations, Showroom programming this fall includes musicians Echoes of Floyd (9/16), the Maine-based Soggy Po' Boys (11/3); and the irreverent humor of Robert's Dubac's Stand-Up Jesus (9/22).

Tickets for the Colonial's 2023–24 season will be available to current, new, and renewing members beginning this week at the box office. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, June 27, at noon. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 603-352-2033 or visit [thecolonial.org](http://thecolonial.org).

**Outdoor Concert**  
**The Rear Defrosters**  
 June 25, 6–7:30pm  
 Marlboro Community Center  
 Info at [marlborocommunity.center](http://marlborocommunity.center)

**HINSDALE FARMERS MARKET**  
 Saturdays, May 20th–October 21st  
 9AM–1PM  
 Downtown Hinsdale • Millstream Riverfront Park

**Art Camp for Kids**  
 One-week  
 7 sessions  
 Drop-ins welcome

More info/register online:  
[rivergalleryschool.org](http://rivergalleryschool.org)  
 802-257-1577

**RIVER GALLERY SCHOOL OF ART**

**June 26 – Aug 11**

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## Quarter century

Beyond the Legislative proclamation's accolades, Uman, originally from Irvington, New York, served as a fellow in composition not only at MacDowell but also at the Marble House Project, an artists' residency program in Dorset. In 2023, he garnered the Vermont Arts Council's Ellen McCulloch-Lovell Arts Education Award.

The resolution honors "the multi-talented Elsa Borrero," for managing "complex logistics" as well as designing marketing materials and serving on the Center's Board. An educator herself, she "has taught courses on Latin culture, designed elementary school Spanish curriculum components, and was a leader and innovator in pedagogical education in Colombia. Her mixed-media artwork is on permanent display at museums in the United States and Colombia."

"It was an honor to present Elsa and Eugene with a joint resolution," Coffey said, calling them "intrinsic to our creative community."

"Through their vision and leadership, they have not only contributed to the creative economy, they have brought important cultural diversity, artistic excellence, and vitality to our community."

### From visual artist to teacher

Borrero, from Colombia, is an integrative performing artist whose life in the arts has involved teaching movement to a range of ages and in myriad settings.

Weaving mindful "corporeal expression" — interpretive and improvisational dance — with visual art, especially photography, she has worked with various arts organizations in Colombia, where she mounted her first photography exhibit while still in college and eventually opened a studio for integrated multimedia work in Medellin.

In 1988, Borrero recalls, "Colombia was in a lot of turmoil."

Having lived in New York City at age 7, when her father was a visiting doctor at New York Hospital, she knew all along she'd go back as an adult to that city she calls "the capital of the world."

Drawn to the work of the late choreographer/dance innovator

Alwin Nikolais, whose work with light, color, textiles, and geometric shapes paralleled her own explorations, she moved to New York to study with Nikolais while also developing her photography chops.

In more recent years, Borrero received her master's degree in teaching from the School for International Training. She has taught at Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School and currently teaches Spanish at Vernon Elementary School.

### From forestry to music

After earning a degree in forest science in 1982 from University of New Hampshire, Uman worked for 10 years as a forester in New Hampshire and Vermont. A lifelong musician, he was inevitably active then in the regional music scene.

"I did gigs in Burlington [...] played at the jazz festival, started a great band, Dr. Burma. I was playing a lot," he said.

In the summer of 1987, he was running a jam session at Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction when renowned trumpet/coronet player and teacher Howard Brosfky walked in with his wife, Robin Westen.

Teaching then at the summer workshop run by jazz great Attila Zoller in southern Vermont, Brosfky was looking for "opportunities to play, for things to do musically in Vermont."

Soon, Uman added, "we became very good friends; he'd come to my gigs, sit in to play with Dr. Burma." Eventually, he would encourage Uman to head to Queens College in New York, where he taught.

"You don't need to audition," Uman recalls Brosfky saying.

Recipient of a Eubie Blake Scholarship, Uman left his Vermont forestry practice to earn a master's degree in jazz performance in Brosfky's program, where the teachers, Uman recalls, were topnotch. He joined Brosfky's band and taught at Third Street Music School.

"Then there was Elsa," Uman said. "We had a good life."

Borrero and Uman met when they lived across the hall from each other in an 11th Street

tenement in Manhattan's East Village.

"We would work 'til two, three in the morning," Borrero recalled. Given the building's U-shaped configuration, "we could see into each other's apartments. He would be playing piano, and I would be working with my little light box and dance."

Beginning gingerly with a passing nod or hello, the two gradually became a couple and married in 1993. They agreed that they'd spend three years in Colombia, then three in Vermont, to determine where to settle to raise a family.

For those years in Colombia — where their son, Niko, was born in 1994, to be followed by a sister, Gaia, in 1996 — Borrero taught, produced, and designed while Uman developed curriculum and taught at the University while contributing invaluably to the spread of jazz in the country.

When they arrived, three jazz groups performed in the Medellin area; by the time they left, that number had grown to 15, plus a yearly jazz festival.

Uman "provided resources throughout Colombia, resulting in a huge jazz boom in the country," said Borrero. Many of the students he taught then are teachers in jazz programs there now. In Medellin, Borrero reported, Uman is still called "El Maestro."

### Developing a jazz family in Vermont

When the three years were up, Uman headed back to Vermont to look for work.

Brosfky and Uman had remained in close contact in a friendship built not only on music but on a love for Vermont. At the time, Brosfky was the president of the board of VJC, which guitarist and inventor Zoller had founded in the mid-1970s. Hungarian by birth, Zoller, living in Queens, New York, had discovered Newfane, which Uman recalls, "had reminded him of the hills of Hungary."

In his place on Wiswall Hill, Zoller gathered world class jazz artists: he wanted to bring the jazz of New York into his country life to, as Uman recalled, "merge music and the natural world."

With the help of Brosfky and Joy Wallens-Penford, VJC was created as a nonprofit, offering not only the summer workshops but regular concerts with top-flight performers.

VJC had no home at the time. Instead, the organization would offer concerts at a range of available sites, including Leland & Gray Union High School, the West Village Meeting House in West Brattleboro, and the former Mole's Eyes Café.

Uman still had solid music connections throughout the state and, while staying with Brosfky and Westen in their Brattleboro home, he would check into various positions, including high

*Jazz is the only music in which the same note can be played night after night but differently each time.*

—ORNETTE COLEMAN



COURTESY PHOTO COMMONS FILE

Eugene Uman performs with Howard "Dr. Bebop" Brosfky (left), in this photo he submitted to *The Commons* with a memorial on his friend and mentor in 2013. George Kaye (center) completes the trio.

school teaching.

"I had good possibilities," Uman recalled.

Both Borrero and Uman said they always had an impulse to start a music school, a home for music where education and community ruled. "Education through the arts" would be their mission, Borrero said.

As it happened, VJC could present that opportunity.

By that time, Zoller had fallen ill and was concerned about finding a replacement to lead the organization. And one day, pretty much out of the blue, he anointed Uman as his successor.

There was no salary, since VJC had no money; in fact, the bank account was in the red.

Uman and Borrero decided to take the leap, though, and as a longtime VJC musician and board member Sperm Fox recalled, "Elsa and Eugene came in 1997 and from the start they dealt with everyone with warmth, compassion, and positive regard."

Right away they worked to garner support. Uman's parents gave them a car; a well-heeled New York student gave them \$5,000 with the promise to double the donation if they made it through year one. The Vermont Arts Council gave a small grant. And they launched.

Despite the less-than-sanguine relationship with creditors they'd inherited, they convinced Northfield Mount Hermon to allow them to use its campus for a summer workshop, the VJC's first.

It was hand-to-mouth, Uman recalled. "We had musicians and teachers staying in our spare room," he said.

But that 1997 summer workshop made enough to cover VJC's first year of operation with Uman as director and Borrero as office manager.

"There was a lot of sacrifice," Borrero recalled; for a long time, their family lived on \$1,000 per month to keep VJC afloat.

### Loyal, grateful, supportive audiences

Soon, the VJC started to feel like family. "It was a family-run organization with a board that backed us and gave moral

support," Borrero recalled.

In 1997, VJC found its home at the Cotton Mill in Brattleboro.

"Attila got to hang out with us there," Uman remembers. "It was right before he went into hospice at Grace Cottage, where he died in January of 1998."

The original VJC space was 132 square feet; the center now — with performance space, offices, and archives — occupies 4,434 square feet of the Cotton Mill.

As Fox explained, VJC soon started to develop loyal, grateful, supportive audiences; many VJC student musicians have gone on to full careers in music, and established musicians "come up here to perform, go back to NYC, and let their colleagues know what a wonderful thing Eugene and Elsa have going on here: that's why musicians want to come here to perform" year after year.

Thanks to the generosity of loyal donors, grant support, and income from educational programs and a robust audience base, VJC is financially stable for the time being.

As is typical with nonprofit arts organizations, though, Uman adds, the earned income doesn't take care of meeting the budget. He remarked that he is especially grateful for the community support, which accounts for about half of the organization's income.

Uman noted that "the McKenzie Family Charitable Trust has been responsible for supplying us with pianos and a generous donation towards operating expenses."

### All about balance

Under Uman's direction, VJC received an Acclaim award from Chamber Music America and the state of Vermont, honoring its impact on the community and jazz music.

He talked about the balance needed in programming, noting that the organization presents new work with a deep respect for jazz roots.

Mixing more accessible fare with the cutting edge, VJC aims not only to entertain but also to educate on both new and traditional work. Uman said he's always looking "for high-level artistry and some sense of innovation, even if using older styles."

A self-professed jazz nerd, Uman pinpoints up-and-coming performers through *Jazz Times*, *Downbeat* magazine, and on the internet. He attends gatherings of jazz educators, checks performers out on YouTube, and has good relationships with excellent artists' managers "who know what I'm looking for."

His commitment to doing his homework is evident in each thoughtful, thorough write-up he submits to area newspapers, including *The Commons*, to promote an upcoming performance.

### Friends offer tributes

Tributes flowed at the celebration when the start of Borrero and Uman's next quarter century was announced.

Westen started coming to southeastern Vermont nearly 30 years ago with Brosfky, to whom she'd been married for 33 years before he died in 2013. The award-winning Brooklyn-based writer still spends summers here.

Recalling the impact of Uman and Borrero on VJC, Westen said, "What grew the Jazz Center was love," citing the "huge capacity of Borrero and Uman for love — love of family, friends, music, community, the arts."

"Before Eugene and Elsa, the music was solid, of course," she added — but, she said, "it was lacking heart."

Praising the range of skills each brought to the VJC, she added that "Eugene has a world view of music" and is a fine communicator, attracting world class musicians. Above all, Westen praises the couple's "commitment to inclusivity. And we need inclusivity now more than ever."

Current VJC Board President

Julian Gerstin moved to Vermont from California in 2004.

"I left behind a big, vibrant music scene. I was very worried about moving where there might be no musicians who played jazz," he said. "I found out about VJC, and knowing it was here was a lifeline."

Gerstin said that Uman and Borrero are "at the center of this."

"They're people people. Eugene delights in teaching — we all know he's a great performer, but he's also a fabulous teacher, and teaching is more his day-to-day role. And he delights in getting to know people, bringing out their creativity, introducing them to other people."

He described the VJC as "a joint dream project for the two of them, something they planned towards for years before it happened, and Elsa was equally a part of that."

And, he said, "In fact, she was the one with the production expertise who knew how to put together shows. She got Eugene started in that role."

Borrero currently is "our design guru, our financial whip-cracker who makes us toe the line, and the one who poses the essential questions," Gerstin said.

He credits several others who make the VJC tick, among them Ginger Morawski, the organization's administrator who is "not only a great organizer, she's another people person."

For her part, of Uman and Borrero, Morawski said that "they bring their ideals and principles to the creation of the VJC and give freely of themselves to its nurturance. It's an extension of themselves and their partnership."

Board Vice President Rob Freeberg added that "Eugene's musicianship and ability to hire world class instructors and performers has transformed the educational programs and monthly concerts, while Elsa's professional design chops and pragmatic outlook complement Eugene's skills."

"They make a great team," he said.

At the June 17 commemorative gathering, several took the stage to pay brief tributes, among them Jan Salzman of North Pomfret and Burlington, with whom Uman lived while establishing himself in forestry in the 1980s, in whose living room his band Dr. Burma was formed, and at whose farm Borrero and Uman were married.

Smiling broadly, she praised the duo for "putting forth your dream, living it, breathing it."

### Preserving a legacy

The Vermont Jazz Center has become widely known for concerts, classes, ensembles, workshops, livestreams, jam sessions, and summer camps. Now, it has added another initiative to enhance its mission and assure its legacy.

For the past seven years, the Vermont Jazz Center has been developing a jazz archive of recordings and video from more than 40 years of concerts and educational programs.

This collection draws from careful video/audio documentation of more than 250 concerts and also includes gifts of jazz-related recordings and research materials, such as collections of jazz books, CDs and LPs.

VJC is also the caretaker of the Attila Zoller Archive, gifted to them by his daughter, Alicia Zoller Carusona. Thanks to a \$40,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources, these historic records are now digitally available for scholars and aficionados.

Looking to the future, Uman and Borrero are committed to realizing a full 50-year VJC archive to be open to researchers and academics, and a series of curated highlights to be offered clustered in series, free to the public at [archive.vtjazz.org](http://archive.vtjazz.org).

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# Indictment paints an objectively strange picture of Trump

Countless classified documents removed from the White House appear to still be missing, with no definitive way to fully quantify them

**W**ITH APOLOGIES to W.C. Fields, who once said, “It’s a funny old world — a man is lucky if he gets out of it alive,” the stunning indictment, arrest, and arraignment of Donald J. Trump has offered a surreal glimpse into the former president’s inner sanctums, where boxes of sensitive documents are commingled with golden fixtures and chandeliers, bathtubs and toilets.

If you look closely at the now-ubiquitous photo, you can see some of those boxes piled high behind the shower curtain, all the way to the rafters.

These boxes have now caused Trump and the nation untold aggravation, as the former president’s fixation on keeping a vast collection of classified files very close to him — whether in the shower, bathroom, ballroom, private jet, or private office — has proven nothing short of breathtaking.

Trump, who was arrested and arraigned Tuesday, pleaded not guilty in Miami to all 37 federal criminal charges brought against him by the U.S. Justice Department in an indictment unsealed June 9.

The indictment follows another raft of criminal indictments brought against him in April in New York, also related to serious paperwork issues, only those were for the alleged falsification of business records.

TRUMP, WHO IS STILL THE



**LEAH MCGRATH GOODMAN** brings two decades of experience covering politics and money to Power Corridor ([powercorridor.substack.com](http://powercorridor.substack.com)), a twice-a-week Substack newsletter, where this piece was originally published. The newsletter is a product of The Daily Upside, a digital media company covering the world of business, finance, economics, and investing, where McGrath Goodman is lead editor and senior writer.

Republican presidential front-runner, has denounced all charges lodged against him thus far as a “witch hunt” and “political prosecution” by the Biden administration to derail his bid to retake the Oval Office in 2024.

At present, national polls still show strong support for Trump, who recently turned 77, among Republican voters, even after the latest indictments. Trump can still run for president, regardless of the charges, but that could change if he is convicted or imprisoned.

The DOJ’s indictment accuses Trump of illegally and willfully secreting away national defense information in violation of the Espionage Act; engaging in conspiracy to obstruct justice; engaging in a scheme to conceal; illegally withholding documents; corruptly concealing records; making false statements and representations; and concealing documents in a federal investigation.

The latter six of the felony counts were also brought against Trump’s aide, former White House valet and “body man” Waltine (Walt) Nauta.

Trump, according to the DOJ, directed him to move boxes of classified documents around his private country club residence, Mar-a-Lago, for purposes of hiding them from Trump’s lawyers, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (which raided Mar-a-Lago in August to retrieve them) and the federal grand jury that has now indicted him.

THE DETAILS OF THE DOJ indictment paint an objectively strange, Howard Hughes-like picture of a former president extremely intent on keeping hundreds of classified documents physically close to him and even bringing them with him on his travels. The documents were kept in publicly accessible and largely unsecured areas, just footsteps away from more than 150 Mar-a-Lago social events from the time Trump left office in January 2021 to the FBI’s raid in August 2022, exposing them to “tens of thousands of guests,” according to the indictment.

Trump’s classified documents fixation was not just well known to his aides, but also his family,



The Trump indictment includes photos of some light, classified bathroom reading.

who seemed to find his emotional attachment to the boxes — and need to even bring them on trips — cumbersome and irritating.

In one exchange highlighted by the DOJ, an unnamed Trump family member (thought by some to be Ivanka, Trump’s daughter, or Melania, his wife), wrote to Nauta warning him that Trump should not plan to fly with his boxes, as they would crowd out other items on the plane. An excerpt: “We will NOT have a room for them. Plane will be full with luggage. Thank you!”

It appears Trump flew ([justice.gov/storage/US\\_v\\_Trump-Nauta\\_23-80101.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/storage/US_v_Trump-Nauta_23-80101.pdf)) with his boxes, anyway.

WHEN TRUMP was told he would need to subject his boxes to a search for classified documents in May 2022, the former president showed evident signs of distress.

According to the DOJ, he told his lawyers, “I don’t want anybody looking, I don’t want anybody looking through my boxes. I really don’t. I don’t want you looking through my boxes.” (Whatever your political affiliation, I highly recommend reading the indictment in its entirety, as it is hard to do full justice to it in one article.)

In another exchange in April 2021, Trump employees debated whether to move Trump’s boxes from Mar-a-Lago’s “business center” to the “lake room,” before one of them remembered, “there is still a little room in the shower.”

The second employee agreed that other items could be moved to make room for Trump’s classified documents, stating, “Yes, anything that’s not the ‘beautiful mind’ paper boxes can definitely go to storage.”

This was a reference to the film *A Beautiful Mind*, about a Nobel Prize-winning

mathematician who fought mental illness and featured one particular scene with an office drowning in papers and news clippings climbing the walls.

CENTRAL TO THE DOJ indictment is a sequence of events where, after agreeing to allow one of his lawyers search his boxes for any classified documents, Trump rearranges his calendar so he can be present for the search and, in the days leading up to it between May 2022 and June 2022, directs Nauta to bring 64 boxes to his residence from an unsecured storage room, leaving just 30 boxes to be searched by his lawyer — who still finds dozens of classified documents. Afterward, Trump meets the lawyer in the Mar-a-Lago Club dining room, asking, “Did you find anything?...Is it bad? Good?”

Just days later, after having

SEE TRUMP, C2

VIEWPOINT

# Legislation falls far short of the goal

State funding for motel program will still ultimately cause thousands of people to end up on the street, and it does not meet the scale of the crisis with a responsible solution

**T**HE CURRENT LANGUAGE for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Amendment to H.171 — designed to address the humanitarian crisis caused by the state sponsored unsheltering of already nearly 1,000 people — has serious problems.

This legislation, passed on June 20, lacks evidence-based language, rules, and solutions, and it will create additional hurdles to the population experiencing homelessness, including those that are currently in the program.

**BRENDA SIEGEL**, the 2022 Vermont Democratic nominee for governor, is a drug policy and housing advocate. Editor’s note: This statement, submitted on Monday, has been adapted to reflect that the amendment did pass the Legislature during its veto session on Tuesday, June 20.

The amendment falls significantly short of that goal and of repairing or preventing enough harm to the population. It does provide some protection for those currently in the program, but it also adds additional hurdles that will cause many to fall through the cracks.

We know that more people entered homelessness than

exited it in 2022, and we are on track for higher numbers with more evictions as rental assistance ends this year. This bill addresses a small subset of the population and only if they are able to clear the hurdles for their survival.

Now that this bill has passed, those who can jump the hoops

SEE MOTEL PROGRAM, C2



Sergeant at Arms Janet Miller bars activists from marching onto the floor of the House of Representatives chamber as they protest the end of the state’s program to house homeless people in motels before a veto session of the Legislature at the State House in Montpelier on Tuesday, June 20.



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## ■ Trump

another lawyer certify that all Trump's classified documents had been found and returned to the U.S. government (which turned out to not be true, according to the DOJ), Trump also met DOJ and FBI personnel at the Mar-a-Lago Club, telling them he was "an open book."

The files Trump had access to while he was president included the most sensitive classified documents and national defense information the U.S. government has in its possession, the DOJ says, comprising information from the nation's intelligence agencies and the U.S. Department of Defense.

"The classified documents Trump stored in his boxes included information regarding defense and weapons capabilities of both the United States and foreign countries; United States nuclear programs; potential vulnerabilities of the United States and its allies to military attack; and plans for possible retaliation in response to a foreign attack," it said.

There have been characterizations of Trump as "obsessed" and a "hoarder," which

is a psychological disorder found in the DSM-5, marked by "persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions, regardless of their actual value."

Only in this case, the value of Trump's hundreds of classified documents labeled, variously, "confidential," "secret" and "top secret," is not just inordinately high, but utterly invaluable.

Should these documents end up in the wrong hands, they could pose an immediate threat not just to America's national security, but the security of its personnel and allies.

"The unauthorized disclosure of these classified documents could put at risk the national security of the United States, foreign relations, the safety of the United States military and human sources and the continued viability of sensitive intelligence-collection methods," the DOJ stated.

WHAT MAY TURN OUT to be far more urgent is that while the DOJ is circulating photos of boxes snapped by Trump's aides of classified documents spilling onto the floor around

FROM SECTION FRONT

Mar-a-Lago, countless classified documents removed from the White House by Trump appear to still be missing, with no definitive way to fully quantify them or determine if they can ever be found.

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, which initially notified the DOJ when it was unable to retrieve classified documents from Trump, told Congress late last year that, even after the FBI had raided Mar-a-Lago, it hadn't recovered all of Trump's presidential records, explaining there would be "no easy way to establish absolute accountability."

When the FBI searched Mar-a-Lago last summer it found 43 file folders marked as classified but empty. The FBI has not yet searched the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J., or Trump's apartment at Trump Tower in New York, but videos from 2021 have shown Trump traveling to Bedminster from Mar-a-Lago with boxes being loaded onto his plane.

Among the documents Trump seems to have flown from Mar-a-Lago to Bedminster include a highly classified "plan of attack" on Iran that has yet to be found, according to Trump's lawyers.

According to the DOJ, Trump showed the attack plan in July 2021 to an unnamed writer, publisher and two staffers — none of whom had security clearance — and admitted in an audio recording that the plan was "highly confidential" and still classified, adding "this is still a secret."

It is an astounding revelation, given Trump's assertion when he first took office that America needed "the best protection of classified information" and "we can't have someone in the Oval Office who doesn't understand the meaning of the word confidential or classified."

Whether Trump is found innocent or guilty, or becomes president again, it appears some of his highly classified documents, containing some of America's greatest secrets, are now on the loose.

## ■ Motel program

FROM SECTION FRONT

will remain sheltered, but those who cannot will be penalized by living outside. Additionally, one who enters homelessness or who was already harmed by the state will be supported with hotel/motel shelter beyond a brief period.

It will still ultimately cause thousands of people to end up on the street, and it does not meet the scale of the crisis with a responsible solution.

HERE ARE SOME examples of problems with the current language:

1. It creates additional hurdles that are based on a belief that the people in the program are doing something wrong and, if that were true, which it is not, that the punishment for that should be living outside.

2. It allows an exit from a hotel to condemn someone to living outside without the understanding that those exits are entirely controlled by hotel management and not always related to anything the person is doing wrong. It will

foster abuse of vulnerable people and create an unsafe environment.

3. It does absolutely nothing to address keeping people who are medically vulnerable and people with disabilities off the street and safe retroactively or continuously.

Among those exited from the program on June 1 and June 16 exits: A man with a collapsed lung. A person on oxygen. People with cancer. People with severe seizures. People with medical devices that need to be plugged in. An amputee with an open wound. People who just had surgery. The list goes on.

4. It does nothing for members of families with children who become homeless on July 1 or beyond, have 28 days in hotel shelter, and then find themselves on the street. Or for someone on oxygen. Or for someone who is in a power chair. Our state is still condemning them to the street.

5. People are still subject to Kafkaesque survival olympics

for the most vulnerable in our state. Pushing people off a cliff three at a time until we have pushed thousands is still a humanitarian crisis, and it is still pushing people off a cliff.

6. Requiring people to take whatever housing is offered to them is not dignified, does nothing to give people agency, and does not meet the supposed legislative intent of this bill. People might have care they need in a certain area. Their children might have specific trauma and need to stay at their current school. Someone might need to stay in a community in order to maintain visits with their children.

This bill should have expanded GA eligibility to age 60 and above, all stages of pregnancy, people who meet Vermont's definition of disability and those who are medically vulnerable.

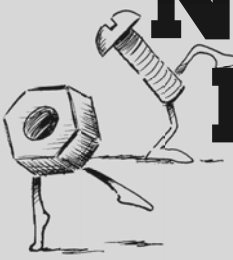
These bills as written was not evidenced based, did not reflect the needs of this population, and absolutely showed



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## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Creemee correction

RE: "Veggies and creemees help keep a family farm going" [News, Jun. 14]:

A major correction is needed on the article about our farm, Lilac Ridge:

"Amanda said that, with the help of a grant from NOFA-VT, Miller Farm has developed a soft-serve creemee mix that uses organic maple syrup from Lilac Ridge Farm for flavoring."

Miller Milk LLC at Miller Farm makes a base mix of

vanilla, and we add our certified organic maple syrup to the mix for the maple creemee at the farm. For creemees, we also sell Miller Milk's organic chocolate soft serve (creemee) or a twist!

The creemee stand is currently open every weekday 2 to 6 p.m.

Thank you for doing all that you do, *Commons!*

Amanda Ellis-Thurber  
Brattleboro

Editor's note: We regret the error.

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# Lawmakers approve deal to extend motel shelter (for some) until the spring

By Lola Dufford  
ViDigger.org

Lawmakers on Tuesday suspended their rules to pass, in a matter of mere hours, an eleventh-hour deal that will keep roughly 2,000 unsheltered Vermonters sheltered in motels until April 1, 2024, unless state officials can find alternate placements.

Gov. Phil Scott is planning to give the measure his stamp of approval. After a meeting between the Republican governor and legislative leadership on Friday, administration officials worked through the weekend to collaborate on the legislation's final language. His press secretary, Jason Maulucci, confirmed Tuesday morning that, "barring unforeseen changes," the governor would sign the bill.

The move is an about-face for Democratic leaders in the Legislature and Scott, who have argued forcefully for months that, absent federal dollars that once underwrote the effort, Vermont could not afford and needed to end a pandemic-era program which sheltered most of its unsheltered population in motels.

But recent moves by the administration suggest even they believe they could use the extra time. Officials made the surprise announcement in late May that some would get extensions anyway.

"I would like to personally and publicly thank the governor for his part in producing what you see in front of you," Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, told his Senate colleagues on the floor Tuesday. "We are here on the first day of this veto session looking to adjourn by dinnertime because the House, the Senate and the governor together saw this need, understood that it would require more time and a more fulsome process than was currently in place."

Legislative leaders, meanwhile, were also under pressure from a block of Democrats and Progressives in the House who had banded together to demand that the program be at least temporarily and partially extended. That group of dissidents wielded

powerful leverage: the votes legislative leaders needed to override Scott's veto of the state budget.

With that deal in hand, Democrats in the block agreed to support the \$8.5 billion budget. Lawmakers on Tuesday also overrode the governor's budget veto by a vote of 105 to 42 in the House, and 25 to 5 in the Senate.

"A month ago we were in a much different place with concern to those who were vulnerable in regards to housing," Rep. Mari Cordes, D-Lincoln, an organizer in the Democratic block, said on the House floor Tuesday before declaring her intentions to vote for the budget.

Maulucci said it "wasn't lost" on the governor that he likely helped lawmakers override his own veto. But he said Scott had decided it was the "right thing to do."

"Including the provision that folks are eligible until they're offered a suitable alternative — the governor felt that that was a reasonable ask and workable, and in good faith decided to move forward," he said.

The motel program has become the subject of public outcry. The day started with a small group of protestors chanting "Keep 2,000 Vermonters sheltered" in the House gallery. "You are voting to kill people," one placard read. And Vermont's decision to end its pandemic-era supports, at a time when its rates of homelessness are among the worst in the nation, has also attracted the attention of national media outlets.

The new motel legislation was tacked on as an amendment to H.171, a bill overhauling Vermont's adult protective services. It will not re-enroll the approximately 800 people who lost motel benefits in June when the state narrowed eligibility. And it will not apply to those who fall into homelessness after July 1. Those people will have to ask for help under the state's much stricter pre-pandemic rules.

It will apply only to the roughly 2,000 people who entered the program before June 30 and who met certain eligibility criteria laid out in a mid-year spending package enacted into law this March. Lawmakers are also attaching

new conditions on the vouchers they are pledging to continue providing, perhaps the most significant of which is the requirement that motel residents contribute 30% of their household incomes to the cost of their stays.

Motel residents included in the deal will also have to accept any "alternative housing placement" within 48 hours. Those alternatives can include, according to the bill, "shelter beds and pods; placements with family or friends; ... tiny homes, manufactured homes, and apartments; residential treatment beds for physical health, long-term care, substance use, or mental health; nursing homes beds; and recovery homes." And if a motel or hotel decides to kick a program participant out for "misconduct," they'll lose access to their voucher.

Those new conditions raised concerns for several lawmakers and advocates. Brenda Siegel, an activist and the 2022 Democratic gubernatorial nominee, said the new rules would subject people to a "Kafkaesque survival olympics," and force many to fall through the cracks. House Progressives withheld their support for the legislation.

"We're trying to find housing for people. How can someone who's without housing ever put away enough money if we're taking a third of their income and putting it into this program?" Sen. Irene Wrenner, D-Chittenden North, said on the Senate floor, although she ultimately voted — alongside every single one of her Senate colleagues — in support of the bill. "Just food for thought."

The legislation will also create

significant new legislative oversight of the state's wind-down of the pandemic-era shelter program. Administration officials will have to report on a monthly basis about how many people remain, how many have transitioned out, and where they have gone.

Officials will also be required to try to negotiate better rates with hotels, and track and report how many residents received their \$3,300 state-funded deposit. Advocates and residents had complained that some motels were wrongly pocketing the deposits that were intended to help motel residents who kept their rooms in good condition find permanent housing.

Lawmakers did not allocate any new funding for the extension or cut from elsewhere in the budget to pay for it. Instead, they have

placed the measure on a list of things that will be funded if additional surplus revenues come in or if the state has spent less than expected on certain line items when it closes out the fiscal year on June 30.

But if that doesn't turn out to be enough, lawmakers have also said they can return to the matter when they come back for their next session in January. Speaking to her committee colleagues after reviewing the bill Tuesday, House Appropriations Chair Diane Lanpher, D-Vergennes, remarked that next year's budget adjustment — the annual spending bill passed early each legislative session to true-up the current budget — might be "a little more interesting."

# Child care overhaul becomes law as legislators override veto

By Lola Dufford  
ViDigger.org

MONTPELIER—As predicted, lawmakers on Tuesday easily overrode Gov. Phil Scott's veto of H.217, a bill set to invest well over \$120 million annually into Vermont's ailing child care sector, enacting the measure into law.

The only surprise, at the end of the day, was how quickly it all happened. The House voted early in the day, 116 to 31, to override Scott. (It takes a two-thirds majority to override a gubernatorial veto.) And as of early afternoon, the plan remained for the Senate to take up the measure on Wednesday, followed by a noon-time celebration with advocates, parents, and child care workers on the Statehouse lawn. But as the whirlwind day wore on, the upper chamber decided to conclude its business ahead of schedule, and voted 23 to 7 to override Scott.

"The child care bill which we overrode today is, I believe, a historic achievement," Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, told his colleagues after the vote.

He encouraged senators to attend the event with advocates, still planned for Wednesday. "It will be, I think, a joyous celebration," he said.

The child care legislation is intended to help mitigate twin problems in the labor-intensive sector: poverty wages for many workers, and sky-high prices for families.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2024, the state will reimburse child care providers at a rate 35% higher than they did this year — enabling them to significantly raise wages.

Currently, families living at or below 150% of the federal poverty level are not charged a co-payment to receive a full subsidy from the state. The bill would eliminate co-pays for those

making up to 175% of that metric, increasing that threshold from \$45,000 to \$52,500 for a family of four. And the bill would extend partial child care subsidies to families up to 575% of the federal poverty level — \$172,000 for a family of four.

The bill is the culmination of nearly a decade's worth of advocacy from Let's Grow Kids, a well-funded nonprofit that has led the charge on child care in Montpelier. But the cause was also strengthened by the Covid-19 pandemic, which underlined both the sector's fragility and importance to the state economy, and a new Democratic supermajority in the House and Senate, which moved aggressively to enact several new expansions to the social safety net.

But while Democrats and Progressives universally supported the bill, votes did not fall entirely on party lines — a few Republicans and independents also backed the measure.

"This is a historic, celebratory moment for Vermont, one that child care advocates, parents, employers, and lawmakers have been working towards for years," Aly Richards, CEO of Let's Grow Kids, said in a statement. "The 2023 Child Care Bill will change the lives of thousands of Vermonters and is a monumental step forward for our state in addressing the ongoing child care crisis."

The bill will be funded in part by a new 0.44% payroll tax, which is why Scott objected to the legislation. The Republican governor has long supported additional investments in early childhood education, but has always drawn the line at raising taxes to do it. The draft state budget he presented to lawmakers in January included \$50 million to boost child care subsidies, a proposal legislators incorporated into their own financing mechanism.

those

**JOON PAHK**  
**THE COMMONS CROSSWORD**  
"Debugging"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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**Across**

1. In need of ventilation
7. Lose patience
14. Indigenous people of the Antilles
20. "OK, that makes sense"
21. Grapefruit variety
22. Firm denial
23. Get married even if it kills you?
25. Swift in music
26. Put on
27. Vanity
28. Phlebotomist's target
29. Soda, in the South
30. Actor Stonestreet
32. Scrapes, as one's 33-Down
34. Recesses
37. Grilling residue
40. Limit
42. The borders of a country?
44. One of many in an issue of Glamour?
48. Given one's all
49. Uncle "we don't talk about" in "Encanto"
50. Willow for basketmaking
52. Russian emperor
53. Activist Fannie \_ Hamer
56. Shelter adoptee
58. `The Lego Movie` protagonist Brickowski
61. Terse negative RSVP
63. The A of Boston's ICA
64. Italian cheese town
65. World's southernmost mainland nation
66. Wisc. neighbor
69. College student's science project?
74. "Slow Churned" brand
75. Resident of an Arabian sultanate
77. Puts back on TV
78. Be indebted to
80. Mononymous "Dancing On My Own" singer
81. In \_ life (long ago)
82. In-house debugging phase
88. USNA grad
89. One of the Jackson 5
91. Justice Sotomayor
93. Aussie tennis great Rod
94. Savory South Asian turnovers
97. Agassi as an Army recruit?
99. Comment like "That's an awfully deep ditch"?
103. Genre for the Mighty Mighty Bosstones
104. Male moulton
105. "Nacho Cheesier" chips
106. Like Squishmallows
108. Spoken
111. Cartoon Betty
112. Place for a soccer guard
113. Columbus sch.
115. Carnival dance
119. Cathedral city north of Paris
122. Ruination of the Korean currency?
125. 4th-century church council site
126. Former body of water in central Asia
127. Bulb's place
128. "Birdman" star Michael
129. Salary before overtime
130. Treats as alien

4. Minced chocolate substitute?
5. Less restrained
6. Opposite of nay
7. Pirate's drink
8. Coins in Cologne
9. [Watch this space]
10. WNBA great Fowles
11. Points in the right direction
12. Come back to
13. Genesis garden
14. Op. \_ (footnote notation)
15. Hegerberg of soccer
16. McCarthyist lawyer played by Al Pacino in "Angels in America"
17. Smitten
18. Instruction to Danno
19. "I cannot \_ this enough"
24. Crab or lobster
31. Not just cold
33. Oft-scraped body part
34. Jinnifer of "The Morning Show"
35. Pumice, formerly
36. Imam or vicar
37. Shortened wd.
38. Dry and withered
39. Herr and Frau's home
41. Part of UTEP
43. Jenna of "Wednesday"
45. Disquieting
46. Take the show on the road
47. \_ economy
51. Getaway spots
53. Put down
54. Sole
55. Salt Lake City collegians
57. Takeoff guess, for short
59. Fractions of an inch
60. Chromebook alternative
62. Fleet feline
64. Alamo alternative
66. Less, to a minimalist
67. "That's my cue"
68. Catches
70. Figures of speech?
71. State of rest
72. Goat's bleat
73. "I like that!"

76. Unbroken
79. Poet Whitman
82. Gothic writer Radcliffe
83. Tupperware tops
84. Improvisational running sport
85. Even once
86. Genesis creator
87. Smart-looking
90. Acronymic "I'd say..."
92. Acorn droppers
94. Make catty remarks about
95. Ancient Greek jug
96. California valley where many Steinbeck works are set
98. Musical discernment
99. Boston Garden naming rights sponsor
100. Rent splitter
101. Beethoven's third
102. Ladder rung
107. Minor prophet who married Gomer
109. Broad tie
110. Gate fastener
112. DNA sample source
114. Stick around
116. Good name for a podcaster?
117. Dutch South African
118. Bugs that have been removed from this puzzle's theme answers
120. A new beginning?
121. Start of three of the most populous US cities
123. Particularly briefly?
124. Troop support grp.

**Last issue's solution**  
"Key Components"

B	A	S	S	E	S		S	H	A	K	E	S		G	S	P	O	T			
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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

# Local athletes selected to SVL all-star teams

The Southern Vermont League announced its all-star teams last week for high school baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, track & field, and Ultimate disc.

In baseball, Brattleboro's Jackson Emery and Sam Bogart were honorable mentions in the A Division, while Jamison Nystrom of Bellows Falls was selected to the B Division first team with teammate Cole Moore earning honorable mention.

Green Mountain had three players on the C Division first team — Tanner Swisher, Kaiden McCarthy, and Liam O'Brien — while Leland & Gray's Parker Richardson and Cody Hescocock joined them on the first team. Honorable mentions went to Green Mountain's Andrei Solzhenitsyn, Jack Hinkley, and Tate Pellerin, and Leland & Gray's Theo Kelloway.

In softball, Brattleboro's Aliza Speno was selected to the SVL's A Division first team, with teammates Kayli Speno, Mariah Fellows, and Ericka Fletcher earning honorable mentions.

Izzy Stoodley of Bellows Falls, Leland & Gray's Cat Shine and Savannah Cadrin, and Green Mountain's Abby Williams and Riley Paul were all named to the C Division first team. Honorable mentions went to Jenna Dolloph and Emma Spaulding of Bellows Falls, Brie Howe-Lynch of Green Mountain, and Ainsley Meyer and Kristen Lowe, of Leland & Gray.

Brattleboro's Jack Cady, Trevor Gray, Sean von Ranson, and Jacob Girard were selected to the SVL's Division I boys' track & field first team, while Brattleboro's Ava Whitney was named to the Division I girls' team with teammate Meredith Lewis earning honorable mention.

In Division III, Bellows Falls' Colby Dearborn and Brandon Keller were named to the boys' first team while Laura Kamel of Bellows Falls made the girls' first team. Honorable mentions went to Tala Harty, Hadley Gleim, Nola Sciacca, and Ava LaRoss of Bellows Falls.

Division IV boys' first team honors went to Green Mountain's Eben Mosher, Joachim Gibson, Ben Munukka, and Noah Cherubini, and Leland & Gray's John Parker-Jennings. Trevor Stillwagon of Leland & Gray earned honorable mention. Green Mountain's Kyra Burbela, Luna Burkland, Autumn Fales, and Colie Roby all made the girls' first team.

In lacrosse, Brattleboro's Alex Baker and Thaddeus Sawyer were selected to the A Division boys' first team, with teammate Riley Dionne selected to the second team and Chris Sawyer earning Coach of the Year honors. Brattleboro's Willow Romo was named to the A Division girls' first team, while teammate Sophie Albright was a second team selection.

Ultimate first-team selections included Brattleboro's Desmond Longsmith and Darien Wade, and Leland & Gray's Jackson Fillion, Trevor Hazelton, and Trevor Stillwagon.



**RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT**, deputy editor of this newspaper, has written this column since 2010 and has covered sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send him sports information at [news@commonsnews.org](mailto:news@commonsnews.org).

## BUHS track & field athletes take part in New England meet

Brattleboro's record-breaking boys' 4x100 meter relay team topped themselves again at the New England Interscholastic Outdoor Track & Field Championship on June 10 in Bangor, Maine.

The quartet of David Berkson-Harvey, Jack Cady, Sean von Ranson, and Dylan Holmes broke a 30-year-old school record at the Essex Invitational on May 27 with a second place time of 44.68 seconds.

On June 3 at the Division I state championships, they set a new record with a time of 44.63 seconds that was good enough for another second place finish. At the New England, they finished 19th overall, but again set a new BUHS record with a time of 44.59 seconds.

Another BUHS record holder, Ava Whitney, completed her high school career with on a high note in the girls' 800 meters. Whitney set the school record on June 3 at the state meet — 2 minutes, 21.48 seconds — in finishing third. At the New England, she finished 18th in 2:22.24, very close to the school- and personal-best time she had set the week before.

Two-time state discus champion Laura Kamel of Bellows Falls was the only other local competitor at the New England. The sophomore finished 15th with a throw of 108 feet, 11 inches.

## Local athletes set to play in all-star games

With the arrival of summer comes a full slate of all-star games for the top Vermont and New Hampshire high school seniors.

The Twin State All-Star Baseball Classic will be played at Norwich University's Garrity Field on June 24, with the best high school seniors from Vermont and New Hampshire facing off on the diamond.

Bellows Falls pitcher/shortstop Jamison Nystrom is the lone local player selected to the Vermont team. First pitch of game one of a pair of seven-inning contests is at 10 a.m., preceded by brief pregame ceremonies. Admission to the twin-bill is free.

Vermont took two from New Hampshire at Garrity Field in 2022, as the Classic returned to the diamond after a three-year absence. Prior to the Vermont sweep, there have been four twin-bill splits in six classics, with nine games decided by two runs or fewer since returning in its current format in 2015.

Also on the 24th is the Hanover Lion's Byrne Cup Twin State All-Star Lacrosse Games, which take place at Hanover High School in New



Peter Wagner pitches for the Putney Fossils against the Connecticut Valley Iron Men on June 11 in Hartford. Wagner held the Iron Men to one hit over 10 innings to lead the Fossils to a 2-0 win.



Brattleboro shortstop Aliza Speno was a first-team selection to the Southern Vermont League's A Division softball all-stars.

Hampshire. The women's game will be at 12:30 p.m. with the men playing at 3 p.m. Willow Romo is Brattleboro's lone representative on the Vermont women's team, while Brattleboro's Thad Sawyer and Alex Baker are on the Vermont men's team.

The North-South senior softball games, featuring the top Vermont players, will be held June 30 and July 1. Rosters have not yet been announced for that event.

The Twin State Lions Cup soccer games are set for July 15 at Hanover High School with the women playing at 1 p.m., and the men following at 4 p.m. Leland & Gray will be represented by midfielder Abby Towle, who had all three goals in the Rebels' Division IV championship win against Proctor last fall. She'll be the only local player in either game.

And the all-star season will wrap up with the Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl at Castleton University on Aug. 5. Tristan Evans of Brattleboro and Caden Haskell, Jake Moore, Jamison Nystrom, and Dillon Perry of

Bellows Falls will be on the Vermont team.

Speaking of the Shrine Game, Doug MacPhee of Bellows Falls — a familiar presence on the sidelines as a sports photographer as well as the former public address announcer at Hadley Field for his beloved Terriers football team — was named the game's Grand Marshall for 2023.

It's a big honor for the Bellows Falls High School graduate, and a well-deserved one for Doug, who's been unfailingly helpful to me during my time covering sports here in southern Vermont.

## Brattle Paddle comes to town on June 25

The annual Brattle Paddle event on the West and Connecticut rivers is set for Sunday, June 25 in Brattleboro. According to organizer Sandy Harris, about 70 professional paddlers from around New England are expected to compete in the 9-mile race, but there will also be a 5-mile event for recreational paddlers.

Anyone with a canoe, kayak, or standup paddleboard is welcome to come to The Marina off Putney Road, located at the junction of the two rivers, to join in the fun or just watch the races.

Race day registration takes place from 8:30 to 10 a.m., with the first race at 10:30 a.m. There will be an informal gathering for all registered participants after the races and snacks will be provided.

The entry fee is \$25 and proceeds will benefit Groundworks Collaborative. For more information, contact Harris at 603-363-4868 or [racemonkey14@myfairpoint.net](mailto:racemonkey14@myfairpoint.net).

## Fossils tied for first in CRVBL

In Connecticut River Valley Baseball League (CRVBL) action at Maxfield Sports Complex in Hartford, on June 11, the Putney Fossils handed the Connecticut River Iron Men their first loss of the season. The 2-0 victory moved the Fossils into a tie for first place.

"This is my 20th season in the league," said Fossils manager Danny Lichtenfeld in a news release, "and that was the best pitching duel I can remember."

Both starting pitchers — Peter Wagner for the Fossils and Arric Mather for the Iron Men — pitched 10-inning complete games. Through the first nine innings, neither one had allowed a runner to reach third base. Wagner had given up only one hit — a double by Kris Bornholdt in the seventh inning — and struck out 12. Mather had allowed just three singles and struck out 14, including the side in the ninth.

"Those are probably the two best pitchers in the league," said Lichtenfeld, "and they were both nasty on Sunday."

In the top of the 10th inning, the Fossils finally broke through. After Mather struck out the leadoff batter, Putney's leading hitter, Ryan Smith, surprised everyone with a perfectly placed bunt down the third-base line. Smith then advanced to second on a passed ball. Cleanup hitter Alex Gauthier hit a sharp ground ball that ricocheted off the first baseman's glove into shallow right field, allowing Smith to race home with the game's first run. Gauthier would later score an insurance run on a ground ball by John Peloso.

"Had we not taken the lead in that half inning, we were going to bring in a relief pitcher," said Lichtenfeld. But with the

complete-game victory within reach, Wagner returned to the mound and retired the side in order, securing the 2-0 win.

Both starting pitchers were aided by crisp defense. Fossils shortstop Andrew Peloso made two highlight-reel plays, including a diving stop in the hole and long throw to first from his knees to record the final out of the game.

At the midway point of the CRVBL season, the race between the Iron Men and Fossils could hardly be tighter. Both teams are 5-1. The Iron Men have scored 59 runs to the Fossils' 57, and the Fossils have given up 14 runs to the Iron Men's 15. The rivals will face each other two more times in the remaining six games before playoffs.

## Senior bowling roundup

Week 7 of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on June 15 saw Slo Movers and Five Pins (both 24-11) now tied for first place with Turkeys and No Splits (both 23-12) tied for second place, followed by The Bowlers (18-17), Stayin' Alive (17.5-17.5), Wrecking Crew (16-19), Skippers (13.5-21.5), and High Rollers (13-22).

Debbie Kolpa had the women's high handicap game (252), while Sally Perry had the high handicap series (684). Milt Sherman had the men's high handicap game (268) while Robert Rigby had the high handicap series (642). High Rollers had the high team handicap game (904) and series (2,492).

Rigby led the men's scratch scoring with a 642 series that featured games of 226, 213, and 201, while Sherman had a 587 series with games of 242 and 197. Warren Corriveau Sr. and Chuck Adams both had a 526 series with a 185 game, while Duane Schillemat had a 514 series with a 221 game. Wayne Randall had a 507 series with a 201 game, Bob Uccello had a 505 series with a 188 game, and John Walker had a 505 series with a 221 game. Others with notable games included Gary Montgomery (187), Fred Ashworth (185), and Jerry Dunham (182).

Carol Gloski again had the women's high scratch series (480); she and Kolpa had the high scratch game (180). Nancy Dalzell had games of 179 and 165, Sally Perry rolled a pair of 164 games, and Shirley Aiken also had a 164 game.

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