

## **Disease that** affects beech trees has arrived in southern Vermont

Beech leaf disease — confirmed in Vernon and Dummerston is caused by invasive nematodes that spread in the tree's leaves

By Emma Cotton VtDigger

or the first time in Vermont, officials with the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation have confirmed the presence of a disease that infects the leaves of beech trees.

Beech leaf disease, which was confirmed earlier this month in Vernon and, more recently, in Dummerston, is caused by invasive nematodes that spread in the

tree's leaves. In the United States, the nematodes were first found in Ohio, then identified in 14 states, including New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts, according to Josh Halman, forest health program manager with Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

The nematodes, which are worm-like creatures native to Japan, "are in such high concentrations within the leaf material ■ SEE BEECH TREES, A5

## **Brattleboro** shelter leader will take helm at SEVCA

'We've been through a lot,' says Joshua Davis, who's departing as executive director of Groundworks Collaborative



Detached ADU (carriage barn)

A state project brings a fresh look to Vermont's urgent need for more housing of the right size and Bellows Falls is one of five places in Vermont where these ideas will take shape



III I

Mansion flats (three units)

H H

A rendering of various "missing middle" housing designs that can be used in Vermont communities.



From left, Matthew Littell of Utile Architecture & Planning, Bellows Falls resident Dalila Hall, and local developer John Dunbar discuss building missing middle housing on Hall's residential lot in Bellows Falls during a Oct. 18 tour convened by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

By Ellen Pratt The Commons

mid-October day, tourists mingled with locals in Village Square Booksellers, a young DIY-er in jeans bought a screwdriver at J&H Hardware, and clusters of lunchgoers sat in the windows of the Moon Dog Cafe. Groups of children, home from an

creates a community where people live, work, and raise families.

The meeting was convened by ACCD ELLOWS FALLS—On a recent as part of its Homes for All Toolkit project. The project aims to encourage smallscale, local development of missing middle housing (MMH) — various options of smaller-scale multiple-unit housing in walkable residential neighborhoods by providing educational, training, and especially in response to a very lucrative financial resources to community-based

said Lyssa Papazian, a historic preservation consultant in Putney, in an interview with The Commons.

In addition to the first paper mill in Windham County, the village had a woolen textile mill and factories that produced furniture, sashes and blinds, carriages, and organs.

war contract, for example — you would see increases in housing in the next year's

By Kevin O'Connor

BRATTLEBORO—The executive director of the Groundworks Collaborative shelter and support program is set to depart for another human services post, capping a tumultuous vear still unsettled by the violent killing this spring of one of the nonprofit agency's social workers.

When Joshua Davis began as a graduate school volunteer at one of the agency's antecedent organizations 14 years ago, he didn't foresee he'd soon join the staff, then governing board, then leadership team. Nor did he expect he'd help merge Brattleboro efforts targeting homelessness and hunger into one umbrella organization.

Groundworks has faced unprecedented challenges this year. They include working with people who lost eligibility in the state's motel voucher program, and the April 3 killing of local Shelter Coordinator Leah Rosin-Pritchard, allegedly by a client now in the custody of the Vermont Department of Mental Health.

There are a number of questions on the table for the organization that the book has not been opened on," Davis, 48, said in an interview Tuesday. "It feels like a really ripe time to bring a new

our journalism and lets us make

Your membership supports

Become a member and receive The Commons in the mail.

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID BRAITILEBORO, VT 05301 PERMIT NO. 24

VERMONT INDEPENDENT MEDIA P.O. Box 1212, Brattleborg, VT 05302 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

leader in." In his tenure, Davis helped the Morningside Shelter, where he was executive director, and the Brattleboro Area Drop In Center merge into the collaborative in 2015. The new agency

has gone on to build a \$3.3 million downtown headquarters with overnight beds and daytime restrooms, showers, washers, dryers, and storage lockers. Construction began in 2020 as

■ SEE DAVIS RESIGNS, A5

early-release school day, played in the neighborhood park. A train chugged in the distance. Fall Mountain, a blaze of autumn color, towered over the falls that gave both the town and the mountain their names.

And in the lower theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House, a group of residents, planning commissioners, Selectboard members, a legislator, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) staff, the town's development director, and architects from a Boston-based architecture and planning firm met to discuss how to address the village's need for more housing in a way that

developers.

#### Housing for the times

Missing middle housing, a term coined in 2010 by California architect and urbanist Daniel Parolek, encompasses accessory dwelling units (ADUs), duplexes, small-scale multi-household buildings, and neighborhood-scale mixed-use/livework buildings. These housing types were largely developed in the pre-World War II era in response to changing economic times.

"Bellows Falls was a major mill town in the late 19th and early 20th centuries,'

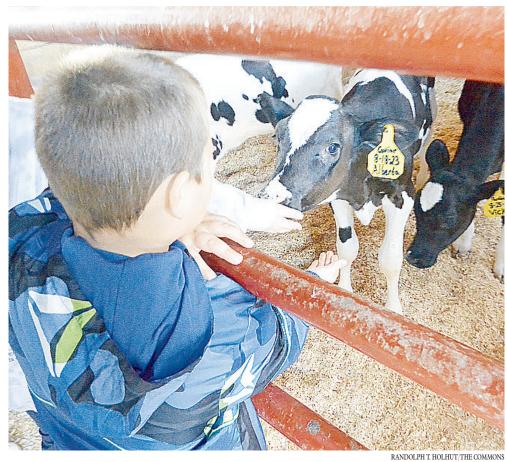
census," she continued.

Those historical records reveal that "three-quarters of the houses that used to be single-family were now taking in boarders, and then, once they filled up all of the spaces in those houses, they added a room or two, or added a little house in the back," said Papazian.

But during the mid-20th century, Vermont started employing zoning models that weren't necessarily developed here. These zoning practices made many of

these Missing Middle Housing options ■ SEE MISSING MIDDLE, A2

## For WNESU kids, a field trip to the farm



Students meet some heifers and learn where milk really comes from as their school district pilots a state organic milk program, thanks to a \$250,000 grant

#### By Virginia Ray The Commons

VERNON—More than 100 Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNESU) students visited the Miller Farm here recently, spending time with heifers, taking hay rides, and learning how to make butter.

"I get to learn more things about where the milk comes from," said second-grader Adeline Chamberland, who added she sometimes drinks milk before bed and also has it with cereal.

"I just like knowing stuff," said Maceo Mayhew, a third grader who likes both regular milk and chocolate milk.

Miller Farm bottles its own organic milk and recently expanded its processing operation, thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the Northeast Dairy Business

Innovation Center.

The grant enabled the farm to add the bulk bags the school nutrition service needs for meal service so organic milk can now be shipped directly to schools, explained Northeast Organic Farming Association spokesperson Helen Rortvedt.

"We are trying to demonstrate that it can be done — local schools can work with local farms," she said.

The Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership is spearheading the pilot program along with partners Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) and Farm to Institution New England (FINE) with the goal of not only introducing youngsters to organic foods, but also helping local economies by giving organic

■ SEE DAIRY AND SCHOOLS, A6

Kids met calves during a Oct. 19 field trip to the Miller Farm in Vernon.



#### The ommons A publication of Vermont Independent Media 139 Main St. (Hooker-Dunham Bldg.) #601A — Newsroom #604 — Business and Advertising

P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302 888-511-5150 • fax 802-246-1319 commonsnews.org Office hours by appointment

Jeff Potter Kate O'Connoi Editor-in-Chief Executive Director

EDITORIAL EWSROOM Randolph T. Holhut, News Editor Elizabeth Julia Stoumen, Calendar and Proofreading

Heather Taylor, Copy Editor NTRIBUTING WRITERS Virginia Ray, Joyce Marcel, Olga Peters, Fran Lynggaard Hansen Robert Smith, Megan Applegate, Annie Landenberger, Dot Grover-Read, Victoria Chertok, Deborah Lee Luskin, Elayne Clift, Kevin O'Connor, Alyssa Grosso, Thelma O'Brien

DITORIAL VOLUNTEERS Lee Stookey, Karen Cribari, Connie Evans, Kim Noble, Janet Wallstein, Elizabeth Trousdell, Wendy S. Collins, Proofreaders Taryn Heon, Editorial Assistant/Voices David Shaw, Photographer OPERATIONS

#### REATIVE MARKETING SERVICES Amanda Harwood, Marketing and Office Manager Lori Pinsonault, Nancy Gauthier, Advertising Sales NTERNS AND APPRENTICES Elias Vary, Social Media STRIBUTION STAFF Grace Hedderman, Dan Lydon, **Bill Wilmot** OPERATIONS VOLUNTEERS Spoon Agave, Karen Axelrod, Karena Huber, Phoebe Wagner, Jon King, Philip Coolbeth, Distributors Alison Bundy, Membership STAFF OFFSPRING Owen Harwood, Olivia Harwood ONSULTANTS Agatha, Caslon, Elsy, Ghivashel, Mookie, Rocky, Valentino Deadline for the November 1 issue

October 27



#### VIM'S MISSION

Recognizing that a vigorous ex-change of ideas and information allows democracy to function and is the lifeblood of a community, Vermont Independent Media:

 creates a forum for community participation, promotes local independent

journalism,

fosters civic engagement by building media skills

through publication of The Commons and commonsnews.org, and through the Media Mentoring Project.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Heather Ahrenholz, Barry Aleshnick, Lvnn Barrett, Michael Bosworth, Randolph T. Holhut (ex officio), Phayvanh Luekhamhan Jeff Potter (ex officio), Stuart Strothman

#### ABOUT THIS NEWSPAPER

The Commons is a nonprofit commu nity newspaper published since 2006 by Vermont Independent Media, Inc. a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)3 of the federal tax code.

The newspaper is free, but it is sup-ported by readers like you through tax-deductible donations, through ad vertising support, and through support of charitable foundations. The paper is published weekly, with

the exceptions of the weeks of July 4

## Missing middle

illegal or limited where they could

be built. Single-family homes be-

gan to dominate neighborhoods.

match the historic development

pattern in our villages," Papazian

Reintroducing

housing

studies

veloper's goals.

case studies.

ment projects.

communities."

missing middle

said.

"The changes definitely didn't

Bellows Falls and four other

Vermont towns (Arlington,

Rutland, Vergennes, and

Middlesex) will be included in

the Homes for All project as case

of the five communities, the proj-

ect will show how missing middle

housing building designs can be

integrated into existing Vermont

neighborhoods and communities.

These permit-ready designs can

be tailored to fit an individual de-

aims to ease the financial, logis-

tical, and regulatory burdens that

local developers face in building

such housing. According to Amy

Tomasso, planning coordinator

at ACCD, phase one of the proj-

ect will provide local developers

with start-to-finish how-to edu-

cational resources, including a

home design guide based on the

Phase two, which will begin

in 2024, will be a free, year-long,

hands-on training for a group of

developers. In the final project

phase, ACCD will award con-

struction and development grants

between \$100,000 and \$500,000

for implementation of develop-

Architecture & Planning, Inc. is

Vermonters to build missing

middle housing affordably," said

Zoe Mueller, an urban planner

with Utile. "It will grow a co-

hort of small developers and

cultivate local support for the

idea through an understanding

of how this kind of housing can

contribute positively to Vermont's

(accd.vermont.gov/homesforall),

According to ACCD's website

a consultant for the project.

Boston-based Utile

"This project will help

The Homes for All Toolkit

Using illustrated visualizations

FROM SECTION FRONT

the Homes for All Toolkit will focus statewide attention on smallscale, incremental development as a strategy to bring back missing middle housing to address Vermont's housing and affordability crisis.

Incremental development encourages community-based developers. Limited by their size, these developers stick with small, simple buildings in a fairly concentrated area.

Incremental development flows from the premise that many individuals working for their own individual good result in a good community: one that promotes opportunity, quality of life, and personal and financial growth.

"Enabling small-scale developers keeps wealth in the community," said ACCD's Tomasso. "Small-scale developers are often working in their backyards, and they know their communities and what they need."

#### **'Bellows Falls has** a lot of potential'

John Dunbar is an example of this type of local developer. He and his twin brother, Jeff, grew up in Bellows Falls and are invested in the community: Jeff is a Village Trustee and John is on the planning commission. While they work full-time for Farnum Insulators in East Dummerston, in their off hours they have developed and rent 14 one- and two-bedroom apartments in the village.

"Bellows Falls has a lot of potential," John Dunbar said. "The housing stock is getting older and tired, and we feel it can be improved.'

He said that he and his brother are "also fighting against the stigma of landlords as slumlords."

"It doesn't have to be that way," he said. "The quality of housing can be improved by people living in the community who want to provide housing as a way of meeting some of their financial needs.

Rockingham (which includes the incorporated village of Bellows Falls) has some of the oldest homes in the state. According to the Rockingham housing needs assessment, conducted by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) in 2022, 58% of the homes in the town were built prior to 1939, in decades when Bellows Falls was a flourishing mill town.

"Being a small-scale developer and landlord helps me better understand why a lot of our buildings in Windham County are getting more tired," Dunbar said. "The economics of being a housing provider and landlord are



A Oct. 18 walking tour of Bellows Falls, convened by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, highlighted vacant lots that could be possible sites for missing middle housing.

the zoning that would allow us to

get more density [in the village],"

said Bellows Falls Development

conform to the state's new mu-

nicipal zoning reforms under the

Housing Opportunities Made for

Everyone Act, signed by Gov. Phil

The HOME Act standardizes

zoning in residential districts

served by municipal water and

sewer by permitting multi-unit

dwellings to be built, by increas-

ing building and lot standards,

and by lowering parking thresh-

olds. These reforms take effect in

opportunity there'

residents and stakeholders -

the Rockingham Incremental

has been working to promote

small-scale development and in-

vestments in Bellows Falls and

owner of the Village Square

Booksellers, sees evidence of

what the Bellows Falls Residential

Member Pat Fowler,

Development Work Group -

Since 2021, a group of local

The updated regulations will

Director Gary Fox.

Scott in June.

December 2024.

'There's an

Rockingham.

want to keep a good tenant, and 1982, through a bylaws modernization grant awarded by the they don't want to price their state. "There's a lot of simple apartments out of the market." But, he said, "it makes it very things that could be changed in

difficult to actually have any money to invest into the building long term."

#### The need to 'right-size'

The population of Bellows Falls peaked at 4,883 in the 1910 federal census and has been declining ever since. According to the 2020 census, the village population is 2,747.

Despite a declining population — which some attribute to changing demographics, like smaller family size — there is a need for more housing. The region especially needs housing to accommodate households that have become smaller, as well as affordable housing to attract new buyers and renters who want to live and work in the area.

According to the housing needs assessment, 38% of Rockingham's households are one-person households, but only 17% of homes are studios and one-bedroom units.

"There are a lot of big, threebedroom units in Bellows Falls," said Dunbar. "But there are a lot of single people and couples who don't need those big units."

"Increasing density by al-Target Market Analysis, conlowing more units per building ducted by LandUseUSA and the Incremental Development is something that can help with our housing problem," Dunbar continued. "The financials work Alliance in 2021, concludes: There is demand for more housbetter if a duplex can be made ing in the village. into four, one-bedroom units. It's easier to keep the rents lower for body comes into the bookstore four, one-bedroom apartments and wants to know if there are

to be. People want to be in community. So there's an opportunity there."

#### You can't build it without funding

Funding for the Homes for All project implementation grants will depend, in part, on the success of an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Pathways to Removing Obstacles (PRO) to Housing grant.

A consortium of Vermont agencies and community development nonprofit organizations is applying this month for \$8 million for local, regional, and statewide efforts to increase housing opportunities across Vermont.

In the meantime, other funds are available to local developers.

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) is conducting a series of "listening sessions" around the state to provide information about funding and to learn how the agency can best help overcome challenges to building and renovating affordable housing.

The sessions are open to anyone interested in creating and preserving affordable housing, including small and aspiring developers.

A virtual session will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 30. To register, visit bit.ly/737-vhfa.

#### A different kind of **American dream**

John and Jeff Dunbar have advice for young people interested in getting into small-scale development.

and Dec. 25

#### SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS

We welcome story ideas and news tips. Please contact the newsroom at news@commonsnews.org or at (802) 246-6397

#### VOICES

The Commons presents a broad range of essays, memoirs, and other subjective material in Voices, our editorial and com mentary section. We want the paper to provide an unpredictable variety of food for thought from all points on the political spectrum.

We especially invite responses to ma terial that appears in the paper.

We do not publish unsigned or anon-ymous 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. Editorials represent the collective

voice of *The Commons* and are written by the editors or by members of the Vermont Independent Media Board of Directors.

The views expressed in our Voices section are those of individual con tributors. Bylined commentaries by members of the Vermont Independent Media board of directors represent their individual opinions; as an organization, we are committed to provid ing a forum for the entire community. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization Vermont Independent Media is legally prohibited from endorsing political . candidates.

#### ADVERTISING

Your advertising directly supports a better newspaper. The open display advertising rate is \$16.50 per column inch, and The Commons offers discounts. To place your ad, contact lori@commonsnews.org or nancy@commonsnews.org.

Advertising files can be saved as PDF (press-ready setting), as TIFF (600 pixels per inch), or printed as black-and-white

hard copy. We can design your ad, and you should not hesitate to ask us to do so. We love helping our clients.

#### DISTRIBUTION

The Commons distributes 8,100 copies per issue to 250 drops in almost every Windham County town, as well as in neighboring towns in Windsor County (Vt.), Cheshire County (N.H.) and Franklin County (Mass.). Please get in touch (circulation@commonsnews.org) if you would like us to consider adding your business.

Without our volunteers, this newspaper would exist only in our imaginations. Special thanks to: Simi and Mark Berman, Diana Bingham, Jim Maxwell, Rob Bertsche Barbara Evans; Cameron Cobane, Shannon Ward, and Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery; Clay Turnbull and NEC; Brendan Emmett Quigley and Joon Pahk In memoriam: Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman, Mia Gannon

Online Ordering for Take Out / Delivery. Free delivery

Dine In

**Live Music** 

in downtown area!

#### latchispub.com

really difficult. Construction costs than for just two.<sup>3</sup> are high, and incomes often can't support the rents needed to cover construction."

"A lot of landlords are sympathetic to rising housing costs, and so they tend to try to keep the

But, like many Vermont towns and villages, Rockingham's antiquated zoning regulations don't always allow for this sort of reimagination.

The town will update its zonrents low," Dunbar said. "They ing regulations, which date to

any houses for sale," Fowler said. "I've had couples come in, they've gotten a job up here and they're looking around and can't find anywhere to live."

"At least once a month some-

Based on the results of the Residential Target Market Analysis, up to 35 new and existing homeowners and 150 new and existing renters could potentially migrate into and within Bellows Falls each year between 2021 and 2025.

"I think we're going to see a burst of incremental development because of the state's housing crisis," said Papazian. "But I also think this infill development is responding to a greater desire for urban living than there used

"We tell as many young people as we can — those who have the American dream of getting out of school and getting a job and buying a house — that we think people should, instead, start by living in a duplex or a three- or four-unit building and renting out some units," John Dunbar said.

"Rents will help pay for expenses so that they can then fix up the building and have an asset, Dunbar continued. "And then if vou wish to buy that single-family home, you go on and do that.'

"But I think we need a younger generation that is entrepreneurial and gaining skills in order to not only provide housing but to fix up buildings as well," he said.

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

-MOTHER TERESA

#### PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



916 West River Rd, Brattleboro, VT 802-254-2232 wchs4pets.org



Hi, my name is Ghost! I came in when my owner was no longer able to care for me. I have a lot of energy and loves to be outside. I have lived with cats and may be able to live with a dog savvy cat with a slow intro. I would do best in a home without any other dogs. I would do best in a home with kids 13+. Please come by and meet with me.



Hi, my name is Nova Lee! I was brought in because my owner passed away. I am a low rider with a ton of personality. I seem to do well with other dogs, so if you have any I would like to meet them here first. I would not be able to live in a home with cats. If you have kids they should be older and respectful. I love being around my people and would make a great

loving companion. Please stop by and make my dreams come true.



Hi, I'm the one and only Jackie Chan! I am a sweet, affectionate, snuggly, loud boy who wants a kingdom of my own! I love belly rubs and being babied. My favorite thing to do is lay in the windowsills in the sun. I would do best in a home with no other cats as I don't get along well with them. Dogs would be new to me so a slow intro would be best

Ad graciously sponsored by: **GUILFORD SOUND** quilfordsound.com 802-254-4511 info@guilfordsound.com



credit union let's connect Rates will vary based on your individual credit. This special does not apply to current loans held with 802 Credit Union, and is for secured, non-residential loans only. Not all applicants will qualify. Share account required. All oans receiving this special offer must close by November 30, 2023. Loan applications must be submitted by October 31, 2023. Additional terms & conditions apply. Contact us for all of the details.

Finance or Refinance your Car, Truck, Snowmobile, Camper, Motorcycle, ATV, Boat & More.

Ask us today or visit 802cu.com to apply online.

**SWITCH AND** Switch your propane to Sandri and get a \$100 account credit!\*



Call our office today to become a custome 1.800.628.1900

PS: We answer our phones! Does not apply to existing accounts. Other restrictions apply Please call for details

Sandri FREE tank set! **EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE WITH SANDRI:** 

Low, Competitive Pricing

NCUA

Easy to switch!

- Prompt Pay and Multi-Fuel User Discounts
- Same-Day Emergency Service 24/7

400 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA 01301



## **COLUMN** | Deeper Dive

## 'They saw a problem and got busy doing something about it'

Pat Burke reflects on nearly three decades of serving on the Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing board

Brattleboro N 1996, WHEN Pat Burke was invited to attend a meeting of the Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing (BAAH) board, she went. She was young, new to the area and to human resources work, and she was flattered that someone thought her input would be valuable.

She's been going to monthly BAAH meetings ever since. The September 2023 meeting was her last; she is leaving the volunteer board, but she won't stop working to assist people in need.

"There was always a sense in my family of service," she said. "It was always kind of instilled in me to do for others.

When Burke joined BAAH, she was working at the Brattleboro Area Community Land Trust (now Windham & Windsor Housing Trust) as the tenant services coordinator.

She was impressed with BAAH's mission: to improve, increase, and preserve affordable housing in the Brattleboro area and to assist those facing

#### **NANCY DETRA**

serves on the board of Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing. The Commons' Deeper Dive column gives nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate, and analytical about their own creative work and events.

housing emergencies. The board she met was a good representation of folks in the Brattleboro area human services sector.

Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing is a small, volunteer nonprofit organization that raises money in large part through individual donations. It also receives donations from local businesses and organizations, and has received grants from the town of Brattleboro, the Thomas Thompson Trust, and the Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund.

BAAH offers three programs dedicated to raising awareness

Safely dispose of prescription medication

Windham County participates in Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 28

Saturday, Oct. 28 is the fed- Hospital, 17 Belmont Ave. eral Drug Enforcement Agency's National Drug Take Back Day, and the Windham County Prevention Partnership is using this event to raise awareness about

• Bellows Falls Police Department, 170 Rockingham St. • Wilmington Police Department, 2 East Main St. • Dover Police Department,

about and providing solutions to housing problems that are sustainable, collaborative, and empowering:

• Housing Improvement Program (HIP), which helps people address the many barriers that they may face in accessing financial assistance for making necessary home repairs.

• Apartments in Homes Program (AIH), which encourages owners of single-family homes to convert underutilized space into affordable rental units.

• Creative Community Housing Program (CCHP) which provides individualized and creative short-term assistance to help people stay in their homes.

BURKE'S FIRST college degree was in commercial art; she made a minimal salary "designing placemats and whatnot. It wasn't inspiring work, and it didn't earn her enough to live on. To supplement her income, she took a job at a camp for young children who were facing hardships.

This more-demanding job let her help people, but she re-alized quickly that she needed more training. She signed up for classes in counseling at Notre Dame College in Manchester, New Hampshire, then eventually got her master's degree in counseling from St. Joseph's College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Now, she serves as the family services director for Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA). Reflecting on her decision to





Pat Burke

join the BAAH board 27 years ago, she describes BAAH's niche among the service organizations. BAAH is "nimble enough" to deal with problems fairly quickly, without a lot of forms, said Burke.

As an example, she described a single mother whose daughter needed treatments for a sudden health condition. The woman held a job but had no savings to pay rent while she was out of work caring for her daughter.

That's when Burke and BAAH stepped in and created a budget assistance program. Burke worked with the woman to develop a budget plan, where she would pay a small sum each month which she could afford for rent, and BAAH would cover the remainder.

"I liked the people [at BAAH]," said Burke. "They saw a problem and got busy doing something about it."



ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Brattleboro Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, 11.15.2023 at 7:00 PM in the Selectboard Meeting Room, Municipal Center, 230 Main St., Brattleboro, VT; the meeting will also be held on Zoom. Meeting ID: 881 4045 1917 Passcode: 190450.

2023-121 Jennifer Shay; HRO & RN3600 Districts; request for Design Review Approval to demolish a contributing structure in the Homestead Home Historic District at 198 Canal ST; TMP #325182.000;

2023-129 Wesley Babb & Stacy Salpietro-Babb; RN District; request for Conditional Use Approval to construct an enclosure and keep a rehabbed raven at 31 Christie LN; TMP#110326.220; Pursuant to 24 VSA §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. NOTE: Meetings are open to the public. For specific accommodations please call the Planning Services Department at 802-251-8154. Application materials are available at https://tinyurl.com/DRB-Applications. Additional materials may be submitted up to the time of the meeting and will be uploaded to the above address.

#### **JOB OPENING** Vocational Counselor

office of Hire Ability (formerly Vocational Rehabilitation) The Brattleboro has an opening for a skilled Vocational Counselor to join our highly innovative team of professionals with the mission of helping Vermonters with disabilities to gain and maintain employment and to access career training and education opportunities. Job duties include assessment, guidance and counseling, case management, documentation and collaboration with many community providers.

proper storage and disposal of prescription medications.

This initiative gives communities the opportunity to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft by ridding homes of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Simply collect your expired or unused prescription pills or patches in their original bottle or place them in a disposable bag. Be sure to remove or cover your personal information. Then, you may anonymously drop your medication at the nearest prescription drug drop box.

Keep in mind that the DEA cannot accept liquids, needles, or sharps - only pills or patches.

According to organizers, Drug Take Back Day "addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that are left in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse."

"Rates of prescription drug misuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs," according to the DEA.

"Additionally, simply throwing unused medicines in the trash or flushing them down the toilet risks environmental harm, theft, and poses a public health hazard."

As a result, "it is so important to come together as a community and do our part to help raise awareness and take this issue head on. We are so grateful for the support we've seen for this event,' Elisha Underwood, the executive director of West River Valley Thrives in Townshend, said in a news release.

Bring your medications for disposal to any of the following locations:

• Messenger Valley Pharmacy, 170 Grafton Rd., Townshend.

Brattleboro Police Department, 62 Black Mountain Rd.

• Brattleboro Memorial

#### Transcribing, Editing and Proofreading Services

Accurate, Confidential, Fast Turn-Around, Fair Pricing Elizabeth: elizabethjulia88@aol.com; 802-257-7475 245 VT 100.

All locations have permanent drop boxes in their respective lobbies, and boxes are available for pill disposal during open lobby hours, no questions asked.

Event organizers caution that these locations may have fluctuating hours and urge those wanting to participate to call ahead to confirm their hours.

If you are unable to make it to a physical drop box and would like a postage-paid bag to dispose of your unwanted prescription via mail in a medication-safe envelope, you can request an envelope from the Vermont Department of Health (bit.ly/737-meds).

TURKEY DINNER Saturday, October 28 **EVENING STAR GRANGE** EAT IN OR TAKE OUT Menu: Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Winter Sauash, Green Bean Casserole, Pumpkin Upside Down Pie. Serving time 4:30pm - 6pm \$13 Adults. \$6 Children ages 5-11. Dummerston Center 1008 East West Rd. Reservations suggested. Call 802-254-1138 to indicate in-house or take-out. nefit: Evening Star Grange #154 Thank you for supporting your local Grange! .....



Put a QR code in your ad so that readers can instantly go to your website or contact you by scanning it on a mobile device.

Search online for a QR code generator.

#### To get your ad in The Commons:

Scan the QR code with your mobile device, or email one of our ad reps: lori@commonsnews.org (or) nancy@commonsnews.org



The position is posted on the State of VT Department of Human Resources website. Deadline to apply is 11/2/23. For questions or further information about this position, please contact Leo Schiff, Sr. Vocational Counselor at 802-798-9163, leo.schiff@vermont.gov.

## Garden Path

#### **RESIDENTIAL CARE - URGENTLY HIRING** SIGN ON BONUS - \$1000.00 (FT ONLY).

Bradley House is seeking RAs and licensed LNAs for 2PM - 10PM (full-time). We also have regular part-time shifts available. There is a \$500 sign on bonus for part-time. We offer full benefits and flexibility in a caring, home-like atmosphere.

To learn if we're the right place for you please visit our website at www.gardenpathelderliving.org.



Engaging and inspiring healthy communities

Are you ready for an amazing opportunity to lead an innovative program and make positive changes in your community?

#### Youth Engagement Specialist Job Posting

Hours and Compensation: This is a flexible 30-35 hour per week position eligible for generous benefits including paid time-off, health and dental insurance, and 403(b) retirement benefits. Starting rate, \$22 per hour.

Job Summary: In conjunction with other staff, this position is responsible for coordinating the implementation of youth program opportunities, outreach, and communication to meet the outcomes of the substance use prevention strategies of West River Valley Thrives (Thrives). The Youth Engagement Specialist will communicate through multiple channels to educate, coordinate, and build momentum around Thrives' activities, best practices and initiatives to highlight and amplify youth voice.

#### For full job announcement and how to apply go to: wrvthrives.org/blog/full-time-job-opening

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Position will remain open until filled.

## 

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150



#### TRANSFER **STATION** ATTENDANT

Windham Solid Waste Management District is looking for a temporary part-time transfer station attendant for up to 20 hours per week, including some Saturdays. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. and work outside. Ability to operate heavy equipment a plus. Applications are available at 327 Old Ferry Rd, Brattleboro, VT, or at windhamsolidwaste.org. Applications must be received by August 31 at the office, or by email to admin@windhamsolidwaste.org. WSWMD is an equal opportunity employer.

## WE ARE HIRING!!!



We have multiple openings for production: **Full-Time Production** Bakers/Line Workers.

Must be able to lift 65+ pounds from a bending position, take direction well, follow precise instructions in a timely manner, and work well both independently and with others. The ideal candidate will have a strong work ethic, high quality standards, and a positive attitude. Attention to detail is essential. We prefer candidates with some commercial kitchen or food production/ manufacturing experience.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Ingredient preparation, dough production, product packaging, line work and cleaning.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicant must be at least 18 years of age, with a valid High School Diploma or GED.

#### WORK HOURS:

40 hour work week, an eight-hour shift, Monday - Friday, multiple shifts available. Occasional overtime.

#### **COMPENSATION:**

Starting salary of \$17.50-\$18.50/hour, with an opportunity for a raise of \$1 at both 6 and 12 months depending on performance. We offer a highly competitive benefits package: company paid medical, dental & vision, up to \$2,000 in a company paid HRA plan, company paid Short-Term & Long-Term Disability and Life Insurance, 14 paid days off, 12 paid holidays, a 3% employer 401K contribution, and other supplemental benefits.

TO APPLY: Scan the QR code, or visit againstthegraingourmet.com/pages/careers



#### MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

#### **College news**

• The following local students were honored for academic achievement during the summer 2023 semester at Community College of Vermont. Named to the Student Honors List were Marguerite Janiszyn-Lisai and John McCann of Bellows Falls; Tessa Clayton, Jessica Farguhar, Candace Kendrick, Daelyn Lynn, **Emily Pinz**, Alexandria Tupper, Sierra Ward, and Lindsey Wright of Brattleboro; Lucinda Weed of Jacksonville; Ryan Gardner and Shane Martin of Putney; Jessica Burbridge and April Worden of South Newfane; Kailuna **Holmes** of Townshend; Alexander Kemp and Nadine Kissell of Vernon; and Shannon Moore of Whitingham. Named to the President's List was Noah Morgan of Brattleboro.

**Obituaries** 

Dr

Richard

Training and volunteered periodically on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He is survived by Irene, his wife of nearly 60 years; his children Jenny, Krista, and Patrick; and one grandchild. MEMORIAL IN-FORMATION: A service will be held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m., followed immediately by a reception at the Brattleboro Country Club, 58 Senator Gannett Drive, where the family anticipates many stories about "Doctor B" will be shared; as Dick would say, "Some of them might even be true!" Donations to St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301; Bradley House, 65 Harris Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301; and the Bayada Hospice Fund, 1222 Putney Rd., Suite 107, Brattleboro, VT 05301. To share a memory or offer condolences to the family, visit **atamaniuk.com**. • Robert J.

at the School for International

"Bob" Esden, 83, of Dover. Died on Oct. 17, 2023 at Spring Village at Dover

Thomas while under the "Dick" care of Hospice of Dover. Robert was born in Burtis, 89, of Brattleboro on Jan. 15, 1940, Brattleboro. Died peacefully the son o the late Robert R. and on Oct. 18, 2023 Miriam (Trumble) Esden. He atat Bradley House. He was a detended Brattleboro Union High voted husband, loving parent, School, graduating in 1958. Following graduation, Robert loyal friend, and a great teller of joined the Air Force and served his bad jokes. He practiced as a physician in Brattleboro for five decades country proudly until 1962 when and was widely respected for his he was honorably discharged. Bob loved sports; he was a proud memmedical acumen, good cheer, humility, and kindness. He will be ber of the BUHS 1957 state championship football team, played for remembered as a true force for the All-Air Force softball team, good in his community and will be missed by the many people he and was a scratch golfer for the touched in his nearly 60 years in majority of his life. He was hapthe Brattleboro area. Dick was pily married, on May 4, 1963, to born on Feb. 9, 1934 in Baldwin, Janet Cowling. They celebrated New York, the son of Theodore their 60th anniversary this year. Alfred Burtis and Florence Angela Robert was an industry-recog-Burtis (née Whalen). The youngnized expert in industrial coatest by 10 years of three children, ings, working as a chemistry lab Dick liked to joke that his arrival leader in Vermont, Massachusetts, was a "Depression surprise." New Hampshire, and Ohio, be-Dick grew up on Long Island and fore retiring in 2009. Bob loved people, enjoying time as a Little Mount Lebanon and Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. An exceptional stu-League baseball coach, softball dent and athlete, Dick attended umpire, and working out at the Swarthmore College, where he YMCA. He also volunteered as a studied zoology and played varsity lay minister for the Grace United football and lacrosse. After gradu-Church of Christ in Columbus, ating in 1955, Burtis and his col-Ohio, and was a longstanding lege roommate Michael Dukakis member of the Masonic Lodge hitchhiked to Mexico City, enjoy-#102 in Brattleboro. He had ing many adventures along the many nicknames throughout his way. That fall, as one of two inaulife – - Casey, Bionic Chemist, Old gural Keasbey Fellows, Dick ma-Goat — but the names he liked triculated at New College, Oxford to be called the most was Hop on University, where he studied anat-Pop and Grandpa Duck. Robert omy and played on the lacrosse is survived by his wife, Janet; and rugby teams. In the summer sons Paul Esden (Michelle) and Stephen Esden (Jose); grandchildren Brody, Nicholas, Paul Esden Jr., HeatherAnn, Kali, and Haley; and great-grandchildren Sophia, David, Zariah-Luna, Huyam, and Yousf. He was predeceased by his siblings Richard and Heather. **Memorial information:** A graveside service was held at West Brattleboro Cemetery on Oct. 20. Donations to the Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org). To offer



The young photographers who attended the Insight Photography Competition Awards ceremony: Roxanne Burt (prizewinner), Nico Conathan-Leach (prizewinner), Ezra Hemphill, Eowyn Jakub, Emma Paris (prizewinner), Charlie Latham, Blake Trubridge, Lily Arnold, Felix Burch (prizewinner), Matrix Balsley-Patraska (prizewinner), Genevieve Taggart, Aubrey Hallock (prizewinner), Kota Rayne (prizewinner), Milo Latham, Thaddeus Taggart, and Nova Stroble.

## In-Sight names winning youth photographers

Photography named the winners of its first photo contest at an award ceremony and photo fair on Sept. 30 in the Latchis Theatre

Photographers from the region -– 31 of them, ranging in age from 11 to 18 — won awards in five categories (Analog/Film, Artistic, People, Places, and The New England Experience).

A team of judges of local and national renown evaluated 89 images. Photographer Cathy Cone was honorary chair.

Community members also weighed in on a People's Choice award.

Prizes included Canon DSLR cameras, Polaroid cameras, gift certificates, and more, and each participant received a gift bag from In-Sight.

Founded in 1992, the In-Sight Photography Project offers all youth access to opportunities - classes at its headquarters at 183 Main St., school partnerships, and in other ways - to express their creativity in the photographic arts (from darkroom, digital, and video) in a learning environment and with a curriculum that supports the diversity of individuals, communities, and cultures.

#### The winners:

Competition).

**Analog/Film**—*First place:* Aubrey Hallock, Brattleboro. Second place: Antonio Andrew-Moore, Putney . Third place: Ronen Carnes, Vernon . Jury: Michael Kirchoff (Analog Forever

magazine) and Vaune Trachtman

(Olcott Family Award/The Print Center's Annual International

**Artistic** — *First place:* Nico

BRATTLEBORO—In-Sight Press and InkjetMall) and Aline Second place: Matrix Balsley- Hemphill, 14, of Northfield, Smithson (Lenscratch magazine).

> **People** — First place: Roxanne Burt, Marlboro. Second place: Antonio Andrew-Moore, Putney. Third place: Blake Trubridge, Newfane. Jury: Rachel Portesi (photographer) and Geoffrey Peckham (Tusen Takk Foundation).

> **Places** — First place: Roxanne Burt, Marlboro. Second place: Emma Paris, Putney. Third place: Felix Burch, Brattleboro. *Jury:* Joan O'Beirne (Greenfield Community College) and Dale Rio (The Halide Project).

The New England **Experience** — First place: Nico Conathan-Leach, Guilford. Yahya, 17, of Brattleboro; Ezra

Patraska, Guilford. Third place: Ronen Carnes, Vernon. *Jury:* Jon Gitelson (Keene State College) and Tim Trelease (Deerfield Academy).

People's Choice: Felix Burch, Brattleboro.

Participating artists also included Adnan Hussainzada, 16, of Brattleboro; Atticus Haskins Rogers, 12, of Florence, Massachusetts; Ava Einig, 14, of Guilford; Azzan Yahya, 16, of Brattleboro; Blue Berenguel, 16 of Brattleboro.

Also, Charlie Latham, 15, of Keene, New Hampshire; Eisa Hiam, 14, of Putney; Eowyn Jakub, 13, of Leyden; Ezat Massachusetts; Genevieve Taggart, 15, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; Jasmine Thibault, 15, of Dummerston.

Also, Leo Mousseau, 16, of Marlboro; Lily Arnold, 11, of Dummerston; Milo Latham, 12, of Keene, New Hampshire; Navaeh Sheldon, 13, of Brattleboro; Nova Stroble, 17, of Vernon; Otto Morlock, 17, of Brattleboro; Thaddeus Taggart, 15, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; and Vivian Elliot, 16, of Brattleboro.

To see all the photo entries, visit the In-Sight website (insightphotography.org).



between his years at Oxford, Dick studied in post-war Vienna, which left him with a lasting fondness for Austrians, the German language, the Alps, and, rather uniquely, liverwurst. After Oxford, Dick attended Harvard Medical School, graduating in 1960. During his residency in Cleveland, Dick met a young nurse, Irene Miriam Macur. The couple married in November 1963. Declining offers from bigcity hospitals, they instead chose the rural life and moved to the Brattleboro area in 1965 with one-year-old daughter Jenny. They settled on Hale Road in Guilford, where they raised three children, several dogs and cats, and numerous farm animals. The Burtises moved into Brattleboro permanently in 2008. Dick was drawn to Vermont for its peaceful mountains and wild beauty, and remained an avid skier, cyclist, and bird watcher into his 80s. Dr. Burtis operated a private practice in Brattleboro for nearly 50 years, and was closely affiliated with Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. He served as president of the Vermont Medical Society in 1986. Near the end of his career, he was attending physician

#### condolences, visit atamaniuk.com. • David Burke Fontaine,

**89,** died peacefully at home with family on Oct. 1, 2023. He was born on Nov. 14, 1933 to Nelson and Marion Fontaine and raised in Townshend. He served in the Army from 1951 to 1954 during the Korean War, and married his high school sweetheart, Jean E. Roche, in 1954 at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Together, they had five children: Alice Thomas (Tim) of Phelen, California, David B. Fontaine Jr. (Carol) of Lititz, Pennsylvania, Daniel Fontaine (Margaret) of Townshend, and Donald (Nancy) of Tavarse, Florida. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, in 2020 and their son Douglas in 1975. David owned

Conathan-Leach, Guilford. Second place: Kota Rayne, Jacksonville . Third place: Ruby Schlatter, Bennington . Jury: company and enjoyed making furniture and kitchen cabinets. He had many hobbies, including camping, fishing, hunting, square dancing, beekeeping, and snowmobiling. He enjoyed country music and played the fiddle in his

be held at a later date. Sandra E. "Sandy" (LaValley) Rouleau, 69, of Brattleboro. Died on Sept. 14, 2023 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, afand operated his own construction ter an extended illness. Born to

younger years. MEMORIAL INFOR-

MATION: A memorial service will

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. 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.



Albert and Victoria LaValley on Nov. 3, 1954, she spent her life in Brattleboro and attended grade school and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School. Over the years, Sandy worked at Holton Home, Thompson House and the Maytag laundromat, all in Brattleboro. She married Henry Rouleau on Oct. 10, 1998 on the Brattleboro Common with family and friends gathered around. Sandy enjoyed crocheting and knitting things for her extended family members. She also liked doing search-a-word puzzles, going to flea markets, and attending family get-togethers when she could. She was predeceased by her parents, her sisters Theresa Bolster (Cleon) and Linda Weaver and brother-in-law David Weaver, sister-in-law Hazel LaValley (James), and her in-laws George and Edith Rouleau. She is survived by her husband, her sisters Leatrice Perkins (Mike) and Barbara Winslow (Scott), her brother James LaValley, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. MEMORIAL INFORMA-TION: As per her wishes, there will be no services.

Sonya Diane Shippee, 82, of Vernon. Died peacefully at home, sur-

rounded by family, on Oct. 13, 2023. She was born in Brattleboro on July 26, 1941, daughter of the late Lester and Myra (Brown) Howard. She grew up in Dover and attended local schools. Sonya was known for having a brilliant mind and valiantly fought dementia for the last few years until her death. Sonya married Lawrence Shippee on Dec. 30, 1957. They initially resided at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and, after Lawrence's Army service ended, they moved

back to Vermont finally settling and raising their family in Vernon. She was the bookkeeper and driving force behind their family automotive business in Vernon for more than 30 years. Sonya also was a bookkeeper at Vermont Yankee during the final few years of construction. She was a dedicated Christian and valued her family first and foremost. She had plenty of love to give to her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Sonya had the most beautiful handwriting and loved gardening. She was always known for her huge garden and trying to give everyone she met her overabundance of zucchini every August. Sonya was an amazing cook and every Thanksgiving and Christmas her home was full with her ever growing family. Her potato salad, meatballs, and macaroni and cheese recipes will live on through her children. Sonya was an extremely humble person and few know that she was instrumental in starting the winter ski program at Vernon Elementary School in the 1970s while she was the PTA President. She spent many winters gathering up all the ski equipment with her truck and delivering them to and from Maple Valley Ski Area so that the kids could ski. This

later turned into the winter sports program. She rarely spoke of her many accomplishments, which included: earning her pilot's license, winning trophies drag racing in the 1960s, winning trophies circle track racing in the 1970s, bowling across the country, and being awarded the employee of the year in 1999 by the Windham County Sheriff's Department. The town of Vernon was very important to Sonya. She spent many years trying to have a positive influence on the town. She took on many roles including Selectboard member, Windham Regional Commission

member, low-level radioactive waste advisory committee chair, and delinquent tax collector. After her children were grown, she started working at the Vernon Police Department and quickly became well respected in law enforcement due to her unwavering honesty and work ethic. She later joined the Sheriff's Department, where she was the office manager until her retirement. As office manager, she was a jack-of-alltrades and was often seen dispatching or serving court papers. She was also the work "mom" to all the younger deputies who may or may not have been scolded a time or two about time sheets or paperwork. She leaves her loving husband, Lawrence Shippee Sr.; sons Lawrence Shippee Jr. and wife Jean of Vernon, Shane Shippee and wife Linda of Vernon, Shawn Shippee and wife Alison of Westmoreland, New Hampshire, and Sheldon Shippee of Martinez, Georgia; grandchildren Jennifer Calantropio and husband Garrett, Jessica Shippee and fiancé Dan Spooner, Lawrence Shippee III and wife Allison Cram, Vickie Rea and husband Robert, Seth Shippee and wife Elizabeth Parolski, Alex Shippee, Brendon Shippee and wife Alyssa, and Reagan Shippee; and great-grandchildren Tenley and Mason Rea, and Paxton Shippee. Sonya was predeceased by her sister Constance O'Masta and a grandson, Derrick Shippee. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial service was held on Oct. 21 at West Brattleboro Baptist Church. A burial service will be held at the North Cemetery on Fort Bridgman Road in Vernon on Oct. 25. Donations to the West Brattleboro Baptist Church. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information, visit phaneuf. net.

Cathy Cone (Cone Editions Aubrey Hallock, 12, earned first place in the Analog category for this entry.



Ioshua Davis, longtime executive director of Groundworks Collaborative, announced on Oct. 23 that he is stepping down to take a similar post at Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA).

## Davis resigns FROM SECTION FRONT

the COVID-19 pandemic spurred the state to offer motel vouchers to anyone without permanent housing. But soon after the facility opened last year, staffers found that, even with a record local supply of 34 shelter beds and 200 motel rooms, demand was even higher.

"It's disheartening," Davis told VTDigger at the time. "We collectively haven't made much progress.

Groundworks lost 30 other beds this past April when it closed its nearby Morningside House shelter upon its coordinator's death.

somebody in the eye and say the only thing that I have to provide for you today is a tent and a sleeping bag," Davis said this summer. "For better or for worse, that's all

we got right now." Groundworks employs 45 people in its housing, food, health, and support programs. Former Brattleboro Town Manager Peter Elwell, who has assisted Davis this past year, will serve as interim leader until a new administrator is found, the collaborative's board of directors said in a statement.

For his part, Davis is set to become the new executive director of Southeastern Vermont Community Action, a nonprofit that serves low-income households in Windham and Windsor counties.

"I am incredibly grateful "It's incredibly painful to look for the opportunity to lead this organization for so long," he said of his eight years head-ing Groundworks. "We've been through a lot.'

## Beech trees

and disrupting the flow of nutrients and water within the leaves," Halman said.

"And so, when you have high enough numbers of these nematodes within the leaves, it can really reduce the ability of the tree to have to photosynthesize and grow properly," he added.

Staff at the department con-firmed the disease after local residents submitted photos of potentially infected American beech trees to **VTInvasives.org**.

"People in Vermont are surprisingly up to date with what's going on in terms of forest health in the region, and so this was somebody who thought it looked suspicious and submitted it," Halman said.

After collecting samples, department staff sent them to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Laboratory, which confirmed the presence of the invasive nematode's DNA.

When leaves are first infected, they begin to develop thick stripes between the veins, which can sometimes coincide with yellowing of the leaves, according to a press release from the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation.

In severe cases, the striping area becomes "slightly raised and thicker than normal tissue, which will lead to leaf defor-mation, premature leaf-drop, and dieback," according to the department. The progression of the diseases is more severe in younger trees.

Scientists don't yet know how the nematode spreads from tree to tree. While no known cure exists, "there's a lot of research going on to see what kind of treatments can be effective for controlling this," Halman said. For decades, beech trees in

> **Beech leaves** infected with beech leaf disease.

that it's actually damaging cells Vermont have already been in- compounding impacts, he said, fected with beech bark disease, which gives beech trees bumpy bark. Halman said it's more common to find beech trees infected with beech bark disease than to find trees showing no

symptoms. The two diseases could have and scientists are currently studying whether beech bark disease could help beech leaf disease become established.

Halman called beech "a great survivor" because it can reproduce through its roots by sending sprouts to create new trees.

#### FROM SECTION FRONT

"Even if a tree dies, there's new trees that are being gen-erated from its roots immediately," he said.

Halman encouraged Vermonters to report potential beech leaf disease, and any other suspected invasive species, to VTInvasives.org.



#### VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FOREST. PARKS, AND RECREATION

## 4-H seeks new members, adult volunteers as new season of programs begin

BURLINGTON—October program that is more relevant and events. marks the start of a new 4-H year, bringing fresh opportunities

today than ever before," Allison

"4-H uses hands-on learning to Smith, assistant 4-H director, said help youths develop life skills, enfor both youths ages 5–18 and for adult volunteers. It provides op-portunities for youths to connect gage in community service, form lasting friendships, and be men-



Many 4-H clubs are enrolling new members for the upcoming project year. Current members will be able to sign up for projects ranging from livestock, clothing, and culinary to robotics, photography, and crafts. Adults will have the opportunity to organize and lead new clubs as well as support 4-H programming and events.

Vermont 4-H also continues to add new staff to support programming. Recently, Amber Thibodeau was hired as the new 4-H educator for Windham and Windsor counties and is based in the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension office in Brattleboro.

in meaningful ways with those around them and develop a sense of belonging.

This past 4-H year, 933 youths and 269 volunteers were involved in UVM Extension 4-H clubs. Among the most popular projects were those focusing on horses (282 youths), dairy (235) and shooting sports (108).

There were 2,602 participants, both 4-H members and non-4-H'ers, who took part in 4-H special-interest and shortterm programs, including VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Cafés, AgroTek, and after school programs. An additional 546 adults and 130 4-H teens assisted with "4-H is a youth development these and other 4-H programs

tored by caring adults," Smith says. "When all these ingredients come together, 4-H helps [participants] thrive by developing their sense of mastery in learning new skills and hopeful purpose in connecting with their community." To learn more about joining a

4-H club or becoming an adult 4-H volunteer, contact the UVM Extension State 4-H Office tollfree at 800-571-0668. For information about upcoming 4-H events, visit bit.ly/736-4H. 4-H alums also are encouraged to reconnect with 4-H through social media (facebook.com/Vermont4H) or by becoming a 4-H volunteer.

## Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market opens on Nov. 4

Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market opens for its 18th season on Saturday, Nov. 4, once again in the Croker Hall gymnasium on the Winston Prouty Campus.

The indoor market season begins on the first Saturday in November following the last outdoor summer market in October. Fans of the summer Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market in West Brattleboro can simply follow many of their favorite vendors indoors to the only weekly indoor farmers market in the region open every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through March 26.

Visitors will find plenty of farms and local produce represented. This location provides convenient parking and a spacious market that adequately serve both vendors and customers. Most weeks, market visitors will find

BRATTLEBORO-The more than two dozen vendors, farmers markets across the counincluding many favorites from try, the impact of direct farmerpast seasons as well as new faces Offerings include fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs, cheese, and other farm products, as well as breads, treats, great lunches, preserves, beautiful handmade gifts, and live local music.

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market welcomes SNAP/EBT shoppers, and can process credit and debit cards as well. SNAP customers can turn \$10 into \$30 each week with Crop Cash Coupons thanks to NOFA-VT with funding from the USDA, and the market's own Boost Your Bread coupons thanks to Post Oil Solutions, the Vermont Foodbank, and other funding sources.

Market Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening

to-consumer transactions at a market is greater than it might appear on the surface. They say that markets serve as community anchors, positively influencing community health and wealth, resulting in more viable regional economies, increased access to fresh, nutritious food, and stronger social networks that help keep communities healthy.

The winter farmers market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions, a local nonprofit working to promote sustainable communities. For more information, call Sherry Maher at 802-275-2835 or email farmersmarket@postoilsolutions. org. Follow Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market on Facebook According to the Farmers or join their newsletter at brattleborowinterfarmersmarket. org.

## A thriving downtown is the heart of our communities

Though other banks may come and go, this is and always will be our home.

#### **BS&L SINCE 1912. NEVER BOUGHT. NEVER SOLD.**





221 Main Street, Brattleboro | 972 Putney Road, Brattleboro 59 Vt Rte 30, Bondville | 108 East Main Street, Wilmington

E ach of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our goals in life. I learned this first through agriculture, because all farmers can expect to have about 40 growing seasons, giving them just 40 chances to improve on every harvest. —Howard Graham Buffett



A6

Art Miller, holding his grandson Zeke, talks to a group of Windham Northeast elementary school students as they get ready to take a hayride around the Miller Farm in Vernon during a Oct. 19 field trip.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS Windham Northeast School Nutrition Director Harley Sterling.



A few of the more than 200 cows at the Miller Farm in Vernon.

## **Dairy and schools**

dairy farmers a financial boost of the WNESU district, are some serious growing pains," through school sales.

An added \$12 million is currently being rolled out across the region to expand organic dairy farmers' processing capabilities and thus, the program.

Miller Farm and owner Pete Miller served their milk for the field trip fresh from the New England Dairy Mobile Dairy Bar. Schools participating in this

year's pilot program, all part

Westminster Center School and Bellows Falls Union High School, Westminster; Rockingham Central Elementary School, Bellows Falls; Saxtons River Elementary School, Saxtons River; and Grafton Elementary School, Grafton.

Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts mingled with the cows and kids.

"Organic has gone through

FROM SECTION FRONT

he said. "This project here is a piece of that puzzle — getting into more institutional settings, whether it be schools, correctional facilities, colleges, etc.'

A news release about the pilot program, "Pilot program offers Windham Northeast students organic milk from Miller Farm," appeared in the Sept. 27 issue.

> Half-pint bottles are filled with organic milk at the Miller Farm in Vernon.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts, left, and Paul Miller exchange pleasantries during an Oct. 19 field trip for Windham Northeast elementary school students to the Miller Farm in Vernon.

**Now in Progress** 



#### BRATTLEBORO

## Co-op, BCAT offer shelter for bikes downtown

BRATTLEBORO—Those who have ever tried to find a place to park their bike downtown when it was raining or snowing know sheltered bicycle parking spots are few and far between.

The Brattleboro Coalition for Active Transportation (BCAT) announces the installation of a new bike parking shelter over the existing bike parking at the Brattleboro Food Co-op. The shelter will provide cover for up to eight bikes.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at noon on Monday, Oct 30, on the Whetstone Pathway. All community members are invited to attend.

"Providing covered bike parking is best practice when it comes to encouraging bicycling for transportation," BCAT volunteer Alice Charkes said in a news release.

Charkes said BCAT accomplished this project with help from key partners. Volunteers generated the idea and started fundraising and organizing for the shelter several years ago. Many community members donated small amounts and several organizations also chipped in larger sums, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont.

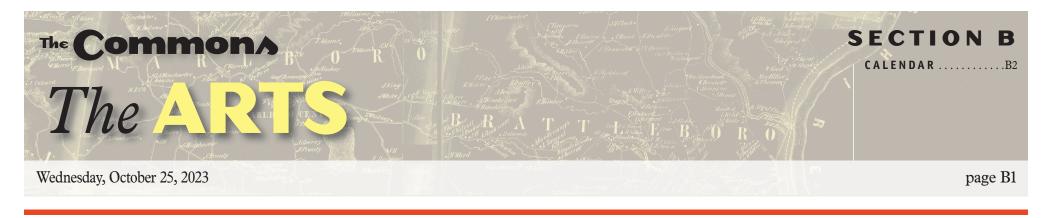
The Brattleboro Food Co-op provided about half of the funding for the shelter, which will be located on its property along the Whetstone Pathway. The town of Brattleboro also played a key role and contributed to the project by installing the shelter.

Statewide walk/bike/roll advocacy group Local Motion sourced and provided a discount on the shelter, completed permitting and site plans, and assisted with coordination of the initiative. Much of this assistance was possible thanks to a Mobility and Transportation Innovations grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Brattleboro Coalition for Active Transportation is a citizens' group dedicated to making walking and biking in Brattleboro safer and more enjoyable for everyone. For more information about getting involved, contact them at bcatbratt@googlegroups.com.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

Store Closi guidation Now in Progress Sam's Brattleboro store is closing off Storewide regular priced merchandise **BIC 1200 ISC** as marked on yellow tag **IHA** Reduced 25% to 50% from orginal price. **Brattleboro Store Only** All of the great brands Sam's is known for. In stock merchandise only. All sales final. No returns. No exchanges. **OPEN SEVEN DAYS Exceptions: Licenses, Gift cards,** SUN 10-5 Services: Skate Sharpening, Gun Transfers etc... **MON-SAT 9:30-6** Sale ends April 2024. 74 MAIN ST. BRATTLEBORO. VT • 802-254-2933 • www.samsoutfitters.com



## **COLUMN** | Creative Conversations

## Simple to the bone, straight to the heart

Walter Parks of The Unlawful Assembly brings old spirituals into the present day and makes music that reaches across the color lines

Putney alter Parks, the 65-year-old guitarist, composer, founder and band leader of The Unlawful Assembly, lives in St. Louis and says it's a great music town. He founded the band earlier this year and plays guitar and sings, along with Ada Dyer on vocals and Steven Williams, drummer and producer.

The Unlawful Assembly reimagines and tributes historic spirituals and hymns that universally inspire, empower, and unite. *The Commons* had an extensive phone interview (where Parks sang and broke out his guitar several times) recently. Here's an excerpt of the conversation:

**VICTORIA CHERTOK:** How did The Unlawful Assembly begin, and how did you decide to play and sing these types of songs?

**WALTER PARKS:** I had to sing a few spirituals and hymns at my father's memorial when he passed away five years ago. Church was compulsory for me when I was a kid. I didn't like it. I started singing this music, and this sense of power overcame me with the lyrics.

When I finally sang "Amazing Grace" at my father's service, I asked, "What is this song about?" I researched it and found out that it was a redemptive exercise written by a slave ship captain. Then I realized the song has universal appeal.

I realized something about songwriting: The best is simple to the bone, straight to the VICTORIA CHERTOK covers arts and entertainment in Vermont for The Commons. She is a classically trained harpist and

sically trained harpist and received a B.A. in music at Bucknell University.

heart. That led me into old English hymns, the roots of all the music we love.

This is not a religious project. This is a historic project that takes old spirituals like "Down by the Riverside" and brings it into the present day. It's almost like [electronic dance music]; it has that kind of vibe.

**V.C.:** You toured with and played next to Richie Havens from 2001 to 2011. What lessons did you learn playing with Richie?

**W.P.:** When I first got the gig with Richie, I was playing three nights a week for 10 years. It was a great experience. I feel like one of the luckiest musicians in the world. I learned so much from him.

He valued the average person. He was 100% in the moment with whoever he was talking to instead of looking around the room for people who could help his career.

He was a true man of the people. He liked to mentor new talent in young people. He would appreciate and nurture the reasons why we as older artists got into art in the first place.

**V.C.:** You say that you play guitar like a piano. How so?

**W.P.:** As a guitar player, I love working on my guitar and studying musical harmony. I play the guitar kind of like a piano. I translate the music to guitar from old hymns which were written for organ. I use the piano or organ music and translate it for guitar.

Then the light went off. I hear hymns and spirituals in everything now!

**v.c.:** How did an experience in Vermont change your creative career?

**W.P.:** I was a guitar player for years before one of my mentors, Daniel Lanois, of Ontario, Canada, a great lover of American roots music, taught me a different relationship with my instrument: a finger pick method, kind of like caressing of the guitar and playing it like a banjo in a sort of banjo style. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think of Daniel.

**v.c.:** How did you find the Georgia "swamp music" and bring those songs to life?

**W.P.:** I started thinking about this old swamp in Georgia, the Okefenokee Swamp, which [was a setting for] all those railroad work songs that those guys would all sing. They had to hit a piece of rail in the same time, and there was music involved in the timing of that.

None of the Black folks were preserved in recording, just the white folks. The swamp had been harvested, the railroad tracks were ripped out, and the Black folks were gone.

The history of it is fascinating! Sen. Rafael Warnock (D-Ga.) was instrumental in honoring this area.



The Unlawful Assembly

PAUL STOREY/COURTESY PHOTO

# 'What? No vocals?'

Big Lazy's 'new American music' combines the archetypes of blues, jazz, and early rock 'n' roll with film and

#### Double bill at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts will present a double bill featuring "the reimagined historic spirituals and hymns of Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly, and "guitar noir"/"crime jazz" of Big Lazy, on Friday, Oct. 27 at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. They are \$10

livestream. Advance ticketing closes two hours before showtime. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit **nextstagearts.org**.

To learn more about The Unlawful Assembly, visit walterparks. com/the-unlawful-assembly. To learn more about Big Lazy, visit biglazymusic.com. **v.c.**: Where did you grow up?

**W.P.:** I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. I'm a Southerner. I did a lot of research from the 1930s and '40s Swamp music. I went searching for that music [on] a hunch.

I found a man named Francis Harper and the really rustic music he recorded: really beautiful old hymns, Appalachian reels and hollers [an old Sunday morning. I rebelled. I needed to hear something different. I started listening to pop music: the Stylistics, Al Green, and Stevie Wonder.

European holler that sounds

like a yodel]. This is the mu-

sic we play in The Unlawful

**v.c.**: When you were a kid,

you were interested in early '70s

soul from Al Green to the Staple

**W.P.:** My father would play

Sisters. What appealed to you?

country music on the AM radio

to wake me up in the morning

to go to school. Dolly Parton,

Porter Wagoner, Merle Travis.

white gospel music because I

was forced to listen to that on

And I hated it. I really hated

Assembly.

For many white Southerners of my generation now, a lot of times the only exposure to people of color would be through somebody who maybe worked for them. They were the ones who consoled me when I was injured.

That humanity I saw at that

■ SEE PARKS, B3

## Vocalist 'comes home to the church'

'I didn't know singing could have a physical effect on the body,' says Ada Dyer, vocalist for The Unlawful Assembly

DA DYER, vocalist for The Unlawful Assembly, has lived in Manhattan since 1981. She's currently on break from a world tour with Bruce Springsteen, where she sings in his E Street Band.

She joined Springsteen in January and began touring in February. Her favorite two places to visit so far were Amsterdam and Spain.

#### VICTORIA CHERTOK:

Thanks for finding time to chat during your busy musical touring life! What is it like to tour with Springsteen?

ADA DYER: What can I

Putney say? Bruce is a legend, and I'm very excited to be working with him. I couldn't ask for a better artist to work with at this point ince in my life. This is just perfection. I'm so grateful.

**v.c.:** I heard you spent your childhood in Chicago?

**A.D.:** I grew up on the South Side of Chicago. All of my early training was in the Pentecostal church.

One of my early influences was Mahalia Jackson. I remember listening to her and getting chills. I didn't know singing could have a physical effect on the body. I was like *wow*, *wow*, *wow*. I want to know how to do that, too.

**V.C.:** Who were some of

your early musical influences?

**A.D.:** Aretha [Franklin]

— everybody was influenced by Aretha, and Stevie Wonder. Chaka Khan.

I did a few tours with Chaka Khan. She would do a lot of spot dates. The one that I remember the most was when we went to South Africa. I appreciated very much going to the motherland. And I played with Roberta Flack.

**V.C.:** What is your favorite genre to sing today?

**A.D.:** That's a hard one. Today, if I was doing my own thing, I'd want to go back to the Jazz standards. Songs that are not heard often anymore, like one my favorites, "At Last." **V.C.:** The repertoire of The Unlawful Assembly is "taking you back to the church." What has it been like?

**A.D.:** I'm a huge fan of Walter [Parks]. He's taking me back home; he's taking me back to the church. What is not to love about that!

He's doing a revamp on all these old gospel standards that I grew up listening to. He does them so well. I love his vocal range; it's impressive!

I'm having the best time, and I was missing this. So that is what I told him. I appreciate his knowledge. He's not just singing the songs. He knows the stories. He knows what he's talking about.

#### experimental music

Putney

TEPHEN ULRICH, guitarist, composer, founder, and bandleader of Big Lazy, grew up in New Haven, Connecticut and moved to New York City at age 17. He lived in Brooklyn and Manhattan for decades and now makes his home in Jersey City, New Jersey, with his wife and two teenaged children.

The 64-year-old Ulrich formed Big Lazy in 1990. He plays guitar and composes the band's music. Big Lazy also features Yuval Lion on drums and Andrew Hall on bass. Both longtime band members are integral to the band's chemistry.

**VICTORIA CHERTOK:** What is the origin of Big Lazy?

#### **STEPHEN ULRICH:**

The original band was called Lazy Boy and was formed in 1990. We played a kind of murky jazz noir — guitar, bass, vocals.

One night, our singer didn't show, and we went on stage and played instrumentally. We never looked back!

What at first seemed like a career disaster — "What? No vocals?" — actually became our strength, as we license a lot of music for film and TV. This has led me to composing film music.

When the big gig came in

2010 — I composed music for two seasons of the HBO series *Bored to Death* — the original band dissolved. I reinvented it with two musicians from NYC that I really respected — Yuval Lion and Andrew Hall.

**V.C.:** What type of music do you play?

**S.U.:** We're an instrumental trio. The band combines the archetypes of blues, jazz, and early rock 'n' roll with film and experimental music and creates what, I think, I hope is some kind of new American music.

**V.C.:** You've been on crime TV shows and played on camera.

**S.U.:** Our music gets used often in crime shows. It's kind of evocative/suspense-ful and with a film noir element to it.

**V.C.:** Where did you study guitar?

**s.u.:** When I was 17 years old, I studied with jazz guitarist Sal Salvador in New York City at the Ed Sullivan Theater. He had a dusty backroom office.

**V.C.:** Who were your early music influences?

**s.u.:** I grew up with one foot in the '60s (Hendrix, The Beatles) and one foot in the punk era (The Clash, the Sex Pistols, The Slits).

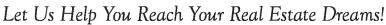
■ SEE ULRICH, B3

Publication of this week's Calendar is underwritten by BERKLEY & VELLER GREENWOOD COUNTRY REALTORS • www.berkleyveller.com



## Buyer demand is still soaring!

Get in touch today for tips on getting your home ready for the market.





Brattleboro: 802-254-6400 • Dover: 802-464-8900 • www.berkleyveller.com

## arts & community CALENDAR

#### THURSDAY

**B**2

## 26

#### **Performing arts**

BRATTLEBORO Halloween-Themed Late Night Talk Show Parody with a Philosophical Twist: Halloween theme - costumes are encouraged. Free Satan was created as a talk show parody to highlight and promote the feeling of one-ness that gets created when we can all see - and laugh at - some of the weirder and harder parts of life that we all have to go through. ▶ 7:30 p.m. Suggested age 18 and up. ▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main

St. Information: Register: tinyurl.com/ yhap66ja. 

**Kids and families** 

Parent Education Program: "Nurtur-ing Program<sup>®</sup> for Families in Substance Use Treatment & Recovery" (Online): This is one of several programs available to any parent or caregiver in VT who wants support and/or learn new parent-ing skills.

 5 p.m. on Thursdays for 12-18 weeks.
 Participants may start up to 2 weeks after class begins.

After class begins. Free. Online. Information: pcavt.org/fam-ily-support-programs, familysupport@ pcavt.org. 1-800-CHILDREN.

**Community meals PUTNEY** Putney Monthly Free Produce Distribution: The Vermont Foodbank and Putney Foodshelf co-sponsor this monthly food drop of free produce and some non-perishables. All are welcome. • 9 a.m.-9:45 a.m. 4th Thursday of every month. This is a drive-up service, Bags provided. Located on Alice Holloway drive (in front of Putney Meadows - white building across from the Putney Coop and Putney Fire Station.). Free.

NOW PLAYING at the MOVIES THEATRE latchis.com | 802.246.1500 OCT. 27 - NOV. 2 **KILLERS OF THE** FLOWER MOON 6:40 PM FRIDAY SAT. & SUN. MON.-THUR 2 & 6:40 PM 6:40 PM **FIVE NIGHTS AT** FREDDY'S FRIDAY 4 / 6:45 / 9 PM

#### THURSDAY CONT.

 Putney Foodshelf, 10 Christian Sq. Information: 802-387-8551.

#### **Multimedia**

**BELLOWS FALLS** Art Around Books presents "Confluences" Mixed Media Exhibition: Featuring: The new artists' book "Paper Bridge," poems by Kadya Molodowsky and hand-painted etchings/ collages by Ellen Schechner-Johnson. Additional works in paper and clay by Ellen Schechner-Johnson. Photographs by Eric Lindbloom from artists' book col-laborations with poet Nancy Willard. Hours: Thursdays: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3:30-5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Unconventional gallery and idea space features fine press artists books, drawings, prints, paintings for sale by international/national/local artists. Plus eclectic bookstore specializes in used and rare poetry, art, literary fiction, philosophy, children's books, and first editions. Occasional gatherings for readings, musical events, artist talks. Through Saturday, November 25.

Free.

 Art Around Books, 5 Canal St. Infor-mation: 802-869-4948; artaroundbooks. com.

#### **Ideas and education**

BELLOWS FALLS Genealogy Work-shop: Scavenger hunt workshop to test your genealogical skills and learn new ones. Does your family genealogy make you feel like you are in a construction zone full of bumps, wrong turns, and dead ends? Often, we come to a place in our research where we cannot seem to navigate the necessary clues of an ances-tor's life and we need to take a detour by trying another path and gaining new perspective.

 10:30-12:30 a.m. Experienced genealogists and newcomers can bring their laptops and join Genealogist Wayne Blanchard and Reference/Historical Collections librarian Pamela Johnson-Spurlock for this workshop as we take basic pieces of information and work together to create a short biographical sketch of a person's life. Free.

 Free.
 Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270, programming@ rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library. library

BRATTLEBORO Brattlemasters: "A Tale of Two Diseases - Are Type 2 Diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease linked?" (In Person/Zoom): Recent research at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health has indicated that insulin resistance is linked to Alzheimer's Disease pathology, including the accu-mulation of amyloid-beta and cognitive decline. Vishal Sarsani, a Statistical Genetics Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Harvard, will present recent findings.
 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in Room. 245.

Because the club celebrates its 16th anniversary this week, attendees are encouraged to bring their own refresh-ments. "Sweet Sixteen" is the meeting theme. Toastmasters serve as timer, ah counter, grammarian. Ah counter will watch for filler words like so, and, but - and filler sounds like ah, um, andum. Near end of meeting, reports will be given by ah counter, timer, grammarian so the group learns how well everyone did using proper grammar, keeping filler words to a minimum, speaking within set time limits. The mission of Toastmasters clubs is to provide mutually supportive/ positive learning environment in which every individual member has opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth Free.

 Brooks House, 41 Harmony Pl. (Main and High St.). Information: brattleboro. toastmastersclubs.org.

#### FRIDAY CONT.

along with the "guitar noir"/"crime jazz" of Big Lazy. • 7:30 p.m. Next Stage provides beer,

 wine, and cocktail cash bar.
 \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$10 live stream. Advance tickets available

online at www.nextstagearts.org. Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: More information, visit nextstagearts.org or call 802-387-0102.

Well-being

### Townshend Community Meeting about Health Care in Southern VT

(Virtual/Zoom/or Phone): The public is invited to participate in these community conversations. Meeting attendees will have a chance to share their first-hand experiences with navigating the health care system - what is going well, what do you want to see more of, what changes could make it easier to get the care you need at an affordable price? Make your voice heard by signing up for these meetings.

▶ 4 p.m.
 ▶ Free.

Zoom. Full schedule: https://ti-nyurl.com/4d8hay8e Sign up: tinyurl. com/2vx2tdts.

#### Dance

BRATTLEBORO Dungeons and Drag: Queer Dance Party and Cabaret: Join us in your finest and spookiest costumes for a helluvah Halloween Bash! We're bringing DJ LeFox up to keep the beat and have an awesome lineup of your favorite performers: Skins, Moxxie Hart & Jack Rose, Serena Havok, Jasmine D'Lux, and our fabulous guest MC, Theydy Bedbug. Costume contest following the performance with Oooo, Ahhh, fabulous prizes! Queers and allies welcome to this safe and fabulous space.
9 p.m. doors open. 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Show. For ages 18 and over.
 ▶ Sliding scale \$10-20. No one turned away for lack of funds.

 The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: 802-579-9960; stonechurchvt.com.

**Film and video** 

BRATTLEBORO Teen Halloween Movie Night "Edward Scissorhands": "Edward Scissorhands" is a modern day fairy tale which tells the story of Edward, the man created by an inventor, who died before finishing him and left Edward with scissors where he should have hands.

7 - 9 p.m. Snacks provided.

Free Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290: brookslibraryvt.org.

#### SATURDAY



**Performing arts** BRATTLEBORO The Green Mountain Mummers: Watch this group perform

their symbolic death-and-resurrection "street theater" sword dance. Rain or shine. 10/28: 11 a.m.: Samuel

Elliot Apartments in Brattleboro. 11:45 a.m.: Pliny Park, Main St., Brattleboro. 1 p.m.: Brattleboro Common, Park St. 2 p.m. Whetstone Inn, Marlboro. 10/29: 11 a.m.: Williamsville VT Town Center. 12 noon: Dummerston Center on the Common. 1 p.m.: The Gleanery, Main

#### SATURDAY CONT.

6 p.m. in-house at Grafton Chapel

(6-7 p.m. Pick-up.). ► Adults \$15, Children (ages 5-10) \$6.

Grafton Congregational Church and Chapel / Brick Church Meeting House,

147 Main St. Information: Pre-order and/ or more info: grafhist@vermontel.net or

BRATTLEBORO The Anvil Orchestra plays their live score to "A PAGE OF MADNESS" (Dir. Teinosuke Kinugasa, 1926): One of the rare Japanese silents

to survive WWII, this film is unlike

anything you've ever seen. Set in an insane asylum, it's often difficult to tell if the viewer is seeing through the inmates or the caretakers eyes, or if a division between the two even exists. A sur-

realist visual treat matched only by our adventurous improvisational musician's

willingness to follow the film wherever

8-9:13 p.m. Film's art direction co-designed with members of Japanese avant-garde movement Shinkankakuha

"school of new perceptions"). Director's

interest in exploring subjective reality and mental illness stemmed from a visit

to a mental hospital and chance encoun-

ter w/ reigning emperor Yoshihito, who, rumored to be mentally ill, was generally

Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. Informa-

kept away from the public eye. After initial celebrated release, the film was

tion: Tickets: tinyurl.com/5xf2hwzs.

BRATTLEBORO "The Rocky Horror

Picture Show": This 1975 cult classic/ fan favorite features sweethearts Brad

(Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon) stuck with a flat tire during a

storm. They discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), a

transvestite scientist. As their innocence is lost, they meet a houseful of wild char-

acters such as rocking biker (Meat Loaf). Through elaborate dances/rock songs,

Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named "Rocky."

video and music created by VDJ Peetr. 10 p.m. Rocky Horror Picture Show. Feel

free to come in costume and be ready

\$10 admission.

to play a role in this participatory event

SUNDAY

9 p.m. Pre-show screening of spooky

lost for over 45 years. \$10, \$20, sliding scale.

**Film and video** 

802-843-2584.

it leads

Multimedia

Avumi Ishito, Dei Xhrist, Bonnie Kane Ayunin Isinico, Jericia Annas, Bonnie Kane, John Loggia.
 7 p.m. More such performances to come: 11/18 and 12/16.
 \$10 suggested donation.
 One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliot.com.

BRATTLEBORO North Indian Classi-cal Music: North Indian classical music has been handed down from guru to disciple for hundreds of years through the guru-disciple relationship. Musicians Pat Lambdin and Amit Kavthekar embark on a journey into this living tradition that shifts perspectives with a fresh attitude and a willingness to place one's own cultural understandings in the back seat.

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Free. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main

St. Information: See more Fall Festival events: vermonthumanities.org. BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Music Center launches Chamber Series and welcomes So Percussion: Sō Percussion is celebrated for a dazzling range of work: live performances where "telepathic powers of communication" (The New York Times) bring to life vibrant percussion repertoire. Known for extrav-agant arrays of collaborations in classical music, pop, indie rock, contemporary dance, theater, Sō Percussion is also recognized for its work in educatior and community, creating opportunities/

platforms for music/artists 7 p.m. Brattleboro Music Center offers this concert as a benefit for Groundworks Collaborative, which partners with people and systems creating solutions to end hunger and homeless-ness for all people in the region.

Tickets: \$30. Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moyse Way. Information: More about the Program and Tickets: app.arts-people. com/index.php?ticketing=bmcvt.

**Farmers' markets** 

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Area Farmers Market (Last day of the year): 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 b g a.m.-2 p.m. Rain or shine.

 Brattleboro Farmers Market, 570 Western Ave., Rt. 9, near covered bridge. Information: 802-490-4371: brattleborofarmersmarket.com.

The written word

about her new memoir: "These Dreams of You: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, and Resilience": This is a story of a mother's love for/commitment to her daughter who developed anorexia at age 10 and subsequently died young. Narrative offers unvarnished account of the 15 years she strove to save her

way she chose. 4 p.m. Interspersed throughout the narrative are several lyrical letters writ-ten by a mother to her beloved daughter since her death. Story conveys hope and resilience, as the author has prevailed through her grief with no regrets

 Free. Bartlebys Books, 17 W. Main St. Information: 802-464-5425;

**Kids and families** 

Phelps whose recent album, "Let It Rain," features Joe Fitzpatrick (Gaslight

#### SUNDAY CONT.

from beautiful and meditative to raucous and energetic. Even if you've never tried anything like this before, come on over! Feel free to sit along the edges and listen and check it out, or join right in on the fun! • 6:30-9 p.m. Future dates: Nov. 26,

Dec. 17. ▶ \$12 to \$25 sliding scale.

 Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Check CoVid updates: rachelbellmusic. com.

**Film and video** 

**WESTMINSTER WEST** Westminster West Congregational Church Movie Series continues w/ "Johnny Cash! The Man, His World, His Music": 1969 documentary film directed by Robert Elfstrom follows Cash in his home/on the road playing concerts including one in the Tennessee State Prison and at Rose-bud (Sioux Reservation in So. Dakota). Crew captured now legendary recording sessions between Cash and Bob Dylan at Columbia Recording Studios in Nashville in 1968. They followed Cash back to his childhood home in Arkansas and to Wounded Knee in So. Dakota, site of the 1890 massacre of members of the Lakota tribe.
 6:30 p.m. Filmed in Cinema Verite

style using portable cameras and sound equipment that were being developed at the time. The Carter Family and Carl Per-kins join Cash on stage in the concerts.

By donation. Westminster West Congregational Church, 44 Church St.

#### TUESDAY



**Kids and families GUILFORD** Trick or Treat - Guilford Witches, monsters, fairy tale creatures, animals and others are invited to Trick or Treat the six homes and Library in Guil ford Center Village. Laura Lawson and Bob Tucker lead a parade from in front of the Library to the Playscape. Once at the Playscape, Laura leads songs and fingerplays, and tell a story by the fire bowl, all geared for the younger set (babies,

toddlers, preschoolers, grades 1-3). 5-6 p.m.: Trick or Treat. 6 p.m.: Parade to Playscape. At the Library, trick or treaters can look forward to cider, doughnuts, a book to put into your trick out and the All and the Company of the top or treat bag. All paths on Center Rd. to Playscape will be lit. Parking in Guilford Center in field btw Broad Brook Community Center and the Library, along Guilford Center Rd. outside of center village and on Carpenter Hill Rd. beyond Playscape. Lots of young folk wandering around in the dark - let's be safe from car/child accidents. Call library to help with: traffic control, carving pumpkins, technical assistance, spooking children, parking, anything else. Free.

 Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-257-4603; guilfordfreelibraryvt.org.

#### WEDNESDAY

## where the audience helps create the fun. Dancing in the aisles to the "Time Warp" and a whole lot of other mischief. Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. Informa-tion: 802-254-1109; latchisarts.org. WILMINGTON Ann McCloskev talks

from her perfectionistic goal of being the thinnest person alive, leading to the author's intentional yet heart-wrenching shift from trying to get her daughter to overcome her eating disorder to support ing her as she lived out her short life the

about her parenting of her challenging daughter.

myvermontbookstore.com.

**PUTNEY** Grammar School hosts 35th annual Medieval Faire (DATE CHANGED

**BELLOWS FALLS** Friction Farm and Eric Phelps co-headline Stage 33 Live: International travelers/modern-folk troubadours - Friction Farm and longtime singer-songwriter Eric Phelps co-headline. Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay combine storytelling, social commentary, humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, quirky observations filled with harmony and hope. Lyrically rich, harmony-driven songs have made them Kerrville New Folk Finalists and Falcon

Music

Ridge Emerging Artists. A g.m. Plus singer-songwriter Eric



SATURDAY 2:15 / 6:45 / 9 PM

2:15 & 6:45 PM

### 4 & 6:50 PM MON.-WED

HOCUS POCUS PG FRIDAY 4:15 / 6:45 / 8:40 PM SUNDAY 7 PM MON/TU/TH 4:15 & 6:45 PM

## FRIDAY



#### Music

**PUTNEY** Next Stage Arts: Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly and Big Lazy: This double bill features the ned historic spirituals and hymns of Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly

#### St., Putney Through Sunday, October 29. Free. •

Green Mountain Mummers, Information: For more information/directions to any of the performances, call 802-254-9019.

#### . . . . . . . . Music

BRATTLEBORO The KaneLoggiaHY-POTHESIS present "Masters of Sonic Liberation": New performance series highlights world-renowned musicians in the ever expanding field of experimental music. Curated by dedicated improvisor and sax/flute/electronics artist Bonnie Kane, some of the NY/New Englandbased musicians appearing are: Aron Namenwirth Federico Balducci Marc Edwards, Tor Snyder, Takuma Kanaiwa, Eric Dahlmen, Dave Pek, GlynisLomon

The Commons Shopping Shopping Pages to benefit Project Feed the thousands

## November 29 - December 20

### **PROMOTE YOUR LOCAL OFFERINGS** in our special HOLIDAY SHOPPING PAGES — our biggest papers of the year!

A portion of advertising dollars will be given to Project Feed the Thousands to help those in need.

Call 1-888-511-5150, or email one of our ad reps: lori@commonsnews.org nancy@commonsnews.org

FROM 10/7 to 10/28)!!!: Children car ride flying dragon and Sir Lancelot's fly ing horse, take part in pillow jousting and foam-arrow archery, ride swan swing, ascend climbing wall, battle knight, scramble for treats at candy catapult, make crowns/wands, visit fortune teller, get their faces painted, join dragon treasure hunt. Complete a quest and be knighted by King and Queen presiding on royal thrones. Assorted games for the youngest offered at Merlin's Midway.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Food trucks on site Crossroads - authentic Hispanic and American street food, and The HAngry Traveler - smoked meats, sandwiches,

Admission: Free and open to all. Net proceeds go toward The Grammar School's financial aid fund. The Grammar School, 69 Hickory Ridge Rd. S. Unlimited all-day ride

passes: \$25 1st pass, \$20 additional passes; individual tickets available. All-day passes for sale in advance and at Faire. 802-387-5364; thegrammarschool. org.

#### Well-being

BRATTLEBORO The Beloved Com-munity of Brattleboro offers Exercise / Dance Class "Sacred Dance Workshop" (choose one or both): Exercise: Gentle, stretching exercise class for all levels. Exercises can be done sitting in a chair or standing. Stretch and strengthen your body and well-being. Dance: Class is for beginners and open to all ages. Rev. Suzanne Andrews leads the group. Saturdays: 11-11:30 a.m.: Exercise.

- 11:30-12 p.m.: Dance Workshop.
- Free.
- The Beloved Community, 18 Town Crier Dr. Information: 802-254-1234. pastorsue412@gmail.com.

. . . . . . . . . .

#### **Community building** MARLBORO Marlboro's first ENERGY FAIR :: "We'll have folks tabling to talk about solar installation, heat pumps, electric bikes, electric cars, weatheriza-

tion, conservation, more. Plus, Marlboro Electric Car Show featuring electric cars driven (and loved) by folks in town. We'd love to hear from each of you about your hopes, challenges, visions regarding creating a sustainable future for our little town!" Marlboro Energy Committee: Kate Kirkwood, Tamara Stenn, Erika Korb,

Robin MacArthur, Ryan Williams. ► 10 a.m.-2 p.m. We'll have warm soup and cider available. Marlboro Elementary School will be here with baked goods. Marlboro Community Cen-

ter. 524 South Rd. Information: laurenolitskiposter@gmail.com.

**Community meals** 

BRATTLEBORO Egyptian Hawawshi Meat or Lentil Pies: Free Class for Teens and Adults: Make speedy and flavorful Egyptian Hawawshi Meat or Lentil Pies with tahini sauce. These little hand pies bake up in 20 minutes flat, making them perfect for a busy weeknight, and are fun to make together. Choose between 10:30-12 noon or

1-2:30 p.m. Space is limited so registra-tion is recommended. Free.

Brattleboro Food Co-op Cooking Classroom, 7 Canal St. Informatio Register by going to the event: BFC. coop/calendar/

**GRAFTON** Chicken N'Biscuits Dinner: Chicken n'Biscuits, Waldorf Salad, Apple Pie and Apple Crisp. Eat in or Take Out.

Tinkers). Paul Kochanski (Lori McKenna. Stompbox Trio), Seth Glier, Signature Sounds artist Rani Arbo, and more. Limited seating. Event will be recorded and filmed.

\$10 in advance through stage33live com or \$15 at the door (tickets are deeply discounted)

Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge St. Informa tion: 802-289-0148; stage33live.com.

#### BRATTLEBORO Windham Philhar-

monic offers Halloween Concert: The orchestra, under the direction of Hugh Keelan, brings back Jerod Tate's striking Coyote excerpt from their recent performance of Spirit Chief Names the Animal People, with bassoon, piccolo, and percussion showing Coyote's tricky nature. The hall will ring with the dancing rhythms of Mexican composer Moncayo's Huapango, the sweeping runs of Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain, and a "macabre" duet sung by sopranos Elizabeth Wohl and Jenna Rae.

▶ 7-8 p.m. Fun and family-friendly. Halloween treats, maybe a trick or two, make a lively program. Windham Philharmonic attracts musicians from three states and blends amateur and professional players in one musical community. This concert benefits our concert partner, Groundworks Collaborative, who are working with people/systems focused on creating solutions to end hunger/home-lessness for all in our region.

Admission is by donation and costumes are encouraged! Mouth watering baked treats will be available for donation.

Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. Information: windhamphilharmonic.org. 

#### **Farmers' markets**

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro's Share the Harvest Stand: Free Fresh Produce for All!: This is the last day the Harvest Stand will be open this year! 11 a.m.-1 p.m. corner Frost and Elm.

(Gardeners may drop off surplus from their gardens from 10:30-closing: before noon preferred). Through Sunday, October 29.

Free.

 Turning Point, 39 Elm St. (corner of Frost and Elm St.). Information: EdibleBrattleboro@gmail.com.

#### Well-being

w. BRATTLEBORO All Souls Church Hybrid Worship Service: "Retreat: One Pathway to Purpose": In a busy life, how productive is it to stop the flow of activity? Won't things that need doing just back up and make things more complicated? Can retreating be a way to move forward with ease and clarity? ASC member Jody McAssey will explore the concept of Spiritual Retreat. We anticipate that this service will be both in-person and on Zoom.

 10 a.m. Service. Pre-service activities offered: 8:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal. At 9 a.m. the following take place: Children's Religious Exploration class, Adult Coffee & Conversation, and Quiet Meditation.
 All Souls Unitarian Universalist

Church, 29 South St. Information: Go to our website, ascvt.org Sunday shortly before 10 a.m. to join via Zoom.

#### . . . . . . . . . . . . Dance

GUILFORD Brattleboro Bal Folk: Live music & dance instruction by Eloise & Co. Becky Tracy (fiddle) & Rachel Bell (accordion). Fun, accessible French and European traditional dances. No experi-ence or partner necessary! A joyous community event for all! Dances range

**Community building** 

BRATTLEBORO Lantern Walk hosted by Brattleboro Area Hospice (BAH): BAH staff invites people to gather at Pliny Park to begin a new tradition - a "lantern walk" through town ending at the park-Walk" through town ending at the park-ing lot at Experienced Goods. Lanterns provided and you may also bring your own or use flashlight on your cell phone. A brief gathering will happen at the end with a reading, time of silence and, of course, a poem. Join in, rain or starlight!

5-6:30 p.m. Brattleboro Area Hospice provides a broad range of services for living and dying well, focusing on end-of-life, bereavement, advance care plan nina. Programs reflect our community's values of kindness, decency, and dignity. All services are free of charge and available to anyone living in Southeastern VT or bordering NH towns.

Free and open to the public. Pliny Park, Corner Main & High St. Information: To learn more or contact staff, call BAH at 802-257-0775 or visit brattleborohospice.org.

**Ideas and education** 

#### Autism Advocate Delivers Presenta-tion " The Educational Experiences of a Non-speaking Autistic Person (Online): Jordyn Zimmerman, a non-

speaking autistic person/advocate who received her graduate degree in education from Boston College, completed her bachelor's degree in education policy at Ohio University where she founded an inclusive collegiate cheer team. As a nonspeaking autistic student denied access to effective augmentative communication until age 18, she has personal experience challenging the educational status quo.

 5 p.m. Zimmerman's experience challenging the educational status quo is also featured in the 2021 documentary, "This Is Not About Me.".

Free. Online. Information: For link, visit: landmark.edu/speakerseries. Info/ques-tions: Solvegi Shmulsky **sshmulsky@** landmark.edu.

To submit your event: calendar@ commonsnews.org

> Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

### THE ARTS

## Parks

point in my life, it opened my mind and my sensibilities about music that was made by Black folks

I love the groove of Black music — there is nothing like it. I'm proud that in my own way I began reaching across the color lines. It was frowned upon when I was a kid. There were important symbols that inspired me as to the possibilities of collaboration with artists across the color lines.

The Allman Brothers Band formed in Jacksonville, and they hired a Black drummer. I thought, "Wow! We can coexist, we can be friends, we can travel with each other, and play music with each other." The Black musicians could bring a different feel and a different approach.

**v.c.:** Let's switch gears here. What kind of guitar do you play?

W.P.: I only play vintage guitars. Most of the time when I tour, I play a Guild guitar. A longtime friend turned me on to Guild guitars. They are very even and balanced. They were all made in Hoboken, New Jersey, in the 1960s, and I have 20 of them.

I will play Richie Havens' old acoustic guitar, a Guild 1967, often, and I also play Guild electrics. Occasionally, I will play a Gibson or a Fender.

V.C.: Musician Judy Collins said of you: "Walter Parks is an extraordinary singer whose songs can break your heart as well as get you dancing. [...] Walter is a musical treasure, an artist of the highest caliber. To hear him is to be lifted into a mystical sphere. I adore him." How did you meet her?

**W.P.:** I met her when I was touring with Richie. We met backstage.

I love being around Judy. She is a real pro. She takes such good care of her vocal instrument. She cherishes that gift that she's been given. I was inspired by that. I loved talking with her. We used to chat for hours.

I did some tours with Judy across Canada as her opening act. At some point, she asked me to play with her at Lincoln Center. It was just one song -"Turn, Turn, Turn" by Pete Seeger, and that was just me on guitar with Judy Collins. I did the foundational work. I just loved that responsibility.

v.c.: Any closing thoughts?

W.P.: I think music and art in general are very important. Live music reminds us of the

#### FROM SECTION FRONT

beauty and wonder of our commonality. When we get together and listen to music, everyone is focused on the band that is playing.

You might have people in the audience who voted for different people - no one is thinking about politics. We get our minds off those dividing aspects of media and current events. We're reminded that we are all in this together.

I help people unlock the power of their imagination. They just close their eyes and drift during our performances. You come back and go, "Wow, I imagined," just for a second. You're reminded of your possibilities.

Live music and the arts are important to society. We are all creative beings, and are all writing the stories of our lives.



**Big Lazy** 

## Mummers return for Halloween weekend

The Green Mountain Mummers will be performing this year on the weekend before Halloween. On Saturday, Oct. 28, and Sunday, Oct. 29, the group will present its symbolic deathand-resurrection street theater rain or shine in seven locations in Windham County (see full schedule below).

The group of 10 (mostly) Windham County residents is probably the oldest continuing sword dance and mumming troupe in the United States. Founded in 1975, the group operates in the manner of the old English morris and sword dancers from which the dances were originally collected: they meet to practice and perform only once a year. The group's mummers play has been characterized as a "live political cartoon," often drawing on current events and providing social commentary through humor.

The Green Mountain Mummers sword dance was collected in northern England, but has developed its own Vermont character after almost 50 years in this area.

The six dancers are connected by holding long, inflexible metal faux swords, and without breaking the ring, they weave and turn intricate figures. Each figure ends with the making of what's called a "lock" of the swords in a progressively more complicated manner. The final lock of eight swords is the fateful one which traps the Innocent Bystander character in the middle and causes his mock

death. After the antics of a questionable Doctor fail to revive the Victim, the Fool saves the day with a magic ritual.

The dances are accompanied by live music, often including fiddle, concertina, or accordion.

Visiting customs have long been an important part of the human existence. Caroling at mid-winter, morris dancing in the spring, and mumming are all related by this common thread of the need to reach out to one's neighbors at significant times of the year.

The audience for such performances is just as important as the performers and can participate in the ritual both during the mummers play and afterwards when the dancers pass the hat. It is the

exchange that brings luck and the promise of spring's return. The Green Mountain

Mummers' full schedule is as follows:

• Saturday, Oct. 28: Samuel Elliot Apartments, Brattleboro, 11 a.m.; Pliny Park, Main Street, Brattleboro, 11:45 a.m.; Brattleboro Common, 1 p.m.; and Whetstone Inn, Marlboro, 2 p.m.

• Sunday, Oct. 29: Williamsville town center, 11 a.m.; Dummerston Center common, noon; The Gleanery, Main Street, Putney, 1 p.m.

For more information or directions to any of the performances, call 802-254-9019.

## Ulrich

Funny thing is, right in the middle of that culture clash I was studying ... jazz. As a teen-ager in NYC, I frequented New York's underground music scene and was inspired by the Lounge Lizards. One of my alltime fave bands is NRBQ.

**V.C.:** Your music has gotten a lot of airplay on public radio, and you've written music for This American Life.

**S.U.:** A little background. Our first album Amnesia(1996) was used in its entirety in the NBC series Homicide: Life on the Street. Shortly after that, in 1999, NPR did a feature on the band. It made for an interesting story that we had also had been sued by the La-Z-Boy Furniture Company.

We played live in the Washington,] D.C. studio. I'm real sentimental under my punk jazz schtick — I still have boxes of, like, thousands of letters, from skate punks, farmers, retirees, NASA people, and not a

#### FROM SECTION FRONT

MATT CARR/COURTESY PHOT

few beautiful weirdos that I'm still in touch with.

Since then I've written a lot of music for the iconic radio program This American Life. I've written 30 pieces for the radio show/podcast and released an album — *Music from* This American Life (Bandcamp) in early 2023.

**V.C.:** Which instrument do you tour with?

**s.u.:** I play a 1955 Gretsch Duo Jet out of a 1965 Fender Deluxe Reverb. I use a Klon Centaur pedal and just a touch of delay. It's quite deadly.

**v.c.**: Any closing thoughts?

**S.U.:** It's funny. People have called this music Rock Noir, Crime Jazz, Death Surf, Latin-Billy, and "music to drive back to jail by" (by one of those weirdos I mentioned earlier). I'm always curious about what description the next show will bring.

## Friction Farm, Eric Phelps co-headline Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS-Stage from Woodstock, New York. 33 Live, 33 Bridge St., presents a matinee double-bill with Friction Farm and Eric Phelps on Sunday,

Modern folk duo Friction Farm

They say they "used to have careers their parents could brag about.

Eric Phelps is a singersongwriter from Western Massachusetts who has been

## VSO series coming to BF Opera House

Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) is returning to Bellows Falls on Sunday, Nov. 5, with a special matinee at the Bellows Falls Opera House. The performance is part of the VSO's 2023 "Made in Vermont" series, highlighting guest artists from the Green Mountain State's indie, folk, and rock scene.

The VSO's chamber orchestra will perform musical favorites by Henry Purcell, Manuel de Falla, and Astor Piazolla and will welcome a special guest to the stage: soul singer Kat Wright.

Wright has that special bal-

BELLOWS FALLS—The voice that can shimmer and programming, children's confloat to the top," according to Americana music publication Red Line Roots.

About Wright, Matt LaRocca, VSO artistic advisor and project conductor, said in a news release: "Her soulful voice is a perfect match to lush string and orchestral arrangements, and we hear her music in a new way.

With approximately 40 annual performances statewide in a variety of settings, the VSO claims it is "the nation's oldest state-assisted orchestra, and is regarded as one of the finest of its size." The VSO serves yearance of power and grace in her round with in-school educational

certs, and composer residencies, as well as symphonic, choral, and chamber music concerts.

Singer-songwriter Wright comes from the Burlington area, and "her rise to national fame has been a joy to watch" says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts.

This is the fourth in the 2023 Ray Massucco Concert Series," according to Ezra Veitch of Rays the Roof Productions, organizers, along with Next Stage Arts, of the series. "It's a great way to honor Ray. He always was so pumped to bring the VSO to town.

Massucco, a beloved local lawyer and music promoter, passed away unexpectedly last year. Additional shows planned by Rays the Roof and Next Stage at the Opera House are Crys Matthews, Peter Mulvey, and BettySoo in a powerhouse triple bill on Thursday, Nov. 16, and Karla Bonoff and Livingston Taylor's "Home for the Holidays" concert on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The Bellows Falls Opera House is located at 7 Village Square. Doors open at 3:00; showtime is at 4:00. Tickets and information can be found at BellowsFallsOperaHouse.com.

Oct. 29, at 3 p.m.

are internationally traveling trou-

## Annual Lego contest and exhibit returns

BRATTLEBORO—The org. For more information or spe- of designing and constructing a Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) invites makers of all ages to design and build original Lego creations and display them at the museum for the 16th annual Lego Contest & Exhibit, which takes place Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 9 through 12. New this year is a special printmaking workshop featuring Legos as printing tools.

Every entry submitted to the contest will be displayed 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day of the exhibit. Admission to the museum is free, courtesy of M & T Bank.

Having showcased the talents of hundreds of builders of all ages every year since 2007, BMAC will again honor the creativity and craftsmanship of all contestants with an awards ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in seven age groups: preschool, grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, adults, and adult-child collaborations. Other prizes may be awarded at the judges' discretion. Every contestant will receive a personalized certificate of participation.

According to BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld, memorable entries from the past 15 years have included a working ATM and slot machine, a replica of Brattleboro's Harris Hill Ski Jump, a grandfather clock, a ferris wheel, an assortment of mechanized marble runs, busts of Abraham Lincoln and Bernie Sanders, and more.

What I love about this event is that it treats Legos with the same respect accorded to paintings and drawings created by accomplished artists," said Ari Essunfeld, 22, a former contestant. "Every creation gets its own museum label, and for the four days that they're on display, visitors to BMAC get to see Lego robots, fantasy homes, and battle scenes displayed alongside the museum's curated exhibits."

All Lego contest entries must be delivered to BMAC on Monday, Nov. 6, between 4 and 6 p.m. An online entry form must be submitted before drop-off, including a \$5 entry fee. Contest guidelines and entry forms are available at **brattleboromuseum**.

cial requests, call BMAC at 802-257-0124, ext. 101.

This year's printmaking workshop, presented in partnership with First Proof Press, on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m., takes Legos a step further. BMAC Manager of Education Programs Kate Milliken will guide participants through the process materials will be provided.

unique letterpress substrate, or a printing surface, with the plastic building pieces.

Each participant will use their own substrate to create letterpress cards and posters. The workshop takes place at First Proof Press, 183 Main St.. No prior printmaking experience is needed, and all

Space is limited, so advance registration is required. Admission is \$45, \$30 for BMAC members. Register at brattleboromuseum.org. Participants between the ages of 6 and 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

badours based in South Carolina. Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay combine storytelling, social commentary, and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, "and quirky observations filled with harmony and hope," according to the artists' website.

They have been Kerrville New Folk Finalists and Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists. They're also winners of the South Florida Folk Festival songwriter competition, and they have performed as official showcase artists at Regional Folk Alliance Conferences. He's originally from Berkeley, California, she came making music for more than 35 years, playing throughout the U.S., along with performances in the U.K. and Mexico. His most recent album, Let It Rain, features Joe Fitzpatrick (Gaslight Tinkers), Paul Kochanski (Lori McKenna, Stompbox Trio), Seth Glier, Signature Sounds artist Rani Arbo, and more.

More info about this concert and the nonprofit, all-volunteer project can be found online at stage33live.com. Tickets are deeply discounted — \$10 in advance online or \$15 at the door. Seating is limited and the event will be recorded and filmed.

Your local sources for

home improvement

## Sō Percussion concert will benefit Groundworks Collaborative

Brattleboro Music Center (BMC) Chamber Series presents So Percussion in a benefit concert for Groundworks Collaborative.

The concert at the BMC is set for Saturday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m.

Groundworks Collaborative was established in 2015 following the merger of the Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center and Morningside Shelter. It partners with people and systems creating solutions to end hunger and homelessness for all people in the region, working toward a community in which all people have their basic needs met, including a safe and dignified place to call home.

Groundworks' director of development and communications, said in a news release. "It is such a gift to be able to enjoy the work of these phenomenal musicians while raising funds to support the people we serve at Groundworks.<sup>2</sup>

Sō Percussion is celebrated by audiences and presenters for a dazzling range of work: for live performances in which "telepathic powers of communication" (*The New York Times*) bring to life "vibrant percussion repertoire.'

Known for an array of collaborations in classical music, pop, "We are so grateful to the indie rock, contemporary dance, BMC for this benefit concert for and theater, So Percussion is also

BRATTLEBORO-The Groundworks," Libby Bennett, recognized for its work in education and community, creating opportunities and platforms for music and artists that explore the immense possibility of art in our time.

Members include Eric Cha-Beach, Josh Quillen, Adam Sliwinski and Jason Treuting, who together offer a program featuring compositions by Cha-Beach, Angélica Negrón, Olivier Tarpaga, and Bryce Dessner.

The BMC thanks Guilford Sound for sponsoring this concert.

Tickets are \$30 general admission and are available through bmcvt.org or 802-257-4523. Contact the BMC by phone or info@bmcvt.org for more information.

## Bartleby's hosts author Ann McCloskey

Bartleby's Books for an event with author Ann McCloskey on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 4 p.m. Her memoir, These Dreams of You: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, and Resilience, tells the story of a mother's love for and commitment to her gifted daughter, who developed anorexia at age 10 and subsequently died young.

The narrative offers an unvarnished account of the 15 years the author strove to save her daughter from her perfectionistic goal of being the thinnest person alive. It then follows the author's intentional yet heart-wrenching shift from trying to get her daughter health counselors in a graduate

WILMINGTON—Join to overcome her eating disorder to supporting her as she lived out her short life in the way she chose.

Interspersed throughout the narrative are several lyrical letters written by a mother to her beloved daughter since her death. "This story conveys hope and resilience, as the author has prevailed through her grief with no regrets about her parenting of her challenging daughter," note the news release.

McCloskey earned a bachelor's degree in social work and a master's degree in counseling psychology. She spent two decades training clinical mental program at Antioch University, while also working as a licensed clinical mental health counselor. She subsequently spent 14 years teaching psychology at a small college serving students with learning differences.

With her husband, Joe Meyer, McCloskey raised two daughters in rural Vermont. This is her first book.

Bartleby's Books is located at 17 West Main St. in historic downtown Wilmington. For more information, contact Bartleby's at 802-464-5425, bartbookvt@gmail.com or visit myvermontbookstore.com.



Vernon, VT • stevessepticpumping.com



## **COLUMN** | Creative Conversations

## 'It's a part of the cosmic download'

Sam Grisman Project plays at the Stone Church

Brattleboro ASS PLAYER AND band leader Samson "Sam" Grisman, 33, of Nashville, Tennessee, tells us how excited he is about touring with his new band, Sam Grisman Project.

The band's upcoming tour will bring the four members to The Stone Church on Thursday, Oct. 26 for an "acoustic and electric set of timeless music," he savs.

That music pays tribute to the offerings of two friends: Grisman's father, David "Dawg" Grisman, 78, and the late Jerry Garcia, of the Grateful Dead.

The elder Grisman, a legendary mandolinist, lives "far outside of Seattle, Washington" but recently joined his son's new band on stage in that city and provided "probably the most memorable" moments there.

During the band's last show in Seattle, Grisman's dad "got on a ferry and came out to the gig and played way more music than he planned to."

"Dawg" Grisman "really enjoyed himself, enjoyed interacting with the guys in the band," his son said. "It was really special for everyone involved. He played two-thirds of all acoustic music in that show.'

The band began its first tour in January with the release of its first album, Temple Cabin Sessions, Volume I, "and we seem to be on the road constantly since then," Grisman says

"My goal in starting the band was to build a platform for my friends and me to showcase our genuine passion and appreciation for the legacy of Dawg and Jerry [Garcia]'s music," he adds.

Noting the friendship between his father and Garcia, Grisman writes in the band's publicity materials that he is inspired by "the way their camaraderie and their love and joy for the music, simply oozes out of each recording.

"By playing some of their beloved repertoire and sharing the original music that our own collective has to offer, we will also show the impact that this music has had on our own individual musical voices," he added.

### VICTORIA **CHERTOK**

covers arts and entertain-Vermont for The Commons. She is a classically trained harpist and received a B.A. in music at Bucknell University.

makes his home in Nashville. Grisman started early. He

made his recording debut at age eight with his father, Dawg, and his friends John Hartford and Mike Seeger on their Grammy-nominated album, "Retrograss."

Since then Grisman has played and recorded with Darol Anger, Noam Pikelny, Tim O'Brien, Bryan Sutton, Martin Taylor, Lee Ann Womack, Eric Krasno, and Billy Strings to name a few.

The Sam Grisman Project includes Grisman on acoustic upright bass, electric bass, and vocals; Ric Robertson on guitar, mandolin, keyboards, and vocals; Chris J. English on drums, percussion, and vocals; and Aaron Lipp on electric and acoustic guitar, keyboards, lap steel, and vocals.

Each night, the Sam Grisman Project performs a very different set list (as the Grateful Dead did). Grisman puts a lot of work "tracking what we play and when we played it."

"We've had a lot of folks travel to multiple shows once they realize that we're playing a different set list every night, he says. "It's humbling and encouraging to see so many familiar faces from night to night."

The Commons caught up with Grisman recently on the phone and talked about his new band, his upcoming tour, how they curate set lists for their shows, and how many instruments he brings on the road. Here's an excerpt of their conversation:

#### VICTORIA CHERTOK:

What should the audience expect at the Stone Church? Do you play acoustic sets and electric sets?



to acoustic music sonically, and sometimes the opposite is true.

v.c.: You play originals and covers. Which genres do you play?

**S.G.:** We play both. All the guys in my band are incredible musicians. We have a wide variety of influences, everybody writes material that is diverse, and no one has really bought into genre specific confines.

Genres are more about branding music and selling music. If you are focused on playing good music, there is not a lot of consideration for what genre you're playing. It's a way to quantify people's success to try to put you in one box. That's not how art works.

**v.c.:** It must have been something to have a father who was good friends with lots of incredible musicians. What lessons did Dawg teach you?

S.G.: I grew up in an environment with a father who had a super highly refined artistic concept and he instilled a lot of musical values in me. He taught me that genres are jiv music is not a competition, nor is it a meritocracy. You're never done learning. It's a lifelong pursuit, and you can only hope to master a fin-gernails worth of the knowledge available.

#### Sam Grisman Project

reading charts, and learning a lot of his original compositions

He would never force me to practice; he wanted my drive to come from within. He wanted me to be passionate about it.

**v.c.:** This is your second stint living in Nashville.

by ear.

**S.G.:** I love it here and have an amazing network of friends and musical peers. There is no place quite like it, for the breadth of musicianship you can encounter locally. It also exists in Los Angeles, New Orleans, and New York.

It's almost like Nashville has been architected for the business of music. It's like noplace else. Music is the primary focus. From 2011–17 I lived here and played with Bryan Sutton, who is one of the greatest living flat-pickers.

**V.C.:** How did you end up playing with Lee Ann Womack?

**S.G.:** When I wasn't playing music with my dad, my main gig was playing country music with Lee Ann Womack. She's amazing — one of the greatest 've ever worke and a total sweetheart. Her husband is the country producer Frank Liddell. I met them on a cruise that I was playing music on. Frank came up to me and said he was "a closeted deadhead" and shortly after that they hired me to play in a music video. I worked for her for about four vears.

a wide variety of influences, from jazz to bluegrass and world music.

Now there is a great tradition of new acoustic music or newgrass music, but the earliest examples of this forward-thinking acoustic music are some early Dawg tunes.

In the early '70s he started a band, The Great American Music Band, named after the Great American Music Hall. That band might kind of be closest to our concept. They played all kinds of music, but it was a great incubator for some of the new Dawg tunes my Dad was writing at the time.

He started the band with Richard Greene, the great fiddler and Bill Monroe alum, and they would play with a rotating cast of characters. Sometimes Taj Mahal would play with them, sometimes Jerry would play with them, and sometimes Maria Muldaur would play with them.

V.C.: Which was your favorite tune that your Dad wrote?

**S.G.:** My favorite Dawg tune is probably the epic "Dawg's Rag." It has seven parts or something like that, and lots of space for everyone to improvise. When I was a toddler, my Dad asked me what my favorite song was, and I said, "Dawg's Rag!" I was born six weeks premature and had to spend time in an incubator, so my Dad would come to the hospital to play mandolin for me. That's one of the tunes he would play for me.

the albums that most shaped the

musical landscape that I live in today. **v.C.:** Let's talk equipment

for the tour. Which bass do you bring on the road? **S.G.:** I play an American

Standard upright bass built in Cleveland, Ohio in 1940. It's a tremendous old instrument. It's very reliable and sounds like all these old records sound. American Standards have a cool deep sound happening.

As for my electric, an amazing friend in Fairfax, California very graciously bought exactly the bass I would have wanted and is letting me use it indefinitely. It's a 1959 Gibson EB-2. I didn't have it in the budget to get the caliber instrument I needed for the job, and he came to the rescue!

**v.c.**: What is the most important thing to tell people about why you do this?

**S.G.:** Music is one of the most sacred art forms, because it's a language that not everyone can speak but that everybody understands. It allows people to communicate acros barriers and cultural barriers. It's pre-technological. We were built with this information inside of us; it's a part of the cosmic download.

Grisman grew up in Mill Valley, California, but now

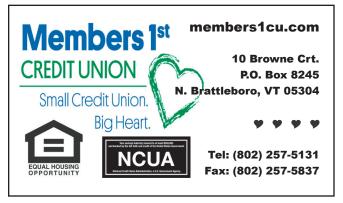
**SAM GRISMAN:** We play one half acoustic and one half electric at our shows. When time allows for it, we like to do that as much as we can. Some rooms make sense for both kinds of music, but a lot of these rock clubs don't take well

**Classes+** 

**Workshops** 

**RIVER** 

OFART



**V.C.:** Was bass your first instrument?

S.G.: Actually, "bass" was my first word! It's pretty bizarre. I was 4 or 5 when I was able to pick up the quarter-size bass that lived in the corner of our living room.

I was younger when my dad got me a cello and tuned it like a bass, which are tuned in fourths. He started working on my timing, and we focused on playing one song, "Sally Goodin'," for a year or more.

**v.c.**: What was Dawg like as a teacher when you were a kid?

**S.G.:** He is a great teacher and loves to teach people. He likes to teach repertoire. He likes to work on tunes. I grew up around that — playing jazz standards in the living room,

**v.c.:** What exactly is Dawg music?

**S.G.:** Dawg music is a genre of music that my father invented. His dear friend Jerry Garcia gave him this nickname 'Dawg' in the early '70s. They were living in Stinson Beach, California and were playing in a band, Old and In the Way. My dad produced [the band's first self-titled] record and wrote that song [of the same name]. It's the only song he's ever written with lyrics.

Dawg started writing music very early on and had already written lots of instrumentals. His compositions were broader than bluegrass and pulled from

**v.c.**: Who were your early music influences?

**S.G.:** John Hartford was a dear family friend, and I remember him coming to the house and recording. His music still inspires me to this day. Hartford was an advocate for old-time music and American fiddle music and did a lot of transcribing of fiddle tunes.

One of my favorite records of his is Aereo-Plain. It was produced by David Bromberg in 1971. Norman Blake played guitar and Vassar Clements played fiddle; it features John's remarkable songwriting and inimitable vibe, and it's one of

**V.C.:** Any closing thoughts?

**S.G.:** We care deeply about this music and about each other, and we hope that love comes across to our audiences when they catch our shows.

We are incredibly grateful to have all of these opportunities to play in front of so many wonderful new friends, and we're excited for what the future brings. The music never stopped!

Sam Grisman Project presents "The Music of Garcia| Grisman on Thursday, Oct. 26 at the Stone Church, 210 Main St., Brattleboro. It's an all-ages show. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit stonechurchvt.com. To find out more about Sam Grisman Project, visit samgrismanproject.net.



raceCottage

Main Number: 802-365-7357 **Emergencies: 911** Hospital: 802-365-7357 Family Health Clinic: 802-365-4331 Billing Questions: 800-270-1298 Diagnostic Imaging: 802-365-3625 Laboratory: 802-365-3639 Mental Health: 802-365-7381 Messenger Valley Pharmacy: 802-365-4117 Outpatient Rehabilitation: 802-365-3637 Resource Advocate: 802-365-3770

#### 185 Grafton Rd, Townshend, VT gracecottage.org

"We are so fortunate to have Grace Cottage and its excellent care team so nearby.' ~ Greg Underwood, Jamaica, VT

GALLERY **Gift Certificates** SCHOOL Adult + Children + Teen Studio, Printmaking,

Painting, Art Camp and more!

rivergalleryschool.org Register online or call 802-257-1577



OYSTERS - CLAMS - SHRIMP - FISH COCKTAILS - WINE - BEER OPEN WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY + 3PM - 10PM

34 ELLIOT ST. BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301 802-257-3333



## VIEWPOINT

## Not down the middle

Why does New Hampshire have jurisdiction over the entire Connecticut River? It's complicated.

Westminster OST WATERBODIES marking a boundary between two states or countries have an imaginary dotted line running down their middle. The Connecticut River does not because, as everyone "knows," the river belongs to New Hampshire.

However, as with all things human, the real circumstances are more complicated.

The reality about river ownership started with the original land grants from England, modified during the time of the American Revolution, with the present-day boundary set by a U.S. Supreme Court decision. The English grants set the boundary between then-New York and New Hampshire as the western bank of the river.

Soon after Vermont declared her independence and the signing of the Declaration of Independence occurred, community leaders in 22 New Hampshire towns (Chesterfield to Haverhill) persuaded their fellow townspeople to secede from their state. They were convinced that the actions of the Crown were no longer the law and they wanted to eliminate the river as a jurisdictional boundary.

A convention of river towns from both states met in Cornish, New Hampshire, to consider forming a state called "New Connecticut," as many of the settlers migrated to the valley

**DAVID L. DEEN** *is a* member of the Connecticut River Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, and the Connecticut Atlantic Salmon River Commission. Whenever he can, he writes and lectures about and fishes the Connecticut River.

#### effort.

New Hampshire then took stronger measures and threatened to send 1,000 soldiers westward to the valley, ostensibly to protect against Indigenous peoples and the British, but in reality to take back the towns Vermont had annexed.

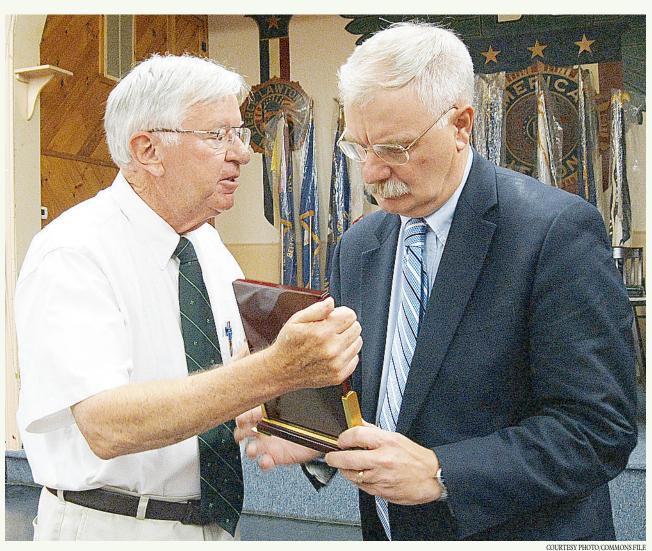
In 1782, prodded by a letter from George Washington critical of Vermont's actions, Congressional actions, and the threat of a 1,000-man army headed its way, Vermont did a sudden about-face.

The state Assembly voted to renounce jurisdiction over all towns east of the river and any claim to jurisdiction east of the west side of the river, beginning at the low-water mark.

The river was a state boundary again — and New Hampshire got it all.

VERMONT ATTEMPTED to assert a claim over half the river and invited New Hampshire to appoint commissions to settle the boundary in 1792, 1794, and 1830. New Hampshire offered no response to the first two invitations and a flat-out no to the last overture. In 1915, Vermont sued in the U.S. Supreme Court, asking to establish the boundary between the states as the thread (deepest part) of the Connecticut River. The state said it held title to the thread by virtue of English common law and, since Vermont joined the Union as a sovereign state, her boundaries were those she self-established, and the thread of the river was her eastern boundary. ■ SEE RIVER, C2

#### IEWPOINT



Timothy J. O'Connor and Michael J. Obuchowski both served as speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives. Could the way they conducted themselves in that job serve as an inspiration for current members of the U.S. House?

## When the business of the people proceeded

Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives should reach out to Democrats and resolve the impasse over the speaker, following the example of how the Vermont Legislature worked in the 1970s

from eastern Connecticut.

Instead, in 1778, the New Hampshire towns joined the Vermont Republic, and the river was no longer a boundary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE leaders tried to appease the rebels with political appointments and support for the idea of annexing Vermont river towns.

When these approaches failed, New Hampshire asked the Continental Congress to settle the dispute, making it clear that unless Congress returned the towns, the state would no longer contribute to the war

Brattleboro s I witness the MAGA Republicans topple House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and then his proposed successor, Steve Scalise, I am reminded of how Vermonters have handled minorities.

I served in the Vermont Legislature in the '70s and the '90s. During my first hitch, the speaker was Timothy J. O'Connor Jr.

Tim - by heritage, education, and disposition — was a **THOMAS COSTELLO** represented Rutland City in the Vermont House of Representatives from 1974 to 1980 and Brattleboro from 1994 to 2000. He is founding partner of Costello, Valente & Gentry, P.C., a law firm in Brattleboro.

Democrat. Make no mistake. And no one did.

Yet, in 1976, when the Democrats were a minority party in the House of Representatives, when there was a strong Republican governor and Republican Senate, Tim was elected speaker.

In 1996, the House was also divided, into Republicans, Democrats, Blue Dogs, and Progressives. As speaker, it elected Michael Obuchowski - also a Democrat by heritage, education, and disposition. No mystery here.

In both instances, the speaker, who had sole power to appoint committees, treated all fairly.

As for O'Connor, for instance, he appointed Peter Guiliani, a no-nonsense Republican conservative, as chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. His vice chair was Tom Candon, of Rutland, leader of the Democrats, who Guiliani affectionately called "Boss Candon.

■ SEE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP, C2

### LETTERS FROM READERS

#### We must confront paradox of Palestinian suffering and Hamas's atrocities

ow history repeats itself. As I encounter people saying that the Palestinian situation justifies the barbarism of Hamas, I think of the American leftists who wouldn't hear anything against Joseph Stalin.

In his 30 years of power in Russia and, later, the Soviet Union, Stalin engineered the murder of millions -all in the service of creating a Communist utopia.

He called for the eradication of the Kulaks, or peasants who owned more than 8 acres of land. He imprisoned in the Soviet gulag system or simply murdered — anyone

deemed an enemy of the state. His policies exacerbated the Ukrainian famine of the early 1930s, starving millions.

These horrors were rationalized as the ends justifying the means

The Hamas agenda is a very far cry from utopian. Its credo reduces women to chattel, calls for the eradication of not only every LGBTQ person, but all Jews and Christians as well.

Free speech is not tolerated, the media is suppressed, as is all political opposition. Nongovernmental organizations are eviscerated; all independent mechanisms for accountability, destroyed.

It is difficult in the face of terrorist violence to allow for nuanced ideas. It is hard to consider two opposing facts (Palestinian suffering and the atrocities Hamas commits in the name of liberation) at the same time.

But we must.

We bystanders cannot conflate the desperation of Palestinians — whose lives have already gotten immeasurably worse due to these terrorists — with the Hamas specious claim of noble struggle for the underdog.

Stephanie Greene West Dover

#### **Israel and Hamas:** both guilty of civilian slaughter

RE: "Oct. 7 was not Day 1 of Israel's war on Palestinians" [Viewpoint, Oct. 11]:

Kudos to Kate Casa for calling for historical context and

fair and balanced media coverage of the terrible conflict between Israel and the terrorist organization Hamas

Both Israel and Hamas are guilty of the slaughter of innocent people. We must bear witness to all the brutality occurring in an inconceivable escalation of violence that is killing civilian victims on both sides of the conflict. It's a conflict without end, unless our fading humanity can recognize the human cost of massive aggression as a first step toward resolution.

In this terrible, tragic time we must mourn for all the victims of war and aggression, Jew and Palestinian together. We must hear their stories whether they come from Tel Aviv or Gaza. Those stories matter and enlighten us, as does the history of

the conflict.

We cannot turn away from all who suffer the consequences of violence and war, or we will all be doomed to a hopeless future. Elavne Clift

Brattleboro

#### 'Got it all wrong'

E: "Oct. 7 was not Day Al of Israel's war on Palestinians" [Viewpoint, Oct. 111:

Kate Casa's headline in your paper got it all wrong — so surprising for someone who claims to be a journalist.

Does she not remember several attempts by Arabs to bomb Israel out of existence? Was it not in 1948, when the first attempt was made, that leaders of the Muslim community told all the Palestinians in Jerusalem

to leave their homes for several days because they were going to bomb Israel away? Remember, they were on Hitler's side. History is important, my

friends. Seventy-five years later, we are in dire times when Hamas enters Israel and massacres and takes hostage citizens of several countries, because they want every Jewish person in the world to be dead. Why?

Selma Schiffer Wilmington

*More letters*, *C2* 



The peaceful, pastoral views to meadows and hills will captivate you! The ever changing cloudscapes and the way sunlight dances with shadows add everyday delight! In West Guilford, nestled away on 18 acres, this 1868 square foot, contemporary six room home, surrounded by mature woodlands was built by the current owners in 1974. Planned with simple lines outside, designed inside with personality and large windows for the kitchen, living room and primary bedroom to enjoy the lovely views. There are vaulted ceilings, light filled rooms, front entry w/cedar closet, a spacious living room with a centerpiece fireplace, a loft library with a sleeping alcove, the cheeriest of eat in kitchens with plentiful storage, counter space, views and a 16' x 10' deck. The versatile layout offers a dining room if desired, or a office/den as it is used now. The primary bedroom has a three quarter bath with a shower. A stackable laundry was added to the craft room/bedroom closet. The 20 foot long covered deck off the living room and primary bedroom

looks over a lawn, a rambling stone wall to the meadow and mountain views. Entry porch has EV charger. There is two bay basement garage with high ceilings, ample work space, washer, dryer and laundry sink. The 32 x 40 barn has a workroom and a loft.

## **EXCLUSIVE: \$685,000**



### MORE LETTERS

culture.

Then we had Indigenous

Peoples' Day, when their lead-

ers continued to tell us that we

need to cut our consumption of

everything, including the use

of fossil fuels. In fact, Marcie

Rendon. an Indigenous leader

whose thinking I respect, asks

us to cut our consumption in

half this year and then in half

Some people say this will

make our lives harder. However,

I suggest this will make our lives

We can focus on the possi-

tively; more connected with our

families, friends and neighbors;

and more in harmony with the

Earth. The pace of life can be

slower and more enjoyable.

What are you willing to

change in your life and your

community in order to have a

livable future for our planet?

Economic

harmony will

Laurel Green

**Bellows Falls** 

bility of living more coopera-

the following year.

better.

#### The lessons of tobacco policy RE: "We can break the car's cultural grip" [Viewpoint,

Oct. 4]: Smoking was once common in the public square — in restaurants, on airlines, in parks, everywhere.

Then the health risks (not just to the smoker but to others around the smoker) were made public. After that, smoking was banned everywhere, because it is a public health hazard.

The author is onto something here — albeit misapplying the concept to cars.

Why not take the approach to banning smoking and apply that to public drug use? Put up signs and outright forbid it, because it's a public health hazard.

We cannot stop people from smoking or using drugs at home. But if If we are as hard on drug users as we are on smokers, we'll see a lot less drug use.

Sandy Golden Hinsdale, N.H.

#### Cutting fossil fuel consumption can make lives better

The Oct. 4 edition of *The Commons*' Voices section offered a winning double header about the climate emergency and the role of car-centric bring peace The current war has one solution: peace. What is peace? Peace is treating every person with the respect they need. Peace is creating economic environments for everyone to thrive, where



#### Twice Upon A Time "A little something for everyone!"

everyone has the dignity of

10,000 sq. ft. of Antiques, Collectables, Vintage Clothing and Jewelry. Consignment and Dealer Mall.

63 Main St. Brattleboro • 802.254.2261 www.twicetime.com



#### Stewart Property Management

#### CLARK / CANAL STREET BRATTLEBORO, VT

We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom apartments that have been newly renovated and are

enough money to be purposeful in life and not subjected to stress of abject poverty, where everyone is encouraged to fulfill a personal purpose and develop personal strengths.

Nothing about our economic reality currently fulfills this.

However, were the political and banking class to attend to peace, they would focus on actions like funding the establishment and training for millions of small organic farms worldwide.

With \$80 million, we could create a food network that would heal the soil, and thus sequester carbon, and end the idiotic shipping of similar items back and forth across oceans.

Meanwhile, 80 million small organic farms will restore health and well-being to all people, to the soil, to the air, to the living water and animals, wild and farmed.

Thus the vibration of happiness will increase worldwide. This one 80-million-farm focus addresses climate change and political unrest, but I have yet to see or hear anyone in the political and banking classes calling for unification around this need! However, we *do* see unifica-

tion of the banking and political class behind world war, and war of all kinds.

When you dig a little deeper, you find that war is a ruse of the political and banking class. These two sets of elites and the mouthpieces who trumpet war nonsense cannot honorably claim to care that "climate change" is the greatest existential threat to humankind while concurrently promoting and funding war.

It doesn't matter who the good guys or who the bad guys are — those who fund further violence are perpetuating grave harm against the people and the environment.

All those in the political class and the banking class who clamor and fund war while neglecting the appropriate job of funding peace are not leading in any direction worth heading. Violence does not and cannot beget peace. Suppression of violence is a different process from funding war.

Ending violence primarily involves beginning policies of economic harmony, which will bring peace.

Allowing a monetary method that balances societies' collective desire to be a myriad of purposes, intellects, services, and cultures as representative of Living Source Wisdom, while encouraging personal and collective health and happiness, is certainly doable and will be manifest.

The people's dilemma is the ability to have confidence in their own authority and how to peacefully assert it before the class of people who crave godlike powers over the rest.

How to bring those classes to heel to respect godhood within each of us is our journey to peace. Bon voyage!

Emily Peyton Putney

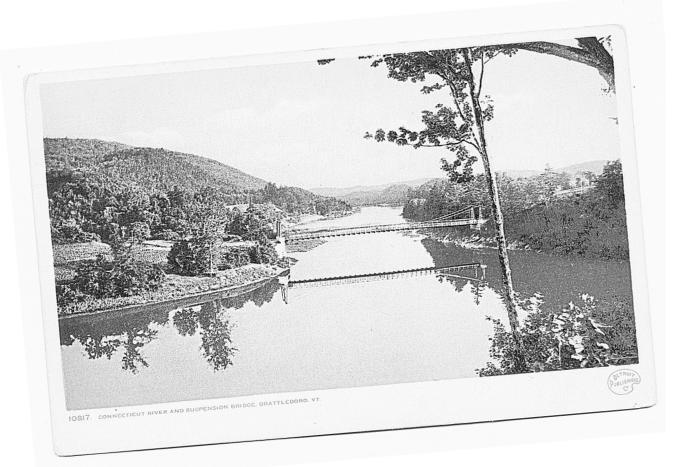
#### Guilford fire dept., auxiliary thank bakers, donors

e could not do it without you. The success of the Welcome Center fundraiser for the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary would not have happened without both the local businesses' and our great Guilford bakers' donations.

We received great praise from the visitors to our state, and many have stopped by our event many times and look forward to seeing us. They praised the variety we offer — "Best I have ever seen," we heard — and we must agree.

We truly appreciate those who provide the home baked goods. It really wows everyone. GUILFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. AND AUXILIARY Guilford

Wanda Atomanuk on



A suspension bridge in Brattleboro spans the Connecticut River, shown here in this turn-of-the-20thcentury postcard. New Hampshire owns the river to the Vermont shoreline.

## River

## The Vermont suit did not daunt New Hampshire at all.

claim on the land between the high- and low-water marks, the Court found that even if the state had authority over the river, there would be "insurmountable difficulty, in attempting to draw any other line than the low-water mark." Therefore, in 1934, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that New Hampshire would get its river and Vermont would get its shore land. to the 45th parallel, where the river crosses into New

FROM SECTION FRONT

improvements on the river." The reservoirs behind the

#### currently available.

Rent includes heat, hot water, snow and trash removal. Off street parking and laundry on site.

> For more information call 802-464-9700 or download an application at



www.stewartproperty.net Applicants must be income eligible.



### Solving hard water, iron, blue staining, radon and arsenic problems in the Windham County area since 1984.

- Water Conditioning
- Free On-Site Water Analysis & Estimate
- Iron and Manganese Removal
  - Radon & Arsenic Removal
  - Systems Maintenance
  - Home Supplies Delivery



We Service All Makes And Models Locally Owned & Operated Since 1984



ON SITE, NO CHARGE, TESTING AND ESTIMATES

800-252-8484

New Hampshire cross-filed with the Court to acquire jurisdiction of that narrow width of land on the Vermont shore between the low- and high-water mark.

The Court found that by passing the 1782 Resolution, Vermont had relinquished any claim to jurisdiction east of the state's shore beginning at the low-water mark, and the lowwater mark was further defined as "the point to which the river recedes at its lowest stage without reference to extreme droughts."

As to the New Hampshire

A COURT MASTER surveyed the boundary and placed 4-inch brass disk markers at the survey points. Still on the land today, they form a necklace at 112 locations from Vernon upriver Hampshire entirely.

Each marker gives the distance from the marker along a compass heading to the actual low-water boundary. Vermont and New Hampshire laws require that the boundary line "shall be perambulated and markers and bounds renewed wherever necessary." Vermont law proscribes that the perambulation take place "once in every seven years."

The Court even foresaw the question of power dams on the main river. Their decision said that the surveyed low-water mark would be "unaffected by dams have now submerged the natural low-water point, but the original surveyed locations remain the border, although in some cases the boundary is more than 100 feet off the Vermont shore.

That is a brief history of how it is that Vermont owns any part of the Connecticut River. That history has and does create some understandable human puzzlement about jurisdiction over the river.

Of course, given that rivers do not care about political jurisdictions, the Connecticut River is not puzzled at all.

## Legislative leadership

As for Obuchowski, he appointed Republican Tom Little of Shelburne chair of the Judiciary Committee. His vicespeaker chair was Bill Lippert of Hinesburg, the first gay member of the House, and, of course, a Democrat.

THESE PEOPLE — Peter and Tom and Tom and Bill — are but examples of how good and decent men under the leadership of great people like O'Connor and Obuchowski did lead competently and harmoniously.

Nobody gave up anything; all contributed something.

These two instances are but example of "The Vermont Way." George D. Aiken held every office — from selectman to U.S. senator, from the early '30s to the early '70s. He was a Republican. But was very much like his present successor, the Progressive Bernie Sanders.

Our present governor, Phil Scott, is a conservative Republican. Were Scott to run against Sanders, the result would depend on what office they were running for. They both are admired and appreciated by a decided majority of Vermonters.

IT SEEMS OBVIOUS in the present circumstances that the Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives should follow this example and reach out to Democrats and resolve the impasse over the speaker. A power sharing formula would be entered into and election of a speaker accomplished. All this would take would be setting aside the enmity and acrimony that the MAGA Republicans have polluted their proud party with, and Donald Trump, who is a disgrace to every self-respecting American.

Courage, judgment, and leadership. Been done before. Nixon went to China. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. Why not now?

At Gettysburg the cry was: "Put the Vermonters up front and keep the columns close up." A good idea, then and now.

In the Oct. 13 issue of *The New York Times*, Carl Hulse wrote "'The World's on Fire,' and House Republicans Are Fighting Among Themselves." Two elements of his news analysis are particularly worthy of note.

First is the reference to Republican Rep. Don Bacon, a retired Air Force general representing a district in Nebraska. Bacon had been speaking sense among the chaos during the last few weeks. Someone like him could prepare the Vermont/coalition solution and succeed. Second is Hulse's quote of that gravet Domeoret Cathering

that great Democrat, Catherine O'Brien Costello — "rise above it" — though he neglects, regrettably, to give her the proper attribution.

Were she in the caucus room of the Republicans, the

problem would be solved: grand slam. And she would do so in such a quiet, professional, and decisive way.

Those guys would not even realize that she had taken the bid, the tricks, and the game. And our beloved country would be well served.

WE, OF COURSE, had our MAGAs: reactionaries and radicals. Their ideas were generally good and often right.

For example, the reactionaries wanted to cut the budget, cut back on the state's environmental regulations, and limit the defenses available to criminal defendants. The radicals wanted marriage equality, universal health care, and child care for working parents.

Roy and Fred were representative reactionaries. Fred even carried his weapon with him in the House chamber.

Roy each year made motions on the floor to cut items from the budget or to impose an across-the-board reduction in spending.

Terry and Dean were representative radicals. We called them "Lenin" and "Trotsky," respectively. They would make a motion and support it with articulate speeches and solid arguments. Then the motion would be defeated. We turned the page. Moved on.

Then there were the Blue Dogs. They were not sure who they were but were certain

#### FROM SECTION FRONT

they were not liberals and not Republicans.

Neither the majority nor the minority — usually separated by only a few votes, as in today's U.S. House — were bothered by them. The business of the people proceeded *and* all respected one another.

Though I rarely voted with the reactionaries, the radicals, or the Blue Dogs, I counted them all fellow public servants and some of them friends.

DEAN DIED a few months ago, in Burlington, far distant from me. I had not seen him in 20 years and was never acquainted with his widow, Cindy, a cardiac nurse.

Cindy called me last week and wanted me to represent Dean's estate in a claim of medical negligence against the hospital and doctor whose negligence caused his death. "Why me?"

"Because Dean trusted you and respected you. He knew that you would take care of us."

It simply ain't that complicated. No reason they can't lay down their spears and get to work for America, fund the Ukrainians and Israel, and pass a budget.

The fault is not with the MAGAs. It is with the failure of the majority to work with minority to build a coalition government in the House for the good of the country.

#### AROUND THE TOWNS

#### **Public invited** to participate in community meetings about health care in southern Vermont

MONTPELIER - The Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) invites members of the public to participate in a series of virtual community meetings about the future of health care in southern Vermont.

During these community conversations, organizers said that meeting attendees will have a chance "to share their first-hand experiences with navigating the health care system — what is going well, what do you want to see more of, what changes could make it easier to get the care you need at an affordable price?'

Meetings will be held on Friday, Oct. 27, at 4 p.m., for Grace Cottage Health Care in Townshend; Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m., for Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington; and Thursday, Nov. 2, at 4 p.m., for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Full information on these meetings and how to sign-up to reserve your spot can be found at **bit.ly/3QoINRb**.

The GMCB says these meetings "are part of a broad, statewide community engagement effort to improve the sustainability of Vermont's health care system, starting with the experiences and priorities of local residents." More information about the GMCB can be found at gmcboard.vermont.gov.

#### Monthly produce distribution

PUTNEY — The Vermont Foodbank and the Putney Foodshelf co-sponsor a monthly food drop of free produce and some nonperishables on the fourth Thursday of every month from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Alice Holway Drive (in front of Putney Meadows, the white building across from the Putney Co-op and Putney Fire Station).

All are welcome. This is a drive-up service. Bags provided. The next monthly food drop is Thursday, Oct. 26.

#### **RFPL** hosts genealogical workshop

BELLOWS FALLS — Come to the Rockingham Free Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for a scavenger hunt workshop to test your genealogical skills, as well as learn some new ones.

Experienced genealogists and newcomers alike are welcome to bring their laptops and join Genealogist Wayne Blanchard and Reference and Historical Collections librarian Pamela Johnson-Spurlock for this workshop as participants will take basic pieces of information and work together to help create a short biographical sketch of a person's life.

This is a free program open to the public and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary. org or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls.

#### Windham **Philharmonic presents** Halloween concert

BRATTLEBORO — A fun, family-friendly Halloween concert is next for the Windham Philharmonic on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre.

The orchestra, under the direction of Hugh Keelan, brings back Jerod Tate's striking Coyote excerpt from their recent performance of Spirit Chief Names the Animal People, with bassoon, piccolo, and percussion showing Coyote's tricky nature. The hall will ring with the dancing rhythms of Mexican composer Moncayo's Huapango, the sweeping runs of Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain, and a "macabre" duet sung by sopranos Elizabeth Wohl and Jenna Rae. Halloween treats and maybe a trick or two make a lively

believe the future is vegetables and fruits. They are so much more sexier than a piece of chicken.

—José Andres

Be Sure To Check Our Full Program Schedule @ brattleborotv.org

hour-long program.

This concert benefits their concert partner, Groundworks Collaborative, who are working with people and systems focused on creating solutions to end hunger and homelessness for all people in the region. Admission is by donation and costumes are encouraged! Mouth-watering baked treats will be available for donation. For more information. visit windhamphilharmonic.org.

#### Changing art exhibits at West Village **Meeting House**

WEST BRATTLEBORO -"Collaborations," the current art exhibit at All Souls Church in West Brattleboro, will be on view through Saturday, Nov. 4. A closing reception for Stuart Copans and his many artistic collaborators will be held that day from 3 to 5 p.m.

For November and December, the church's gallery spaces will be in brown paper leaf bags and for the Townshend Food Shelf.

be offer small art works — some at the curb by 7 a.m. on scheduled framed, some not — as well as artist-made gift items. All are reasonably priced, affordable, creative selections to take home in time for unique holiday giftgiving. The Art Gift Sale will take place on Sundays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and by appointment.

All Souls Church is located in the West Village Meeting House at 29 South St. in West Brattleboro, up the hill from the fire station. For more information, visit ascvt.org or email allsoulsvtart@gmail.com.

## Leaf collection

### schedule announced

BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro's curbside Fall Leaf Collection will take place on Friday, Nov. 3 and 17. These will be the only days scheduled for curbside leaf pick-up.

All leaves and clippings must

leaf collection days. Acceptable waste includes leaves, grass, clippings, garden waste, and twigs (no branches larger than 1 inch in diameter and 2 feet long).

No other household trash is to be included. Town leaf collection is designated for single family residences or apartment buildings with 2-4 units. No plastic bag or other containers will be accepted. Brown paper leaf bags are available for purchase at local businesses.

#### **Grace Cottage hosts** flu shot clinic

**TOWNSHEND** - Grace Cottage Family Health will hold a Saturday flu vaccine clinic on Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. Pre-registration is recommended (802-365-4331); walk-ins will be accommodated as space allows. During the flu clinic, Grace

Cottage will also host a food drive

If you can, please bring a nonperishable food item. You do not need to be an established patient at Grace Cottage to get a flu shot at this clinic. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Most insurance covers this preventive health measure; bring your ID and insurance card with you. If you are not insured, payment for your flu shot is expected at the time of service.

An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to avoid getting the flu and spreading it to others. It takes about two weeks for protection to develop after vaccination. Two different flu shots are being offered this year, one for those age six months to 64, and another for those who are 65 and older.

Flu shots are also available at Grace Cottage weekdays by appointment. Call 802-365-4331. Grace Cottage Family Health is located at 185 Grafton Road (Route 35).

#### **BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY** THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

#### 15 13 14 16 17 18 19 23 28 29 31 37 39 41 48 49 51 53 55 57 67 72 76 81 82 83 84 85 90 92 94 98 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 111 112 109 110 113 114 115 116 ©2023 115. Rogen of "Platonic" 85. Links numbers 59. Company chair 60. 2003 movie about a 86. Banned pesticide 116. Does the math? 87. Lady Gaga or Beyoncé rodent, literally? Crispy cookie bra 88. Throws with force Down 63. Typical Tuesday fare 90. G neighbor

"Film Adaptations"

#### Across

1. Long walk in the woods

Donkey \_\_ 5.

- 9. Mac
- 12. Some coast-to-coast flights 19. Actress Campbell
- 20. Matmid Frequent Flier
- program carrier
- 21. "Other names
- include" letters
- 22. "The BEST!"
- 23. 1978 movie about a forgetful oboist?
- 26. Earns back
- 27. Void
- 28. Olympic skier Ligety
- 29. Cashier 31. Big wine holder
- "Up" voice actor 32.
- 33. "Old McDonald" letters
- 35. Spreadsheet sections
- 36. Ballet move
- 37. 1994 movie about the best butcher?
- 39. Bird of crosswords
- 40. Spectacle
- 41. Model Holliday
- 42. Brain disease that
- affects ex-NFLers
- 43. "You lose"
- 44. Tricky move
- 45. Pre-video clips
- 46. Toots and the
- Maytals genre
- Chocolate-and-van 47. illa soft serve
- 50. Resided
- 52. Smartphone connection
- 53. Estonian composer \_\_ Pärt

54. Like some dorms

LOCAL

C3

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS Oct. 23-29

#### CHANNEL 1078

#### CHANNEL 1079

PLE	EASE	ΝΟΤΕ	NEW	CHANNEL	NUMBERS

Here We Are - Willow O'Feral, Filmmaker: Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Thurs 1:20p, Fri 9:30p, Sat 12:15p, Sun 5:15p	River Valleys Unified School District Board Special Mtg. 10/19/23: Mon 6:15p, Tues 10a, Wed 12p
<b>The World Fusion Show - Ep# 163</b> - <b>Olox</b> : Mon 10a & 4p, Tues 9:15p, Thurs 12:30p, Fri 3:45p, Sat 6:30a, Sun 2:30p	Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 10/23/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a
Media Mentoring Project - Resistance: How the Arts affect Social and Political Change: Thurs 4p, Fri 10a, Sat 8p, Sun 12:30p	<b>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg.</b> 10/23/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p
<b>BDCC Presents - SoVT Get on</b> <b>Board</b> : Wed 9p, Thurs 9a, Fri 12:30p Sat 5p	Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 10/23/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p
At BMAC - 16th Annual Domino Toppling Extravaganza: Tues 11:25a & 4:55p, Wed 5:55p, Thurs 5:55p, Fri 11:55a, Sat 12:55p, Sun 6:55a & 2:25p	Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 10/24/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p
Brattleboro Literary Fest - Rough Sleepers - Tracy Kidder & Robbie Camble: Mon 12:30p, Tues 3:45p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 6:55a, Sat 9:55p, Sun 5:55p	Putney Selectboard Public Hearing on 2023 Draft Town Plan 10/24/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p
Brattleboro Literary Fest - On Patriarchy - Angela Saini & Carrie Baker: Mon 6:45a, Tues 8p, Wed 12:30p, Thurs 2:45p, Fri 2:30p, Sat 9a, Sun 9:30a	Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 10/24/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p
Brattleboro Literary Fest - Two Sides of Friendship - Johnathan Rosen & Will Schwalbe: Mon 1:30p, Tues 9a, Wed 9a, Fri 5:45a, Sat 2p, Sun 7p	Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Mon 7:30p, Tues 12p, Wed 6a, Thurs 2:15p, Sun 6p
Mitchell Giddings Fine Arts - Fran Bull: Mon 2:40p, Tues 10a, Wed 4:35p, Fri 4:40p, Sun 8p	Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 10/16/23: Mon 7a, Tues 9p, Wed 1:15p, Thurs 12p, Sat 11a, Sun 11a
Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Mon 4:25p, Tues 9:45p, Wed 9:40a, Thurs 11a, Sat 5:10p
<b>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode</b> : Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	West River Education District Board Mtg. 10/10/23: Mon 9a, Tues 3:45p, Thurs 1p, Fri 4:45p
News Block: WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri 12:05p & 6:05p BUHS-TV News: Mon-Fri 12:15p & 6:35p	Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 10/11/23: Mon 5:30a, Tues 5p, Wed 10:30a
<b>St. Michael's Episcopal Church -</b> Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 10/2/23: Mon 2:30p, Tues 7p, Wed 2p
Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p	Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg. 9/21/23: Mon 10:15a, Tues 7:15a
Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: 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</b> <b>Mass:</b> Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p	<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

BCTV's Program Highlights are sponsored by The Commons. BCTV's municipal meeting coverage helps Commons reporters stay in touch. Read about it in the Town & Village section at www.commonsnews.org

Brattleboro Community Television – 257-0888

- 55. George III's throne room?
- 58. Too many to count
- 61. Boston's nickname
- 63. Save on streaming sites
- 64. Strikingly weird
- 65. 1988 movie about a
- Tehran resident? 66. Join forces (with)
- 68. Hair goops
- 69. "No question!"
- 71. Traffic-reporter monitors
- 72. Big card
- 73. Washerful
- 74. Coiled garden tool
- 75. Pollster Roper
- 76. \_\_ squash
- 78. Onionlike vegetables
- 79. Artfully tricky
- 80. Fleece
- 83. Single-serve coffee brand
- 84. Brown nos.
- 86. Hwy. felony
- 87. Skunk Le Pew
- 88. Loathes
- 89. Key with two arrows
- 90. 2003 film about discovering a bad sign?
- 94. Outback birds
- 95. Suit material?
- 96. 49-Down author Walter
- 97. Dizzying paintings
- 98. Shrinks' org.
- 99. Break down word for word
- 100. Fireplace part
- 101. Sources of news 102. 1968 hit by the Monkees
- 104. 2006 movie about
- crossing a maze?
- 109. Oracle CTO Larry
- 110. High, craggy hill
- 111. Leave the stage
- 112. Zig or zag
- 113. Refuse
- 114. Personal IRA

3. Uniformity

5. Ship part

7.

"Negatory"

8. Butt muscles

10. Oahu strings

in the minors

11. Day of drinking in

multiple places 12. 1954 movie about a

unique skylight?

13. Decorative jugs 14. See 95-Down

15. Placido's pronoun

16. 1998 movie about

17. Understanding

acquiring Peru's capital?

1. Explosive palindrome

4. Unpopped popcorn

6. Stinking of mothballs

9. Canine baseball helper

2. Discussed again

- - 65. Nexplanon alternative
  - 67. EGOT trophy
  - 70. 2008 movie about calling an Italian city?
  - 71. Ignatius follower
  - 73. Cuts (off)
  - 77. Billiard sticks
  - 78. Doctor's orders, often
  - 80. Hung in there
  - 81. Ran
  - 82. Mangled 83. Uganda's capital

#### 108. Hits that make Angels happy: Abbr.

106. Logger's tool

107. It's boring

91. Legendary person

95. With 14-Down, The

101. The stuff of legends

-Manuel Miranda

Fool's spot

99. Chilean bread

105. "Ulalume" poet

92. Court figures

93. Attendee

103.

.....

#### Last issue's solution

#### "Forefathers"

АНА СРА SISTER GCLEF O N T I M E R A I L A T DOGSHOW D O A D I S S E R V I C E S M E T A N A A N G E L I C N E U T E R I N U R E S N O R I D I N E A N D D A S H PUTTS I I TOS Y L V I A A B U E L A V A S T I E D C H U G D U L L A S D I S H W A T E R G U I S E D N A M I R E A I R E D G O S P E L E T N A A E R O T I P F R A T D U E L A T D A W N D I M E A D O Z E N A C I D E E L D A R N M O A I 0 N E S E C A N A I S G R A M M S S P A R K S D I S P E L A N Y D O U B T S T Y R A A O K D O M E A T T I L A INDICTESTOCEAN D R A G A N D D R O P I O U S R E M O T E O U T I N G S C R O O G E A M U L E T S D I E A N O T H E R D A Y M I S F I T S E N T R A P W H E E Z E A X E T E N G A Y L E A M O R E S

PUBLICATION OF THE COMMONS CROSSWORD IS UNDERWRITTEN BY



- 18. Sonnet section 24. Coin with a national side 25. Rhein rejection 30. TV host Love 32. "\_\_\_girl!" 33. Call for
  - 34. Cold War prez
    - 36. Dr. Biden
    - 38. Gross measurement?
    - 40. Flew (through)
    - 43. Facial cover in a
    - Dumas novel

    - 52. Dampens
    - 54. Bamboozle
    - 56. Latin egg
    - 57. Cry over spilled milk?
    - 58. Sonic creator
- - 46. Voice in an iPhone
  - 47. Buffalo hockey player
  - 48. Encircles with a garland
  - 49. Rowena's lover in literature
  - 51. Risked everything



## **COLUMN** | Sports Roundup

## Twin Valley boys earn top seed in Division IV tournament

Undefeated Wildcats capture SVL title, set sights on state championship

ne championship down, one The Twin Valley boys' soccer team finished the regular season undefeated with a 3-2 win over the Randolph Galloping Ghosts on Oct. 20 and, in the process, captured the Southern Vermont League C Division title.

After a season filled with routs over less skilled teams, Wildcats coach Buddy Hayford viewed the showdown with Randolph as the perfect tuneup for his team heading into the Division IV playoffs.

"We're playing our best soccer of the season," Hayford told me after a 10-1 win over Bellows Falls on Oct. 18. "We have our sights on a state title, but winning the SVL title would be a great way to go into the tournament."

Hayford said his team was expecting an intense game against Randolph, who like Twin Valley, entered the game with a 6-0 record in SVL play. The game turned to be exactly as billed, as Twin Valley opened with three unanswered goals before the Wildcats had to hold back a Randolph rally in the second half.

Twin Valley's two leading scorers, senior Cody Magnant and ninth-grader Hunter Roth, gave the Wildcats a 3-0 lead at the half. Magnant opened the scoring with a goal off a free kick by Steven Over in the fourth minute



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.

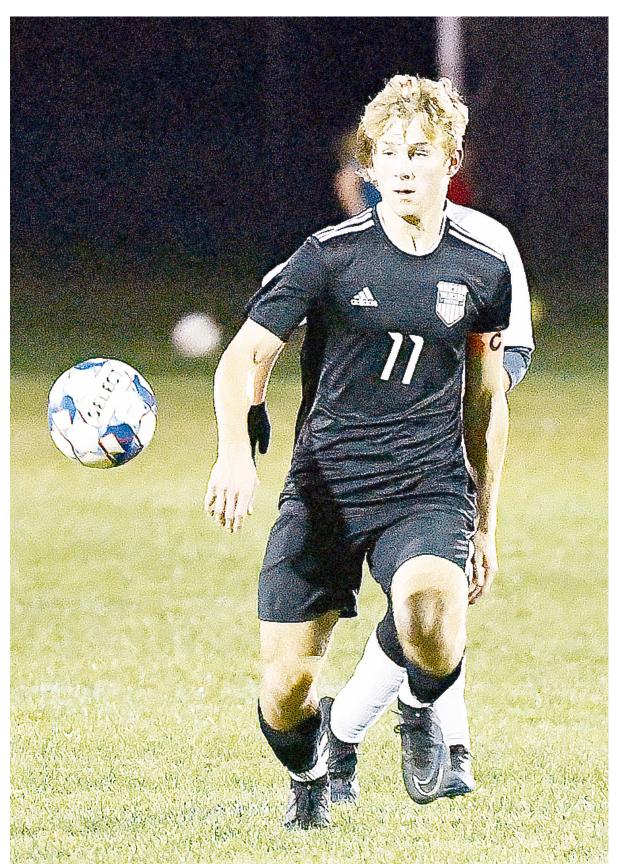
and give the other guys some experi-

ence heading into the playoffs." The 14-0 Wildcats got a first round bye and will take on the winner of the Oct. 25 first round game between No. 8 West Rutland and No. 9 Leland & Gray in a quarterfinal game at Hayford Field in Wilmington on Friday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.

#### Football

• Burr & Burton quarterback Jack McCoy is considered one of the best in the state at his position. On a rainy night at Applejack Stadium in Manchester on Oct. 20, McCoy offered additional proof of his skill by throwing for 301 yards and four touchdowns in a 27-8 win over the Brattleboro Bears.

The soggy conditions and lots of penalties slowed down the Bulldogs, but McCoy and receiver Seb Dostal



seemed to be in sync as they connected Twin Valley midfielder Cody Magnant has scored 32 goals so far to help the Wildcats finish the regular

and then converted a penalty kick in the 12th minute for his 31st and 32nd goals of the season. Roth then got what turned out to be an important insurance goal in the 20th minute after knocking in the ball during a scramble in front of the Ghosts goal.

Randolph came back strong in the second half with two goals in the first 10 minutes of play. Hudson Grimes scored in the 45th minute and Silas Abbott got a goal five minutes later, but the Ghosts got no closer. With both teams were playing their third game in four days, they staggered to the finish.

Twin Valley had a 15-11 advantage in shots and Wildcats goalkeeper Kaelyn Lackey made nine saves in the win.

Before the Randolph game, the Wildcats had a pair of blowout wins. Roth and Magnant scored three goals each as Twin Valley torched Springfield, 9-0, at Hayford Field on Oct. 17. Oyer, Noah Dornburgh, and Halen Ranslow also scored. Brayden Brown had three assists, Roth and Magnant each had two assists, and Over and Garrett Cunningham each had an assist

The next night against Bellows Falls, the Wildcats scored eight goals in the first half in a 10-1 win. Magnant scored four goals, Oyer added two goals and two assists, Brown had a goal and two assists, and Pacei Reynolds and Garrett Ryan got their first varsity goals. BF's Tristan Boylan broke up the shutout with a goal in the 65th minute.

Hayford said that the good thing about games against Springfield and BF was that it offered a chance to rest the starters and get the other players on the roster a chance to play substantial minutes.

"I have 21 players on the team, and they don't always get enough playing time," said Hayford. "I wanted the starters to score early and often [against BF] so they could some rest

on touchdown passes of 64, 39, and 49 yards. Kaleb Gabert caught the other TD pass in the regular season finale for both teams.

McCoy completed 13 of his 18 passes, with Dostal catching four of them for 162 yards and Gabert reeling in three passes for 31 yards. Running back Peyton Gray had 10 carries for 72 yards.

The Bears struggled on both sides of the ball. They got their only touchdown midway through the fourth quarter off a short pass from quarterback Karson Elliott that deflected off the hands of Jack Cady into the grasp of tight end Jackson Emery in the end zone. Emery also caught a two-point conversion pass from Elliott.

At 7-1, Burr & Burton clinched the No. 2 seed in Division I with the victory. Brattleboro earned the No. 7 seed with a 3-4-1 record, and will face the Bulldogs once again in the quarterfinal round on Saturday, Oct. 28 in Manchester at 2 p.m.

· Bellows Falls also ended the regular season with a loss as they fell to the North Country Falcons, 27-7, in Newport on Oct. 21.

The Terriers trailed 14-0 at the half and got their lone touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter to cut the Falcons' lead to 14-7. North Country then closed out the game with two more touchdowns.

BF still kept the No. 3 seed in Division II with a 4-4 record. They will host No. 6 Spaulding (4-4) for a quarterfinal game at Hadley Field on Friday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m.

#### Girls' soccer

• Leland & Gray, the defending Division IV champion, finished with a 10-3-1 record and the second seed in this year's tournament. They got a first-round bye and will host the winner of the first-round game between No. 7 Long Trail and No. 10 Proctor in a quarterfinal game in Townshend

season with a 14-0 record and the top seed in the Division IV boys' soccer tournament.

on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m.

The Rebels finished the regular season with a 7-0 win over Bellows Falls on Oct. 16 as Mary Sanderson scored four goals and Maggie Parker had two goals and four assists, and a 2-0 loss to White River Valley on Oct. 20.

· Brattleboro earned a home playoff game with a 8-5-1 record that gave them the No. 7 seed in Division I. They hosted No. 10 St. Johnsbury in a first-round game on Oct. 24 at Natowich Field. The Bears topped Rutland, 5-2, on Oct. 19 in the regular season finale as Reese Croutworst scored four goals.

• Bellows Falls finished with a 1-13 record and the No. 17 seed in Division III. The Terriers defeated No. 16 Thetford, 3-2, in overtime in a playin game on Oct. 23. BF then went on to face top-seeded Fair Haven in a first-round game on Oct. 24. The Terriers lost their season finale to Green Mountain, 3-1, on Oct. 19 in Westminster

• Twin Valley finished with 0-14 record and will sit out the Division IV tournament.

#### **Boys' soccer**

• Brattleboro finished the regular season with a 10-3-1 record and the fifth seed in the Division I playoffs. The Bears will host BFA-St. Albans in a first-round game on Oct. 25 at 3 p.m. at Natowich Field.

The Bears rolled to a 6-1 win over Rutland on Oct. 17, then rallied to beat Mount Anthony, 2-1, in the regular season finale in Bennington on Oct. 19. Jackson Pals and Ozzie VanHendrick scored in the final five minutes to knock off the Patriots.

• Leland & Gray got the the ninth seed in the Division IV playoffs with a 5-8-1 record. The Rebels finished

the regular season with a 4-0 win over Bellows Falls on Oct. 17, and lost 2-1 to White River Valley on Oct. 20.

· Bellows Falls ended the regular season with a 0-14 record and the No. 16 seed in the Division III playoffs. The Terriers will travel to Stowe to face the top-seeded Raiders on Oct. 25 in a first-round game at 3 p.m. BF lost the regular season finale to Green Mountain, 7-1, on Oct. 20 in Westminster.

#### **Field hockey**

• It's been a challenging year for Bellows Falls, as the Terriers finished with a 9-4-1 record and the No. 5 seed in Division I. They will travel to Colchester to face the No. 4 Lakers in the quarterfinals on Friday, Oct. 27 at 3:30 p.m.

The Terriers ended the regular season on a high note with a 1-0 win over Burr & Burton in Manchester on Oct. 21. Eryn Ross scored the deciding goal for BF and goalie Livie Clough made six saves to earn the shutout victory.

• Brattleboro finished the regular season with a 4-9 record and the ninth seed in Division II. The Bears played the No. 8 Mt. Abraham Eagles in a first-round game in Bristol on Oct. 24, and lost 1-0.

#### **Cross-country**

· Thetford won the boys' competition and Stratton Mountain School was the girls' winner in the SVL A Division cross-country championships on Oct. 20 in Rutland. The Bellows Falls girls were sixth, while Brattleboro finished seventh.

In the boys' race, Thetford's Ben Mattern covered the 5K course in 17 minutes, 4.56 seconds to take first place. Nico Conathan-Leach of Brattleboro was fourth in 17:41.26

Desi Broadley of Bellows Falls cracked the girls' top 10 with a ninth place finish in 23:36.08.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

Next up for the Brattleboro and Bellows Falls teams is the state championship meet this Saturday at Thetford Academy.

#### Senior bowling roundup

• The standings were reshuffled again after Week 7 of the fall/winter season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Oct. 19. Stepping Stones (28-7) had a 5-0 week, while Hairiers (23-12) had a 0-5 week to leave them in first and second place, respectively. Four Pins (21-14) moved up to third, followed by Skippers and High Rollers (both 20-15), Four Seasons (19-16), No Splits (17-18), Dumblebor (15-20), and PEWJ (6-29).

Pam Greenblott had the women's high handicap game (240) and series (667), while Jerry Dunham had the men's high handicap game (259) and Rick Wescott had the high handicap series (701). Stepping Stones had the high team handicap game (883) and series (2,528)

Robert Rigby had the men's high scratch series (591) with games of 205, 196, and 190. Westcott had a 560 series with games of 200 and 187, and Marty Adams had a 508 series with a 198 game. Warren Corriveau Sr. and Dunham both had a 508 series, with Dunham rolling a 213 game, while Charlie Marchant had a 502 series. Bob Uccello had a 189 game and Skip Shine and Norm Oakes each ha a 185 game.

Carol Gloski again had the women's high scratch series (512) with games of 186, 164, and 162. Greenblott had a 168 game.



# HOLIDAY guide november 22

Call 1-888-511-5150, or email one of our ad reps: lori@commonsnews.org • nancy@commonsnews.org

## **PROMOTE YOUR LOCAL OFFERINGS** this holiday season!

HOLIDAY SHOPPING PAGES will follow our Holiday Issue November 29 - December 20.