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Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, July 26, 2023 • Vol. XVIII, No. 30 • Issue No. 724

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**YOUR AWARD-WINNING, INDEPENDENT, NONPROFIT SOURCE OF NEWS AND VIEWS**

*'We **KNEW** this **STORM** was going to be **BAD**'*



Rescue Inc.'s swift water rescuers, part of the nonprofit's technical rescue team, at work on a road-turned-river during the recent flooding in Londonderry. Left to right: Drew Hazelton, Victoria Gassett, Travis Perez, and Mike Mather.

## For a full week, Rescue Inc. swift water teams worked through the flood and the days that followed, rescuing people from houses, cars, and even a tree

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen  
*The Commons*

**B**RATTLEBORO—When he began his day on the morning of Sunday, July 9, Drew Hazelton was planning for 5 to 7 inches of water to fall on southern Vermont.

Hazelton, the chief of operations at Rescue Inc., knew that the nonprofit's two swift water rescue teams would be called into service. The state provides equipment. In turn, "we agree to be there when we are needed," he says.

And in this case, Hazelton adds, "we

knew we would be called out and used."

By 4 p.m., word came from the state that all teams, including the state's own two teams, would be deployed.

Each of the teams, comprised of heavily trained personnel carrying rope equipment and operating equipment, is "fully self-sufficient," Hazelton says, which means they have the equipment, can set up to stay for several days, and bring boats: two power boats and a paddle raft.

In anticipation of the teams being activated, all members of Rescue Inc. were called in. Team leaders made operational plans and equipment checks specifically

for flood rescue of all varieties.

Concurrently, Hazelton was also gathering extra personnel so that all medical and advanced life support calls would be covered during the storm.

"We staffed all of our ambulances so that there was never a possibility that we'd miss an EMS call," Hazelton recalls. "That meant we needed to staff around forty people for 24 hours a day through the storm."

### A strong team ethic

Joining those extra personnel were 16 members of the Rescue Inc. Technical

■ SEE SWIFT WATER RESCUE, A2

## Vt. Supreme Court rejects challenge to Putney housing

### Campbell says she will take her appeal against the proposed affordable housing plan at Alice Holway Drive to the full panel of five judges

By Virginia Ray  
*The Commons*

**PUTNEY**—A three-judge panel of the Vermont Supreme Court has rejected the latest appeal by opponents of a proposed affordable housing community on Alice Holway Drive in Putney, but despite a new construction start date of spring 2024, appellant Laura Campbell says she will take steps to request a re-argument of the appeal in front of the full court.

The July 21 ruling by the state's highest court affirms the Environmental Court's decision earlier this year to reject an appeal to the project's zoning permit.

It marks the latest chapter of a 16-month legal process that began in March 2022, when an appeal was filed contesting the building permit. That halted all work on the 25-unit, mixed-income development.

"We are grateful to the Vermont Supreme Court for supporting affordable housing and reinforcing the importance of the town of Putney's vision to provide diverse housing opportunities to its community," said Elizabeth Bridgewater, Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) executive director.

"This is the second ruling upholding our permit and the town's zoning and planning process and we're excited to focus on moving forward with developing much-needed affordable housing,"

she said.

On behalf of the WWHT, Bridgewater offered thanks to members of the community "who again and again voice their excitement for this project and their understanding of the importance of creating homes that are permanently affordable and held in the community land trust model."

### Why the challenge?

Campbell says she filed the appeal to the Environmental Court division of Vermont Superior Court on March 21–22, 2022 "in regard to the Putney [Development] Review Board's (DRB) and Selectboard's approval of WWHT's Dec. 14, 2021 application to build a 25-unit housing development on 0.91 acres south of Putney Community Garden."

Campbell says that prior to approval of WWHT's application, a Feb. 15, 2022 hybrid hearing was held and "limited to 100 attendees on Zoom."

Many people could not access the Zoom after the 100-person cutoff and Town Hall was very crowded, discouraging those attending in person, she says.

Campbell says "few questions were heard or answered," and alleges that "those from women were dismissed with a promise to get back to the questions later on."

"'Later on' never came," she says.

Following the meeting, in a

■ SEE PUTNEY HOUSING, A6

## After the motel — one month later

*For one working couple, the search for a place to live has been a nonstop exercise in frustration*

By Ellen Pratt  
*The Commons*

**B**RATTLEBORO—With only three days remaining in their 21-day, maximum-allowed stay at Fort Dummer State Park's campground, Kayla and Travis Lavonte and their two cats are scrambling to find shelter — again.

"We have to leave for seven nights but then we plan to come back," Kayla said.

The couple has been camping since being evicted from the Quality Inn in mid-June. They are among the 70 households sheltered in six local motels who lost access to the pandemic-era emergency shelter program on July 1.

The motel program was extended until April 1, 2024 for 123 local households who meet eligibility criteria, including families with children, the elderly, domestic abuse survivors, and those on federal disability.

Kayla and Travis plan to pay for a hotel room until they can get back to the campground, which, at \$24 per night, is the "cheapest place around," Kayla said. "It's gonna be way too expensive in a motel, but it's just for a week."

"I work with a guy at Hannaford — he and his girlfriend were also at the Quality Inn — and they went to the Molly Stark campground [a state park in Wilmington] after their 21 days at

■ SEE HOMELESS, A5



Fort Dummer State Park in Brattleboro has been a temporary stop for some people who were dropped from the state's emergency shelter program on July 1.

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**The Commons**

A publication of Vermont Independent Media

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*The Commons* is a nonprofit community 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 supported by readers like you through tax-deductible donations, through advertising support, and through support of charitable foundations.

The paper is published weekly, with the exceptions of the weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25.

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*The Commons* presents a broad range of essays, memoirs, and other subjective material in *Voices*, our editorial and commentary 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 material that appears in the paper. We do not publish unsigned or anonymous letters, and we only very rarely withhold names for other pieces. When space is an issue, our priority is to run contributions that have not yet appeared in other publications.

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

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Diana Bingham,  
Jim Maxwell, Rob Bertsche,  
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Clay Turnbull and NEC;  
Brendan Emmett Quigley and Joon Pakh  
**In memoriam:**  
Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman,  
Mia Gannon



Rescue Inc.'s swift water rescuers, part of the nonprofit's technical rescue team, at work on a road-turned-river during the recent flooding in Londonderry.

**Swift water rescue**

FROM SECTION FRONT

Rescue Team staged at Vermont EMS Academy (VESMA), their training academy in Newfane.

Rescue Inc. Technical Rescue — of which the swift water teams are a part — has 38 members from all over southern Vermont. All are volunteers — some from Rescue, but others from other local EMS and fire organizations from towns as far as Killington, Arlington, and Dover.

One swift water team member, Kris Johnston, served Rescue Inc. as a volunteer for eight years before he became a full-time employee. He is Rescue Inc.'s director of IT innovation.

Johnston notes that a variety of folks on the technical team are brought together by a strong team ethic and enjoyment of the work.

“We have a geologist, a carpenter, an administrator, a retired fire chief, several who run their own businesses, and a waitress,” he says with a smile. “All volunteer their time to be a part of the technical team.”

All told, the Rescue teams worked for six days after the flood, “which means that all these people took time away from their jobs to help others,” Johnston says.

“What draws me in to this work is the sense of community and teamwork. We’re a tight knit group of people,” he says with a smile.

**All over the map**

To determine how and where to respond to a natural catastrophe in progress, Vermont Emergency Management, a division of the state Department of Public Safety, “looked at historical flooding records to determine where the best positioning could be,” Hazelton remembered.

Rescue was first deployed to the Brattleboro area, and then

the a team was called to cover in New Hampshire to support local rescue efforts in Winchester and Swanzey on Sunday evening. Johnston was there.

He and the other Rescue swift water teams were prepared for their first deployment of this flood: “a water rescue over in Swanzey for a campground that was flooding,” he says. “We assisted Keene at the campground to be on standby.”

The swift water rescuers train, study, and practice intensively and persistently for catastrophes like the flood of 2023. They take classes in swift water awareness, swift water swimming, swift water technician-ing, and swift water boat operation.

Only after this training do they become part of the team. Beyond the training, members of the team — most of whom are volunteers — schedule their vacation time each year to do a five-day mobilization exercise where members receive a solid 60 hours of training through team exercises.

At other times of the year, teams receive practice training during dam releases.

All that training is in the service of being prepared for weeks like these. By early that Monday morning, the National Weather Service had received 320 reports of flash flooding from the Canadian border, through Vermont and New Hampshire, west through New York state, and as far south as North Carolina.

Floodwaters were rising fast in Weston and Londonderry. Rescue was deployed to Londonderry, Weston, and Chester to provide support, as well as to Wardsboro and Jamaica, where they helped clear houses.

“We’re not law enforcement,” Johnston explains. “We don’t



Members of Rescue Inc. Technical Rescue's swift water team check on the residents of a home in Londonderry as flood waters continue to rise on July 10.

go inside buildings. Instead, we look for signs of people, lights, or candles if the power is out. We’ll wander around to see any movement, we’ll listen, we’ll knock on the doors of folks in lower lying areas and check in to be sure they are OK.”

If that sounds simple, it’s not. “The flash flooding was crazy,” Hazelton says. “In South Londonderry, the water was up over the Route 100 bridge. Multiple people were trapped in houses, and one person was trapped in their vehicle.”

With so much difficulty accessing the areas, even more help was needed.

“[On] our first rescue attempt of the day, we found ourselves boating across a flooded area. Then, when we got across, Londonderry Fire Department drove us to another area so that we could then boat to a stranded citizen,” Hazelton recalls.

A team in Manchester was moved to the west side of Londonderry to assist the Rescue Inc. team working to help a person stranded on top of a vehicle in the floodwaters.

Meanwhile, the second team was moving from Brattleboro to assist an additional team out of Colchester that was dispatched, dodging unsafe roads and bridges on a circuitous and lengthy route.

According to state Urban Search and Rescue Program

Manager Mike Cannon at a press conference that Monday morning, public safety personnel statewide had rescued roughly 19 people by boat and had evacuated another 25 by 11 a.m.

“The devastation and flooding we’re experiencing across Vermont is historic and catastrophic,” Gov. Phil Scott announced at that time. “This is nowhere near over.”

On Monday, a break in the rain did provide a short window in the intensity of the day.

“We were able to rescue or move stranded people to higher ground by boat during that lull in the weather pattern,” Hazelton says. “We regrouped all our swift water teams.”

But not long after came a second wave of heavy rains saturating Wardsboro and some 900 citizens, along with the Thompsonburg area of Londonderry.

The two Rescue teams went to each respective area to assist with evacuations and rescues. One team extinguished a generator on fire. They helped to stabilize propane tanks.

“We were doing high-priority rescues when we received a request from one of the state teams in Ludlow,” Hazelton says. “The floodwaters were still rising at that point. A gentleman was flushed out of his car and was clinging to a hot tub. They wondered if we

could come in from the Chester side to make that rescue.”

Power was out. Live wires were everywhere.

“We had to abandon most of our equipment,” Hazelton says. “We even had to remove the antennas from our trucks, as they would have hit the live wires. We took them off and were able to just sneak in under the wires.”

As Hazelton’s team tried to get to the man, the roads between Chester and Ludlow were flooded and they couldn’t drive any farther. They were still 9.3 miles from the victim.

The team headed out on foot. After an hour of walking, they swam across river channels and were fortunate to find fire department members who gave them a ride.

“It was pretty complicated to get to where we needed to be,” Hazelton says.

When the team made it to Ludlow, they found a situation that was “not great,” he says.

By the time the team arrived, the man in the river lost the hot tub and was hanging in a tree just above the water.

Floodwater was high. The current was high. The man was in a tough place, sitting on this hot tub that had washed away from a local distributor. Then as the hot tub floated away, it got stuck in a tree.

Hazelton finishes recounting the rescue, which required the team to swim in 6 feet of water to one of the flooded businesses.

“Water was 6 feet up on the side of the business,” he says. “We climbed on the roof and used the vent pipes as a makeshift ladder to perform this rescue and get this man out of the river. One of our people swam out to him and tied every piece of rope together to make that work. Another team guarded the back stream for us.”

All involved were able to make

■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

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**Swift water team member Kris Johnston, noting that so many people stayed put during the flooding, remains “grateful for that knowledge and sound judgment which made fewer calls for us than might have taken place.”**

it back to soggy, though firm, ground.

“After we did the hot tub rescue, we had to walk all the way back to our trucks,” Hazelton says. “Some local folks were kind enough to give us rides between washouts, which was nice.”

**‘Zero technology’**

Meanwhile, Johnston was dealing with downed wires of his own.

“My team was on the back roads of Wardsboro. A local person took us on an ATV, driving up through trails because the roads were washed out. We were heading to a home where we weren’t sure if it would be a medical call or an evacuation.”

As he and another member tried to travel, they had to stop many times to move trees off the trails. At other times, they had to find secondary trails because wires were down on the original trail.

“We have to treat every wire as though it [was] a live wire,” he says.

Johnston describes other challenges as well.

“There was one time when we were out clearing some roads in the Londonderry/Chester area after the water receded,” he says. “We were checking on houses to make sure people were OK, but during that time we had zero technology. Our radios didn’t work, our phones didn’t work, we had no ability to communicate with anyone.”

Grimacing, he describes that as “the most difficult time during the flooding for me.”

After the rescue of the man in the tree, the next phase became getting out to check on residents who weathered the rain in their homes.

Hazelton was on a team checking on residents.

“Many of the residents were cut off with no power and limited means of communication,” he says. “Our teams did water rescue to check in on residents, and then helped the state do damage assessments utilizing a software package with the flooding changing every day.”

**A system that worked**

Rescue worked the entire week along with the state teams, as well as units that arrived from North Carolina, Virginia, New York, and Massachusetts.

“Teams were there straight through it all,” says Hazelton, who adds with a chuckle, “It all kind of blends together now.”

He remains impressed and grateful.

“Lots of resources were called up nationwide,” Hazelton says. “It was very impressive to see the coordination of the teams. There was sharing of both equipment and resources from state, local, and out-of-state teams.”

Rescue Inc. is a deep and meaningful part of the state EMS system. Hazelton is proud of the work Rescue has accomplished over the years.

“Many of the people out in the flood all through the state were trained by us,” he says. “The boat operators that were running from Burlington Fire were trained to use those boats at our academy. We’ve been running these programs for years. We’re partners with so many other agencies, all the way up to Stowe and Colchester.”

Johnston hopes the public understands the depth of the flooding circumstances.

“The rain wasn’t so bad on Sunday, and most of the flooding

happened on Monday,” he says. “But the public might not realize that while most folks were back at work on Tuesday, [Federal Emergency Management Agency], search and rescue teams, and fire departments continued to work until the following Sunday. We were checking in on people who were out of reach because of washed-out roads.”

Hazelton recognizes that it’s the people who make the organization.

“In our business, we have liabilities and assets,” he says. “The bay of equipment is my liability. Of course, we need it, but equipment breaks down on occasion.”

In contrast, “The people in our organization are my assets,” Hazelton says. “The wealth of knowledge that we share over years of experiences and even more years of training is the greatest asset I have.”

Hazelton went on to explain what those assets meant for the public during the flooding.

“I have 20 people who volunteered a week of their lives to do water rescue [and] building evaluation, and help people when they needed it most. They gave up their livelihood to do that. That’s the commitment. That’s the kind of people we have.”

“We knew this storm was going to be bad. We wanted to ensure that every ambulance had a crew on it. We wanted our ambulances to be in those isolated areas. We filled every single piece of equipment, and there weren’t enough seats for the number of people who committed to help.”

“We never missed a single call,” Hazelton says. “I’m super proud of the people on our team.”

Both men are still working with the effects of the flooding. Hazelton will soon be attending a state-run debriefing and learning opportunity, the first of many to come.

Johnston had occasion to be out on the Connecticut River this past weekend, doing some work for the state.

“The Connecticut River is still moving very quickly,” he reports. “It’s full of debris and pollutants. Erosion, runoff, chemicals, manure that’s been spread on the fields is in [all] these bodies of water, not just the Connecticut.”

People still need to be careful of the water, he warns.

“On the other hand, perhaps because Irene is still a recent memory, I was pleasantly surprised with the number of calls we didn’t receive,” Johnston says.

“There were many people who recognized what could happen, and then what was happening as the event unfolded,” he says. “Many people stayed put when they could have tried to go out and see the damage. Many people knew not to drive through high water.”

Johnston remains “grateful for that knowledge and sound judgment which made fewer calls for us than might have taken place.”

With a shake of his head, he contemplates the future.

“Many people still don’t understand the power of water and how truly destructive it can be,” he says.

**T**here are no greater treasures than the highest human qualities such as compassion, courage and hope. Not even tragic accident or disaster can destroy such treasures of the heart.

—DAISAKU IKEDA

**AROUND THE TOWNS**

**Recreation & Parks Department seeks ideas on pool improvements**

**BATTLEBORO** — The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department invites everyone to pool their ideas on Monday, July 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Living Memorial Park Pool in the grass area near the lounge chairs. The rain date is Tuesday, Aug. 1. (Same time, same place.)

The department hopes for brainstorming help for how to improve the pool and make it more accessible, inclusive, and welcoming for all.

Those who are unable to contribute in person may contact Director Carol Lolatte at 802-254-5808 or [recreation@brattleboro.org](mailto:recreation@brattleboro.org).

**Manitou hosts healing walk**

**WILLIAMSVILLE** — The Manitou Project will hold a healing walk on Friday, July 28, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The walk will take place rain or shine and will be led by Fred Taylor. It will include poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience.

Healing walks will be held every second and fourth Friday of each month until October. For more information, contact Taylor at 802-254-2675.

**Vermont author Doug Wilhelm visits RFPL alongside children’s book giveaway**

**BELLOWS FALLS** — The Rockingham Free Public Library (RFPL), 65 Westminster St., presents a Summer Readers event featuring Doug Wilhelm and a book on Monday, July 31, at 5 p.m.

Wilhelm is the author of 14 books for middle-grade readers, including *The Revealers* and nine books in the *Choose Your Own Adventure* series. During the visit, Wilhelm will share tales behind his books, offer insights into his creative process, and cultivate a love for reading and storytelling.

As part of the celebration, the RFPL will host a book giveaway. All youth who attend will be able to select two new books to keep. This free and public Summer Readers program is made possible by a grant from the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF). For more information, contact 802-463-4270, [rockinghamlibrary.org](http://rockinghamlibrary.org), [youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org), or stop by the library.

**VCBB seeks public comment on draft broadband plans**

**MONTPELIER** — The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) wants to hear from the public. VCBB has released Vermont’s Draft BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) Five-Year Action Plan and Draft BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1 and wants public comments.

The drafts are the first set of plans to explain how the state will spend Vermont’s \$229 million federal allocation to expand high-speed internet access. It is a key priority, and a federal requirement, for VCBB to incorporate public feedback into the

plans. Input was gathered through listening sessions VCBB held in person throughout the state and virtually last month, as well as through a public survey, emails, phone calls, and letters.

Email your comments to [vcbb.info@vermont.gov](mailto:vcbb.info@vermont.gov), write to VCBB, 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620, or call 800-622-4496. Comments will be accepted until Aug. 2 on the Draft BEAD Five-Year Action Plan and until Aug. 18 to comment on the Draft BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1.

**Garden Party raises funds for Brooks Memorial Library**

**BATTLEBORO** — A Garden Party fundraiser, sponsored by The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library, will be held at the home of Sharon Myers on Meadowbrook Road on Sunday, Aug. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will help make possible the support of a wide array of programs and services offered by the library. These include museum passes, the Children and Adult Summer Reading program, Sing and Dance with Robin for pre-schoolers, food for the very popular Teen Nights, co-sponsorship of the First Wednesday lecture series, and computer access to free resources such as Kanopy (films) and Mango and Pronunciator (language study programs).

Tickets are \$25 or two for \$40, available on the library’s website, [brookslibraryvt.org](http://brookslibraryvt.org), or upon arrival at Sharon Myers’s home (follow the signage on Meadowbrook Road). Tickets include desserts, drinks, and a free raffle ticket for a chance to win a plant or gift certificate from area garden centers.

Advance ticket purchases are appreciated. There is no rain date; if cancelled due to weather, advance ticket purchases will be considered a donation.



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Got something on your mind? Send contributions to our Letters from Readers section (500 words or fewer strongly recommended) to [voices@commonsnews.org](mailto:voices@commonsnews.org); the deadline is Friday to be considered for next week’s paper. When space is an issue, we give priority to words that have not yet appeared elsewhere.

## MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

## College news

The following local students were honored for academic achievement during the spring 2023 semester at Champlain College in Burlington. **Ashley Bolton** of South Londonderry and **Zachary Condon** of Whitingham were named to the Trustees' List for maintaining a 4.0 GPA for two or more consecutive semesters. Bolton, Condon, and Janelle Fisher of Whitingham were named to the President's List for maintaining a 4.0 GPA during the spring semester. **John Clark** of Brattleboro, **Jayden Crawford** of Wilmington, **Hailee Mattson** of Dummerston, **Cullen O'Hern** of East Dover, **Nicholas Stratton** of Putney, and **Sasha Tschernisch** of Brattleboro were all named to the Dean's List for maintaining a 3.5 or better GPA.

**Meagan Kelly** of Westminster was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

## Obituaries



**Robert Francis DuBack, 90**, of Brattleboro. Died at home, surrounded by his wife and children, on July 13,

2023. Robert is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Joyce (Raicht) DuBack; his children, Elizabeth Bowie of Connecticut, Steven DuBack and his wife Robin Murphy of Florida, Ingrid Rawling and her husband Scott of Connecticut, Florence Shephard and her husband Kristian Harris of California, David Shephard and his wife Judie of Alabama, and Michelle Craig and her husband Tim of Connecticut; his stepdaughter Kersten Vigus of Pennsylvania; and sisters June Marques of Colorado, and Joyce Piccirillo of Connecticut. He was blessed with 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and many wonderful nieces and nephews. Robert was predeceased by his parents Cecelia (Mazes) and Charles DuBack; brothers Albert, Jack, Charles, and Raymond DuBack; and sisters Cecelia Zaleta and Shirley D'Aulisa. Robert was born on Jan. 21, 1933, in Fairfield, Connecticut. He was a Navy veteran who served his country during the Korean War. Robert was an accomplished artist, sculptor, painter, and carpenter. In addition to art shows in Brattleboro and other locations in the Northeast, some of his artwork has been displayed at Peter Havens in Brattleboro and is on display at the New England House in Brattleboro. Robert was familiarly known as the "napkin artist" of Brattleboro. Wherever he went, he brought along his sketching pens and joyfully did two-minute napkin sketches of anyone in his sight. Many people in Brattleboro and other locations around the world still display his quick portraits on their walls and refrigerators. Occasionally, Robert would deliver one of his quick portraits to someone eating in a restaurant at a table near him and they would come to thank him and mention that they had framed the napkin portrait he did of them two years earlier. Robert lived a very creative life from his artwork, poetry, and

writings to the circle of friends that surrounded him and Joyce with love and laughter. He was an avid golfer and sometimes was known to swing his club so hard that Joyce's brother Bob renamed him a golfing Paul Bunyan. Robert was a very spiritual being and many of his writings were written to communicate what he felt were important thoughts and ideas to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Robert enjoyed traveling and learning about other cultures around the world. He enjoyed many trips to all parts of North America, Europe, Asia, South America, and frequently vacationed in the Caribbean and Central America. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** There will be a private celebration of life ceremony. Donations to the American Lung Association at [action.lung.org](http://action.lung.org) or the COPD Foundation at [copdfoundation.org](http://copdfoundation.org). To view Robert's online tribute, send condolences to the family, or for more information, visit [csnh.com](http://csnh.com).



**Rita Katherine Ensign, 100**, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully Monday morning, July 17, 2023 in the comfort of

her daughter Karen DeSerres's home in Sunny Acres. Mrs. Ensign was born in Springfield, Massachusetts on Nov. 28, 1922, the daughter of Walter and Katherine (Sullivan) Ellord. Rita graduated from Classical High School in Springfield with the Class of 1940. Rita married her beloved husband, Walter 'Ken' Ensign, on Feb. 26, 1946 and they had three daughters together. She proudly served her country in the United States Navy, honorably discharged from the U.S. Naval Barracks (Women's Reserve) in New York City on July 7, 1945. She worked at Mass Mutual and studied nursing at Springfield Hospital. A woman of steadfast faith, she was a lifelong and faithful Catholic. Rita was most proud of her graduation from a two-year curriculum at the school for spiritual growth and inner healing. She became a Eucharistic Minister when she graduated in 1982. Of her leisure time activities, Rita enjoyed quilting and sewing. She was an accomplished seamstress known for her beautiful needlework. Most importantly, she enjoyed the time she shared with her family. Prior to moving to Brattleboro, she had resided at Providence Place in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Survivors include three daughters, Kathleen Bennett of Seymour, Tennessee, Karen DeSerres of Brattleboro, and Deborah Ensign of Brookings, Oregon; grandchildren Laurie Pederson, Katherine Tribles, Toni Alvano, and Mary Lachenal; and 11 great-grandchildren, whom she adored. Rita was predeceased by her husband; a sister, Rosamond Prutez Ellord; and beloved grandchildren Tracy Williams and Kenneth Desalvo. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A funeral Mass was held on July 21 at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro, with burial at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam, where she was laid to rest next to her beloved husband Ken. Donations to Brattleboro Area Hospice, 191 Canal St., Brattleboro, VT 05301; Bridget's Kitchen, 47 Walnut St., Brattleboro, VT 05301; or Perkins Books for the Blind, 175 N. Beacon St., Watertown, MA

02472. To share a memory or offer condolences to the family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



**Dana Fletcher Jr., 67**, of Vernon. Died unexpectedly, with his wife and family at his side, on July 18, 2023

at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Dana was born in Brattleboro on Nov. 7, 1955, the son of the late Dana and Patricia (Garrity) Fletcher Sr., and attended Brattleboro Union High School. First and foremost, Dana was a devoted husband, stepfather, son, and brother whose life centered around his family. Dana enjoyed hunting, fishing, weekends at camp, and laughter with his family and friends. He was well-known for taking care of stray cats and very fond of dogs. He enjoyed listening to live local music, dancing, and playing the drums. Dana was a member of the Brattleboro Eagles #2445. On Feb. 7, 1998 at Vernon Union Church, he married Deborah Sedgley. They were married 25 years. He also leaves two children, Jeremy Davis of Halifax and Robert "Bob" of Westmoreland, New Hampshire; brothers Daniel, Sr. (Kim) and Duane (Kim), all of Vernon, Dennis (Celine), David, and Donald (Wendy), all of Brattleboro, and Douglas of Florida; sisters Marybeth Gilson (Steve) of Winchester, New Hampshire and Diana Fletcher (Meredith) of Poultney; step-grandchild Clayton, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** Committal rites and burial will be conducted July 29, 2023, at 10 a.m., in West Brattleboro Cemetery on Mather Road, where he will be laid to rest beside his parents. Donation to the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care, 154 Hitchcock Loop Road, Lebanon, NH 03756, or Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences to the family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



**Jonas Emmanuel Blanchet-Fricke, 42**, of Brattleboro. Died of a heart attack on

March 5, 2023 in Tallahassee, Florida after performing his own brand of "Radical Courage Music" as If Not I Than Who Then, his "one human choir, drum-brigade and performance art theater troupe." Jonas was born at home on Jan. 13, 1981 on the 20-acre Calvert estate in Langley, Virginia once owned by his great-great-great aunt Margaret Scatteredgood. In the 1950s, the federal government seized the property, allowing Scatteredgood to occupy it for the remainder of her life; by the time of Jonas's birth, the family farm was surrounded by CIA headquarters and his parents, were running a sanctuary for Central American refugees on the property. In this unlikely milieu, Sylvia Blanchet and Thomas Fricke deliberated for three weeks before gifting their second child with the prophetically appropriate name of "Jonas Emmanuel," meaning "peaceful being, a gift from God." When Jonas was four years old, the family moved to the Brattleboro area. During his life, Jonas briefly settled in a number of other American cities including Santa Cruz, California; Gainesville, Florida; and Asheville, North Carolina; but always found his way home to Brattleboro. He also took pilgrimages to his father's birthplace in Berlin, as well as his family's adopted home in Bali, Indonesia. It is not possible to catalog all the places Jonas traveled, but the list includes Singapore, Thailand, Mexico, Costa Rica,

Guatemala, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom. Jonas graduated from The Putney School in 1999. He briefly attended Warren Wilson College and was offered a scholarship to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, but elected to continue his education at Vermont College of Fine Arts studying art history, theory, and practice. One semester away from graduating, Jonas decided he had learned everything he needed to in that particular venue. Always an autodidact, he continued reading and exploring new skills and philosophies both alone and in community with mentors, peers, and students of his own. At age 19, Jonas started working at Putney Daycare Center. This was the first of his many jobs working with children. He was a babysitter, nanny, summer camp counselor, substitute teacher, preschool educator, art teacher, homeschool supporter, and most importantly, a gentle, playful, empathetic friend to little people. He shared his love of creativity with children, teaching and collaborating with them in equal measure. When he himself was a small child, Jonas said he intended "to continue being an artist" when he grew up. In this lifelong pursuit, he was wildly successful, producing an immense body of work in many often-overlapping mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, screenprinting, tattoos, puppetry, performance art, textiles, and music. In his own words, Jonas believed "wholeheartedly in the ability of artwork and creative pursuits to start fires of meaning, illuminate paths of quandary and curiosity, inspire change, make life more colorful and vibrant, as well as inspire others to live more creative lives." Jonas also labored tirelessly at creating space and opportunities for other artists as a curator, promoter, organizer, and founding or contributing member of several art collectives including Tinderbox, The Future Collective, the Buoyant Heart, and Harmony Art Collective in Brattleboro. Jonas gave of his body, mind, and soul to promote social change, continuing activist traditions from both the American Quaker and German Jewish parts of his ancestry. He was passionately committed to anti-racist, pro-indigenous, feminist, and queer liberationist causes. Inspired by the political theater of Bread and Puppet, where he interned in his youth, Jonas brought joy and imagination to public demonstrations around the country. In his daily life, Jonas practiced mutual aid, living by his belief in communal care outside of unjust systems of power. Jonas is survived by his parents, his sister Lucia Blanchet-Fricke, partner Jocelyn McElroy, six aunts and uncles, a growing number of cousins, as well as innumerable friends, bandmates, and creative collaborators — hundreds of whom paraded down the streets of Brattleboro to the beat of a brass band soon after Jonas's death, flooding the town with ecstatic fanfare in celebration of his life. Jonas also leaves behind countless young people he nurtured, taught, and played with over more than two decades as an early-childhood educator. Jonas lives on in the people he loved, the communities he fostered, and the works of art he created. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** Jonas's family and friends will host a Memorial Festival on Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro that will be open to all who love Jonas or love someone who loves Jonas. This will be followed by live music at the Stone Church performed by Jonas's friends from 7 p.m. to midnight. A suggested donation at the door will benefit the Jonas Legacy Fund, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Donations to the River Gallery School in Brattleboro ([rivergalleryschool.org](http://rivergalleryschool.org)), where Jonas took art classes as a child.

**Douglas B. "Spike" Hamilton, Sr., 85**, of East Dummerston. Died peacefully at home July 4, 2023, after a period of declining health. Born on Oct. 8, 1937 in Greenfield, Massachusetts to Richard and Nancy Hamilton, he attended Deerfield Academy and Dartmouth College, where he played lacrosse and was a member of Psi Upsilon Fraternity and the Dragon Society. After many years working in retail with his father, he found his calling in carpentry, and later worked as a lister for the town of Dummerston. He enjoyed wooden boats and the Red Sox, and spending summers at the ocean with family in Brookline, Maine. Doug was loved and respected by all who knew him for his gregariousness and sense of humor. He was predeceased by his first wife Elizabeth "Penny" Ruggles and his second wife Susan McBean. He is survived by son D. Boe Hamilton Jr. and his partner Crystal Hall; daughter Marian H. Harwood and her husband David; sisters Barbara Martin and Peggy Smith and her husband Albie; and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** Memorial services will occur with details to be determined.



**Corey L. Hastings, 42**, of Wilmington. Died July 12, 2023 at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center

in Bennington after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Corey was born in Brattleboro on Nov. 3, 1975, the daughter of the late Lloyd Bacon and Judith A. (Godfrey) Smith and attended schools in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Corey enjoyed spending time with family and friends, her home, and reading. She had an infectious smile and laugh. She is survived by her children Bruce and Sean Palmer of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Alex Hastings of North Carolina, Jag and Jeric Shepard of Brattleboro, and Ramie Lynn Carle; brother Adam P. Godfrey (Carrie) of Winchester, New Hampshire; sisters Star Schumacher of Arizona and Bonnie Hazell of Wilmington; her niece, Marisa Godfrey and many aunts and uncles. She was preceded in death by her daughter Riley Lapshire, who died in infancy. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A celebration of life for Corey will be announced and held at a later date. If friends desire, donations can be made to the GoFundMe page in Corey's memory to help offset funeral expenses at [gofund.me/e8cac914](http://gofund.me/e8cac914). To send the family personal condolences, visit [sheafuneralhomes.com](http://sheafuneralhomes.com).

**Alice (Therault) Kidney, 83**, of Putney. Died peacefully

on July 6, 2023 at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, with her daughters at her side. Alice was born on July 20, 1939, in Ashland, Maine, to Elizabeth (Jimmo) Theriault and Angus Nat. Theriault. She was the youngest of nine children. She was raised and graduated from high school in Ashland. In 1957, Alice married Kevin C. Kidney, the father of her three children. After their divorce in 1970, Alice worked various jobs and moved around New England, living in New Hampshire and in Connecticut. In 1996, Alice settled in southern Vermont. In her last years, Alice lived in Putney, married to Thomas Bandur. Alice was known for her piercing, light blue eyes, her warm smile, and her enormous kind and gentle heart. Alice's biggest love was for her children and family. She also enjoyed bird watching and was a lover of all animals. She enjoyed the simple, yet magnificent things in life like being out in nature, walks in the woods, napping in the sun, and watching the night skies. Alice was predeceased by her son, Clifford C. (Kip) Kidney, in 2004; her parents and all of her siblings except one sister, Mary (Therault) Merrill, of Guilford, Maine. Alice is also survived by her daughters, Elizabeth A. Kidney of Whitingham and Kathryn R. (Kidney) Einig and her husband Todd of Guilford; grandchildren Matthew K. Kidney and Kimberly A. Kidney of Toot, Texas, and Cameron J. King and Ava E. Einig of Guilford; and her husband, Thomas Bandur of Putney. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** Alice will be laid to rest in eternal peace with her son, in Washburn, Maine. There are no official services. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302, or [windhamcountyhumane.org](http://windhamcountyhumane.org).

**Joyce Gove Kocpczynski, 78**, of Winter Park, Florida, formerly of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died on March 16, 2023. She was born on Oct. 31, 1944 to the late Reginald and Esther (Richards) Gove of Hinsdale, and graduated from Hinsdale High School in 1962. She married Edward "Eddie" Kocpczynski Jr. on July 16, 1966; he died in 2011. Joyce worked at Keene State College and, for many years, as an administrative assistant at Orange County Fire & Rescue in Orlando, Florida. She enjoyed the "brown baggers" luncheons for retired members of the fire department. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her niece, Cathy Roy. She is survived by her sister Ellen Roy and her husband Joseph of Keene, New Hampshire; her very best friend, Luci; and several cousins. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** Burial was private.

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

## UVM offers third year of free career-enhancing courses for Vermonters

BURLINGTON—Thanks to a third year of state funding via H.484, Section 17, an act relating to enhancing workforce and economic development opportunities, The University of Vermont will be offering up to two free courses to eligible Vermont residents seeking education and skills for professional growth or employment, with new course additions in the healthcare field.

From August 2023 through June 2024, the UVM Upskill Vermont Scholarship Program will offer free academic learning opportunities in business, education and social work, food and agriculture, healthcare, and STEM, while funds last.

"Students from all of Vermont's 14 counties participated in courses made accessible by Upskill over the last two years, learning new skills needed to meet the qualifications for desirable jobs," Dr. Jill Irvine, Chief Officer of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE), said in a news release.

Irvine added that "this year, we are particularly excited to add course opportunities for Vermonters that will address the medical staffing shortage through accessible, on-demand certifications in Behavior Technician Specialist, Patient Care Technician, and Medical Laboratory Assistant."

Managed by PACE, the program allows eligible Vermonters to choose one course per semester or in the summer that can result in college credit or a non-credit professional certificate.

A sampling of non-credit

certificates offered include Project Management Practices, Digital Marketing, Emotional Intelligence and Leadership, Integrative Health and Wellness Coaching, and Cannabis Plant Biology.

Credit courses and programs include opportunities such as Introduction to and Advanced Geographical Information Systems, Computer Software Certification, Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical program, and Resiliency-based and Trauma-informed Practices.

In 2022, 342 Vermonters applied scholarships to enroll in a total of 423 courses. Of those Upskill Vermont Scholarship recipients, 137 represented companies across the state. The majority were employed full-time with fewer than four years of work experience, and 45% of recipients took courses with the goal of changing careers.

"The professors and the teachers of the classes were sensitive to the fact that they were working with a very diverse population of students with different backgrounds," said Katharine Long, UVM Upskill Vermont student in Data Visualization, Leadership, and Project Management courses. "They were accommodating in terms of the project design and teaching to those different levels."

Vermonters can check eligibility requirements to apply for the scholarship at [upskillvermont.org](http://upskillvermont.org). Those who qualify will be able to take up to two free education and training courses, one per semester. Registration opens on Aug. 1.



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## Homeless

FROM SECTION FRONT

Fort Dummer,” Kayla said. “But we can’t go there because it’s 25 minutes away and our vehicle will not make it back and forth to work six days a week.”

They use their 23-year-old car mainly for storage.

Camping while working is rough, Kayla said.

“Working in the meat department, I get bleach all over me,” she said. “I come home, my shoes are soaked, my socks are soaked, my pants are soaked. I smell like bleach, I have fish all over me. So even if I take a shower before I go to work I have to take a shower when I get home from work.”

And “none of that is ideal while camping,” she said.

“Don’t get me wrong — the bathrooms here are extremely clean, but I pay \$1.50 a day in quarters to take a shower, and it doesn’t seem like a lot until you calculate it. You know, I work five days a week so that’s \$1.50, five days a week. Maybe I won’t take a shower on one of the days I have off so we can save a little bit of money, but then it’s not just me that pays \$1.50. Travis, too. So, \$3 a day just to take a shower.”

Asked how they fared in the recent rainstorms, Kayla said that they “lost rain jackets, sleeping bags, a comforter, pillows, blankets, and our mattress” after water breached a leaky tent that they got from Groundworks.

“After the rain, we paid \$90 to buy a better tent and set that up in a drier area,” she said.

### The search for housing continues

Kayla and Travis are among the hundreds of households estimated to need housing in the area. According to Brattleboro’s 2022 Housing Action Plan “there is a pressing need for over 500 housing units in Brattleboro, of which nearly 60% are needed for those with incomes under \$50,000.”

“Since we’ve been here [at the campground], I’ve been filling out applications like it’s my job,” Kayla said. They’re getting denied because they “don’t make two and a half times the monthly rent,” she said.

“I feel like, if we can afford the rent, why can’t you let us stay there? Rent will be first. We will figure out food, we will figure out all of this stuff,” Kayla continued.

“We’re living outside,” she said. “I’d rather pay for my rent and make sure we have a roof over our heads and then if we have to go to a food bank, we’ll do that.”

Kayla said that she and Travis have met other people at Fort Dummer “who are stuck in the same situation.”

“We met a guy who got hurt at work and got fired from McDonald’s, so now he’s living at a campground spending all his money, looking for a job,” she said.

“It irritates me to my core that everybody sees a homeless person and thinks of people bugging you at a traffic light or following you into the grocery store asking for money or food,” Kayla said. “But it’s not just them.”

She pointed out that she and Travis are working.

“I work full-time, and we’re still in this situation,” she said.

“It’s able-bodied adults doing anything and everything possible that we can, and it feels like we’re hiking up this hill and we’re finally getting somewhere, and then you turn around and you realize you’re still at the bottom.”

The couple recently learned that they’ve been accepted to the waitlist for a Section 8 housing voucher, which caps the voucher holder’s contribution to rent at 30% of their income.

“That’s the best news I’ve gotten so far,” Kayla said.

“We filled out an application in September of last year and I thought that as soon as you fill out the application that they just process it and put you in, but I guess how it works is that you kind of sit in a stack until you’re brought to the top and then they see if you’re approved,” she continued.

“Now I have to call them and see if, because we’ve been paying to stay outside, maybe that will speed up the process,” Kayla said.

### The waiting game

Calls to several public and private managers and owners of low-income rental units in the area highlighted the extent of the housing crisis.

According to David Deangelis, Section 8 administrator at the Brattleboro Housing Partnerships (BHP), 960 people have applied to the wait list for 203 units in seven low-income properties BHP owns and manages. Four hundred people have applied for Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers.

“We’re looking at people waiting for over five years,” Deangelis said. “That’s the national trend.” BHP last opened its waiting list to applicants for two months in 2020. “We closed it because we didn’t think it was responsible to say to people, ‘Call us in 10 years, and we’ll tell you where you are on the wait list.’”

“The challenge is, even if I issue a voucher today to someone who’s been waiting five years, the vacancy rate is the worst it’s ever been — ever,” Deangelis continued. “I’ve had people looking for one-bedroom apartment rentals in Brattleboro for over a year. The housing stock is not there.”

Stewart Property Management of Bedford, New Hampshire, which manages four “affordable housing” properties in Brattleboro and Westminster, also maintains a wait list.

“Waits are about nine to 12 months,” says property manager Kathy Relihan. “In the eight years I’ve been here, the wait list has never closed.”

With the changes in eligibility for the motel program, she’s seeing a lot more applications.

“We continue to accept applications — it just gets longer,” she said. “The wait list is the same everywhere. Nobody’s moving, and people are applying because they need homes. It doesn’t mean there’ll be any more openings, it just means I’ll get more applications.”

### ‘Not landlord friendly’

Mark Reffi has been in the low-income housing rental business for 26 years. He, his wife,



ELLEN PRATT/THE COMMONS

One of the properties in Brattleboro owned by the Reffi family, who own and manage 20 low-income apartments in town. “In the past four years, we’ve only had movement on two of our Brattleboro apartments,” Mark Reffi said.

Jennifer, and their son, David, own and manage 20 low-income apartments in Brattleboro and 80 in Springfield.

“In the past four years, we’ve only had movement on two of our Brattleboro apartments,” Mark said. “One was a one-bedroom apartment. The other was a three-bedroom that we rehabbed and rented to a family of four that was in the Quality Inn.”

The Reffis fill their units from wait lists maintained by housing service providers in the area.

“We get calls from HCRS, Groundworks, Pathways, Restorative Justice, Springfield Supported Housing Program, asking what we have for apartments,” Mark said.

“Brattleboro needs more housing,” he continued. “But why would anybody put themselves out there and build when it’s not landlord friendly? We need to get better eviction laws in Vermont. It’s not fair to landlords to take six, seven, or eight months to evict somebody.”

Mark said that by the time the situation gets to the point of eviction, “I’ve already let them go several months, trying to be decent and work with them.”

“I’m not evicting someone who only owes for this month. We’re talking they already owe for months,” he said.

“We help out a lot of people that other landlords won’t take,” Mark said. “We try to work with them. Only about 8 to 15% of my tenants over the last couple of years haven’t paid rent, or trashed apartments, or been disrespectful. I have a lot of good tenants.”

“It’s not uncommon to have someone break down in front of me when I’m going through the lease with them because they’re so thankful to be given the chance to succeed,” David Reffi said.

“And some of them don’t make it, I’m not gonna lie,” he said. “But quite a few succeed and that’s what keeps us going.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Travis and Kayla’s cats shared a cramped tent at Fort Dummer State Park in Brattleboro.

## ‘Get on Board’ program seeks to engage, train emerging civic leaders

BRATTLEBORO—In small towns, even one additional informed, focused, and engaged community member can make a difference. But for new volunteers, getting involved with local projects and governing boards can seem intimidating.

The Southern Vermont “Get on Board” program, starting this fall, will equip participants with practical skills to become more effective and active in local civic life.

From big-picture knowledge to finding mentors, participants will learn tips and techniques for navigating local government, fostering positive community dialogue, being an effective board member,

ensuring equitable access to local government, and forming partnerships for action.

Four in-person sessions will provide a deep dive and showcase towns across southern Vermont. Three short remote sessions will continue the learning opportunities in between gatherings. Classes will feature panelists with deep experience in local government, scholars, and community organizations.

The program runs from October to early January and costs \$150. Scholarships and multiple other accessibility accommodations are available, such as childcare stipends; and towns

have the opportunity to sponsor participants as well. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis through Sept. 29.

Southern Vermont “Get on Board” is part of the Southern Vermont Economy Project (a program of Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation) and is funded in part by the Vermont Community Foundation and USDA Rural Community Development Initiative.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/724-GOB](http://bit.ly/724-GOB) or contact project manager Meg Staloff at BDCC, [mstaloff@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:mstaloff@brattleborodevelopment.com) or 802-257-7731, ext. 222.

## Rotary awards scholarships to five

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Rotary Club recently awarded a total of \$16,500 in scholarships to five local high school students who will be attending college this fall. The scholarships are funded by The Gateway Foundation, an affiliate of the club.

This year’s recipients include Avery K. Bennett of Brattleboro and Trinity S. Stroud of Hinsdale, who will both attend the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth; Connor V. Sengaloun of Hinsdale, who will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Abigail L. Towle of Newfane, who will attend Stonehill College; and Phoebe Z. Weinhill of Putney, who will attend Warren Wilson College. Each student received \$3,300.

“We are happy to be able to offer these scholarships each year, and hope the assistance will help lead each student a step closer to his or her goals,” said Scholarship Committee Chair John C. Mabie in a news release.

The Brattleboro Rotary Club established The Gateway Foundation in 1986 to create a fund to support scholarships awarded annually to local students pursuing college. The Foundation, which is a nonprofit and tax-exempt organization, has awarded over \$550,000 in scholarships to area students. It is funded by the club and individual contributions.

Applications are accepted each spring from graduating seniors at Brattleboro Union, Hinsdale, and Leland & Gray High Schools.

Criteria for the awards are academic achievement, financial need, and community service, all of which are weighed evenly.

Founded in 1950, the Brattleboro Rotary Club is an active community service club of 60 members. It engages in community and human service projects locally and internationally. The club holds weekly lunch meetings on Thursday at 12:15 p.m. in Brattleboro. The public is welcome to attend meetings by contacting a Rotary member.

For more information about the Brattleboro Rotary Club and its Gateway Foundation, contact Mabie at 802-257-5292.



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**Submit resume and letter of interest to:** [eesjobs@wsesdvt.org](mailto:eesjobs@wsesdvt.org) with “Fatherhood Specialist” in the subject line or mail to: Family Services Manager, Early Education Services, 130 Birge Street, Brattleboro, VT. 05301

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[www.wsesu.org/socjus](http://www.wsesu.org/socjus)

## Putney housing

letter sent to Town Manager Karen Astley, DRB Chair Phillip Bannister, and WWHT Director of Housing Development Peter Paggi, “I enumerated omissions, discrepancies, misrepresentations, and contradictions in the WWHT Narrative Master Plan, Exhibit 3,” Campbell says, referencing the component of the WWHT’s zoning permit application, submitted in 2021.

In her reading, that document “accurately sets forth the 2.76 acre minimum requirement for a 25-unit development on page 2,” yet revealed on page 1 that their 25-unit development would occupy 0.91 acres, “a mere 1/3 of that minimum required.”

Another example, she says, was WWHT’s “startling” characterization of lots on opposite sides of Carol Brown Way as “contiguous,” when they touch at no point; rather, the lots are separated by a busy thoroughfare owned and maintained by the town of Putney.

“It was clear to me that calculations to achieve adequate acreage for their project could succeed only by counting the undevelopable 2.02 acres across what is already a dangerous roadway,” Campbell says. “The plan, as I see it, is a setup for unlimited adverse affects.”

In describing the history of the case, the Supreme Court recounted the Environmental Court’s decision, which “concluded that the project lots need not be contiguous, and the fact that a road bisected two of the lots was not fatal. It granted summary judgment to WWHT on this and related issues, and ultimately entered a judgment order in WWHT’s favor.”

The decision goes on to note the recent appeal followed and that the “neighbor [Campbell] essentially reiterates the same arguments on appeal.”

In Campbell’s view, the three-justice panel that ruled to reject her appeal without merit on July

21 “failed to address both the matter of insufficient acreage [density] and the lack of contiguity by definition.”

Now, she says, she plans to move for a “re-argument” in front of a full panel of five justices.

She expressed support for Friends of Putney, a non-profit that on its website ([friendsofputney.com](http://friendsofputney.com)) describes itself as “committed to using its resources for protecting and preserving the green, open space along the first 1/2 mile of Route 5 in the village — ‘the gateway to Putney’ — for the benefit of its citizens, gardens, farmers market, and visitors.”

“Although being the appellant on a still-active case precludes my membership in Friends of Putney for the time being, their mission is precious to me,” Campbell says. “Making community-oriented, eco-friendly, and welcoming uses of the 0.91 acres south of the Community Garden, as well as the 2.02 acres which has been assessed as ‘undevelopable’ on the other side of Alice Holway drive, is a shared purpose.”

Campbell says that access to all, wheelchair-friendly pathways, shade trees and native plants, spots to sit down and socialize, a pavilion or timber-frame gazebo for outdoor events, and history of Putney reference plaques are all needed to bring the green space fully to life.

She says to start, all that’s needed is to “mow the fields a few times a year so kids can throw Frisbees and play there, adults can bring a chair and read or converse, and the Community Gardens and Farmers’ Market can expand.”

### Support for WWHT

Despite the protests of some neighbors to the proposed housing project, state elected officials have stepped up with support for the project.

State Rep. Mike Mrowicki, D-Putney, says he is “glad to see the Supreme Court affirm the original decision in Environmental Court that the proposal is sound and the process followed the letter of the law.”

The housing is “also greatly needed, now more than ever,” said Mrowicki, who has been a member of the Putney Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. That committee is dormant as it awaits a new charge from the Selectboard, he says.

“All housing will help take pressure off the statewide, county, and town need for housing of all sorts,” he says. “And I’m glad WWHT has committed to working together with the Putney Farmers’ Market and Community Garden to preserve those spaces.”

Mrowicki says when WWHT first showed interest in the

property, he arranged a meeting among them and representatives of the two organizations to ask the prospective buyers to commit to keeping those spaces open for these community activities, “even though they had no legal obligation to.”

“To their credit, they agreed, and the Farmers’ Market and Community Garden can now start fundraising to buy that land and WWHT will hold onto it until they can raise the funds to buy,” he says. “A win-win-win situation.”

Mrowicki says that in Vermont, the Legislature created the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) 30 years ago “to be the funnel for housing funds from federal, state, and private sources.”

That board, he says, then relies on the statewide system of non-profit housing trusts “that have developed track records of making sure funds are used effectively and efficiently.”

“Their oversight makes sure monies don’t go to fly-by-night operators with no track record of success in development,” Mrowicki says.

Windham & Windsor Housing Trust is the local part of that statewide system, he says, working on VHCB’s mission to provide housing and conserve land, such as the hundreds of acres conserved locally through the Putney Mountain Association and Pinnacle/Windmill Hill Association.

“This will help address what was a critical need a few years ago and has evolved into a crisis that threatens to stagnate our economy and inhibit employers from hiring new staff,” Mrowicki says. “Staff that are critical to address the workforce crisis left over from Covid with many retiring and many parents with young children unable to get childcare. This project will help, especially for people starting out.”

The legislator says the project also adds an option to the current limited housing landscape.

“When my wife and I first came to Putney, we started in a mobile home/trailer with the plan to buy some land and build,” he says. “There were options like that then — especially if you could swing a hammer — including financing through the Farmers’ Home [Administration’s] Rural Housing [Service] program. There aren’t as many options now. And housing costs have risen exponentially.”

State Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun, D-Westminster, also supports the project, charging that “some people in Putney have been downright nasty and NIMBY [“not in my backyard”] to the highest degree.”

“I’m pleased to learn that

WWHT will be able to move forward on the new housing project after a long period of delays,” she says. “We need more housing in many different forms in our communities.”

She described mixed-income housing, like what is proposed for Putney, as “a valuable model and one that will benefit individuals and businesses.”

“There are not enough places for people to live and, without residences close to work, our businesses can’t operate well and serve the public, either,” Bos-Lun said. “More housing is beneficial for everyone.”

### Time equals money

According to Bridgewater, the delay in timing caused by the lengthy appeals process has increased the cost of the project by 14%, from \$10.3 million to \$11.7 million.

Despite the increase, the proposal has received funding from both state and federal sources, including Vermont Housing Finance Agency’s Tax Credit Allocation, leveraging public-private-partnership funding.

WWHT is working in partnership with Burlington-based Evernorth on the Putney development, “tapping into Evernorth’s decades of experience and access to private equity funds.” The two organizations have a successful history together in Putney, having co-developed new townhouses on Neumann Lane as well as the historic Noyes House.

“This is a victory for the 25 households who will be able to move into their new homes in Putney,” says Kathy Beyer, Evernorth’s senior vice president for real estate development. “We look forward to starting construction in early 2024.”

The Alice Holway Drive development is planned as two new buildings providing 25 mixed-income, highly energy-efficient, and accessible apartments in Putney village.

The development is to provide community space for residents and has been designed not to impact existing community gardens and the Putney Farmers’ Market.

The proposed community, says WWHT, “meets smart-growth principles by creating more homes in the designated neighborhood development area, is immediately accessible to public transportation, connects with the walkable infrastructure of the town, and preserves the cherished community garden and farmers’ market, while also providing homes at an accessible rent.”

For more information and updates about Alice Holway Drive, visit WWHT’s web page on the project at [homemattershere.org/alice-holway-drive-info-page](http://homemattershere.org/alice-holway-drive-info-page).

FROM SECTION FRONT

## Historic rainbow flag comes to Brattleboro

### Section 93, a portion of the world’s longest eight-color flag, will hang from bank building downtown through Aug. 10

BRATTLEBORO—A 25-foot section of the world’s largest eight-color rainbow flag will hang on the M&T Bank building on the corner of Main and Elliot streets, beginning with its unfurling on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 3 p.m.

The Sacred Cloth Project of Key West, Florida, whose director, Mark Ebenhoch, is a part-time resident and property owner near Brattleboro, manages Section 93, the best known segment of the historic banner, which will remain on the building at 100 Main St. through Aug. 10.

Created in 2003, the Key West Sea to Sea Rainbow Flag was the world’s largest of its sort, at 1.25 miles long and 14 feet wide, and was sewn in 1978 by the late Gilbert Baker, creator of the first rainbow pride flag.

As described by Ebenhoch, Section 93 — which has come to be known as the Sacred Cloth — travels around the world to promote the Key West motto (“One Human Family”) and to visually support the LGBTQ+ and allied communities in their quest for unity, inclusion, and equality.

Section 93 has traveled to New England from its annual display in Orlando Florida for the Pulse Nightclub commemoration week in June. It was recently displayed at Warner Brothers Discovery/CNN headquarters in Atlanta for the company’s first June Pride observance.

It was seen worldwide in April 2015 on the steps of the United States Supreme Court building in Washington, DC, during the marriage equality hearings.

Section 93 has traveled around the world from the White House, to the world’s

largest LGBTQ+ parade in Sydney, Australia, and to small rural areas in the United States such as Starkville, Mississippi and Morehead, Kentucky. Section 93 has been acknowledged by U.S. President Barack Obama and carried by ambassadors from the U.S., France, and Holland.

The flag has also represented and traveled to areas affected by tragic events affecting the LGBTQ+ community, such as Orlando, Florida, the site of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in 2016, and Colorado Springs, where the Club Q shooting took place in 2022.

Section 93 has recently been recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice as an important part of the department’s community response protocols.

As Mayor Andre Dickens of Atlanta, Georgia noted, “This flag is a symbol of unity, compassion and the shared sense of humanity. This flag is a visual reminder for our need to expand our circles.”

All are invited to gather at Thomas B. Lynch Park, 200 Elliot St., at 2:30 p.m., and the group will walk to the unfurling at 3 p.m.

Section 93’s display is sponsored by the Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center, M&T Bank, and The Kopkind Colony, based in Guilford.

A story about Ebenhoch ([commonsnews.org/issue/692/Sacred-cloth](http://commonsnews.org/issue/692/Sacred-cloth))’s stewardship of Section 93 in the aftermath of the Club Q tragedy ([commonsnews.org/issue/692/Sacred-cloth](http://commonsnews.org/issue/692/Sacred-cloth)) appeared in the Nov. 30, 2022 issue of *The Commons*.

For further information on Section 93’s history, visit [facebook.com/TheSacredClothProject](http://facebook.com/TheSacredClothProject).

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The image displays three devices showing the Commons website interface. The laptop screen shows the main navigation menu with 'News', 'Arts', 'Voices', 'Around The Towns', 'Milestones', and 'Sports'. Below the menu, there's a 'NEWS' section with a featured article titled 'Veggies and creemees help keep a family farm going' by Randolph T. Holhut, dated Wednesday, June 14, 2023. Another article titled 'Unhealthy and deeply destructive' by Spencer Crisp is also visible. The tablet and smartphone screens show similar content, demonstrating the website's responsive design across different devices.

# Yellow Barn hosts American premiere of 'Harriet'

*'Harriet: Scenes from the Life of Harriet Tubman'* is cornerstone of the work of Composer in Residence Hilda Paredes

PUTNEY—Week four at Yellow Barn's 54th Summer Festival continues with a series of concerts and events that highlight the work of Composer in Residence Hilda Paredes, including Yellow Barn's annual Composer Portrait, which gives audiences the opportunity to enter a conversation with the composer and the musicians performing her work.

The cornerstone of Paredes's residency, and the subject of her composer portrait, is the American premiere of her award-winning chamber opera *Harriet: Scenes from the Life of Harriet Tubman*.

The libretto for *Harriet* is based on poetry by Mayra Santos-Febres and dialogues by Lex Bohlmeijer.

"After being invited by Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México to write a new opera, I asked my friend [soprano] Claron McFadden if she would like to feature in this project, and she immediately introduced me to Harriet Tubman. A six-year journey began then, discovering the extraordinary life and personality of Harriet Tubman," said Paredes. "I always say and still think that if she had lived in the 20th century, she would have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize."

McFadden will reprise the role of Harriet at Yellow Barn in a free performance on Monday, July 31.

Leading up to *Harriet*, audiences will have a number of opportunities to experience Paredes' work, including 11 additional American Premieres on the Big Barn stage.

Paredes is one of the foremost Mexican composers of her generation. Currently based in London, she has won numerous awards including the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Rockefeller Fund for Culture.

Although she collaborates frequently with Mexican artists,

organizers say, "her sources of musical inspiration are without limits. Her instrumentation is imaginative and varied; she incorporates into her work everything from solo cello to electronics, percussion to spoken word."

In keeping with Yellow Barn's programming philosophy, Artistic Director Seth Knopp has programmed works that speak to Paredes's music, including Beethoven's Op.1 No.1 piano trio (with pianist Alasdair Beatson) and the *An Die Ferne Geliebte* song cycle (with Knopp and baritone William Sharp).

"Paredes and Beethoven make good partners," Knopp said. "The piano trio speaks to Paredes's playful and youthful side, as heard in her 'Códice de advinanzas,' (Codex of riddles) based on Mayan poems for children."

Beethoven's "An Die Ferne Geliebte" is an antidote to the first half of its program, which includes Paredes's "Juegos prohibidos."

Paredes said, "I wrote 'Juegos prohibidos' in response to a request to write a work that would make a reference to the political or social issues in Mexico or the Mexican community in the U.S. So I chose to make a reference to the children held in detention centers at the border, often held without their parents, and how their childhood is destroyed. The way I approached this is by quoting fragments of two well-known Latin American children's tunes at critical moments within the musical discourse."

Of works such as "Juegos prohibidos," Knopp said, "Hilda has the rare gift of placing something wholly in front of us, so that we can truly see it, rather than providing a direct comment of her own."

Antonin Dvořák is another of Paredes' influences, as heard in

■ SEE 'HARRIET', B4

## COLUMN



COURTESY OF THE VERMONT COUNTRY STORE

"Red Barn & Chicken Coop" by Marion Huse is one of the paintings that's part of the "For The Love of Vermont" exhibit that is now showing at the Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester.

# Preserving a visual legacy

The fruits of Lyman Orton's mission to preserve Vermont art go on display this summer in Bennington and Manchester

Manchester  
THERE WAS A time in this old state when yoked oxen hauled logs out of frozen woods, people flocked to county fairs for fun, for relaxation, and to see their neighbors, farriers shoed draft horses which then competed in strength contests, wooden barns and church steeples dotted the landscape, and covered bridges hung tenuously over rushing streams.

For the most part, if you look hard enough, this is still Vermont.

But nothing has captured the old-timey feel of Vermont more than the artists who were inspired to paint here during the last century. And no one



**JOYCE MARCEL**, a longtime southern Vermont reporter, feature writer, and columnist, regularly reports on politics, business, and the arts for *The Commons* and other publications, notably *Vermont Business Magazine*.

has captured more of their work than Lyman Orton of the Vermont Country Store.

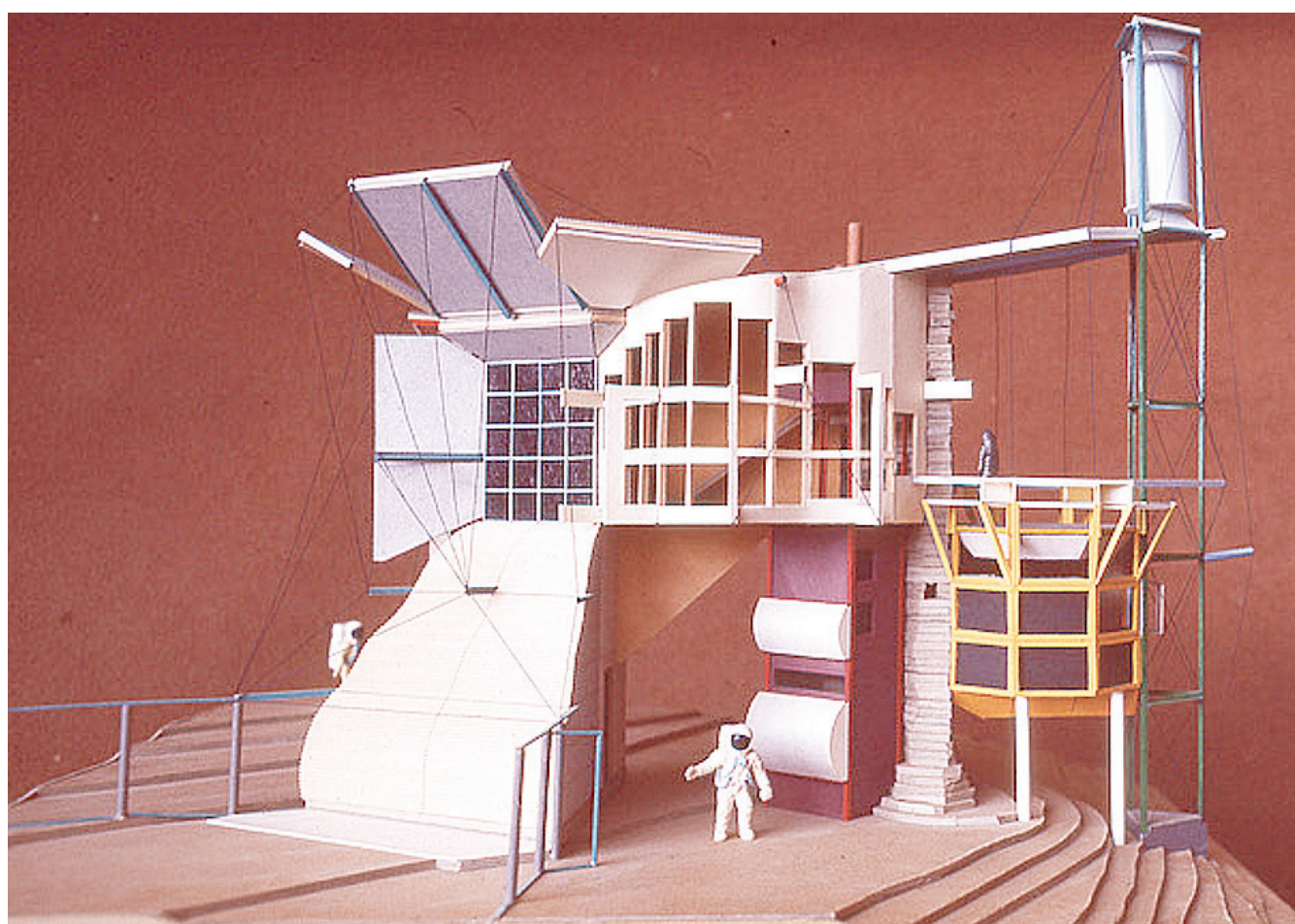
Orton, 82, was born and grew up in southern Vermont. His father, Vrest Orton, practically invented the market

for the nostalgic image of Vermont that these pictures represent when he founded the Vermont Country Store in Weston in 1946, and when he and a few friends created *Vermont Life* magazine and, for a time, wrote most of its stories.

His son inherited the Vermont Country Store and built it into a nostalgia juggernaut with its mail-order operation and stores in Weston and Rockingham.

Now retired, Orton has been a passionate collector of Vermont art for decades. And for decades, his collection has hung on the walls of the Vermont Country Store office building — out of

■ SEE VERMONT ART, B5



COURTESY PHOTO

One of a series of design models which will be on display.

# Gallery opening, concert honors spirit of Windham architect and artist

'An Architecture of Circumstance' at Fourth Corner Foundation shows retrospective of the work of Robert Foote Shannon

WINDHAM—The Fourth Corner Foundation — an organization devoted to the artistic possibilities of designing with nature — will celebrate the life of its founder, Robert (Bob) Foote Shannon, with a free gala gallery opening and concert on Saturday, July 29.

Matt Brader is the executive director of the foundation, which is based 28 miles from Brattleboro, high on a mountaintop in Windham, in an unusual set of buildings that have grown to cover 4 acres since their construction began in the early 1970s.

"These buildings were the work of Robert (Bob) Shannon, an

■ SEE SHANNON MEMORIAM, B6

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# arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY	THURSDAY CONT.	FRIDAY CONT.	SATURDAY CONT.	MONDAY	TUESDAY CONT.	
27	<p><b>Community meals</b></p> <p><b>PUTNEY Monthly Food Drop co-sponsored by The Vermont Foodbank and Putney Foodshelf:</b> Free produce and some non-perishables. All are welcome. This is a drive-up service. Bags provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 9-9:45 a.m. In front of Putney Meadows, in white building across from Putney Coop and Putney Fire Station.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Putney Foodshelf, 10 Christian Sq. Information: 802-387-8551.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ideas and education</b></p> <p><b>WEST DUMMERSTON The Dummerston Conservation Commission: Talk with Vermont Land Trust lead Forester - Pieter Van Loon:</b> Pieter will discuss his work over the past 23 years helping owners of conserved land care for their land. This will be an open and interactive conversation about such issues as rogue ATV use, invasive insects/plants, managing forests for carbon, overabundance of deer, promoting old forest characteristics in second growth forests, other issues you may have an interest in. Bring Pieter your questions about managing your own land!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 6 p.m.</li> <li>▶ Suggested donation \$5 (split between the Community Center and Dummerston Conservation Commission).</li> <li>▶ Dummerston Community Center, 166 West St. Information: 802-254-2703.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Manitou Project, 300 Sunset Lake Rd. Information: Fred: 802-254-2675.</li> </ul>	29	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">31</p> <p><b>Music</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Kevin Parry hosts Open Mic for Musicians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 6:30 - 9 p.m. every Monday.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ River Garden Marketplace, 157 Main St. Information: To sign up for a 10-minute set visit, kevinparrymusic.com and click on Open Mic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kids and families</b></p> <p><b>GUILFORD Stage and Stream:</b> For children in grades 5-8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</li> <li>▶ Through Friday, August 4.</li> <li>▶ No charge for Guilford participants.</li> <li>▶ Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. More information: 802-254-6545 Registration required: tinyurl.com/5497s3bt.</li> </ul> <p><b>GUILFORD Theatre Camp at Guilford Free Library:</b> Students in grades 5-8 will enjoy theatre games, writing and acting projects, and woodland meandering in Guilford Free Library's Stage and Stream camp. Camp leader, Maia Gilmour, is director of the theatre department at Spaulding High School in Barre, VT. She's performed throughout VT and holds a great love for the power of community building in theatre spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Camp runs 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day. Thanks to a generous donation from Vermont Humanities Council Stage and Stream Theatre, the outdoor camp should be affordable for most families.</li> <li>▶ Through Friday, August 4.</li> <li>▶ Free to Guilford residents, sliding scale for those in other towns.</li> <li>▶ Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Register with link: tinyurl.com/5497s3bt or call the library: 802-257-4603.</li> </ul> <p><b>BELLOWS FALLS VT Author Doug Wilhelm visits Rockingham Free Public Library, alongside Children's Book Giveaway:</b> Wilhelm is the author of 14 books for middle-grade readers, including "The Revealers," and 9 books in the Choose Your Own Adventure series. He'll captivate the audience w/ fascinating tales behind his books, insights into his creative process, inspire young minds to cultivate a love for reading and storytelling. As part of the celebration, the Library is hosting a book giveaway. All youth who attend can select two new books to keep from a wide selection of options! <li>▶ 5 p.m. Summer Readers program is made possible by a grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLIF).</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: More information: 802-463-4270, rockinghamlibrary.org, youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org.</li> </p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">30</p> <p><b>Farmers' markets</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro's Share the Harvest Stand: Free Fresh Produce for All!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sundays - corner of Frost and Elm. (Gardeners may drop off surplus from their gardens from 10:30-closing: before noon preferred).</li> <li>▶ Through Sunday, October 29.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Turning Point, 39 Elm St. (corner of Frost and Elm St.). Information: EdibleBrattleboro@gmail.com.</li> </ul> <p><b>PUTNEY Putney Farmers Market - plus Live Music today with Mike Mrowicki</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 11-3 p.m. on Sundays. Across from the Putney Food Coop.</li> <li>▶ Putney Farmers Market, 17 Carol Brown Way. Information: putneyfarmersmarket.org.</li> </ul> <p><b>Well-being</b></p> <p><b>W. BRATTLEBORO All Souls Church Hybrid Worship Service: "Stepping Stones: Your Past is Your Path" (In-Person/Zoom):</b> So often we're advised to "let go of our pasts" so we can move forward. Yet by actively remembering our happiest, most whole and satisfying moments - from childhood or more recently - we can be reminded of positive experiences that brought us safely here and reinforce our confidence/clarity about steps we can take from here to get where we ultimately want to go. Share in the open conversation. We can learn so much from each other. Led by Elizabeth Lewis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 10 a.m.</li> <li>▶ Donations welcome.</li> <li>▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: Zoom: Go to ascvt.org shortly before 10 a.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dance</b></p> <p><b>PUTNEY Contra Dance:</b> We'll dance to Louisa Olmstead's lovely calling and Amy Cann and Lorie Indembaum's great fiddling! All dances are taught and no partners are needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 3 p.m. K95 masks are still required.</li> <li>▶ By donation (free for teenagers and younger children).</li> <li>▶ Pierces Hall, 121 E. Putney Falls Rd. Information: Tom Prunier: contradanceputney@gmail.com, 802-387-5875.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p><b>Community building</b></p> <p><b>VERNON Vernon Community Market:</b> This new Market features J&amp;B's Curbside Cafe, handmade crafts, farm produce, baked goods, flowers, and more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Open every other Wednesday through Oct. 4.</li> <li>▶ Vernon Community Market, Vernon Recreation Area, 607 Pond Rd. Information: 802-254-9251, VernonVTCCommunityMarket@gmail.com.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ideas and education</b></p> <p><b>DOVER "Pilgrimage": Book Discussion Series hosted by Dover Free Library:</b> Human beings have undertaken pilgrimages of all kinds for thousands of years. Discover a variety of journeys - and whether the seekers find what they are looking for - in these varied writings. "Pilgrimage" is a Vermont Humanities program hosted by Dover Free Library and supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 7 p.m. Discussions take place on: 8/2, 8/16. Sessions are open to the public, accessible to those with disabilities. Books available on loan in advance.</li> <li>▶ Through Wednesday, August 16.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Dover Free Library, 22 Holland Rd. Information: More information: John Flores: 802-348-7488 or john@doverfreelibrary1913.org.</li> </ul>
28	<p><b>Performing arts</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Baker Street Readers present "A Month of Mystery":</b> Join James Gelter as Sherlock Holmes, Tony Grobe as Dr. Watson, and special guest stars as they read two spellbinding mysteries back-to-back. Featuring a canonical Holmes tale by Arthur Conan Doyle and a new adventure by James Gelter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 7 p.m. (intermission between stories). Performances continue on Fridays: 7/21, 7/28.</li> <li>▶ \$10 suggested donation - cash at door.</li> <li>▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: For reservations email: bakerstreetreaders@gmail.com.</li> </ul> <p><b>Music</b></p> <p><b>DUMMERSTON Old-Fashioned Comfy Cozy Acoustic Hits: 1960's-1990's</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 6 - 8 p.m.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Kampfire Campgrounds, 792 US-5. Information: 802-254-2098.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kids and families</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO TGIF Morning Matinee: Jason Tardy - "Juggling"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 10 a.m. T.G.I.F. is offered through Brattleboro Rec. and Parks in the Rotary Outdoor Theater. If special needs are required, let us know by 5 days in advance. If it rains, show moves indoors to Living Memorial Park-Withington Skating Facility.</li> <li>▶ Free to the public and daycares.</li> <li>▶ Living Memorial Park, Guilford St. Ext. Information: More info: Call Gibson Aiken Office at 802-254-5808.</li> </ul> <p><b>Well-being</b></p> <p><b>WILLIAMSVILLE Healing Walk at Manitou:</b> Meditative walk, includes poems or other readings, and chances to share. Led by Fred Taylor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 4 - 5:30 p.m. Meet at the parking lot at 4 p.m. rain or shine.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Music</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Daring Coyotes - Bluegrass Trio</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ River Garden Marketplace, 157 Main St. Information: rivergardenmarketplace.com.</li> </ul> <p><b>PUTNEY Bandwagon Summer Series: Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band:</b> Raunchy circus roots. Polished precision performances. Joyful cacophony of Balkan, Klezmer and funk with a tasteful thrash of metal thrown in for good measure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 6 p.m. Bandwagon Summer Series is offered by Next Stage Arts.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Cooper Field, Sand Hill Road.</li> </ul> <p><b>Instruction</b></p> <p><b>GUILFORD Kimchi Making Workshop:</b> Learn about the art of making traditional kimchi with Insuk Durham as she guides us in preparing a batch. Kimchi is a traditional Korean side dish made from fermented, spiced vegetables, fish sauce. All ingredients are provided and participants learn and help make the kimchi. Everyone goes home with an 8 oz. jar of kimchi. If you have a jar, please bring it - but we'll also have some on hand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 10 a.m. Participation limited to 15 people. Insuk's been making/eating kimchi her whole life. Her knowledge comes from growing up making kimchi with her mother, grandmother, all the women in her neighborhood in South Korea. They'd get together every fall for "Kimjang," a communal kimchi-making gathering.</li> <li>▶ \$15 to \$25 suggested to help pay for materials/benefit Neighborhood Roots but no one will be turned away.</li> <li>▶ Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Venmo or Paypal @neighborhoodroots - or cash/check on day of event. Questions? Email connect@neighborhoodroots.org. Cash check.</li> </ul> <p><b>Farmers' markets</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Area Farmers Market:</b> BAFM has over 50 vendors, bringing our region's best farmers, makers, and chefs all to one place. Live music 11 a.m.-1 p.m., special events and workshops throughout the season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. Rain or shine.</li> <li>▶ Through Saturday, October 28.</li> <li>▶ Brattleboro Farmers Market, 570 Western Ave., Rt. 9, near covered bridge. Information: 802-490-4371; brattleborofarmersmarket.com.</li> </ul> <p><b>Well-being</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Zen Center (In-Person or wherever you are):</b> One way to engage with the ecological crisis: This group chants briefly and then sits in silence for a half hour. All are welcome to join this peaceful action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1:00 - 1:35 p.m. on Saturdays.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Court-house, Jct. Putney Rd. &amp; Main St. (Rte 30).</li> </ul> <p><b>Dance</b></p> <p><b>WINCHESTER Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club: Dance during Hawaiian Night with Live Music by "NH Visitors":</b> Everyone is welcome.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p><b>Music</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Kevin and the Surfcasters: Rock and Roll</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 7 - 8:30 p.m.</li> <li>▶ Free.</li> <li>▶ Brattleboro Common, btw. Putney Rd. &amp; Linden St. Information: kevinparrymusic.com.</li> </ul> <p><b>PUTNEY Yellow Barn: Ludwig van Beethoven: Variations in G Major for Piano Trio on Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu by Wenzel Muller, Op.121a:</b> Itamar Prag, piano; Astrid Nakamura, violin; Jakyounghuh, cello. Charles Ives (1874-1954) String Quartet No. 2 (1907-13).</p>			

To submit your event: [calendar@commonsnews.org](mailto:calendar@commonsnews.org)  
Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday



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Illustration by Sarah Adam





KEVIN O'CONNOR, VTDIGGER

An army of contractors is working to clean up the Weston Playhouse, flooded July 10 by stormwater from the nearby West River.

## Weston Theater Company to relocate from flooded playhouse for rest of the year

*'The extremity of the damage combined with the difficulty of the timing requires us to make some essential changes,' Vermont's oldest professional acting troupe said of a midseason move to its nearby second stage*

By Kevin O'Connor  
ViDigger

WESTON—Flooding this month will force the Weston Theater Company ([westontheater.org](http://westontheater.org)), Vermont's oldest professional acting troupe, to relocate from its waterlogged playhouse for the rest of the year.

"The extremity of the damage combined with the difficulty of the timing requires us to make some essential changes," Susanna Gellert, executive artistic director, wrote in a statement to supporters.

The company—a cornerstone of its namesake Windsor County hometown of 623—had planned for an 87th summer season with big productions at its white-pillared Weston Playhouse and smaller shows at its second stage at the nearby Walker Farm.

Then, on July 10, stormwater from the nearby West River ravaged the playhouse's basement and lowest slanted section of the first floor.

The company, having overcome a fire in 1962 and floods in 1973 and 2011, harnessed contractors in hopes of reopening soon enough to continue its

season uninterrupted. But the work, it discovered, won't be quick.

"The impact of the July flood has far eclipsed that of Irene," Gellert wrote of the tropical storm that washed away a \$700,000 renovation of the theater's dressing rooms, prop shop and orchestra pit a dozen years ago. "The damage to the playhouse, our offices and our residences in town is extensive."

As a result, all performances will move to the Walker Farm, where the current play "What the Constitution Means to Me" was already set to debut.

That means the company's big summer musical—fatefully, the splashy "Singin' in the Rain"—will make some ticket adjustments as it relocates an Aug. 3-20 run to the new stage.

"Based on seating capacity at our smaller venue, some flexibility around the date of your performance may be necessary," says an email from the box office to season ticket holders. The company will postpone its scheduled productions of "The Porch on Windy Hill" until next year and "Let There Be Love" indefinitely. Since its start in 1937, Weston

has morphed from a summer-stock bill of Broadway titles to a fully-professional year-round nonprofit drama, education and development center. Although the company is still calculating the damage, it has added a "donate" button to its website.

"The mountain of repair costs will be a steep one to scale," Gellert wrote in a statement that nonetheless sounds undeterred. "The story of Weston Theater Company and its community of friends near and far has always been one of resilience."

### MARLBORO MUSIC

**Saturday, July 29 at 8 pm**  
Works by Beethoven, Dvořák, and Brahms

**Sunday, July 30 at 2:30 pm**  
Works by Schubert and Britten



Tickets & Event Info: 802-254-2394  
Scan the QR code, or visit [marlboromusic.org](http://marlboromusic.org)

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



### LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

July 24-30  
CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

<b>Here We Are - Kathy Urffer, River Steward, CT, River Conservancy:</b> Mon 8p, Tues 6a, Wed 9p, Sat 12:20p & 6:30p, Sun 5-20p	<b>Brattleboro Selectboard Special Mtg. 7/25/23:</b> Tues 6:15p (LIVE), Thurs 1p, Sun 8:30p
<b>The World Fusion Show - Ep # 157 - Ruth Mendelson:</b> Mon 5:30p, Tues 8p, Wed 1:30p, Thurs 12:30p, Fri 10a, Sat 5p, Sun 9:30a & 6p	<b>Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 7/24/23:</b> Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a
<b>Brattleboro Gallery Walk - July 7, 2023:</b> Mon 12:20p, Tues 6:30a & 11:50a, Wed 6:20a & 12:20a, Thurs 12:0p & 9:15p, Fri 6a, Sat 3:45p, Sun 8:45p	<b>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 7/24/23:</b> Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p
<b>Brattleboro Fourth of July Parade - 2023 Parade in 4 Minutes and 15 Seconds:</b> Tues 12:20p, Wed 9:35p, Thurs 10:45a & 9:25p, Fri 6:10a, Sat 12:55p & 3:55p, Sun 5:55p & 8:55p	<b>Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 7/24/23:</b> Sun 6p
<b>Brooks Memorial Library - Stay Connected with a Wi-Fi Hotspot:</b> Tues 12:25p, Wed 9:30p, Thurs 10:50a & 12:20p, Fri 12:20p, Sun 5:50p	<b>Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 7/25/23:</b> Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p
<b>Windham World Affairs Council - Antarctica: Ocean Currents, Climate, and Exploration 6/23/23:</b> Wed 4:15p, Thurs 9a, Fri 6:15a, Sat 2p, Sun 7p	<b>Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 7/25/23:</b> Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p
<b>Windham Solid Waste Management District - Outreach Success Webinar 6/28/23:</b> Mon 7a, Tues 4p, Wed 11a, Thurs 5p, Fri 5p, Sat 8p, Sun 4p	<b>Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 7/26/23:</b> Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p
<b>Next Stage Arts - Bandwagon Summer Series 2023 Featuring Underground System:</b> Mon 8:30p, Wed 9:55a, Thurs 10:55a & 12:25p, Fri 12:25p, Sat 12:50p, Sun 6:55p	<b>Putney Selectboard Mtg. 7/26/23:</b> Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p
<b>Energy Week with George Harvey &amp; Tom Finnell:</b> Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	<b>Windham Central Supervisory Union Board and Exec. Commission Mtg. 7/26/23:</b> Sat 6p, Sun 8:30a
<b>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode:</b> Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	<b>Windham Elementary School Board Mtg. 7/27/23:</b> Sat 8:30p, Sun 6a
<b>News Block: WTSN News:</b> Mon-Fri 12p & 6p <b>Reformer News Break:</b> Mon-Fri 12:05p & 6:05p	<b>Vernon Selectboard 7/18/23:</b> Fri 4:45p
<b>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	<b>River Valleys Unified School District Board Special Mtg. 7/13/23:</b> Sat 5:15p
<b>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service:</b> Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a	<b>West River Education District Board Mtg. 7/10/23:</b> Sat 11:30a, Sun 11a
<b>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 5p	<b>Brattleboro Planning Commission Special Mtg. 7/5/23:</b> Mon 4p, Wed 10a, Thurs 11:5a
<b>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a	<b>Town Matters - Weekly Episode:</b> Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p
<b>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass:</b> Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, 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](http://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.commonnews.org](http://www.commonnews.org).

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

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### Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Brattleboro Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, 8.16.2023 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. 2023-84 G & L Enterprise, LLC; RN District; request for Subdivision Approval to create a new 1.5 acre parcel off of Marlboro Rd; TMP #200003.000; 2023-91 Eve Judith Baker; RR District; request for Variance Approval to construct a 16' x 14' addition, and an 18' x 22' carport connect to front of home by a 6' x 8' vestibule; at 68 Overlook Dr; TMP #70247.700 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.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: Unknown John Doe or Anyone Claiming Paternity of Jennifer Marrie Lang, female, born August 4, 2007 in Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont and/or Mickala Annette Lang, female, born August 4, 2007, in Brattleboro, Windham County, Vermont. The mother of the child is Leigh Ann Johnson a/k/a Leigh-Ann Lang.

A petition has been filed and a hearing has been scheduled to put an end to all rights you have to your children, Jennifer Marrie Lang and Mickala Annette Lang. That hearing will be held in the Courtroom of Judge Patrick T. Barrett, Berks County Courthouse, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA on August 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. If you fail to attend the hearing, the hearing will go on without you and the Court may end your rights to your children, Jennifer Marie Lang and Mickala Annette Lang.

You have the right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer, contact the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help:

Lawyers' Referral Service of Berks County  
Berks County Bar Association  
544 Court Street  
Reading, PA 19601  
Telephone No. 610-375-4591

To obtain a copy of the Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights prior to the hearing date listed above, or if you have any questions, please contact Berks County Children and Youth Services at:

Taylor S. Davis, Esquire  
Jennifer K. O'Neil, Esquire  
Attorney for Berks County  
Children and Youth Services  
Berks County Services Center  
633 Court Street, 11th Floor  
Reading, Pennsylvania 19601-4323

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE DUMMERSTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Dummerston Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Dummerston Town Offices, 1523 Middle Road, Dummerston Center and via Zoom video teleconference, for the purpose of reviewing the following applications:

- A review of application #3727; Johana Lengfeller, for Right of Way and Site Plan Review, under Sections 602, 715 - 726 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #802, 1107 Rt. 5, Dummerston, VT, a Residential District. The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on August 15, 2023, beginning at or about 5:00 pm.

- A review of application #3733; Rosalind Fritz, for Conditional Use and Site Plan Review for Short Term Rental, under Sections 715 - 726 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #755, 453 East West Rd., E. Dummerston, VT, a Settlement Area District (Slab Hollow). The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on August 15, 2023, beginning at or about 5:30 pm.

The hearings and site visit are open to the public. Participation in these proceedings is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person, by a representative or by video teleconference, or through written comment.

A copy of the applications is available for public review at the Dummerston Town Office during normal business hours or by email to: [zoning@dummerston.org](mailto:zoning@dummerston.org). To receive the Zoom video teleconference link email to: [zoning@dummerston.org](mailto:zoning@dummerston.org), or call: 802-275-5739.

Dated: July 26, 2023  
Roger Vincent Jasaitis  
Dummerston Zoning Administrator

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# Lou Antonucci performs 'You, Me & Harry,' a celebration of Harry Chapin's music, at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS—In a departure from Stage 33 Live's "No Covers" rule, Lou Antonucci will perform "You, Me & Harry," his newly developed celebration of the story-songs of Harry Chapin—"Cat's in the Cradle," "Taxi," "Story of a Life," "W.O.L.D.," "A Better Place to Be," and many more—on Sunday, Aug 6, in a 3 p.m. matinee at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge St. There will be limited seating for this show, and the event will be recorded and filmed.

With a musical career spanning several decades, Antonucci has always been inspired by Chapin's music and spirit, according to the news release. He created "You, Me & Harry" with the permission of Harry Chapin Music, and this will be one of the first public run-throughs of the program before booking into larger venues.

In response to Antonucci's original song, "A Message From Harry," Vincent J. Kelly—staff writer at Stallman Records, songwriter, and author (*Northern Oz: Beyond the Yellow Brick Road*)—said, "I wrote with Harry Chapin the last two years of his life, and you did an excellent, and I mean superb, job of making Harry

proud." Masks continue to be optional but welcome at Stage 33 Live events. A pair of high-capacity air purifiers will be running during shows. More information about the nonprofit, all-volunteer project, and this and other upcoming events, can be found at [stage33live.com](http://stage33live.com).

Advance-sale tickets for this preview event are a steeply discounted \$5 online. Tickets will be \$10 at the door. Alternately, admission will be free by donating five nonperishable food items, or three personal-care items, or \$10 cash for Our Place Drop-In Center at the door on show day.

Our Place offers community meals, a food pantry, and social service resources for the Bellows Falls area. Harry Chapin held a fundamental belief that access to nutritious food is a human right and that hunger is a solvable problem in a world of abundance. He co-founded the global nonprofit WhyHunger in 1975 to support social movements and grassroots innovations to change the systems, policies, and institutions that perpetuate hunger and poverty in the world.



Soprano Claron McFadden portrays Harriet Tubman in the American Premiere of Hilda Paredes' award-winning chamber opera, "Harriet, Scenes from the Life of Harriet Tubman."

## 'Harriet'

FROM SECTION FRONT

his Piano Quartet in D major. Like Dvořák, Paredes has tremendous respect for her culture and the culture of others.

Mayan culture is one of her strongest influences, and throughout the week, she herself will be performing Mayan texts in her "Codice de advinanzas." Her "Rainy Days for two toy pianos," another example of her serious playfulness, is her exploration of the sound of gamelan.

On the penultimate concert of Paredes's residency, Knopp has programmed her "Zuhuy Zak" (New Fire), inspired by the fires built by the Toltec people every 52 years to ward off the end of the world and to mark the beginning of a new time cycle, and paired it with two mammoth undertakings: Jonathan Harvey's "Death of Light/Light of Death" and Mozart's "Kreutzer" violin sonata (with

violinist Anthony Marwood).

Concerts are generally two and a half hours in length, including intermission. All events take place in the 70-seat Big Barn on Main Street in Putney. Tickets can be reserved and purchased at [yellowbarn.org](http://yellowbarn.org), or by calling 802-387-6637. In addition to the July 31 performance of Paredes's opera on Harriet Tubman, Thursday night concerts at Yellow Barn are free and open to the public, thanks to the generous support of a group of Putney residents in memory of Eva Mondon.

Composer Hilda Paredes is this season's Artist in Residence at Yellow Barn in Putney.



## Queer Dance Party to take place at BMAC on Jul. 28

BRATTLEBORO—Queer Dance Party, a local organization devoted to supporting the queer community, comes to Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) on Friday, July 28, 7 to 10 p.m., with a family-friendly event.

The evening will feature drag performances, a dance party with music by DJ Bux Wild, and a pop-up exhibition of Jeffrey Lewis's photographs of the southern Vermont drag scene. This event is presented in conjunction with the exhibition "Pride 1983," on view at BMAC through Oct. 9. "Pride 1983" explores the origins and legacy of Vermont's first LGBTQ+ Pride celebration. Forty years ago, on June 25, 1983, 350 people rallied in Burlington's City Hall Park and marched through the city's downtown in a memorable event that has recurred in either Burlington or Montpelier every year since. Participants risked their jobs,

personal safety, and relationships with their families to bring visibility to Vermont's queer community and advocate for their civil rights.

The exhibition includes archival materials from the Pride Center of Vermont, UVM Special Collections, and Out in the Open Andrews Inn Oral History Project, as well as the personal collections of individuals featured in the exhibition. It also includes interviews with 12 activists and organizers crucial to the establishment of Pride in Burlington. The exhibition was organized by the Pride Center of Vermont and Vermont Folklife and is generously supported by Liz Shayne and Tiffany Bluemle, the Samara Fund, the Vermont Humanities, and Vermont Folklife's donors.

Tickets, which are by donation on a sliding scale of \$5–15, will be available at the door. Proceeds will support Queer Dance Party.

For more information, call 802-257-0124 or visit [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

## Works by Beethoven, Schubert highlight this weekend's Marlboro Music program

MARLBORO—Over the course of this weekend at Marlboro, two emerging clarinetists, Javier Morales-Martinez and Yuhsin Galaxy Su, will play works by Beethoven and Schubert.

Six young string players—violinists Randall Goosby and Stephen Kim, violists Haesue Lee and Samuel Rosenthal, and cellists Minji Kim and Taeguk Mun—will make their summer performance debuts, as will four senior artists: soprano Lucy Fitz Gibbon, pianist Lydia Brown (Met Opera and Juilliard), violinist Daniel Phillips (Orion Quartet), and cellist Marcy Rosen (Mendelssohn Quartet).

The weekend's programs feature some all-time favorite chamber music works, from Brahms's Piano Quartet in G minor on Saturday, July 29, to the epic majesty of Schubert's Piano Trio in E-flat major, with Marlboro Co-Artistic Director Jonathan Biss

at the piano, on Sunday, July 30.

Saturday's program also includes the Beethoven Clarinet Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11 and Dvořák's Terzetto in C major, B. 148, Op. 74A, while Sunday's concert opens with Schubert's "Der Hirt auf dem Felsen," D. 965 and Britten's String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 25.

Some tickets are available for Saturday's concert. Tickets are

\$20–40 and may be purchased at [marlboromusic.org](http://marlboromusic.org) or by calling the Marlboro box office at 802-254-2394. Sunday's performance is sold out; the box office maintains a waiting list for returned tickets. Audience members may contact 802-254-2394 or [reception@marlboromusic.org](mailto:reception@marlboromusic.org) for more information ([reception@marlboromusic.org](mailto:reception@marlboromusic.org)).

## Photographer joins Working Artist Program at Canal Street Art Gallery

BELLOWS FALLS—Canal Street Art Gallery recently announced that Len Emery is the newest artist to participate in the Working Artist Program. Emery's work is on view through Sept. 29.

The Working Artist Program now provides two artist studios and exhibition spaces within the Canal Street Art Gallery. Artists process their own sales and curate their own space, all during regular gallery hours.

Emery, based in Springfield, is an aerial, photojournalism, and fine art photographer. Emery continues his darkroom practice on a small, environmentally friendly scale, and has fully embraced the digital technology available for photography. He has built a digital workstation in the Working Artist studio space, including a custom-built copy stand and scanner.

At his Springfield studio, Emery produces and prints all his own work on archival inkjet printers. While in the Working Artist Program, Emery is offering new services: Artwork Photography and Fine Art Printing. Email [lenemeryphoto@gmail.com](mailto:lenemeryphoto@gmail.com) for more details.

Emery began work in the second Working Artist space at Canal Street Art Gallery while photographing and digitizing *Thunder*

*Basin*, a 71-page graphic novel written and illustrated by Charles W. Norris-Brown. This was during the late artist's first posthumous solo show at the gallery. The show presented the full collection of finished, first draft, and rough draft pages, including a manuscript, created by the artist from 2016 through 2022 for the *Thunder Basin* project.

Produced by Len Emery Photography, The Charles W. Norris-Brown Estate is now offering archival pigment prints on uncoated Arches 100% rag paper of a growing number of artworks from *Thunder Basin*.

During Emery's time as a Working Artist he is sharing his process of bookbinding while continuing to produce handmade copies of his own books. Currently using the relatively straightforward method of stab binding, in development is the much more complex way of case binding.

Emery is working to produce more copies of an 89-page, stab bound, 11.5 x 8 inch photo essay, called *Down East Journal, The Fishermen of Washington County Maine*.

The second book is *Vermont From One Thousand Feet, An Aerial Photo Essay Volume 1: Orange, Windsor and Windham County*, (2022, 80 pages). There are four more volumes to follow encompassing the remaining counties in Vermont.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal St., and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the Working Artist Program, or Canal Street Art Gallery, go to [canalstreetartgallery.com](http://canalstreetartgallery.com), call Mike Noyes by phone at 802-289-0104, or send emails to [artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com](mailto:artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com).

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**Vermont art** FROM SECTION FRONT

view, and, in fact, out of the awareness of anyone who didn't have reason to visit the offices.

Now Orton is making the art accessible to everyone.

"For the Love of Vermont: The Lyman Orton Collection" comprises two exhibits that run from July to early November at Southern Vermont Art Center in Manchester and the Bennington Museum. Between the two museums, visitors can enjoy this collection of more than 200 paintings, prints, and drawings.

ORTON FOCUSES his collecting on art created between roughly the turn of the last century and the 1960s, which he considers the golden age of Vermont art.

The stunning exceptions are a series of large expressionistic paintings by James Jahrsdoerfer (1953–2015), inspired by the devastation of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. You can feel the terror in the hearts of the residents as bridges are washed away and whole towns become children's toys with buildings that can be rearranged at will.

The Manchester opening on July 22 drew approximately 300 people to hear Orton talk about his collection and to meet Anita Rafael of Wardsboro, who co-wrote the companion book to the shows, also called *For the Love of Vermont*. The line for autographs after the show ran through two rooms and out of the building.

The first question for Orton was why he began collecting these paintings in the first place.

"Well, growing up in Weston, I was about to get married," he said. "I bought a house. Then we got married, we moved into the house. And then we realized we need some furniture."

After staking claim to some furnishings in his parents' attic down the street, "I started to go to the auctions and buy antiques, because that was what we all loved back in those days, in the '60s and '70s, and so on. And so that got me thinking about, 'Oh, there's more than just antiques here. There's art here.'"

Orton noticed that the art — Vermont scenes — was being bought by people who did not live in Vermont.

"That was the inspiration for it," he said. "We should be keeping that stuff here rather than letting it fly the coop. That was the initial idea."

Orton's collecting obsession has not ceased with time. He said he bought his latest picture a few days before the show and had it shipped to Vermont just in time to hang it on a wall.

Many of the artists in the show — mostly long gone now — were part of thriving artists colonies here in southern Vermont.

"A lot of these artists were the group that was originally known as the Dorset Painters," Rafael said. "They began doing exhibitions together, in each other's studios or in the bar next door, as early as 1904."

She called the "For the Love of Vermont" project "kind of like a reunion exhibition in a way."

"Literally 70 years ago, all the guys had their art hanging on the walls here," Rafael said.

"By the 1920s, their exhibitions were a little more organized. Sometimes, on a Sunday morning after church, they'd put their paintings out on the lawn with a stick behind them to hold them up. When people came out of church they would see and sometimes buy their paintings. Or they [would sell] them to people coming in to get the Sunday papers."

It snowballed into a point where they began to hold art shows. The first real ones were held at the Equinox Hotel in Manchester.

"Those shows were very popular and started to grow a little more," Rafael said. "And by 1936, for example, they had something like 384 paintings by 174 artists."

THE SOUTHERN VERMONT Arts Center is the perfect place to view these paintings. Driving into Manchester, you can see the same mountains that were painted by Rockwell Kent (1882–1971). And looking out of the windows of the gallery, you can see pretty much the same sky and the same rolling hills that inspired these artists to leave behind such a graphic and vivid picture of life in old Vermont.

Looking deeply at "Carnival at Royalton," for example, a 1965 oil on canvas board, you feel you are at the very carnival. There's a Breughel-esque feeling of being part of country life. You can hear the excited shouts of the children as they fly past on a dangerous-looking Flying Chairs ride. The painting was done by Cecil Crosley Bell

(1906–1970), one of the stars of this show.

Bell is also responsible for a thrilling painting of horses straining at a horse pull, the brown one with his head lowered in effort and the white one rearing up. "Go Boys! Go! Go!" is an oil on board he did in 1957. A third painting depicts a blacksmith shoeing another muscular horse. These were work horses, and you can feel in your bones that they are large, strong, and willing to go, go, go.

Another highly detailed country fair picture by Aldro T. Hibbard (1886–1972) became the illustration for a Maxwell House coffee advertisement. Actually, Maxwell House had a thing for Vermont back then; another painting by Luigi Lucioni (1900–1988) was used as an advertisement as well. But the Lucioni that stands out in the show — "Nestled Barns" — is of a strong set of red barns and was reportedly sold at auction in 2019 for \$62,500.

Two yoked oxen skidding logs out of the woods while accompanied by an old logger with a switch whip, a 1940 oil on canvas by Leo Blake (1887–1976), seems peaceful and well-balanced for such a difficult and chilly effort. Supposedly, Blake got up early on winter mornings and traveled out to the woods with the loggers and the oxen to paint them at their work.

Covered bridges, which the tourists call quaint and the natives call convenient, are featured prominently. A delicate C. H. DeWitt (1905–1995) watercolor on paper is a standout.

There's actually a whole room of covered bridge paintings. Some are static, some don't seem to be quite tethered to the shoreline, and some you might not want to drive your car across today, but many are quite beautiful. An impressionistic Hibbard stands out.

SOME OF THESE artists lived and died and were buried in Vermont. Others were just passing through. Some made a living as painters and/or illustrators; others did not. Covers from the now-defunct *Saturday Evening Post* abound.

One thing is certain: the Vermont they saw inspired them to paint, no matter what



"Baptist Church, East Dover," Vermont by Leo Blake, oil on canvas, 26-5/8 x 31-5/8. The church in Blake's painting is still standing, still in use, at the top of a hill in East Dover.

happened later to the canvas or the board.

After the talk by Orton and Rafael, many people in attendance were concerned with where the collection will go after the shows. What will happen to it?

"What you see today is a glimpse at what I hope the future will become more and more like, for particularly small museums and arts centers in Vermont, and in small cities and towns around America," Orton said. "We can't keep up with the big cities, with \$80 billion buildings and budgets of God-knows-how-much extravaganzas and so on."

Will he build his own museum to house the vast collection? Rafael says that Orton has made his plans, but he will not reveal them to anyone outside his family.



Lyman Orton, retired business owner and inveterate art collector.

"Vermont Hills (Vermont Dawn)," by Rockwell Kent, oil on canvas, 22-1/8 x 38-1/8. Kent's composition depicts a dramatic cloud formation over Mount Anthony, a peak in the Taconic range, near Bennington.



COURTESY OF THE VERMONT COUNTRY STORE



"Carnival at Royalton, Vermont," 1965, Cecial Crosley Bell, oil on canvas, 24 x 36. Lyman Orton remembers carnivals like this one growing up as a boy in Weston.

COURTESY OF THE VERMONT COUNTRY STORE

## Shannon memoriam

architect and artist, who died last winter,” Brader said.

Shannon earned a master’s degree in architecture from Yale in 1967 and moved to Vermont to begin his career. His work focused on sustainable living through creative design. He began the Fourth Corner Foundation in 1995.

Brader has been working with a small team to ready a new accessible gallery to celebrate Shannon’s life’s work.

“This large addition to our gallery was a really an overboard solution to a pretty small problem,” he said. “We didn’t have handicap access to our top floor of the gallery, so by creating a system of ramps, it ended up being an addition that is 1½ times the size of the original gallery.”

Brader described how Shannon, who had already had two cancer scares, was aware this might be one of his last projects.

“That made this project even more important to him,” he said. “Danny Wyman, a talented contractor from Cambridgeport, came on board to help. He, his brother Dale, and I did about 80% of the construction.”

According to the press release, the show’s title, “An Architecture of Circumstance,” was Shannon’s “description of his own emergent process.”

His work in Vermont “exemplifies both the inventive, ecological approach of the design/build movement, as well as a passion for the history of architecture itself,” the organization said. “People will find his concern for

the environment and his vision for sustainable housing are as relevant as ever.”

“What we are showing is a lot of beautiful architectural drawings from throughout Shannon’s career, along with restored models,” said Catherine Despont, the retrospective curator for the gallery.

“They are very detailed and playful,” Despont said.

One example? “We’ve also created a few paper doll houses from Bob’s plans and laid them out on an interactive shelf for visiting children to cut out and make their own paper houses,” she noted.

Despont suggested that “Bob was first and foremost an architect. Seventy percent of his time was spent on architectural projects. In the winter, he would paint. He was constantly designing and making things: cards, pamphlets, models—all kinds of things, including photographs of the buildings as they went up.”

Included in the show will be what Despont describes as “playful ephemera,” including a selection of greeting cards designed by Shannon, as well as a case study on a housing development called Grassy Brook in Brookline, for which Shannon was the chief architect.

Proposed as an “ahead-of-its-time, solar power, wind power, wood-heated affordable housing community,” Grassy Brook was built to three quarters of completion before funding ran out. The project gathered a lot of community interest and was also covered

FROM SECTION FRONT

in national media.

In addition to the gallery opening, visitors will be free to experience the buildings and the extensive grounds.

The meticulously tended 3 acres of gardens, also of Shannon’s design, were executed over a period of years by his partner, Steven Fellows.

Now they are the responsibility of landscape designer Kate Quarella.

“The goal was always for the gardens to intertwine with the shapes of the buildings,” Quarella said. “They play with foliage colors, mass plantings, and have multiple season interest.”

Winding pathways lead to three bodies of water. A bridge over a gentle stream guides visitors past sculptures and explosions of color through the seasons.

Despont said that these are “very unique spaces,” describing them as “in harmony with the surrounding gardens.”

“Some people don’t know how to approach Bob’s work, as it has patterns everywhere. The space asks you to slow down and to take your time.”

She added that “the actual space, the patterning of the materials, the shapes of the metal work, the colorful painting that happens between the materials used on the buildings complete this work of art.”

The press release explains that visitors “will travel up a continuous ramp, though walls of wood lattice specially designed to display art. The building’s sculptural



Outside the new gallery space, from left, are Catherine Despont, retrospective curator; Kate Quarella, landscape designer; and Matt Brader, executive director of Four Corners Foundation.

metalwork, colorful patterning, and layered textures echo the sensibilities of Shannon’s painting and drawing to create a uniquely blended work of art both inside and out.”

A graduate of Yale Architecture School in the late 1960s, Shannon’s work in Vermont exemplifies both the inventive, ecological approach of the design/build movement as

well as a passion for the history of architecture itself.

The opening of the gallery begins at 5 p.m., and a classical music concert performed by the Windham Philharmonic begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Attendees are invited to pack a picnic and blanket and arrive earlier in the afternoon to enjoy the grounds. The show will remain up for one year.

The Fourth Corner Foundation gallery, 578 Hitchcock Hill Rd., Windham, is open daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., for self-guided tours. For guided tours by appointment and more information, visit [thefourthcornerfoundation.org](http://thefourthcornerfoundation.org) or email [info@4CFoundation.org](mailto:info@4CFoundation.org) to learn more.



A painting by Robert Shannon hung in the new gallery space.



The Foundation House as seen from some of the extensive gardens.

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# Questions & Answers

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## ‘Pageant of the Parables’ to delight and persuade at Guilford Community Park on Aug. 5

GUILFORD—An original Guilford Community Church production of drama, music, and dance, *The Pageant of the Parables*, will be performed by local talent on Saturday, Aug. 5, in the Guilford Community Park Pavilion at 7 p.m.

A parable is a short and user-friendly story in which Jesus illustrated simple truths about life. “Ours is a faith that is based on stories,” explained Guilford Community Church pastor, the Rev. Elisa Lucozzi, in a news release. “One of the primary ways Jesus taught about faith and God’s love for us was by using relatable metaphors. The parable of the

Good Samaritan and the parable of the Prodigal Son are two of the most well-known examples of the many parables attributed to Jesus.”

By some count, Jesus gave 30 to 50 parables or stories that take something unclear or unpersuasive and make them more relatable and therefore offer a deeper understanding. “We’re pleased to be presenting five of these to the community in an engaged and creative way,” Lucozzi said.

Pageant Director Sue Owings, together with other church members, has nursed this vision since the pandemic, even before the pavilion was erected. “We thought it

would be a great way to offer the community a fun, summer evening, outdoor entertainment for people of all ages,” said Owings.

Tickets will only be available at the door with a suggested donation of \$10–\$20. Children under 12 are free, accompanied by an adult. Light refreshments will be available. All proceeds from the play benefit the church, which is handicapped accessible and actively supports numerous local programs and organizations serving the wider community.

For more information, contact the church office at 802-257-0994 or [guilfordchurch@gmail.com](mailto:guilfordchurch@gmail.com).

## BMC Summer Salons explore the method and magic behind the music

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Music Center (BMC) presents a series of Summer Salons exploring the magic and method behind master musical works.

Led by longtime BMC faculty member Moby Pearson, the salons will be held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned BMC. Pearson will share remarkable recordings of music from across the ages — and share new musical perspectives along the way.

The salons and their topics include:

- July 27 – Quatre Compositeurs Francais: The music of four influential French composers whose lives intersected and spanned the period from 1835–1937. They were Camille Saint-Saëns, who taught Gabriel Fauré, who taught Maurice Ravel; and Claude Debussy, who was somewhat of a foil to all three.

- Aug. 10 – Mozart’s Arias for Aloysia: Wolfgang fell head over heels for his 17-year-old student Aloysia Weber in 1777. Though there was hardly romantic reciprocation on her part, the seven arias which came from their musical connection reveal a range of virtues, from exquisite depth of emotion to stunning coloratura writing.

- Aug. 24 – Mozart’s Viola Quintets in Depth: A “deep dive” into Mozart’s viola quintets with special guest Robbie Merfeld. Study materials for this will be available in advance.

RSVP’s are encouraged and refreshments provided. Suggested donation is \$25. For more information and to register for one or all salons, contact the BMC at 802-257-4523 or [info@bmcvt.org](mailto:info@bmcvt.org).

## ART AROUND BOOKS

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Through August 5th. “Land Within the Land Within,” Retrospective of collages, prints, artist’s books and drawings by California artist, James Renner.

August 10 - September 9 “Approaching Kurtag,” Original prints by five artists in response to Hungarian composer György Kurtág’s Kafka Fragments, curated by Susan Narucki.

August 11 at 8pm “György Krutág, Kafka Fragments Op. 24” One of the most important compositions of vocal chamber music of the late 20th century, a kaleidoscopic world of sound, sense, and expression performed by Susan Narucki, soprano & Curtis Macomber, violin.

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Untitled collage by James Renner ca. 2016

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Montpelier as seen from an Air National Guard helicopter on July 11 shows the Winooski River spilling into the streets of Vermont's capital city.

# A matter of survival

**A**FTER TROPICAL STORM IRENE did major damage to Vermont in 2011, the state recognized the need to prepare for future storms of that magnitude. People started to take the idea of climate-related weather events more seriously. In building back our infrastructure, the Agency of Transportation put in larger culverts and stronger bridges, and it paid attention to riverbank restoration, among other measures. Lessons were learned. Now, a mere 12 years after

**MOLLIE BURKE**, a Democrat, represents the Windham-8 District in the Vermont House of Representatives. Irene, these improvements have been tested with catastrophic flooding. Remediation measures protected some communities, while others suffered. Perhaps Brattleboro escaped the impact we experienced in Irene because of the amount of, or timing of, the rainfall. But I also believe that the restoration of the flood plain

at Melrose Terrace played a role in slowing down the Whetstone Brook as it passed through its narrow valley. We will need to take other recommended measures to address future flooding in our area. A parcel off Williams Street is just now being worked on to take its place as another natural floodplain of the Whetstone, after years of being cut off by an artificial berm. However, short of building dikes along the Winooski River in Montpelier, there is little remediation that can protect our capital city from inundation in the next flood event.

The downtown is not much higher than the river that runs through it. Many other Vermont communities are built along rivers, and they face this same problem. EXTREME RAINFALL events in Vermont are happening more frequently, with great impact to our economy and way of life. At the same time, drought conditions from last summer persisted through recent months. Flooding, drought, higher temperatures, and smoke from Canadian wildfires are affecting our sense of

RESPONSE

## Legislators, officials, or citizens don't cherry pick their laws

*'For the last 200 years, under our system of government, it has been the role of the courts to declare what is constitutional and what is not'*

**I**M SAD TO SAY that the recent Viewpoint by Dale and Nancy Gasset fails three key tests that I always found useful when I was in the Legislature — regardless of whether I was in the minority or the majority.

To summarize, they are outraged that a "tyrannical" legislature passed a law allowing Brattleboro to have people under 18 to vote on local issues, and they demand that Brattleboro officials do their supposed duty under their constitutional oaths by refusing to implement it.

The first test I used was the MYOB Test. Whenever I received calls and emails from people in other states telling me what I should do, I thought perhaps I should listen to the folks who elected me instead.

For a couple from Vernon to demand that Brattleboro officials do what they personally wish regarding Brattleboro's local elections obviously fails that little test on its face.

My second test was the Hyperbolic Ranting Test. There almost always seemed to be a direct relationship between the strength or weakness of an argument and the way it was presented. This fit in nicely with the old legal maxim that if you've got the law, argue the law; if you've got the facts, argue the facts; but if you haven't got either one, stand up and make a lot of noise.

Now, I often had occasion to differ with other legislators — including, at times, with

**RICHARD MAREK** is a former Democratic member of the Vermont House of Representatives, where he served from 2002 to 2015. This piece is in response to "Will Brattleboro elected officials honor their oaths of office?" [Viewpoint, Jul. 19].

some in my own party. But regardless of all that, I never saw any of the hundreds of people with whom I served up there as "arrogant and power-hungry tyrants."

Terms like that flow through the Gassetts' commentary with such tiresome frequency that I eventually stopped counting. And every time I saw another one, I felt more of the shards of their argument crumbling around them as it was weakened by all the noise.

The third test — to which having failed the Hyperbolic Ranting Test directly leads — is the Do You Even Begin to Have Your Facts Straight Test. Not surprisingly, their Viewpoint also fails that one on multiple counts.

Contrary to what the Gassetts claim, it really wasn't those nefarious legislators who cooked up the idea of changing Brattleboro's local voting age. Charter changes like that invariably come about because the residents or officials of the affected municipality ask the Legislature to consider making them, just as was the case here.

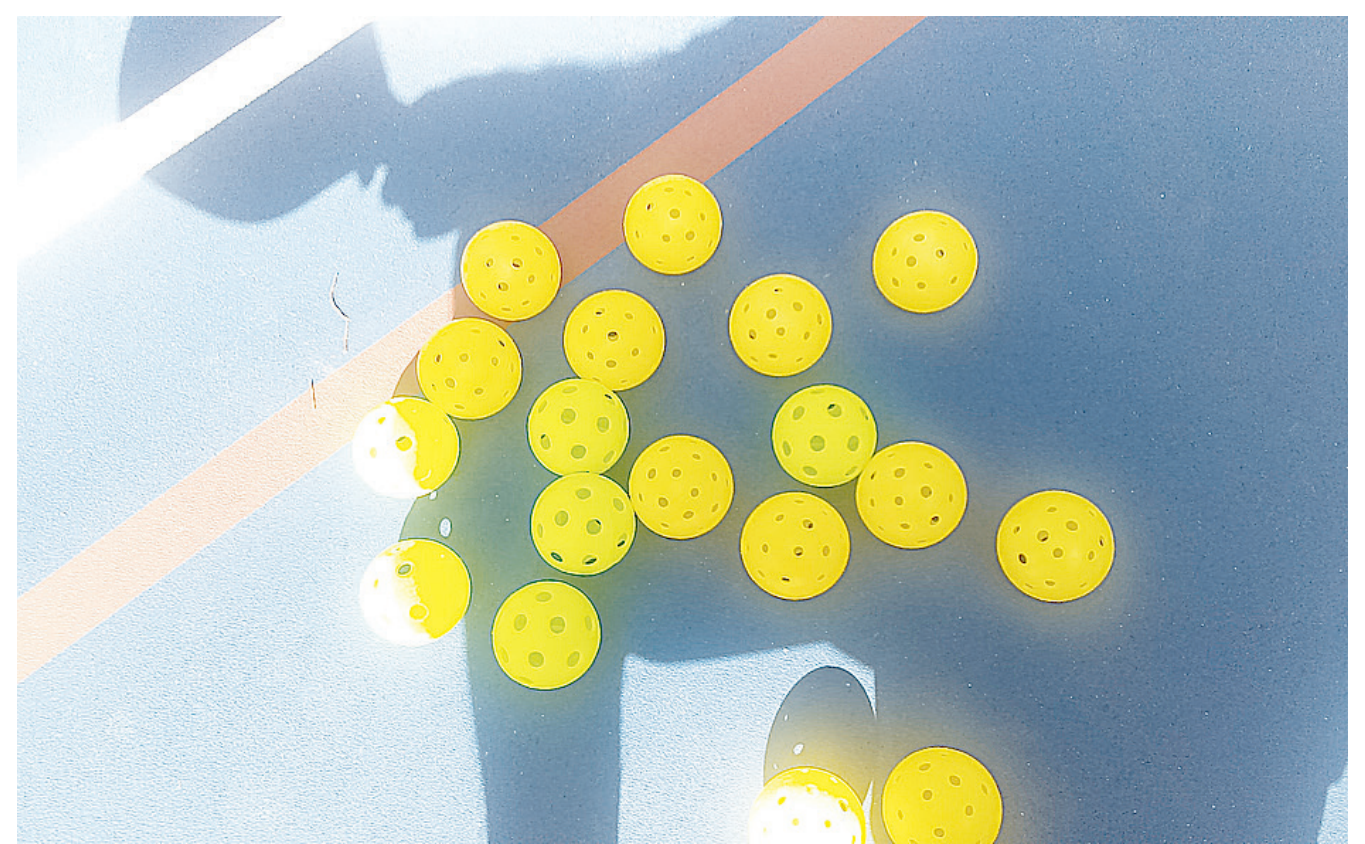
ESSAY

# Isn't having fun what pickleball is all about?

*Our infectious laughter and occasional spontaneous dancing make for a lively and enjoyable game*

**A**S A BEGINNER pickleball player, I have noticed that our group tends to have more fun than the advanced players. I could be wrong, or I may be biased. We laugh a lot and get excited over even the slightest victory, clicking our paddles in acknowledgment. Our infectious laughter and occasional spontaneous dancing make for a lively and enjoyable game. In contrast, the advanced group plays in silence, focusing solely on the game. Having fun! Isn't this what recreational pickleball is about? Playing outdoors on a public court during the cool evening hours is a delightful experience. The surrounding trees

**SHIN (SUE) FREEDMAN** is an author, writer, and educator. emit a unique and pleasant fragrance, while the breeze carries the fluff from the cottonwoods. The sound of plastic whiffle balls popping adds to the serene atmosphere. Despite the cracks and uneven surfaces on the court, the joy of playing pickleball is all-encompassing. Even though we play on an old tennis court and use its original net and markings, we are grateful to have such space. We also feel grateful that our



STEPHEN JAMES HALL, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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## LETTERS FROM READERS

**Affordable housing needs to recognize what tenants will need**

get it. We need housing. Windham County needs more housing. Vermont needs more housing. America needs housing! I get it! We all get it!

We especially need housing for people who have lower incomes.

We understand the need is very real. Just look at the house-less community in downtown Brattleboro. Oh, yes, the need is real. We know that, we see it, and we want to do something positive about it.

What needs to be understood is that solutions need to be just as real. Solutions need to benefit the people who will be using the housing. Seems obvious, but apparently it's not.

Tiny Putney already has five housing projects and now there is talk about having another low-income housing project go up by the Putney Food Co-op.

Imagine you are struggling. You don't have much money. You want a job. You want a nice safe home, and you want to get out of this poverty cycle.

Social services gives you an apartment in Putney. OK. Great. You have a roof over your head, a kitchen, and a bed to sleep in.

Now you want to get to work. Oopsie. No can do. The bus runs only a few times a day. You don't have a car because, of course, cars are incredibly expensive. How to get to work? How to get back home?

Now you also have to shop for food. Well. Hmm.

Oh, and now you have a doctor's appointment. Need to figure out transportation for that as well. Your kids need something for school. Not much you can do about that.

Because you live miles from town, you can forget about

seeing friends, taking classes, or doing anything extra at all. Just getting your basic needs of job, food, and medical care is hard enough and maybe impossible. You have to let go of the idea of doing anything more.

Creating low-income housing should not just be about finding a piece of ground to put an apartment building on. Low-income housing has to be placed where people can get to work, doctors, and stores. It should be where people can have a social life and attend special events. Low-income housing has to be part of the solution. To knowingly have low-income housing perpetuate the poverty cycle is disgraceful.

I want much more housing built in the coming years. I want everyone to have a safe home. I want everyone who is struggling to be given a helping hand. I want people to be given a solid chance to live a productive, fulfilling life.

Let's open our minds to legitimate solutions for people's housing issues and then use all that amazing amount of money for that.

Julie Tamler  
Putney

**Library manages extremely challenging needs with patience, compassion**

In the 19th and early 20th century, the settlement house movement in urban areas sought to bridge the gap between social classes. In these programs, middle-class community members offered their skills and abilities to provide child care, education for children and adults, health care, and cultural and recreational activities for their low-income neighbors and for immigrant families.

According to the Alliance for Strong Families and

Communities, "These houses served as gathering places for fostering relationships that would serve as the foundation for stronger, healthier communities [...]. Their advocacy efforts also contributed to progressive legislation on housing, child labor, work conditions, and health and sanitation."

In the present day, public libraries in many communities have by default stepped up to fill that role.

As Joyce Marcel's outstanding article states, libraries are one of the few safe and welcoming public spaces available to the increasing numbers of unhoused people created by the shamefully unequal distribution of wealth in our society.

This has created a tremendous burden for libraries, which are woefully underfunded because of the common misperception that they are less relevant in the digital era.

As our extraordinary library director, Starr LaTronica, states in the article, some larger municipalities have begun to hire specially trained social workers to help in providing these desperately needed services.

In our own small community, this very difficult work falls to our remarkable staff, who patiently and compassionately manage extremely challenging needs on top of their traditional library duties, for which they already lack adequate space and personnel.

Brattleboro is blessed to have as its library director Starr, who is a model not only for her staff, but for our whole community, in consistently and calmly offering respect, dignity, and empathy in supporting these neighbors.

In addition, our library has offered a warm welcome and valuable programs to help integrate our many new Americans who have sought refuge from persecution and desperation in their countries of origin. The extent to which this work benefits all of us in building a stronger community is immeasurable.

Our gratitude goes to Joyce for her outstanding reportage, and to *The Commons* for bringing to light a level of need and the heroic efforts to address it, of which many in the community may be unaware.

I hope this article will inspire readers to investigate ways they can support Brooks Memorial Library in all of its essential work.

Karen Tyler  
Brattleboro

*The writer is a member of the board of trustees for the Brooks Memorial Library.*

**The climate clock has already run out**

RE: "Misguided irrelevance" [Viewpoint, Jul. 19]:

Bill McKibben is a very smart man, but he is also completely misguided in his attacks on "Big Oil."

Everyone needs to stop blaming corporations for their actions. Shell, BP, and ExxonMobil, or whoever, aren't responsible for society's addiction to oil. They are certainly not responsible for Bill McKibben's lavish, jetsetting lifestyle, in which he personally is responsible for burning countless tons of fossil fuels into the upper atmosphere, where it does the most damage of all, while getting paid to talk to gullible people about his non-sensical divestment crusade.

The solution to the climate crisis is clear, but almost no one really wants to take the actions that are necessary, and so almost no one will. The solution is simple: Stop burning fossil fuels. That's it. It's really that simple.

Of course, the reason why almost no one wants to do this is because it will completely and systematically destroy society as we know it, and the only way we can do it without creating mass chaos has to involve radical changes to our land tenure and taxation policies.

There isn't sufficient understanding of why this is necessary even among the vast majority of people who are advocating for change — so there is virtually zero political will to make it happen, so it won't happen. And yet, this is the only thing that offers us any measure of hope, at all.

And even if we were somehow to magically develop that understanding, that political consensus and will, it would take generations to have any appreciable effect, and we simply do not have that kind of time. The clock has already run out. Saving human civilization from drowning in its own filth is no longer a realistic possibility.

Vermonters are among the most greedy per capita consumers of fossil fuels, thanks to the state's cold and rural character, filled with dilapidated, outdated, outmoded, inefficient building stocks sprawling all over the countryside, heated mostly with oil, requiring huge outlays of transportation fuels to reach, stock, and maintain.

We have to engage in immediate, intensely rapid, radical de-growth. We have to immediately and permanently power down at least 90% of human activity in the industrialized

nations in order to have any hope that human civilization will survive this century in any substantive form, at all.

We have to condense human settlement into urban forms and abandon the single-family home American Dream, abandon our addiction to privately owned and operated automobiles, abandon our sense of entitlement to the very notion of private property in Nature.

This is the only way. There is no other way. We are out of time.

Gemma Seymour  
Brattleboro

**Warming**

Shut off air conditioning in all government offices in the 10 most offending countries\*.

Byron Stookey  
Brattleboro

\* China, U.S., India, Russia, Japan, Iran, Germany, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Canada, ranked per million tons of carbon dioxide generated, per BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2021.

**Dover librarian always worked 'for the good of the community'**

On July 18, Jodi Keeler, chair of the Dover Free Library Trustees, summarized former John Flores, director of the library, that his employment had been terminated "for the good of the community." John has been library director for 24 years — always working "for the good of the community!"

The Dover Free Library, under Mr. Flores's direction, is one of the jewels of the Deerfield Valley. Over the years, he has brought his energy, warmth, imagination, intelligence, and profound love of books to our community. As a result, the Dover Free Library is truly a community treasure.

Mr. Flores established innovative programs, welcomed all visitors to the library, and remained a motivated, capable, and enthusiastic staff. Ask any patron of the library, or any of the many participants of all ages and backgrounds in the varied library activities and events, and you will surely hear praise, gratitude, and appreciation for him.

To our knowledge, the Trustees have given no reason for firing Mr. Flores, either to him or to the community he has served so well.

We cannot see how his termination can, in any way, be "for the good of the community."

The Trustees owe all of us and Mr. Flores an explanation, an apology, and a reversal of their unseemly decision.

Faith Schuster  
West Dover

*This letter was co-signed by Ellen Bronstein, Newfane.*

**Thanks to Greater Falls Connection advisory board members**

I would like to thank the members of the Greater Falls Connections' advisory board for all that they do to support our substance use and abuse prevention and community building work by helping with events, coming to the monthly meetings, and providing guidance to the staff.

At our recent annual meeting, coalition members re-elected advisory board members Doreen Stoodley, Lama Tomas O'Flaherty, Sam Maskell, and Michelle Bos-Lun. Alex Stradling is returning to the board as well.

Joining them is new community member Santina Stone.

We are looking for youth and young adult board members, ages 14 to 25 years old. If you would like to gain important workplace meeting skills, learn more about what we do, and help guide GFC's work, please email [info@greaterfallsconnections.org](mailto:info@greaterfallsconnections.org) or call 802-463-9927.

GREATER FALLS CONNECTIONS  
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Neil Allen, executive director

**Winston Prouty Center raises \$25,000**

I would like to thank the community for supporting The Winston Prouty Center's annual Par for the Cause fundraiser. This year we raised over \$25,000!

We are grateful to the more than 100 businesses and individuals who supported our fundraiser by placing an ad in the event program, donating products and services to our raffle, or contributing to our family-fun experience.

This year the event drew more than 150 people to our campus for a morning of pretend play, bouncy houses, face painting, music and fairy-house making, healthy snacks, and so much more.

Our community's generosity empowers the Winston Prouty Center to promote the success of local children and families.

Chloe Learey  
Brattleboro

**Transportation**

FROM SECTION FRONT

security. Everywhere in the world, extreme weather due to carbon emissions is becoming the norm.

All this has been predicted for over 35 years. Noted climate scientist James Hansen testified about this topic before Congress in 1988. Vermonter Bill McKibben's book *The End of Nature* (1989) contained the same predictions.

These warnings have fallen on the deaf ears of many policymakers.

DURING MY 15 years as a member of the Transportation Committee of the Vermont Legislature, we have worked to cut the state's greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. We have put in place incentives for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles, put money into public transit, and built infrastructure to make it easier for people to get around by bike, by wheelchair, and on foot.

Given the scale of this global problem, these measures might

seem insignificant. But I believe we can inspire other towns, cities, and states to take their own actions.

We need to cut the carbon emissions that are warming the planet and causing extremes of temperature and weather.

We need to stop burning fossil fuels now in order to hold to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement: to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We are not currently on track to meet those goals, portending disastrous consequences for people and their livelihoods.

The scope of the problem is going to require mass mobilization at many levels of government and society. We can't be complacent any longer.

Why should the world's leading oil companies reap record profits while destroying our lives?

And why is this even a political issue? It is a matter of survival.

This latest flooding all around Vermont is a sober reminder that we're running out of time.

**Pickleball**

bodies support us to play, and we are going to play for as long as we can.

RECENTLY, we hosted out-of-town pickleball players and pros who caught our attention with their stylish outfits. They looked sharp. The story was that they had gone around the entire USA just to play pickleball.

Later, two pro players came to conduct a clinic. One wore a black skort with ruffles and a black top with the company logo. We were impressed by these women's skill sets and techniques and further intimidated by their looks — fit, pretty, and well-coordinated from head to toe.

Somehow, I felt like meeting tennis or golf celebrities whom we see only on TV.

WE SENIORS COME IN all body shapes and physical conditions.

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The body types of pickleball players can sometimes be deceiving. However, the most amazing and skillful players in our town are often those who dress simply and comfortably.

What we all have in common is that we have salt-and-pepper or silver hair, worn as a badge of honor. We may walk slowly, but we know how to return a drop shot, lob, or are even able to return a top-spin ball in front of us. But we can be slow-moving.

I wear what is comfortable.

PICKLEBALL FOR SENIORS is not just about physical fitness. Having fun serves as a part of mental stimulus.

I must remind myself that playing mixed doubles is a team sport. As a team player, I must consider some strategic moves, such as shot placement, anticipation, and teamwork beyond just returning the ball over the net.

It is no small activity to keep seniors mentally sharp and engaged. We challenge ourselves both physically and mentally,

**Constitutionality**

So if local voices do matter, they were heard here.

BEYOND THAT, the Vermont Constitution doesn't actually say what they claim it does — setting some absolute voting age for Brattleboro.

Section 42 of the Vermont Constitution simply says that "Every person of the full age of 18 years" who is a U.S. citizen, meets a residency requirement, is quiet and peaceable, and takes the required oath "shall be entitled to all the privileges of a voter of this state."

Note that little word "all." It doesn't say that someone under that age might not be allowed to vote on some more limited matters on a local basis, just that they wouldn't be allowed to vote in state or federal elections because they wouldn't qualify for "all the privileges of a voter in this state."

I'm not personally qualified for all of lots of things, but that doesn't mean I'm not qualified for any of them!

So, finally, what about the Gassetts' claim that Brattleboro's local officials somehow are duty-bound to

honor their oaths of office by following the Constitution as the Gassetts personally choose to interpret it?

Well, it should come as no surprise that this sort of argument — that doing or not doing something would violate the Constitution — arises repeatedly in legislative debates from those who are pushing one position or another.

But the answer to all that is really quite simple.

For the last 200 years, under our system of government, it has been the role of the courts — not of legislators, public officials, or individual citizens — to declare what is constitutional and what is not. Anyone having a problem with something which directly impacts them certainly is free to litigate the constitutionality of the matter, but once that has happened, the oath of a public official simply requires abiding by the court's decision.

Having everyone's oath somehow require each of them to try to decide the constitutionality of things on their own obviously could only create complete chaos. So, unless

FROM SECTION FRONT

leading to improved cognitive abilities and overall well-being.

Lately, I find myself playing pickleball while silently deep in thought about dinking and volleying. No time to laugh. What has become of me?

Overall, pickleball should be enjoyable, whether playing with a beginner or an advanced group. While it's important to take the game seriously, it's equally important to have fun and enjoy the experience while we can.

FROM SECTION FRONT

a court decides otherwise, the presumption is that enacted laws are constitutional and that they are to be obeyed.

AND THAT BRINGS us to the real reason that the Gassetts can only vent in these pages by demanding that Brattleboro's officials do things that they can't do and shouldn't even try to.

The Gassetts, being from Vernon, have no more legal standing to challenge the constitutionality of Brattleboro's local voting than I would from Newfane, because it doesn't directly affect us.

Only someone from Brattleboro can do that, and apparently no one has.


Which, I think, brings me full circle to MYOB.

*Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.*



— REINHOLD NIEBUHR

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COLUMN

# Which four freedoms?

Republicans have a parallel vision of a future in which we do not have the basic freedoms and human rights that FDR espoused

Brattleboro

WHEN Franklin Delano Roosevelt uttered his famous phrase, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," at his first inaugural address in 1933, he recognized that fear of the Great Depression could paralyze people and interfere with ways to address an unprecedented economic crisis. He realized that catastrophic thinking and overwhelming anxiety had the power to harm his plan for economic (and political) recovery.

He recognized, as Auschwitz survivor Viktor Frankl did, that "between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom."

FDR and Frankl were both right, and in many ways, we find ourselves in that space where fear and insecurity reside, inhibiting our ability to respond appropriately and effectively to the political, economic, and emotional situation we find ourselves in as a nation as we approach the most crucial election of our time.

IN HIS 1941 State of the Union address, FDR also said that there was "nothing mysterious about the foundations of a healthy and strong democracy." He noted that he looked forward to "a world founded upon four essential human freedoms," as *The New York Times* columnist Jamelle Bouie has pointed out.

The freedom of speech and expression, the freedom of every person to worship individually, the freedom from want, and the freedom from fear. These values "were the guiding lights of Roosevelt's New Deal, and they remained the guiding lights of his administration through the trials of World War II," as Bouie reminds us.

In his column, Bouie also enumerated four freedoms that today's Republican party embraces.

They are, he says, the freedom to control, the freedom to exploit, the freedom to censor, and the freedom to menace.

"Roosevelt's four freedoms," he claims, "were the building blocks of a humane society — a social democratic aspiration for egalitarians then and now. These Republican freedoms are also building blocks not of a humane society but of a rigid and hierarchical one, in which you can either dominate or be dominated."

It's a parallel vision of a future in which we do not have the basic freedoms and human rights that FDR espoused.

SHOULD THE Republicans win the White House and the Congress next year, we will find ourselves living in a theocratic, oppressive country driven by oligarchs and dictators who embrace fear, violence, and autocracy with absolutely no regard for fundamental freedom, privacy, or self-determination.

So let's think about some of the freedoms that should drive



**ELAYNE CLIFT** ([elayne-clift.com](mailto:elayne-clift.com)) has written about women, politics, and social issues from the earliest days of this newspaper.

us to the polls in droves next November. First and foremost are the freedom from fear and the menace of gun violence as we walk the streets, attend houses of worship or schools, or as we simply go to the market, the movies, or the mall.

Let us also think about the urgency of freedom to control our bodies and our futures as we remember the women and girls who have been denied bodily autonomy and privacy and who have suffered and died as a result of forced pregnancy because the state owns their wombs.

Let us remember the women jailed for miscarriage, the health providers who live in fear of losing their licenses (or worse), and the mothers, sisters, friends, and advocates who could well be imprisoned for driving someone to the airport or across a state line.

Let us remember the freedom to speak openly and honestly; the freedom to gather, as guaranteed by the First Amendment; the freedom from censorship so that we can read books we choose; the freedom to worship in our own ways; and the freedom to keep our children free from want, whether it's food or healthcare or the right to be who they are.

Let our friends and families be free to live in the houses and neighborhoods they wish, be they Chinese, Syrian, Cuban, Muslim, Jewish, or other than straight.

Let there be an end to otherness, persecution, blinding stereotyping, and ungrounded assumptions that strike fear in the hearts of so many of us in this time.

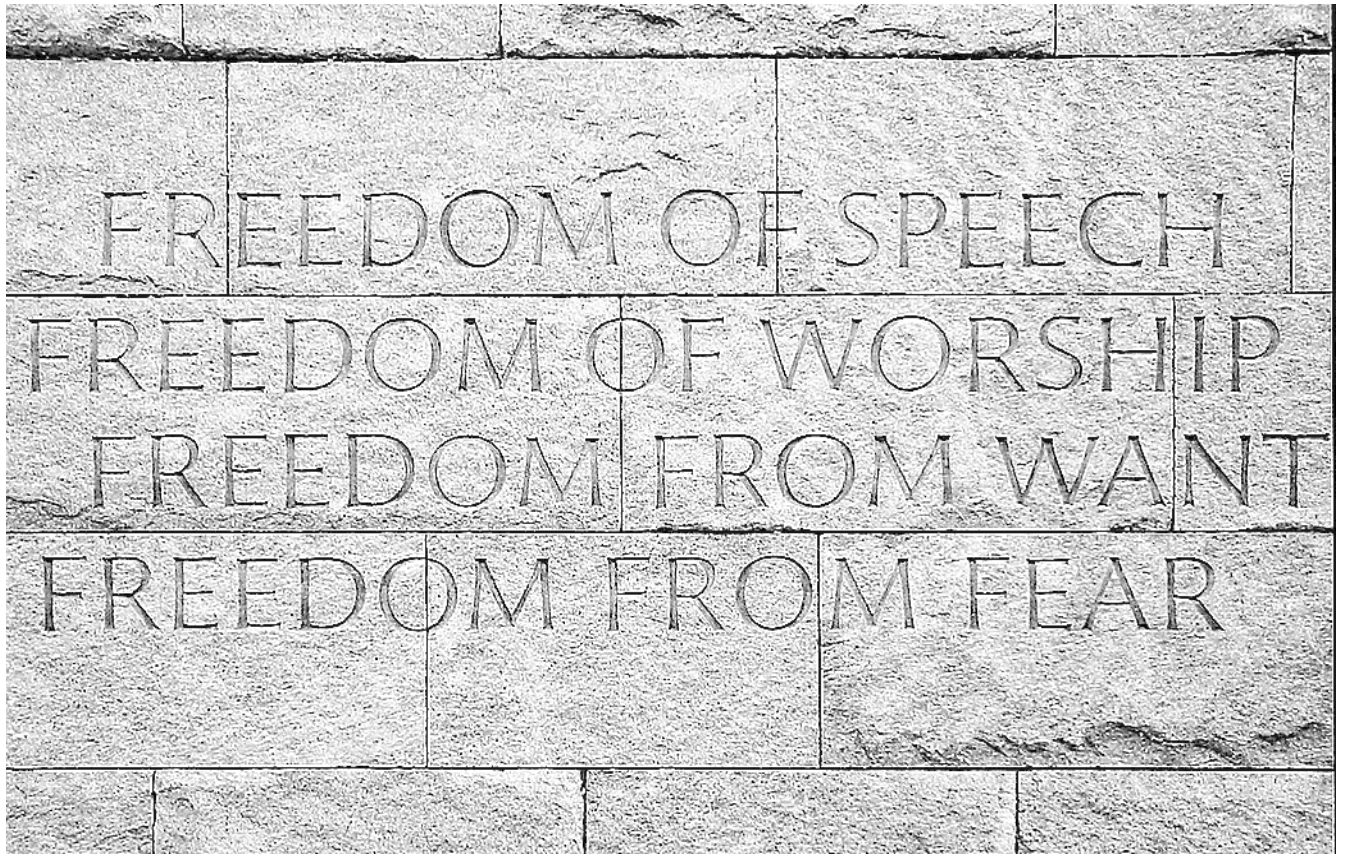
Let us be free from financial and physical exploitation in the workplace, especially when that exploitation involves children.

And let us be free from willful prejudice, evil intentions, unenlightened faux leaders, and restrictive political actions that inhibit democracy, human rights, and social justice once and for all.

And let us remember the wisdom of Nelson Mandela, who said that "to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Consider Mandela's words with the wisdom of Dag Hammarskjöld, former general secretary of the United Nations, who so wisely noted that "Freedom from fear" could be said to sum up the whole philosophy of human rights."

It's a philosophy we need to value, remember, and embrace. We are called upon it in this moment and in the days to come to do the right thing for future generations.



An inscription of the "Four Freedoms" at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington D.C.

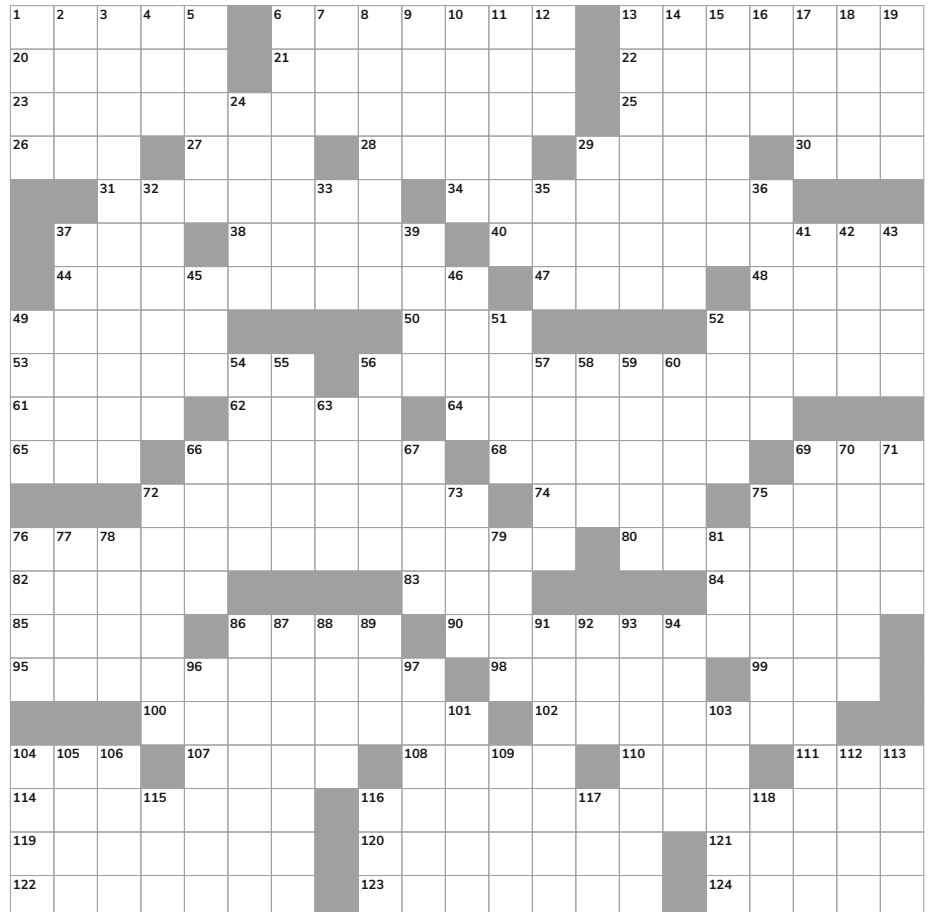
JOON PAHK

## THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"Prefix Menu"

### Across

- Author \_\_ Behn
- Compelled
- Good-natured
- Easy basket
- Danish cheese
- More pathetic
- Job opening for a building caretaker?
- Showed up undetected
- Soccer stadium cheer
- Not online: Abbr.
- "Lucy and \_\_" (2022 documentary)
- BMW alternative
- Suffix with legal or crossword
- Come in for
- OLED ancestor
- World's busiest airport
- Winning general at Shiloh
- Fraught post-breakup relations?
- Elliot Page, e.g.?
- The right way?
- Pop's colleague
- Forgo the big wedding
- In favor of
- "My Fair Lady" director George
- Megan Thee Stallion, notably
- Car's life story?
- Namesake of the ESPY Award for Courage
- Grp. in "The Rookie"
- Member of a Catholic college
- Pigpen
- "Murder on the Orient Express" detective
- Laid-back
- Insta upload
- Japanese takeout lunch
- Abound (with)
- First Bond movie
- Gig for an insult comic?
- Completes an operating system update, say
- Vast body
- Frat guy
- Louvre Pyramid architect
- Q, in thermodynamics
- Press hard and repeatedly
- The hunt for Red October, e.g.?
- Clergy member in a commercial?
- Sam of "Jurassic World Dominion"
- Pecan or acorn
- Not smooth
- Ingredient in some chips
- Not just a
- Welsh equivalent of Jane
- Practical joke
- Director Lupino
- Game cube
- Classic European sports car make
- Prisoner escaping from the Tower of London?
- Hobbyist
- Japanese conglomerate whose name means "rising sun"
- Brand of toy trucks
- Bureaucratic headache
- Not-to-be-repeated event
- Medical specialty



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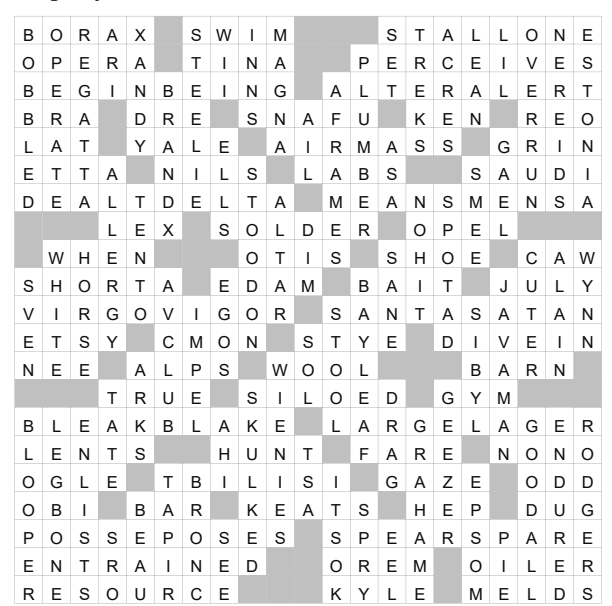
- Patriots Day month
- "Love in the Time of \_\_" (Gabriel Garcia Márquez novel)
- Western hemisphere grp.
- Plain to see
- Speed
- Like beautiful fall weather
- Ballet lead
- Tamor
- Clams on
- "Cake Boss" confection
- Dates, e.g.
- Season-long story line, say
- Specialized vehicle?
- Fragrant garlands
- Sea eagle
- Moralistic sorts
- Tinseltown terrier
- Pass
- Shop\_\_ (brand that sucks?)
- Gimli's weapon
- Ocular
- "Finally!"
- Protein in sundubu-jjigae
- Like a GI peeling potatoes
- Lye, to chemists
- Lively
- What a tennis player can't touch during a point
- Campus drilling org.
- Ages
- Go all over
- Stick in your \_\_
- "Moving right \_\_..."
- Yogurt dish
- Photoshop maker
- Butler of "Grace Under Fire"
- Gretzky, for most of the 1980s
- Kitschy garden figure
- \_\_ rock (Rush genre)
- Philly Ivy
- The Great Pyramid or Taj Mahal
- Massage therapist's vigorous treatment?
- Determined

- "\_\_ fan tutte" (Mozart opera)
- "Get lost!"
- Zoomer's parents, perhaps
- \_\_ effect (chain reaction)
- 2022 FIFA World Cup host city
- \_\_ coffee
- Sewer line?
- Subject of an article?
- Muscles worked in curls, for short
- Vary one's routine
- "Holiday Inn" star
- Amaze
- She/\_ pronouns
- Implore
- Nintendo avatar
- Forbidden
- Backless sandal

- Lipton rival
- Come back into, as a Zoom call
- "Inferno" author
- "Inferno" division
- Skier's transport
- Empiricist philosopher David
- "My word!"
- Smartphone precursors
- Pitch-black
- "A Visit From the Goon Squad" author Jennifer
- QB's pass
- John of the "Harold and Kumar" films
- "The L Word" network
- Driver's lic. datum

### Last issue's solution

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**COLUMN** | *Sports Roundup*

# Post 5 sweeps through opening games of Legion tourney

The Vermont American Legion Baseball tournament began on July 22 after a hectic week of make-up games for many teams.

Persistently rainy weather this summer jumbled the regular season schedule. Brattleboro Post 5 was fortunate to be able to get their games played without resorting to multiple doubleheaders, while Bellows Falls Post 37 saw too many postponements in the first half of the season.

For Post 37, this meant having to scramble in between storms to make up games, and it took a toll on Bellows Falls.

While Post 5 wrapped up its regular league schedule on July 16, and just had one non-league tune-up game — a 4-1 loss to Concord, New Hampshire on July 19 — heading into the tournament, Bellows Falls had a whole bunch of games to make up in less than one week with just a very slim chance of being one of the four teams from the Southern Division to advance.

Post 37 had to start the week with forfeits to Rutland Post 31 and Manchester Union Underground. Combined with getting swept by Bennington Post 13 in a July 15 doubleheader at Spinelli Field, it finished Post 37's chance of getting into the tournament.

Post 37's season ended on July 20 at Hadley Field as Lakes Region, White River Junction Post 84, and Bellows Falls played in a three-team doubleheader, where each team played each other once, along with the conclusion of a suspended game between Lakes Region and Post 84.

All these games had play-off implications for Rutland, Lakes Region, and White River Junction, since only one of the three would claim the fourth and final playoff spot in the Southern Division.

Bellows Falls won the



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opening game, 6-5, against Post 84, before Lakes Region defeated Bellows Falls, 9-2. The Lakers went on to win the completion of their suspended game with White River Junction 2-1, with Post 84 winning the full game 15-1 in five innings to wrap up a busy day and night at Hadley.

It left Bellows Falls with a 4-11 record and last place in the Southern Division, while Lakes Region got the No. 3 seed in the Southern Division, just barely ahead of fourth-seeded Bennington. Manchester got the second seed.

• Brattleboro entered the double-elimination tournament as the South's top seed with a 16-2 league record. They faced Addison County, the Northern Division No. 4 seed, in their opening game on July 22 and cruised to a 16-6 win in six innings.

The game was tied 6-6 in the fourth inning when Brattleboro snuffed out an Addison rally thanks to a spectacular running catch by center fielder Zinabu McNeice. Energized by that big play, Post 5 then scored 10 unanswered runs to win the game.

Post 5 started out with a 6-1 lead thanks to a two-run double by Turner Clews in the first inning. They added four more runs in the second thanks to hits by Aiden Davis, Evan Wright, Sam Bogart and Harper Cutler. In all, Post 5 batters had 16 hits of Addison County's pitchers.

Davis was the starting pitcher

for Brattleboro and gave way to Jayke Glidden in the fourth inning. Alex Bingham finished up in the sixth to accomplish coach Eric Libardoni's goal of conserving his pitching staff for the rest of the tournament.

That win set up a game on July 23 against Lakes Region, which shut out South Burlington, 3-0, in their opening game on July 22. Brattleboro won that game, 12-8.

Brattleboro took control early by scoring six runs in the first two innings. Clews had a couple of stolen bases, Davis hit a two-run double, and Wright hit an RBI single. Clews stayed busy in the fifth inning, hitting a home run to key a five-run outburst. He finished a double away from hitting for the cycle.

Post 5 starting pitcher Jolie Glidden went 3 1/3 innings to earn the win, with Bingham and Eric Kurucz finishing up in relief.

That victory set up a rematch against last year's state champion, Essex Post 91, on July 24. Essex, which entered the tournament with a 18-0 league record to claim the top seed in the Northern Division, clobbered Post 5, 16-0, in five innings. We'll have more about that game and the conclusion of the tournament in next week's roundup.

• The Southern Division All-Star team was announced during the tournament and Brattleboro had five selections — Turner Clews at catcher, Jackson Emery at first base, Alex Bingham at utility fielder, and Jayke and Jolie Glidden as pitchers. Aiden Davis was named the Southern Division's Player of the Year.

## Little League roundup

• The Brattleboro 12-U All-Stars got off to a rough start in the state tournament in North Burlington.

In the opening game of pool



DOUGLAS MACPHEE/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

**Brattleboro Post 5 center fielder Zinabu McNeice runs down a long fly ball in the fourth inning of their American Legion Baseball state tournament game against Addison County on July 22 in Castleton.**



Brattleboro Post 5's Aidan Davis was named the Southern Division's Player of the Year.

play on July 22, St. Johnsbury shut out Brattleboro, 10-0. The following day, Brattleboro faced Lamoille County and was shut out again in a 3-0 loss.

Brattleboro now faces an elimination round game on July 28 against St. Johnsbury, which lost 13-0 to Champlain Valley in a four-inning game on July 23. The winner of that game then faces Champlain Valley for the championship on July 29 and July 30 (if necessary).

• The Brattleboro 10-U All Stars won the opener of their double-elimination tournament in Essex on July 22, beating the Barre Red squad, 6-2. Brattleboro then played Essex Town on July 23 and lost, 7-4.

Brattleboro will have a rematch with Barre Red in the elimination round on July 28. The winner will then face Essex Town for the state title on July 29 and July 30 (if necessary).

• It's not too soon to be thinking about fall baseball. The Brattleboro Little League will be holding Fall Ball registration for boys and girls on Aug. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10 at South Main Street Field. They will be there from 4 to 6 p.m. each day. The sign-up fee is \$20.

Fall Ball is the next step up from Small Fry, and this program is open to players from Brattleboro, Guilford, Vernon, Dummerston, Putney, Newfane, Townshend, Halifax, Dover, Wilmington, Wardsboro, and Marlboro; Hinsdale, Chesterfield, and Spofford, New Hampshire; and Greenfield, Bernardston, Leyden, Gill, and Colrain, Massachusetts.

## Brattleboro loses in Babe Ruth 13-U championship game

• The Brattleboro Babe Ruth 13-U baseball team made it all the way to the state

championship game before losing to Central Vermont, 12-7, on July 19 in Winooski.

Brattleboro advanced to the championship game with a 3-1 win in eight innings over St. Johnsbury on July 17. Brattleboro broke a 1-1 tie in the top of the eighth by scoring a pair of runs on consecutive walks.

Central Vermont, a Washington County-based team, had beaten Brattleboro in 19-5 in pool play earlier in the tournament.

In the championship game, Brattleboro started strong by scoring runs in the first and third innings to take a 2-0 lead. Central Vermont then scored six runs in the bottom of the third to take the lead to stay.

Brattleboro twice tried to close the gap on Central Vermont in the late innings, but Central Vermont finished the job with four runs in the sixth inning. With the win, Central Vermont advanced to the New England Tournament in Rochester, New Hampshire.

## Guild strikes gold twice at National Senior Games

• Matt Guild, a Saxtons River native who competed in cross country and track & field at Bellows Falls Union High School, brought home a pair of gold medals at the 2023 National Senior Games held earlier this month in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Guild, who will turn 60 later this year, clocked 2:20.27 in the 800-meter race and followed that up with a time of 4:49.84 in the 1,500 meters. The two wins in the men's 60-64 age division were Guild's first gold medals at the Senior Games.

He then competed in the men's 55-59 age division at

the USATF National Masters Championships last week in Greensboro, North Carolina. Guild finished second in the 800 in 2:17.40 and was sixth in the 1,500 in 4:45.73.

## Senior bowling roundup

• Week 12 of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on July 20 saw Five Pins (40-20) have a 5-0 week to move into first place.

Turkeys (39-21) had a 0-5 week to fall into a tie for second with Slo Movers (also 39-21). No Splits (37.5-22.5) is still in third, followed by Skippers (36.5-23.5), Stayin' Alive (28.5-31.5), The Bowlers (26-34), High Rollers (26-34), and Wrecking Crew (23.5-36.5).

Nancy Dalzell had the women's high handicap game (259) and series (694). Chuck Adams had the men's high handicap game (278), while Fred Bump had the high handicap series (666). Five Pins had the high team handicap game (875) and series (2,518).

Chuck Adams led the men's scratch scoring with a 624 series that featured games of 278 and 188. Robert Rigby had a 622 series, with games of 221, 215, and 187. Milt Sherman had a 554 series with a 231 game, while Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 501 series with a 199 game. Pete Cross and Al Dascomb each had a 196 game, while Fred Bump had a 186 game and Gary Montgomery had a 182 game.

Nancy Dalzell had the women's high scratch game (203) and series (526). She also had a 181 game. Vicki Butynski had a 165 game and Shirley Aiken rolled a 164.



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