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## Court denies appeal to stop housing project in Putney

WWHT gets green light — after 30-day waiting period — to proceed with 25-unit housing subdivision on Alice Holway Drive, but price will be higher

By Virginia Ray  
*The Commons*

PUTNEY—An appeal of the decision by the Putney Development Review Board to approve the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) application to build a subdivision of 25 affordable housing units on Alice Holway Drive land has

been denied by Vermont Superior Court's Environmental Division, spurring disappointment in opponents and giving the WWHT a green light to proceed after a 30-day waiting period.

"We were pleased to have received word that the appeal of WWHT's zoning permit for the creation of a new housing

■ SEE APPEAL, A7

Despite unseasonably warm weather, organizers pull together another great weekend of competition and fun



DANA SPRAGUE/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

Ožbej Kotnik, 17, of Slovenia bested a field of 30 competitors from seven states and two European countries on Feb. 19 at Brattleboro's Harris Hill Ski Jump.

## Harris Hill ski jump returns, rising above a tree-tapping thaw



KEVIN O'CONNOR/VTDIGGER.ORG

Gov. Phil Scott joins competitors at Brattleboro's Harris Hill Ski Jump for the national anthem before the start of competition on Feb. 18.

By Kevin O'Connor  
*VtDigger.org*

BRATTLEBORO—With more wins than any other late-model stock-car racer at Barre's Thunder Road Speedbowl, Gov. Phil Scott has plenty of experience with speed sports. But standing at the base of Brattleboro's Harris Hill over the weekend, he apologized for not taking a turn at Vermont's sole Olympic-size ski jump.

"I fully intended to compete," the 64-year-old Scott told a crowd of thousands upon Saturday's start of the annual Presidents Day weekend competition. "But unfortunately, I left my skis at home."

That left 17-year-old Slovenian Ožbej Kotnik to leap nearly 90 meters on Sunday and win the 101st annual tournament memorializing the hill's late founder, Fred Harris.

"This is one of the best competitions of my life," said

■ SEE SKI JUMP, A8

## Leland & Gray names its next school principal

Dana Aquadro, the current assistant principal, will take the reins in July

By Virginia Ray  
*The Commons*

TOWNSHEND—After an extensive search and interview process, current Assistant Principal Dana Aquadro has been named the new principal of Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School. He will start in that role on July 1.

A Vermont native who has lived here throughout his life but for one year post-college in Portland, Maine, Aquadro earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Keene State College and his administrator's certificate from the Upper Valley Educators Institute.

He says when he met his wife Carla, the couple "decided the area was — and still is — a great place to raise a family." Aquadro has two children in college. He enjoys exercising and the arts, including literature, film, cooking, and music.

He joined the Leland & Gray community in July 2022 and, as assistant principal, he has spent this school year "using his expertise as an educator to connect with students and support teachers."

Aquadro supports "personalized and experiential and project-based learning" and values "the individuality" of each student.

He previously worked at Bellows Falls Middle School for 27 years as an English teacher and assistant principal from 2018 to 2022.

Aquadro's focus as a teacher there was "to make learning more enjoyable," he says, adding that he would challenge himself to

devise "new ways to approach teaching English and to make the process more creative and engaging for students."

He will start his tenure as principal by "creating a culture of kindness and support so that students are able to explore possibilities for their future and give students a variety of opportunities to develop the skills they need to be successful."

■ SEE PRINCIPAL, A2

# BEING GREEN versus MAKING GREEN

State Treasurer Michael Pieciak calls for a 'slow and thoughtful' transition from the state's financial stake in companies whose activities contribute to global climate change

By Joyce Marcel  
*The Commons*

BRATTLEBORO—Michael Pieciak, who won his race for state treasurer by visiting every town in the state, is settling nicely into his new job. He has his staff settled in and ready to go. But he's already feeling pressure.

Put it down to the environment. Vermont takes climate change very seriously, and there are many state-wide organizations fighting to make the state greener than green.

These include the Vermont chapter of the Sierra Club, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, the Conservation Law Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Vermont, 350Vermont,

Third Act Vermont, Vermont Conservation Voters, Rights & Democracy, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, and many others.

To these organizations and their supporters, it is shameful that Vermont, so environmentally friendly and sensitive, still has its pension fund money invested in fossil fuels. They want the state to divest and instead invest in renewable, clean energy.

The state's former treasurer, Beth Pearce, was cautious about the state doing so because she did not want to risk losing dividend income for pensioners. Pieciak feels the same way.

Now, spurred on by the environmental groups, a new bill is demanding immediate divestment.

The Fossil Fuel Divestment bill, introduced by Sen. Keshu

Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden, and in the House by Rep. Gabrielle Stebbins, D-Burlington, would require the Vermont Pension Investment Commission (VPIC) to prepare a seven-year plan to divest the state employee pension funds from fossil-fuel companies. The bill is very similar to divestment legislation that Maine passed in 2021.

Many of the state's environmental organizations are mounting write-in campaigns to garner more support for the bill. They want divestment, and they want it now.

So when Pieciak, who grew up in Brattleboro, came to *The Commons* office a few weeks ago, he was asked about fossil fuel divestment. Already well aware of the issue, he was cautiously receptive to the idea. He agreed

■ SEE DIVESTMENT, A2



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State Treasurer Mike Pieciak

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

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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).

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

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

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Without our volunteers, this newspaper would exist only in our imaginations.

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

**Divestment**

that U.S. reliance on fossil fuels, which cause climate change, is on the wane.

"You need to make sure you're managing your risk," Pieciak said, noting the "significant risk" over the next 15 years or so to remain invested in fossil fuel stocks.

"Our economy is transitioning to a lower carbon economy; it's even more true in other parts of the world that are further ahead of us," he said.

For example, he pointed out that General Motors has stated publicly that it plans to sell only zero-emission vehicles by 2035. Companies like Amazon, FedEx, PepsiCo, UPS, the City of New York, and even Domino's Pizza have electrified their fleets of delivery vehicles.

In contrast, the Ford Motor Company has not set an end date for making and selling gas-powered vehicles. While it has invested deeply in the manufacture of electric vehicles and batteries, the director of its gas-powered vehicle division has said they are in a growth business.

"Basically, by keeping a foot firmly in the internal combustion world, Ford is benefiting from customers who are losing access to gas-powered vehicles from other automakers even while Ford, itself, rolls out new EV models,"

**F**ormula for success: rise early, work hard, strike oil.

—J. PAUL GETTY

**T**ruth will rise above falsehood as oil above water.

—MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

Peter Valdes-Dapena observed in a 2022 story posted at CNN Business.

And Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan Chase, a bank that heavily invests in the fossil fuel industry, said on CNBC that "if the lesson was learned from Ukraine, we need cheap, reliable, safe, secure energy, of which 80% comes from oil and gas. And that number's going to be very high for 10 or 20 years."

**Stepping away from fossil fuel**

But Pieciak said he sees a growing trend to phase out fossil fuels.

"California is saying they won't allow the sale of them past a certain date," Pieciak said. "And Vermont followed that line in the sand."

In 2022, California passed a bill requiring all new cars, trucks, and SUVs to run on electricity or hydrogen by 2035. Vermont is one of 17 states that usually follow California's lead on tailpipe emissions standards.

"Some insurers and also some governments in the European Union are saying they will not insure fossil fuel exploration and extraction activities for corporations," Pieciak said. Some companies, like Allianz and Fidelis, have announced more immediate underwriting protocols.

"So you can see the movement in terms of how, in the next 15 to 20 years, that industry is going to be radically transformed — not necessarily because of its own doing, but because of change in consumer behavior and government intervention," Pieciak said.

One of the biggest drivers of this change will be governments pulling away from fossil fuel investments.

Vermont certainly has fossil fuel elements in its pension fund,

Pieciak said, but it might not be so easy to detangle them from the rest of its investments.

"We're certainly invested," he said. "The Vermont Pension Investment Commission makes the decisions around the pension investment. It doesn't hold directly any fossil fuel investments. But there are funds that invest in fossil fuel holdings. And there are index funds that Vermont invests in that contain fossil fuel holdings."

The VPIC has a fiduciary responsibility to the state's pensioners. That means its legal and ethical responsibility to prudently protect the fund's assets overrides other criteria.

"The treasurer only has one voice on the Vermont Pension Investment Committee," Pieciak said. "But how does the entire committee, and the Legislature, if they're going to pass legislation, allow for the committee to be able to transition into a low-carbon or no-carbon portfolio?"

The answer, Pieciak said, is to go slowly. The Legislature is talking about seven years. Pieciak sees the process taking longer.

"I think you have to provide a 15-year window to do that," he said.

"To do it more quickly is expensive to the fund and will impact your short-term investment opportunities and possibilities," Pieciak explained. "That hurts the fund. It hurts teachers and state employees and people that are nearing retirement in terms of the fund getting even weaker in terms of its unfunded liability position."

**A slow and thoughtful exit**

Divesting slowly and thoughtfully is the key in such a complex issue, Pieciak said.

"I think you have to account for the amount of time it will take," he said. "You have to account for the fact that companies themselves may be transitioning. So Shell, in 10 years, might still have a component that's fossil fuel, but it might primarily be in renewable energy. And it's transitioning to having no fossil fuel component to its business."

"So if Vermont owns Shell in 10 years, is that a fossil fuel investment? Yes, because they're in fossil fuel. But as a company, they may be transitioning to completely green energy, and that might be an excellent investment for us to hold on to."

Pieciak is asking for flexibility in his approach to the issue so he can hold such companies as an investment.

"So I think the timeline is important. I think the flexibility around exercising fiduciary duty is important. And if you want to make a statement that, at a future point, we will be out fossil fuels, then — as long as we have time and flexibility — I think we can find a path forward," he said. "But you have to provide enough of a runway and enough flexibility to be able to get there," he said, warning that doing otherwise would be expensive.

"It's always a cost/benefit, right?" Pieciak said. "If you wave the wand and get out now, it will be expensive because VPIC will have to hire more people to review the investments and make sure they are not holding fossil fuel. We will not be able to invest in certain index funds and certain private funds."

"So that makes it more costly, because there'll be more investment management that has to happen to VPIC," he said.

Beyond additional expenses to manage the state's investments, "it also means the investment returns won't be as great," Pieciak said. "Not just because

**FACT-TV opens new studio in Keene**

BELLOWS FALLS—Falls Area Community Television (FACT-TV), in cooperation with the city of Keene, New Hampshire, is re-opening Keene's local access station to operate a cable TV platform for residents and community organizations to communicate their ideas, thoughts, and opinions.

The studio is located on 60 Winter Street, beside the Keene Public Library.

According to a news release, FACT "will provide training and support to every individual looking for a platform as a service to the local public. We look forward to providing studio space and technical assistance for everyone looking to have their message heard."

FACT is a nonprofit Access Management Organization (AMO) dedicated to serving the public, education, and government sectors of our communities. It has existed since its humble beginnings working out of the Bellows Falls Union High School in 1978, and has continued to evolve into its current iteration.

Executive Director Alex Stradling, Technical and Programming Manager Collin Kimball, and Technical Assistant Amon Bingham currently staff the studio in Bellows Falls.

Managing Director Josh Morelli will run the new Keene location. Once up and running,

the new station will broadcast on Spectrum channel 1301. This will coincide with FACT's current broadcasts across channels 1082-1083 on Comcast, and 172-173 on VTel, where they will continue to serve Saxtons River, Grafton, and the greater Rockingham region.

All media will also continue to be streamed across YouTube, Facebook, and their website, [fact8.com](http://fact8.com).

FACT says its goal in this venture "is to provide the necessary knowledge and tools to help everyone with a project in mind and a strong desire to see it through. We will also be providing internships for local students looking for a chance to hone their skills and gain experience, as well as classes for residents who wish to learn the fundamentals of video editing and content creation."

A grand opening and open house at the Keene studio is planned for Friday, Feb. 24, from 1 to 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to tour the station and be shown the ins and outs of their services. Food and beverages will be provided.

To learn more about working with, supporting, or sponsoring FACT, call 802-463-1613 or email [fact810@gmail.com](mailto:fact810@gmail.com) in Bellows Falls or 603-903-0036, [factkeene@gmail.com](mailto:factkeene@gmail.com) in Keene ([factkeene@gmail.com](mailto:factkeene@gmail.com)).

**Principal**

FROM SECTION FRONT

"Conversations with students about the value of learning and how it connects to their lives should be continuous," Aquadro says. "Working collaboratively students, staff, and community will continue changing Leland & Gray into the school of their dreams."

Asked what challenges and successes he's seen and is facing, the new principal says since joining the Leland & Gray team, he has noticed "a few typical challenges and many successes."

"The students at Leland & Gray are awesome," he says. "They are actively involved with helping the school be its best by sharing what is working and what they would like to see improved."

"The staff is incredibly dedicated," he continues. "They work hard for students and the school. Equally impressive is the loyal support the community has for the school. At school events, the bleachers are filled with not just parents, but alumni, too."

"Leland & Gray has a long history of innovating and offering an excellent education. Being offered the principalship is an exciting honor, considering Leland & Gray's reputation in Vermont," says Aquadro.

The principal-to-be says that at



LG.WINDHAMCENTRAL.ORG  
**Dana Aquadro**

the school, "we are paying close attention to our students' needs and evolving our responses to support them coming out of the pandemic."

West River Education District Chair Al Claussen says Aquadro "brings a wealth of hands-on classroom experience to this next phase of his career."

we won't be invested in fossil fuels. You won't be able to invest in the broad indexes, or these funds that make a pretty good return on their whole portfolio, because there's a piece of it that's fossil fuel."

The number of green investment firms, which screen and rate companies for their environmental soundness, has been growing, but all stocks carry a certain amount of risk. Will investment returns be less or greater if the entire portfolio is green? That is still an unanswered question.

"So that's the challenge," Pieciak said. "You immediately

run into some significant headwinds in terms of the impact of the pension system."

Personally, however, Pieciak said he believes the state should be doing everything in its power to combat climate change.

But, he observed, if Vermont moves its funds out of fossil fuel investments, "somebody else will purchase them."

"There's no doubt our divestment will have a limited impact," Pieciak said. "I see some value in Vermont making a statement, in recognizing the risk that a changing climate is bringing on."

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## AROUND THE TOWNS

### Food pantry moves to BBCC

GUILFORD — The Guilford Cares Food Pantry has moved to the Broad Brook Community Center (BBCC) on 3940 Guilford Center Road.

The pantry will be open, as usual, every Thursday, 3-4 p.m., at the BBCC, beginning Feb. 23. There are no restrictions or requirements for coming to the Guilford Cares Food Pantry. Anyone in need of supplemental food assistance is welcome. The pantry is well stocked with staples, meat, fresh produce, eggs, bread, and butter.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Pat Haine at [pth1946@yahoo.com](mailto:pth1946@yahoo.com) or 802-257-0626. Donation checks should be made payable to Guilford Cares (with "Food Pantry" on the memo line) and mailed to P.O. Box 2517, Brattleboro, VT 05301, or via [guilfordcares.com](http://guilfordcares.com).

### Monthly free produce available

PUTNEY — The Vermont Foodbank and the Putney Foodshelf will co-sponsor the next monthly drop of free produce and nonperishable items on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Alice Holway Drive (in front of Putney Meadows, the white building across from the Putney Co-op and Putney Fire Station).

All are welcome. Because of COVID-19, participants are asked to remain in their car at pickup, and volunteers will bring out bags.

### Putney Town Plan discussed at community meeting

PUTNEY — On Thursday, Feb. 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Next Stage, the Putney Planning

Commission will hold the first of five Community Meetings on the 2023 Putney Town Plan update.

This meeting will review processing the update of the Town Plan, including community participation options, and invite input for the overall vision and strategic directions for the next 5 to 8 years. Residents are welcome to listen, learn, and share ideas. Read more at [putneyvt.org](http://putneyvt.org).

### DeWalt provides live original soundtrack to historic silent film

WILLIAMSVILLE — The Williamsville Hall presents Dan DeWalt performing an original soundtrack, live on piano, to the 1920 African American film, *Within Our Gates*, on Friday, Feb. 24, and Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. The show runs for 90 minutes; admission is by donation as it is a fundraiser for the Hall, located at 35 Dover Rd in Williamsville. Masks are kindly suggested.

*Within Our Gates* was created in response to *The Birth of a Nation*, the 1915 film which depicted white Southerners needing the Klu Klux Klan to protect them from bloodthirsty Blacks.

Director Micheaux's film shows the reality of Southern racism in 1920, when a Black man could be lynched for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. For more information, contact DeWalt at [dandewalt@gmail.com](mailto:dandewalt@gmail.com).

### Beloved Community explores Gandhi and non-violence

BRATTLEBORO — The Beloved Community and the Center for Story, Spirit, and Justice are holding a training session on Saturday, Feb. 25 focusing on Mahatma Gandhi's understanding of non-violence and truth. This is free and open to the public, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., at 18 Town Crier Drive.

The program will explore satyagraha and other Gandhian insights into the nature of truth seeking, social transformation, and political action. This will be an interactive, participatory process.

In the morning, from 11 a.m. to noon, gentle exercise and sacred dance experiences will be offered. A free lunch will be served at noon. Donations are welcome but not required. For more information, contact [howerwiii@gmail.com](mailto:howerwiii@gmail.com) or call 802-249-2947.

### Fundraiser concert benefits South Newfane Schoolhouse

SOUTH NEWFANE — On Saturday Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., at the South Newfane Schoolhouse, 387 Dover Road, modern acoustic singer-songwriter Brandon Ayre will be joined by friends Natalie Blake and Shawn Magee to support the Community Center.

The concert kicks off a Building Fund campaign to preserve the Center, which is a donation-based venue welcoming all.

Ayre writes songs he describes as "both personal and tender, or gently humorous. They are the product of many hours of sitting alone with a guitar." Ayre, Blake, and Magee are donating the concert to launch the fundraising.

Built in the mid-1850s and used as a one-room schoolhouse until the 1950s, the upgraded

## Sugar on Snow supper returns to Broad Brook Community Center

GUILFORD — Broad Brook Grange's annual Sugar on Snow Supper will be held Saturday, March 4, at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford. The meal features ham, and the following home-made items: baked beans, deviled eggs, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, rolls, doughnuts, and Guilford maple sugar on Guilford snow. Pickles accompany the snow.

The event returns after a two-year hiatus, during which the Community Center, with which the Grange is a partner, has undergone a full renovation.

There will be three seatings: at 5, 6, and 7 p.m. At each seating, a half-gallon of Guilford maple syrup will be raffled.

This longtime annual fundraiser helps support the many activities of the Grange, which sponsors pre-town meeting, a community Thanksgiving dinner, this supper, and brunches, as well as Guilford Center Stage productions. The Grange

organization also provides Christmas stockings for seniors and a college scholarship.

Tickets for the supper are: \$15 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5-12, and \$2 for kids age 4 and under.

Reservations for a particular seating are recommended, as the earlier seatings often sell out in advance. A waiting list will also be kept, and those with reservations who cannot make it are asked to phone their cancellation. There are usually a few unreserved seats left for the 7 p.m. seating, for those who show up without a reservation.

Reservations may be made by the preferred method of e-mailing Thayer at [thayertomlinson@hotmail.com](mailto:thayertomlinson@hotmail.com). A confirmation reply will be sent. Or you may text to 202-247-5251. If needed, you may phone 802-257-5359.

The Community Center is at 3940 Guilford Center Road, four miles west of the Guilford Country Store.

property serves as an example of historic Vermont architecture. The space has hosted a variety of concerts, story nights, community meetings, a space to practice music and meditate during the pandemic, weddings, rager dance parties, and is the hub for the annual Rock River Artists Tour.

No one will be turned away, but a \$10 suggested donation is welcome. Concert-goers are invited to bring their own snacks and beverages. For more information, contact [snschoolhouse@gmail.com](mailto:snschoolhouse@gmail.com).

### Protest focuses on U.S. involvement in Yemen war

BRATTLEBORO — On Wednesday, March 1, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Brattleboro Post Office on Main Street, there will be a protest to seek the end of U.S. support for Saudi-led war on Yemen.

The Brattleboro action is part of a nationwide protest to mark the eighth anniversary of the war on Yemen.

According to organizers, the war in Yemen "has killed hundreds of thousands of people and wreaked havoc on the country. In part as a result of organizing, for over 10 months Saudi Arabia has not dropped any bombs on Yemen. This could change anytime. We call on Congress for a permanent end to U.S. complicity (which includes arms sales and military support) in one of the world's largest humanitarian atrocities."

For more information about the March 1 protests, and how to help the people in Sudan, visit [every75seconds.org](http://every75seconds.org).

### Marlboro hosts annual Mud Fling

MARLBORO — On Saturday, March 4, from 6 to 9 p.m., the annual Mud Fling will take place at

the Marlboro Community Center with an evening of music and unlimited decadent desserts in conjunction with an online auction ending that night.

Admission to the Mud Fling is \$15-\$25 per person, sliding scale. Childcare will be available at Marlboro Elementary School for a small fee.

This event will also feature a 50/50 raffle and some secret auction items that may be bid on only in person. Music will be provided by local band Dante and the MoonDogs in this joint fundraiser for the Marlboro Junior High's trip to Washington, D.C., and the Marlboro Community Center.

Before the Mud Fling, people may bid in their online auction at [bit.ly/703-mud](http://bit.ly/703-mud) from now through March 4.

### Townshend Farmers' Market seeks vendors

TOWNSHEND — Applications are now available for the 2023 Townshend Farmers' Market, located at the West Townshend Country Store. The market runs on Fridays, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., beginning May 26 and continues through Oct. 6.

Items sold will include fresh and preserved fruits and vegetables; flowers, seeds, and seedlings; honey and maple syrup; natural fibers; and eggs, meats, cheese and other farm products.

Homemade baked goods and other prepared foods and drinks that contain local ingredients, plants grown by the vendor, and handcrafted items using local agricultural materials or traditional crafts—such as handspinning, blacksmithing, pottery—are also welcome.

Applications can be found on the West River Community Project website at [westtownshend.org/farmers-market](http://westtownshend.org/farmers-market), or contact market manager Jennifer Yocom at [townshendfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:townshendfarmersmarket@gmail.com).

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**Town of Townshend Highway Department ROAD CREW JOB OPENING**  
Current CDL required  
Heavy equipment experience preferred  
Applications may be picked up Townshend Town Hall located at 2006 RT30, Townshend, or call 802-365-7300. Applications are due by Friday, March 10, 2023. Return to: Road Crew Town of Townshend, PO Box 223, Townshend VT 05353. Competitive salary and benefits. E.O.E.



### Greater Falls Connections seeks Prevention Coordinator

(30 hrs. + benefits)

Direct support not involved.

Apply: [greaterfallsconnections.org/about/jobs](http://greaterfallsconnections.org/about/jobs)



### Full Time Class A CDL Driver

Monday through Friday.

Minimum of 3 years experience in a similar field preferred.

Log loader experience preferred but not required.

Must be 21 and have a clean MVR.

Competitive benefits package includes:

Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, Life Insurance, Short Term Disability, 401(k)

Please forward resume and cover letter to:

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1103 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301  
[employment@cersosimo.com](mailto:employment@cersosimo.com)

## 'Solidarity Happy Hour' fundraiser benefits Ukraine

BRATTLEBORO — On the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, siblings Kerry Secrest, Honorary Consul of Lithuania to Vermont, and Christian Stromberg, owner of Saxtons River Distillery, are holding a casual fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 24, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at Saxtons Distillery, 155 Chickering Drive.

The event is free. Patrons are asked to come in solidarity with Ukraine, buy a drink, and make a donation of any amount.

"Russia is preparing for a brutal spring offensive. To help save Ukrainian lives and to mark a year since the beginning of this illegal invasion, I invite you to participate in the Lithuanian-led grassroots campaign to raise \$10 million to purchase much-needed radar," Secrest said in a news release.

According to Secrest, Ukraine has been working with old Soviet-produced radars not designed to detect or track small and low-flying objects. The funds raised during the campaign will be used to purchase multi-functional tactical radars.

At this event, Stromberg will have his new product, Snowdrop Vodka, available for purchase. He developed a new spirit that honored his family's Eastern European heritage during a time of unrest in the region, and 50 percent of the profit will support Ukraine via the nonprofit Blue/Yellow USA. To date, he has raised over \$3,000.

"People often feel powerless watching this war from the sidelines," Secrest said. "This campaign is an important and timely opportunity to act locally in order to save lives in this fight for democracy in Ukraine and the world. The outcome of this war will have ripple effects on the future of colonial imperialism, tyranny and the rule of law, and nuclear proliferation. We cannot get tired, which is what Putin hopes the West will do."

To register for the free event, visit [bit.ly/3YGRNT3](http://bit.ly/3YGRNT3). To donate, visit [foblueyellowukraineusa.org](http://foblueyellowukraineusa.org) (for this radar campaign), in the company line write: Radar-VT). To learn more, see [lithuanianvermont.com](http://lithuanianvermont.com).

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## TOWN OF HINSDALE IS HIRING

### Camp Counselors

Are you looking for a summer job experience?! Join us at the Hinsdale Summer Camp! We're looking for energetic counselors that want to be positive role models for children and have fun. Camp Counselors work outside assisting campers with activities, while providing a enjoyable and safe environment.

Counselors will receive free training in CPR and First Aid.

Training is scheduled for the week of June 26, 2023 and camp will run through August 11, 2023. Hours are Monday-Friday 8a-3:30p.

Applicants must be at least 15 years old.

### Assistant to Town Clerk/Tax Collector Offices

The Assistant Clerk is a front-line customer service position, is knowledgeable of modern office practices, procedures and equipment. The ideal candidate has the ability to understand and follow moderately complex instructions and make minor decisions in accordance with departmental policy. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to servicing the residents and customers of the Town of Hinsdale, NH, processing motor vehicle transactions through the State of NH's motor vehicle computer system, processing tax payments, assisting with election duties, and preparing and recording daily cash receipts for deposit preparation.

### Minimum qualifications:

NH Municipal Agent Credentials (or completion of training within first 45 days of employment). This includes going to Concord, NH for a one-week training and other days for training as needed. High School Diploma or equivalent with two years of experience in an office setting required. Proficiency with Microsoft Office products and the ability to learn additional software programs with a general understanding of information technology. Ability to learn State and local laws governing motor vehicle registration, dog licensing, vital statistics, marriage licensing, and related laws governing the operation of the Town Clerk's office (including voting laws and requirements). Knowledge of general office practices and procedures. Ability to prioritize work and plan accordingly. Excellent communication skills, adaptable and professional, basic math skills, ability to maintain confidential information and strong attention to detail.

Interested individuals may submit an application with a minimum of 3 references to Sarah Tatro, Human Resources Manager, Town of Hinsdale, PO Box 13, 11 Main Street, Hinsdale, NH 03451. Applications may be dropped off at the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall. EOE.

# MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

## College news

• **Noah Distefano** of West Townshend and **Veronica Stevens** of Newfane were members of the class of December 2022 at Castleton University. They will be recognized during Castleton's 236th Commencement in May.

• **Tyler Millerick**, a general business major from Vernon, was named to the President's List for the fall 2022 semester at Western New England University in Springfield, Massachusetts.

• **Cassidy Gallivan** of West Dover and **Avery White** of Townshend were both named to Ithaca (N.Y.) College's fall 2022 Dean's List.

• **William Frank** of South Londonderry, **Caroline Mehner** of West Wardsboro, and **Owen Rounds** of Westminster were all named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Connecticut.

• **Madison Haskell** of Bellows Falls and **Haley Covillion** of Bellows Falls were both named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts.

## Obituaries



• **Anna (Annie) Shold Boemig** of Brattleboro died after a struggle with Alzheimer's dementia and an aggressive and rare cancer. She was born in Storm Lake, Iowa on January 14, 1947 to Nel Mae (Furlow) and Clifford Oliver Shold. She always called herself an Iowa farm girl, even after decades of living in Vermont. Annie always felt blessed to have survived Polio and childhood cancer from which she lost her eye. She decided to become a nurse while reading books in a crab apple tree on her family's farm in Albert City, Iowa. Annie graduated from Albert City High School at the top of her class and was given a full scholarship to the Swedish Covenant School of Nursing in Chicago. She won the Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow award before heading off to college. After being licensed as a Registered Nurse she worked in the ER at the Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago. When she and her best friend, Paultette, decided they wanted to leave Chicago, they spun a map attached to a lazy susan, covered their eyes and pointed. Someone's finger landed on Brattleboro, Vermont. They both got jobs at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital intending to stay one year. Instead, Ann met Peter Boemig when he was her patient and she never left Brattleboro. They were married on April 24, 1976. Annie worked in the ER, then as the head of pediatrics and later in the ambulatory care unit. People remembered being her patient, and even years later if they encountered her they would compliment her and thank her for her care. One

of her last reviews included that Annie spent "too much time with her patients." She volunteered for the American Red Cross blood drives for decades. She was a dedicated member of Trinity Lutheran Church; where she was a lifelong member of the choir, taught church school, the childrens' weekly sing-a-long, and was at the heart of the annual Swedish bake sale. Every year she made sure that hundreds of loaves of Cardamom bread, Tea Rings and Swedish Limpa bread were produced. Additionally, she was a board member and a delegate of the New England WELCA. She believed deeply in compassion, medicine, science, and faith. She leaves behind her husband and their children Katrina Boemig, Amy Boemig, Jacqueline Velazquez, and David Velazquez; David's wife Rachel and their kids, Lucia, Ellianna, Gloria, and Josie. She also leaves behind brothers Ted, Dan and his wife Sue, and Clifford Jr. and his wife Frankie, and her "nibblings" Joshua, Kelli, Vicki, and Carole Marie and their extended families. Additionally, she leaves behind Bob Boemig, his daughter Adele and her partner Nick. Peggy (Boemig) Cavangh and her husband David, as well as their children Scott and Alan and Alan's fiance' Kirstin. Annie's close cousins are many and blanket America but especially dear to her heart was her cousin Deb, who was like a sister to her throughout her life. Annie's chosen family included the Richardson's of Vernon, and Paulette Duria of Wisconsin. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** Funeral services were held Feb. 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brattleboro. Donation to the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Association, David's House in Lebanon, New Hampshire, or Trinity Lutheran Church.



• **Rhonda Lee Brown, 62**, of Jamaica. Died unexpectedly on Jan. 23, 2023. Rhonda was born in Southport, North Carolina on Sept. 10, 1960, the daughter of Raymond Smith and Irene (Knight) Smith. She graduated from Leland & Gray Union High School with the Class of 1979. She was married to Carl Brown in 1979 and later divorced. They had two children together. She graduated from Whitman's Academy of Hair Design in Brattleboro in 1990. Rhonda enjoyed spending time in her flower gardens, strumming on the guitar, listening to music, and spending time with her family and friends. She loved the beach and playing in the sand. She loved animals, especially her late dog Jazzy. Rhonda leaves one daughter, Crystal Jackson of Jamaica, and one son, Carl Brown Jr. of Jamaica. She is also survived by her brothers, Romaine Smith of Jamaica, Raymond Smith of Londonderry, and Milton Smith of Londonderry. Additionally, she is survived by her beloved grandchildren, Rio and Rally Jackson,

and her best friend and cousin, Toni Nickell Benton of Shallotte, North Carolina. Rhonda was predeceased by her parents, her beloved sister Ramona Coleman, and her brother Norman Smith. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A celebration of life will be held at a later date. To share a memory or send condolences to Rhonda's family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Gary L. Carrier, 81**, formerly of Brattleboro. Died peacefully on Feb. 10, 2023. Services will take place in Brattleboro in the spring, and a full obituary will be published at a later date.



• **Dana F. Dix, 73**, of Whitingham. Died Feb. 8, 2023 at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington. Dana was born in North Adams, Massachusetts on Aug. 16, 1949, son of the late Frank Jasper and Geneva Malah (Bernard) Dix. Dana attended local schools and, in his earlier years, worked for Francis Bartlett before and after enlisting in the Coast Guard. He then started his own business in 1986, Dana Dix Builders. Dana was very active in the community. He was a Fire Chief and Forest Fire Warden, Commander of the American Legion, Town Constable, and a member of the Whitingham Zoning Board, Selectboard, and Cemetery Commission. He was on the Old Home Week Committee in charge of fireworks and the parade, the main organizer for Maple Fest, designed the club patch for the EZ Riders snowmobile club, and was a boating safety instructor. Dana was also an EMT and officer with the Whitingham Ambulance Service. Most of all, Dana enjoyed sugaring, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, playing horseshoes and dominoes, and spending time with his family at his camp in Morgan, Vermont. He enjoyed taking cruises to the Caribbean and embarked on a cruise to Alaska for his 25th wedding anniversary. Dana is survived by his wife Shirley LeMaire Dix of Whitingham, whom he married April 19, 1975 in Readsboro; their children Sheldon Dix, and his significant other Kristen Breeden of Jacksonville and Maureen Dix and her significant other Jason Tobey of Wilmington; brothers Robert Dix and his wife Cindy of The Villages, Florida, and Gary Dix and his significant other Jane Price of Whitingham; grandchildren Tyler, Callie, Sara, William, and Beau, his great grandson Tyler Jr., and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by brothers Richard, Frank, and Douglas, and his nephew Richard. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A celebration of life for Dana was held Feb. 17 at Covey-Allen & Shea Funeral Home. Graveside funeral services for Dana will be held April 19, at 11 a.m., in Sadawga Cemetery in Whitingham. Donations to the Whitingham Rescue Service/Fire Department, in Covey-Allen & Shea Funeral Home, P.O. Box 215, Wilmington, VT 05363.



• **Edward John "Ed" Druke Sr., 91**, of Newfane. Died peacefully on Feb. 8, 2023, surrounded by loved ones. Ed was born to the late Josef Karl Johann Druke and Gertrude Emma (Hickethier) Druke in 1931 in Williamsville. He was the ninth of 13 children and graduated from St. Michael's High School in Brattleboro in 1949. Ed married Jean Anne (Gray) Druke of Williamsville in 1952 and they lived in Williamsville until moving to Newfane Hill in the early 1980s. Together, they built a wonderful life and raised six children. In the 1950s, Ed served in the Army and stationed in Italy as a Chaplain's Assistant. He also spent decades serving his community at home by

way of the Newfane Selectboard, local school boards, and much more. As the town of Newfane noted in its 2004 Annual Report, which they dedicated to Ed and Jean: "Ed has served on just about every board or committee that has existed over the years." He was a devoted and supportive husband and father, and his primary focus was always his family. Ed was known for his kindness, generosity, humor and empathy, traits that radiated from him throughout his life. He was also known for his near-constant laughter, captivating stories, frequent brushes with catastrophe, and signature phrases that his loved ones are honored to carry on in his memory. As an expert farmer, meticulous property manager, skilled problem-solver, relentlessly hard worker, and a self-described "old bastard," Ed devotedly supported his family throughout his entire life, cultivating countless meaningful relationships along the way. When you spoke with him, he listened intently and was eager to have spirited conversations. Ed was deeply dedicated to Jean, his loving wife of 64 years, who he tenderly cared for leading up to her final moments in 2016. He loved spending time with his family and truly lit up when surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was charismatic, gracious, community-centered, and deeply respectful of others. He was very loved and will be profoundly missed by all who knew him. Ed is survived by four daughters and two sons: Claire Johns of Dummerston, Cathy Coonan (Rick Manson) of Brattleboro, Elaine (Rob) North of Ferrisburgh, Emily Long of Newfane, Edward (Terri) Druke, Jr. of Newfane, and Tom (Melissa) Druke of Middletown, New York. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Ed was predeceased by his grandson, Joshua Druke, as well as all 12 of his siblings: Gertrude, Elizabeth, Bernard, Mathilda, Arthur, Joseph, Mary, Frances, John, Theresa, Barbara, and Charles. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** In accordance with Ed's wishes, there will be no service. Plans for a future celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Donations to Bradley House ([gardenpathelderliving.org/donation](http://gardenpathelderliving.org/donation)) or Brattleboro Area Hospice ([brattleborohospice.org/how-you-can-help/donate-to-hospice](http://brattleborohospice.org/how-you-can-help/donate-to-hospice)). In his honor, and in grateful celebration of his remarkable 91 years on this earth, the family wishes to close with one of Ed's signature phrases of endearment that he shouted, through laughter, when anyone he cared for would leave his house: "Come again when you can't stay so long!" To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Peter L. Dupuis 75**, of Rockingham. Died Feb. 10, 2023 at his home. Peter was born on November 5, 1947 to Carl and Eleanor Dupuis. He served his country in the Army from 1964 to 1968, spending 18 months in Vietnam. Peter is survived by his wife JoAnne (Small) and children Michelle Dupuis of Springfield, Vermont and Michael Dupuis of Westfield, Massachusetts. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, his brother Ronald Dupuis of Florence, Arizona, an aunt, June Smith of Saxtons River, whom he was very close to; as well as many nieces and nephews. Peter was predeceased by his parents and a brother, Dayton Dupuis. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A funeral service was held on Feb. 18 at Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, with burial in the Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery.

• **Andrew F. Hauty, 69**, of Marlboro, and Medford, New Jersey. Died Jan. 6, 2023, surrounded by his family, after a series of medical complications that led to respiratory failure. Andy was best known for his fun-loving and plucky spirit. He



was spontaneous, joyful, and always up for a game, idea, action, or shenanigan. He had a gift for helping those around him feel appreciated, valued, and uplifted. He had a rollicking, contagious laugh, which he deployed many times a day, in all contexts. Born Jan. 30, 1954 in San Antonio, Texas, Andy spent most of his youth in Newark, Delaware, and attended the University of Delaware where he studied criminal justice. After graduating, he worked for the Criminal Justice Council in Wilmington, Delaware, where he focused on special programming alternatives to incarceration. In 1989, he moved to New England and earned his M.S. in education from Antioch New England Graduate School. He went on to become a career educator, teaching at Townshend Elementary School, Center School in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and in the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union, where he served as director of Wings Community After-School Programs as well as coordinator for the Deerfield Valley Community Partnership to prevent drug and alcohol abuse. Andy's boundless energy, imagination, and creativity was especially evident when it came to producing his one-of-a-kind youth theater productions. These extravaganzas were executed against many odds via extraordinary vision, hard work, and can-do attitude. No idea was too daunting for these immersive, innovative productions which were fueled by Andy's faith in the young performers and the community who surrounded them. Andy also spent joyous time in the care and keeping of his vast lavender gardens and off-the-grid house, which he built and adored in Marlboro. A natural athlete, Andy ran cross-country and spent a year with the national team for modern pentathlon. He was an avid swimmer from a very young age and swam regularly all of his life, no matter where he lived, including a memorably chilly and gutsy swim to Alcatraz Island. Andy loved action, especially in nature. He and his wife Jobi shared a passion for rock climbing and most especially loved the Shawangunks of New York and Red Rocks of Nevada. He loved bike-touring, hiking, and camping. He, Jobi, and his children Lizz and Lucia enjoyed wilderness canoe adventures in Maine, the Canada Maritimes, and Algonquin Provincial Park. Andy spent most of his free time dreaming about his next travel adventure. He and Jobi lived abroad in Panajachel, Guatemala for several years where they taught school and eventually founded Panajachel Colegio Internacional. Recently Andy, Jobi, and their children Lia, Beckett and Quinn, lived for two years in Bordeaux, France where he enjoyed van camping trips around Europe. In 2021, they moved to New Jersey, where Andy continued to have dance parties with his children, swim as often as possible, work in the garden, and make his family laugh their butts off. Andy loved deeply and was loved in turn by his family and many friends. He is survived by his wife Jobi and their children, Lizz, Lucia, Lia, Beckett, and Quinn; grandchildren Hayden, Ariana, and Luca; siblings, Mike, Kathy, and Chris, sister-in-law Rose, nieces Savannah and Heather, nephews George and Jackson, parents-in-law, Peggy and Art, first wife, Jodi, his good dog Sebastian, and his cat Dog. Andy was predeceased by his parents, George and Patricia, and father-in-law Herb. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A public celebration for Andy will be held Saturday, May 27, at 2 p.m., at Memorial Hall in Wilmington. Come prepared to celebrate Andy with that magically wild spirit that he could

bring out in all of us. The family suggests "donning tutus, flashy sunglasses, colored wigs, Hawaiian shirts, and...well, just surprise us in true Andy fashion!" If you have a favorite picture or story to share, bring it along for an interactive scrapbook. Visit the memorial website at [andyhautymemorial.com](http://andyhautymemorial.com) for more information. Cards and letters can be sent to P.O. Box 345, Marlboro, VT 05344. Memorial contributions for the care and education of Andy's youngest children - "Hauty-Dansy Children Memorial Fund" can also be mailed to that address, or donate through Venmo @Jobi-Dansy with the note "Andy's Kids."

• **Norbert Bernard "Norb" Johnston, 91**, of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, formerly of Brattleboro. Died peacefully,



surrounded by his loving family, on Feb. 3, 2023 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass. Norb was born in Pittsburgh on Jan. 9, 1932, the third of eight children born to Gorman James and Anna Josephine (Thinnes) Johnston. He was raised and educated in Pittsburgh, where he attended Catholic schools. After graduating from high school, he proudly served his nation in the Army, enlisting on Sept. 18, 1950. He served with the Signal Corps during the Korean Conflict and was a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam Conflict. While in the Army, Norb also earned two bachelor's degrees and a graduate degree from the University of Southern California in international relations. Norb was honorably discharged from active service at the rank of colonel on May 1, 1980 at Fort Monroe, Virginia. Following his discharge from the Army, he attended Antioch New England University, earning a master's in organization and management. Norb was passionate about helping others, and in particular helping them do what they loved through small business. In his work with the Small Business Development Centers in Brattleboro and Springfield and, later, through his own consulting business, he helped many in the area start and maintain their own small businesses. Norb was always involved in the community in a number of different ways, most notably as a member of Rotary International serving in the Brattleboro Rotary Club, the Shelburne Falls Kiwanis Club, the Knights of Columbus, the Gideons International (Windham County Camp) and the Shelburne Falls VFW. He also served on various boards in the Brattleboro area throughout his career. Norb considered himself a Catholic and non-denominational Protestant and was most recently a communicant of Saint Joseph's Parish in Shelburne Falls. Of his leisure time activities, he enjoyed flying, hiking, camping, swimming and sharing time with his family. Anyone who knew Norb knew how much he loved: his faith, his family, his community, his country, and flying. He believed that one person could make a difference in the world, and he did his best to put that belief into action in the lives of those around him. He didn't always do it gracefully, but that never kept him from trying. His sense of curiosity, humor, duty, honor, and faith was with him until the end; they now live on in his family, and those who knew him best. He will be dearly missed. On Oct. 9, 1952, he was married to Joanne A. Marshall. They had five children together, and the marriage ended in divorce on March 31, 1971. Four of their five children survive him: Robert, Norbert, and Richard Johnston of Pittsburgh; and Mary Ellen Hennessee of Rochester, New York. On Oct. 2, 1971, he was married to Doris Lillian Robinson, who survives, along with their children Kristopher Johnston of Brattleboro, Kimberley Morrell of Brattleboro, and Kelley Johnston Willison of Gloucester, Massachusetts. He also leaves three siblings: Regis of Luzby, Maryland, Verna of Hermitage, Pennsylvania, and Coletta of Cape Coral, Florida; and 17 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, James (Jim) Johnston; a grandson, Joshua (Josh) Prescott; and siblings Gorman, Richard, Adrian and Barbara Ann (Sister Mary Gorman). **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A funeral Mass will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Shelburne Falls on March 4 at 11 a.m. Burial services will be held at a later date at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center. Donations to the Christian Appalachian Project ([christianappalachianproject.org](http://christianappalachianproject.org)) or Kiva ([kiva.org](http://kiva.org)). To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

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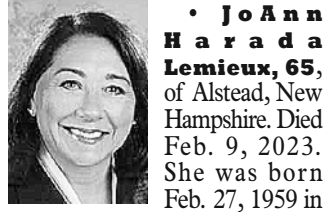
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• **Scott Edwin Lake, 36**, died unexpectedly on Dec. 1, 2022. Scott was born on March 17, 1986 in Brattleboro. He was an amazing, fun, loving, and adventurous father. He graduated from Bellows Falls Union High School in 2006 and worked doing roofing and solar installation. He was a super handyman who could fix or build anything. Scott was very creative and artistic using many different kinds of materials. He was very thoughtful and helpful to his neighbors. He leaves behind two beautiful daughters, Desiree Lake and Payton Loomis both of Brattleboro. His mother Cathy (Jenna) and stepfather Mathew Shaw of Brattleboro; his father Ronald Lake of Saxtons River; his brother Keith Lake and his wife Sarah of West Brattleboro; half-brothers Julius Montagna and his wife Amber and Demetrius Montagna, and half-sister Gabriella (Montagna) and her husband Arijan Sejdic all of Tennessee; half-sister Jessica Lake and half-brother Joshua Lake, both of Vermont; a step-sister Tonya and a stepbrother Tyler; his grandmother Roberta Jenna of Guilford; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his grandparents Sherwood Sr. and Lauria Lake of Brattleboro, and his grandfather William (Bill) Jenna Sr. of Guilford. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of his life will be held on March 18 at American Legion Post 5, 32 Linden St., Brattleboro, from 3 to 5 p.m.



• **JoAnn Harada Lemieux, 65**, of Alstead, New Hampshire. Died Feb. 9, 2023. She was born Feb. 27, 1959 in Japan, the daughter of Elwood and Nancy (Harada) Lemieux. She grew up in Plattsburgh, New York and graduated from Plattsburgh Senior High School in 1977 and went on to earn her B.A. in industrial/organizational psychology from State University of New York at Plattsburgh in 1982. She worked in the financial services industry with various companies as an agent, principal broker, wealth strategist, life insurance consultant, and estate planning specialist throughout her career. Most notably, she worked for A.B. Gile Financial Services in Hanover, New Hampshire as principal broker from 1989 to 2001, and for Smith Companies, LTD, as a sales vice-president and estate planning specialist from 2002 to 2012. It was during her tenure with Smith Companies that she met her love and partner, Philip George. They made their home together in Alstead. JoAnn's life revolved around hers and Philip's family, her Rotary club of Lebanon New Hampshire, and her world travels. JoAnn would often comment on how blessed she was to have been able to travel to places like Patagonia, Galapagos, Myanmar, Switzerland, Norway, Costa Rica, and the Bahamas with Philip. She also enjoyed traveling with Rotary on Friendship Exchanges to Australia and New Zealand. She was planning another Rotary Friendship Exchange trip to Scotland this summer. When she was not traveling, JoAnn busied herself at hers and Philip's home making sure it was always ready to host visitors. She always envisioned her home as a place for the kids and grandkids to come and play in the large yard or adventure out onto the trails in the woods. She loved to host weekend soirees with friends and entertain them with her stories over sometimes spirited card games. She enjoyed her plants and herb garden, hiking in the woods behind her home and always had a passion for riding her motorcycle. JoAnn will be greatly missed by all of her family, friends, colleagues, and especially Philip; his sons Edwin, Jeremy, and Andrew and all the grandkids who have lost their "Omi." She was predeceased by her parents and a sister, Jennie Lemieux. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A service and celebration of life will be conducted at a later date to be announced by the funeral home. As a Rotarian for over 35 years, JoAnn would be pleased if donations were made to the Rotary Foundation ([rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation](http://rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation)). To share a memory or send condolences to JoAnn's family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **William Bayley "Bill" Lockwood, 73**, of Bellows Falls. Died Jan. 14, 2023 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, after suffering the long-term effects of Covid and a recurrence of the cancer he had kept at bay for many years. At his side was Jeanie, his loving wife of nearly 44 years, and her sister, brother, brother-in-law, and nephew. Bill was born in 1949 to the late Harry and Marguerite Lockwood, where

he lived and thrived until the early 1990s before settling in Vermont where he continued to live a happy, active, and full life. He was much loved by his wife's family, sadly not having much family of his own, his numerous friends, co-workers throughout his social work career and his adopted community of Bellows Falls. He especially loved being an uncle. Bill will always be remembered for his warm and welcoming smile, cheerful and optimistic nature, sense of humor, generous spirit, kindness, and willingness to help. He loved good conversation and could talk to anyone from anywhere about anything and had the ability to stop everything and just listen, making anyone feel like the most important person in the room. Above all, he will be remembered for his unconditional love for his wife, family and friends. Bill had numerous and varied interests and many talents, most beginning at a young age. He pursued his passions for writing, reading, theater, music, concerts, liberal politics, film, trivia, carpentry, making models, trains (real ones and models), the outdoors, and travel his entire life. He added new ones along the way — including gardening, entertaining, being what he called his wife's "sous chef," summer grilling with his favorite beer in hand, helping with his wife's Christmas cookies, and exploring the Vermont State Parks. He loved working with his hands and, growing up, he wanted to be a carpenter but his parents insisted he go to college. Some highlights from his Baltimore years include attending Calvert Hall High School, four years playing the trumpet for the Baltimore Colts Marching Band, and graduating from Loyola University, with a major in political science. Immediately after graduation, he began his long career as a social worker, working for the state of Maryland as a juvenile and foster care case worker for about 20 years. He started his lifelong involvement in community theater while in high school, and eventually was one of the founders of the very successful Fells Point Corner Theater, where he directed plays, operated lights and sound, played drums and guitar, built sets, wrote programs and press releases, and did whatever had to be done from painting to cleaning toilets or meeting with argumentative zoning council members. Bill met Jeanie, his lifelong partner and soulmate, when she moved to Baltimore in 1974 and she began doing shows with the same community theater groups he worked with. They married in 1979 and started their adventures together. After his wife attended graduate school at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, they fell in love with Vermont and decided to move there permanently in 1994. They settled in Bellows Falls, where they renovated an historic "Painted Lady" (for which they won a Rockingham Old House Award) and brought his parents from Baltimore to spend their last years together. After his parents passing, they converted the in-law apartment into a B&B, the Village Guest Suite, until they sold the house. After coming to Vermont, Bill continued his career (what he jokingly referred to as his "day job") in social work with the state of Vermont, for about 17 years, working in foster care, long term care, and as a benefits worker. He was a much-respected case worker, well known for his compassion towards others. When not getting paid to work, he quickly found opportunities to pursue his many interests. The couple established themselves as community volunteers when they joined the Our Town Civic Organization in Bellows Falls, dedicated to improving the cultural life of the area and preserving its rich history. First came the restoration of the Clock Tower at the Town Hall, which led to Bill volunteering to be the Chair of the Bellows Falls Opera House Restoration Committee, acting as a liaison with the Selectboard, state representatives, and the many volunteers who wanted to see the Opera House spruced up and become a multipurpose cultural facility. With his wife and small group of people with community theater backgrounds, they formed the Front Porch Theater Company, which produced many plays, including the original "Front Porch Tales" (written by the members themselves) "Vagina Monologues" (the first official production after the restoration) a production for the Rockingham 250th Celebration, and a very successful, multi-year summer concert series that used the charming front porches and other historic venues in the village. They also organized other events and projects, including a cookbook. All the funds raised by the group were donated to the restoration fund. Bill was awarded the Greater Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year in 2006 in recognition of his nearly 10 years of work as chair of the committee. Bill remained an active volunteer with several area

community theaters until recently, helping out at Main Street Arts, Wild Goose Players, Springfield Players, Walpole Players, and River Theater — writing press releases and articles, building sets, directing, stage managing and being an all-around "go-to" guy. The only thing he wouldn't do was act or sing (although he was known to do a cameo or two), preferring to work behind the scenes. After his retirement he realized his life-long dream of having his first novel published and started devoting himself more fully to writing novels and short stories. Bill had six historical fiction novels published by The Wild Rose Press. In addition, he wrote reviews for various literary journals. He leaves behind his wife, Jeanie Levesque, his sister-in-law MJ Trask and her husband Ben; his brother-in-law Jeff Levesque and his wife Bev; niece Laura Levesque, her husband Russ, and children Alex, Althea and Caleb; nephew David Levesque and his children Rachel and Chris, niece Michelle Januzzi Marshall and her husband Erik, nephew Nick Januzzi, his wife Veronica and their daughter Gia, and several of his wife's cousins. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A joyful celebration of his life is planned for September, his favorite month. Donations to the Bellows Falls Opera House ([bellowsfallsoperahouse.com](http://bellowsfallsoperahouse.com)), the Rockingham Free Public Library ([rockinghamlibrary.org](http://rockinghamlibrary.org)), or the Wild Goose Players ([wildgooseplayers.com](http://wildgooseplayers.com)).

• **Jonathan Mark "Jon" Miller, 63**, of Grafton. Died Jan. 20, 2023 at his home in Grafton. Jon was born on June 28, 1959. He coached baseball for the younger kids and was league commissioner for a period of time when his kids were attending Grafton Elementary School. He always took an interest in the friends of his children and many of them have shared their memories of those conversations. He also put in a stint on the Town Planning Committee. Jon was a true autodidact. He had many interests and loved learning. He jumped on the technology bandwagon early on and became very knowledgeable about computer systems. The jobs that put his talents to best use were working as data system manager at Stratton Mountain, Janos Technology, and Choicepoint and as technology support at Westminster Schools until 1999. Jon has been dealing with thyroid eye disease, a number of heart issues and battling end stage kidney disease, learning and using home dialysis for 4 years. The combination was a hard fight to win. Jon enjoyed — both for pleasure and at competitive levels — tennis, ping pong, and chess, which he could play without a board or pieces, keeping the entire game in his mind! Jon had many interests and an encyclopedic knowledge of many topics. His many interests included planning and creating model train layouts, chess, drumming, math, music, history, philosophy, religious history, computers, comics (especially Batman) and a love of old-time radio and TV. He could regale you with facts on Sherlock Holmes, the DC universe, Marvel, Tarzan, *Star Trek*, *The Munsters*, and *Dr. Who* as he found the history and many overlaps of characters and plots interesting and often amusing. He loved the knowing of things for the sheer fun of it and happily engaged in conversations and debates. People loved his sense of humor and dry wit. After traveling back and forth many times across the country as a child, Jon's favorite place to be was his home in Grafton. No job or social engagement could compete with his love of home. Jon's main focus the minute he left home was how soon he was going to be back there. He loved to sit on his deck and ponder life and in recent years plan his train layout. He could spend hours with his Walthers train catalog happy as a clam. Jon was predeceased by his parents Barbara Clark Miller (1976) and Robert Miller (2000), his daughter Megan Marie Miller (2000), and his beloved mother-in-law Beatrice Fisher, who loved him as her own (2013). He is survived by his wife Sheryl Fisher Miller; his beloved children, Marissa and Nathan Bennett of Grafton; Mark and Soledad Fernandez Miller of Austin, Texas; grandsons Dante Bennett, Theo Bennett, and Ori Bennett, and sister Heidi Schroeder and her three sons, John, Jason and Jordan. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: None provided.

• **Leola M. "Lee" Ramsay, 85**, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died February 11, 2023, in Slocomb, Alabama. Lee was born April 10, 1937, in Rockingham to Joseph and Alice Ann (Howe Butson) Perry, the youngest of nine children. She grew up in Athens, and spent most of her life in the Walpole, Westmoreland, and Hinsdale area. Lee worked various jobs throughout her life, including MPB in Keene, Electrosonics in Spofford, and many waitress and chef jobs in

the area. She owned and operated H'n'R Restaurant in Westminster in the 1970's. She worked for G. Allen Holmes of Walpole at Crescent Farms and then at Lilac Hedge Garden Center for many years. Lee was known for her beautiful flower gardens and her pier, both of which she shared with many friends and neighbors. She is survived by her children Leon (Michelle) Kenyon of Cape Coral, Florida, Beverly (Normand) Gagnon of Milford, New Hampshire, James (Terri) Kathan of Langdon, New Hampshire, and Earl (Kathy) Kathan Jr. of Red Creek, New York; grandchildren Angela (Derrick) Boulais, Jaime (Dan) Goulet, Courtney (Mike) Klappert, Eric (Jennifer) Kenyon, Ginger (Rob) Hughes, Diana (Jason) Leach, Benjamin Kathan, Scott (Sarah) Ramsay, and Sharon Ramsay O'Laughlin; sisters Shirley Peelle of Taylor, Alabama, and Elizabeth Tuttle of New Berlin, New York, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 28 years, Kenneth Ramsay, an infant son, Benjamin Kathan, stepson Kenneth Ramsay Jr., and siblings Bertha Fernette, Gordon Perry, Henry Perry, Bernard Perry, Cora Fletcher and Robert Perry. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Private burial will be in South Village Cemetery in Westmoreland. A celebration of her life will be held at a date yet to be determined. Donations to Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services, 312 Marlboro St., Keene, NH 03431.

• **Mary Elizabeth "Betsey" Reagan, 63**, of Wilmington. Died Feb. 9, 2023 at her home. Betsey was born in Bethpage, New York on March 21, 1959, the daughter of the late Joseph and Irene (Griffin) Reagan. She graduated from McArthur High School in Levittown, Long Island, and earned her bachelor's in fashion and business from Westbury College. In her earlier years, Betsey was the youngest window dresser for many large retail stores. Upon moving to Vermont, she owned and operated Dots Restaurant of Dover for many years. Betsey enjoyed shopping, was always in fashion and was known as a fashion plate. She was a member of the Mt. Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce and volunteered at Twice Blessed. Betsey is survived by her sister Phyllis Arnold (Al) of Virginia and Florida; brother Paul Reagan (Jane) of Quebec; sister-in-law Patti Reagan of Wardsboro; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her brother, John Reagan. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 10:30 a.m., at Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church, of which she was a member. Visiting hours will be held Monday, Feb. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Covey-Allen & Shea Funeral Home in Wilmington. Interment will be held in the spring in Riverview Cemetery next to her parents. Donations to the Gathering Place, Grace Cottage Hospital or Twice Blessed, in care Covey-Allen & Shea Funeral Home, P.O. Box 215, Wilmington, VT 05363. To send condolences, visit [sheafuneralhomes.com](http://sheafuneralhomes.com).

## Former Bellows Falls participant joins Youth Services board

BRATTLEBORO—Richard "Ricky" Adams, the director of technology for Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNEUSU), recently joined 11 other community members in serving on Youth Services' board of directors. With 20 programs — including restorative justice, after-school mentoring, transitional living, workforce development, counseling and case management — Youth Services, a non-profit agency celebrating its 50th Anniversary, builds community in Windham County. Adams has held various technology-related roles at WNEUSU during the last 10 years and has held the Director of Technology title for the last three. Adams started his career under a technology contractor working for area schools, where, he says, he built significant knowledge of technology and school operations.

forward to new challenges ahead as he helps the organization meet its mission of being a catalyst for change. "I'm really excited to contribute to the Youth Services board and give back to an organization that supported me as I transitioned out of high school," Adams said. "Ricky is an amazing 'home-grown' asset for our board," said Youth Services board president Ana Saavedra. "With all his ties to Youth Services, we are so very fortunate for Ricky to join our board as his first choice. His prowess with technology and his familiarity with Bellows Falls, one of the communities where Youth Services has a significant presence, will be an asset, as well as his perspective as a former participant and his comparative youth." Visit [youthservicesinc.org](http://youthservicesinc.org) or call 802-257-0361 to become involved or refer someone to Youth Services.

her family, she decided to get back in the workforce and spent many years working for Vermont Academy, from which she later retired. Barbara's true joy came from spending time with family. She loved hosting holidays and family get-togethers at her home. She treasured the times spent with them and held a special place in her heart for them. Barbara was blessed with the companionship of Bruce Tenney, where they shared these memories together, in their home, for 20 plus years. In her free time, Barbara enjoyed baking, shopping, Bingo, coffee with friends, and visiting family in Massachusetts. She was also an animal lover and loved all her pets greatly, especially her "baby boy" Elliot, who she found through a dog adoption agency. She had a great sense of humor and loved storytelling and reminiscing about past memories with her loved ones. Barbara was preceded in death by her grandparents, Enville and Jennie (Bullard) Vorce; her parents, Cedar Vorce and Helen (Dennett) Lumbis; brothers Larry Vorce and Ricky Lumbis; sisters Bonnie Kunesch and Helen Lumbis, and grandson Cameron Parker. She is survived by sisters Donna Fernet and Diana Swan; a brother, Ronald Vorce; daughters Richess (Henry) Crosby, Brina (Richard) Parker, Jaime (Tom) Smith, Melissa (Walter) Hare, and Chrystal Amidon; a son, Richard (Renee) Prue; and numerous grandchildren,

great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of her life was held Feb. 14 at the Bartonville Grange.

• **Matthew Tenney, 47**, of Athens. Died suddenly in Hinsdale, New Hampshire on Feb. 1, 2023. Matthew was born on Jan. 15, 1976 in Bellows Falls to Gerald and Patricia (Leary) Tenney. Matt is survived by his parents, his sister, Tracey Noyes, his grandfather, Adrian Tenney; his aunt, Lori Bissonett; his wife, Melinda Tenney; and his children Savannah, Abigail, and Joe. Matt was raised and settled in Athens. His hobbies included tending to his plants inside and outside of his house. He loved to cook, working on his home, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, and spending time with his children. Matt would say that his children were the best thing about him. Matt also enjoyed driving his school bus and having his children accompany him. This became a morning ritual for him. He liked spending time with his family and friends. His smile and humor were contagious. Everyone who met him liked him and many loved him. Matt loved cuddling with his children while watching a good movie or help them learn how to fix things. The small things mattered the most, even something like plowing snow turned into a family event. He will be missed. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be held at a later date.

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

## LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHANNEL 1078      CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

| Recent shows   | Check website for schedule   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Here We Are with guest Lester Dunkle:</b> Mon 8p, Tues 6:05p, Thurs 3:30p, Fri 10a, Sat 6:30p, Sun 5:30p</p> <p><b>Harris Hill Ski Jump Livestream:</b> Sat 11a, Sun 11:30a</p> <p><b>Windham County's Got Talent 1/26/23:</b> Mon 12:5p, Tues 9:05p, Wed 4:25p, Thurs 9a, Fri 12:30p, Sat 9a</p> <p><b>Northern Roots Festival 1/28/23:</b> Mon 6a, Tues 12p, Fri 2p</p> <p><b>Landmark College Presents - Taylor Dunne &amp; Eric Stewart - Resisting Nuclear Armament:</b> Wed 9p, Thurs 2p, Fri 7a, Sat 8:30p, Sun 7:30p</p> <p><b>Thorn in My Side - BREAKFAST!</b> Mon 11:0p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 6:45p, Thurs 3:30p, Thurs 4:30p, Fri 10:30a, Sat 7p, Sunday 6p</p> <p><b>Southern Vermont Live Music - Trio Amphion - Masterworks of Baroque Chamber Music:</b> Mon 12p, Tues 8p, Wed 12p, Fri 4:30p, Sat 5:50a, Sun 8:30p</p> <p><b>Southern Vermont Live Music - Sonata Op 5 No. 4 in F Major:</b> Mon 9:15p, Fri 12:15p, Sat 5:30a &amp; 8:5p, Sun 9:45a</p> <p><b>Town of Brattleboro - Borrow Snowshoes from Brooks Memorial Library:</b> Mon 12:4p, Tues 3:30p, Wed 6:55p, Thurs 9:30p, Fri 12:05p &amp; 5:55p, Sat 5:45a, Sun 10a</p> <p><b>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode:</b> Tue 11:30a &amp; 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sun 5p</p> <p><b>WTSA News:</b> Mon-Fri 12p &amp; 6p</p> <p><b>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a</p> <p><b>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service:</b> Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a</p> <p><b>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 10a, Thurs 7a</p> <p><b>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 6:30a, Fri 8:30p, Sun 8a</p> <p><b>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass:</b> Sat 4p (LIVE) on Channel 1079 for this week only, Tue 6:45a &amp; 2p, Thurs 8p</p> | <p><b>Guilford Selectboard Mtg 2/13/23:</b> Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 2p, Sun 8:30a &amp; 8:30p</p> <p><b>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg 2/13/23:</b> Wed 8:30p, Fri 8a, Sat 11a, Sun 6a</p> <p><b>Townshend Selectboard Mtg 2/14/23:</b> Thurs 7p, Fri 11:30a, Sat 1:30p, Sun 6p</p> <p><b>Windham Southeast School District Mtg 2/14/23:</b> Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p</p> <p><b>Brattleboro Development Review Board Mtg 2/15/23:</b> Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p</p> <p><b>Meet the Candidates - Brattleboro Selectboard Candidate Forum 2/16/23:</b> Sat 8p</p> <p><b>Windham Southeast School District Special Mtg 1/30/23:</b> Tues 7:45a, Thurs 5p, Fri 6:45a</p> <p><b>Windham Solid Waste Management District Presents - Where is Away for Recyclables:</b> Mon 7:45, Tues 1:15p, Thurs 5:15p</p> <p><b>Montpelier Connection - Declaration of Inclusion Comes to Windham County:</b> Wed 4p, Thurs 7:30a, Fri 5p, Sat 6p</p> <p><b>Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg 2/6/23:</b> Mon 10a, Tues 6p, Wed 1p, Thurs 12p</p> <p><b>West River Education District Mtg 2/8/23:</b> Mon 6p, Tues 10a, Wed 11:25a, Thurs 5:25p</p> <p><b>Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg 2/9/23:</b> Mon 12p, Tues 6:30a, Thurs 2:45p, Fri 5:30a</p> <p><b>Newfane Planning Commission Mtg 2/9/23:</b> Mon 5:30a, Tues 10:35a</p> <p><b>Rescue Inc Presents - Rescue Inc Consortium Mtg 1/17/23:</b> Mon 6:35p, Wed 10:15a, Thurs 6:15a</p> <p><b>Energy Week with George Harvey &amp; Tom Fimmel:</b> Mon 9a, Tue 5p, Wed 12p, Thu 11a &amp; 6p, Sat 7p, Sun 11a</p> <p><b>The David Pakman Show:</b> Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p</p> |

**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.commonsonline.org](http://www.commonsonline.org).

Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

# Forum will engage candidates for Windham Southeast School Board

BRATTLEBORO—The Commons and the Brattleboro Reformer will host a forum for candidates vying for seats on the Windham Southeast School Board.

The forum will be held this year via Zoom and a call-in number on Monday, Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

The goal is to offer voters an opportunity to get to know the candidates before the four district towns — Guilford, Brattleboro, Putney, and Dummerston — go to the polls on Tuesday, March 7.

Cindy Jerome, Dummerston town moderator, will moderate the forum.

Each participating candidate will be given five minutes for

an opening statement, and all candidates will answer questions from the two journalists on the panel, Melanie Winters, the Reformer's news editor, and Jeff Potter, editor-in-chief of The Commons.

As time permits, the forum will invite questions from the audience. Voters can submit questions in advance to [editor@commonsnews.org](mailto:editor@commonsnews.org).

BCTV will broadcast the forum and will make the video available at its website, [brattleborotv.org](http://brattleborotv.org).

For updates about the forum — including the Zoom link and call-in information, once that is determined — and for additional voter information, visit [bit.ly/wsesd-forum](http://bit.ly/wsesd-forum).

# 'This is the moment to fix it if we're going to fix it'

## Facing a crisis, House panel considers transforming property value reappraisal system

By Ethan Weinstein  
*VtDigger.org*

MONTPELIER—With two-thirds of Vermont towns requiring property value reappraisals, the House Ways and Means Committee is considering a moratorium on them and transitioning to a state-run reappraisal system.

"This was not on my agenda coming into the session as, like, the project to take on," Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, the committee chair, said at a hearing on Feb. 2. "But it does seem like we're in a crisis. This is the moment to fix it if we're going to fix it."

Appraisals are the basis for

property tax bills for homes and businesses. When those values fail to reflect what's happening in the real estate market, towns are required to reappraise properties within their borders.

Jill Remick, director of property valuation and review in the state Department of Taxes, met Wednesday with committee members to discuss draft legislation that would transform Vermont's property appraisal system.

If lawmakers choose to pursue the Feb. 2 proposal, the state would impose a moratorium on reappraisal orders in 2023, gradually transitioning to a system in which the state, rather than

towns, handles reappraisals. The switch would bring Vermont in line with most other states, Kornheiser said.

The draft language would also set up a system of regularly scheduled reappraisals for all communities. Under current law, municipal reappraisals are triggered when a town's common level of appraisal — a measure of how a town's property values differ from fair market value — drops below 85% or jumps above 115%.

Towns can also be ordered to reappraise if local property taxes are unfairly balanced between more and less expensive properties.

previous testimony from the tax department outlining the growing backlog in reappraisals and dearth of experts capable of handling the work.

One potential issue, raised by Rep. Scott Beck, R-St. Johnsbury, is how a state-run system would handle appeals of property assessments. Under the current system, property owners can appeal locally.

Another unknown raised by lawmakers is what to do with the funding previously given to towns for reappraisals. Under the current system, towns receive \$8.50 per parcel per year to spend on an eventual reappraisal, and considering some towns haven't reappraised for a decade, lawmakers assumed there's a lot of money unspent.

One question involved in a new potential system is whether the state could do away with the common level of appraisal, which annually adjusts property taxes in each town to account for market fluctuations. If the state reappraises communities with enough regularity, it might not need to make additional adjustments each year using the CLA.

That idea in particular inspired joy from legislators.

"Can we say goodbye to the CLA, and would we get applause when we entered any town?" Kornheiser posed.

Beck imagined even bigger support from constituents: "Parades."

"We're very intrigued and interested in having this conversation with you all," Remick told the committee. "The state's at a crossroads," left to choose whether to work with the old system, or "take advantage of this to try something a little different."

But with only eight field staff, Remick stressed, her agency does not have the resources to oversee town-by-town reappraisals if indeed the tax department begins handling that process.

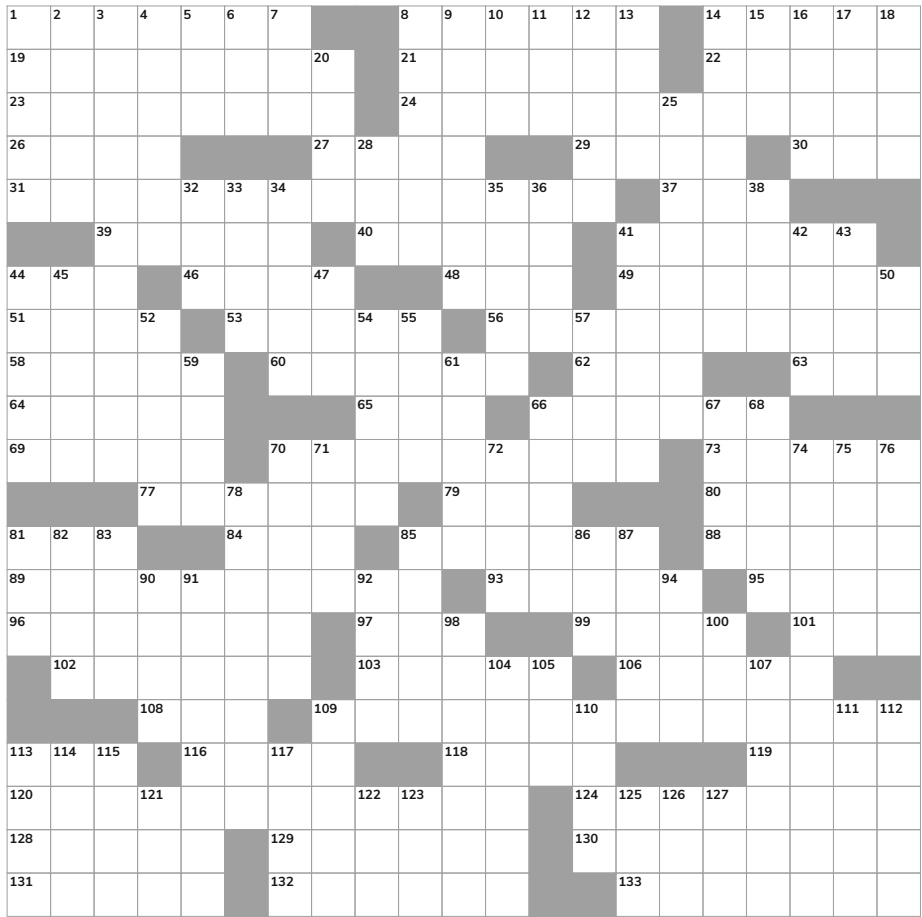
The draft language discussed on Feb. 2 is far from finalized, and no bill has been formally introduced in the House. How frequently regular reappraisals might occur is still up in the air, as is the length of a potential reappraisal moratorium.

But as laid out, the actions reflect a legislative response to

## BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY THE COMMONS CROSSWORD "Camouflaged Animals"

### Across

- Belgian brew
- "Catherine Called Birdy" director
- Military toy
- Fighting against
- Madden
- Cover with decorations
- More old-fashioned and dowdy
- "Definitely better" (Is that a primate?)
- Wrapping material
- Financial markers
- Dump truck-full
- Chicago transports
- Rich dessert (... water mammal?)
- Confuse
- Bête
- The final curtain
- Señor on "Ed Sullivan"
- It gets rolled out on the lawn
- UFC president White
- Stretch out on the couch
- "Boy howdy!"
- Queequeg's captain
- Ivan with a racket
- Phony report (... arctic swimmer?)
- Scold
- Seal, as a garbage bag
- "Cobra Kai" actor Thomas Griffith
- "FBI" channel
- Sheikdom of song
- Also not
- One in the hole
- Camp canoe
- "The Periodic Table" author (... garden annoyance?)
- Bodyguard, handlers, et al.
- Cash in
- Catch crooks
- Horse play?
- Newsman Acosta
- Headed
- Precious violins, for short
- Archaeological site
- Bartender's question (... wading bird?)
- Swing drummer Gene
- French 101 verb
- Appeal's result, maybe
- And others: Abbr.
- Superfluity
- Bird's instrument
- Not at all calm
- River Raid console
- Mush-for-brains
- "Magic" rapper
- Vegetable served stuffed (... grizzly?)
- Extensions may block them
- Maven
- Tip-top
- "Shucks!"
- Snapped? (... zebra cousin?)
- Person with class
- Antiquated
- Quick breads
- Distinct
- First line of attack
- Skating figures
- Heartfelt



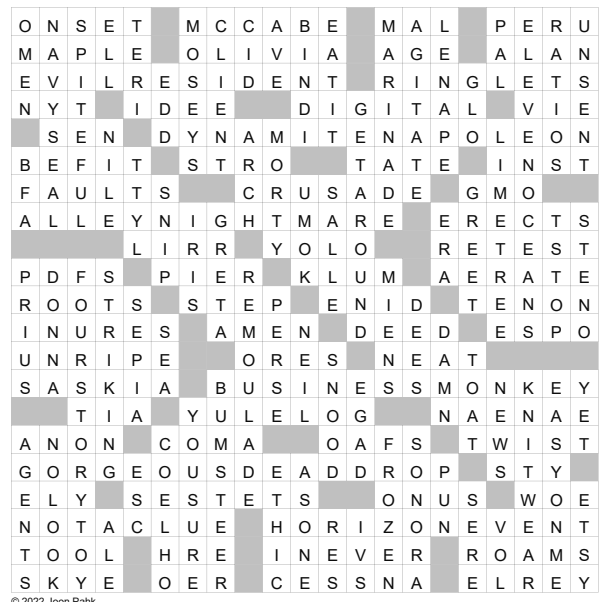
- 5th Dimension hit (... bamboo eater?)
- Zombie filmmaker George
- Vicious snake
- 52, in old Rome
- San Jose-to-Modesto dir.
- Reserved
- Reactor safety org.
- "You funny"
- Mentally quick
- Staff note
- Corsage flower, often
- Confirming vow
- "By \_\_\_!"
- City in western Russia
- Conclusions
- Determination
- Brit's sidewalk
- It added "sharenting" in 2022: Abbr.
- Cookware covering
- See 17-Down
- Doctrine
- Drunk as a skunk
- \_\_\_ butter
- \_\_\_ Energy Center (Wild home)
- Sushi condiment
- Helicopter med. mission
- Novi Sad native
- He's behind the Wheel
- Kim's last name in Kipling's "Kim"
- Cuckoo
- Hotel units: Abbr.
- Storybook elephant
- Jeans material
- Weaving tool
- "Ray Donovan" actor Schreiber
- Kindergartner
- Weather line
- Shut out
- Letters near zero?
- Court game
- Shiny white
- City of slots

- Frolic
- Fits perfectly (... weasel?)
- Jazz leader with an "Arkestra"
- Chelmsford's county
- Imagines
- Cookie container
- Model Sastre
- Applesauce name
- Scrap
- Grooved on
- Spare challenge
- \_\_\_: "Legacy" (2010 movie)
- Japanese characters
- YA author Shusterman
- Q3 and Q4 maker
- "Money" musical
- Eccentricity

- School break
- "\_\_\_ Groot"
- "Well, fudge"
- Bag man?
- Marsh stalk
- Stomach pains
- Graceful bird
- Resting on
- Dummy
- Concession drink
- Breadmaking stage
- Understanding
- Dress (up)
- Durham sch.
- It has 21 spots
- States quickly?
- "Proud Mary" band, for short

### Last issue's solution

"Movie Playback"



## New fund helps provide care for pets in need

BRATTLEBORO—The Windham County Humane Society recently announced the establishment of the OC Tober Fund by Marilyn George to help pet owners struggling financially to provide veterinary care to their beloved pets through the Humane Society's Pet Care Assistance and Guardian Angel programs.

"Keeping pets physically healthy and with the people that love them means fewer animals being brought to the Humane Society because the owner can't afford to treat an illness," Maya Richmond, WHCS executive director, said in a news release. "Across the country, programs like these have lowered the pet euthanasia rate."

Richmond stated that demand for their community veterinary programs has only increased as the cost of living has gone up. Last year, WCHS hired Dr. Tara Torcoletti part time as the staff veterinarian. Along with caring for the shelter animals, Torcoletti saw over 500 pets whose owners qualify for low-cost or free veterinary care. "The OC Tober Fund is incredible," says Torcoletti. "Caring for pets who haven't anywhere else to go for care inspires me as a veterinarian. It is why I wanted to join the Humane Society."

With the fund, George is providing a consistent level of financial support to allow the Humane Society to expand these important services. "When the Humane Society's addition is complete, we hope to offer the Pet Care Assistance and Guardian Angel

programs three days a week," Richmond stated, "and we can if other donors see the positive impact of Ms. George's gift and follow in her footsteps."

"The Humane Society does remarkable work," said George, "and in 2019 I donated to the Capital Campaign specifically to build the addition to allow them to expand their veterinary clinic space because I feel so strongly that people who love their pets shouldn't have to decide between vaccinating their pet or paying their fuel bill."

The OC Tober Fund was named after a little flea-infested stray Shih Tzu who serendipitously entered George's life and converted her from a "lover of only big dogs" to a "small and big dog lover."

"OC Tober had a personality that stole everyone's heart," she said. "For 15 years, she was my most loyal friend."

"Pets touch our hearts like nothing else," said Richmond, "and we are incredibly grateful to George for her generosity."

WCHS counts on donations to provide its services. "Marilyn's multi-year financial commitment is especially important because it means we can schedule appointments further out and work with towns to reach people who need assistance," said Richmond.

To learn more about the OC Tober Fund, Windham County Humane Society's community veterinary programs or the organization's campaign to build an addition in the next 12 months, visit [windhamcountyhumane.org](http://windhamcountyhumane.org).

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BRATTLEBORO—Learn the tips and tricks about the art of imagery and storytelling from photojournalism experts at a panel discussion, "A Photo Is Worth a Thousand Words," sponsored by Vermont Independent Media's Media Mentoring Project, which will take place on Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

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## Appeal

community on Alice Holway Drive in Putney was resolved,” says WWHT Executive Director Elizabeth Bridgewater.

“The Environmental Court Division found that our application was consistent with the town’s zoning bylaws and that the other issues raised by the appellant were either not in the jurisdiction of the court or lacked enough merit to take the case to trial,” she adds. “The appeal was resolved by a summary judgment on all concerns raised by the appellant.”

In his decision of the appeal, filed last summer, Judge Thomas G. Walsh concluded the project “complies with the relevant PRD [project requirement document], conditional use, and site plan standards.”

“In reaching this conclusion we conclude that the Project: complies with applicable lot size and density requirements; complies with the Town Plan; will not adversely affect traffic in the area, and a traffic study is not required for the Project; will not adversely affect public health and safety; complies with parking standards; is not in a Flood Hazard Area; and complies with height standards.

“We further dismissed the remaining Questions before the Court as outside this scope of this Court’s subject matter jurisdiction,” Walsh wrote.

### Disappointed but hopeful still

The relatively newly formed grassroots organization Friends of Putney issued a statement from its board of directors following the decision.

“Friends of Putney, Inc. [...] is committed to using its resources for protecting and preserving the green, open space along the first half-mile of Route 5 in the village — ‘the gateway to Putney’ — for the benefit of its citizens, gardens, farmers market and visitors,” it reads. “We are committed to supporting the existing creative sector, including the Putney Craft Tour participants as well as other creative arts endeavors. We see an opportunity to support the creative sector, with cultural and ecological heritage tourism which will benefit the local economy.

“We fully support community-driven housing and accessibility solutions that reduce embodied construction carbon using local resources for housing development projects while considering Putney’s most vulnerable residents, with Putney’s diverse ecosystems, which are intertwined. We support the development of affordable housing in Putney and surrounding towns including public housing, alternative housing, and pathways to home ownership.”

Friends’ Development Director Elizabeth Warner calls the environmental court decision “a blow to my core,” but says she remains “hopeful” that community members will still find “a logical, thoughtful resolution.”

“Perhaps the original design with smaller buildings, senior housing, or an option for shared-equity home ownership might prevail,” Warner says. “When abutters signed off on the removal of covenants on the land, I’m sure they were stunned by the change in design just six days later. We already have 44 units of WWHT ‘affordable housing units.’ We have more units of affordable housing for a town of our size [than others] in the state.

“As this beautiful, open, and precious agricultural land is ‘the Gateway’ to our village and the last open green space in the village, why not create a multi-use green space, expand the gardens and farmers’ market, and support the entire community?”

“The property will be privately owned and not for the community. The proposed project [...] will forever alter the character of the land.”

She says that tenants of WWHT have posted on Facebook site about how disappointed they are with this decision.

“People are afraid that all units of affordable housing being controlled by one giant corporation is not in the best interest of tenants,” says Warner. “Many alternative locations for housing have been identified and many units are already being built. The character of our town and our identity is literally being dictated by an affordable housing organization that is growing exponentially and seemingly has limited accountability.”

Some comments on social media express fears that illegal activity, including drug dealing, an over-abundance of out-of-state renters, some with criminal records, lack of consistent property upkeep, and harassment of long-time, elderly tenants could result if the project goes forward.

Warner and the Friends group say they hope that during the 30-day waiting period, WWHT’s purchase-and-sale agreement with current landowner Putney Gateway Associates,

FROM SECTION FRONT

general partners of which are Jeff Shumlin and Marcia Leader, both of Putney, will be postponed.

They hope such a postponement will allow the community, through the Vermont Council of Rural Development (VCRD) visioning program now underway, to generate “a comprehensive smart growth plan that provides balance and community input for increasing our tax basis through village revitalization, and for our much needed infrastructure to be supported through more home ownership and increased business/tourism dollars, not on the backs of our already strapped families.”

Friends of Putney “will continue to support the appeal process, as recommended by the attorney,” says Warner. “An appeal of this decision has yet to be filed; however, there are 30 days in which the decision can be appealed, which will open up more opportunities for community engagement for alternative housing options and a comprehensive plan for smarter growth in the future.”

The group has also questioned the legality of the DRB’s initial decision. That’s because the makeup of the board, voted on by the Selectboard, has fluctuated over the years, yet not all paperwork has been located to prove the appointments were legally made. And that raised a question of whether a quorum was present when the WWHT permit was voted.

### VCRD action item includes creating new, affordable housing

Meanwhile, VCRD representatives have met with residents several times this winter and issued a report, “Our Future Putney: Community Visit Report and Action Plan,” on Feb. 21.

In it, residents who attended the initial meetings have prioritized three areas for future action: to revitalize Putney’s downtown, develop a community center, and develop housing solutions.

“Many residents see a need for more affordable, safe, and quality housing for seniors and people of all ages and income levels,” the report says. “A task force could come together to develop housing solutions that meet the needs and character of the Putney community.

“The group could work with regional and state partners and experts to assess current needs and explore options, including new development, co-housing models, multi-generational housing, a Community Trust, and more.

“Additionally, the group could focus on a review of zoning and other regulations to improve housing development opportunities and identify any infrastructure needs there may be to support housing solutions,” the report says.

### Favorable decision, at a price

Bridgewater says that WWHT has been in touch with the nonprofit group Green Commons, whose members hope to “create a public space where all members of the community can gather and organizations can use the



An architect’s rendering of a new affordable housing development proposed for Putney, the approval for which by the Development Review Board has just been upheld by the state Environmental Court.

property,” including eventual construction of a pavilion for farm market use, especially in winter, and for the community at other times.

Representatives of the organization “have indicated they are excited to move forward and have identified some funding sources to purchase the subdivided lot,” Bridgewater says.

However, during the time spent awaiting an environmental court decision, the cost of building materials and other construction expenses have continued to rise.

“While the impact of the effort to appeal our permit has not diminished our commitment to this project, the delay in the timing has had an impact in the cost of the project,” says Bridgewater.

“Overall, the total project cost is 14% higher than it was a year ago, with significant increases in the cost of construction, interest rates, and legal fees,” she notes. “The unfortunate impact in the community is that these funds could have been redirected to create more housing throughout Vermont.

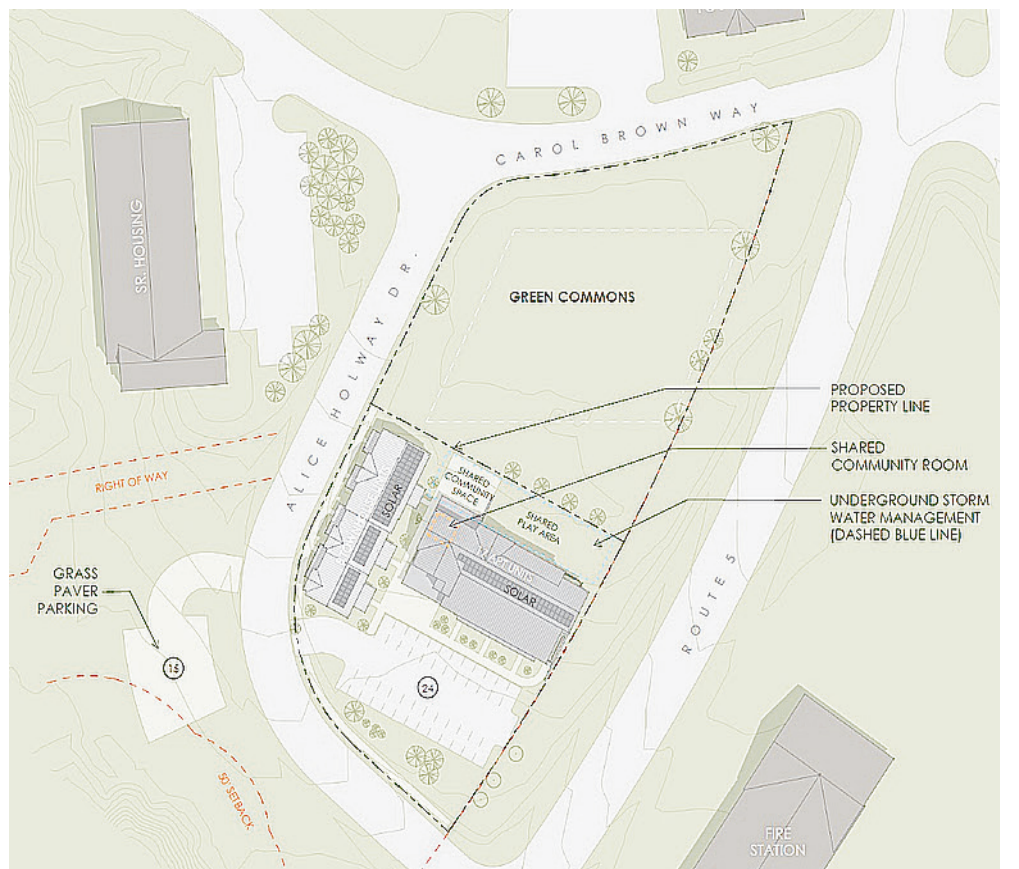
“Putney has a tremendous need for additional rental housing that people can afford. While WWHT only owns 12% of the rental homes there, available data indicates that of the 303 rental units in Putney, 90 households (or 30% of renters) are paying more than 50% of their incomes in rent.”

Bridgewater described those housing costs as “well beyond what is considered affordable and puts significant pressure on families who are experiencing escalating food prices, fuel, and other household expenses.”

Bridgewater says the new community, co-developed by WWHT and Evernorth, a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing and community investments in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, is still planned to provide homes for 25 households.

Rents, she says, “will be set to meet the needs of a variety of household incomes.”

“The buildings will operate at a high level of energy efficiency and residents will have easy access to public transportation, green space, and the incredible amenities Putney has to offer,



A draft site plan for the Windham-Windsor Housing Trust’s new affordable housing development in Putney.

most within walking distance,” Bridgewater says.

“This is the benefit of building within downtown areas and the village setting in smart growth patterns,” she says of the project, whose plans have not changed since they were submitted to the

zoning review board in 2022.

“We continue to maintain our commitment to preserving the Putney Community Gardens and Farmers’ Market and building a new community of well-designed, affordable, and energy-efficient homes on the site,” she

says.

“With partial funding in place and the remaining funding applications completed, we are hopeful that we will be able to break ground in spring 2024 and welcome new residents in early summer 2025,” Bridgewater says.

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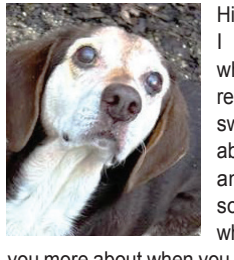
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Hi, my name is **Albert!** I am an older guy who is looking for his retirement home. I am sweet and should be able to live with other animals. I do have some medical needs which the staff can tell you more about when you come meet with me. Please stop by and make my dreams come true.



It’s me, the gorgeous **Sophie!** And isn’t my coat just glorious? I’m a super sweet girl dreaming of my forever home. Will it have a fireplace? Or big window sills to soak up the sun in? Maybe a big soft bed as fluffy as me? Either way, I’m sure it’ll be great! I can be a bit shy at first but I warm up real quick. I bet I’d be okay with other cats or cat-savvy dogs in my new home, as long as we’re introduced properly. Let’s meet up soon so I can show you just how wonderful I really am!



Hello! I’m the beautiful and unforgettable **Gracie.** With my luscious coat and brilliant eyes, you’ll fall in love with me in half a heartbeat! I can be a bit timid at first, but I warm up quick and then we’ll be the best of friends. I would do well in a home with other cats or cat-savvy dogs, if we were introduced properly. Kids may be a bit intimidating for me so if they are in my new family, they should be older and mellow.



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# Bellows Falls to see new life in long-vacant buildings

*Boston couple purchases 92-94 Rockingham St., the site of many former restaurants, as salon and art studio space*

By Robert F. Smith  
The Commons

**B**ELLOWSFALLS—Erica Daniels and Tim Wells, from Boston, have recently purchased 92 and 94 Rockingham St. and are busy cleaning up and renovating the two adjoining buildings, vacant for the past few years.

The property, owned by The Wurst Place in Bellows Falls Inc., which operated Fat Franks there from 2006 to 2012, was sold on Dec. 28, 2022 to Studio 92 LLC, an entity whose manager is Daniels.

The two-story building at 92 Rockingham St. has served as a number of restaurants, including the Shona Grill, Fat Franks, and the Blue Coyote. It will become a salon downstairs for Daniels' hairstyling business.

Wells—a mixed-media sculptor who uses common objects in large quantity—will use the upstairs for studio space.

Daniels and Wells have been hard at work for several weeks cleaning out the 94 Rockingham St. building, an art deco building with open concept and full-front windows. Once a gas station, it also was the site of the Real Scoop Ice Cream Parlor in the 1980s.

The new owners are hoping

to have it ready as a commercial rental space by early spring.

"We're open to ideas" about the potential use for the building, Daniels said, and encouraged anyone interested in using the property to contact Wells at [tim@timothygough.com](mailto:tim@timothygough.com).

The renovation has been challenging, Wells said. Tearing out interior sheathing has revealed some sections of the exterior walls with no insulation at all, and they found one portion where a hole to the outdoors was covered by a flimsy, old plastic soda advertisement.

## 'Something so beautiful about this town'

The couple lives in the Boston area, where Daniels works as a busy hair stylist/salon owner in Jamaica Plain.

Daniels said that they frequently travel to this area because Wells has family living in nearby Walpole, New Hampshire. While on a visit, they came into Bellows Falls to find the Native petroglyphs on the ledges by the Great Falls, and spent some time walking around town.

"I grew up on a chicken farm in North Carolina," Daniels said. "I like Boston, but I missed living in a small town. Bellows Falls



New owners Erica Daniels and Tim Wells inside 92 Rockingham St. in Bellows Falls. The building, most recently Shona Grill, will become Daniels' hair salon and a sculpture studio for Wells.

was so beautiful and picturesque. There is something so beautiful about this town."

Knowing they wanted to move to the area to help out family, they discovered the 92 and 94 Rockingham St. buildings on their walk around town and realized they had potential.

"We said, 'This would be such a good site for a salon,'" Daniels said.

They felt they could renovate and rent out the adjoining building to help cover costs.

Daniels said she is hoping to sell her bustling Boston salon and wants to create a "calm, inviting and relaxed" salon in Bellows Falls.

"Hair is my art," she said. "There is enough hair for everyone. Everyone brings something special to the craft."

## Taking the plunge

It took some time from their first discussions in July 2022

until the sale was completed this past December, said Daniels, who noted that the couple has also begun building an addition for themselves onto a house that Wells' mother owns in Walpole.

Wells said he appreciates what a big decision and big move this is for the couple, and he's determined to make it work.

"I'm going to do everything I can to not waste this gift," he said. "I'm confident I can make something of it."

He noted that social media, YouTube, and other aspects of the internet make it easier for artists to make a living from their work, even if they work in rural areas.

"I know this is a really special town," Daniels said. "We want to

be part of the growth, the story of the town."

That means working "with the spirit that is here," she added. "We're not looking to change the town. We're not looking to turn it into a Boston or Northampton."

## New life for the diner?

Nestled into a 1/3-acre spot just north of the Bellows Falls Square, the 92 and 94 Rockingham St. buildings are next to the Miss Bellows Falls Diner, at 90 Rockingham St., which also has been closed for the past few years.

All three buildings are within the Bellows Falls Neighborhood Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic

Places.

The diner is owned by Father's Ink Corp. of Westminster.

According to property records, on Jan. 12, the town of Rockingham filed a lien for more than \$8,500 in back taxes and legal expenses on the diner property, with a public auction scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23 at the Rockingham Town Office.

The local nonprofit community group Rockingham for Progress is exploring possibilities for renovating and reopening the diner, while also keeping it on the tax rolls.

The diner was constructed in 1941 by the Worcester Lunch Car Company (#771).

## Ski jump

FROM SECTION FRONT

Kotnik, who flew 4,000 miles from his homeland as part of a field of 30 competitors from seven states and two European countries. "The crowd, they pump you up."

Kotnik bested 23-year-old fellow Slovenian Vid Vrhovnik, who landed the longest jumps of the weekend, only to see one shorter 82-meter leap pull down his overall score.

"It's nice," Vrhovnik said of the century-old Brattleboro hill in a sport dominated by ramps atop scaffolding. "The new ones are all the same."

The tournament ended with several more winners—beginning with the snowmakers who defied a thaw so prolonged, the town's primary maple syrup producer (the Robb Family Farm) has begun tapping and boiling.

Snowmakers revved up a new gun system with the arrival of record cold on Groundhog Day, only to watch temperatures rise into the 50s last week. When a freeze returned Friday night, crews spread the remaining snow

around with shovels and a silage blower, then foot-stomped it in place on skis.

"I had the worst-case scenario in my mind," chief of competition Todd Einig said after a night of work. "But we're in good shape."

Einig labored alongside 30-year-old Spencer Knickerbocker, the event's only Brattleboro-born athlete, and 12-year-old Spencer Jones, a promising local up-and-comer in the hill's junior training program.

"It's hard to weather this weather," said Knickerbocker, head of the nearby Marlboro Nordic Ski Club, which is currently closed because of a lack of snow.

The governor nonetheless arrived Saturday to an icy hill brimming with dozens of volunteers and a sleep-deprived local grounds crew from Evans Construction and Rosinski Masonry.

"I grew up in Vermont but have never been here to witness this event," Scott told the crowd during the opening ceremony. "It's like sugar season. It takes a lot of work, but you get something special in the end."

The Republican then climbed to the top of the 30-story-tall hill (a workout, his accompanying state trooper attested) before posing for selfie upon selfie requested by the region's left-leaning crowd.

The governor wasn't the only dignitary in attendance. State Treasurer Mike Piciak stopped by on a visit to his parents' nearby

home. Lacking his own security detail, he made do with his English setter, Jetty.

Peter Graves, the hill's long-time public address announcer, was honored for his coming induction into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame. Graves, born in Bennington and now of East Thetford, has worked at the Olympics, either as a sportscaster or stadium announcer, since 1980.

(Graves' one exception: He chose Brattleboro over last year's Beijing Winter Games to help Harris Hill celebrate the centennial of its 1922 founding.)

Sandy Harris capped the tournament by presenting the Winged Ski Trophy her father gave annually until he died in 1961 and her mother then bestowed until she died in 1999. Kotnik received the award amid applause from competitors from his homeland, Norway, and states as far away as Alaska.

Fans, for their part, clanged cowbells for all.

Charley Grandinetti, 11, of Massachusetts, recalled visiting the hill in 2019 when he heard Knickerbocker announced as a "hometown hero." Approaching the jumper to say hello, the boy was surprised when the athlete gave him a medal he had just won.

Grandinetti wore it around his neck over the weekend when he returned to cheer again.

"Considering the weather," Knickerbocker said as he posed for a reunion photo with his young fan, "this is the absolute best we could expect."

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| THURSDAY | THURSDAY CONT.  | FRIDAY CONT.  | SATURDAY CONT.  |  |
|----------|---|---|---|--|
| 23       | <p>► Free.</p> <p>► <b>Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information:</b> For more info or to volunteer at the Pantry contact Pat Haine at 802-257-0626 or <a href="mailto:guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com">guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Visual arts and shows</b></p> <p><b>KEENE "Two Conversations":</b> Sharon Myers, fiber artist, and Erika Radich, printmaker, create an exhibition of work - 50 pieces - that express two vivid conversations between friends during COVID and manifested through color and style.</p> <p>► 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues. and Fri.; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wed.; 9 a.m.-12 noon on the 1st and 2nd Sat. of the month.</p> <p>► Through Saturday, April 22.</p> <p>► Free.</p> <p>► <b>Historical Society of Cheshire County, 246 Main St. Information:</b> 603-352-1895; <a href="http://hscnh.org">hscnh.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Ideas and education</b></p> <p><b>Lecture/Discussion w/ Kal Raustalia author of "The Absolutely Indispensable Man: Ralph Bunche, the United Nations and the Fight to End Empire":</b> Ralph Bunche, a name rarely mentioned in US History books, was the first Nobel Black Laureate whose work with the newly formed United Nations reshaped post war diplomacy and fought to end colonization. Hosted by Windham World Affairs Council.</p> <p>► 7 p.m. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-absolutely-indispensable-man-ralph-bunche-tickets-547786543297">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-absolutely-indispensable-man-ralph-bunche-tickets-547786543297</a>.</p> <p>► Free.</p> <p>► <b>Zoom. More info:</b> Susan Healy, WWAC Admin. Dir., <a href="mailto:windhamworldaffairsCouncil@gmail.com">windhamworldaffairsCouncil@gmail.com</a> or visit <a href="http://www.windhamworldaffairsCouncil.org">www.windhamworldaffairsCouncil.org</a> Zoom: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4byvuca">tinyurl.com/4byvuca</a>.</p> | <p>for Lisa and Herbalist Susan Stanton will guide up to ten students in making linen eye pillows featuring a blend of herbs you customize yourself. They are easy to make at home by hand or on a machine.</p> <p>► 3-4 p.m.</p> <p>► <b>Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room, 7 Canal St. Information:</b> Register by 2/23: <a href="mailto:education@bfc.coop">education@bfc.coop</a>.</p> <p><b>Community building</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Exploring Gandhi and Non-Violence:</b> The Beloved Community along with the Center for Story, Spirit and Justice are holding a training session focusing on Mahatma Gandhi's understanding of Non-Violence and Truth. The program will explore Satyagraha and other Gandhian insights into the nature of truth seeking, social transformation and political action. Interactive process with lots of participation from those present.</p> <p>► 11 a.m.-12 noon we'll prepare for the training using gentle exercise and sacred dance experiences. Free lunch offered at noon. Training session runs from 12:30-2:30 p.m. All these offerings are open to the public.</p> <p>► Free.</p> <p>► <b>The Beloved Community, 18 Town Crier Dr. Information:</b> More information: <a href="mailto:howerwiii@gmail.com">howerwiii@gmail.com</a>, 802-249-2947.</p> <p><b>Dance</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Queer Dance Party's 6th Year Anniversary Party:</b> It's our birthday and we want to party! We're so grateful. We've persevered for 6 years and survived a pandemic - you all made it possible! Money-Internette, your Emcee and Special Guest BQDP Founder, returns from Philly with gifts and surprises everyone. Also, special guest DJ House Dress from Durham, NC comes to bless us with queer dance house music all night long." Featured performances by: Patty Cake, Lilly Da Vally, Money Internette (FKA Jay Kava)."</p> <p>► 9 p.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>► \$5-15 sliding scale. No one turned away for lack of funds.</p> <p>► <b>The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information:</b> 802-579-9960; <a href="http://stonechurchvt.com">stonechurchvt.com</a>.</p> <p><b>PUTNEY Dance Party at Next Stage featuring the music of blues guitarist Duke Robillard and his band!</b> The Duke Robillard Band has at its core that joyous jump-blues shuffle sound Duke's been perfecting since the late '60s. Each song is about the groove, master musicianship, understated taste and a band mix that always complements the pulse and the singer. Duke's guitar is at the center and brings it all together. All his life, he's been playing the jazzy corners of the blues - plus he's released 37 albums on his own!</p> <p>► 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>► \$25 at door, \$20 in advance.</p> <p>► <b>Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. Information:</b> Tickets: 802-257-4523, <a href="http://bmcvt.org">bmcvt.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Fundraising and awareness events</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Solidarity Happy Hour Fundraiser for Ukraine</b></p> <p>► 5 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>► Free entry.</p> <p>► <b>Saxtons River Distillery, 155 Chickering Dr. Information:</b> For more information or to make a donation, visit <a href="http://lithuaniamvt.com">lithuaniamvt.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Kids and families</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Herbal Eye Pillow (for ages 12-18):</b> The gentle scent of herbs can be a great support in the quest for restful sleep. Co-op Educa-</p> | <p>Community Center is available to reserve for events and private use on a donation-basis. If you wish to book it, contact <a href="mailto:carol@rockriver-studio.com">carol@rockriver-studio.com</a>.</p> <p>► No one turned away but \$10 suggested donation will assist South Newfane Community Assn. with maintenance of this treasured community structure.</p> <p>► <b>South Newfane Schoolhouse, 387 Dover Rd. Information:</b> RSVP on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/jyaf7pbr6">tinyurl.com/jyaf7pbr6</a>.</p> <p><b>Fundraising and awareness events</b></p> <p><b>WILLIAMSVILLE Dan DeWalt Performs Original Soundtrack Live on Piano to 1920 African American Silent Film "Within Our Gates":</b> "Within Our Gates" was created in response to "The Birth of a Nation", which depicted white Southerners needing the Klu Klux Klan to protect them from bloodthirsty Blacks. Micheaux's film shows the reality of Dixie racism in 1920 when a Black man could be lynched for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.</p> <p>► 7:30-9 p.m. Masks suggested.</p> <p>► By donation. This is a fundraiser for Williamsville Hall.</p> <p>► <b>Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd. Information:</b> Information: Dan DeWalt: <a href="mailto:1dandewalt@gmail.com">1dandewalt@gmail.com</a>, 802-348-7701.</p> <p><b>Farmers' markets</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Winter Farmer's Market:</b> Weekly diverse indoor farmers market. Local farm produce, meats, syrup, fresh baked goods, fruits, cider, preserves, handmade jewelry, pottery, soaps, more. SNAP shoppers turn \$10 into \$40 each week!</p> <p>► 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays through 3/25 in the gymnasium.</p> <p>► Through Saturday, March 25.</p> <p>► <b>Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market, 60 Austine Dr. Information:</b> <a href="http://farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org">farmersmarket@postoisolutions.org</a>, 802-275-2835.</p> <p><b>The written word</b></p> <p><b>W. MARLBORO Southern Vermont Natural History Museum: Discussion of Barry Lopez's book "Of Wolves and Men":</b> Led by Mary Wright, we'll discuss "Of Wolves and Men" and it's themes of wolves and how humans interact with large predators historically and today. Refreshments will be served.</p> <p>► 4 p.m. Want to read the book first? (you probably should). <b>The Pettee Memorial Library, Whitingham Free Library and Dover Free Library have copies.</b></p> <p>► Free to the public but donations to the Museum's educational programming are always appreciated.</p> <p>► <b>Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 VT Route 9. Information:</b> <a href="http://vermontmuseum.org">vermontmuseum.org</a>, <a href="http://vermontmuseum.org">vermontmuseum.org</a>.</p> <p><b>"Story Structure Part 2" led by Barbara Morrison (Online):</b> "In this workshop, appropriate for beginning and experienced writers, we'll look at more ways to structure a story, including some experimental forms."</p> <p>► 4-5 p.m.</p> <p>► \$10 suggested donation.</p> <p>► <b>Online. Information:</b> Register: <a href="mailto:info@timetowrite.us">info@timetowrite.us</a>.</p> <p><b>Kids and families</b></p> <p><b>PUTNEY Sandglass Theatre announce Winter Sunshine performance presented by The Gottabees: "Squirrel Stole My Pants!":</b> A lonely, awkward girl is sent to the backyard to hang up laundry and keep herself busy. The moment Sylvie's back is turned, a mischievous squirrel appears, steals her favorite piece of clothing and runs off. As the story unfolds, an entire world emerges from her laundry basket and Sylvie learns that she is a strong girl with magic within herself. Created/performed by Bonnie Duncan with live music by Brendan Burns and Tony Leva. Followed by Meet the Artist Q&amp;A.</p> <p>► Two shows: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (45 minutes long). Recommended for ages 3 and up.</p> <p>► Tickets: General admission: \$9, EBT and Medicaid cardholders: \$7.50. Or buy one ticket to each week for \$30 total.</p> <p>► <b>Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hill. Information:</b> 802-387-4051; <a href="http://sandglasstheater.org">sandglasstheater.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Well-being</b></p> <p><b>PUTNEY Kitchen Table Conversation on Act 39 (Patient Choice &amp; End of Life Act) and VSED (Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking):</b> Hosted by Brattleboro Area Hospice, staff and volunteers with knowledge and experience on these subjects will join us. Kitchen Table Conversations are facilitated group discussions on specific topics. Smaller, more focused than a Death Cafe, less formal than a presentation, intention is to sit around a table, building/deepening a sense of community while exploring information/opinions on a topic in a supportive, congenial atmosphere. The public is encouraged to attend.</p> <p>► 1-3 p.m. Light refreshments available.</p> <p>► Free. Donations welcome for use of space.</p> <p>► <b>Putney Friends Meeting House, 17 Bellows Falls Rd. Information:</b> Learn more/contact staff: call 802-257-0775 or go to <a href="http://brattleborohospice.org">brattleborohospice.org</a>.</p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO The Brattleboro Zen Center - Meditation (In-Person or wherever you may be):</b> One way to engage with the ecological crisis - we chant briefly and then sit in silence for a half hour. All are welcome to join this peaceful action, either in-person or from wherever they might be.</p> <p>► 1-1:35 p.m. on Saturdays.</p> <p>► <b>Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Courthouse, Jct. Putney Rd. &amp; Main St. (Rte 30). Information:</b> <a href="mailto:alison.f.bundy@gmail.com">alison.f.bundy@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Community building</b></p> <p><b>GUILFORD Spring Seed Swap:</b> All are welcome to attend this community event, whether or not you have seeds to share. Bring any surplus seeds (dated within this decade, preferably!), marking pen, envelopes, jars or other containers to bring your new seeds home. We'll have some extra envelopes on hand if needed. Then we'll organize the seeds on tables by type (veggies, herbs, flowers, perennials, etc.) and you'll take home new garden goodies and have fun talking gardening with neighbors and new friends.</p> <p>► 10 a.m. - 12 noon.</p> <p>► Free.</p> <p>► <b>Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information:</b> 802-451-0405; <a href="http://broadbrookcommunitycenter.org">broadbrookcommunitycenter.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Arts and crafts</b></p> <p><b>BELLOWS FALLS Zine-Making Workshop at Rockingham Library:</b> Make your own pocket-sized platform for sharing ideas, poetry, visual art, detailed accounts of life experiences. Zines are self-published works of communicative art, handmade and usually photocopied. They're immediate and intimate. Within their pages, you can say anything you want. Participants of all ages are encouraged to bring favorite images and/or text, and more will be provided. There'll be a demo on layout strategies, examples to look at, access to a photocopier.</p> <p>► 1-5 p.m. Meeting Room, top floor. Hosted by Pop-Up Adventure Play with funding from the Greater Springfield Community</p> | <p><b>Health Equity Partnership for events that center joy and support mental health.</b> Co-Founder Dr. Morgan Leichter-Saxby says, "My favorite thing about zines is that they're all different, 'perfect' is not the point." Even though there are so many options now for digital collage and sharing, Kegan insists this form is still relevant. "They might be a little old-fashioned, but it's a different experience of making something physical, even something magical about putting ideas to paper. The whole point of a zine is magic being available to everyone, with only scotch tape, Sharpies and a photocopier!"</p> <p>► Free and open to all (no artistic confidence required).</p> <p>► <b>Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information:</b> 802-463-4270; <a href="http://rockinghamlibrary.org">rockinghamlibrary.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Dance</b></p> <p><b>WINCHESTER Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club - Upcoming Dance with Live Music by Cruzin' Carl Band:</b> Everyone is welcome. Non-alcoholic beverages available. 50/50 raffle.</p> <p>► 7 - 10:30 p.m.</p> <p>► \$10 members, \$12 non-members.</p> <p>► <b>Elmm Community Center, 21 Durkee St. Information:</b> For more information: Tom: 978-249-6917 / 978-790-9322 or Barbara: 802-722-9205 / 802-376-0317.</p> <p><b>Film and video</b></p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO "The Last Black Man in San Francisco":</b> Latchis Arts' Spotlight Film Series and Keene State College Curators: In "The Last Black Man in San Francisco," a 2016 feature film, two friends try to reclaim a family house, launching them on a journey that connects them to their past as it challenges their friendship and their sense of home. The film has a 92% score on Rotten Tomatoes and is Rated R. Film is curated in collaboration with KSC Film Society - a student organization of film aficionados who meet weekly to share their passion for film and to program weekend screenings.</p> <p>► 1:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. KSC Film Society members will be on hand for some of the Latchis' Spotlight screenings to share their thoughts on the selections.</p> <p>► Through Sunday, February 26.</p> <p>► \$10 suggested donation (no one turned away). Proceeds from Spotlight Series films benefit the non-profit Latchis Arts.</p> <p>► <b>Latchis (Films), 50 Main St. Information:</b> 802-246-1500; <a href="http://latchistheatre.com">latchistheatre.com</a>.</p> |
| 24       | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FRIDAY</p>  | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SATURDAY</p>  | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SUNDAY</p>  |  |
| 25       | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SATURDAY</p>  | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SATURDAY</p>  | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SUNDAY</p>  |  |
| 26       | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SUNDAY</p>  | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SATURDAY</p>  | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SUNDAY</p>  |  |

■ SEE SUNDAY, B2

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



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# THE COLONIAL

## DUTY CALLS 2.23

## BEST OF BOSTON 2.25

## COLVIN, COHN & JARÓSZ 3.4

## American Ballet Theatre STUDIO COMPANY

### ballet's rising stars 3.10

## Scott Bradlee's POSTMODERN JUKEBOX 3.16

# SHOWROOM

## Music, films & comedy in a cool new venue!

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SEASON UNDERWRITERS

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 TRUE NORTH NETWORKS

The Colonial Theatre is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

**SUNDAY** CONT. FROM B1

► **Hogback Mountain Conservation Area, Rte. 9.** Information: Register: [tinyurl.com/22759mhb](http://tinyurl.com/22759mhb).

**Community building**

**BRATTLEBORO "This is My Song" with Rev. Telos Whitfield (In-Person/Zoom):** It has been a year since the invasion of Ukraine, and we will honor the resilience and perseverance of the Ukrainian people, and the Russian people who have resisted this war. We will explore and celebrate the importance of music to one's homeland, the power that music has to encourage peace, connect and sustain people through incredible challenges.

- 10 a.m.
- Free.
- **All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church West Village Meeting House, 29 South St.** Information: Visit [ascvt.org](http://ascvt.org) on Sunday shortly before 10 a.m. to join via Zoom.

**Dance**

**GUILFORD Bal Folk Dance Party:** Live music by Eloise & Co. - Becky Tracy: fiddle, Rachel Bell: accordion. Even if you've never done anything like this, hang out and listen to the music or get swept up in the action! The dances are very accessible and we'll teach everything you need to know. There are energetic party dances like la chapeloise and bourrde. Groovy Breton dances in lines/spirals that you can really sink into, and then there's the meditative gavotte de l'aven. Plus couple dances and rondeaus.

- 6:30-9 p.m. Wear N95 or similar quality mask inside. Proof of vaccination required. Bivalent booster strongly recommended. Bring vax card to show at door or pre-register: <https://tinyurl.com/3z9a7esz>. (Continues 3/16: 7-9:30, 4/9: 6:30-9 p.m.)
- Sliding scale: \$10-\$20.
- **Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd.** Listen: [www.rachelbellmusic.com](http://www.rachelbellmusic.com). 802-451-0405; [broadbrookcommunitycenter.org](http://broadbrookcommunitycenter.org).

**Visual arts and shows**

**W. BRATTLEBORO "Seasons of Reflections" - Multimedia exhibit of works by six local artists:** Exhibit features original work from the artful lives of All Souls' art committee including Maisie Crowther, Marie Gorst, Linda Hay, Beth McKinney, Trish Murtha, Ann Newsmith.

► 2/26 noon-2 p.m. Reception. Show on view Sundays from 12 noon-2 p.m., and Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 12 noon by appointment.

- Through Sunday, April 30.
- Free.
- **West Village Meeting House, 29 South St.** Information: [ascvt.org](http://ascvt.org), 802-254-9377.

**PUTNEY Reception: Simi Berman - "Other Worlds":** When Simi Berman begins a painting, she consciously avoids having an idea in mind - allowing spontaneous gestures to lead her on a path of discovery/surprise, walking a tightrope between the conscious and unconscious mind. In the process, there's the need to relate and balance alternating with the desire to throw things off a predictable course. Working with collage, she uses forgotten bits and pieces of interest from the point of view of graphics or texture.

- 3 p.m. Opening Reception: Berman is particularly inspired by fragments of old posters ripped off the ancient walls that she comes upon during her trips to Italy. Her urge is to create new life for these old fragments. (Exhibit runs through 5/14. The Gallery is open to the public during scheduled performances in the theater and by appointment.)
- Free.
- **Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill.** Information: 802-387-0102; [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org).

**MONDAY**

27

**Instruction**

**BRATTLEBORO More Instant Pot Fun - hosted by Edible Brattleboro:** Using an Instant Pot for cooking beans and grains is simple and very economical. Together, we'll prepare and enjoy a 3-course meal. Menu to be determined.

- 5-7 p.m. in the 2nd floor Community Room.
- Free - donations accepted with gratitude.
- **Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St.** Information: Register: [outreach@ediblebrattleboro.org](mailto:outreach@ediblebrattleboro.org).

**Kids and families**

**BRATTLEBORO Youth Indoor Soccer Program:** Children will be in small co-ed teams to play pick-up games as well as practice skills and drills. Scores will not be kept. Participants should come dressed and ready to play.

- 5-6 p.m. Program broken down based on grade.
- Mondays: Kindergarten and 1st grade. Tuesdays: 2nd and 3rd grades. Wednesdays: 4th, 5th, 6th grades. Shin guards and sneakers required. Space is limited, so don't wait to sign up.**
- \$20 Brattleboro residents, \$35 non-Brattleboro residents.
- **Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main St.** Information: 802-254-5808; [brattleboro.org](http://brattleboro.org).

**TUESDAY**

28

**Well-being**

**BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic:** Primary medical treatment for patients ages 18 to 64 in our community who do not have health insurance or who cannot

**TUESDAY** CONT.

afford their high deductibles or co-insurance.

- 5-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.
- **Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic, 191 Clark Ave.** Information: 802-251-8484; [brattleborowalkinclinic.com](http://brattleborowalkinclinic.com).

**Community building**

**NEWFANE Courageous Conversation Series: Insufficient Housing Stock/Skyrocketing Real Estate Prices/Increase in Homes converted to Short-term Rentals:** From insufficient housing stock to skyrocketing real estate prices to the increase in homes converted to short-term rentals, the issue can feel overwhelming and hard to follow, let alone be an informed participant in the discussion. So we are grateful Peter Elwell, former Brattleboro town manager, will lend his voice and insights to a constellation of issues related to the housing crisis joins us today.

- 7 p.m. Masking strongly encouraged. Elevator and chair-lift available. In these monthly discussions, we create space in which to engage folks in our area on a range of pertinent questions facing our country and community. Each month, we face a different topic in the hope of creating opportunities to face hard, uncomfortable, high-stake questions, together, in healthy, generative ways that stoke our curiosity, illumine our perspectives, make space for real difference.
- Attendance is free, but space is limited.
- **Newfane Congregational Church, 11 Church St.** Information: Questions: Matt Dean, Pastor, [matt@newfane.church](mailto:matt@newfane.church).

**Dance**

**BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango Class and Practica:** Guest instructors and DJs, many from Argentina! Beginners and all levels are welcome. No partner needed.

- Tuesdays: 7-8 p.m. Tango; 8-10 p.m. Practica. N95 masks required.
- \$12 Class, \$5 Practica, \$15 for both. First class is free.
- **One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St.** Information: [118elliot.com](http://118elliot.com).

**WEDNESDAY**

1

**Well-being**

**Taking Steps Brattleboro: Advance Care Planning Weekly Information Sessions (via Zoom):** Advance Care Planning ensures that your loved ones and health professionals know what you want in a medical emergency if you are unable to speak for yourself. It's a process of creating a written health care plan that tells others what you would want if you couldn't tell them yourself. Includes discussing choices about end-of-life care with your medical provider, family, others, choosing/educating your Health Care Agent, making informed decisions to complete an Advance Directive.

- 10-11 a.m. on Wednesdays. Find out if adding a COVID-19 or Dementia provision would be beneficial to include or add to a previously completed Advance Directive. This is a program of Brattleboro Area Hospice.
- Free.
- **Zoom.** Information: Ruth Nangeroni, Advance Care Planning Program Coord.: 802-257-0775 x 101, [ruth.nangeroni@brattleborohospice.org](mailto:ruth.nangeroni@brattleborohospice.org).

# "A Photo Is Worth a Thousand Words"



## How to create compelling images/video that tell a story

**Media Mentoring Workshop**  
**Wednesday, March 1st,**  
**7 p.m. via Zoom**

Photojournalists offer tips on the art of imagery and storytelling supported by examples.

**MODERATOR: Joyce Marcel:** writer of award-winning cover stories for *Vermont Business Magazine*.

**PANELISTS:**

- **Kelly Fletcher**, documentary photographer.
- **Kris Radder**, photographer/videographer for *Brattleboro Reformer*.
- **Ziagul Azimi**, journalist/executive for AWNA (Afghan Women News Agency).

**WE WILL DISCUSS:**

- Choosing a compelling topic
- Angles and framing
- Light, color, composition, subject
- Capturing images in volatile situations

To register, contact [geoffburgess2@gmail.com](mailto:geoffburgess2@gmail.com)

This event is free. Donate to support Media Mentoring at [commonsnews.org](http://commonsnews.org).



Kelly



Joyce



Kris



Ziagul

To submit your event: [calendar@commonsnews.org](mailto:calendar@commonsnews.org)

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

Visit [commonsnews.org](http://commonsnews.org)

for more listings with more details



Six artists will display their work in "Bloom," at Brooks Memorial Library.

## Art Among Friends exhibits their work at Brooks Library

BRATTLEBORO—During the months of March and April, Brooks Memorial Library hosts "Bloom," an exhibit of watercolor flowers by the local group Art Among Friends. A reception will be held at the library on Friday, March 3, at 4 p.m.

Art Among Friends is a group of six local artists: Connie Evans, Alice Freeman, Kathy Greve, Laurie Klenkel, Louise Zak, and Lynn Zimmerman. These friends gathered online during the pandemic to create, support, and encourage one another on their artistic journeys.

"Instead of grumbling about being 'locked in' since 2020, I rejoiced at learning new painting techniques and getting expert advice from a group of artists I love and respect," said Freeman.

"Every session was a joy," Zak said. "For me, the great benefit of lockdown during the pandemic was that it gave me the time and mental space to really work on my painting. [...] I was so productive being with people while also being alone in my pajamas!"

The group continues to meet twice weekly to practice techniques, share ideas, and offer

constructive advice. "I came up with this mantra during the pandemic," said Laurie Klenkel, "and it still resonates with me today: *I need art. You need art. We all need art.*"

The 17 pieces on display in this show celebrate the promise of spring.

"We wanted to share light and bright colors to help sustain the community through the last blasts of winter and Vermont's own fifth season — mud," said Evans.

"Imagine the joy of splashing around red, yellow, and purple paint on a cold, gray winter day and having that paint turn into pictures of flowers and sunlight. It's amazing," said Zimmerman.

The large flower paintings will be displayed on panels above the Main Reading Room. Some were painted on half-sheets of watercolor paper; others were enlarged before printing.

The library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show will run from Wednesday, March 1 through Thursday, April 27.

## Zara Bode's Little Big Band gets into the swing at BMC

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Music Center's Season Guest series welcomes Zara Bode's Little Big Band on Friday, Feb. 24.

Bode's group performs classic American swing. Inspired by the likes of Duke Ellington, Django Reinhardt, and Ella

Fitzgerald, the Little Big Band features chanteuse Zara Bode (of Signature Sounds artists The Sweetback Sisters) and a horn section led by clarinetist and arranger Anna Patton.

The Little Big Band plays classics with new takes on the old radio hits.

The performance is set for 7 p.m. at the BMC. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door; they are available online at [bmcvt.org](http://bmcvt.org), by calling the BMC at 802-257-4523 or emailing [info@bmcvt.org](mailto:info@bmcvt.org).



"Mama BB" by Rachel Portesi.

## An 'unexpected collaboration' yields exhibit of selected works at Main Street Arts

SAXTONS RIVER—Main Street Arts presents "Model, Muse, Assistant, Artist," a group exhibition curated by photographer Rachel Portesi, to celebrate the individual work of the artists who have also worked in her studio as assistants and models.

The exhibition features a selection of work by artists Hannah Colantuono, Amaia Echanis, Rachel Portesi, Rachel Racco, Isabel Rodriguez, and Willa Sheehan.

The show opening and artist reception will be held on Saturday, March 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the MSA gallery at 35 Main Street.

"Throughout history, artists have formed

close relationships with their models and studio assistants," Portesi wrote in her artist statement. She has been both artist and model, and from her recent perspective as artist, she "can see most clearly the special importance of the relationship constructed between artist, assistant, model, muse."

From this "unexpected collaboration," she says, models surprised her as they "became conduits for self-reflection, leading to a kind of time travel between both my youth and that of my own mother's. [...] I was able to 'see' cross-generationally while simultaneously noticing [the models] for themselves."

In this relationship, the lines are blurred between Portesi's work and that of her models, and she attributes the success of her recent work in large part to them. "I'm delighted for this opportunity to exhibit together. Their creativity has fed mine and I think it shows on the walls of this gallery."

The show will be on view through April 29. Gallery hours are Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m., or whenever the building is open.

More information about the exhibit is available at [mainstreetarts.org](http://mainstreetarts.org).

## Canal Street Art Gallery seeks entries for its Spring Salon

BELLOWS FALLS—Canal Street Art Gallery presents "The Spring Salon," an open-call exhibition hung in the floor-to-ceiling Salon style.

According to the gallery, the Salon "is inclusive of all art and seeks to expand access to original art in our community. The opportunity to exhibit is open to the public. Artists of all career

levels, experience, and with or without formal training, exhibit their artwork."

Artists may submit up to three artworks with maximum dimensions of 48 inches in any direction to exhibit in the Spring Salon. Submissions are due on Monday, Feb. 27. There is an exhibition fee of \$35, which goes toward artwork cataloging, installation,

promotion, and advertising. Visit [bit.ly/703-salon](http://bit.ly/703-salon) for all details on submission requirements and to complete artist registration, to submit artwork, and to email artwork images.

The Spring Salon opens Friday, March 17, on Bellows Falls's 3rd Friday Gallery Night, and will be on view to the public through June 3.

For more information about the Spring Salon, or Canal Street Art Gallery, go to [canalstreetartgallery.com](http://canalstreetartgallery.com) online, call Mike Noyes by phone at 802-289-0104, or send emails to [artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com](mailto:artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com).

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**ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT** R  
WEEKDAYS 3:45 PM  
NIGHTLY 6:30 PM

**COCAINE BEAR** R  
WEEKDAYS 4 PM  
SAT. & SUN. 2 / 4 PM  
NIGHTLY 7 PM

**WOMEN TALKING** PG-13  
FRI. / SAT. / MON.-TH. 7 PM

**PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH** PG  
FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 4:15 PM

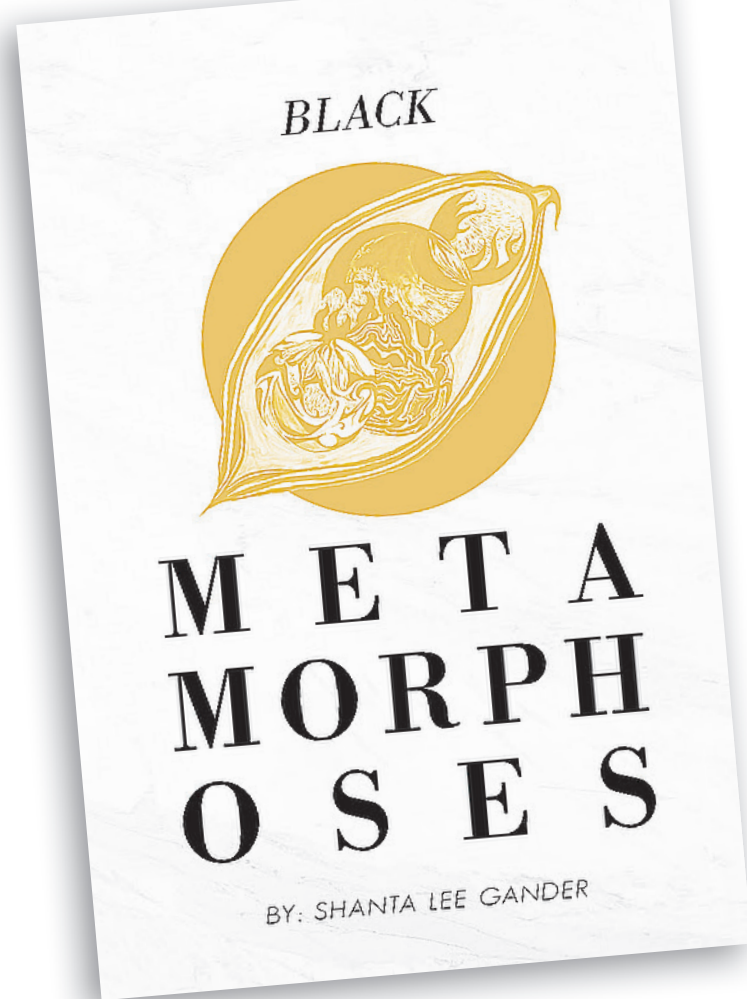
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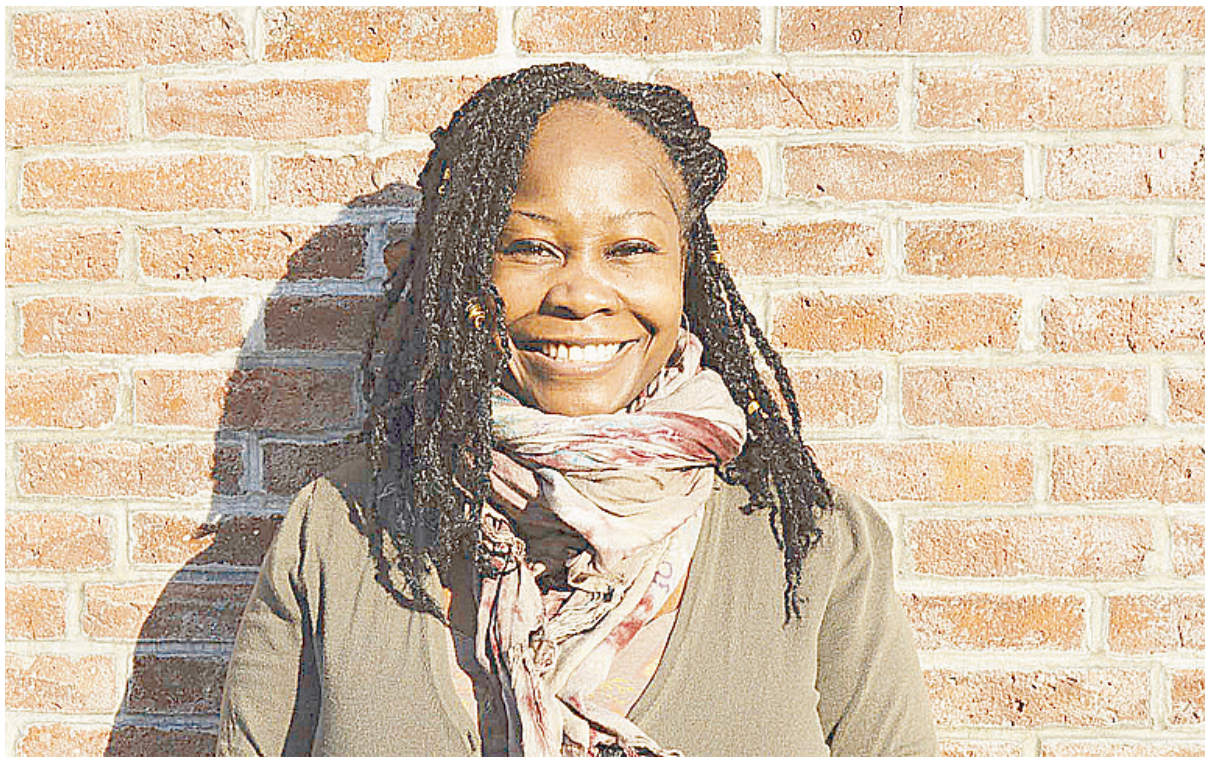
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*Black Metamorphoses*, a new work of poetry by Shanta Lee, is illustrated by Alan Blackwell.



Shanta Lee

## 'Black Metamorphoses' to launch at Antidote Books

BRATTLEBORO—Antidote Books, 15 Putney Road, presents a launch of Shanta Lee's new book, *Black Metamorphoses*, on Friday, Feb. 24, from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

*Black Metamorphoses*, published by Etruscan Press ([etruscanpress.org](http://etruscanpress.org)) is an illustrated poetry collection that has been described by the author as "piercing a 2000+ year-old veil connecting directly to Ovid's *Metamorphoses* through an interpretation, conversation and interrogation."

Through exploration of a range of myths, she explains, the book "rises above direct conversion of the work into the Black experience through inversion, bending, and taking brazen chances."

Shanta Lee is the author of *Ghettoclaustrophobia: Dreamin' of Mama While Trying to Speak Woman in*

*Woke Tongues*, the winner of the 2020 Diode Press full-length book prize with an honorable mention from the Sheila Margaret Motton Book Prize and reviews featured in the Poetry Foundation's Harriet Books, *Seven Days*, and *The Kenyon Review*.

*Black Metamorphoses* is her second full length poetry collection, inspired by her lifelong love of mythology.

She examines the myth of Narcissus within the context of imperialism, explores the power dynamic between the Black female body and colonialism through Ghanaian myth, and asks, "What happens when a whole group is stricken with a hunger that, when satiated, remains unquenchable while causing an unnamable, unquantifiable damage?" and "What happens when colonialism, imperialism, and white supremacy are internalized or become

the backdrop against one's ancestral and current lived experience?"

She has an undergraduate degree in Women, Gender, and Sexuality from Trinity College, a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Hartford, and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction and Poetry from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She teaches Media Studies at The Putney School and says she enjoys anything that allows her to explore beneath the surface, "especially breaking into abandoned places."

When not writing poetry, Shanta Lee works on her memoir project; produces and reports her "Seeing" series for Vermont Public; and tends to her photography projects.

For information about her work, visit [shantalee.com](http://shantalee.com).

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**Friday, March 17**

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~ Greg Underwood, Jamaica, VT

## Ireland's Karan Casey comes to Next Stage on March 2

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present Karan Casey, who organizes name as one of Ireland's finest singer-songwriters on Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m.

Casey is touring the United States in March in support of her new album *Nine Apples of Gold*. Together with Sheila Falls (fiddle) and guitarist Matt Heaton (guitar), Casey will premiere new material from her new album, mixed with favorites from her previous 11 albums.

Singing songs charged with a sense of social responsibility in

a career spanning over 25 years, Casey was among the vanguard of the Irish music revival's Third Wave of the early 1990s, and a founding member of the seminal Irish American band Solas before launching her solo career in 1999.

Though steeped early on in Irish traditional and folk music, Casey says she has long followed an eclectic path, whether studying classical music, fronting jazz bands, or working with Frank Harte, a much-revered folk/traditional singer from Dublin. She's collaborated with a diverse assortment of American and

Irish musicians and groups, in both traditional and contemporary genres.

Born in Waterford, Ireland, Casey has performed extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Japan. Her repertoire has long included original songs that speak to the condition of women, and her latest album follows that precedent.

In 2018, Casey helped to found FairPlé—an organization aimed at achieving fairness and gender balance for female performers in Irish traditional and folk music. Her songs draw inspiration from

a wide range of sources, from the personal to the historical and political, touching on themes of family, loss, love, the empowerment of women, and Irish revolutionary struggle.

For more about Casey, visit [karancasey.com](http://karancasey.com).

Tickets for the performance at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill, are \$22 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, visit [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org) or call 802-387-0102. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

## Bertolucci's masterpiece 'The Conformist' paired with Italian wine tasting at Epsilon Spires

BRATTLEBORO—The downtown arts venue Epsilon Spires will host an evening of Italian wine and film on Sunday, Feb. 26, featuring a tasting of four selected wines sommelier Rob Forman describes as "non-conforming" and a screening of Bernardo Bertolucci's early film *The Conformist*.

"*The Conformist* is the one Bertolucci film you shouldn't miss," writes film critic Aja Romano on Vox, even though the renowned Italian director is more widely known for classics

such as *Last Tango in Paris*.

She elaborates that the film "isn't notable merely for its aesthetic and filmmaking techniques. Rather, it's a case study in how to build a deep narrative using all the elements of cinema to tell an unforgettable story."

*The Conformist* was released in 1970, but it is set during the height of Italian Fascism in the late 1930s. Bertolucci "combines historical detail with the striking and seductive cinematography of the 1970s—*The Conformist* was a significant influence on Francis

Ford Coppola's *The Godfather*—to create a world that is as visually sumptuous as it is morally bankrupt," say organizers.

The film follows a man named Marcello, who attempts to bury shameful and dangerous elements of his past beneath his performative dedication to the Fascist party. When Marcello's loyalty is tested, his sense of self begins to fragment in a fascinating and complex allegory of the personal and the political.

Although *The Conformist* was released more than fifty years ago,

Romano argues that its relevance hasn't faded, suggesting that "Marcello is for all intents no different from the modern ironically detached internet troll who starts out parroting alt-right memes for the lulz but inevitably finds himself sincerely disseminating white supremacist rhetoric."

The wines for the event include a Lambrusco from the Emilia-Romagna region, which Forman describes as "light-bodied, dry, bracing, and tart, representing the new, artisan approach to the traditionally sweet and mass-produced Lambrusco wines."

He will also be pouring a white wine from Puglia—known primarily for its rich reds—that he describes as "a rare example of a fresh, delicate, and aromatic white wine from the region."

The tasting will also feature a biodynamic Schiava, which is a grape variety native to the Italian border with Austria that produces a bright and dry red that can be enjoyed chilled.

The final wine will be a Carménère, which is often thought of as a Chilean wine, but Forman explains "this 'lost' red has actually been grown in the area between Verona and Venice since the mid-19th century." He describes it as "an herbaceous, spicy, rich, dry red of refinement."

All tickets can be purchased at [epsilonspires.org](http://epsilonspires.org) or at the door on the night of the event. Tickets for the film, popcorn, and wine tasting are \$25, and tickets for the film and popcorn only are available on a sliding scale from \$5 to \$12.

## Gallery welcomes Forman to its working artist program

BELLOWS FALLS—Judi Forman is the current artist participating in Canal Street Art Gallery's Working Artist Program. This program provides an artist studio and exhibition space within the Gallery. The studio is open during the Gallery's regular hours, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on 3rd Friday Gallery Nights from 5 to 7 p.m.

According to a gallery news release, the goal of the program "is to provide an affordable space to complete a project, explore a new body of work, gain exposure and sales, or prepare for a solo show."

New artists participate every one to three months, and the program contributes opportunities for the community to discuss art and engage in classes and other events.

"I find inspiration in the work

of my teachers and other jewelry artists, but then it boils down to just what happens between me and the materials," Forman said in her artist statement. "I love the synergy between the metal, my ideas, and the tools."

"Some of my favorite pieces are the result of serendipity, such as how a particular piece of copper responds to the heat of a torch on a particular day and acquires a one-of-a-kind patina."

Forman, based in Westminster, creates one-of-a-kind jewelry. She works with silver, copper, niobium, titanium, and steel, using metalworking techniques such as anodizing, imprinting texture, and drawing with colored pencil. Forman uses layered sheets of metal shaped into works, such as "Three Moons Brooch," and riveted together.

She creates abstract

compositions often inspired by nature on the multiple surfaces she has shaped.

The Working Artist Program is open to all, giving priority to local artists. Working artists are expected to interact and converse with gallery visitors about their artwork, process, and practice.

Artists process their own sales and curate their own space, and upon completion of the program, present a self-curated solo show within their space to coordinate with Gallery Night.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street in Bellows Falls. For more information about the program or gallery, go to [canalstreetartgallery.com](http://canalstreetartgallery.com), call Mike Noyes by phone at 802-289-0104, or email [artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com](mailto:artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com).

VIEWPOINT

# Covert barriers to democracy in Brattleboro

*The Selectboard would not compromise on in-person-only Annual Representative Town Meeting — one example of the town making it difficult or impossible for young people, disabled people, and working people to participate*

**T**HE BRATTLEBORO Selectboard recently voted 3-2 to hold this year's Annual Representative Town Meeting (RTM) completely in person, with no remote option. And with that, a large blow in a line of blows was dealt to the accessibility and diversification of our town's government, bolstering an increasingly regressive status quo.

Town meetings in Vermont are sacrosanct and celebrated instruments of government for the people, by the people. They are "democracy in action," opportunities for the average citizen to speak up about issues that directly impact their daily lives and those of their neighbors.

Compared to growing disenfranchisement in other states, the government in Vermont is proudly said to be accessible, transparent, and truly representative. When I ran for a three-year term as a representative to RTM last year, I felt a sense of giddy patriotism as I went to vote for myself in our town's one and only polling place.

But the vote to hold RTM in person with no masking or vaccine requirements prohibits participation among those who are immunocompromised or otherwise unable to risk a case of COVID-19. The vote took place after several RTM members stated that they wanted to participate but would be unable to do so if it were fully in person.

A hybrid option was not considered as a compromise. One Selectboard member even went so far as to say, "the very success of Representative Town Meeting, and indeed, democracy in Brattleboro, asks us to be in person, if we can. If we can't, someone else should serve

**SARAH TURBOW** holds a master's in social work and is a Brattleboro Representative Town Meeting member representing District 3.

as a representative."

This suggests that anyone who is unable to attend in person, even to protect their physical safety, should not expect to be an RTM member or run for Selectboard: Only those with uncompromised immune systems need apply.

IN ADDITION TO being ableist, the decision disenfranchises disabled and immunocompromised folks, those who love them, and those who can't afford to take a sick day.

People who fit into these categories are among the most directly impacted by the decisions made at RTM — for example, approving the human services budget — and those most marginalized from our decision-making bodies. This decision further restricts their ability to inform the policies that impact them most.

This is not the only barrier to participation in town government. Last RTM, a proposal to set aside negligible funds to provide free lunch for this year's RTM was voted down.

This proposal was made by a committee that had been explicitly formed to make RTM accessible to more people. Yet, this basic measure to make participation in a day-long meeting more financially and logistically feasible was considered too costly to fund.

Some even suggested that providing lunch would be against the "spirit of volunteerism," implying that anyone

■ SEE BARRIERS, C2

VIEWPOINT



JEFF POTTER, COMMONS FILE PHOTO

# Support charter change to protect tenants and prevent homelessness

*Unjust evictions are major disruptions in people's lives and an enormous strain on their mental well-being and on our public services*

**N**ATIONALLY, tenants saw a 17.2% increase in their average rents in 2021 alone. In Brattleboro and beyond, out-of-state corporate landlords are kicking out existing tenants who pay their rent and follow the rules in order to jack up the rent for the tenants who follow.

As I biked across Vermont as part of my U.S. Senate campaign this past summer, I heard this same story in Barre, in Burlington, and then back home again in Brattleboro.

"To prevent evictions," the Biden White House wrote last month, "renters should have access to just- or good-cause eviction protections that require a justified cause to evict a tenant."

I agree. We should follow

**ISAAC EVANS-FRANTZ** graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 2001 after serving as the first student voting member of the Vermont State Board of Education. He currently directs a national humanitarian advocacy organization and serves on the executive committee of a statewide Vermont environmental organization. On Tuesday, March 7, Brattleboro voters can cast their ballots from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the American Legion at 32 Linden St.

the White House guidance and vote yes on Article II to amend the Brattleboro town charter in the election on Tuesday, March 7.

THE PROPOSED charter change states, "A landlord shall not evict a tenant for the sole purpose of raising the rent." If a tenant is in violation of the contract — by creating a nuisance to the neighbors, for example — that would still be grounds for eviction.

Unjust evictions, however, are major disruptions in people's lives and can contribute to homelessness. From 2007 to 2021, homelessness increased in Vermont by 259%. This month, data came out that Vermont has the second-highest homelessness rate in the United States, following only California's.

With an extremely low availability of rental units in Brattleboro (0.5-2.8%), when tenants are evicted, they often

are forced to move out of state, or, in many cases, become unhoused. This includes tenants who pay their rents, look after their homes, and are part of their communities. Evictions place enormous strain on people's mental well-being and on our public services.

Recent local news coverage has described challenges unsheltered individuals in Brattleboro face. I do not want anyone in our town to die from hypothermia. This is why I echoed Brattleboro Selectboard Member Jessica Gelter's request last month that shelter for our unsheltered neighbors be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

We have learned about some very large obstacles to providing shelter. Creating tenant protections from abusive

■ SEE EVICTIONS, C3

VIEWPOINT



# Pledging allegiance

A group of off-duty state troopers were caught in a brazen act of self incrimination. Now that there is clear evidence, who will be held accountable? And how?

**I**T SEEMS LIKE a bad dream: a group of off-duty state troopers invent rap verses using the most egregious of language — including "If being racist is right then I'll never be wrong" and multiple uses of "NAPA," an acronym for "North American pavement ape" — while playing online games.

Not an imagined nightmare, this series of events occurred

**REV. DR. LISE SPARROW** is chair of religious affairs for the Windham County NAACP. An ordained pastor of the United Church of Christ, she is the retired pastor of the Guilford Community Church.

among Vermont State Police troopers at the Westminster barracks. Documentation of this behavior, including names of troopers participating, was reported to Vermont Public Safety Commissioner Jennifer

Morrison this past month. The question is: Now that there is clear evidence, who will be held accountable, and how?

Should the troopers themselves be held accountable to

■ SEE POLICE, C2



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## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS | Brattleboro Selectboard

**Spoon Agave: 'We must raise the value of community'**

I take a humanist or human rights approach to what I believe is a genuine and appropriate framework for community planning and problem solving.

In this light, assistance goes first to those who need the most help. As I was taught when I was a kid: Everyone gets firsts before anyone gets seconds. Nobody asks to be born. But we're here and we are all entitled to a long, healthy and fulfilling life. This is the nature of being human and thus the basis of our human rights and the responsibilities of good citizenship.

Consistent with the above, I believe in democracy. The best democracies require the highest level of participation and well-informed citizens. It is only under these conditions that decisions can be imbued with integrity and legitimacy.

Many of our most controversial problems arise from a lack of accurate and fully shared information. Two of the questions you will hear me ask most frequently are "How do you know?" and "What do you mean?" That's because our best decisions are based on good evidence of fact and a common understanding.

Too often, our meetings conclude with decisions wrought from exasperation rather than a unified viewpoint. Typical meeting process abets the pitting of one group against another and propels us into

winning at any cost rather than finding the best decision for all.

I also believe that in a community we all need to participate. Teachers need to take more responsibility for education. They need to ask if our civic life and decisions reflect an informed populace. The health care field must ask if our citizens are receiving the care they need. Our police need to share what they have learned and weigh in on an action plan. Farmers need to come forward and talk about feeding us.

We need to soften our hierarchical walls so that we all can participate and contribute. It is essential to cease pointing fingers in every other direction and take responsibility for ourselves.

Day by day, this is indeed becoming the reality. Each year our problems grow, yet state and federal assistance declines. We must raise the value of community and mellow the focus on ourselves as individuals.

Is this not the way the human species has evolved and survived? Yes, and that applies to all species, in fact, if one is to believe the biologists and naturalists. Durability and co-operation are vitally linked in economic life, social life, and political life.

My starting point is a firm belief that we all share the same basic needs. We all need a decent place to live, good nutrition, a satisfying job and, by extension, access to good education and training, good health care, and the ability to sleep soundly.

We need to feel safe and secure. Not only for today, but for

all time to come.

**Spoon Agave Brattleboro**

*Spoon Agave is a candidate for a one-year seat on the Brattleboro Selectboard.*

**Peter 'Fish' Case: 'People are hurting now, and it is possible to stop it'**

I'm running for a one-year seat on the Brattleboro Selectboard because change has to happen.

This current board gives more attention to a \$425,000 public bathroom project than lights and security cameras in the transportation center. This board ended a 57-year relationship with Rescue Inc. with little or no public input.

I've been quoted as saying that this is a good board. I'd like to amend that: These are good people who together are not listening to their constituency, and that only serves five people.

There are long-term solutions to everything: things that allow us to kick the can down the road and say we have a plan. This is what this board does well.

But while they've shown that they can act quickly, they have set a precedent of moving through something quickly as well. Of course, I'm referring to the elimination of Rescue Inc. and the contracting of Golden Cross as the town's EMS provider.

So if we're looking for silver linings, we now have that to

constantly refer to, and should I get elected I will sound like a broken record when things bog down. People are hurting now, and it is possible to stop it. All we must do is apply a little common sense and backbone — something of which I have an ample supply.

I have spoken with a dozen retailers who have all been told by their customers that they don't feel safe coming downtown. I've spoken with hundreds of citizens who are tired of being aggressed when they get out of their cars.

All this tells me is that it's time to take a look at our stance on loitering again and make some changes. Those changes may not be popular, but they will return commerce to downtown Brattleboro and make it safe and inviting for all.

I'm not running on just one issue; I'm running to fix all these problems and bring my skills of communication and messaging to this board. I have a strong personality, and I'm able to cut through the noise and produce results — the results this town needs right now.

I am the strongest candidate in the race, and those of you who know me know that I don't have a quit switch and I can see anything through till the end. I won't forget who I'm representing, and I will always reflect the values of the voter.

**Peter "Fish" Case Brattleboro**

*Peter "Fish" Case is a candidate for a one-year seat on the Brattleboro Selectboard.*

**Elizabeth 'Liz' McLoughlin: 'Let's work together and with the police department to solve our town's crime problems'**

As I stated in my recent newspaper profile for this Selectboard race, we have problems in Brattleboro that only working together can solve.

Crime is certainly a major problem. I have been working to understand and address our crime problem in my four years on the Selectboard. I've seen these issues myself on my police ride-along.

Chief Norma Hardy reported to the Selectboard the nature and level of crime in our town. This data showed us that the most serious crime in our community is domestic abuse and child abuse. Addressing crime downtown is certainly important, but don't be fooled: Arresting loiterers is not the solution to our downtown and neighborhood break-ins. Our town employees, including the police, are here to serve all of Brattleboro.

Let's focus on the real issues and not be distracted by word-play or performative actions. Let's work together and with the police department to solve our town's crime problems.

As a Selectboard member, I will continue to ask Chief Hardy what the department needs to patrol, deter, and solve crime in the Transportation Center and downtown. Let's not pre-determine what set of tools are necessary (e.g., a

substation, lights, and/or cameras); let's have an intelligent discussion with our Police Department leadership.

The Brattleboro Police Department is engaged in the difficult task of hiring the right kind of personnel for the positive police culture it has established. We need police, mental health services, and social services — let's not take from one to pay for the other. I am vigilant against this defund idea for our town. All these professionals should and must work together.

I also believe we need solutions in our judiciary and in our legislature to combat the revolving door of arresting and releasing persons who commit crimes and who might suffer from mental illness. State money for mental health and addiction treatment is needed.

The next few years are pivotal for the Brattleboro Selectboard. We need to work with town staff to be smart about our own American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending for municipal purposes and to work with the state to make sure Vermont's ARPA and infrastructure spending can be used to support Brattleboro's anti-crime, mental health, housing, infrastructure, and social needs that are so critical now and for the future of our community.

**Elizabeth McLoughlin Brattleboro**

*Elizabeth "Liz" McLoughlin is running for re-election for a three-year seat on the Brattleboro Selectboard.*

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS | Vernon Selectboard

**Ken Bloom: 'It is time that all of Vernon's voices are not only heard, but represented'**

I believe that there needs to be more of a balance in leadership in our beautiful town, and I will use my years of involvement in the community to do just that.

I know how to help in times of need. During Covid, I launched my take-out/catering business Bloomin' Italian and

helped keep the Vernon community fed, as I still do to this day.

As the Events Committee chair of the Friends of Vernon Center, I know what it takes to bring life to the community. I spearhead the development of the center's activities that are enjoyed by Vermonters everywhere.

When our local Fire Department transitioned to new leadership, I joined the support team to assist with maintenance, upkeep, and fundraising initiatives, serving those who

selflessly serve our community.

As a parent, I know the importance of education. I am very involved with teachers, activities, and programs, chaperoning multiple grades' trips and activities.

Over the years, my family and I have become part of the Vernon culture. But there are some in the community whose needs are not being met and who struggle to find someone to listen. My goal is to facilitate an environment of inclusion for both new and longtime Vernon residents, where everyone has a voice and representation.

It is time that all of Vernon's voices are not only heard, but represented on our Selectboard. As a member, I will use my knowledge, experience, and desire to bring positive change to ensure that each and every member of our community experiences a sense of safety and belonging.

**Ken Bloom Vernon**

*Ken Bloom is seeking a two-year Selectboard seat in Vernon on Tuesday, March 7.*

**Brandon Bucossi: 'How do we afford to stay in and maintain our homes?'**

I am 33 years old and I have lived in Vermont my entire life. I work with my in-laws and our family here on the Miller Farm, and my wife and I are partners in the "Miller Milk" branded products you may have seen in stores.

I have always felt as though Vernon is a part of my identity, and since returning, my roots have grown even deeper. My wife and I live in town, work in town, go to church in town, and have invested heavily in our future rooted in this town.

The most pressing issue I see facing Vernon is property tax rates as we continue to

transition into a post-Vermont Yankee reality. We need to come together as a community and decide how to balance the services provided by the town with the "new normal" financial constraints and reality facing us since the plant's shutdown.

The top issue I hear about from people in our community is: How do we afford to stay in and maintain our homes with the rising cost of living?

I would define fiscal responsibility as "effective and efficient use of taxpayer money." Sometimes it pays to invest to gain efficiency or avert a crisis down the road.

Another pressing issue for me is what happens to the Vermont Yankee site when decommissioning is complete. There is a vast amount of space and electrical infrastructure close to the site. I would support bringing an industry on site, one that would increase the tax base of the town and decrease the tax burden for citizens.

I can offer a fresh perspective. I feel like we need to make decisions that are going to benefit all citizens of Vernon. Being involved in small businesses, I've learned many skills that can be applied to local government, including unbiased decision-making, adapting and correcting if a bad decision has been made, and listening.

I come to the table with a willingness to learn and to listen. I have no agenda or bias — only a desire to leave our town in a better position for generations to come.


I would truly be appreciative of your vote for me on Town Meeting Day.

**Brandon Bucossi Vernon**

*Brandon Bucossi is seeking a two-year Selectboard seat in Vernon on Tuesday, March 7.*

**GOTAN OPINION?**  
(Of course you do! You're from Windham County!)

Got something on your mind? Send contributions to our Letters to 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.



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**The Commons**  
15 years of commonsense

Brattleboro still silent about what led to EMS changes

**AS BAD AS IT'S BEEN?**

As Windham County farmers deal with drought and dry soil, some find workarounds with irrigation

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**Barriers**

for whom this is a barrier to entry doesn't have the right "spirit" to participate in RTM.

Last RTM, I was honored to be voted in as a member of the town's human services committee. This committee considers funding proposals from non-profits and agencies that provide crucial social services in town, including for refugees, those experiencing homelessness, the BIPOC community, youth, and the rural LGBTQ+ community.

I was excited to serve in a way that would distribute as many resources as possible to

organizations that are led by and serving marginalized populations. As a 34-year-old social worker, I was also hoping to add a degree of diversity to the committee, which — like most town bodies — seems to be dominated by retirees who I often hear bemoaning the lack of more or younger participants.

When I received an invitation to my first meeting, however, I noticed that it was to be at 3 p.m. on a weekday afternoon, difficult for someone who works full-time. I emailed back to ask if a new time could be considered.

**Police**

uphold their roles as public servants and accountable to all Vermonters? Should their supervisor, a trooper himself, who quickly elevated the incident to the state commissioner? Should it be the Commissioner herself, who failed to dig deeper into the issue to find out the facts?

Or should it be we, the people, who have not made clear to our public officials the kind of place we want to live, the ways we want to treat one another, and just how we ourselves want to be held accountable? We, who have not asked legislators for the means to train, support, and hire the type of officers we

want protecting our streets? Is it only a matter of time that words turn to actions and we have our own George Floyd or Tyre Nichols? Is it too far a leap to imagine in Vermont — when we already know police stop Black, Indigenous, and Vermonters of color at triple the rate they do white Vermonters?

As of Feb. 14, Athens, Bellows Falls, Bennington, Brattleboro, Brookline, Chester, Guilford, Jamaica, Newfane, Putney, Rockingham, Saxtons River, and Vernon have all taken steps to push back against some of the ways we discourage and exclude the full spectrum of people and possibilities for our state.

Most recently, on Feb. 13, Jamaica made the following declaration:

"The Town of Jamaica condemns in the strongest terms any effort to spread targeted

messages of hate that are designed to induce fear in any member of our community. Hateful speech aimed at any member of our community will not be tolerated.

"Happily Jamaica is a diverse and vibrant community. We support all of the members of our community who engage in peaceful demonstrations and constructive dialogue.

"As a town we welcome all persons regardless of race, color, religion, socioeconomic status, national origin, gender identity, age, or disability. We condemn discrimination in all its forms and will strive to ensure all our actions, policies and operating procedures reflect this commitment."

Joining with close to 95 other municipalities across Vermont, Jamaica has pledged allegiance to the values of inclusion and welcome. It is a means by which the town will begin to hold its citizens accountable for the

## FROM SECTION FRONT

agenda — led and informed by those most impacted, and supported by their allies — could be advanced.

But covert barriers to access like these make it difficult or impossible for young people, disabled people, and working people to participate. Instead, even our most ostensibly accessible bodies are dominated by those who have the most free time, the most resources, and the most robust health.

In other words, the most privileged.

So much for democracy by the people, for the people.

## FROM SECTION FRONT

respect and treatment we all deserve.

AT TOWN MEETINGS in Dummerston and Westminster in March, those towns will also take up such commitments for discussion.

As a resident of Westminster, which hosts the barracks at which these state troopers serve our county, I like to imagine a day when, upon graduation from training in Vermont, all state police and troopers make such a pledge.

And I hold the dream that we, in turn, stand up as citizens with them, holding ourselves and our leaders accountable for being the kind of people we want to be for each other.

No matter if we live in the hills of Dummerston or the deep valley of Westminster, no matter our politics or personalities. Now is time to be the people we want to be for each other and for our neighbors.

## LETTERS FROM READERS

**Funds available for community investment in affordable housing**

I am a Putney resident who wants more affordable housing — literally, in my backyard.

There's an alternative to billion-dollar corporations monopolizing Vermont affordable housing building another project in downtown Putney. Right now, the federal government (through Vermont Housing Improvement Program funds distributed by the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust) is offering property owners grants of \$30,000 to \$50,000 to build affordable housing.

These funds can be used to create in-laws or garage apartments and additions to homes, as long as the project serves those who qualify, like folks already living in current WWHT units or who meet the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The whole community benefits when we come together to share in the responsibility (and benefits) of becoming housing providers. Plus, according to the projected costs of the controversial downtown Putney proposal, community-driven small developments cost much less, put money back into the hands of local workers, are better for the environment, and have less negative impact on the town's infrastructure.

A great example of this is Bellows Falls, where over the last three-years, small, local developers have created affordable housing by employing local workers for a fraction of the cost.

These VHIP funds are available through 2025. Putney residents have already committed to building more than 25 integrated, affordable housing units in our community!

If people can truly believe in a "yes, in my backyard" approach, this is it.

Marcella Eversole  
Putney

**Overdue**

I have limited understanding of the killing and posturing that have gone on endlessly between the Israelis and Palestinians. But I think I know this: that, when tit-for-tat has gone on too long, it's up to the side that holds the most cards to make serious moves to end the turmoil.

And in this case the advantaged side clearly is Israel — militarily, economically, politically.

Their serious effort is overdue.

Byron Stookey  
Brattleboro

**Charter amendment is not a good fit or fix for Brattleboro**

RE: "Cause or no cause?" [News, Feb. 8]:

I have been following the letters and public hearings and coverage regarding the proposed amendment to the Brattleboro Town Charter relating to evictions of housing tenants.

What BSAG Realty has done to tenants at Westbrook Court is, I believe, an example of why some persons and entities choose to be absentee owners: so they do not have to even

see the faces of the people whose lives they are completely upending.

I am also convinced, however, that we have many good landlords in Brattleboro, partly because they are not absentee and partly because they have values that lead them to provide people with quality housing and a decent housing experience. Because of that, I believe the proposed charter amendment is not a good fit or fix for our community.

While some parts of the amendment attempt to make the eviction process fairer, it will also make it more bureaucratic and lengthier.

What will happen if it passes? In my opinion, it would result in a worse situation for other tenants — including quite possibly more crime next door to them — because it will be so time-consuming to get rid of problem tenants. In my opinion, it would make our current local landlords less willing to continue being owners in Brattleboro — let alone develop badly needed new units.

The proposed amendment is certainly well intentioned. Some of its more limited proposals, like its 12% cap on yearly rent increases, strike me as fair. It will not, however, solve (and may exacerbate) the shortness of housing supply that is allowing high rents to begin with, and it will not solve (and may exacerbate) the issue of unruly (and sometimes criminal) tenants.

I am not a landlord, but I am firmly with them — the local ones — on this one. They should be proud of the service they supply, and we should make them feel appreciated for investing in our community.

Michael Bosworth  
Brattleboro

**Housing is a human right — but charter change does nothing to support that right**

RE: "Cause or no cause?" [News, Feb. 8]:

This year's Brattleboro Town Meeting ballot has a proposal to stuff some disjointed housing rental regulations into the Town Charter.

We should vote it down and work for meaningful changes that will actually help people.

I say that as one who was part of the group that launched this charter change effort but who moved away when the organizers insisted on listening more to what Burlington wanted than to what Brattleboro needs.

There are many problems with the amendment as written, not the least of which is that it tries to shoehorn what should be an ordinance into the town charter.

So what's wrong with that? An ordinance is something we in Brattleboro can change whenever needed. It can adapt when we learn more about what the ordinance affects, just as we can change parking regulations or zoning.

But as part of our charter, any change to this measure would require action by the Vermont Legislature and approval by the governor. Change would be unwieldily and slow.

For example, suppose the rent limit is too high or too low. How do we change it? Back to the Legislature.

What if the reasons for lease

termination are too tight or too loose and need to change? Back to the Legislature.

Everything would be in the hands of Montpelier, not Brattleboro.

And then there is the list of what is missing for meaningful housing support. At the top of the list is enforcement.

Since the fake ordinance does not set up any kind of an arbitration board, enforcement would be up to the courts. We have heard landlords complain about the problems of using the courts to evict tenants. But with this fake ordinance, tenants who feel their leases were terminated inappropriately would need to get a lawyer and go to court themselves.

And what about the conversion of long-term, stable housing to vacation rentals? There is nothing in this fake ordinance to slow or reverse removing those properties from the rental roles.

I think housing is a human right — but this charter change does nothing to support that right. In fact, it degrades it by taking rental properties off the rolls. All agree that the big problem is tight supply of housing. This fake ordinance will do absolutely nothing to help that and, in fact, will make it worse.

Please join me in voting no on Article II.

George Carvill  
Brattleboro

**We need to talk about Vermont's housing crisis**

*They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; they will long enjoy the work of their hands.* —Isaiah 65:21–22 (NRSV)

In my Christian tradition, which has its roots firmly in Jewish tradition, there is perhaps no more foundational spiritual ethic than that of hospitality. In our own culture, this word may prompt associations with being gracious, personable hosts or having a warm, inviting affect. But in scriptural tradition, the idea of hospitality runs far deeper and encompasses a much broader sweep of relational ethics.

At its core, the spiritual practice of hospitality means truly honoring the ultimate reality that everyone belongs here. Our commitment to this reality can take many different expressions and will necessarily interact or conflict with other commitments.

Such conflicts are amply evident in the recent discourse in our community surrounding the housing crisis in Vermont and beyond. Indeed, given the breadth of issues and geographies involved, it's perhaps more accurately referred to as "housing crises."

From insufficient housing stock to skyrocketing real estate prices to the increase in homes converted to short-term rentals, for many (myself very much included) the issue can feel overwhelming and hard for someone to follow, let alone be an informed participant in the discussion.

For this reason, we are so glad to announce that for our next Courageous Conversation, on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., we will be joined by Peter Elwell, former Brattleboro town manager. Through his impassioned involvement on a host of housing and adjacent concerns, including his service on the board of directors for Groundworks Collaborative, Elwell has lent his voice and insights to a constellation of issues related to the housing crisis.

This will be the second in our series of monthly discussions, where we create a regular space in which to engage folks in our area on a range of pertinent questions facing our country and community.

Each month, we're facing a different topic in the hope of creating opportunities to face hard, uncomfortable, high-stakes questions, together, in healthy, generative ways that stoke our curiosity, illumine our perspectives, and make space for real difference.

For questions regarding the event, please email me directly ([matt@newfane.church](mailto:matt@newfane.church)). Attendance is free, but space is limited. Masking is strongly encouraged, and masks will be available at the door. An elevator and a chair lift are available.

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH  
Newfane

Matt Deen, pastor

**Your Town Meeting needs more voices participating for democracy to work**

Town Meetings are a New England tradition that enables all voting-eligible residents of a town to learn about and discuss proposals for the coming year. I ask residents of Vermont to take this opportunity to participate in shaping policy on the local level. Budgetary implications and the resulting policy on a wide range of issues are determined at Town Meeting.

With decreasing attendance at our Town Meetings, decisions are being made by a smaller and smaller portion of each town. As a social studies teacher and a state representative, I am concerned about decreasing participation in our government at all levels.

You may know about an issue in town that your neighbor doesn't. When you both show up to Town Meeting, we can

learn from both of you!

How are your fire department and other emergency services responding in times of need in your community? Go to Town Meeting and find out.

Do you have town buildings that need upgrades? Vote to support this possibility (or vote against it, if you don't agree).

I live in a town with fewer than 3,000 residents, but at last year's Town Meeting I recall fewer than 80 residents there helping to shape the following year's plans for our town. We need more voices participating for democracy to work.

Come meet your neighbors, listen to reports from your Selectboard (and possibly town managers, state representatives, and state senators). This is the one time a year we have the opportunity together to help plan the best future we can have for the next year in each of our towns.

Though Town Meeting Day

is Tuesday, March 7, Town Meetings may take place as soon as Saturday, March 4 or some other time. Check with your town to find the day and time, and then please plan to show up. Encourage your neighbors to come, too!

Residents of Westminster, I hope see many members of our community at our Town Meeting. If you are from one of Vermont's 251 other towns, I hope you find a meeting filled with many neighbors you know — and others you don't — coming together to plan for your collective future as well.

Town Meetings are a valuable and unique Vermont tradition. Let's help the tradition to thrive by participating.

Michelle Bos-Lun  
Westminster

*The writer is one of the two members of the Vermont House of Representatives serving the Windham-3 district, which comprises Rockingham, Westminster, and Brookline.*

**Vote in new Selectboard members to mend EMS relationships**

The currently sitting Selectboard in Brattleboro has unfinished business ... and it cannot be accomplished by the currently sitting members.

For there to be honest and real "transparency," three members of the board must change.

Richard "Dick" DeGray stands out first as someone who speaks his mind and — from personal experience, I can say — as someone who will think through an issue and debate it. Dick and I may not always agree, but we will hear each other.

Franz Reichsman is the detail person, I believe, measured and thoughtful. He has the needed background in emergency medicine to do the deep dive into our present quandary with EMS.

And Peter "Fish" Case showed his insight and evenhandedness by bringing together, virtually, the chiefs of the Brattleboro Fire Department and Rescue Inc. during an episode of *Vermontitude*, "A Path Back (bit.ly/703-forward)."

This is exactly what we need. A path back to mend relationships so we can move forward.

This is the team to get it done.

Remember to vote on Tuesday, March 7. Your future depends on it.

Robert A. Oeser  
Brattleboro

**McLoughlin: smarts, experience, big-picture understanding, and tenacity**

I offer my enthusiastic support for Elizabeth McLoughlin's bid for re-election to the Brattleboro Selectboard.

I've lived and worked in the Brattleboro area for my entire adult life and I love our community. As a clinical psychologist, I am particularly concerned about the degree of trauma and emotional vulnerability underpinning most — if not all — of

the social problems we face, including homelessness, substance abuse, domestic and community violence, climate change, and crime.

These are all complex issues without simple fixes. My dear friend Liz McLoughlin has the smarts, experience, big-picture understanding, and tenacity to grapple with multifaceted solutions.

For example, she supports having a fully staffed police force along with increased mental health and substance abuse treatment funding to take on crime response, prevention, and restorative justice. She has some interesting and innovative ideas to address our housing shortage, with a focus on improving both the quantity and quality of affordable places to live. She's committed to plans that are environmentally sustainable and just. Her campaign slogan is correct: she is Pragmatic, Optimistic, and Wise (POW)!

It's great that Liz has already served as clerk, vice chair, and chair of the Selectboard. This means that, on day one, she'll be able to roll up her sleeves and get to work for us. She understands the budget process and the importance of collaboration.

You won't find another candidate so capable of staying focused on larger goals while simultaneously attending to little details, nor will you find one so invested in continuing the essential work to weave back together the torn fabric of our beloved town and help the people of Brattleboro feel safer and more connected.

We need compassionate, informed leadership, perhaps now more than ever. If re-elected, Liz will keep working tirelessly for us all, and I can't wait to vote for her again.

Martha B. Straus  
Brattleboro

**McLoughlin: ready to improve town government**

I've known Liz McLoughlin for over a decade, since we both volunteered for the Drop-in Center's Empty Bowls Dinner. She is a serious person when she is not trying to make some lame joke, and I am glad

she has chosen to run again for the Brattleboro Selectboard.

Liz cares about Brattleboro, especially the things that were not finished due to the lack of a town manager. Now that we have Town Manager John Potter, I know she is eager to accomplish work that was left undone, such as how to spend federal Covid money, how to determine the proper ambulance service, and how to have both a robust police force and mental health services that really serve our community.

Her four years on the board allow Liz to really understand how town government works, and most importantly, how to improve it.

I encourage you to vote for Liz!

Ruth E. Wilmot  
Brattleboro

**Putney Foodshelf thanks Putney Craft Tour artists**

The Putney Foodshelf thanks the Putney Craft Tour for its generous support over the years.

For about a decade, craftspeople on the tour have donated to the Foodshelf.

Members have developed a variety of ways to contribute. Some make a donation from their overall proceeds; other members create a special sale event designated for the Foodshelf.

For example, Green Mountain Spinnery donates proceeds from sweaters (some made especially for the event) and culls knitted items that have been in the shop for longer than a year or two.

We are very grateful to Green Mountain Spinnery; to Peter Dixon of Parish Hill Creamery, the liaison between the Tour and the Foodshelf; and to Brandywine Glassworks, Caitlin Burch, Flying Canvas Studio, Jeanne Bennett Jewelry, Ken Pick Pottery; Nancy Calicchio Paintings; Overhills Studio; Putney Mountain Winery; and all other Putney Craft Tour members for their ongoing commitment to the sustainability of the Putney Foodshelf.

PUTNEY FOODSHELF  
Putney

Emily Zervas, treasurer

**Evictions**

landlords is one thing we can do — one thing to help prevent homelessness in the first place.

TO BE CLEAR, many local housing providers are deeply caring individuals, invested in our community, and go above and beyond to treat their tenants well.

Meanwhile, the pandemic, bureaucratic systems, and social problems have created real headaches for many of these landlords. Understandably, many local landlords worry about the impact of the proposed charter change. Moving eviction cases through the courts already takes too long and can be costly.

But tenants should not have to sacrifice their rights due to a backed-up court system. Nor should landlords.

If the proposed charter amendment passes, the court system could see a dramatic reduction in eviction cases: According to Vermont Legal Aid, no-cause evictions account for 50% of evictions that go to court. The charter change would potentially remove the

FROM SECTION FRONT

backlog from these spurious eviction cases and expedite cases that are for legitimate reasons.

ULTIMATELY, low- and middle-income Vermonters need housing they can afford. This will require capital investment. We need to make sure the federal government fully funds the Section 8 housing vouchers program to adequately subsidize housing for people who need the help.

Our governments need to fund supportive services for people in our towns who are most vulnerable, including people with disabilities and health challenges. And we need to offer tenants legal support.

We also need to look at what we can do now to help protect tenants against outrageous rent hikes and unjust evictions.

We need a tenant-focused approach that creates affordable housing, provides safe and stable housing to the unhoused and — finally — protects Vermonters from evictions without cause.

**2023 Hybrid Annual Meeting**

Saturday, Feb. 25th, from 1:30-4:30pm  
at Brooks Memorial Library  
Community Room on the 2nd floor  
224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT



To attend through Zoom, email  
[brattleborotimetrade@gmail.com](mailto:brattleborotimetrade@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

**Come join friends and members to decide how we want Time Trade to evolve and develop!**

- 1:30 – Arrive / Log into Zoom. Mingle / Find a seat. Snacks / Drinks.
- 1:45 – Welcome and Introductions.
- 2:00 – Community Ice Breaker, facilitated by Calvin Dame
- 2:30 – Reports: Membership, Exchanges, Finances, Projects.
- 3:15 – What sort of future do we envision/wish for BTT?
- 4:00 – Outcomes and Closure; Next Steps, Announcements, Offers, and Requests.
- 4:30 – Good Night and Thank You!

**COLUMN** | *Sports Roundup*

# Girls' basketball playoffs begin this week

**Rebels open at home; Colonels, BF start with road games**

The Vermont high school girls' basketball playoffs began this week. Contending teams always want to go into this stage of the season with momentum. However, for the Leland & Gray Rebels, they entered the Division IV playoffs coming off a pair of losses to end the regular season.

On the road against White River Valley on Feb. 15, the Rebels were held scoreless in the first quarter and trailed 26-5 at halftime on the way to a 48-12 loss. That loss was painful, but it came against a top Division III team and wasn't that surprising.

A better barometer of what the Rebels will face in the playoffs came in the regular season finale in Townshend on Feb. 17, when they hosted the undefeated West Rutland Golden Horde. The defending Division IV champs turned up the defensive pressure in the third quarter and outscored the Rebels 22-5 on the way to a 65-29 victory.

The game started out close as the Rebels trailed, 12-11, at the end of the first quarter. Leland & Gray lost a bit of ground in the second quarter as the Horde took a 21-15 at the half.

Then West Rutland sophomore superstar Peyton Guay took over the game in the second half, scoring 21 of her game-high 31 points. Guay was scoring baskets from all distances and, when she wasn't shooting, she was able to quickly dish the ball off to whoever else was open. Teammates Bella Coombs (15 points) and Aubrey Beaulieu (10 points, all in the second half) were the chief beneficiaries.

Samantha Morse led Leland & Gray with 10 points, followed by Hannah Greenwood with eight points and Maggie Parker with six points for the Rebels. Greenwood and Abby Towle, the only seniors on the Rebels squad, were honored before the game.

The Rebels finished the regular season with a 15-5 record and the third seed in Division IV. They will host No. 14 Rivendell in a first-round game on Feb. 22. The good news for the Rebels is that West Rutland is not in their side of the tournament bracket. If there is to be a rematch between these two teams, it will happen in the state championship game on March 4 at high noon at the Barre Auditorium.

Brattleboro bounced back from a 42-40 loss to Mount Anthony in Bennington on Feb. 14 with a 36-32 win over the Burr & Burton Bulldogs on Feb. 16 in the Colonels' home finale.

The Colonels finished with a 6-14 regular season record and the No. 12 seed in the Division I tournament. The good news is that their first game will be close by as Brattleboro was scheduled to travel to Manchester to face fifth-seeded Burr & Burton in a first-round game on Feb. 21.

Bellows Falls lost to West Rutland, 72-35, on Feb. 14, but ended the regular season on Feb. 18 with a 50-21 win over Rivendell to finish with a 6-14 record and the No. 10 seed in Division III. They were scheduled to travel north to Bradford to face the No. 7 Oxbow Olympians in a first-round game on Feb. 21.

Twin Valley ended its season with a 0-16 record. On Feb.

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

14, the Wildcats were beaten in their home finale by Mount St. Joseph, 55-14. The Wildcats played one of their most competitive games of the season on Feb. 15 against the Mid-Vermont Christian Eagles, but fell short, 50-21. Twin Valley trailed by one point after the first quarter, but the Eagles led by 10 at the half and scored 19 points in the third quarter to clinch the win. Long Trail ended the Wildcats' season with a 51-16 win on Feb. 17.

## Boys' basketball

This is the final week of the high school boys' basketball season in Vermont, and the contending teams are tuning up for the playoffs. Bellows Falls got a great dress rehearsal on Feb. 16 when they hosted the Windsor Yellowjackets. Holland Gymnasium was filled and full of energy for this game, a hard-nosed battle between neighborhood rivals.

The Terriers won the game, 67-57, but had to work hard to do it. The game was tied, 15-15, after one quarter and Windsor led by as many as eight points in the second quarter before BF rallied and cut the Jacks' lead to 33-32 at halftime.

The second half was a battle of attrition as the fouls began piling up, but it was the Terriers who started to pull away as they wore the Jacks down. Colby Dearborn scored nine of his team-high 19 points in the fourth quarter as BF took a 46-42 lead into the final eight minutes. Jake Moore and Jamison Nystrom scored 13 and eight points, respectively before both fouled out in the fourth quarter. Walker James and Cole Moore



Leland & Gray guard Samantha Morse (1) moves in to defend West Rutland's Peyton Guay in girls' basketball action on Feb. 17 in Townshend. Guay finished with 31 points as West Rutland won the game, 65-29.

each added seven points.

Windsor's top scorer, senior guard Maison Fortin, scored 27 points, with his final point — a free throw late in game — giving him 1,000 points for his high school career. Rodger Pellerman added 15 points.

"We knew he was going to get his points," said BF coach Evan Chadwick, "but he was going to have to earn them. It wasn't an easy 27 points."

Chadwick said he was pleased with his team's effort on offense and defense, and how they fed off the energy of the crowd. "This was like a playoff game," he said.

For a team that is determined to play for the state championship at the Barre Auditorium next month, it was a good sign that the Terriers are ready for the task. With a 77-31 win over Sharon Academy on Feb. 18, BF entered the final week of the

season with a 14-4 record and riding a seven-game win streak.

After a 44-37 win at Burr & Burton on Feb. 14, Brattleboro suffered a 58-34 road loss against Rutland on Feb. 16. Paul McGillion led the 10-8 Colonels with 15 points and eight rebounds, while John Haskins added eight points.

Leland & Gray defeated Twin Valley, 48-25, on Feb. 16, but lost to Green Mountain, 48-37, to finish the week with an 8-9 record.

## Nordic skiing

With the temperatures in Brattleboro in the 50s on Feb. 15, the scheduled relay leg of the Southern Vermont League Championships got moved from the Brattleboro Outing Club's trails at the Brattleboro Country Club to Prospect Mountain in Woodford.

Prospect Mountain is Mount Anthony's home course, not that MAU's boys' and girls' teams needed any help in making it a clean sweep in all three events — skate, classic, and relay — to win the SVL title for the second straight year.

Mount Anthony bested Woodstock, Burr & Burton, Brattleboro, and Rutland in both relay events. In the boys' race, the team of Finn Payne, Luke Rizio, Riley Thurber, and Peter McKenna finished in 30 minutes, 33 seconds, 2:05 faster than second-place Woodstock. The girls' team of Eden White, Elyse Altland, Aurora Rella-Neill, and Tanis White finished in 38:06, 22 seconds ahead of Woodstock.

Next for the Brattleboro teams will be the Division I state championships, with the classic race on Feb. 23 at Craftsbury Outdoor Center and the skate race on Feb. 28 at Rikert Nordic Center in Ripton.

## Ice hockey

The Brattleboro boys were shut out by Lyndon, 3-0, on Feb. 13, and lost to Stowe, 5-2, on Feb. 15 to finish the regular season at 5-12-1.

The Brattleboro girls lost to Stowe, 7-4, on Feb. 15, and got shut out by Burr & Burton, 6-0, to end the week with a 2-17 record.

## Snow golf fundraising event at Scott Farm

Landmark Trust USA (LTUSA) invites the public to play snow golf right where it was invented on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., at Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd., Dummerston. Tickets for the "Snow Golf Skills Competition: Chip, Drive, & Putt for Preservation" are \$25, and advance registration is suggested.

According to the U.S. Golf Association, author Rudyard Kipling invented snow golf at Naulakha, his home in Dummerston, following his introduction to golf by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of Sherlock Holmes fame.

The competition will feature six skills challenges — including Chipping Skee-ball, Longest Drive, and Blindfolded Pick-A-Club — and 1 hole. Players may register solo or with friends or family, and prizes will be awarded for best overall score, best score on each challenge, and more. Snacks and drinks will be provided, and all players are entered to win a \$250 LTUSA gift certificate.

For more information and registration, visit [landmarktrustusa.org/snow-golf](http://landmarktrustusa.org/snow-golf). All proceeds from the event support the historic preservation work of The Landmark Trust USA to help maintain the nonprofit's beautiful historic properties, such as Naulakha and the Scott Farm, and save additional historic buildings.

## Rec. Dept. offers indoor youth soccer

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department will be offering a youth indoor soccer program beginning Monday, Feb. 27 and running through Wednesday, March 27 at the Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main St.

Children will be broken into small co-ed teams to play pick-up games as well as practice skills and drills. Scores will not be kept. All participants should come dressed and ready to play.

The program, which takes place from 5 to 6 p.m., will be broken down based on grade,

with Mondays for Kindergarten and first-graders, Tuesdays for second- and third-graders, and Wednesdays for grades 4-6. Shin guards and sneakers are required. Participants should enroll before the first night of the program. The fees are \$20 for Brattleboro residents and \$35 for non-residents. Space is limited, call 802-254-5808 for more information.

## Senior bowling roundup

Week 6 of the winter/spring season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Feb. 16 saw The Markers (23-7) have a 5-0 week to move into first place. Slo Movers (20-10) had a 1-4 week to slide down to second place, followed by Split Happens and The A-1's (both 16-14), Trash-O-Matic (15-15), Fab Four (14-16), and 10 Pins and The Strikers (both 8-22).

Carol Gloski had the women's high handicap game (231) and series (612). Robert Rigby had the men's high handicap game (265) and Pete Cross had the high handicap series (675). Trash-O-Matic had the high team handicap game (855) and The Markers had the high handicap series (2,486).

In scratch scoring, Rigby led the men with a 649 series that featured games of 265 and 217, while Cross and Jerry Dunham both had a 549 series. Skip Shine had a 533 series with games of 194 and 192, while Marty Adams had a 529 series with a pair of 181 games, and Milt Sherman had a 526 series.

Gloski had the women's high scratch series (522) and game (201) for the fourth consecutive week.

## Withington Rink closes for season on March 5

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department says that the Nelson Withington Skating Facility at Living Memorial Park will be closing for the season on Sunday, March 5, following the last program, and thanks everyone "for another wonderful season."



Bellows Falls boys' basketball coach Evan Chadwick and the Terriers' reserves react after a score during the second half of their game against Windsor on Feb. 16 in Holland Gymnasium. The Terriers went on to win the game, 67-57.

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