

Celebrating **17 years** of publication — and counting!

# The Commons

**FREE**

— thanks to hundreds of readers who chip in because **they believe that a community thrives when everyone has access to news.** If you appreciate this community resource and can afford to chip in, please join us now! [donate.commonnews.org](http://donate.commonnews.org)

Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, May 24, 2023 • Vol. XVIII, No. 21 • Issue No. 716

[commonnews.org](http://commonnews.org)

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

## Brattleboro crunches EMS numbers in look to future

### Other towns around Vermont warn that providing EMS services is not a revenue producer

By Kevin O'Connor  
*VtDigger.org*

BRATTLEBORO—When municipal leaders abruptly ended a nearly 60-year relationship with Rescue Inc. in 2022 and proposed a town takeover of emergency medical services which they claimed would reap up to \$700,000 in annual insurance profit, residents weren't the only ones surprised.

So were officials of the 13 Vermont communities that operate their own emergency medical services.

"That whole decision by Brattleboro sent shock waves through Vermont EMS," said Bill Mapes, chief of the Morristown EMS Department. "Insurance doesn't cover EMS costs. Never has, never will."

Mapes points to Morristown's yearly ambulance budget of about \$800,000. Public and private insurers reimburse his local government some \$300,000. That leaves taxpayers to pick up the remaining \$500,000.

"Municipalities sometimes think they're going to have this windfall of cash," said Mapes, a paramedic in the business for 42 years. "Reimbursement is never going to match what it actually costs you."

Brattleboro leaders revealed their latest revenue projections on May 16 as part of a public process called for at this year's Town

Meeting. The new numbers estimate \$975,000 in annual EMS reimbursement, with expense figures yet to be finalized.

But Vermont communities that run their own ambulances warn that taxpayers must subsidize as much as two-thirds of spending after insurance collection.

"In a perfect world, funding would not be an issue," Barre Town EMS Director Paul Ginther said. "The realities are that insurance reimbursements are lacking and tax dollars are finite."

#### Seven municipalities in state operate EMS

It's rare for a Vermont community to operate its own ambulances, according to rosters from the state Department of Health's EMS Office.

Some 95% of the state's 247 cities and towns are served by regional outfits such as Brattleboro's former provider, the private nonprofit Rescue Inc.

Seven municipalities offer EMS through their fire departments: Barre City, Burlington, Hartford, Montpelier, South Burlington, Springfield, and Williston. None report an ambulance profit, although it's difficult to determine their exact reimbursement rates, as most of their budgets include unrelated fire costs.

Burlington, for example, can report that it receives about \$1.5

■ SEE EMS COSTS, A7



## MEMORABLE MOMENTS in MONTPELIER

Let's Grow Kids held a rally on the steps of the Vermont State House in Montpelier on April 12 in support of childcare legislation that subsequently passed both the House and the Senate. Gov. Phil Scott is expected to veto the bill.

NATALIE WILLIAMS VTDIGGER

## Local lawmakers look back on a hectic session in the Legislature and offer an update on the wins of the past few months

By Joyce Marcel  
*The Commons*

BRATTLEBORO—The Vermont Legislature, which convened its 2023-24 biennium session on Jan. 4, wrapped up its first year's work on May 12.

Although it will regroup in June to see if it can override Gov. Phil Scott's expected veto of the budget, among other things, the 13 Windham County legislators — two in the Senate and 11 in the House — are now free to return to their lives, their day jobs, and their reflections of the past hectic, momentous five months of their lives.

One thing every representative and senator learns in Montpelier — as Rep. Laura Sibilia, I-Dover, put it — is that once you're in the Legislature, "the word

'Vermont' does not describe a political party, a birthplace, a religion, a race, sexual orientation, or gender. We're all in this together."

Elected officials had their ups and downs, their successes and disappointments, in the Legislative churn. In a future issue, we will discuss some of the failures and frustrations our legislators faced in the past session. But this week, elected officials share some the accomplishments and experiences that made them proud.

#### New senators dive in

Windham County's new senators, both Democrats who were newly elected in November, managed to not be overwhelmed by their new positions.

Sen. Nader Hashim, who served on the Education Committee, scored a big win

when he shepherded a universal school meals bill through the Senate.

"This was one of my priorities going into the session, and after much deliberation we were able to pass it," Hashim said.

"I'm a firm believer that people can thrive when their basic needs are met, and food is certainly one of those basic needs," he continued. "Last summer I went to Bellows Falls Union High School and met with students and faculty to learn about the program, and their stories are what drove me to prioritize this issue in the Education Committee."

Sen. Wendy Harrison came to the Senate with much experience in municipal management. She served on the Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee and was pleased at how

■ SEE LEGISLATORS LIST WINS, A2

## Centering and uplifting the work of refugees

### Community Asylum Seekers Project gets funding and technical assistance from a national nonprofit for its work in resettling refugees to Windham County

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen  
*The Commons*

BRATTLEBORO — Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) is one of three organizations nationwide recently awarded a grant from the Chicago-based nonprofit We Are All America.

The grant connects the Brattleboro-based CASP and two other organizations — Woori

Center in Pennsylvania and Our State, Our Languages in Nashville, Tennessee — with a national network of immigrant and refugee-led organizations aiming to improve local conditions for immigrant populations around the country.

CASP executive director Kate Paarlberg-Kvam described the process as quite competitive, with applications received from across the United States.

"As a small nonprofit with a majority-immigrant staff, we are excited to have access to these capacity-building tools and appreciative of the recognition," she said.

According to a news release from We Are All America, the

three organizations will receive "\$3,000 worth of funding alongside coaching and technical assistance support valued at an additional \$20,000. This initiative is rooted in the increased need to center and uplift the work being led by refugees for their local communities."

Paarlberg-Kvam said the award will connect the group to a national roundtable where best practices are taught and shared victories celebrated.

"It will allow us to participate in workshops about writing legislation, proposing it to state government officials and [sharing] what we learn through the Vermont Asylum Support

■ SEE GRANT FOR CASP, A8



COURTESY PHOTO

Community Asylum Seekers Project staff share a light moment while putting in some work at SUSU Community Farm. From left: Kate Paarlberg-Kvam, executive director; Dora Urujeni, case manager; and Cristi Carretero, outreach coordinator.

**PAID ADVERTISING • To place your ad, call 888-511-5150 or email [ads@commonnews.org](mailto:ads@commonnews.org)**

<b>DRYER VENT CLEANING</b> <i>Installation &amp; Repair</i> 603-762-3433 <a href="http://durlingcleaning.com">durlingcleaning.com</a>	<b>Meeting House Garden Perennials</b> Open Wed. - Sun. 10:00-5:00pm 41 Meetinghouse Rd. Hinsdale, NH 603-256-8892	<b>Supreme Fitness 6 MONTH SPECIAL \$232.50</b> <i>Saving over \$40!</i> 1589 Putney Rd, Brattleboro 802-257-4944	<b>WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT</b> will be CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 29 in observance of Memorial Day. We will reopen at 7AM Tuesday, May 30.	<b>PUPPIES</b> AKC Golden Retrievers Gouins Golden Wilmington, VT Pat Jacobs 802-464-5120 2 males ready \$2000 7-month-old male \$1000	<b>The Marina</b> OPEN AT 11:30 Lunch & Dinner Wednesday - Sunday 28 Spring Tree Rd. Brattleboro 802-257-7563	Buddy's A Pet's Store <b>SUMMER VACATION SALE!</b> 15% off All Pet Carriers <a href="http://buddyspetsstore.com">buddyspetsstore.com</a>	<b>MEGA TENT SALE! 50% OFF</b> Memorial Day Weekend Friday-Monday <b>MALISUN</b> VT Marketplace, Brattleboro
<b>SANDALS AND FLIP FLOPS WITH SUPPORT!</b> THE SHOE TREE Main St. Brattleboro	<b>Tuxedo &amp; Suit Rentals</b> For weddings, proms & more Vermont Artisan Designs 106 Main St. Brattleboro 802-257-7044	Brattleboro Music Center <b>EOS Project Undressed Shores</b> Thursday, May 25, at 7:00 pm <a href="http://bmcvt.org">bmcvt.org</a>	<b>PUTNEY FARMERS' MARKET</b> Local Products Live Music - Fun Events <b>NEW HOURS Sunday 11-3</b> Across from the Putney Food Co-op	<b>CAMPWIDE YARD SALE</b> Saturday, May 27 9am-1pm Kenolie Village Campground 16 Kenolie Campground Rd. Newfane, VT	Buddy's A Pet's Store <b>"CUTEST KITTY CONTEST"</b> Submit your kitty photo to: <a href="mailto:buddyspetsstore@gmail.com">buddyspetsstore@gmail.com</a>	<b>RESERVE THIS AD SPACE</b> Your ad will be one of the first readers see for only \$35/week! Contact us: <a href="mailto:ads@commonnews.org">ads@commonnews.org</a> 1-888-511-5150	<b>Grace Cottage Family Health</b> Compassion & Convenience <b>First-time Patients Welcome!</b> 802-365-4331

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

PRSKT STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301  
 PERMIT NO. 24

Become a member and receive The Commons in the mail.  
 Your membership supports our journalism and lets us make this newspaper available for all, in print and online.  
 Join today at <http://donate.commonnews.org>.

# The Commons

A publication of Vermont Independent Media  
139 Main St. (Hooker-Dunham Bldg.) #601A — Newsroom  
#604 — Business and Advertising  
P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302  
888-511-5150 • fax 802-246-1319  
commonnews.org  
Office hours by appointment

Jeff Potter Kate O'Connor  
Editor-in-Chief Director of Operations

EDITORIAL  
NEWSROOM  
Randolph T. Holhut, News Editor  
Elizabeth Julia Stoumen,  
Calendar and Proofreading  
Heather Taylor, Copy Editor  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Virginia Ray, Joyce Marcel,  
Fran Lynggaard Hansen,  
Robert Smith, Annie Landenberger,  
Dot Grover-Read, Victoria Chertok,  
Deborah Lee Luskin, Elyanne Clift,  
Kevin O'Connor, Alyssa Grosso,  
Thelma O'Brien  
INTERNS AND APPRENTICES  
Woody Laidlaw  
University of Vermont/Community News Service  
EDITORIAL VOLUNTEERS  
Lee Stookey, Karen Cribari,  
Connie Evans, Kim Noble,  
Janet Wallstein, Elizabeth Trousdell,  
Wendy S. Collins, Proofreaders  
Taryn Heon, Editorial Assistant/Voices  
David Shaw, Photographer

OPERATIONS  
CREATIVE MARKETING SERVICES  
Amanda Harwood,  
Marketing and Office Manager  
Lori Pinsonault, Nancy Gauthier,  
Advertising Sales

INTERNS AND APPRENTICES  
Chloe Rogers • Landmark College  
Kennedy Pepper • Landmark College  
DISTRIBUTION STAFF  
George Lawton, Dan Lydon,  
Bill Wilmot

OPERATIONS VOLUNTEERS  
Lucinda McGovern, Jon King,  
Phillip Coolbeth, Spoon Agave,  
Karen Axelrod, Karena Huber,  
Distributors  
Elizabeth Trousdell, Alison Bundy,  
Membership

STAFF OFFSPRING  
Owen Harwood, Olivia Harwood  
CONSULTANTS  
Agatha, Caslon, Ely, Ghivashel,  
Rocky, Valentino

Deadline for the May 31 Issue  
May 26



**VIM'S MISSION**  
Recognizing that a vigorous exchange of ideas and information allows democracy to function and is the lifeblood of a community, Vermont Independent Media:  
• creates a forum for community participation,  
• promotes local independent journalism,  
• fosters civic engagement by building media skills  
through publication of *The Commons* and *commonnews.org*, and through the Media Mentoring Project.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Heather Ahrenholz, Barry Aleshnick, Lynn Barrett, Michael Bosworth, Michelle Frehsee, Randolph T. Holhut (ex officio), Phayvanh Luekhamhan, Jeff Potter (ex officio), Stuart Strothman

**ABOUT THIS NEWSPAPER**  
*The Commons* is a nonprofit community newspaper published since 2006 by Vermont Independent Media, Inc., a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code.  
The newspaper is free, but it is supported by readers like you through tax-deductible donations, through advertising support, and through support of charitable foundations.  
The paper is published weekly, with the exceptions of the weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25.

**SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS**  
We welcome story ideas and news tips. Please contact the newsroom at [news@commonnews.org](mailto:news@commonnews.org) or at (802) 246-6397.

**VOICES**  
*The Commons* presents a broad range of essays, memoirs, and other subjective material in Voices, our editorial and 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@commonnews.org](mailto:voices@commonnews.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.

**ADVERTISING**  
Your advertising directly supports a better newspaper. The open display advertising rate is \$16.50 per column inch, and *The Commons* offers discounts. To place your ad, contact [lori@commonnews.org](mailto:lori@commonnews.org) or [nancy@commonnews.org](mailto:nancy@commonnews.org).  
Advertising files can be saved as PDF (press-ready setting), EPS (with fonts converted to outlines), or as TIFF (600 pixels per inch), or printed as black-and-white hard copy.  
We can design your ad, and you should not hesitate to ask us to do so. We love helping our clients.

**DISTRIBUTION**  
*The Commons* distributes 8,150 copies per issue to 250 drops in almost every Windham County town, as well as in neighboring towns in Windsor County (VT), Cheshire County (N.H.) and Franklin County (Mass.). Please get in touch ([circulation@commonnews.org](mailto:circulation@commonnews.org)) if you would like us to consider adding your business.  
Without our volunteers, this newspaper would exist only in our imaginations.  
Special thanks to:  
Simi and Mark Berman,  
Diana Bingham,  
Jim Maxwell, Rob Bertsche,  
Barbara Evans,  
Cameron Cobane, Shannon Ward, and Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery,  
Clay Turnbull and NEC,  
Brendan Emmett Quigley and Joon Pakk  
**In memoriam:**  
Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman,  
Mia Gannon

## Legislators list wins

FROM SECTION FRONT

important her knowledge turned out to be in Montpelier.  
“My experience with town systems and constraints and with organizational dynamics generally was appreciated by my colleagues,” Harrison said. “I’m also not afraid to ask questions, and the combination of experience and systems thinking was more helpful than I had expected.  
“It truly is a citizen legislature, where a wide variety of people are sent by their neighbors to write the laws. The citizens decide what they want in a law, the attorneys draft the language, and the Joint Fiscal Office lets us know what it will cost, how much it will save, and who will pay or save. We decide if and how a bill proceeds first in our committee. The Chair has much power — they alone decide if a bill gets considered.”

### Sibilia: tripartisan Act 250 exemptions

Sibilia herself served as vice-chair on the House Environment & Energy Committee and was co-chair of the House Rural Economic Development Caucus. She was also the founder and co-chair of the Vermont National Guard and Veterans Affairs Legislative Caucus and belonged to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee.  
One of her most memorable moments?  
“With support from the Speaker, sitting in the governor’s office with members of his team and Republican and Democratic representatives and senators hammering out details for the \$3 million in rural capacity funding that was included in the Budget Adjustment,” she said.  
Sibilia said she was “really proud of the work the tripartisan Rural Caucus did with the Speaker and other legislative leaders to ensure modest Act 250 exemptions made it into the Housing Bill,” she said.

**Roberts: Investing in state buildings**  
Rep. Tristan D. Roberts, D-Halifax, served on the Corrections and Institutions

Committee, where members dealt with Vermont’s worn-out prison facilities. He is particularly proud of the fact that the Legislature, after five years of discussion, put a priority on replacing Vermont’s only women’s correctional facility, which houses about 110 prisoners.  
Money for a new facility is in the fiscal year 2024 budget.  
“I was particularly proud of our state on the day we heard testimony about the facility from women currently and formerly incarcerated there,” Roberts said. “Their voices supported our case in requiring the Department of Corrections in not only building a new facility with a focus on re-entry but in supporting it with programming that is centered on restorative justice.”

When Roberts was campaigning last fall, voters told him they liked it when their elected leaders collaborated and compromised across the political spectrum. And he listened.  
“Both the House Corrections & Institutions committee, and then the entire House of Representatives, voted to approve the two-year Capital Bill on unanimous votes,” Roberts said. “While a lot of important policy happens despite disagreement, I’m proud that our committee worked for months to form consensus on a \$122 million spending plan for the state’s buildings and capital programs.  
“Our committee provided fiscal rigor to each item, and we found millions in unspent funds to reallocate,” he continued. “We found common ground in places as diverse as the popular Barn Preservation Grants, and in investing in air conditioning in our sweltering correctional facilities.”

**Burke: overriding governor’s vetoes**  
Rep. Mollie Burke, D-Brattleboro, came to Montpelier with a list of transportation items related to greenhouse gas emissions that she wanted to pass. Many of her ideas made it into the annual Transportation Bill.  
“There are always a number of memorable moments during a

legislative session, and some years more so than others,” Burke said. “I would say one memorable moment happened recently, when we overrode the governor’s veto of the Clean Heat Standard. This was a banner policy of our Climate Action Plan and our need to meet our climate goals. It proposes to set Vermont on a path to cheaper, cleaner heating options.”  
The bill was passed by the House and Senate last year, but Scott vetoed the legislation. “We failed to override it by one vote,” Burke said.  
The debate about the bill was rife with misconceptions and misinformation.  
“Actually, it does not raise heating bills, nor does it require anyone to change how they heat their homes,” she said. “Final implementation decisions will have to come back to the Legislature for approval in 2025.”  
This time around, the bill passed in the House, and they voted 107-42 to override the governor’s veto. The Senate also voted, 20-10, to override Scott’s veto and assure that work will now begin on drafting a clean heat standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings.  
“As a member of the leadership team of the Climate Solutions Caucus, I worked with colleagues and advocates to make this happen,” Burke said.  
“Another memorable moment came with the House approval of childcare legislation. This has been a multi-year project of the organization Let’s Grow Kids. The legislation raises the income level for subsidies and raises the pay for childcare workers.  
“The pandemic exposed even more the need to provide comprehensive and affordable childcare so that parents can participate in the workforce. The House proposed paying for this with an increase in corporate taxes, but the Senate held firm on a payroll tax. The governor is sure to veto this, and we will hope to override this when we return for our veto session in June.”

Burke, who is on the leadership team of the Women’s Caucus, is especially proud of the work its members did this year.  
“We have a number of priorities we work on, including issues of women in the correctional system, child and elder care, and issues of sexual assault in the National Guard, among others,” Burke said.  
“One of our priorities for several years has been abolishing child marriage with no exceptions until age 18,” she noted. “Up until this session, 16- and 17-year-olds were permitted to marry with parental consent.”  
Child marriage is considered a human rights abuse “and a form of gender-based violence that robs children of childhood and disrupts a child’s education,” Burke said, adding that it “creates a vulnerability to violence, discrimination and abuse.”  
“We had been trying to get the Judiciary Committee to address this bill for several years and finally they took it up and the bill passed,” she said. “Only eight states have banned child marriage with no exceptions. Vermont proudly joins this group.”

**Mrowicki: Shield Bill and Youth Council**  
The proudest moment for Rep.

## Free BIPOC hair clinic on May 27

BRATTLEBORO—The Root Social Justice Center will hold a free BIPOC hair clinic for all ages on Saturday, May 27.

As explained in a Facebook post from the racial justice organizing and community group, Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color “have a variety of hair types and textures that require hair care that just isn’t centered when we live and exist in predominantly white spaces.”  
With hair stylists versed in working with BIPOC clients unavailable in the Brattleboro area, “we have to travel far to be seen,” says Shela Linton, the organization’s executive director.

The hair clinic will assemble a team of locticians (hair stylists who work on dreadlocks), braiders, barbers, and designers from Euphoric Hair Experience of Rutland; Sheelah’s Mobile Braiding LLC, based in Bennington but serving customers in their homes in southern Vermont; and Sarah Kanebi, who moved to southern Vermont in 2020 with two decades of experience as a braider.  
The clinic is part of The Root’s BIPOC Affinity Healing Series, which draws together “those wanting to be more connected to the people who look like us and the gifts we provide” and “recognizes the

different needs, desires and ways we can heal when we are able to come together in a safer space, connect and learn from folks who may share a similar cultural background,” according to the organization’s website ([therootsjc.org](http://therootsjc.org)).  
“We are almost full for locs and braids, but have barber and designer spots still available,” Linton says. “Walk ins are welcome, but there is no guarantee that we will be able to take you.”  
The clinic takes place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. To register, visit [bit.ly/716-hairclinic](https://bit.ly/716-hairclinic).

Mike Mrowicki, D-Putney, was passing the Shield Bill, which protects people from out of state who travel for abortions to Vermont, where it is legal.  
“When people come from out of state for reproductive health care unavailable in their home state, this bill shields them and providers from retaliatory actions,” Mrowicki said.  
He was also delighted to see the Vermont Youth Council get started.  
“Six years ago, two other representatives and I sponsored the bill to start this process after hearing from youth that they wanted this passed,” Mrowicki said.  
In the five years the bill was “on the back burner for various reasons,” the lawmakers kept building support until it was passed in 2022.  
“As it’s starting up this year, students from all over Vermont are coming together to share their concerns and ideas for the future,” Mrowicki said. “The bill then requires the Legislature and Governor to meet with the students and hear our youth talk about what they want to see Vermont do for their future.”

**Coffey: Resuming Statehouse traditions**  
For Rep. Sara Coffey, D-Guilford, a legislator since 2019, a lot of this term was new. For one thing, her new assignment was chair of the Transportation Committee.  
“Given that we had roughly one-third new membership in the House and nine of the 13 committees have new committee chairs, I am very impressed

with the quality of the work in committees and the collaboration across committees to get priority legislation across the finish line this session,” she said.  
Her most memorable experience, however, came outside of the legislative process itself.  
“Over the last several years, I have volunteered to organize the Farmers’ Night Series,” Coffey said. “This is a longstanding Statehouse tradition which goes back over 100 years to a time when lawmakers entertained themselves in the House Chamber mid-week while away from home.  
The free, public series resumed this year after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, bringing “artists, writers, and performers from around the state to perform in the well of the House Chamber each Wednesday night during the legislative session.”

**Bos-Lun: suicide prevention bill**  
Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun, D-Westminster, served on the Corrections and Institutions Committee.  
“The single vote I feel best about this session is H.230, an important suicide prevention bill,” Bos-Lun said. “It impacts access to guns that could prevent harm to others as well.”  
She said that gun reform policy is “of critical importance.”  
“I am also very glad that we passed a comprehensive childcare bill,” she said. “This will benefit children, families, child care workers, and all who work and contribute to the economy.  
“It was an important win for all Vermonters,” she said.

organizations and showcase how our work intersects with the dozens of nonprofits in the community.”  
From Wyld Nightz to Zara Bode, the Roundup will host a diverse musical lineup, starting with Rumboat Chili on Thursday, June 22. With the Thirsty Goat Bar, HANGry Traveler, Anon’s Thai Cuisine, Mach’s Mobile Pizza, Vermont Gelato, and more space for your blanket, organizers say the Roundup “will be more enjoyable than ever this summer.”  
The Roundup continues each Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. through Aug. 24. The Food Truck Roundup series is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and Brattleboro Savings & Loan.  
Advance ticket purchase is strongly suggested, with limited walk-up tickets available each week. Tickets are \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. Roundup regulars are encouraged to purchase a Season Pass, available for families (\$85), couples (\$65), and individuals (\$45).  
The Roundup will remain free for under-resourced families, thanks to generous support from Brattleboro Savings & Loan and Park Place Financial Advisors. Free, Open Access tickets will be available online and at the Brattleboro Food Co-Op, Brooks Memorial Library, the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro, and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance tent at Gallery Walk, starting June 2.  
Season passes and advance tickets are now on sale for Retreat Farm members. To gain early ticket access, become a free member by signing up at [retreatfarm.org/membership](http://retreatfarm.org/membership).

## Food Truck Roundup at Retreat Farm evolves into ticketed event

BRATTLEBORO—Every summer, Retreat Farm’s Thursday evening Food Truck Roundup signals the start of its summer. With construction on Route 30 and the transformation of the North Barn into a gathering place for the community, Food Truck Roundup will evolve into a ticketed event this season.  
“To preserve the Food Truck Roundup experience everyone loves, it is necessary for us to limit the size of the event each week,” Events Director Jenny Crowell said in a news release.  
To ensure the Roundup remains welcoming and accessible to the community, Retreat Farm is offering a variety of ticket and season pass options. Crowell says the shift to a ticketed event also brings a unique opportunity to support the larger nonprofit community.  
“As one of the community’s largest events, the Roundup is a perfect platform to celebrate local nonprofits that bring people together and help support our unique and vibrant community,” said Executive Director Kristin Sullivan.

The Collective Impact Program at Retreat Farm will celebrate 10 emerging nonprofits by donating \$1 of every Food Truck Roundup ticket and 20% of season pass sales to selected nonprofits. Nonprofits who wish to be considered for the program can submit a 10-minute application at [retreatfarm.org](http://retreatfarm.org). Applications will be accepted through Thursday, June 1.  
“So much of our community is driven by the nonprofit sector,” Sullivan said. “The Collective Impact Program is a chance to amplify the good work done by these

think every chef should have a food truck.”  
—JOSÉ ANDRÉS

## Clarification

BRATTLEBORO—A May 17 story about the end of the state’s hotel voucher program included Brattleboro hotels and motels participating in the program, as provided to the newspaper by the Vermont Agency of Human Services’ (AHS) Division of Children and Families. The Latchis Hotel was listed among the businesses.  
According to a May 18 email from Latchis Hotel General Manager Jonathan Jensen, “We have not at any time participated in nor supported this State of VT housing project, nor do we have

any desire or intention to participate in programs like this in the future.”  
On May 18, AHS Chief of Communications and Legislative Affairs Rachel Feldman told *The Commons* that the Latchis Hotel “is housing a [General Assistance] household, but that was done as an exception made by the hotel. They are not routinely accepting GA vouchers.”  
She described the Latchis Hotel as “an example of a local business who worked very hard to find a way to help.”

**GraceCottage**  
FAMILY HEALTH & HOSPITAL

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

**185 Grafton Rd, Townshend, VT**  
[gracecottage.org](http://gracecottage.org)

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

**Memorial Day SAVINGS!**

**SALES on Meat, Produce, Cheese, Beverages, Bulk & more!**

We are closed Monday, May 29!

**BRATTLEBORO FOOD CO-OP**  
Mon-Sat 8-8, Sun 9-8 • 2 Main Street, Brattleboro

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!  
BFC.coop • 802-257-0236

# BAJC hosts annual antique appraisal day

BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro Area Jewish Community (Congregation Shir Heharim), will be producing its sixth annual Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Day on Sunday, June 4, from noon to 5:30 p.m. at 118 Elliot Street.

Five specialists will be present to evaluate and appraise all categories of antiques and collectibles, including sterling silver, art glass, china, pottery, oriental rugs, fine art, signed prints, musical instruments, records and entertainment memorabilia, estate and costume jewelry, coins, currency, ephemera, photographs, toys, dolls, clocks, watches, tchotchkes,

and more.

Firearms, knives, ammunition, or weaponry, rugs larger than 6 feet by 9 feet, or bulky furniture cannot be accepted.

The five evaluators are:

- Kit Barry, a 50-year expert in ephemera who will appraise any item either printed or handwritten. He will also advise on how to treat, display, store, or repair paper items.

- Stephan Brandstatter, founder and owner/operator of Mainly Music in Brattleboro. He has more than 30 years experience evaluating recorded music of all formats and styles, entertainment memorabilia, performing

arts, theater collectibles, concert posters and merchandise, music collectibles, autographed items, and anything related to music, theater, and dance.

- Charles Suss, an experienced and highly-respected coin dealer in Bennington, who is an active member of the American Numismatic Association (A.N.A.) and has appraised coins for Camelot Antiques and currently works at KF Armstrong Jewelers. He will bring test equipment for diamonds, gemstones and precious metals.

- Brian Bittner, founder of Bittner Antiques, is a third-generation Vermont antique dealer with more than 20 years of experience. His business handles a broad range of antique, vintage, and old objects, with a focus on such categories as jewelry, silver, watches, paintings, and coins.

- John Pappas, owner and licensed auctioneer for Keene (N.H.) Auctions, has more than

40 years experience having also operated the former Knotty Pine Auctions in Swanzey, N.H. He's knowledgeable in all categories.

Admission is free, and the appraisal cost is \$8 per item or 6 for \$40, with a limit of six items per person. Cash, or a check payable to BAJC, accepted.

Ten percent of proceeds will benefit The Atowi Project ([atowi.org](http://atowi.org)), an Elnu Abenaki community initiative to affirm Native relationships to the Land and its inhabitants, raise Indigenous voices, and foster inclusion with understanding. Through collaborations with other local entities, the Project provides a place-based center to engage with the broader community, while enhancing capacity and creating awareness for future dialogue.

If you have any questions or want more information, contact Brandstatter at [getmusic@sover.net](mailto:getmusic@sover.net).

# St. Michael's Episcopal Tag Sale yields \$10,500 for Groundworks, Windham County Heat Fund

BRATTLEBORO — The St. Michael's Episcopal Church Terrific Tag Sale on May 6 yielded \$10,500 for Groundworks Collaborative and the Windham County Heat Fund.

"It was a beautiful day, perfect timing for the 50th anniversary tag sale," coordinator Liz Vick said in a news release. "People were lined up well ahead of the 8:30 a.m. opening; the minute the sale opened, they rushed into the outside tents to go through the array of clothing and furniture, and into the church basement where there were housewares, jewelry, linens, books and very tasty food."

"Most items, other than food, furniture, and jewelry," Vick continues, "were not priced and customers were invited to take as much as they wanted and to fill up bags

or boxes in exchange for any amount they wished to donate." She reports the total amount raised at the sale for the two nonprofits surprised even the organizers.

After expenses, St. Michael's Episcopal will be able to donate approximately \$6,000 to Groundworks and \$4,000 to the Heat Fund.

"The Tag Sale Team of St. Michael's has worked since January to organize this sale," said Vick. "Putting it on once a year is a huge job, but it is made possible and fun by the many volunteers, from St. Michael's and from the community, who work together to make it happen. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help make the 2023 Tag Sale successful, and to everyone who attended and donated so generously."

Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old friends.  
—H. JACKSON BROWN JR.



NOW HIRING IN VERNON, VT!

Do you love cooking, working as part of a team, and providing exceptional customer service?

If you answer is YES, we want to learn more about you!

Join our residential dining team as a full-time or part-time: Cook, Server, or Dishwasher

Apply at: [www.glendalediningservices.com/careers](http://www.glendalediningservices.com/careers), or call 603-437-0200 x 106.



Join our Children's Integrated Services Team!

**Family Support Worker**

Work with families who are expecting a child and families with children up to age 6 through direct services such as home visits, clinical assessments, and assistance connecting with needed community resources.

**Behavior Consultation and Support Specialist**

Partner with families and early learning programs to support children in developing positive behavior and social-emotional skills and to help create environments necessary for learning those skills.

More details: [www.winstonprouty.org/jobs](http://www.winstonprouty.org/jobs)

# HELP WANTED

[ads@commonsnews.org](mailto:ads@commonsnews.org) • 888-511-5150

## News Correspondents

The Commons is looking for reporters to join our team of freelance writers for our highly respected local nonprofit news operation.

Are you accurate, fair, thoughtful, and reliable? Are you good at working by phone, email, Zoom, and good old-fashioned face-to-face meetings with people? Do you want to understand what is going on around southern Vermont and help communicate that understanding with clarity, precision, and grace? Do you listen more than you talk, and when you do speak, do you ask tough but fair questions? Do you believe in good information as a cornerstone of a community that thrives? Do you respect deadlines? Do you have patience, a good sense of humor, and a finely honed bullshit detector?

We are looking for writers who can focus on the following areas with regular (more or less weekly) contributions to the newspaper:

- Brattleboro municipal reporter
- Windham County municipal reporter(s)
- Business reporter

We are also looking for writers who are interested in following and collaborating on deep and complex issues, who can work on less frequent special assignments and cover complicated stories that approach difficult themes and conflict with respect, nuance, and open minds:

- BIPOC and social issues reporter
- Environmental issues reporter
- Housing issues reporter

Pay is prompt, fair, and by story on publication. We love working with and mentoring writers of all ages. Experience is less important than attitude. Show us what you've got.

Written reply only, please; send to Jeff Potter, editor at [editor@commonsnews.org](mailto:editor@commonsnews.org).



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BRATTLEBORO



TEEN COUNSELORS NEEDED!  
Spend The Summer Outdoors



5 weeks of camp (6/26-7/28)  
Grades 1-6  
Mon-Fri 9:00-3:00  
Competitive Pay

Join us at Hilltop Campus for a summer helping kids learn about nature, the environment, and all things summer!

[bgcbrattleboro.org/employment](http://bgcbrattleboro.org/employment)  
[jobs@bgcbrattleboro.org](mailto:jobs@bgcbrattleboro.org)

# LIMITED TIME OFFER: Free Energy Savings Kit\*

Efficiency Vermont  
[efficiencyvermont.com/kits](http://efficiencyvermont.com/kits)  
(888) 921-5990

Want to save energy and reduce your carbon footprint at home? Get a free kit full of efficient lighting and water-saving devices:

- 10 LED bulbs (40 / 60 / 75 watt equivalents)
- Low-flow showerhead
- Kitchen faucet aerator
- Bathroom faucet aerator
- Plus a bonus smart bulb



Sign up today: [efficiencyvermont.com/kits](http://efficiencyvermont.com/kits)

\*Subject to availability and eligibility.

# Shattering stigma about death and dying

## Kasey March, an end-of-life doula, provides companionship, comfort, education, and guidance to people dealing with a terminal illness — theirs, a friend's, or a family member's

By Robert F. Smith  
*The Commons*

**BELLOWS FALLS**—In our culture, it is common for people to avoid talking about death — our own or that of someone we love. Sometimes people need help starting those conversations.

Kasey March is a death doula — a person who helps guide and console a dying person, and their family and friends, during the end-of-life period.

It is challenging, demanding, and unusual work, but it is nothing new.

*Doula* is a Greek word that goes back centuries. It historically means “a female helper or a female servant who provides service to someone in need.” In particular, it is a person who provides education, advice and support to a woman during pregnancy,

the birthing process, and initial care for a newborn infant — a birth doula.

A death doula — also referred to as an end-of-life coach, death midwife, soul midwife or transition guide — performs the same types of services.

This is not a medical position, nor does a doula give medical advice. An end-of-life doula provides companionship, comfort, education, and guidance to people dealing with a terminal illness, whether it's their own, a friend's, or a family member's.

Though doula is a feminine reference, there are certainly some male doulas, said March, who is trained and certified by the International End of Life Doula Association. She noted that historically and culturally, the vast majority of those who have been helpers at birth, illness, and death

have been women. Even today, she said, about 80% of doulas, and those who attend her End of Life Workshops, are women.

“A lot of people don't want to think about or talk about death,” March said. “There is a superstition among some that if we talk about someone dying, we'll make it happen.”

That stigma is what March and other death doulas are working to move beyond.

Through her work with individuals and families, and through a number of workshops around the area, March focuses on several different aspects of the dying process. She summed them up as end-of-life planning, creating a life summary, the end-of-life process, and helping survivors deal with life after the loss of a loved one.

### Summing up what's important

March said that when people know they are in the final stage of their life, it can be a time of profound reflection and healing.

She talks with clients about what was important to them, what they feel their legacy will be, and what they would like to leave for others — materially and otherwise.

It can be as simple as helping a person put together a cookbook of favorite recipes to share with children and grandchildren. It can be the more complex process of trying to record and pass on the important events of your life and your life's work.

It can be making the decisions about who gets what in the dying person's estate.

Or it can be as profound as wanting to mend broken relationships, reconnect with old friends, or putting into words for your family what was important to you in your life.

“I try to identify what people are thinking about doing,” March said. “I can then help make that happen.”

### Smoothing the way

The second phase where a doula can help is during the actual dying process.

“This is often the bedside vigil where someone is actively dying,” March said. “We try to make that sacred space as smooth a transition as possible.”

In what is normally a highly emotional time, March said it is the doula's job to be “the calm center. To find resources to help.”

Understanding and accepting death as a natural process is a vital part of how a doula educates those involved.

“You're there to be a calm person,” March said. “I've been in helping positions all my life. I've done crisis work at various levels. But this is not a crisis. Death is a natural, if also very emotional, process.”

Helping the dying and their friends and family through the process is rewarding, energizing,



Susan MacNeil, left, and Kasey March.

ROBERT F. SMITH / THE COMMONS

and difficult. Those surrounding the dying person often have “competing desires,” March explained.

“Everyone is in a charged emotional state and has different needs,” she said. “There are family dynamics, and the doula needs to understand that.”

The doula — an uninterested third party, as it were, yet one who is intimately familiar with the desires of the dying person and the death decisions they have made — can be a real gift to the family in helping carry out decisions under what are often overwhelmingly emotional circumstances.

### Dealing with death and grief

Early grief, processing, and then reprocessing the loss of a loved one are necessary, difficult, and varied events.

“Talking about the person and the actual death, especially for the first several weeks after, is important,” March said. “There's some science there that doing this really helps to integrate what happened.”

It's not the same process for everyone.

“Grief is totally normal,” March said. “There is nothing wrong with you for grieving. We have these conversations. Some days are worse, some are better. Different people have different experiences of grief.”

She said that the doula can help deal with thoughts about the death and help anyone access community resources and get grief counseling.

March explained that a doula's “personal beliefs don't matter. I'm there to support them,

to honor what is sacred and important to them. And my beliefs about what is done medically, such as medically assisted death, also don't matter.”

A doula's work with a family may be very limited in time, or they can also be “working with a person for months before they die, and then you are there with them when they pass,” March said. “It can be a real gift to the family.”

March said that communication is key to her work, and that it is “important that people not be afraid to think about death and have these conversations. Overall, it leads to a better death for people and a better situation for those left behind.”

### Workshops and training

March has been holding End of Life Workshops throughout New England, many of them with writer Susan MacNeil. MacNeil lost her mother in January 2022, and published a memoir about that experience, *18 Minutes: A Daughter's Primer on Life & Death*, last year. A profile and an excerpt from MacNeil's memoir were published in the Jan. 4 issue of *The Commons*.

“When Kasey reached out to me after reading my interview in *The Commons*,” MacNeil said, “we were strangers who shared an interest about what it means to have a good death.”

MacNeil said she had not heard of a death doula before meeting March but was intrigued by the concept.

“An hour after meeting, we had a plan in place to share our Life, Death & Cake events with the public,” MacNeil said.

She found that listening to March answer questions from attendees at their presentations “has underscored the value of having a compassionate, impartial voice to offer guidance. Our partnership has deepened my own understanding of how to live well in order to die well.”

“Preparing for your death with knowledge and grace is the best

gift you can give to your loved ones... and yourself,” she said.

March said she became interested in being a doula after working with a birth doula when her daughter was born. She trained in a doula program at the University of Vermont and spent a year working with practicing doulas.

“This end-of-life training is not easy. You need to practice what to do and say,” she said.

The death doula program has been growing since the early 2000s, March said, “though the idea is an ancient one.”

Doing work as a doula “starts with a conversation about whether this is right for you. It's not a good fit for everyone.”

Insurance usually does not cover the service, so doulas most often are privately paid, and the work ends up being a combination of paid, pro bono, and volunteer work. There are national and international doula organizations that provide training and certifications.

### Uncomfortable conversations

The work of a death doula takes considerable skill in communication, and the ability to get people to talk about things that may be uncomfortable.

“Adult children often don't want to hear what their parents want,” March said. “Conversations have to happen with reluctant family members, and not just one conversation.”

That is part of the training of a death doula, which takes place in their hours of classroom work and throughout the year when they work with other doulas in actual practice.

“I have no vested interest in the outcome. I don't care who gets what,” March said. “It is a huge help for the family to be able to talk to someone without a vested interest and who will really listen. I can definitely do that.”

Those conversations also need to include important end-of-life medical decisions about how far to go in sustaining life, and how the dying person wants to personally deal with their death.

March said that saying goodbye to life and loved ones, and the actual medical process of dying, are two very different things.

“Trying to make those hard decisions when your life is emotionally charged is not a good idea,” March said. “That's part of the work of the doula. We get to make the space for dealing with death.”

*Anyone interested in March's work, contacting her, or attending one of her upcoming workshops in the area should visit [doulacareforyou.com](http://doulacareforyou.com).*

## PUBLIC NOTICES

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

### STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION  
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-01697

In re ESTATE of: Francis E. Temple

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Francis E. Temple (Decedent)  
late of Putney, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: May 15, 2023 c/o Amelia W. L. Darrow, Esq.  
Marcia Rothra, Executor Secretest & Darrow, PLC  
209 Austine Dr, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Name of Publication: The Commons 802-251-6598  
Publication Date: May 24, 2023 adarrow@secretstdarrow.com  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Probate  
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

### Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Brattleboro Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, 6.21.2023 at 7:00 PM in the Selectboard Meeting Room, Municipal Center, 230 Main St., Brattleboro, VT; the meeting will also be held on Zoom. Meeting ID: 881 4045 1917 Passcode: 190450.

2023-56 Todd Darrah; RB District; request for Flood Hazard, Conditional Use & Site Plan Approval to construct 3 cottages for a motel use by 487 Marlboro Rd; TMP#60163.100; 2023-58 Burton Holdings, LLC; MU District; request for Subdivision, Conditional Use & Site Plan Approval to demolish restaurant & carwash, adjust parcel boundaries, build carwash with site improvements at 201 & 209 Canal St; TMPs #325527.000, 325529.000 & 325530.000 Pursuant to 24 VSA §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

NOTE: Meetings are open to the public. For specific accommodations please call the Planning Services Department at 802-251-8154.

Application materials are available at <https://tinyurl.com/DRB-Applications>  
Additional materials may be submitted up to the time of the meeting and will be uploaded to the above address.

### TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT Amendment to the Code of Ordinances May 16, 2023

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Selectboard of the Town of Brattleboro on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at a duly warned meeting adopted the following AMENDMENTS to Chapter 19, Brattleboro Cemetery Ordinance, Article 3, Rules of Operation and Section 19-9 Burial Site of the Brattleboro Code of Ordinances, viz:

Chapter 19, Brattleboro Cemetery Ordinance, Article 3, Rules of Operation

Chapter 19, Article 3, Rules of Operation, Section 19-8, Purchase and Payment of Plots and Lots.

The cost of a plot shall be \$500.00 \$775.00 for the first plot and \$400.00 for each adjacent plot purchased at the same time.

Chapter 19, Article 3, Rules of Operation, Section 19-9 Burial Site

The Rawdat Al Salaam-Garden of Peace Section of Morningside Cemetery shall be designated for natural and Islamic burial. Plots and lots shall be orientated with the long dimension orientated north to south. Regulations for the Rawdat Al Salaam-Garden of Peace Section are as follows:

Each plot shall measure 5 feet in width and 10 feet in length

Bodies shall not be embalmed and shall be shrouded in cloth or placed in a wicker container.

Vaults shall not be used.

Except as modified in Sections 19-9 & 19-10, natural and Islamic burials shall be governed by the same regulations as casket burials.

A copy of this Amendment may be obtained from the Brattleboro Town Manager's Office, John R. Potter, Brattleboro Town Manager, 230 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301, telephone number 251-8151 is a person with knowledge of this Amendment and who is available to answer questions in connection therewith.

This amendment shall be posted in five conspicuous places within the Town and published in the *Brattleboro Reformer* on the Tuesday, May 23, 2023 and shall become effective on the 24th day of July, 2023, unless a petition for a vote to disapprove the ordinance at a special or regular town meeting is signed by not less than five (5%) percent of the qualified voters of the Town of Brattleboro and filed with the Town Clerk within 44 days of the date of adoption stated above.

### BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD

Ian Goodnow, Chair  
Franz Reichsman, Vice-Chair Peter Case, Clerk  
Elizabeth McLoughlin  
Daniel Quipp

### Twice Upon A Time

"A little something for everyone!"



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

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

### Noel Hoffmann Dog Training & Behavior Consulting

#### The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

There is a positive solution for every behavioral problem: Aggression, Resource Guarding, Reactivity, Separation Anxiety...and more!

Private training in a quiet and safe environment, so that you can learn. Fully certified to work behavioral cases.

Westminster, Vermont - 5 minutes from Exit 5, I-91.

www.noelhoffmann.com • 802-375-5560

noelh@noelhoffmann.com



CPDT-KA,  
KPA-CTP,  
IAABC-CDBC  
Fear Free  
Certified

The Commons special section for **SUMMER CAMPS**  
*Let us help you fill registrations!*

*This section runs twice a month from March through June.*

**CONTACT AN AD REP!**

lori@commonsnews.org  
nancy@commonsnews.org  
1-888-511-5150

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

# The Commons Everyone should have access to the news!



### That's why *The Commons* has always been free!

- **No paywall** restricting access to the online edition.
- **No charge** for the print edition that can be found at 250 locations in Windham County and beyond.

*The Commons* is free, but producing it isn't. The paper is made possible because of the generous support we receive from readers like you.

**If you believe that everyone should have access to the news, please consider making a tax deductible contribution today.**

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 by June 30 so we can expand our capacity and bring you more of the award-winning stories and commentary you look forward to each week.

With your help, *The Commons* will continue to be the local, independent - **and available to everyone** - source for news and views!



## Receive *The Commons* at **HOME!**

...by mail – Your donation of \$100, can get you home delivery of *The Commons* for one year. Please indicate on the form below before you mail it to us.

...by email – Include your email address on the form below, and we will sign you up for **FREE** email delivery of *The Commons*.

Read the news online at **commonsnews.org**



## CONGRATULATIONS to our New England Newspaper and Press Association award winners!

**1st Place – Mindy Haskins Rogers, Virginia Ray**  
Investigative/Enterprise Reporting,  
“Legacy of abuse in Brattleboro area schools”

**1st Place - Randolph Holhut, Fran Lynggaard Hansen, Jeff Potter**  
Spot News Story, Package:  
“Brattleboro breaks ties with Rescue”

**2nd Place – Jeff Potter**  
Editorial/Commentary Page, “Roe v. Wade”

**2nd Place – Fran Lynggaard Hansen**  
General News Story,  
“The people are the place, and the place is the people”

**3rd Place – Jeff Potter**  
Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage,  
“A mural with meaning”



### YES! – I want to keep the momentum going!

\$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$25    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation to include mail delivery of *The Commons* for one year (Donations of \$100 or more).

Gift Method:  Check    Credit Card (circle one) Discover   Visa   AMEX   MC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV#: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Or make a secure gift at [commonsnews.networkforgood.com](https://commonsnews.networkforgood.com)

Please list my gift as anonymous

Please make checks out to: **Vermont Independent Media**, and mail them to P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Questions?

Call 1-888-511-5150, or email [info@commonsnews.org](mailto:info@commonsnews.org)

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Vermont Independent Media is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EIN 20-2140604.

### Keep the **MOMENTUM GOING!**

2023 SPRING APPEAL



To find *The Commons* online, visit [commonsnews.org](https://commonsnews.org)



## Make a gift!

• Online: [commonsnews.networkforgood.com](https://commonsnews.networkforgood.com)

• By phone: 1-888-511-5150

• By mail: Send us this form

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• **Dominic Italia**, a member of the Brattleboro Union High School Class of 2012, received his Doctorate on May 12 from the Creighton University School of Dentistry in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Italia will return to Denver, Colorado, where he previously graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Denver, to begin his practice with Englewood Dental Associates.

• **Jonathan Griffin** of West Townshend, a sophomore majoring in business administration, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina.

• **Ella Bursky** of Westminster was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

• **John Peloso** of Townshend was recently inducted into Lambda Epsilon Sigma, the honor society at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. The organization recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence, provided evidence of a thirst for knowledge that goes beyond the classroom, contributed to the intellectual development of the community, and exhibited an ability to communicate effectively.

• **Michele Fiorillo** of Putney and **Abigail Joslyn** of Bellows Falls, both students at Castleton University, recently took part in the White Coat Ceremony. Designed in 1993 by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation as a way to welcome new students into the medical profession and to set clear expectations regarding their primary role as physicians, it is an

annual tradition that includes the cloaking and recitation of the medical oath by participants and emphasizes the importance of compassionate care as well as scientific proficiency in medicine and nursing.

Obituaries



• **Samuel Todd "Sammy B" Barrows**, 23, of Marlboro, died May 11, 2023 from injuries he sustained in a motorcycle

accident in Vernon. Sam was born in Brattleboro on Aug. 5, 1999, the son of Heidi Barrows and Lee Sloan. He was raised in Marlboro, where he attended local schools and was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 2017. Sam went on to attend the University of Northwest Ohio in Lima where he studied diesel mechanics. At the time of his death, he was a mechanic for Chesterfield Tire in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire. Previously, he worked for his uncle at Barrows Roofing in Brattleboro. Sam loved working and running large equipment. Sam was very athletic and was very active in intramural and school sports. While attending BUHS, he excelled in football, baseball, basketball, and hockey. He especially enjoyed motorcycles and was proud of the yellow Honda he owned. He also enjoyed spectator sports and was an avid New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox fan. Sam was known for his spirit of friendship and generosity, always willing to help anyone in need. Sam was like an "uncle"

to all his friends' children. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor and fearless outlook on life. His immediate family meant the world to him and his presence will be dearly missed. Sam leaves his mother of Marlboro and his father of Vernon; his four siblings, Joey Barrows, Brooke Barrows, Matthew Montgomery, and Connor Montgomery, all of Marlboro; his maternal grandparents, Stephen and Vicki Barrows of Vernon, paternal grandmother Patricia Dunn, and paternal grandfather Sonny Sloan. Other survivors include several cousins, aunts, and uncles that include Alex and Monique Barrows and Josh and Jeannette Barrows of the Brattleboro area. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Friends are invited to call at Atamaniuk Funeral Home in Brattleboro on Wednesday, May 24, from 4 to 6 p.m. Graveside committal services will be conducted Thursday, May 25, at 11 a.m., in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. A celebration of life will follow at VFW Carl M. Dessaint Post 1034 on Black Mountain Road. Donations to the BUHS Athletic Dept., 131 Fairground Rd., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



• **Brenda Lee "BB" Peters**, 61, of Brattleboro, died May 16, 2023 after a long courageous bat-

tle fighting cancer. She was surrounded by her family and the love and support of many. Brenda was born in the back seat of a taxi in Hearst, Ontario, Canada on April 30, 1962. Her first few months of life were in Canada, as her parents were stationed there with the U.S. Air Force. She was the daughter of Edward L. Class Sr. and Verga Irene (Towle) Kilanski. Brenda lived in many places including Brunswick, Maine, St. Albans, Vernon, Winchester and West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, and Brattleboro. She was a New England girl through and through. Brenda attended school in Winchester. She was a hard worker who started working at a very young age. Most of her jobs were at places that prided themselves in hospitality. Brenda had a spunky spitfire attitude that made her good at her job. She often became a reason people would frequent the establishments she was working at. Some of the paces Brenda worked included The Putney Inn, The Steak Out, Sportsman's Lounge, The Hollywood, Mike's and, most recently The Marina for the last 26 years. Brenda was also an accomplished seamstress. She was well known for making cloth rabbits with her friend Paula Braun. If you ever visited The Putney Inn in the 1990s, you likely saw them for sale there or as holiday decorations. Brenda could sew anything from wedding dresses to seats for ATVs, snowmobiles, and boats. If you needed something mended or made, she was your girl, a female MacGyver! Besides being a proud workaholic, Brenda was a proud mother, grandmother, and animal lover. She was always rescuing and feeding wildlife. She had a doggie pit stop station (with treats and water) at her house for people walking by. She was always trying to take care of everyone and everything. Besides spending time

with her family, work family, customers, and friends, Brenda loved plants. She had an abundance of house plants and flower gardens. One of her most favorite pastimes was to be on the water. She loved spending her days (and evenings) on the Connecticut River — soaking up the sun, jamming out to music, fishing, and just entertaining her friends and family on her boat. She loved to cook and was often in the kitchen whipping up something. Some of her favorite dishes to make were her foot-thick Lasagna, spaghetti and homemade meatballs, and shrimp scampi. Brenda was a people pleaser through and through. She was either making you something, feeding you something, or trying to make you laugh. If you are from the area, you most likely met Brenda at one point or another. She will be missed and loved by many forever. Brenda leaves behind her father Edward L. Class Sr. (Barbara) of Vernon; her sons Tony Whitten (Kelly Boyce) and Wayne Whitten (Megan Barrows) of Brattleboro; grandchildren Jade, Courtney, Ethan, Bryce, and Adalina Whitten of Brattleboro and Tonysa Whitten of Randolph; siblings Serena Jean Class of Florida, Michael Edward Class (Rhonda) of Brattleboro, and Edward Lee Class Jr. (Brenda) of Vernon; stepmother Dorothy Class and stepister Robin Zegge of Brattleboro; three great-grandchildren and many aunts, uncles, cousins, "adopted" kids and grandkids, her Marina family, and countless friends. Brenda was predeceased by her mother Verga Towle Kilanski (John) and many other special people who we know were there to greet her with open arms. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life will be held at The Marina restaurant on



Tuesday, June 13, from 4 to 7 p.m.

• **Claudia J. Giese**, 71, of Westminster, died suddenly on May 9, 2023 in Farmington, Connecticut. Claudia was born Aug. 15, 1951 in Chicago to Clarence and Alberta Giese. At the age of 7, she moved with her parents to Vienna, Austria, and attended local schools there. After Claudia graduated high school, she went on to study foreign language interpretation at the University of Vienna. In 1973, Claudia and her brother moved to California, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from Santa Clara University. Claudia moved to Boston in 1977 and then eventually settled in Vermont where she worked for a travel agency in Brattleboro and Springfield. In 1985, at her parent's home in Guilford, she married Matthew Conklin. Claudia was a big reader, mostly non-fiction, and was an active gardener. She loved the outdoors, going for daily walks with her friends. She also loved her cats Topsey and Turvey, who were special to her. Claudia also was an expert in Sudoku, enjoyed classical music, and put up with Matt's rock and roll. Claudia's other interests included being active in Westminster Cares as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. She loved traveling to Italy, Britain, Australia, and all over the U.S. Claudia's love for her family and all the experiences with her parents and siblings were extraordinary and beautiful. Claudia is survived by her

husband; and sisters Ericka Stever of Weehawken, New Jersey and Sarah Giese of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Claudia was predeceased by her parents and her brother Ben Giese. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral service took place on May 19 at the First Congregational Church of Westminster. Donations to Westminster Cares, P.O. Box 312, Westminster, VT 05158.

• **John "Jack" Greene**, 90, of Brookline, died peacefully at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend on May 12, 2023. His wife Sherry was at his side. His entire family — daughter Rachel, son Bob, grandsons Emmett Larson and Fynn Greene, granddaughters Greta Larson and Paisley Barr, granddaughter-in-law Caitlin Larson, and great-grandchildren Evelyn Rose Larson and Hudson Barr visited him and spent special time with him over the prior week. On Dec. 26, 1932, Jack was born in Hartford, Connecticut, the second son of Martin and Jeanne Greene. Jack was "Jack" or "Jackie" his entire life, except when Mom was perturbed. Then he was "John William." He roamed the halls of Our Lady of Sorrows Grammar School, Holy Trinity High School, and Hartford High School and graduated in 1950. After high school, Jack joined the Navy and served in the Air Branch, on land and at sea. He was discharged in October 1953. After a series of "what do I want to be when I grow up" jobs, he attended the University of Connecticut, graduating in 1960. He worked at both the Hartford Insurance Group and Aetna Life and Casualty in Hartford until his retirement. Jack and Sherry moved to Miami, Florida for her work in 1991. Jack got into pottery, was named president of the Ceramic League of Miami, and became an accomplished potter there. After living in South Florida for 15 years and surviving a harrowing experience with Hurricane Andrew, he and Sherry eventually moved back to New England to be near their children and grandchildren. They built a great post and beam home (that he designed) in Brookline in 2000 on Grassy Brook Road. Their gardens were the talk of the town — full of flowers, a memorial garden, and beautiful trees. These gardens were all Jack's creations. They were also his and Sherry's work for 19 years, too. They sold their dream home in 2019. As a special note: Jack met his best friend and fishing buddy Al Ober at UConn. They spent a good part of the next 41 years prowling the trout streams and lakes of New England and Canada — and occasionally catching fish, too! Jack had a great sense of humor and a wry whimsical side. This was evident in his creative tinkering (Sherry said he could fix anything) and his artistic forays into pottery, woodturning, glass beading, and marble making. He also loved to play low stakes poker with his Vermont poker buddies. And in Jack's words, and in true fashion, "Nuff said... RIP."

MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be no memorial service. His life was celebrated by his loving family and close friends while he was in Hospice at Grace Cottage. Any donations in his memory can be made to either Grace Cottage Hospital or to the Windham County Humane Society.

• **Jean Marie Ostrowski**, 96, of North Walpole, New Hampshire, died on May 15, 2023 at Springfield Hospital. She was born on December 18, 1926, the third in a family of eight children from Gageville, and the daughter



of Marguerite Harrington and R.L. Gay Sr. In 1961, Jean married Edward Stanley Ostrowski of North Walpole,

where they resided with Edward's dad John Bartholemew Ostrowski. In 1963, Jean gave birth to John "Jack" Ostrowski in Bellows Falls. Her family included Jack and Lisa Ostrowski, their daughter Jenna Marie and Matthew Blanchard, and son Joshua and Cristina Ostrowski; along with son Ryan Ostrowski and granddaughter Siena Maria Ostrowski. She is also survived by brothers Robert Gay II and Richard Gay from Gageville, and sister-in-law Janice Gay. Jean was predeceased by sisters Nancy (John) Sullivan, Anne (John) Curtin, Helen (Jim) Hurley, Gloria (Chuck) Quinn, and Gilbert Gay. Jean had the joyful blessing of several nieces and nephews. Jean graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1944 and went to work for Gay's Express, H.P. Hood, and worked with her brothers at Gay's Fuel Service for over 25 years as their first secretary. She enjoyed her work there. Jean loved to keep up her large garden with Edward and his dad as well as cook for her family at their home in North Walpole. Many meals of venison, fresh trout, asparagus, homegrown vegetables, and pies were prepared by Jean. She was greatly loved and will be missed by her family. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held on May 18 at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole, with burial at St. Peter's Cemetery in Drewsville.

• **Sandra Jean "Sandy" (Coughlin) Woodward**, 80, of West Brattleboro, died at home on March 31, 2023. Born on Aug. 27, 1942, she grew up in Brattleboro and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 1961. She worked at Eden Park Nursing Home, and loved cooking, playing cards, doing puzzle books, and watching John Wayne movies. She was a loving and caring woman who put others ahead of herself. She was a great listener who was loved by many. If you needed something, she would give it to you if she had it and you needed it. Sandy was predeceased by her parents, Maxine A. and John H. Coughlin Sr.; her sister, Anita Marie Parent and her son, Anthony Wayne Woodward. Sandy is survived by her son, Willard Elmer Woodward Jr. of Brattleboro, Vermont; her daughter, Ava-Maria Monette, and son-in-law, Ernest J. Monette of Florida; her brother John "Jack" Coughlin of Brattleboro; and brother-in-law Richard "Dick" Parent of Hinsdale. She leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and cousins, as well as two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

Services



• A celebration of life for **Ed Druke, Sr.**, who died on Feb. 8, 2023, will be held Saturday, June 3, from noon to 3 p.m., at NewBrook Fire House, 698 Vermont Route 30, Newfane. There will be a brief welcome from family, followed by shared food and time for family and friends to celebrate Ed's remarkable 91 years.

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

**LAWTON Floor Design**

LOCALLY OWNED  
"DOING IT RIGHT FOR DECADES"  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

CERAMIC TILE	OUR OWN IN-HOUSE INSTALLATION TEAM
HARDWOOD	
CARPET	
BAMBOO	
VINYL	
CORK	
AREA RUGS	
MARMOLEUM	

972 PUTNEY RD. UNIT 3, BRATTLEBORO  
LAWTONFLOORDESIGN.COM + 802.254.9303

**Hey Windham County Business Owner...**

**Want to Grow Your Business? Compete for \$20,000!**

**TWO EASY STEPS:**

1. Registration (Starts May 1st)
2. Come pitch your idea at one of the 2023 events

<p><b>June 1st</b> Bar 580 Brattleboro 4 - 5:15 pm</p>	<p><b>June 6th</b> Great Falls Chamber Bellows Falls 4:30pm</p>
<p><b>June 7th</b> The White House Wilmington 4:30 - 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>June 8th</b> New American Grill Londonderry 2 - 3:15 pm</p>

Register at: <https://brattleborodevelopment.com/competition/>

**fearless computing**

**Working from home? Teleconferencing? Just plain old computer hell?**

For 22 years, I've provided all kinds of tech support to many households & businesses in the Brattleboro area. Work done on-site, remotely or with safe drop-offs.

Serving the Brattleboro area since the turn of the century

[WWW.FEARLESSCOMPUTINGVT.COM](http://WWW.FEARLESSCOMPUTINGVT.COM)

**(802) 387-0058**

Discounts available to seniors, essential workers and anyone who needs a break

**PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION**

WINDHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

916 West River Rd, Brattleboro, VT  
802-254-2232 • [wchs4pets.org](http://wchs4pets.org)

Hi, my name is **Rebel**. I am a sweet and outgoing guy looking for a loving outgoing family. I haven't been around a lot of dogs and should do a dog intro here if you have any doggy companions. I would do best in a home without any cats. I also really love food and can be protective of my food and shouldn't live with any small kids. I really love being outside and active.

Hi, my name is **Lionell**! I am about 50 pounds with plenty of love to give. I am very sweet and outgoing. I seem to like other dogs and may be able to live with one in my new home. Cats would be new and should be gradual. I have a ton of energy and need someone that can give me the exercise that I need. I would do best in a home without any small kids. I really am looking for someone to give me all the love and affection that I deserve.

Hello friends! I'm **Raven**, the sweetest little black kitty you'll ever meet. I'll rub all over you and snuggle in real close. We'll be the best of friends! I came to WCHS with some of my friends (Nacho and Salem) after our owner passed away. All the changes in life have been a little scary but just give me some time to settle in and we'll get along great! I am used to living with other cats so I could probably have a feline friend in my new home with a proper intro. And even respectful kids would have fun with me!

Hi new friends, I'm **Igor**! Kind of a spooky name, I know! I was originally found as a stray in NJ before arriving to WCHS on transport. The staff in NJ describes me as curious and outgoing. Since I was a stray not too much of my history is known so introductions to other cats and dogs in my new home should be gradual to start. I can be friendly with people on my terms but I prefer to lead the interaction and will get sassy if bothered. I would do best with an experienced cat owner who can read my body language and know when you leave me to myself. I don't want to wait for my new home any longer, come meet me soon!

*Ad graciously sponsored by:*

**GUILFORD SOUND**  
[guilfordsound.com](http://guilfordsound.com)  
802-254-4511  
[info@guilfordsound.com](mailto:info@guilfordsound.com)

In the English language there are orphans and widows, but there is no word for the parents who lose a child.

—JODI PICCULT

**COMPUTER QUESTIONS?**

Tired of feeling out of control?

**Patient, Sympathetic Coaching**  
Macs • Windows  
iPads • Tablets

Annamarie 802-451-1941  
[PatientSympatheticCoaching.com](http://PatientSympatheticCoaching.com)

Sign up to receive email delivery of *The Commons* every Wednesday!

**Subscribe at commonsnews.org**

Just like our paper, it's FREE!

EMS costs

million annually through ambulance billing. But without a breakdown of EMS versus fire costs — in part because the two utilize the same staff and facilities — the city can only say reimbursements cover some 10% of its nearly \$14 million combined fire/EMS budget.

Six communities run stand-alone municipal rescue squads: Barre Town, Colchester, Milton, Morristown, Northfield, and Stowe. All are more easily able to calculate their reimbursement rates, which show none of them breaking even, let alone banking a surplus.

At first glance, the best-case scenario is Northfield, where up to 90% of its \$450,000 annual EMS budget is covered by insurance payments. But that's because the town has only one full-time paid EMS position, with a majority of the work done by part-timers and Norwich University volunteers.

“Wage and benefit costs aren't there, so that's a big savings,” Northfield Town Manager Jeff Schulz said. “Where we come up short is when you throw in the capital budget to replace things.”

Colchester reaps about 70% of its \$827,000 EMS budget through billing, leaving taxpayers to pick up the remaining \$230,000 this year. But leaders there caution about judging their community against others, as numbers vary based on staffing, call volumes, and whether and how clients are insured.

“It's very hard to compare all this, as it's extremely complicated,” Colchester Rescue Chief Scott Crady said. “It's always such a hard-moving target, so when we do budgeting, it's a guess. But to think it's going to make money? It's not going to happen.”

Colchester, for example, bought a new ambulance last year for \$230,000. This year, the same vehicle is priced at \$310,000.

“It went up \$80,000 in one year,” Crady said. “The costs are starting to go through the roof.”

As for other communities, Barre Town generates 65% of its nearly \$3 million EMS budget through insurance, with local subsidies paying the balance of almost \$1 million.

Milton raises about 60% of its \$626,000 EMS budget through billing, leaving taxpayers to pick up about \$250,000 this year.

And Stowe collects one-third

of its \$760,000 EMS budget from reimbursements and the remaining two-thirds (or about \$500,000) from property taxes. That, in part, is because Stowe responds only to 911 calls, as another provider holds better-compensated contracts for other requests (as in Brattleboro, where Rescue Inc. retains that business).

Stowe's budget doesn't include municipal spending on a shared public safety building, general liability insurance, and vehicles replaced under the town's equipment fund.

“It would be hard to correlate one town with another without knowing what in total is included,” Stowe EMS Chief Scott Brinkman said. “But the need for additional funding continues to rise annually. We are seeing incredible wage pressure, the work is becoming more complicated due to advancements in medicine. [...] We are facing many more challenges than we ever used to.”

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

Vermont, for its part, has a higher-than-average number of people covered by federal Medicare health insurance for older adults and Medicaid for anyone with low income, statistics show. But Medicare and Medicaid don't offer full reimbursement, instead offering lower, fixed rates.

“Years of inadequate reimbursement for services rendered, unreliable levels of local, state, and federal support, and the pressure of the global pandemic have pushed our fragile system and those who serve our communities to the point of crisis,”

FROM SECTION FRONT

the Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee wrote to the state Legislature in a recent report.

**Public hearings scheduled in Brattleboro**

In Brattleboro, those circumstances didn't stop former Town Manager Yoshi Manale from projecting that a municipal EMS takeover would reap “\$500,000 to \$700,000 net gain in revenue,” he said, just before the Selectboard approved a transition plan last spring with little notice or public debate.

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

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

Brattleboro leaders still haven't shared any of the facts or figures that caused them to drop Rescue Inc. But they revealed new numbers on May 16 that show 83% of the town's ambulance calls are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or other state and federal sources with limited payouts.

The Selectboard is scheduled to use its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month to discuss start-up expenses on June 20 and operating models on July 18. Three more public sessions are set for Aug. 15, Sept. 5 and Sept. 12 before the board aims to vote on a long-term plan Sept. 19.

PETER HAVENS



32 ELLIOT ST. BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

Open Sundays starting April 30th

New Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 5pm - Close  
Reservations can be made online via RESY, or by calling 802-257-3333.

PAID FOR BY MARKET SURVEYS OF AMERICA

**YOUR VOTES ARE IN!**

GREATER BRATTLEBORO'S 29TH ANNUAL BEST BUSINESSES FOR 2023

- 29 **VOTED BEST PLACE TO PURCHASE AN AUTO** 800 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**THE AUTO MALL** (257-5100)
- 28 **VOTED #1 INSURANCE AGENCY** 48 HARRIS PL. BRATTLEBORO  
**THE RICHARDS GROUP** (254-6016)
- 28 **VOTED TASTIEST PIZZA IN THE AREA** 1155 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**VILLAGE PIZZA-EXIT 3** (257-5065)
- 26 **VOTED BEST CAR WASH IN THE AREA** 873 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**BURTON CAR WASH** (257-5194)
- 24 **VOTED BEST AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE** 837 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**FLETCHER'S AUTO REPAIR** (257-1610)
- 23 **VOTED BEST NURSING CARE FACILITY** (254-6041) ROUTE 142 VERNON  
**VERNON GREEN NURSING HOME**
- 21 **VOTED BEST REAL ESTATE OFFICE** 402 CANAL ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**BRATTLEBORO AREA REALTY** (257-1335)
- 20 **VOTED BEST HOTEL/MOTEL/INN** 889 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**THE COLONIAL MOTEL** (257-7733)
- 18 **VOTED BEST CHIROPRACTOR** 20 TECHNOLOGY DR. BRATTLEBORO  
**DR. STEVEN GRUBER** (254-3300)
- 16 **VOTED BEST ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY** (254-6041) 13 GREENWAY DR. VERNON  
**VERNON HALL ASSISTED LIVING**
- 16 **VOTED BEST LOCKSMITH** SERVING THE GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA  
**DICK'S LOCK REPAIR** (254-8533)
- 14 **VOTED BEST CHILD CARE** 880 WESTERN AVE. BRATTLEBORO  
**WEST BEE NURSERY SCHOOL** (257-7155)
- 14 **VOTED BEST BURGER** RTE. 5, PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**MARINA RESTAURANT** (257-7563)
- 13 **VOTED BEST MORTGAGE COMPANY** 100 MAIN ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**CATHY EAKINS @ M&T BANK** (258-4050)
- 10 **VOTED BEST TATTOO STUDIO** 698 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**FAITHFUL FEW TATTOO** (579-1563)
- 10 **VOTED BEST FITNESS FACILITY** 1589 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**SUPREME FITNESS** (257-4944)
- 10 **VOTED BEST HEATING OIL SERVICE** 55 DEPOT ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**BARROWS & FISHER** (254-4574)
- 10 **VOTED BEST ANTIQUE STORE** 63 MAIN ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**TWICE UPON A TIME** (254-2261)
- 9 **VOTED BEST ACUPUNCTURIST** 441 WEST RIVER RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**DEIRDRE KELLEY, LIC. Ac.**  
WWW.DEIRDREKELLEY.COM
- 9 **VOTED BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT** RTE. 5, PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**MARINA RESTAURANT** (257-7563)
- 7 **VOTED BEST BREAKFAST PLACE** 747 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**DELIGHTFULLY DELICIOUS BAKERY & CAFE** (579-1622)
- 6 **VOTED BEST LANDSCAPING COMPANY** SERVING THE GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA  
**CONNER HAMILTON** (258-8890)  
**LANDSCAPE & FIREWOOD LLC**
- 6 **VOTED BEST INDEPENDENT LIVING FACILITY** (254-6041) 61 GREENWAY VERNON  
**VERNON BIRCHES INDEPENDENT LIVING**
- 6 **VOTED BEST OUTSIDE DINING** RTE. 5, PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**MARINA RESTAURANT** (257-7563)
- 5 **VOTED BEST HAIR SALON** 266 CANAL ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**SALON MERAKI** (451-0027)
- 5 **VOTED BEST BODY PIERCING** 109 MAIN ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**THE VOID** (490-2760)
- 3 **VOTED BEST CLEANING SERVICE** SERVING THE GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA  
**MFT, LLC CLEANING SERVICES** (254-4888)
- 3 **VOTED BEST KITCHEN/BATH REMODELERS** (579-9406) SERVING THE GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA  
**DAN BOYD CONSTRUCTION, LLC**
- 3 **VOTED BEST PSYCHOLOGIST** 193 SO. MAIN ST., 2ND FL. BRATTLEBORO  
**DEBRA ROSENZWEIG, PhD.** (917-697-2139)
- 2 **VOTED BEST FINANCIAL ADVISOR** SERVING THE GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA  
**TRAVIS SHINE, CFP @ AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL** (257-5500)
- 2 **VOTED BEST DAY SPA** (508-282-9883) 1222 PUTNEY RD. STE. 106B, BRATTLEBORO  
**PURPLE SARAH SKIN AND NAIL CARE, LLC**
- 2 **VOTED BEST FACIAL/SKIN CARE** (508-282-9883) 1222 PUTNEY RD. STE. 106B, BRATTLEBORO  
**PURPLE SARAH SKIN AND NAIL CARE, LLC**
- 2 **VOTED BEST NAIL SALON** (508-282-9883) 1222 PUTNEY RD. STE. 106B, BRATTLEBORO  
**PURPLE SARAH SKIN AND NAIL CARE, LLC**
- 2 **VOTED BEST MASSAGE THERAPY** (508-282-9883) 1222 PUTNEY RD. STE. 106B, BRATTLEBORO  
**PURPLE SARAH SALON/MARY ADAMS**
- 2 **VOTED BEST TOWING SERVICE** SERVING THE GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA  
**ROD'S TOWING** (387-4771)
- 1 **VOTED BEST COMMUNITY BANK/CU** 820 PUTNEY RD. BRATTLEBORO  
**802 CREDIT UNION** (800-728-5871)
- 1 **VOTED BEST ATTORNEY** (251-0460) 81 HIGH ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**SHARON ANNIS@ANNIS & GODDARD, PLC**
- 1 **VOTED BEST NEW RESTAURANT** 580 CANAL ST., NORTH PARKING LOT BRATTLEBORO  
**BIKER BOB'S BURGERS & DOGS** (246-7892)
- 1 **VOTED BEST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** 133 MAIN ST., PUTNEY  
**ROOTS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** (387-5126)
- 1 **VOTED BEST HAIR COLORIST** (254-5900) 20 TECHNOLOGY DR. BRATTLEBORO  
**JEN WOOD@STUDIO 20 HAIR SALON**
- 1 **VOTED BEST BAGELS** 118 MAIN ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**THE WORKS CAFE** (579-1851)
- 1 **VOTED BEST COFFEE** 118 MAIN ST. BRATTLEBORO  
**THE WORKS CAFE** (579-1851)

# INDICATES NUMBER OF YEARS AS WINNER

VOTE ONLINE ANY TIME AT: BESTOFSURVEYS.COM

MARKET SURVEYS OF AMERICA, AN INDEPENDENT SURVEY COMPANY, IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS OF THE 29th ANNUAL GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA'S BEST BUSINESSES FOR 2023 SURVEY. THE ABOVE WINNERS ARE THE RESULT OF TALLIED PUBLIC BALLOTS AND INTERNET VOTING TAKEN THROUGHOUT THE GREATER BRATTLEBORO AREA FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.



**Fixed Rate Home Equity Loan**

13 Year Term, 1st Lien with rates as low as

**5.49% APR\***

Visit [802cu.com](http://802cu.com) or Contact our Mortgage Department for details.



\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to credit approval. Rates are listed "as low as" and are determined by an evaluation of your credit, term of the loan, and the Loan to Value (LTV). Maximum LTV is 60%. Minimum loan amount is \$5,000. An appraisal may be required, but in many instances is waived. Can not refinance existing 802 Credit Union loans. Closing costs are generally between \$300 - \$1,500. Rates are subject to change at any time. Not all applicants will qualify. Share account is required. First Lien position only.

**Prices Are Unpredictable**  
Lock in Yours Now! It's a Smart & Secure Investment.

- ✓ **SANDRI PREPAY:** Take advantage of our special Prepay price and buy your fuel in bulk. Prepay for a set number of gallons at today's low price and know you are protected if prices go up.
- ✓ **SANDRI PREPAY with Downside Protection:** This offers the same benefits as the Prepay program, except it protects you if the market price of heating oil falls. For a small fee, you pay the lower of either your Prepay price or the day's posted price.
- ✓ **SANDRI BUDGET PLAN:** With this program, you pay for your fuel in even monthly installments.
- ✓ **SANDRI BUDGET PLAN with Downside Protection:** This offers the same benefits as the Budget Plan, except it protects you if the market price of heating oil falls. For a small fee, you pay the lower of either your locked-in price or the day's posted price.

**SANDRI.COM • (800) 628-1900**  
**ONE CALL DOES IT ALL**  
Plumbing | HVAC | Renewables | Heating Fuels

# Public invited to visit Kipling's Naulakha for annual rhododendron tour

DUMMERSTON—The Landmark Trust USA (LTUSA) invites the community to experience an 1892 treasure and its expansive garden and grounds firsthand at the historic preservation nonprofit's largest annual event and fundraiser — the Naulakha Estate & Rhododendron Tour, Sunday, June 4, from 1 to 5 p.m., and Monday, June 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Normally open only to guests renting the properties for overnight accommodation, Naulakha, its Carriage House, and the Stables Museum chronicling the Kipling family's life in Vermont swing open their doors to all for two days each June.

The Rhododendron Tour is the only regular event each year when the property is open to the public and is a rare opportunity to experience the important historic property firsthand.

Naulakha served as home to the Kiplings from 1892 to 1896 and was the only home ever built for Rudyard Kipling. It is listed in the National Register of Historic

Places and is one of 18 National Historic Landmarks in Vermont.

On the self-guided tour, visitors can learn about the property's history and architecture, sit at the desk where *The Jungle Book* was written, wander the famous Rhododendron Tunnel, and enjoy the expansive grounds and gardens, including the oldest tennis court in Vermont. Picnics on the front lawn overlooking the rolling hills beyond are welcome as well.

"There's nothing quite like the inspiration that comes from being in the space where history happened. A stroll through Naulakha and its glorious Rhododendron Tunnel followed by a picnic with a view is the perfect way to usher in a Vermont summer," Executive Director Susan McMahon said in a news release.

Tickets for the Naulakha Estate & Rhododendron Tour are \$25, and pre-registration online is encouraged. On-site registration will be available as space allows.

For more information and registration, go to [landmarktrustusa.org/rhododendron-tour](http://landmarktrustusa.org/rhododendron-tour).



Naulakha, Rudyard Kipling's historic home in Dummerston.

WENDY M. LEVY/COMMONS FILE PHOTO

## Grant for CASP

FROM SECTION FRONT

Network," she said.

Participants in the network, comprised of groups in Burlington, Rutland, Randolph, and Norwich, among other towns around the state, "meet monthly and discuss issues that we face together," she added.

Paarlberg-Kvam came to her work with CASP by way of Latin American studies, as a Spanish speaker and volunteer.

As CASP's executive director, she runs what she calls a "teeny staff of dedicated people, who are supported by a volunteer group of directors. Our paid staff is unique in that it is mostly made up of immigrants to the USA, and a lot of very helpful volunteers."

CASP was founded by Steve Crofter of Bellows Falls out of concern for what was happening in Vermont in 2016. That year, only two Syrian families were settled in Vermont. Crofter traveled as a volunteer at the U.S./Mexican border to learn more about the process, and then founded the agency.

"One of the things he learned," reports Paarlberg-Kvam, "is that refugee settlement is done through the government, but asylum seekers are brought to detention, purportedly to be sure they can make their next court date. However, if an asylum seeker is released to an individual or nonprofit, the system works differently."

Seven years ago, the group was able to offer support to 25 asylum seekers. Seven grassroots organizations now do this work in Vermont. Last year, working together, they helped 125 people settle in Vermont.

"We're all working together for the good of everyone involved," said Paarlberg-Kvam, while clarifying that her group is different from the Ethiopian Community Development Council, an international agency that is settling refugee families from Afghanistan in Brattleboro. The ECDC opened an office in town in 2021.

"Our populations are similar, and we share an office and help one another," said Paarlberg-Kvam.

**Working on policy changes**

The grant will connect CASP to policy work and legislative advocacy, focusing on changing policy at the state and local levels.

"This grant will help us to not be banging our heads against the wall at the federal level," said Paarlberg-Kvam. "There are things that can improve the quality of life that the state can do without the blessing of the Feds."

She defined one of the main issues as housing.

"We're eagerly awaiting a solution to that problem," she said. "As the U.S. enters more and more of an economic crisis, it behooves our power structure to need and help one another."

She asserted that "those who stand to profit economically find it helpful for working people to be divided and use scare tactics to keep us divided."

Cristi Carretero, volunteer coordinator for CASP, is originally from Mexico and found her way to the USA when her family was visiting relatives in Minnesota. After attending college in that state, she and her partner (a native Vermonter) came to live in the Brattleboro area.

She began working with AmeriCorps/VISTA through the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) and met Paarlberg-Kvam during a training there. When her VISTA position ended, Carretero joined CASP's small paid staff and is now working as outreach coordinator.

"I began my career as a volunteer by organizing help for a family of three who moved to Brattleboro from Venezuela," she said. "We put together a team of 11 volunteers who helped the family enroll their children in school, found them a place to live, located the furnishings that were needed."

"We don't often think about all that's needed when you come to a new country to live. It takes a large team of folks to help our refugees, and we are always looking to add people to help us."

**'We don't need to pit one poor person needing help against another one'**

"Our narrative of welcoming immigrants has changed over the years," said Paarlberg-Kvam. "One hundred years ago, we have this historical picture of our nation welcoming large groups of immigrants, but the problems refugees encounter now are very similar to what they were then."

Some local people have expressed concern that refugees get more assistance than the people who already live here. And then there is the associated politics.

Carretero understands the concern.

"My take on that unease is that by building community with each other, we realize how much more we can do together," she said.

"We don't need to pit one poor person needing help against another one," Carretero continued. "Those thoughts and comments are designed to keep us from one another."

She points out a bigger question: How can we all show up for each other?

"Appreciating cultural difference makes our community so rich," Carretero said. "I think we should put people and community before anything else."

Carretero not only enjoys meeting the families that CASP supports but also speaking with the volunteers. "Everyone has a story, and I get to meet some wonderful people. I like to know what inspires people and drives them to become involved with CASP."

While 350 volunteers are on the books, many show up for a one-time request. Between 20 and 50 people are more active on a weekly basis.

"We always need volunteers and team members, and it's a wonderful opportunity," said Carretero, adding that participants "can get to know our new families and make new friends while you help others."

"I love that we get to know families well enough that we often get invited to their meaningful events like birthdays," she said. "That's one of the beautiful parts of welcoming others to our wonderful community."

Paarlberg-Kvam is mindful about the governmental realities. "Asylum seekers get no governmental support. Their support comes from volunteers in the community," she said, noting that as part of the process, refugees are denied the right to work for a full year.

"While they are waiting for that opportunity, many of our refugees volunteer making or delivering meals or other volunteer positions," Paarlberg-Kvam said. "These people want to work and help their new community."

The Community Asylum Seekers Project is grateful for community support and specifically the forthcoming grant.

"Brattleboro is a warm, welcoming, caring community. We appreciate the help," says Paarlberg-Kvam.

Where do members of the group get their patience to keep on welcoming others to our town? Paarlberg-Kvam smiled.

"We get our patience from the people who walk here from places as far away as Brazil," she said. "If they can keep their chins up and have hope and faith, we can, too."

For more information about CASP, visit [casptv.org](http://casptv.org). To learn about the *We Are All America* initiative, visit [weareallus.org](http://weareallus.org).

**BRATTLEBORO**  
Brewers Festival

Visit [brattleboro-brewersfestival.com](http://brattleboro-brewersfestival.com) for tickets and information

Biggest selection of Local Craft Beers & Ciders

14th Star Brewing  
1st Republic Brewing Co  
The Alchemist  
Bent Water Brewing  
Black Flannel Brewing Co  
Branch & Blade Brewing  
Burlington Beer Co  
Citizen Cider  
Dirt Church Brewing  
Element Brewing  
Farm Road Brewing  
Frogg Brewing  
Frost Beer Works  
Green Empire Brewing  
Hermit Thrush Brewery  
Lawson's Finest Liquids  
Liambru Tasty  
Mount Holly Beer Co  
Outer Limits Brewing  
Outlaw Brewing Company  
Stowe Cider  
Switchback Brewing Co  
Ten Bends Beer  
Upper Pass Beer Co  
Vermont Beer Makers  
Von Trapp Brewing  
West LA Beer Co  
Whetstone Craft Beers  
Wormtown Brewery  
Zero Gravity Craft Brewery

Get your tickets today before they sell out!

Live Music from: Mosey Down and Groove Prophet

Local Food Trucks  
Gouger's BBQ & Catering  
Anon's Thai Cuisine  
J&B Curbside Cafe  
Mach's Wood-Fired Courmet Pizza  
The Brattleboro Little League's Hot Dogs

Saturday May 27th 12:30-4:30

V.I.P early entry at 11:30

Over 100 taps to choose from!

Get your tickets now at: [www.BrattleboroBrewersFestival.com](http://www.BrattleboroBrewersFestival.com)

HEY! Let's **Gravitate**

FREE PINBALL!

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR "SNEAK PEEK" EVENTS

LET'S GRAVITATE!

SATURDAY MAY 27 ♦ 4-10  
SUNDAY MAY 28 ♦ 12-6  
FRIDAY JUN 2 ♦ 6-9

GRAVITATE PINBALL GALLERY  
42 Harmony Place Brattleboro VT 05301  
802-275-2188 [gravitatepinball.com](http://gravitatepinball.com)

FREE T-SHIRTS while they last

For more information about CASP, visit [casptv.org](http://casptv.org). To learn about the *We Are All America* initiative, visit [weareallus.org](http://weareallus.org).

bc tv brattleboro community television

**BCTV Video Camp**  
July 10-14  
Ages: grades 5-8  
info & register:  
[brattleborotv.org/video-camp](http://brattleborotv.org/video-camp)

Act! Make movies!  
Edit!





COURTESY PHOTO

Eric Morgan, left, and Greg Lesch, pictured here in last year's production of "Stones in his Pockets" at Actors Theatre Playhouse, will appear together again in this season's ATP production of "The 39 Steps."

# Actors Theatre Playhouse season begins in June

*Ten Minute Play Festival opens the community theater company's 48th season*

By Annie Landenberger  
The Commons

**W**EST CHESTERFIELD, N.H.—Comfortably housed in a historic gem of a building where Main, Brook, and Cross streets meet, Actors Theatre Playhouse (ATP) has emerged from another hibernation to launch its 48th season.

ATP's Producing Artistic Director Sam Pilo, with nearly 50 years of theater leadership under his belt, talks about the 2023 lineup—a season, as always at ATP, chosen with an eye toward a balanced mix of fare.

"ATP takes pleasure in offering a varied program each year: a little bit of a lot of things," Pilo said.

He described ATP as "not so much a 'community playhouse,' as a 'theatrical society'" — such as emerged in the early 20th century when, with a strong audience base, risks could be taken with the theatrical fare that such a collective would offer.

The 2023 ATP season opens, as it has for years, with the Ten Minute Play Festival running Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from June 8 to 24.

The festival "brings in new people — lots of actors and volunteers. It's a good way to open," Pilo said.

In promotional text for the festival, Producer Jim Bombicino summed up the collection of 10-minute pieces by Matthew Widman, Rhea MacCallum, Albi Gorn, Chris Shaw Swanson, Carol Mark, Connie Schindewolf, and Brad Sytsma.

"What happens when: Sue struggles to break up with her former love [...] Nic(-otine)?" longtime ATP actor-director



COURTESY PHOTO

Charlotte Traas



Bruce Holloway



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Mary Wilkins Freeman

## Brooks Memorial Library hosts book launch for new edition of short stories by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman

BRATTLEBORO—Celebrate the newly released edition of 28 short stories by Brattleboro author Mary E. Wilkins Freeman with the initially intended title *Green Mountain Stories* on Tuesday, May 30, 7 p.m., at Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street.

Originally published in 1887 as *A Humble Romance and Other Stories*, this new edition features an introduction and critical commentary by Freeman scholar Brent Kendrick, who will discuss the stories and the change in title. The collection includes such favorites as "On the Walpole Road" and "White Heron."

Freeman (1852–1930) enjoyed distinguished accolades throughout her career as a short story writer and novelist. At the start of the 20th century — when her career was at its height — she and Mark Twain were considered America's most beloved writers.

The bronze doors at the American Academy of Arts

and Letters in New York (installed at its West 155 Street Administration Building in 1938) bear the inscription, "Dedicated to the Memory of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and the Women Writers of America."

She was the first recipient of the William Dean Howells Gold Medal for Distinguished Work in Fiction (1925) and was among the first women elected to membership in the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1926). She launched her literary career while living in Brattleboro, and she never severed her connections to the Green Mountain State.

Freeman sought to demonstrate her values as a feminist in different genres of her work, including her short stories. She diverged from making her female characters weak and in need of help, which was a common trope in literature of her time.

Freeman's short story, "The Revolt of Mother," illustrated the struggles of rural women and

the roles they played within their families, and initiated discussion on the rights of rural woman. Its influence inspired many more pieces that addressed the lack of control rural woman had over family finances and sought to improve the structure of farm families in the early 20th century.

Brent L. Kendrick, Ph.D., is widely known for his scholarly work on Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and is the editor of *The Infant Sphinx: Collected Letters of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman*, praised by *The Journal of Modern Literature* as "the most complete record to date of Freeman's life as writer and woman." This lecture is presented in partnership with the Brattleboro Literary Festival.

The program is free and open to the public and is accessible to people in wheelchairs. For more information, visit [brookslibraryvt.org](http://brookslibraryvt.org) ([www.brookslibraryvt.org](http://www.brookslibraryvt.org)) or call 802-254-5290.

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



**Berkley & Veller  
Greenwood Country  
Realtors**

**Buyer demand is still soaring!**

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

Let Us Help You Reach Your Real Estate Dreams!

Brattleboro: 802-254-6400 • Dover: 802-464-8900 • [www.berkleyveller.com](http://www.berkleyveller.com)



# arts & community CALENDAR

**THURSDAY**

25

**Performing arts**  
**BRATTLEBORO Mama Bang Bang's Delicious Morsels of Vermont Comedy:** Jessie Baade/Mama Bang Bang - curator of this show consisting of some of the strongest personalities in stand up comedy to come out of Vermont (including himself) - will take the stage along with Kendall Farrell, Meredith Gordon, Jared Hall, Annie Russell, Nic Sisk.  
 ▶ 7:30 p.m. (doors open 7 p.m.) Ages 18 and up (nothing too raunchy, just precautionary).  
 ▶ The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: Tickets: \$15.

**Music**  
**BRATTLEBORO EOS Project Explores "Undreamed Shores":** Featuring and celebrating the talent/artistry of BIPOC composers from the tri-state region of southern VT, western NH, and western MA. Performers: Kathy Andrew and Heather Sommerlad, violin; Emily Packard, viola; Zon Eastes, cello. Includes Michi Wienckos "To Unpathed Waters," "Undreamed Shores" Etan Nasreddin-Longos "String Quartet for Benzaiten," Yoshi Campbell and Jose Lezcano's "Tango Overture for String Quartet."  
 ▶ The EOS (Educate - Open - Strengthen) Project's mission is to open new doors and allow our community to explore what and who we've been missing - namely, composers who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as well as those identifying as anything other than cis male.  
 ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Ticket availability cannot be guaranteed at the door.  
 ▶ Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. Information: Tickets: [app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=bmctv..](http://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=bmctv..)

**Recreation**  
**BRATTLEBORO Teen Writing Games:** Are you someone who is interested in writing and/or games? We'll be making black-out poetry, rolling story-cubes, playing exquisite corpse, and other fun, writing-related games. Pizza and snacks provided. "Teens Only" events are open to people in grades 7-12.  
 ▶ 7-9 p.m. Teen Room on 2nd fl. Hosted by the Teen Library Board.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: Questions: [1cummia@wesdvt.org](mailto:1cummia@wesdvt.org) or [1cummia@wesdvt.org](mailto:1cummia@wesdvt.org).

**Well-being**  
**BELLOWS FALLS Climate Change Talk:** Prof. Guy McPherson facilitates discussion about anthropogenic climate change. Included will be consideration of climate change as an existential threat, along with actions we can take as individuals and as a community. McPherson is an internationally recognized speaker, award-winning scientist, and the world's leading authority on abrupt climate change leading to near-term human extinction.  
 ▶ 6:30 p.m. McPherson is also a blogger and cultural critic who speaks to general audiences around the globe, and to scientists, students, educators, and nonprofit and business leaders who seek their best available options when confronting earth's cataclysmic changes.  
 ▶ Free.

**THURSDAY CONT.**

▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; [rockinghamlibrary.org](http://rockinghamlibrary.org).

**Ideas and education**  
**BRATTLEBORO What is the "The Power of Silence & Stillness" to a Toastmaster:** Valerie Bouchard, a virtual member in Tennessee, presents this topic and NH resident Ben Stephens will give his first speech (called an "icebreaker"). Each speech delivery will be evaluated for its positive attributes. Any negatives will be noted to help speakers know where to focus their efforts for their next speech. Content is entirely up to the speaker. Extemporaneous speaking exercises, reports from a grammarian, "ah" counter are part of the learning experience.  
 ▶ 6 p.m., Room 249. Focusing on public speaking and leadership, Toastmasters International is an educational non-profit founded in 1924. The public is welcome to visit the in-person meeting.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Vermont Technical College, 41 Harmony Pl. Information: More details: [brattleboro.toastmastersclubs.org](http://brattleboro.toastmastersclubs.org).

**FRIDAY**

26

**Performing arts**  
**BRATTLEBORO "Year of the Rooster"** by Olivia Dufault and directed by Ben Stockman: Gil is a loser. He works at McDonald's, lives with his ailing mother, hasn't had a girlfriend since ever. But that's all about to change. He's been secretly training (and drugging) a rooster to fight. And Odysseus Rex AKA "Odie" is the baddest barnyard bird there is. Gil has so much faith in Odie's abilities that he bets everything on him - but victory and revenge may not yield the delicious spoils he anticipates.  
 ▶ 7:30 p.m. Fri. and Sat, 2 p.m. Sun. This fiercely dark comedy about cockfighting, connections, clawing your way to the top features Isaiah LaPierre, Cassidy Majer, Harral Hamilton, Gale Allen, Cameron Cobane. For mature audiences only.  
 ▶ Through Sunday, May 28.  
 ▶ \$15 cash or check only.  
 ▶ Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: Email [hookerdunhamtheater@gmail.com](mailto:hookerdunhamtheater@gmail.com) to make a reservation.

**BRATTLEBORO NECCA: Flying Trapeze Recital & Flight Night:** Flight Night taster trapeze class for our audience members so you can feel the joys of flying through the air with the greatest of ease! You will learn how to climb the ladder, take off from the platform, hang from your knees, maybe even do a backflip safely into a giant bouncy net - all while wearing a safety line of course! Bring kids, friends, neighbors because this event is for everyone (ages 5 and up for Flight Night) and no experience is necessary.  
 ▶ Schedule: 7-7:45 p.m.: Student Showcase, 7:45-8 p.m.: Staff Show, 8-9 p.m.: Flight Night.  
 ▶ Flight Night Taster Trapeze: \$10 one swing, \$20 for 3 swings.  
 ▶ New England Center for Circus Arts (Trapezium), 10 Town Crier Dr. Information: Register here: [tinyurl.com/5n6mft7](http://tinyurl.com/5n6mft7).

**FRIDAY CONT.**

**Music**  
**DUMMERSTON Kevin Parry performs at Kampfires Camp-ground:** Classic blues and acoustic rock inspired by Hot Tuna, Taj Mahal, Creedence and more. Food truck, ice cream, mini golf, games and music.  
 ▶ 6-8 p.m. Concert will be outdoors on the lawn. In the event of rain, it will be in the covered pavilion.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Kampfire Campgrounds, 792 US-5. Information: [kevinparrymusic.com](http://kevinparrymusic.com).

**Farmers' markets**  
**TOWNSHEND Townshend Farmers' Market - New and Returning Vendors plus Bard Owl Music (T. Breeze Verdant and Annie Landenberger):** Bread From the Earth, Elevated Tacos, Grace Farm, Kate's Creations, Lucia Rising Flowers, Maple's Mama Confections, Masterman Ceramics, NANU, Native American Art, Rising Forest Pottery, Sacred Hound Design, Slipstream Farm, Some No Name Farm, Stoney Mountain Farm, Taft Hill Farm, The Litchfield Homestead, Two Otters Grandview Gourmet, Wren's Grove. Plus Bard Owl will be performing their original and traditional Americana music to help kick-off the 2023 market season.  
 ▶ 4:30-6:30 p.m. Bard Owl ([www.bardowlmusic.com](http://www.bardowlmusic.com)) performs original and traditional Americana music to help kick-off the 2023 market season. Wood-fired pizza plus beer and wine on site. Multiply your \$SquareVT/SNAP dollars with Crop Cash and Farm to Family. New: Crop Cash Plus enables you to buy any EBT items such as dairy, eggs, meat, cold prepared foods such as bread.  
 ▶ Townshend Farmers Market, 6573 Rte 30. Information: 802-874-4800; [westtownshend.org](http://westtownshend.org).

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

**Community building**  
**CHESTER Chester Plant Sale:** Generous pots of different perennials, shrubs, select annuals and vegetables. Favorite offerings include varieties of iris, hostas, daylilies, perennial geraniums, Lady's Mantle, ostrich ferns, raspberries, herbs, shrubs and trees, much more - some in very limited quantities. Plus dahlia tubers, gladioli corms, Gardener's Log notebooks, original floral notecards, seasonal produce like cut rhubarb.  
 ▶ 12 noon-3 p.m. Plants are top notch, well priced, ready to go into the ground without additional hardening. Helpful labels on each plant and flower photos make garden additions easy. Knowledgeable gardeners on hand to give advice on plants and garden design. Later date of this annual event allows for larger/more attractive plants organized by kind and growing needs.  
 ▶ Through Monday, May 29.  
 ▶ St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. Information: Questions: Lillian Willis: 802-875-1340 or [lbwillis@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillis@comcast.net).

**SATURDAY CONT.**

▶ Marlboro Morris Ale. Information: Natty Smith: [marboromorrisale.org](mailto:marboromorrisale.org), [nattygmith@gmail.com](mailto:nattygmith@gmail.com), 781-710-6131.

**Music**  
**BRATTLEBORO Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents: Crocodile River Music:** Crocodile River Music is known for their unique blend of African and Western musical traditions, creating a sound that is original and captivating plus rich in its history and impact to Western traditions. Featuring instruments such as the kora, djembe, and balafon, plus vocals in African languages. People will be able to dance and have a great time doing so.  
 ▶ 6 p.m. Next Stage provides beer, wine, cocktail cash bar. Bandwagon Summer Series is an annual Brattleboro event featuring an eclectic lineup of musicians from around the world. Support for Bandwagon Summer Series is provided by Brattleboro Reformer, Landmark College, Oak Meadow, Barr Hill, Vermont Public, The Porch, Southern Vermont Solar.  
 ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate, free for children under 12.  
 ▶ Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. Information: Tickets available online or at gate: [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org), 802-387-0102.

**WEST DOVER Kevin Parry plays guitar and sings at Trail 87:** Kevin's style is influenced by Hot Tuna, Taj Mahal, Eric Clapton, CCR and more.  
 ▶ 5-8 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Trail 87 Restaurant, 271 Vt. Rte. 100. Information: [kevinparrymusic.com](http://kevinparrymusic.com).

**Art walks and tours**  
**W. BRATTLEBORO Spring Studio Tour - Vermont Crafts Council:** Spotlighting a multitude of professional artists/craftspeople who live/create statewide, 11 are members of Brattleboro-West Arts showing their work in 6 studios in Brattleboro and Marlboro. Participating BWA members: Beth Armour, Josh and Marta Bernbaum, David and Michelle Holzapfel, Chris Lann, Gene Parulis, Walter Slowinski, Matthew Tell, Jess Weitz, Jen Wiechers,  
 ▶ 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Be sure to also visit other local studios and galleries participating in the tour: Lost Mile Designs, Carol Violanda Art, Leopard Frog Art Gallery and Vermont Artisan Designs.  
 ▶ Through Sunday, May 28.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brattleboro-West Arts, PO Box 2076. Information: Maps, participating sites, more information: [tinyurl.com/bpaufjd](http://tinyurl.com/bpaufjd).

**Kids and families**  
**BRATTLEBORO Book Launch - Author Ann Braden: "Opinions and Opposums!":** Ann's newest middle grade book is her most personal story yet. "Opinions and Opposums!" is about finding a way forward when we're not sure we believe what those around us believe. It'll resonate with anyone who has questioned the status quo - or questioned themselves when they couldn't find a way to fit in. She'll read from the beginning and talk about her inspiration and the writing process. Ask questions/ explore stories hidden within abandoned shopping carts.  
 ▶ 3 p.m. in Main Reading Room. Suitable for adults, children and family, teens.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; [brookslibraryvt.org](http://brookslibraryvt.org).

**Well-being**  
**BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Zen Center (In-Person or wherever you are):** One way to engage with the ecological crisis. This group chants briefly and then sits in silence for a half hour. All are welcome to join this peaceful action.  
 ▶ 1:00 - 1:35 p.m. on Saturdays.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Courthouse, Jct. Putney Rd. & Main St. (Rte 30).

**Community building**  
**WARDSBORO Wardsboro Library Fundraiser Plant Sale - 18th annual "From Our Gardens to Yours":** Potted plants and flats for sale are spread out across the front lawn. Hearty perennials, colorful annuals, Gilfeather turnip seedlings, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, are available at prices lower than large greenhouses can offer. Plus a variety of "same-day" garden raffles are planned with winners drawn at 1 p.m. The Library's Book Sale Barn is also open and there are home-baked goods under a tent. All proceeds benefit Wardsboro Public Library.  
 ▶ 9-1 p.m. rain or shine. The library is also open today. Free parking.  
 ▶ Free admission.  
 ▶ Wardsboro Public Library, 170 Main St. Information: [wardsboropubliclibrary.org](http://wardsboropubliclibrary.org), 802-896-6988.

**SATURDAY CONT.**

**Tag sales, auctions, bazaars**  
**SAXTONS RIVER Yard Sale:** Saturday, during Memorial Day weekend, come to a village-wide yard sale with individual tables and sales throughout the village including a big sale at Main Street Arts.  
 ▶ 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 ▶ Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. Information: 802-869-2960; [mainstreetarts.org](http://mainstreetarts.org).

**Ideas and education**  
**ATHENS Sixth Annual Memorial Weekend Plant Sale:** Visitors will find a variety of perennials, annuals, vegetable seedlings on the lovely Meetinghouse lawn, plus delightful garden related raffle prizes. Experienced gardeners will answer questions and offer gardening advice. Offered by the historic Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee in conjunction with the Athens Historic Preservation Society.  
 ▶ 10 a.m.-12 noon. Take time also to view the 1817 Meetinghouse sanctuary and vestibule in this national historic landmark. All proceeds go to support ongoing efforts to preserve this unique historic gem.  
 ▶ Free (donations to the Athens Historic Preservation Society are fully tax deductible).  
 ▶ Athens Brick Meetinghouse/Community Center, 2 Meeting House Rd., (just off Rte. 35). Information: More info or to make plant/other donations: Sherry Maher at 802-275-2835 or follow Athens Meetinghouse on Facebook.

**Film and video**  
**WEST DUMMERSTON Cinema Beneath the Stars**  
 ▶ 8:30 p.m.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Lydia Taft Pratt Library, 156 West St. Information: Call for movie details: 802-258-9878.

**SUNDAY**

28

**Music**  
**PUTNEY Twilight on the Tavern Lawn presents Vermont Jazz Center Sextet:** Rob Freeberg, trumpet; Bill Ballard, alto saxophone; Ron Kelley, tenor saxophone; Cathy Martin, piano; Wim Auer, bass; Steve Rice, drums.  
 ▶ 6 p.m. on lawn. Bring lawn chair or blanket. Food available. Rain location: Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill. Co-presented with Next Stage Arts Project, series is sponsored by the Town of Putney, Green Mountain Well, Soundview Paper Company, Rod's, many other Putney area businesses and organizations.  
 ▶ Free (donations accepted).  
 ▶ Putney Tavern Lawn, Main St., downtown Putney. Information: 802-387-5772 or visit [twilightmusic.org](http://twilightmusic.org).

**BRATTLEBORO Bridget St. John and David Nagler with Stella Kola:** U.K. folk legend Bridget St. John is joined by instrumentalist David Nagler, creator of Carl Sandburg's "Chicago Poems." He's also a member of art-rock Tape Hiss, which includes members of The Modern Lovers and Sonic Youth. Stella Kola's delicate songs hover in twilight of folk tradition while emanating peculiar modernity. Poet/singer Beverly Ketch's evocative lyrics have been praised for their uncanny ability to bridge the "prosaic to the phantastical."  
 ▶ 8 p.m.  
 ▶ \$20. Sliding scale tickets also available.  
 ▶ Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. Information: 802-451-0844; [epsilonspires.org/upcoming-events](http://epsilonspires.org/upcoming-events).

**Farmers' markets**  
**PUTNEY Putney Farmers' Market:** Live, local music by keyboardist Peter Eisenkramer.  
 ▶ Market is open 11-3 p.m. (across the street from Putney Food Coop) on Sundays.  
 ▶ Putney Farmers Market, 17 Carol Brown Way. Information: [putneyfarmersmarket.org](http://putneyfarmersmarket.org).

**Well-being**  
**W. BRATTLEBORO "Cultivating Hope" with Rev. Telos Whitfield (In-Person/Zoom):** Sobering and inspiring, "Active Hope" written by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone offers tools to "face the mess we are in and the role we can play in collective transition to a life-sustaining society."  
 ▶ 10 a.m. in person.  
 ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: Zoom: Go to website shortly before 10 a.m.: [ascvt.org](http://ascvt.org).

**MONDAY CONT.**

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

**TUESDAY**

30

**Local history**  
**GUILFORD "Guilford's One Room Schoolhouses - Forum Hears Stories from One-Room Schoolhouse Pupils:** Hosted by Guilford Historical Society, storytellers include residents who attended one of 14 one-room schoolhouses: Jim Henry, Barbara Fitch Haumann, Harry Evans, Reita Jaqueth Lashway, Richard Bullock, Dwight Fitch. Moderated by Verandah Porche. One of Guilford's original one-room schoolhouses built in 1798 is on Carpenter Hill Road, located along Broad Brook and preserved and stewarded by the Guilford Historical Society.  
 ▶ 7 p.m. Today, the Broad Brook Schoolhouse will also be open for tours. Starting in 1809, Guilford's schoolhouses operated until 1957 with the opening of consolidated Guilford Central School.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-451-0405; [broadbrookcommunitycenter.org](http://broadbrookcommunitycenter.org).

**The written word**  
**BRATTLEBORO Celebrate the newly released edition of 28 short stories by Brattleboro author Mary E. Wilkins Freeman:** "Green Mountain Stories" was originally published in 1887 as "A Humble Romance and Other Stories." This new edition features intro/critical commentary by Freeman scholar Brent Kendrick, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (1852-1930) enjoyed distinguished accolades throughout her career as a short story writer/novelist. At the start of the 20th century - when her career was at its height - she and Mark Twain were considered America's most beloved writers.  
 ▶ 7 p.m. Books will be available for sale and signing.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; [brookslibraryvt.org](http://brookslibraryvt.org).

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

**Community building**  
**VERNON Vernon Recreation Department. Presentation about the Town's new Outdoor Recreation Master Plan:** The town's planning consultants - Weston and Sampson - present draft ideas that have been developed so far. Now it's important for them to hear directly from the residents who use the town's recreational facilities. Under consideration are new trails, walkways designed for seniors, bike and pedestrian safety features, a "pump track" for off-road cyclists, pool area improvements, pickleball, handicapped access features, and more.  
 ▶ 6 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Bring the whole family - the gym will be open for supervised activities.  
 ▶ Free.  
 ▶ Vernon Elementary School, 381 Governor Hunt Rd. Information: 802-254-5373.

**Dance**  
**BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango:** Beginners and all levels welcome! Stop by to check it out or join in. No partner needed. Guest instructor, Laura Grandi, from Argentina!  
 ▶ 7-8 p.m. Class, 8-10 p.m. Practica.  
 ▶ First class is free of charge! \$12 Additional Classes, \$5 Practica, \$15 for Both Classes.  
 ▶ One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: Facebook page: [facebook.com/groups/122170897820578](http://facebook.com/groups/122170897820578).

**PROBLEM SOLVED:**

*Aqua-Aid Systems*  
**Water Conditioning**

**What's In Your Water?**  
 Iron Stains? Smelly Water? Hardness? **RADON?**

**800-252-8484**  
 Locally owned since 1984

**SATURDAY**

27

**Performing arts**  
**MARLBORO 48th Annual Marlboro Morris Ale:** This is the 48th Annual Marlboro Morris Ale. Every year since 1976 Morris and sword teams from all over North America, occasionally the UK, gather in southern VT to dance, make music, celebrate the arrival of Spring and coming of Summer.  
 ▶ 10 a.m. Sat.: Morris and Sword Teams perform at entrance to Potash Hill campus in Marlboro. 5 p.m. Ending with another performance at eastern end of Elliot St., Brattleboro. Sunday: Teams dance in various Windham County locations gathering at 5 p.m. for final en masse public performance in front of the Newfane Courthouse in Newfane.  
 ▶ Through Sunday, May 28.  
 ▶ Free.

**JAIME AND BONNIE'S**

**YARD SALE**

at the Santa's Land Parking Lot in Putney

**9AM-3PM**  
**SAT AND SUN - 5/27 & 5/28**  
**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

**MOVING SALE**

655 Bellows Falls Rd Putney, VT 603-504-2906

Tools, books, kitchen, kids toys, clothes, shoes, houseware, camping, strollers, sports & more!

**Declutter. Donate. Shop. It's all good!**



**Open Daily: Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 7 pm**  
**Sunday, 10 am - 6 pm**

**Goodwill Store and Donation Center**  
 768 Putney Rd., Brattleboro, VT 05301  
 802-257-3360

Follow us on Facebook at Goodwill Industries - Brattleboro

Goodwill is an innovative and sustainable 501(c)(3) nonprofit community enterprise.

**MONDAY**

29

**Performing arts**  
**PUTNEY "Indecent" by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Paula Vogel:** This deeply moving play is inspired by the true events surrounding the controversial 1923 Broadway debut of "Sholem Asch's God of Vengeance" - a play seen by some as a seminal work of Jewish culture, and by others as an act of traitorous libel. "Indecent" charts the history of an incendiary drama and the path of the artists who risked their careers and lives to perform it.  
 ▶ 1 - 2:30 p.m.  
 ▶ \$13 to \$40.  
 ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: [tickets.tinyurl.com/r7cvbad](http://tickets.tinyurl.com/r7cvbad).

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

# Region's artists open their doors

## Open Studio Weekend tour highlights arts and crafts statewide

BRATTLEBORO—This Memorial Day weekend, the Vermont Arts Council will present its 31st annual Spring Open Studio Weekend, which spotlights the multitude of professional artists and craftspeople who live and create throughout the state.

In Windham County, tour attendees will have the chance to visit multiple artists in their studios, plus several galleries, during the event on May 27 and 28.

Participating sites will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, with many studios offering demonstrations as well as the opportunity to purchase art and talk to the artists who made it.

During the tour hours, yellow signs lead the way to participating studios and galleries. Guidebooks and other information will be available at each location.

Here is the complete lineup of tour stops, listed according to their site numbers on the statewide tour.

### Tour loop 9

63. **Readsboro Glassworks** (Mary Angus, [maryangusglass.com](http://maryangusglass.com) and K. William LeQuier, [williamlequier.com](http://williamlequier.com)): Handblown glass and glass sculpture. 6954 Main St., Readsboro; 802-423-7706.

64. **Procter & Matuszeski Landscapes** (Mary Procter and Bill Matuszeski): Colorful landscape paintings of Vermont scenes. 488 Faulkner Rd., Whitingham; 802-368-7750.

65. **Vermont Artisan Designs & Gallery 2** (tour information center; [buyvermontart.com](http://buyvermontart.com) ([vartart.com](http://vartart.com))): Pottery, art, glass, jewelry and wood; 106 Main St., Brattleboro.

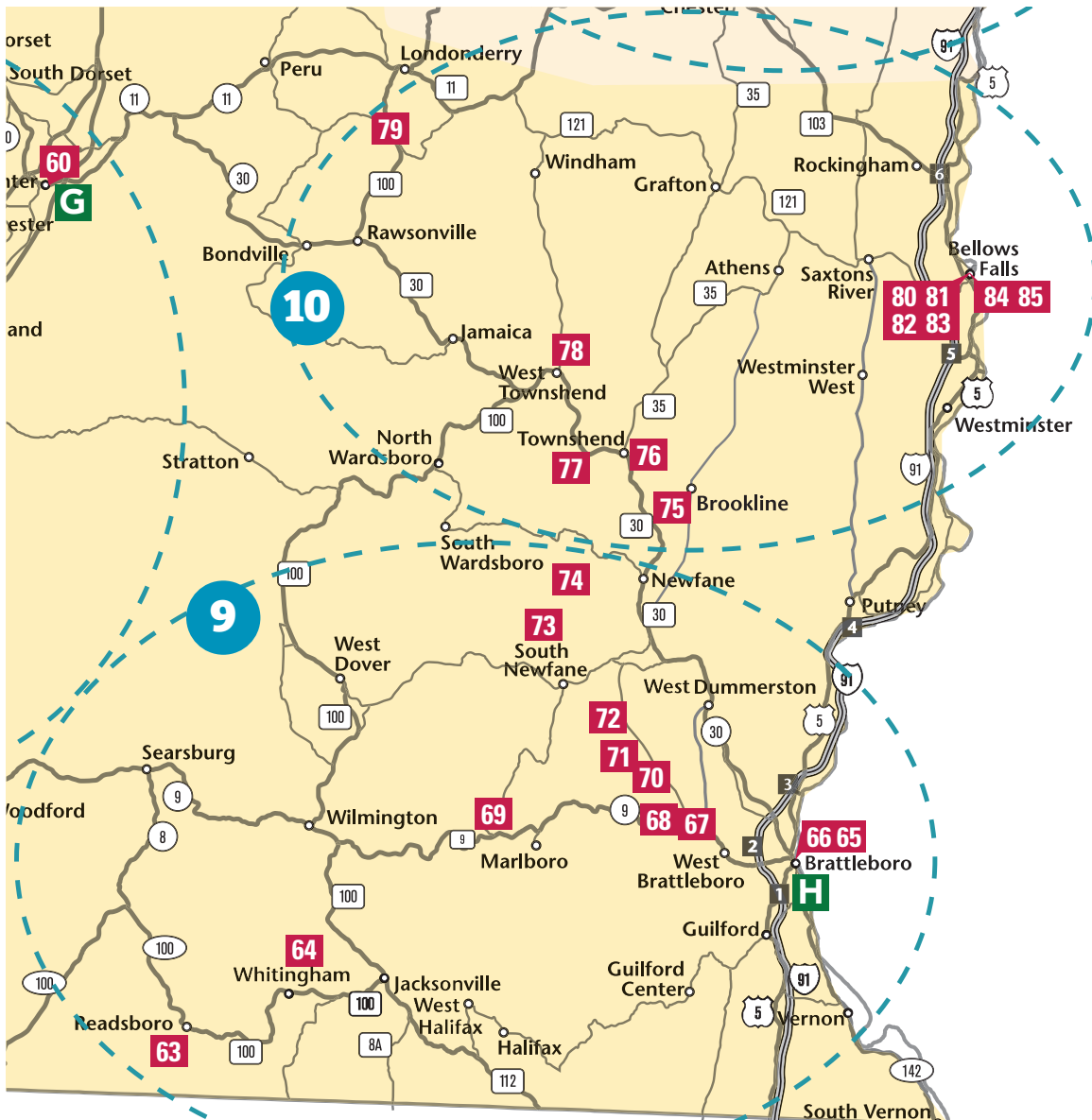
66. **Beth Armour** ([betharmour.com](http://betharmour.com)): Porcelain wheel-thrown clay vessels. 17 Greenhill Parkway, Brattleboro.

67. **Orchard Street Pottery** (Walter Slowinski, [walterslowinskipottery.weebly.com](http://walterslowinskipottery.weebly.com)): Wood-fired, salt-glazed pottery, featuring branch handles. **Gene Parulis** (guest; [geneparulisphotography.com](http://geneparulisphotography.com)): photography, digital art, and archival prints. 658 Orchard St., Brattleboro.

68. **Leopard Frog Art Gallery** ([leopardfrog.shop](http://leopardfrog.shop)): Vermont art and gifts. 257 Marlboro Rd., Brattleboro.

69. **Applewoods Woodworking Studio and Gallery** (David and Michelle Holzapfel, [holzapfelwoodworking.com](http://holzapfelwoodworking.com)): Live-edge hardwood furniture and burl vessels. **Jess Weitz** (guest; [jessweitz.com](http://jessweitz.com)): Paintings and ceramics with handmade pigments. 2802 Rt. 9, Marlboro.

70. **Chris Lann Designs** ([chrislanndesigns.com](http://chrislanndesigns.com)): Contemporary handcrafted fine jewelry. 1420 Sunset Lake Rd., Brattleboro.



71. **JMB Glass** (Josh and Marta Bernbaum, [jmbglass.com](http://jmbglass.com)): functional and decorative handmade glass. Laughing Lizard Studio (guest; Jen Wiechers, [jenwiechersart.com](http://jenwiechersart.com)), encaustics and alcohol ink paintings. 119 Hescoc Rd.

72. **Matthew Tell Pottery** ([matthewtellpottery.com](http://matthewtellpottery.com)): Wood-fired pottery with earth tones and overlays. 163 Potters Hill Rd., Marlboro.

73. **Carol Violanda Art** ([carolviolanda.com](http://carolviolanda.com)): Abstract and representational paintings. 1868 Stickney Brook Rd., Dummerston.

74. **Lost Mile Designs** (Pam Bullock and Tim Hayes, [lostmiledesigns.com](http://lostmiledesigns.com)): Rustic furniture and fiber art by: 51 Lost Mile Rd., Brattleboro.

75. **Robert Du Grenier Glass Art Gallery** (Robert Du Grenier, [dugrenier.com](http://dugrenier.com)): Handblown glass, sculpture, drinkware, decor. 1096 Route 30, Townshend; 802-365-4400.

76. **Kim Eng Yeo** ([kimengyeo.com](http://kimengyeo.com)): Floral, still life, and landscape watercolors. 628 Peaked Mountain Rd., Townshend; 802-365-4521.

77. **MRH Goldsmith** (Michael Hunter, [wondermongery.com](http://wondermongery.com)): Yurt studio with artifacts, jewelry. 3814 VT Route 30, Townshend; 907-957-6858.

78. **Jim Jackson, Artist** ([jimjacksonart.com](http://jimjacksonart.com)): Paintings, sculpture, digital, "rot-gardening." 1868 Stickney Brook Rd., West Townshend; 802-874-4706.

79. **ClayShare** (Jessica Putnam-Phillips, [clayshare.com](http://clayshare.com)): Ceramics, bowls, vases, jewelry. 122 Middletown Rd., South Londonderry; 802-379-5712.

80. **McBride & Rosser Studios**: Dynamic abstract sculptures by Phyllis Rosser ([phyllisrosser.com](http://phyllisrosser.com)); dynamic abstract paintings by Robert McBride ([robertamcbride.wordpress.com](http://robertamcbride.wordpress.com)). 17 Rockingham St., Bellows Falls; 802-463-3252.

81. **Ormaglyphology** (Mindy Fisher, [mindyfisher.com](http://mindyfisher.com)): Colorful gouache paintings. 11 Canal St., Bellows Falls; 802-591-2329.

82. **Jean Cannon** ([jeancannon.com](http://jeancannon.com)): Exquisite watercolor and acrylic paintings. 7 Canal St., Bellows Falls; 802-399-4001.

83. **River Artisans** ([riverartisanscooperative.com](http://riverartisanscooperative.com); 802-591-2085): Pottery, quilts, wood, jewelry. **Ubeadquitos** (guest; Thomas Alyxander, [vermontcrafts.com/ubeadquitos](http://vermontcrafts.com/ubeadquitos); 707-239-4870): Beaded and mixed-media jewelry. 28 Village Square, Bellows Falls.

84. **Sherwin Art Glass** (Christopher Sherwin, [sherwinartglass.com](http://sherwinartglass.com)): Unique collectible, hand-sculpted, blown glass. 33 Bridge St., Bellows Falls; 802-376-5744.

85. **Tsuga Studios** (Nicholas Kekic, [tsugastudios.com](http://tsugastudios.com)): Decorative and functional blown glass. 33 Bridge St., Bellows Falls; 802-875-1825.

# Rock River Players present 'Another Evening of One Act Plays'

WILLIAMSVILLE—Rock River Players present "Another Evening of One Act Plays" on Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 4, at 2:30 p.m., at Williamsville Hall.

The lineup includes works by Newfane playwright/film director Pamela Corkey (premiere), as well as works by area playwrights Jennifer Jasper and Robert Cullinane, a one-act by New York playwright Scott Suckles, and structured improvisation.

*Beautiful Noises* by Scott Suckles, directed by Randy Lichtenwalner is about a recently-deceased man who encounters his long-lost sister in the afterlife. Instead of offering guidance, she needs his help reaching out to the mother she left behind.

*The Catnap*, written by Pamela Corkey and directed by Amy Donahue, is a short character comedy about three felons and may prevent any communication between the living and the dead in this short but complex exploration of family dynamics, love and loss, remembering, and cherishing.

*Punked* by Robert Cullinane is directed by Cris Parker-Jennings. The story by Cullinane, who was recently featured in Gallery Players' New Plays Festival in Brooklyn, is that, out of boredom, two young teens want to punk — or play a practical joke on — someone. They decide to make a call to a number they found on a Medicare pamphlet. However, this would not be the first time these two Medicare representatives have had a prank caller. In the end, who gets punked?

The *Caltrap*, written by Pamela Corkey and directed by Amy Donahue, is a short character comedy about three felons and a prison chaplain engaged in an illicit act of carefully-crafted escapism. In the process, they are forced to reconcile the fantasy of who they wish to be with the reality of who they really are.

*Eggs* by Jennifer Jasper is directed by Pamela Corkey. Perfection is the brutal enemy of the good in the fraught gauntlet of modern day parenthood. Also on the program are two experimental pieces, a finale of sorts conceived by the evening's producer and RRP Founder Annie Landenberger; the other *I Have to Get This*, a structured improvisation conceived and directed by Players' co-artistic director, Bahman Mahdavi, with Stewart McDermet and Susan O'Hara. "Art imitates life imitating art imitating life," is how Mahdavi explains this piece. "A house of mirrors where the boundaries of reality and fiction blur."

Donahue, who will become one of RRP's co-artistic directors in June, says the one-act format "provides a fantastic laboratory for playwrights, directors, and actors to experiment and take artistic risks. This year's company brings a broad range of both theater experience and life experience to the stage, making the already-eclectic program all the more exciting to watch. I'm thrilled to help carry Annie's legacy forward by continuing to create opportunities to discover and amplify the talent within our community."

The Company includes Bahman Mahdavi, Traci Berchi, Peter Broussard, Pamela Corkey, Cathie Creed, Paul Davis, Amy Donahue, Eric Fischer, Magdalena Keppel, Randy Lichtenwalner, Stewart McDermet, Shey Nessralla, John Orgorzeleck, Susan O'Hara, Cris Parker-Jennings, Mickey Parker-Jennings, Veronica Stevens, and Nicole Winot. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for students/seniors, and available at the door or online in advance at [rockriverplayers.org](http://rockriverplayers.org). For more information, write [verbatimvt@gmail.com](mailto:verbatimvt@gmail.com).

## NECCA hosts flying trapeze recital, Flight Night

BRATTLEBORO—On Friday, May 26, at 7 p.m., New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) offers the chance to fly into spring with a retro 1980s Neon Flying Trapeze student and staff showcase. Admission for this performance is by donation.

The fun continues with a Flight Night taster trapeze class for audience members to feel the joys of flying through the air with the greatest of ease. With \$10 for one swing, or \$20 for 3 swings, you will learn how to climb the ladder and take off on the trapeze bar from the platform.

For the more daring, you can learn to hang from your knees and even do a back flip safely into their giant bouncy net — all while wearing a safety line, of course. Bring your kids, your friends, and your neighbors because this event is for everyone (ages five and older for Flight Night), and no experience is necessary.

The student showcase takes place from 7 to 7:45 p.m., followed by the staff show, with Flight Night followed for takeoff at 8 p.m. Reservation is required for Flight Night, register at [bit.ly/716-fly](http://bit.ly/716-fly).

**Brattleboro Area Jewish Community**  
**6th Annual Fundraiser**  
**Antiques & Collectibles Appraisals**  
Sunday June 4th, Noon-5:30pm  
118 Elliot St., Brattleboro, VT  
Free admission  
\$8.00/item, \$40.00 for 6 item limit

**10% of Proceeds to Benefit 'The Atowi Project'**  
Elnu Abenaki community [www.atowi.org](http://www.atowi.org)

Five professional appraisers. All major categories & more. Box lots of coins, stamps, postcards, jewelry and such are \$20.00. Firearms, knives, ammonitions, other weaponry, rugs larger than 6' x 9' and bulky furniture cannot be accepted.

If you have questions or want more information email [Stephan@bajevermont.org](mailto:Stephan@bajevermont.org)

**NOW PLAYING at the MOVIES**

**LATCHIS THEATRE**  
latchis.com | 802.246.1500

**MAY 26 - JUNE 1**

**THE LITTLE MERMAID** PG  
FRI. / MON.-THU. 4 & 6:40  
SAT. & SUN. 2:15 & 6:40

**FAST X** PG-13  
FRI. / MON.-THU. 4 & 6:45  
SAT. & SUN. 2 & 6:45

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY V. 3** PG-13  
FRI. / MON.-THU. 4 & 7  
SAT. & SUN. 2:15 & 7

**BOOK CLUB THE NEXT CHAPTER** PG-13  
FRI. / MON.-THU. 4 & 6:35  
SAT. & SUN. 2 & 6:35

**OFF THE BEATEN BATH DECISION TO LEAVE** R  
SAT. & SUN. 4PM

**Unity Heat Pumps**

Home Heating - Cooling Magic!  
Zero emission mini split furnaces.  
Serving VT, NH, MA  
802-365-1009  
[james@unityheatpumps.com](mailto:james@unityheatpumps.com)

**DICK'S LOCK REPAIR**

Richard S. Frost  
802-254-8533  
802-451-6989

Residential - Commercial Bonded & Insured

[www.dickslockvt.com](http://www.dickslockvt.com)  
356 S. Main St. Brattleboro, VT 05301

**Members 1st** [members1cu.com](http://members1cu.com)

**CREDIT UNION**

10 Browne Crt.  
P.O. Box 8245  
N. Brattleboro, VT 05304

Small Credit Union. Big Heart.

Tel: (802) 257-5131  
Fax: (802) 257-5837

**HINSDALE FARMERS MARKET**

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

**REMEMBERING AND HONORING EVERYONE WHO SERVED**

THIS MEMORIAL DAY – we ask that you remember and honor those who have served our country.  
Attend a ceremony, visit a cemetery/memorial, thank a veteran, donate to your local veterans organizations.

**THANK YOU!**

**HOUGHTON SANITARY SERVICE INC.**

**SEPTIC TANK SERVICE CLEANING**  
Commercial & Residential Septic Pumping

Portable Toilet Rentals also available

Family Owned for 50 years  
**Call 802-254-9221**  
Guilford Ctr. Rd. Guilford, VT

## Twilight on the Tavern Lawn season begins with Vermont Jazz Center Sextet on May 28

PUTNEY—Twilight Music kicks off its 20th annual Twilight On The Tavern Lawn series of folk, world beat, jazz, folk rock, pop, and bluegrass summer concerts on Sunday, May 28, with the Vermont Jazz Center Sextet.

The series of seven concerts continues every other Sunday through Aug. 20. All concerts begin at 6 p.m. in downtown Putney on the Putney Tavern lawn (bring a lawn chair or blanket) or, in case of rain, at Next Stage at 15 Kimball Hill.

The sextet is the community outreach ensemble for the Vermont Jazz Center (VJC). Rob Freeberg (trumpet), Bill Ballard (alto saxophone), Ron Kelley (tenor saxophone), Cathy Martin (piano), Wim Auer (bass), and Steve Rice (drums) have developed programs which are performed in schools, assisted living homes, and libraries, bringing live jazz into less formal settings.

Through these performances and clinics, people

who might not attend concerts at the VJC are given the opportunity to hear and learn about the music of Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, and others, with original music and arrangements often written by members of the ensemble.

The other concerts in the Twilight on the Tavern Lawn concert series are: June 11, The Stockwell Brothers; June 25, Wyld Nightz Band; July 9, DiTrani Brothers; July 23, The Gaslight Tinkers; Aug. 6, The Woodpeckers, and Aug. 20, Beaucoup Blue.

Co-presented with Next Stage Arts Project, the series is sponsored by the Town of Putney, Green Mountain Well, Soundview Paper Company, Rod's, and many other Putney area businesses and organizations. The concerts are free to the public (donations are accepted) and food will be available. For more information, call 802-387-5772 or visit [twilightmusic.org](http://twilightmusic.org).

## Next Stage's Bandwagon Summer Series continues with Crocodile River Music

BRATTLEBORO—Crocodile River Music, a world music ensemble, is set to perform as part of the Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series on Saturday, May 27, at 6 p.m. The concert will take place at Retreat Farm in Brattleboro.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is an annual event, featuring an eclectic lineup of musicians from around the world.

"West African music is rich in its history and impact to Western musical traditions, and Crocodile River Music does an incredible job showcasing that history and impact," Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts, said in a news release. "They're masters of their craft and do so with an authenticity that is infectious."

Crocodile River Music is known for their unique blend of African and Western music styles, creating a sound that is both original and captivating. The group's performances feature a range of instruments, including the kora, djembe, and balafon, as well as vocals in a variety of African languages.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series, with more than 20 performances ranging from a diverse group of



Crocodile River Music

musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater that will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County.

Tickets are available for \$20 in advance online or \$25 at the gate. Children under 12 are always admitted free, and a dedicated play

area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold onsite, including the return of Barr Hill cocktails. Attendees are invited to bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts.

The concert is also included

in the Bandwagon Series Pass, which provides access to all shows in the series.

For more information about Crocodile River Music and the Bandwagon Summer Series, visit [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org).

**THE COLONIAL**  
**8084** June 3  
 EIGHT - OH - EIGHT - FOUR

**ABBAFAB** June 15  
 THE PREMIER ABBA EXPERIENCE

**BRUCE IN THE USA**  
 #1 Springsteen Tribute! July 15

**SHOWROOM**  
 Presenting Films,  
 Comedy, & Live Music

603-352-2033 [TheColonial.org](http://TheColonial.org)  
 SEASON UNDERWRITERS  
 C&S Wholesale Grocers | TRUE NORTH NETWORKS  
 The Colonial Theatre is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BRATTLEBORO**  
**Hilltop Montessori School**

**Are You Ready for Summer?**  
**We Are!**  
 Summer 2023 With The Club!  
 Grades K-5  
 Outdoor Adventures  
 Explore the Natural World  
 Themes Include Wildlife Week, Camping  
 Skills, Feathers & Flight, and more!

Located at Hilltop Montessori Campus  
 Transportation available from the Club or  
 Drop-Off At Hilltop  
 \$300 per week | Subsidy Accepted  
 9:00am-3:00pm

[bgcbrattleboro.org/camp](http://bgcbrattleboro.org/camp)  
[info@bgcbrattleboro.org](mailto:info@bgcbrattleboro.org)  
 802.254.5990



### ATP

wrote. "A hippie helps a youngster re-frame her life from the ledge of a New York apartment building? The most basic elements of spycraft [...] the exchange [...] go awry? Myrna tries to forgive Herman for the ultimate sacrifice? A suburban housewife realizes there is more to homeless Mary than meets the eye...and ear? You try to find love in under 2 minutes? Big government and big business conspire to save America in the digital age? A mother and daughter navigate the difficult road to terminal illness?"

The answers, he says, are in these eight plays.

"The best aspect of the ATP 10-minute festival tradition for me," says Bombicino, "is that the whole process is a shared experience where people appreciate creativity at every level."

He noted that the playwrights "want to share their work by having it produced and seen." Selection committee members want "to share ideas as they read and appreciate quality [scripts]." Directors? They "can share ideas with the playwrights, as well as learn from each other." Actors have open auditions.

"And finally, the audience can appreciate different genres, styles, and subject matter, and quite possibly be stretched in a different creative direction than they may have anticipated," Bombicino says.

All in all, he says, "it's kind of a win-win."

### The rest of the season

• **The 39 Steps:** Following the Festival is *The 39 Steps*, parodying both John Buchan's 1915 novel and Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 thriller film. The original concept of this high-octane romp was Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon's, then rewritten by Patrick Barlow in 2005. It runs at ATP Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, July 13-29.

About the zany production, Pilo wrote that "a cast of four, complete with costume changes and dialects, play over a hundred characters in this fast-paced comic tale."

The play "follows a man falsely accused of being a spy on a wild chase across England and Scotland, packing espionage, train rides, bridge climbing, plane chases, murder, and romance into a thrilling comedic adventure," he said.

"Along the way he encounters dastardly murders, double-crossing secret agents, and, of course, devastatingly beautiful women. Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with juicy spy novel, add a dash of old time Music Hall Vaudeville, toss in some circus tricks and theatrical mime and stage trickery, including a trot across the top of a fast moving train, and you have the makings for an intriguing, thrilling, riotous and unmissable night of comedy."

Gregory Lesch, Nicole Caron, Eric Morgan, and Sadie Fischesser perform in the play,

which is directed by Marilyn Tullgren.

• **Misalliance:** A staged reading of George Bernard Shaw's *Misalliance* follows on Saturdays, Aug. 5 and 12.

"The action follows Hypatia — the daughter of a self-made underwear mogul," according to the ATP website. "She's a 'new woman' bored with the stuffy attitudes of the aristocracy and anxious to shape her world. Shaw lets us know that fast-paced modernity is on a collision course with the stodgy status quo when an airplane crashes through the conservatory bringing two unexpected guests."

"This romantic comedy reverses the traditional roles in courtship: in *Misalliance* women are the ardent hunters and men their hapless prey. All told there are eight marriage proposals offered for consideration in the course of one summer afternoon."

Serious issues are bantered about all in good fun and everything is topsy-turvy, as strains of Shaw's hardly-masked socialist stance weave through.

The *Misalliance* cast includes Phil Kramer, Bob Gruen, Ian Hefele, Damien Licata, Roberta Barnes, Heidi Schwieger, Michael Auerbach, Charlotte Traas, and Harral Hamilton.

• **Tiny Beautiful Things:** On Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, July 13-29, ATP mounts *Tiny Beautiful Things* which, according to the website, "follows Sugar, an online advice columnist who uses her personal experiences to help the real-life readers who pour their hearts out to her."

ATP describes the play as "rich with humor, insight, compassion, and absolute honesty," and "a celebration of the simple beauty of being human." It is based on Cheryl Strayed's *Tiny Beautiful Things: Advice on Love and Life from Dear Sugar*, adapted for the stage by actress, director, and screenwriter Nia Vardalos.

Kenzie Yelin, Wendy Almeida, Dakota Benedetto, and James Duffy form the cast of the play,

FROM SECTION FRONT

directed by ATP's Burt Tepfer.

### New this year: ATP Showcase

Closing the 2023 season will be a new venture, the ATP Showcase, Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 15-30. "This showcase is a new thing," says Pilo. "Similar to the 10-minute play festival in tone, it's a potpourri — popcorn."

With theater and bits of literature, it will feature Anton Chekhov's popular one-act *A Marriage Proposal*; scenes from two plays (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Tom Stoppard's classic riff on *Hamlet*, and Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical *Long Day's Journey into Night*); and Vincent Pennella's one-act *Mind Like a Dog*, which premiered with the Rock River Players in 2022.

Also on the bill will be works by Christopher Durang, Edgar Lee Masters, Dorothy Parker, James Thurber, and William Shakespeare.

Mary Armstrong, Josh Goldstein, Wendy Almeida, Maggie Jennings, Bridget McBride, Bruce Holloway, Munson Hicks, Nan Mann, Sue Rowell, and Sherman Morrison offer this pastiche, a benefit for the ATP Building Fund.

That fund is for maintenance of the Playhouse in its current form, Pilo notes. There are no plans for expansion, he says, though he acknowledges the challenges posed when two or more productions are in rehearsal at once.

"We would love a rehearsal space," he adds. They'd had one in an old hangar nearby, but that space was repurposed.

### All-volunteer effort

ATP began in the mid-1970s in Brattleboro at the former Brattleboro Center for the Performing Arts on Elliot Street, the former Methodist church that most recently has been home to the Hotel Pharmacy. The young theater company soon moved to the former Latchis Ballroom, then on to the Hooker-Dunham Building before finding its current home, in 1987, at the old West Chesterfield Citizens Hall.

Any given season at ATP involves some 50 actors, technical staff, designers, and directors — all volunteer and local. New directors enter the ATP fold through the Ten Minute Play Festival and the community at large, and Pilo hopes to bring even more directors on board.

Pilo says that "the more new people we bring in, the more we train in how we do things here" and the closer he can come to being in the emeritus position that appeals to him now.

Off season, Pilo says, "I read a lot." Having studied theater at Columbia University, he has a big thirst for dramatic literature and theater history.

A not-for-profit organization, ATP is funded by ticket sales and individual donors — "a few who give a lot," Pilo says.

**Classic Rock Band drummer**  
 seeking a lead guitarist and a keyboard player to play at small parties, events, etc. for fun!

**Interested?**  
 Call for info.  
 (802) 258-7056

**EOS Undreamed Shores**

**Michi Wiancko**  
*To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores*

**Etan Nasreddin-Longo**  
*String Quartet for Benzaiten and Yoshi Campbell*

**Jose Lezcano**  
*Tango Overture for String Quartet*

**Kathy Andrew, Heather Sommerlad** violin  
**Emily Packard** viola; **Zon Eastes** cello

educate • open • strengthen

**Thursday, May 25 • 7 pm**  
**BMC Auditorium**, 72 Blanche Moysé Way, Brattleboro  
**Tickets \$20** in advance, **\$25** at the door.

**BMC** BRATTLEBORO MUSIC CENTER  
 802.257.4523 [bmcvt.org/eos](http://bmcvt.org/eos)

Tickets for ATP shows are \$17 (with the exception of the season finale ATP Showcase, which is by donation to the ATP Building Fund), and are available at [atplayhouse.org](http://atplayhouse.org). *Actors Theatre Playhouse* is at 21 Main St., West Chesterfield, New Hampshire. All performances start at 7:30 p.m.

**ESSAY**



**Saving a planet, one pollinator at a time**

Jane Collister has created pollinator gardens in three locations in Putney, including here, at the Putney Food Co-op.

*With the Wildflower Pollinator Project, Jane Collister is doing her part to turn the tide. She could use some help.*

**J**ANE COLLISTER, of Westminster, Putney, the sole person responsible for the Wildflower Pollinator Project, offers an easy and simple way to do something specific to turn the tide and save the planet. According to the National Park Service, life as we know it depends on pollinators, since more than 75% of the Earth's flowering plants depend on bees, butterflies, birds, or bats. These pollinators require specific plants that provide nutrition and habitat to larval and adult pollinators. Charts online show what type of plants to grow in the Northeast to attract pollinators, but Collister has taken a different approach. She has invested her time and money into making Wildflower Nursery Kits, developed by horticulturists who recognized this urgent problem and developed kits to protect wildflower seeds from being eaten and from the damaging effect of global warming. This simple gardening method also supplies an abundance of wildflower seedlings that communities can use to create critically needed habitats. The kits are free, but a donation of \$25 would be welcomed, a small investment to save the planet — and ourselves — since a small pinch of seed yields 50 or more plants for a school, library, or park. You could use the kits in your own gardens and see Monarchs flutter down and bees buzz by.

**TONI ORTNER** is a poet, writer, and teacher. To learn more about the project and what it offers, visit [putney.net/pollinators](http://putney.net/pollinators). To help with the project, contact Jane Collister at [janeollister3@gmail.com](mailto:janeollister3@gmail.com).



Jane Collister is offering Pollinator Garden Kits by donation.

**COLUMN**

**Aviation has ratcheted up my anxiety**

*Like cars, airplanes are for most of us a necessary part of modern life. Still, there is something about flying that kicks in when I board a plane and the aircraft door is sealed.*

**E**RICA JONG, author of *Fear of Flying*, wrote about more than her own fear of flying in her bestselling novel, but she did manage to capture my own feelings whenever I board a hunk of a silver vessel about to hurtle across the sky.



**ELAYNE CLIFT** ([elayne-clift.com](http://elayne-clift.com)) has written about women, politics, and social issues from the earliest days of this newspaper. She has returned from her travels in one piece.

"My fingers (and toes) turn to ice," she wrote, "my stomach leaps upward into my rib cage, the temperature in the tip of my nose drops to the same temperature in my fingers, [...]" and for one screaming minute my heart and the engines correspond as we attempt to prove again that the laws of aerodynamics are not the flimsy superstitions which, in my heart of hearts, I know they are.

I never give in to my fear of flying because I love to travel, and like most of us I think, "It can't happen to me."

But what's been occurring in aviation recently has ratcheted up my anxiety.

It doesn't help that I am writing this commentary prior to a trip that involves several flights, two of them transatlantic, which means there's nowhere to land in an emergency between London and Boston except Iceland.

Nor am I assuaged after PTSD memories of a flight over the Andes in which the turbulence was so intense I wondered if I'd be forced to eat survivors as we waited for rescue.

Then there was the close-as-it-gets landing in Honduras some years ago when two aircraft rounded a mountain simultaneously while trying to land.

Now, my anxiety is heightened by recent near misses. A commercial aircraft and a private jet were within seconds of crashing into each other on a runway when the pilot of the smaller plane ignored air traffic control instructions to wait for a JetBlue plane to land in front of it. This was only one of

several incidents involving near misses. "Experts say near-misses on runways are more common than the traveling public may realize," NBC News reported in March.

According to FAA data, 1,732 runway incursion incidents were reported during the agency's fiscal year 2022, which is on par with pre-pandemic totals (1,832 incidents in FY 2018, for instance).

Then there's the cluster of potential disasters taking place in aircraft cabins.

The FAA's year-end totals for 2022 are shocking. Nearly 2,500 episodes of unruly passengers were reported. More than 800 investigations of incidents were initiated, and more than 500 enforcement actions were started.

In March of this year, a man tried to stab a flight attendant on a flight from Los Angeles to Boston, and cabin crews report having suffered various physical attacks as well as sexual harassment.

According to the flight attendants union, flight crews have "call[ed] on the entire airline industry to step up to combat harassment and recognize the impact it has on safety. [...] Airlines must also ensure that staffing levels on flights are sufficient."

IT'S ALSO CLEAR that climate change and global warming have played a part in increased episodes of severe turbulence.

The research is clear: "Earth's warming, the result of the burning of fossil fuels, is increasing the

**LETTERS FROM READERS**

**Flood levels on Wilmington Town Hall represent hardships, strength, resiliency, perseverance**

**S**ometime in the late 1980s, then-Wilmington Town Manager Sonia Alexander asked if I would paint the 1938 flood level on the side of the Town Hall. I was happy to do so, and it immediately drew interest of locals and visitors as we thought about an important part of our history.

A few days after Tropical Storm Irene I checked with the town and was given permission (encouraged, actually) to paint

the new, higher level. It marked the hardship that we had all just lived through in a very meaningful and emotional way and, again, was a focal point for residents and visitors.

People were amazed at the height of the water and literally thousands of photos have been taken of the levels. Locals bring visitors to look at it as they explain what we lived through.

The Town Hall has just been repainted a lovely light blue. Having heard nothing about repainting the flood levels, I emailed Scott Tucker, the town manager, about doing so.

He replied that the town wanted a "clean slate" and the levels would not be put back.

Truthfully, I was taken by

surprise, and not in a good way.

Why wouldn't we want to acknowledge two huge events in our town's history which impacted so many locals and second-home owners and is so interesting to visitors? I really can't think of a reason for eliminating this marking of our history.

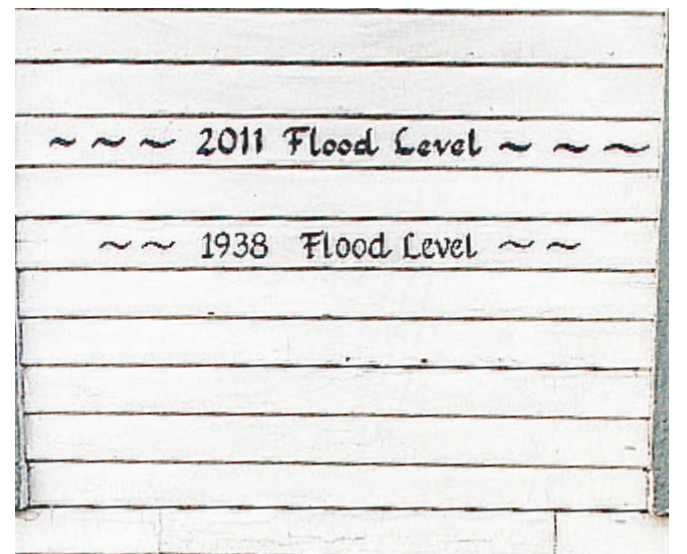
In some ways, this "clean slate" might be considered just a little thing — but not to me. The flood levels represent the hardships that our town has gone through and the strength, resiliency, and perseverance that many of us had (and are still having) to overcome them. It represents what we did as a community to pull together. I want it acknowledged on

the outside of our town office — a building that belongs to all of us. It is our history and shouldn't be just erased to make the slate clean.

If you agree with me, please let the town manager know. If enough of you take a minute or two to voice your opinion, perhaps we can change minds and restore this historical marker. Please encourage others to do the same.

**Nicki Steel**  
Wilmington

Town Manager Scott Tucker can be reached at [stucker@wilmingtonvt.us](mailto:stucker@wilmingtonvt.us) or 802-464-8951.



In hard-hit Wilmington, the Town Hall marked the levels of floodwaters, long-ago and recent — until its recent repainting.



**Lifestyle choices!** This distinctive contemporary is situated on a country road with stately maple trees on the front lawn, an antique barn and four acres of tree lined meadows bordered on two sides by conserved land of the Retreat Farm. Designed and built by the owner as a single family residence it is currently arranged as a duplex, a home for her with rental income. Designed to be easily returned to its original 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom one family home it offers lifestyle choices for now and later. There is a separately deeded and surveyed two acre unimproved lot for future needs! The antique barn is ready for restoration. The Brattleboro Country Club golf course is across the road and shopping, schools and vibrant downtown Brattleboro are minutes away. Pictures show owner's residence on left side of house. On right side on the first level is a large open kitchen and dining area with glass doors to back deck, a living room and a 3/4 bath, upstairs are two bedrooms and a full bath. Laundry area and office in finished basement.

**EXCLUSIVE \$727,000**



Ask for Kathy  
802-257-7979

255 Western Ave, Brattleboro, VT  
[www.bellvillerealty.com](http://www.bellvillerealty.com)

# Pollinators

FROM SECTION FRONT

Collister is also working alone at the Putney Food Co-op, creating a native wildflower garden that will both serve pollinators and beautify the area.

All three of these gardens are expanding this spring with help from students and community members; she is also looking for help in transitioning the project into a non-profit organization.

IN THE BOOK Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy, Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, who have conducted workshops on the topic for several decades, state that when asked to finish the statement "When I consider the conditions of the world, I think things are getting..." most people say things like "dangerous," "frightening," and "out of control."

As the world heats up and deserts expand, extreme weather conditions are common. Each of us hopes we will not have to deal with a super hurricane, a tornado, a flood, or a drought when we see these events online, but climate change is here.

It is hard to accept that the resources we have always depended on for food, fuel, and water may not be here in the future for our children and grandchildren.

Macy states that a shift in consciousness is occurring. Instead of being a society whose object is expansion and money, we turn into a society that works to preserve each other and the planet we depend on.

If you feel helpless or like a victim, you can become severely depressed, lowering your immune system and making you susceptible to illness and disease.

But if you face a problem head on and decide you are going to do something to change the situation, you can have what Macy and Johnstone refer to as "active hope." You know that you are doing your part, however small, to change the situation.

One person who embodies active hope and restorative action is Jane Collister.



# Aviation

FROM SECTION FRONT

risks of bumpy flights," The Washington Post reported in March. "It has to do with ways warming in the atmosphere influences winds at varying altitudes."

In December, 36 passengers on a flight to Hawaii were injured, and in March a Lufthansa flight from Houston to Frankfurt had to make an emergency landing at Dulles International Airport in Virginia.

DESPITE ALL these worries, I realize in my rational moments that air travel is statistically safer than getting into your car. I know that like cars, airplanes are for most of us a necessary part of modern life.

Still, there is something about flying that kicks in when I board a plane and the aircraft door is sealed. As the engines rev, and the safety instructions, which we all know are pretty useless, are demonstrated, I think of Erica Jong, who admitted that "constant vigilance" was her motto.

"So I keep concentrating very hard, helping the pilot [...] fly that 250-passenger motherf---er," she said.



The Federal Aviation Administration is attempting to use graphics like this one in a social media campaign to help suppress a spike in incidents caused by unruly passengers traveling by air.

Believe me, these days I relate to that more than ever.

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR and comic Dennis Miller, along with Erica Jong, have both captured my own aerophobia (a real word), which is nice. It gives me something to laugh at when the going gets rough.

"My fear of flying," Miller shared, "starts as soon as I buckle myself in and then the guy up front mumbles a few unintelligible words [and] then before I know it I'm thrust into the back of my seat by acceleration that seems way too fast and the rest of the trip is an endless nightmare

of turbulence, of near misses. And then the cabbie drops me off at the airport."

So, here's to all the other fearful passengers out there as we buckle up. Long may we fly high until we reach our destinations, which is more than likely to happen. Right?

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### 'Someone else's money' simply ran out

RE: "End of motel program will remove shelter and stability" [News, May 17]: It is unfortunate that motel/hotel vouchers are ending, but it is also necessary.

Struggling taxpayers cannot be expected to give someone else a "free" (please read: taxpayer-funded) place to live while they can barely pay their own rent/mortgage/other expenses.

Before they were placed in taxpayer-funded motels, all these individuals and families were living somewhere else. It stands to reason they'll go back where they were before: friends, family, other states.

The problem with "funding" this program indefinitely is that you're asking the "state" or the "federal government" (all

taxpayer money) to give someone a free place to live which is funded by those who can barely survive as it is.

"Someone else's money" simply ran out.

Sandy Golden  
Hinsdale, N.H.

### 'They knew this was coming up'

RE: "End of motel program will remove shelter and stability" [News, May 17]:

Dear people of Brattleboro: I have been a lifelong member of the area. For the most part, I have had a good life until my partner — my husband of 38 years — died and then things started going south.

My health took a irreversible turn. I had a stroke, and they found blood clots in my lungs. I have mobility issues and breathing problems. I started to not be able to think very well, so I

couldn't live alone.

I ended up in the homeless shelter on South Main Street twice. I felt safe.

And then I got pneumonia and was in the hospital for about 10 days, and I wanted to go back to the shelter, which wouldn't take me back, and the hospital kept me until I found a place to go. That was the hotel.

To get to my point: I am not impressed with how long they took to decide what to do with all the people who have to leave the hotel by May 31. They knew this was coming up. They had a lot of time to figure this out.

I have been on waiting lists for a very, very long time. I don't only want to find housing for myself — I would like them to come up with an idea for everyone.

Annie O'Brien  
Brattleboro

### Love and dignity for the unborn, too

RE: "Family values are not expressed by what type of genitals you were born with" [Viewpoint, May 10]:

Dan DeWalt says, "If we don't accept all people on the planet with love and dignity, then we will continue to allow violence, strife, and injustice."

But since Democrats support abortion, they're the ones who don't accept all people on the planet with love and dignity.

Tim Grant  
Belchertown, Mass.

### Touched by recent tragedies

Windham County residents have been touched by upsetting events in recent months.

You might have read about a murder in the news or you might be returning to the workplace you shared with the victim.

You might have heard about yet another overdose death, or you might be one of the families who knows that each harrowing statistic is a real human being.

You might be one of the public safety professionals who was on the scene. You might be the EMT who did their best.

You might know a family that was affected because your kids go to school together. You might be a family member surviving a tragedy with other family members. You might be the bystander who called for help.

The above generalities are nothing more than a portrait of just a few of the many roles that individual Vermonters are living and surviving in. You might resemble none of the individuals just described, or several of them. There are, of course, many, many more that we could name.

You know your role in the community the best. Both how difficult events touch you, and what role or role you take as you respond. (And we'd love to hear from you — see

below.)

As legislators, we are no different. We've been touched by recent tragedies. We are also, individually and together as your Windham County delegation, working to find our role in responding to and learning from recent events.

As we consider this, we carry wise words from Representative Becca Balint, speaking at the recent vigil in Brattleboro held for Leah Rosin-Pritchard, Groundworks staff, and the whole community.

"Over the next weeks and months, we will sort out what the next steps need to be and what the actions are that we need to take," Becca said. "But if we rush to those steps without grieving, without sitting in our sorrow, we will make mistakes because we are not thinking clearly. We are overwhelmed by the depth of the feeling."

All of us who represent Windham County residents in the Legislature feel the same way. We wish there was something we could do — anything — to stem the losses that we have been feeling in our community.

As we've gone about our work in Montpelier, we've found daily small and large flaws in our social safety nets, our education system, our health care system, our public safety, judicial, and correctional systems, and others. Across our society, we are facing numerous and rapidly

changing challenges that we are working to respond to.

There is no single answer, but your Legislature has been at work on many parts of the system. We're now home and sharing the work we are doing to support Vermonters.

If there is anything you want your state representative or your senators to know, or you need help from a legislator in accessing services from your state government, please call 802-828-2228 and leave a message, or reach us via legislature.vermont.gov.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, you can now call 988 anytime, day or night, for access to trained crisis counselors.

You can also text "VT" to 741741 from anywhere in the USA, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained crisis counselor will text you back right away.

Take care.

- WINDHAM COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
- Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun,
  - Rep. Mollie Burke,
  - Rep. Heather Chase,
  - Rep. Sara Coffey,
  - Rep. Leslie Goldman,
  - Sen. Nader Hashim,
  - Sen. Wendy Harrison,
  - Rep. Emilie Kornheiser,
  - Rep. Emily Long,
  - Rep. Mike Mrowicki,
  - Rep. Kelly Pajala,
  - Rep. Tristan Roberts,
  - Rep. Laura Sibilia,
  - Rep. Tristan Toleno

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

**bc tv LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

May 22-28

CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

<b>Here We Are - Eowyn Jakub, NECCA Student Performer.</b> Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 9p, Fri 12:30p, Sat 8p, Sun 5:30p	<b>Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/16/23: Tues 12p, Sat 5:15p
<b>The World Fusion Show - Ep # 152 - Kevin Nathaniel.</b> Mon 5:30p, Thurs 12:30p & 5:30p, Sat 12:30p & 6:30p, Sun 9:30a	<b>Windham Town Meeting 2023 - 5/20/23:</b> Wed 8:30p, Thurs 5a, Fri 11:45a, Sun 6p
<b>Climate Emergency Book Series - Chuck Collins 5/11/23:</b> Mon 3p, Tues 10a, Wed 12:30p, Fri 4:30p, Sun 9p	<b>Landmark College Spring 2023 Commencement:</b> Mon 7p, Tues 7a, Wed 1p
<b>Brattleboro Literary Festival - A Path Lit by Lightning:</b> David Maraniss on Jim Thorpe: Mon 7a, Tues 8p, Wed 9a, Sun 8p	<b>Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg.</b> 5/22/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 11:15a, Sat 12p
<b>At BMAC - Conversation:</b> Cathy Cone and Sarah Freeman: Mon 8:30p, Wed 6p, Fri 7a, Sun 4p	<b>Guilford Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/22/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 2:30p
<b>Around Town with Maria - Swords to Plowshares:</b> Thurs 3:30p, Fri 10a, Sat 8:30p, Sun 6p	<b>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/22/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sun 12p
<b>Landmark College Presents - Cary Supalo, Ph. D. Becoming a Blind Chemist:</b> Mon 6a, Tues 9p, Thurs 9:15p, Sat 6a	<b>Townshend Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/23/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 2:30p
<b>Brattleboro Gallery Walk 2023:</b> Mon 4:25p, Tues 11:25a & 3:50p, Wed 1:55p, Thurs 7:50a, Fri 7:55a & 5:55p, Sun 4:55p	<b>Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg.</b> 5/23/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a
<b>Energy Week with George Harvey &amp; Tom Fennell:</b> Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	<b>Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg.</b> 5/15/23: Mon 6p, Tues 6a, Wed 12p
<b>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode:</b> Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	<b>Newfane Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/15/23: Tues 6p, Wed 6a, Thurs 1:45p
<b>WTSA News:</b> Mon-Fri 12p & 6p	<b>River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg.</b> 5/15/23: Mon 2p, Tues 6:45p, Wed 6:45a, Thurs 2:30p
<b>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	<b>Windham Elementary School Board Mtg.</b> 5/16/23: Tues 7:45p, Wed 7:45a, Thurs 3:30p
<b>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service:</b> Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a	<b>Vernon Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/16/23: Mon 7:15a, Sat 9:30p, Sun 11:15a
<b>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 5p	<b>Brattleboro Development Review Board Mtg.</b> 5/17/23: Mon 12p, Tues 9p, Sun 10:15a
<b>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a	<b>Town Matters - Weekly Episode:</b> Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p
<b>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass:</b> Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p	<b>The David Pakman Show:</b> Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

**Note: Schedule subject to change.**

View full schedule and watch online at **brattleborotv.org**

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

Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

It's easy to reach  
**The Commons**  
readers!

Average print circulation  
**8,000**

and a strong digital following,  
equals weekly total reach of  
**20,000**

**32 towns**  
**260 locations**

in Windham County, and  
neighboring counties in  
NH and MA.

For the full list of the towns  
we reach, email  
**ads@commonnews.org,**  
or see our Media Kit at  
**commonnews.org.**

Your local sources for  
home improvement

**NUTS 'n' BOLTS**

**JEWETT**  
PLUMBING & HEATING

SERVING THE BRATTLEBORO AREA  
WITH RELIABLE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL  
- BATHROOM & KITCHEN REMODELING  
- COMPLETE HEATING SYSTEMS  
- WATER PUMPS & SYSTEMS

**802-254-4963**  
1090 WESTERN AVENUE  
WEST BRATTLEBORO

**Vernon SELF STORAGE**

493 Stebbins Rd.  
Vernon, VT  
802-490-9771  
vernonselfstoragevt.com

**Steve's SEPTIC SERVICE**

Septic Tank Pumping  
& Portable Toilet Rentals

**802-257-1619**  
Vernon, VT • stevesepticpumping.com

### AROUND THE TOWNS

#### Tax assessment grievance hearings to begin in Brattleboro

BRATTLEBORO — The town of Brattleboro Abstract Grand List was lodged on May 17, and change of assessment notices were mailed. The Brattleboro Listers will hold grievance hearings at the Municipal Center, 230 Main St., starting Wednesday, May 31, at 9 a.m.

Applications for a hearing are available at the Assessor's office or online at [brattleboro.org](http://brattleboro.org) on the Assessor's page. Applications should be physically (via mail or email) received in the Assessor's office by 5 p.m. on May 31 to schedule a hearing.

#### Marlboro Morris Ale returns this weekend

The 48th annual Marlboro Morris Ale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28. Public performances of traditional dance and music will happen throughout Brattleboro on Saturday, starting with performances by all of the morris and sword teams at 10 a.m. at the entrance to the Potash Hill campus in Marlboro, and ending with another en masse performance at 5 p.m. on the eastern end of Elliot Street.

On Sunday, the teams will dance in various Windham County locations, gathering for a final en masse public performance at 5 p.m. in front of the Windham County Courthouse in Newfane.

Every year since 1976, Morris and sword teams from all over North America, and occasionally the United Kingdom, have gathered in southern Vermont to dance, make music, and celebrate the arrival of spring and coming of summer. For more information, contact Natty Smith at [nattygmith@gmail.com](mailto:nattygmith@gmail.com) or 781-710-6131, or visit [marlboromorrisale.org](http://marlboromorrisale.org).

#### Manitou healing walk set for May 26

WILLIAMSVILLE — The Manitou Project will hold its a Healing Walk on Friday, May 26, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The walk will be led by Fred Taylor and will include poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience. Healing walks will be held, rain or shine, every second and fourth Friday of each month until October.

The Manitou Project seeks to foster community with Nature on its 235-acre land preserve in Williamsville, located at 300 Sunset Lake Road. For more information, contact Taylor at 802-254-2675.

#### Guilford Church homemade pie sale set for May 27

GUILFORD — A spring tradition, the Memorial Day Weekend Pie Sale of the Guilford Community Church will be held on Saturday, May 27, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the corner of Route 5 and Guilford Center Road.

Homemade apple, strawberry rhubarb, pecan, pumpkin and specialty pies such as lime cheesecake, lemon meringue, and even quiche will be for sale for \$20 each. This year, there will also be some pies made with gluten free crusts.

All proceeds benefit the church, which actively supports over 15 local programs that serve the community including Hospice and Meals on Wheels. From Interstate 91 Exit 1 in Brattleboro, head south on Route 5 just past the Guilford Country Store, in front of Richmond Auto Repair, 14 Guilford Center Rpad.

#### Plant sale benefits Wardsboro Library

WARDSBORO — The 18th annual 'From Our Gardens to Yours' plant sale in Wardsboro is Saturday, May 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. All the potted plants and flats for sale will be spread out across the front lawn of the Wardsboro Public Library at 170 Main Street, and the library is open that day. Parking and admission are free.

The Library Trustees and the Friends of the Wardsboro Library have planned an event that includes much more than hearty perennials, colorful annuals, shrubs, Gilfeather turnip seedlings, vegetables, and herbs. There are a variety of same-day garden raffles planned as well, with the winners drawn at 1 p.m. The Library's Book Sale Barn is open that day and there are home-baked goods under a tent. All proceeds benefit the Wardsboro Public Library.

In another big fundraiser, the Trustees and the Friends have announced that the 2023 Best Raffle Ever this year is a brand

new, powerful General 6,500-watt generator, made available with the generosity of W & W Building Supply. Tickets are on sale for the generator at the plant sale event, and the generator is on display in the lobby at the library every day that the facility is open. The library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. For details, see [wardsboropubliclibrary.org](http://wardsboropubliclibrary.org) or call 802-896-6988.

#### Memorial Day service in Vernon

VERNON — The Vernon Memorial Day Service will take place on Monday, May 29, at 2 p.m., at the Vernon War Memorial on Burrows Road across from the Town Office Building. This event is hosted annually by the Vernon Historians to thank and remember family members, friends, and neighbors who have served in the armed forces.

A color guard from American Legion Brattleboro Post 5 will present and retire the colors, play "Taps," and provide a gun salute. A roll call for each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces will recognize military veterans in attendance. Lastly, those in attendance will say silently or aloud, the names of those who have served, sacrificed, and succumbed.

Friends and neighbors from surrounding communities are invited to this outdoor program. A comfort station will be provided, and everyone is encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

#### Traditional Memorial Day program returns in Dummerston

DUMMERSTON — Evening Star Grange will hold its first Memorial Day program in three years outside on the Common in Dummerston Center on Tuesday, May 30 — the traditional Memorial Day. The American Legion Post 5 Band will perform a concert from 6:30 to 7 p.m., and the rest of the program will begin at 7 p.m.

Margaret Evans, co-founder and long-time chair of the Grange Memorial Day Committee, will be the featured speaker, and Boy Scout Troop 405 will also participate. There will be some chairs available, but you may bring your own. In case of rain, the program will move inside the Grange Hall. There will be light refreshments in the Grange following the program.

#### Guilford forum focuses on town's one-room schoolhouses

GUILFORD — An educational forum in Guilford's one-room schoolhouses, with stories from community members who attended them, will be presented by the Guilford Historical Society on Tuesday, May 30, at 7 p.m., at the Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Road.

Storytellers include Guilford residents who attended one of 14 one-room schoolhouses. They include Jim Henry, Barbara Fitch Haumann, Harry Evans, Reita Jaqueth Lashway, Richard Bullock, and Dwight Fitch. Verandah Porche will be the moderator.

Starting in 1809, Guilford had 14 one-room schoolhouses. Several operated until 1957 with the opening of the consolidated Guilford Central School. One of Guilford's original one-room schoolhouses on Carpenter Hill Road, built in 1798, has been preserved and stewarded by the Guilford Historical Society.

The Guilford Historical Society Museum, 4063 Guilford Center Rd., will be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon throughout the summer starting on June 3.

#### Plant an extra row to feed the hungry

BRATTLEBORO — This year, Edible Brattleboro is encouraging community members to plant an extra row or two of vegetables or herbs in their garden to donate to neighbors in need. All donations can be dropped off at Edible Brattleboro's weekly Share the Harvest Stand, on Sundays, July through October, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (best to arrive before noon).

The stand is located in the garden at Turning Point of Windham County, 39 Elm Street. Alternatively, gardeners may drop off extra produce from their

gardens directly to Foodworks, 141 Canal Street, on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you need help getting your garden started or want some free vegetable starts to add to your garden, visit Edible Brattleboro's upcoming Plant Swap/Giveaway, held at the Retreat Farm's Community Garden Project, 475 Linden Street, on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come with any extra plants or seeds you have, and trade with your neighbors and community members, or just come by to pick up some plants you'd like. All plants must be bare root or grown in sterilized soil to avoid transmission of invasive jumping worms.

Lastly, Edible Brattleboro needs "foster" gardeners to care for tomato plants they don't have enough garden space to accommodate. The harvested tomatoes will be canned in the fall and donated to Foodworks for

distribution. Foster gardeners will receive a jar of canned Italian style tomato sauce or whole tomatoes as a thank you. Contact Marilyn at [EdibleBrattleboro@gmail.com](mailto:EdibleBrattleboro@gmail.com) for more information.

#### Christ Church Guilford Society plans summer events

GUILFORD — The Christ Church Guilford Society is planning outdoor events this summer to be held on the lawn of Christ Church across from the Guilford Country Store in Algiers. The first will be a free outdoor jazz band concert by the BUHS Jazz Band.

Concertgoers are welcome to bring a blanket or chair at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 1. This is a chance for people to relax, bring kids, enjoy the music, and congratulate Steve Rice on his long career as an educator and performer. The band will perform

favorite pieces from this past year. Refreshments will be served.

A presentation of the reconstruction work being done on the classic 1817 building will also be offered with a peek inside the historic sanctuary while the building is closed for repairs. The hope is that the building will be open for indoor celebrations next year.

The Christ Church Guilford Society, Inc., is a federally-recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit. For information on Christ Church's history, mission, news, upcoming events, and how to support their work, go to [christchurchguilfordsociety.org](http://christchurchguilfordsociety.org).

#### Dummerston Community Center seeks help for annual Coffee Break fundraiser

DUMMERSTON — The Dummerston Community Center,

will be holding their annual Coffee Break fundraiser at the Vermont Welcome Center on Friday, June 9, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Community Center is in need of donations and volunteers to help at the Coffee Break. Some of the items needed include bottled water, bottles of ketchup, mustard, and relish, assorted individual-sized bags of chips, baked beans, fruit (watermelon, blueberries, strawberries, etc.), juice boxes, baked treats (muffins, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc.), and grocery store gift cards or cash.

The center will be open on Thursday, June 8, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., for donations to be dropped off. To sign up to donate or volunteer, call Ann Davis at 802-254-2415 or Carol Wood at 802-380-1424.

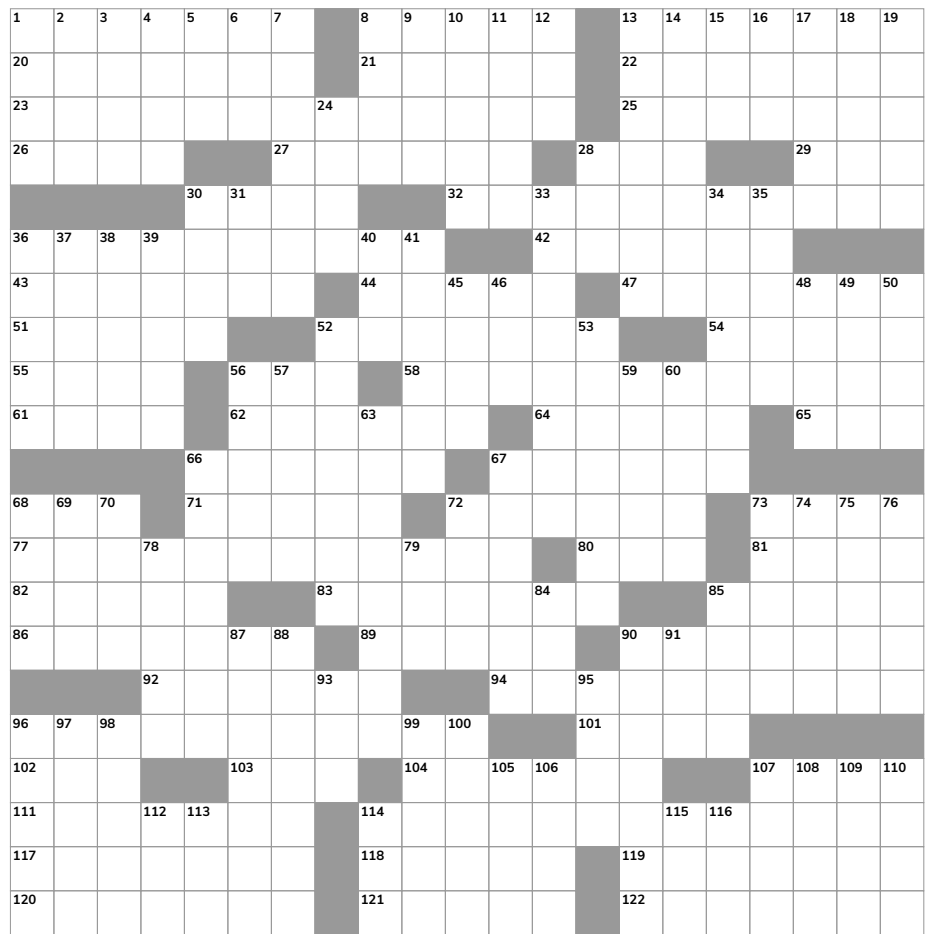
### THE COMMONS CROSSWORD "Car Talk"

#### Across

- Whom Oscar winners often thank
- Gymnast Johnson
- "It's not coming to me"
- Soccer star Catarina
- Toothpaste buys
- Be a go-between
- Undersized Volkswagen?
- Strategize in advance
- Digits in binary
- Renowned
- Excellent instance
- Be wrong on purpose
- Very much
- Very loud Chevrolet?
- Nissan in motion?
- Act opener
- Put in danger
- Huge hit
- Office tool
- Yogi known for Yogi-isms
- Sidney of 46-Down
- Put out
- "I say!"
- Architectural site
- Ford that's not regulation-width?
- Chimes in with
- Place for two peas
- Whiff
- Sturm \_\_ Drang
- "\_\_ : The Way of Water"
- Emperor's title in a Gilbert & Sullivan show
- Org. for Nadal
- Fight scene sound effect
- Birthplace of the World Wide Web
- Movie magnate Marcus
- Toyota in a snowstorm?
- Vietnamese New Year
- Fashion designer Sui
- Swiss math genius Leonhard
- Old term for helium or neon
- Home screen array
- Old-fashioned "Good to see you"
- Store customer
- "Enjoy yourselves!"
- Kaluuya of "Get Out"
- Casual Honda?
- Acura driven in a city?
- Flamenco cries
- Stocking tip
- Fuss
- "Anybody home?"
- Author Wiesel
- Visually descriptive language
- Subaru with a lot of miles on it?
- Devastation
- Apply to
- Have dinner at a friend's
- In the bag
- Army student
- Gov. Kathy Hochul's domain

#### Down

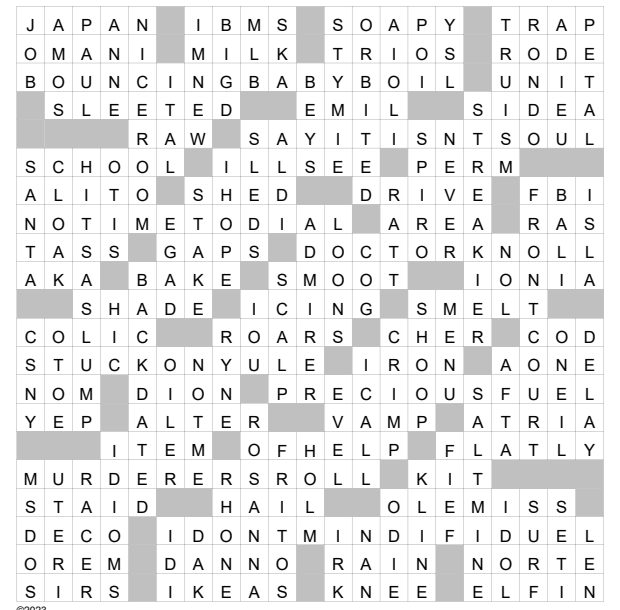
- Pies, in a pie fight
- "Am I my brother's keeper?" asker
- Unpopular spots for teens?
- Speaker's place
- Time period
- Univ. that hosts a Mystery Hunt every January
- Gilbert Gottfried refrain in a memorable "Hollywood Squares" episode
- Thin wineglass part
- Sci-fi award
- Approximately
- Language in which w is a vowel
- Fed. source of research grants
- Hinders
- Turn into wine, say
- Dedicated lines?
- Tear
- Big name in California wines
- Online commerce
- Palindromic Christopher Nolan film
- Chimed
- Store selling supplements
- Indian tourist city
- El \_\_ (nickname of Mexico's national soccer team)
- Heralds
- Regales at bedtime
- Abbr. for some nonwhite folks
- Insults
- Last letter
- Start of a supplication
- Colored sugar candy brand
- Troop entertainment grp.
- Relative key of G major
- Somewhat
- "To \_\_, with Love"
- Party with poi, perhaps
- Australian Open airer
- Clarinetist's need
- Org. whose career money leader is Tiger Woods
- Houston hoopsters
- Backless couch
- Unsuitable
- Hair extension
- Conclude by
- Like goods you can hock
- Actress Malin
- Scant
- Several
- Factual
- Opinion survey



©2023 Joon Pahk

#### Last issue's solution

"Taking the L"



PUBLICATION OF THE COMMONS CROSSWORD IS UNDERWRITTEN BY

**BRATTLEBORO TIRE**  
802-254-5411 • 558 Putney Road, Brattleboro

FULL SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE **\$74<sup>95</sup>** \*up to 5 qts

**OIL CHANGE**  
PLUS FREE SAFETY DRIVING CHECK OVER

INCLUDES 30 POINT COURTESY CHECK  
• Fluids • Belts • Hoses • Steering • Brakes  
• Lights & Much More Upon Request

*\*(\$3.00 disposal fee) Most cars. Special diesel oil & filter extra.  
Call for an appointment. Offer ends 5/31/23.  
No other discounts apply.*

LOCALLY OWNED FOR OVER 46 YEARS

**WE DO TIRES AND ALL UNDER CAR SERVICE**

---

POST SEASON INVENTORY REDUCTION

**ALL TIRES ON SALE!**

Now thru May 31st

**SPRING TIRE CHANGE OVERS**

*Call to schedule*

**SERVICE YOUR A/C NOW**

Don't wait till HOT weather!

#### Transcribing, Editing and Proofreading Services

Accurate, Confidential, Fast Turn-Around, Fair Pricing

Elizabeth: [elizabethjuliah8@aol.com](mailto:elizabethjuliah8@aol.com); 802-257-7475

COLUMN | *Sports Roundup*

# Burr & Burton edges BUHS Unified to win Southern title

When Burr & Burton and Brattleboro opened the Unified basketball season on April 3 in the BUHS gym, Brattleboro came away with a 46-38 win.

The Burr & Burton Bulldogs were the Southern Division champion in 2022, and Brattleboro coach Tyler Boone said he knew the two teams would meet again in the playoffs.

That return engagement came on May 19 at the BUHS gym for the Southern Division championship. This time, Burr & Burton came away with a 19-18 victory to end Brattleboro's run toward the state championship.

This was a grinding, frustrating game for Brattleboro as Burr & Burton slowed the pace down and made it difficult for Brattleboro to get into a rhythm on offense.

"I knew that was their strategy, to knock us off our game," said Boone. "Our whole strategy today was stay together and play as a team. We didn't do that today."

Both teams had trouble scoring in the first quarter, which ended in a 4-4 tie. Credit the defenses for making sure that every shot was contested and every loose ball would turn into a rugby scrum.

Brattleboro seized the momentum in the second quarter thanks to three straight baskets by Austin Pinette for a 10-4 lead at the midpoint of the quarter. A three-pointer by Ben Stauffer with 48.4 seconds left sent Brattleboro into halftime with a 13-7 lead.

That was the high water mark for the Brattleboro offense as they were shut out in the third quarter, while Burr & Burton went on an 8-0 run with Jillian Barton getting three baskets.

With a 15-13 lead heading into the final quarter, Burr & Burton slowed the game down further. Dylan Skandera, who scored the other basket turning the third period run, got another bucket to make it 17-13 with six minutes to play.

Pinette finally broke the Brattleboro scoring drought with 5:15 left when he stole the ball and raced to the basket for a lay-in. A minute later, he went down hard after colliding with Skandera diving for a loose ball. Pinette finished the game on the bench, holding an ice pack on his rib cage.

Lane Sargent scored on a lay-up to get the Bulldogs' lead back to four, 19-15, with 2:30 to play. Stauffer responded with a three-pointer from the corner as the BUHS student section erupted.

The Bulldogs' lead was now down to 19-18, but Brattleboro never got a chance to score again. Burr & Burton spent the remainder of the game passing the ball around and running out the clock to clinch their second straight trip to the state championship game.

It was a frustrating finish, but Boone said after the game that "I couldn't be more proud of all our kids. The goal at the beginning of the season was to make it to this game. Losing this one hurts, but we'll get them again next year."

He also took the long view of what Unified sports means for



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

BUHS.

"Kids are staying in school because of Unified," he said. Kids are catching up with their work because of Unified. It's making a real difference in the school community and the school culture."

• To get to the Southern Division final, Brattleboro had to survive a determined Springfield team and hang on for a 41-40 win in the Southern semifinals on May 17 at the BUHS gym.

Pinette was the top scorer for BUHS with 22 points, while Ashley Cleveland, who had 14 points in the opening playoff win against Otter Valley, added 10 points. Thomas Bell chipped in with five points, and Evan Velez scored four points. Sebastian Salls led Springfield with 20 points, including 10 in the final quarter.

• Before the tumultuous week for Boone, he was surprised on May 15 with the presentation of the Air & Space Forces' Sentry Educator Award. Created by the 313th Recruiting Squadron at Hancom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts, Boone was one of 10 educators in New England who received the award.

Interim principal Cassie Damkoehler nominated Boone for the award. Besides coaching Unified sports and girls' tennis at BUHS, Boone also works at the school in its Integrated Learning Services department, serves on the BUHS Leadership Council as well as its Diversity and Equity Committee, sits on the board of the Francis Hicks Foundation, and facilitates Dedicated Dads, a support group for fathers.

Boone has worked hard to support Unified sports at BUHS, as well as to help promote greater diversity and equity at the school. He said he hopes the award will bring more attention to work being done to make the school experience a positive one for every student, no matter who they are.

### Baseball

• Brattleboro had an up-and-down week, which began by being trounced by Mount Anthony, 16-0, on May 16 in Bennington. On May 18, they rallied for four runs in the sixth inning to pull out a 7-6 win against Rutland at Tenney Field. On May 20, BUHS was held to just four hits as they were shut out by Otter Valley, 3-0, to finish the week at 6-5.

• Green Mountain pitcher Tanner Swisher held Leland & Gray to a single hit in a 4-1 victory on May 18 in Chester. Swisher struck out nine batters and helped his cause with a pair of hits. Parker Richardson took the loss, giving up four runs on five hits. The Rebels are 8-5 on the season.

• Bellows Falls hammered Woodstock, 16-0, on May 16,



Brattleboro's Austin Pinette (1) and Ben Stauffer (12) try to slow down Burr & Burton's Dylan Skandera (40) during second half action in their Unified basketball playoff game on May 18 in the BUHS gym.

and dropped a 6-5 decision to Fair Haven on May 19 to even their season record at 7-7.

• West Rutland defeated Twin Valley, 13-3, in five innings on May 16. The Wildcats are still searching for their first win.

### Softball

• Brattleboro got shut out by Mount Anthony, 12-0, in six innings on May 16 in Bennington. On May 18, BUHS lost to Rutland, 14-1, in five innings as Rutland scored six runs in the first and five more in the second. On May 20, Otter Valley rolled to a 14-2 win over BUHS in five innings. Brattleboro ended the week with a 1-12 record.

• Bellows Falls broke out of its slump with 10-2 win over Woodstock on May 16. Jenna Dolloph went 3-for-4 with six RBIs and two runs scored to lead the Terriers and Emma Spaulding scored four runs and got a pair of hits.

Poultney then avenged an earlier loss to the Terriers with a 10-1 win on May 18, but BF rebounded as pitcher Izzy Stoodley struck out 14 batters as the Terriers held off West Rutland, 6-3, on May 20. BF finished the week with a 7-4 record.

• Savannah Cadrin had three hits, drove in two runs, and scored three runs to lead Leland & Gray to a 10-3 win over Springfield on May 16. Cat Shine also had three hits, stole three bases, and scored two runs and winning pitcher Hannah Greenwood held the Cosmos to just four hits over six innings.

The Rebels then took care of Green Mountain, 23-5, on May 18. Winning pitcher Kristen Lowe held GM to six hits with seven strikeouts and two walks. Leland & Gray took advantage of 13 walks and 11 errors to pile up the runs.

The following day, the Rebels ripped Twin Valley, 21-8. Greenwood and Molly Bingham split the pitching chores. Shine hit a three-run homer, Cadrin went 4-for-5 and scored four runs, and Jacy Stillwagon went 3-for-3 with a single, a double, and a triple as she drove in three runs and scored three runs. Leland & Gray finished the week with a 9-3 record.

• Twin Valley lost to Proctor, 17-3, in five innings on May 16. They are still winless so far this season.

### Ultimate disc

• After a loss to Leland & Gray on May 15, Brattleboro regrouped to beat Mill River, 15-5, on May 16, as BUHS players used the wind and their height advantage to secure the victory.



Brattleboro's Evan Velez, left, tries to protect the ball from Burr & Burton defender Lane Sargent during the first half of their Unified basketball playoff game on May 18 in the BUHS gym.

### Track & Field

• Bellows Falls swept a three-team meet against Green Mountain and Twin Valley on May 16 at Hadley Field. It was a good tune-up for this week's Southern Vermont League championships, which took place on May 23.

### New bike trail opens in Jamaica

• The Jamaica Area Mountain Bike Alliance (JAMBA), a chapter of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA), was formed in 2019 with the goal of bringing quality single track mountain bike trails to the Jamaica area. While trail networks are being built and expanded all over the state, and fellow chapters such as Northshire Area Trails Systems (NATS) and Southern Vermont Trails Association (SoVTA) are making great progress, the Jamaica area is woefully underserved.

This will change on Friday, June 2, at 2 p.m., when JAMBA's first trail officially opens at Ball Mountain Lake on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land in Jamaica.

"We're thrilled by this

amazing opportunity to be the first VMBA chapter to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers," JAMBA chairperson Heidi Pancake said in a news release. "This is the first of hopefully many trails here at Ball Mountain."

The trail, aptly named Having a Ball, is the upper of two companion trails. "We're fundraising for the lower section," Pancake said. "Sustainable Trailworks of Poultney, who designed and built the stellar Slate Valley Trails network, built Having a Ball and are standing by to work their magic on the next section."

You can support JAMBA's efforts by sending checks to P.O. Box 17, Jamaica, VT 05343 or making a PayPal donation via [jambavt.org/donate](http://jambavt.org/donate), or on the VMBA website at [vmba.org/donate](http://vmba.org/donate) and choosing Jamaica Area Mountain Bike Alliance in the dropdown menu under "Chapter Donations."

### Senior bowling roundup

• Week 3 of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at

Brattleboro Bowl on May 18 saw No Splits (14-1) have a 5-0 week to move into first place. Turkeys (13-2) is in second, followed by Five Pins (11-4), Stayin' Alive (9.5-5.5), The Bowlers (9-6), Slo Movers (8-7), High Rollers (5-10), Skippers (2.5-12.5), and Wrecking Crew (2-13).

Vikki Butynski had the women's high handicap game (247) and series (700). Jerry Dunham had the men's high handicap game (251), while Milt Sherman had the high handicap series (703). Five Pins had the high team handicap game (905), while The Bowlers had the high handicap series (2,498).

Sherman led the men's scratch scoring with a 607 series with games of 212, 205, and 190. Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 573 series with games of 203 and 200. Dunham had a 568 series with games of 216 and 205. John Walker had a 560 series with a 223 game, Chuck Adams had a 553 series with a 190 game, and Robert Rigby had a 544 series with a 204 game. Bob Uccello has a 203 game.

Nancy Dalzell had the women's high scratch series (473) and game (167). Shirley Aiken had a 160 game.

**burton**  
*Touch Free!*  
**CAR WASH**  
**& SELF SERVICE**

**Hello Pollen My Old Friend, It's Time To Wash The Car Again**

873 Putney Road, BrattlebooVT  
802-257-5191 • [www.burtoncarwash.com](http://www.burtoncarwash.com)