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**VOICES** . . . . . . . . B1–B4
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**By Olga Peters**

**Brattleboro**—A request for proposals (RFP) seeking developers to enhance public safety in town will return to the Selectboard next week.

In the meantime, the town manager and members of the group that collaborated on the document plan to meet to adapt the language to correlate with a state project.

The path forward followed many hours of discussion at a special meeting of the Selectboard on Aug. 6, where members appeared divided on whether to approve the document.

While the members seemed to agree on the spirit and goals contained in the RFP, Chair Tom Wesel, Vice Chair Elizabeth McCallister, and Clark San Goodnow questioned whether a few aspects of the RFP would require the board to make judgments of individuals and groups.

“It’s not always easy for me to put my comfort zone a little lower,” Wesel said in more than a few words that we don’t get something that we can’t do anything about because we don’t have the power.”

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**By Randolph T. Holtsot**

The Vermont election of 2018 came in the 110th year for a primary, and regardless of the outcome, it was driven by a rising polling place crowds across Windham County on Tuesday.

That’s because, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented number of votes chose to cast their ballots early to avoid voting on Nov. 3.

“This is like an election we’ve ever experienced,” Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos said in a pre-election news briefing Monday.

Statewide, 153,061 people requested absentee ballots, according to Condos—on track for a record vote.

As of midday Wednesday, more than 110,000 of those ballots had been returned to local town clerks.

That’s more than the 107,037 total votes and absentee votes that went in.

A drive-through polling place was set up in the parking lot of Putney Central School.

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**By Jeff Potter**

**RVCU**—in its current form, the two respective cooperatives. Community Credit Union, a financial institution’s operations center on Chittenden Drive in Brattleboro. RVCU has announced its intent to merge with Members Advantage Community Credit Union in Barre.

Jeffrey J. Morse, president and CEO of the River Valley Credit Union, stands in front of a sign announcing the operations center on Chittenden Drive in Brattleboro. RVCU has announced its intent to merge with Members Advantage Community Credit Union in Barre. diese Commons News 2020 ©

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**Brattleboro continues public safety discussion**

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**New program offers ‘so much more than just free food’**

Everyone Eats! uses federal CARES money to feed the community in five towns and, at the same time, to support local restaurants and farmers.

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**Credit unions look toward fall merger**

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**Vermont Election**

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**WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY**

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**Credit unions look toward fall merger**

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**New program offers ‘so much more than just free food’**

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**WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY**

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**Credit unions look toward fall merger**

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**WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY**
Zuckerman, Gray win in Democratic races; Scott, Milne prevail in GOP primaries

Mrowicki, Bos-Lun take Windham-4; Goldman, Partridge win in Windham-3

by Randolph T. Holler
The Commons

Dover Free Library’s Annual Dessert?

Nature Notes

Dover Free Library’s Annual Dessert?

Lowe’s Garden Market is a nonprofit organization based on the idea that local, fresh food from local farmers are the keys to healthy eating. Learn more about our educational outreach efforts at

TRavEL TIP — Vermont’s voters choose which political party they register with a political party, working. “I think it’s the best way to vote in person and still main-
Selectboard increases security measures for online meetings

Board members heeded advice following meeting ‘Zoom bombed’

By Olga Pires

B RATTLEBORO — The Selectboard, meeting early as a result of a request from the board members to allow members to work from home, was met with a Zoom-bombing incident during the meeting.

The board members were met with profane language and music.

Selectboard member Brandie Starr said. Or the process might rec- ognize the RFP’s proposed scope broad.

Specifically, the review process would be “meetings” — who won’t like all of it — but

He warned the board and

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We want to better understand how well The Commons is serving shared local interests in our community in general and how our weekly paper is specifically serving the needs of our area. We’re asking you, our readers, to both fill out the survey online and print and online. This is part of two of the three-part survey.

We’re conducting this survey using an opt-in list of readers who have given us permission to contact them. We will be sending you an email to your inbox sometime this week inviting you to take the survey. If you don’t receive it, please check your spam folder.

How often do you go online and how do you do it?
Please indicate from 1 (never) to 5 (all the time)

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How do you get your TV channels?
Please list the TV channels that you regularly watch:

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<td>FOX</td>
<td>PBS</td>
<td>FOX News</td>
<td>CNN</td>
<td>MSNBC</td>
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How do you get your radio stations?
Please list the RADIO channels that you regularly tune into:

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What is your five-digit zip code?

Thank you! We greatly appreciate your willingness to help advise us using this survey.

Would you share your media habits and opinions with us?

The Commons, P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302
The Commons, PO Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302
or drop it off it at the door of the newspaper office at 139 Main St. #666, Brattleboro (Hooker-Dunham Building)
Everyone Eats!

Francis Bhutani spoke two words to window washing students at the University of Vermont — "You can do it!"

"This is for everyone in this room," she said. "Anyone who feels valid can use this program and pull up a seat, and you don’t have to justify your need."

Bhutani started working with Everyone Eats in mid-May after Bonn reached out to her after seeing the recent college gradu- ates unable to find jobs due to the pandemic. In May, the Vermont legislature passed a bill that created a food relief program to assist Vermont families impacted by the pandemic.

Volunteer Philip Muller, who lives in the Brattleboro area, was inspired by similar programs that have been distributed by the state, and he started distributing meals to those in need.

If people feel they need to ask for help, Muller said, they will be granted access. He said, "Everyone Eats" will change this perception.

The food-relief program was inspired by similar programs that have been distributed by the state. Muller started distributing meals to those affected by the pandemic.

If the funding comes through, Muller said, he would expand the program through December, at which point, he said, the restaurant will need to be open.

Many community leaders and organizations are working together to ensure that those in need have access to food.

The Legislature approved using $20 million of the state’s share of the federal CARES Act funding for the Everyone Eats program across the state.

"We created this to help the food-relief programs in Vermont," Muller said.

He said that the program operates on three pillars to distribute meals to those in need: food, funding, and volunteers.

Volunteer Kiera King organized the program, and she said, "It’s not just about hospitals being taken care of. It’s not just about people who are getting exposed. It’s about feeding those who need it."

Muller said that the program is run on a first-come-first-served basis, and he said that he has been down, and he knows what it’s like.

"I believe the program will help communities and find solutions to the pandemic," Muller said. "I see that the program is helping people put meals on the table, and it’s helping them to be more hopeful."

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Vermont community to come together and support one another. The program is run on a first-come-first-served basis, and it is open to everyone.

The food-relief program is open to everyone, and no one is taking a loss, Muller said. "We’re reaching out to our friends and family, and we’re asking for help. We hope to bring people together and create a sense of community."

The food-relief program is run on a first-come-first-served basis, and if there are not enough meals for everyone, Muller will go back to his local restaurants and get more food.

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The Commons  • Wednesday, August 12, 2020

648 Putney, VT
To view her full obituary, visit atamaniuk.com.

MILESTONES
Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

Ray Hill. An early visionary in the while also opening a ski lodge on he started a small construction and Upon moving to Vermont in 1969, College and started his career work-
Grinold. He attended West Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 28, 1940, the son of
Corinne was also a graduate of the of 15, before attending Yale-New
Wilmot and her husband, Gay, of Woodville, and her brother, Bob, of Guilford, is also
Corinne was born on Aug. 27, 1947, to Isabel
and the garden, and the wedding took place in the
45 high schools participated in
life in the spring of 2021. There will be a service to celebrate
Corinne is also
MILESTONES
Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

FOR ADOPTION

I am a very sweet young man that was
Please call us at 802-254-2232 for more info or to make an appointment. You can be submitted at

have a question? We are here to help! Our goal is to provide the best possible customer service to our local community. We are open by appointment only.

To make a payment online, please visit our website or call us at 802-457-4250. You can also mail your payment to our office at 207 Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301.

RFPL now offers holdage services. To learn more about this service, please call us at 802-254-2232. Holdage requires a payment of $25 per item of call for more information.

To learn more about the library’s film series, please visit our website or call us at 802-254-2232. The library also offers a variety of other services, including

We would like to thank our sponsors and community members for their continued support of the library.

MONTPELIER — In re-

In the event of a default in any one installment, the entire amount then due shall be immediately due and payable by the borrower and shall bear interest at 1 percent per month, or 12 percent per annum, whichever is

The library is open for regular business hours from Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. During the hours of 3 pm to 5 pm, the library is closed for cleaning and maintenance.

For safest transactions, please call us at 802-254-2232 or visit our website for more information on how to pay back your fines and fees.
**Thursday**

**Music**

- **The Quarantine Sessions** - Jed Blume... Housing Lender

**Ride and families**

- **Newfane**

**Arts and community**

- **CALENDAR**

**Friday**

**Music**

- **Kampfires Cajun Fest**

**Arts and shows**

- **The written word**

**Kids and families**

- **Open IGIC**

**Saturday**

**Recreation**

- **Bromfield Indoor Scooter Rink**

**Arts and shows**

- **The written word**

**Sunday**

**Music**

- **In the groove paint night**

**Arts and shows**

- **The written word**

**Monday**

**Community building**

- **~ WEDNESDAY **

**Tuesday**

**Community building**

- **~ TUESDAY **

**Wednesday**

**What Makes Vermont Strong?**

The communities that Brattleboro Savings & Loan serve has shown us what makes Vermont Strong these past few months:

**We know our neighbors.**

This is no small thing, but it’s easy to take for granted. We’ve worked to each other and stop to talk at the store or the post office.

This simple truth helps us to grow our community empathy and sense of connection. Thank you all for being patient with each other and us.

We want to hear what you think makes Vermont Strong. Please go to: bratbank.com/vermontstrong

With branches in Brattleboro, Wilmington and Bondville

(802) 254-5333 | BratBank.com

Exclusively: $218,000
Switch your propane to Sandri and get your first 100 ... promote your business in the next issue of The Commons, call us at 888-511-5150 or e-mail ads@commonsnews.org.

Renaissance, and Baroque music and the new” by fusing her artist Annie Gårlid. Classically portative aural worlds.”

Harlo and Valise, are solo artists, the featured performers, UCC Harlo, according to a news release, the performance member of Bathsheba Petrie, since 2014. Glikk Classically trained in both voice and voice, Gilgof “promises resonant recollections between the old and the new” by fusing her own performances of modernism, Rationalism, and Baroque music. Mesmerizing with her own contemporary dance music, she is known for her AGH and KGB-inspired soundscapes.

Harlo’s darkly and highly atmospheric compositions hold a space out of time when human voices and bow strings effortlessly harmonize.”

Harlo and Valise’s Atlanta Harlo Ensemble has been featured with Corinna Barbara, Bill Keough, and Empyres. As a writer and musician, she has performed nationally, and her collaboration with Valise is the multimedia performance project Murals, a New York based artist, vocalist, producer, dancer, and educator. Selling the idea of new possibilities in music and futures, live music of enchanted humanoid beings is continuous and proceeding from spirit.

These are the “music of the world” and“music of the mind” of Harlo and Valise’s Atlanta Harlo Ensemble has been featured with Corinna Barbara, Bill Keough, and Empyres. As a writer and musician, she has performed nationally, and her collaboration with Valise is the multimedia performance project Murals, a New York based artist, vocalist, producer, dancer, and educator. Selling the idea of new possibilities in music and futures, live music of enchanted humanoid beings is continuous and proceeding from spirit.

Synthesizing sound, video, sculpture, and immersive performance, Murals works to “sublicate” humanistic multiple-sensory environments with technology.

Murals performs collaboratively with artists and visual artist Elif Varusen, and also works as an educator at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design. Scenting is limited, so advance planning is strongly encouraged.

Simulation and futures, live music of enchanted humanoid beings is continuous and proceeding from spirit.

Paintings of Carol Aronson-Shore will be on display at 39 North Gallery in Chester. Aronson-Shore’s art, which is currently on view in a starred review as “A shining moment on a dark night,” is the featured artist at the 39 North Gallery in Chester.

According to a news release, the book has been widely reviewed to, and a story of falling in love. It is also a story of being scared up a house, music, and aging. That is a story of motherhood, sisterhood, fixing what she planned. It is a story of what she waked a different person, with an incredible artistic talent of her own, the two of them. The story of Simon who, after almost 20 years, White woke up and decided to go on the road, leaving Stella behind.

According to the starred review in Kirkus Reviews, “Herndon Ensemble and has collaborated with Caterina Barbieri, Bill Kouligas, and Emptyset. As a writer and musicologist, she studied the entanglements of technology and ecology. A writer and musicologist, she studied the entanglements of technology and ecology.

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**COLUMN**

**Why identify an artist’s skin color?**

Many now argue that it is time for white people to stop depicting Black people, who need to tell their own stories and make their own art. But if one is moved by art to take action, does it matter who made it?

A friend agreed. “Just as harvest is the season when any creative artist offers portraits of their loved ones, it is hard to ignore reality when your loved ones are dying, and heightened awareness can preclude necessary dialogue around race relations as well as the social function of art.”

The publisher’s decision was based on a firm belief that without realistic depictions of Black people, it was impossible for the public to tell their own stories and make their own art. The art writer’s responsibility, the publisher explained, is to open doors for Black artists so that their work might have equal exposure and heightened awareness, inspiring grants and exhibitions that elevate some voices over others.

When asked why the publisher would not consider an artist’s skin color? “Artistic preference is a way to create, fund, and celebrate the processes of evaluating the Police Department and associated public safety concerns, as an earnest, well-meaning, and fundamentally non-partisan craft.”

**VIEWPOINT**

**A manifestly undemocratic proposal**

In Brattleboro, activists are proposing a system for police and public safety reform that elevates voices over others. We all have a stake in public safety.

**T**he Community Proposal, to be considered by the Selectboard, offers a comprehensive, fair, and democratic proposal for Black artists to make their own art. The proposal is designed to move over and create space for Black people to take action, do something, and tell their own stories.

**FRANZ REICHSMAN** (a number of Brattleboro’s Representatives and Like-minded) presented at the meeting.

The United States is in trouble, and with his response to the COVID-19 crisis, Donald Trump’s credibility is dropping like a brick in a pond.

When your loved ones are dying, it is hard to ignore reality.

The United States is in trouble, and with his response to the COVID-19 crisis, Donald Trump’s credibility is dropping like a brick in a pond.
Viewpoint

Public comments can forestall a discriminatory rule

HUD is trying to change the rules to let shelters place trans people in facilities based on their sex, not their gender identity. But a forfeiture policy that the Department of Housing and Urban Development plans to propose this month would do far more harm than good. The move is unnecessary and flies in the face of decades of precedent and existing protections for transgender people – and it will only increase the number of transgender people who are forced to live on the streets.

Johanna Kendrack - Al

uses art as her weapon to fight for transgender rights.

(Constellation Communities)

The proposed policy reconsiders protections for transgender people provided under the Fair Housing Act, which bans discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity at housing accommodations. The new policy would allow for facilities to be designated simply as “female” or “male,” and would not require facilities to be designated as either “female” or “male,” a separate designation, or as transgender friendly.

There is no question that transgender people need protections. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) should be doing everything it can to ensure that all transgender people have access to safe and affordable housing. There is an obvious conflict of interest between some of HUD’s other responsibilities and its mandate to protect the rights of all Americans, including transgender people. The agency has been imploring its citizens to make their voices heard for quite some time.

We urge everyone to make their voices heard to support people like Johanna Kendrack, who direct the organization that announced this policy. They are calling for comments to this proposed rule, which will likely be finalized in the coming months.

We will continue to ensure that our organization and others are the voices that protect the rights of all people, including transgender people. We will continue to work with Congress to ensure that this protection remains in place.

Commentators for this proposed change run for 60 days through Sept. 13, 2020.

For more information about how to respond to this proposed rule and which organizations are working to support transgender people, see also information from the National Center for Transgender Equality. The more the community, the更大community, engages with the proposed new policy, the better the chances of stopping this discriminatory rule from going into effect.

In the meantime, go to the Federal Register website, find the proposal, and comment on it before the comment period ends.

Join the Commons Crossword online!

The Hub crossword puzzle

FEMA and competence

We can only conclude that the Department of Housing and Urban Development does not have the competence to do its job. The process must begin, and is ongoing, to change the way housing policy is made. It is clear that the FHA now does not have the competency to protect people from discrimination.

FEMA and competence

It is clear that FEMA and other disaster response agencies need to be more competent in the future to ensure that all people are protected.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need, and that our organization and others are the voices that protect the rights of all people, including transgender people. We will continue to work with Congress to ensure that this protection remains in place.

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LORI FRANDINO

We are the only state to designate military weapons. Where are we today? Thursday, Aug. 6 and Friday, Aug. 7, marked 75 years since the execution of the U.S. atomic bombings. Why were the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the very same actor. This person was named comfort women. The women were known as "comfort women" because they were used by the military for sex. The illegal activities of comfort women continue to this day. The U.S. government officially apologized to the comfort women in 1995. However, the women themselves have not received formal apologies from the U.S. government.

There is a need for us to acknowledge and learn from our history. We must recognize and tell the truth about our participation in these atrocities. It is important for all people, it is important for us to recognize and learn from our history.

Scott Cooper

Ready to receive?
No need to set your customers know!
After The Last Healing
We can manage your web and can spend, by helping one another.

QUESTIONS?

Patient, Sympathetic Coaching

Status, Inpatient, Patient, Outpatient

Macs • Windows

iPad • Tablets

Local Owned

- Residential and Commodore -
Our Own In-house Installation Team

Ceramic • Hardwood

Carpet

Sandy Golden

Brattleboro

Locally Owned

- Residential and Commodore -
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Ceramic • Hardwood

Carpet

Sandy Golden

Brattleboro
Lawmakers pivot in response to a pandemic

For one state senator, the COVID-19 challenge reinforced her belief that local government officials should be given more independence to make decisions that affect their communities.

We worked with our emergency medical services to ensure their survival through the pandemic, creating now-systems to ensure they can serve others in need and train new personnel. We aimed to make sure that the public could access public health officials and were protected from misinformation.

We addressed the issues of the primary and pre-kindergarten age groups and worked to ensure that children were safe and could continue their education.

We worked with the U.S. census folks and heard from them about the importance of a complete and accurate census and how the data will be used to make informed decisions in the future.

When racial disparities affect public health

Vermonters have among the lowest number of overall COVID-19 cases, but that doesn’t mean everyone is doing well. We need to make sure that we have accurate and comprehensive pictures of how the pandemic has impacted our community members of color in Windham County and statewide.

When racial disparities affect public health

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Community members of color in Windham County have been impacted by the pandemic in a number of ways.

Members of color have been systematically excluded from participating in the economy and have faced higher rates of poverty.

Community members of color have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, with higher rates of hospitalization and death.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience housing instability, with higher rates of eviction and homelessness.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience food insecurity, with higher rates of hunger and malnutrition.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience mental health issues, with higher rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience violence, with higher rates of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience educational disparities, with higher rates of absenteeism and lower rates of graduation.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience employment disparities, with higher rates of unemployment and lower rates of wage.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience criminal justice disparities, with higher rates of arrest and incarceration.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience environmental disparities, with higher rates of pollution and exposure to toxic substances.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience social determinants of health, with higher rates of lack of access to health care, education, and social support.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience political disparities, with higher rates of voter suppression and lack of representation.

Community members of color have been more likely to experience cultural disparities, with higher rates of discrimination and lack of cultural competence.

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