

# ONE TOWN STRUGGLES WITH HOUSING ISSUES

Londonderry debates rules on short-term rentals and takes a broader look at methods to prevent young people and workers from being priced out of their own community

By Ellen Pratt  
The Commons

LONDONDERRY—Short-term rentals (STRs), like those listed on websites like Airbnb and VRBO, are adversely affecting the housing market. That's according to the town's "Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy" report, published in April.

responsible, STRs have contributed to rising housing prices and a decline in the availability of long-term rental housing.

There are more than 300 active short-term rentals in the Londonderry area, an increase of 62% over the past three years, as reported in the needs assessment.

The Selectboard is considering a short-term rental ordinance that would limit the number of

STRs a property owner can have.

At the Sept. 18 Selectboard meeting, William Sinsigalli of South Londonderry explained that his neighbor is in the process of subdividing his property with the goal of developing several short-term rentals.

"These 'Airbnb farms' are not appropriate for a neighborhood, or the town," Sinsigalli said. He suggested that the board include language in the

ordinance "to show we're trying to put in place some limits on ownership, how many units are appropriate."

Meeting participants agreed that the town's ordinance language requiring STR owners to register their properties with the town and pay a yearly registration fee would be a good first step in understanding their impact.

■ SEE HOUSING, A3

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Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, September 20, 2023 • Vol. XVIII, No. 38 • Issue No. 732 [commonnews.org](http://commonnews.org)

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# Brattleboro to run its own EMS

Selectboard spurns Rescue Inc. proposal and unanimously approves municipal fire-based model for emergency services

By Virginia Ray  
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The Selectboard has voted unanimously to pursue a municipal-based model to provide the town's emergency medical services (EMS), choosing it over starting a new contract with Rescue Inc.

Staff members recommended the town model, saying it outperforms any other model investigated, including Rescue, by nearly \$1.2 million over five years.

Town Manager John Potter said before the vote on Sept. 19 that staff members recommended the municipal model knowing that "for some in our community, this will be a deep disappointment."

Potter said they made the decision based on "quality patient care, sound finances, a unified approach to public safety, and the importance of public oversight." "I like Rescue," he said. "What I don't like is the Rescue proposal and how it compares with the municipal model."

He called the recommendation "the difficult but responsible decision."

Not all in the audience, which included an overflowing in-person crowd and about 45 attending via Zoom, agreed.

One was local lawyer William Kraham, who also spoke at a Sept. 12 public forum, when he noted Rescue had saved his life after sudden cardiac arrest.

Kraham accused board members of having "predetermined" the outcome of the six-month deep dive into town-based versus third-party EMS models.

Saying the town had "no intention of giving serious consideration" to Rescue, Kraham also said the town "hijacked" the public forum by bringing the staff members' recommendation to the floor out of the gate and having 11 department heads speak to it.

As he did at the forum, Kraham read from the town charter's preamble, noting the line "respecting the will of the people."

"Do the people want Rescue? Do the people want you to spend ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] money? [...] This isn't your money, this is our money," he said, adding a final question: "Do you have the courage to respect the will of the people?"

Kraham then delivered a petition signed by 425 residents asking the board to choose Rescue.

"Don't make a decision," he said, accusing the board of having said in the past, "We'll do what we want."

"Let the town vote," Kraham said.

Next steps include spending up to \$1.375 million in ARPA money for startup expenses. Some of those expenses include hiring an EMS supervisor and more firefighter/EMTs to be ready by July 2024 and buying three new ambulances.

Use of this amount of ARPA money will leave about \$1.4 million in that fund for other projects. Suggestions from the public for how to spend the remaining money will be welcomed at

■ SEE FIRE-BASED EMS, A2



Brattleboro fire trucks parked next to the Municipal Center, as the Selectboard met on Sept. 19.



Rescue Inc. Chief of Operations Drew Hazelton stood outside the Selectboard hearing room on Sept. 19 to listen to the debate over providing emergency medical services in Brattleboro.



Brattleboro Assistant Fire Chief Charles Keir, and about 20 off-duty firefighters listen to public comments during the Sept. 19 Selectboard meeting.

# Galbraith to reflect on role of the U.S. in a fast-changing world



Former Ambassador Peter Galbraith, seen here at the Windham World Affairs Council's 60th anniversary celebration in 2021, will deliver the WWAC's annual Galbraith Lecture on Sept. 27 at Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro.

The former diplomat takes up the concept of the American century at his annual Windham World Affairs Council lecture

By Annie Landenberger  
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—For years, former Ambassador Peter Galbraith has given an annual talk to the Windham World Affairs Council (WWAC). These talks have usually focused on the various hot spots in the Middle East and the U.S. role in places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria.

This year's annual Galbraith Lecture, set for Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 6:30 p.m., at Centre Congregational Church, will take a wider view of U.S. foreign policy. The talk — titled "Is the

American Century Over? Can America Still Lead the World? And Should It?" — will be moderated by constitutional scholar and Marlboro College Professor Emerita Meg Mott.

Galbraith told the *The Commons* that his talk is intended to dial listeners in on tough questions about America's future.

"I had the advantage, the rare benefit, of being an ambassador [in Croatia] in the 1990s at a time where the U.S. was at its max in terms of power and influence in the world," he said.

"In its entire history, it was the apogee of the American Century, the 20th century. After all, the Soviet Union had disappeared and

the American ideal of a democratic world was widespread," Galbraith continued. "China was a much less important country in the 1990s than it is today — less powerful and not immune to democratic forces that were sweeping the world."

Galbraith recalled that during his time in Croatia he "was serving in a country that had been a dictatorship until 1991. A lot of what I did was to promote democracy."

That, he lamented, has changed as the United States is no longer seen as a standard-bearer of democracy.

"Freedom House, a fairly

■ SEE GALBRAITH, A6

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A publication of Vermont Independent Media

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

EDITORIAL

NEWSROOM Randolph T. Holhut, News Editor Elizabeth Julia Stoumen, Calendar and Proofreading Heather Taylor, Copy Editor

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Virginia Ray, Joyce Marcel, Olga Peters, Fran Lynggaard Hansen, Robert Smith, Megan Applegate, Annie Landenberger, Dot Grover-Read, Victoria Chertok, Deborah Lee Luskin, Elaine Cliff, Kevin O'Connor, Alyssa Grosso, Thelma O'Brien

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

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Deadline for the September 27 issue September 22



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

Fire-based EMS

FROM SECTION FRONT

a Sept. 28 budget open house, Potter said.

Selectboard supports staff recommendation

From the start of the meeting and to a person, Selectboard members stated they planned to vote in favor of the town-based model, in part causing many speakers to then say the outcome had been "predetermined."

Board member Elizabeth "Liz" McLoughlin, noting the Brattleboro Fire Department has been providing service for 14 months with support from Golden Cross, whose contract expires in July 2024, pointed out that each month of that time period the Selectboard had charted progress and details of service.

"The Brattleboro Fire Department is ready, willing, and very able," she said.

McLoughlin noted the fire/EMS union supports the plan, and ambulances can be "readily obtained." She noted the fire department is not too busy to take on the added work, saying that just 8% of calls are fire-related.

The town will keep the insurance fees from the ambulance service, so that revenue will pay for any added personnel costs.

McLoughlin called use of the federal money made available post-pandemic "a valid and valuable use of ARPA funds[...]" and investment in Brattleboro's future.

She said using the money now will help prepare the town for future "climate change" and "resiliency" in the face of potential catastrophic climate-related events.

"This comprehensive emergency team is an exciting opportunity [...] the best thing for Brattleboro now and in the future," McLoughlin said, adding having EMS under town control "is a good thing."

She also said that, sometimes, rural regional models are best but that indications are that Brattleboro has "outgrown" that model. She cited the "magnitude difference" in several hundred EMS calls annually in previous years to 3,000 in the past year.

Selectboard member Franz Reichsman noted that a year ago, "things didn't have to go exactly the way they did, with disruption and ill feelings and confusion."

Reichsman said the town needs to be "more open and less judgmental," among other things.

Praising Rescue's excellence,

he said there would need to be "a basis for repairing" the town's relationship with Rescue, which he said "is simply absent."

"Mediation is not going to bear fruit if the two sides are not operating from a position of mutual respect," which, he said, is not present "at this time."

Noting he had made up his mind about which plan to support only in the past week, he noted again that even with startup costs, the municipal model is projected to be less expensive over the next five years than Rescue's proposal.

Reichsman said he hopes folks will "wish the town well" and support the decision.

Selectboard member Peter Case also acknowledged "the alienation this vote will cause," and noted he didn't like that.

"Some of you will be mad for a few weeks because of this vote, but once it's done, it's done," Case said. "You always have the next election if you don't like the decision made here tonight."

"I know both the fire department and Rescue Inc. are well-liked and well-respected," said board member Daniel Quipp, saying he found it "fascinating" to hear from the public "we already know what you think."

He said he "heard clearly" that many wanted to contract with Rescue and that until one day before the vote he had been "wrestling" with that desire in the face of what he believes will be more "accountability to taxpayers" through the municipal option.

Quipp also said that the fire-based EMS would also be a "more efficient use" of the fire department, which he said would be "well-placed" to take on the full responsibility including EMS and "do it well."

He also said another positive for him is policy and noted the revenue model for the town-run service can work with "a few different rates," which would be set by the town, as opposed to choosing Rescue Inc., which would have set rates for those using the EMS itself.

"[The Selectboard] will get the opportunity to set a rate that's appropriate for the taxpayer [...] and the person who needs the ambulance care," Quipp said, adding the municipal model works without "chasing people who are on Medicare down for every little penny."

Quipp added that he has tried "to make our revenue model not work," but the bottom line never turns up more expensive than the



Local lawyer William Kraham speaks to the Selectboard in favor of Rescue Inc.

proposal from Rescue.

After spending several hours on Sunday with the fire department, he believes that when all EMS is under one roof, "a level of teamwork" that is "really beneficial to patient care" exists.

As to startup costs, he said, "they are high, but they're one-time costs."

"I believe there's plenty in the municipal option to say 'yes' to, and that's what I'll be saying 'yes' to," Quipp said.

Board Chair Ian Goodnow, who had corresponded on behalf of the board when the fallout with Rescue occurred, expressed "regret" about how the process began when the contract concluded with Rescue, although he said he still stands by his vote in 2022.

"The way it occurred should have been better for the public and the municipal staff, including the fire department," Goodnow said. "I don't regret that we've undertaken this thorough investigation."

He added that the board has a "duty to ensure we're providing the best possible service" to align with what the town has evolved to be in the past several years.

Citing "quality of care, fiscal responsibility, and transparency and accountability" as prime factors for him, Goodnow said that while there are risks to the adopted model, there were risks in

all of the models considered and he is "confident" this is the best direction for the town.

"I also believe this essential service being owned by the town and known by the people is also critical," he said.

Weighing in

Comments from those attending were nearly as equal in support of Rescue as for having the town control emergency services with the Brattleboro Fire Department.

Carolyn Conrad noted her frustration and also was of the opinion that board members had made up their minds early on.

She called the decision "short-sighted" and said she'd prefer that ARPA money be invested in the police department.

Resident David Levenbach noted a 2021 Representative Town Meeting vote that called for a process and "systematic effort to ascertain public preferences" to spend ARPA money and said such was promised.

He called spending ARPA money now "evidence of your bad faith" and said Rescue's proposal costs are higher now because the town ended the relationship last year.

Several speakers called for "working things out" with Rescue, saying it was a "personality" thing.



From left, Selectboard members Peter Case and Franz Reichsman, Chair Ian Goodnow, Town Manager John Potter, and Selectboard members Elizabeth McLoughlin and Daniel Quipp listen to public comments at the board's Sept. 19 meeting.

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Others questioned whether the Brattleboro Fire Department would be ready to take on the EMS work and hiring the needed EMS director and seven new people by July 2024.

"The Brattleboro Department is ready," said Fire Chief Leonard Howard, adding that the needed extra personnel will be in place when the program starts. "I wouldn't be sitting here tonight telling you to do this if I didn't know we could do it."

Rescue Chief of Operations Drew Hazelton did not speak, but was seen listening to the meeting from the hallway. Numerous firefighters attended the meeting, and fire trucks were parked outside.

Reasons for the town-based model

The town studied municipal and third-party models for Emergency Medical Service delivery models over the past six months, planning to vote in September.

Scheduling a decision this month allowed ample time for a thorough investigation of the potential models and for the town to incorporate the financial impact of the decision into the fiscal year 2025 General Fund budget.

Plus, the town is more likely to receive needed equipment — including three ambulances — ordered in time for the transition. Golden Cross's contract expires in July 2024.

Potter noted he's served as an EMT as well and lauded their work.

"I think we share a collective thank-you to all of these people," he said.

Two private contractors responded to a Request for Proposals in August. American Medical Response (AMR) of Massachusetts proposed a dedicated, fully contracted model. That was deemed not suitable for Brattleboro's needs.

Rescue Inc. of Brattleboro, which proposed a shared hybrid model, had served the town for 56 years prior to a falling out that culminated in a Selectboard vote to cancel their contract effective July 1, 2022.

In a memo from town staff, members found the Rescue model did "not allow the town any say in the billing rates charged for ambulance services. There is also a limited amount of uncertainty about the exact amount of revenue that will be earned with the municipal alternative, but that is why a revenue range has been employed throughout the analysis."

The memo goes on to state that the Selectboard, "as the elected representatives of the people, must be satisfied that the chosen model is financially responsible. In this case, the municipal model is more than just satisfactory, it is by far the best financial option available. Not only does the municipal EMS alternative outperform the Rescue Inc. proposal year-after-year, but it also covers most or all the ARPA startup costs within five years, a great return on a resilience investment for the town."

It continued: "The town as an organization has worked hard over the years to develop an internal culture, one that is focused on hard work, cooperation, and service to the public. This is evident on the scene of any emergency; all hands go on deck, and the silos that define each of the different public safety departments disappear.

"Maintaining EMS within this unified public safety system is key to present-day efficiency and an important element of resilience and future response posture as the town continues to adapt our capabilities to a changing world."

Staff members stated they believe "a strong system in Brattleboro can, in turn, be ready to better help our neighboring communities. This right of self-determination is closely akin to another fundamental benefit of the municipal model, public oversight.

"Like every municipal government, Brattleboro delivers essential services and does so in a manner that the public has come to expect, and should rightfully be able to demand, with transparency and accountability."

The memo goes on to emphasize that all voices will be heard as the process of the town directing its own EMS develops.

"Staff would like to take a moment and acknowledge that the decision before the Selectboard is not an easy or straightforward one, [and] there are difficult and conflicting factors at play," it states.

"There are high levels of emotion surrounding the change to relationships with Rescue, Inc. [...] Please, in reviewing this recommendation, understand that town staff hear you. [...] Please also understand that this recommendation is not about the past, it is entirely focused on what is best for Brattleboro in the future and, for this, staff wholeheartedly recommends the preferred alternative."



## Housing

Many Vermont towns are grappling with how to regulate STRs. At least 20 towns have talked about new rules in the past year, *Seven Days* reported last month.

One town, Chester, requires STR owners to register with the town, pay a registration fee, and abide by state health and safety regulations. The town is using this registry as a way to collect information on short-term rentals in town.

The town has put a six-month moratorium on new short-term rentals whose owners don't live on the property. Beginning Oct. 1, this "pause" is intended to give the town time to consider how and whether to move from a registry to regulating STRs, according to Town Planner Preston Bristow.

Seven STRs operate in the Stone Village area of Chester.

"The biggest driver of concern is that the Stone Village would be hollowed out," Bristow said.

Burlington's short-term rental ordinance, enacted in 2022, goes further than Chester's.

Not only do STR owners have to register and pay a 9% tax, but short-term rental units in Burlington must also be on the same lot as the owner's primary residence, with some exceptions.

The new ordinance also includes enforcement measures not included in the previous law.

### A revolving door

Acknowledging the tension between welcoming tourism and preserving neighborhood character and livability — one purpose of Londonderry's STR ordinance — Melissa Brown, a member of the Selectboard, said that "what we can't forget is that this town, and all the mountain towns, have a history of seasonal rentals. We're in the ski business."

"But it's changed," Brown continued.

"It used to be somebody would rent for an entire season. They became part of the community. They became your neighbors. You actually looked forward to them coming back year after," he said.

"Now it's a revolving door," Brown said. "It's a different person almost every night, and there are no connections being made."

The Selectboard asked community members to consult with a lawyer and bring suggestions for ordinance language to their next meeting.

Regulating STRs is one part of Londonderry's larger discussion about housing.

According to the town's housing needs assessment, Londonderry "faces an immediate need for new, improved, and alternative housing for up to 315 households."

That number, the report said, includes "nearly 190 households that are struggling with housing expenses and nearly 50 workforce households that are absent from the town because of the lack of attainable housing."

Addressing that challenge is the charge of the town's Housing Commission, which was formed to guide the town through implementation of 19 strategies outlined in the report.

Commission members, who first met on Sept. 14, recognize their task is not easy.

"It seems like an intractable problem," said Paul Abraham, one of seven members of the commission, in a recent interview with *The Commons*. "It's a Gordian knot, and we aren't Alexander with a sword to just cut it."

### 'There are no longer any quarter-million dollar houses'

Like many Vermont towns, Londonderry is facing a housing crisis that is multifaceted and complex.

One fundamental problem: As is the case in larger areas, housing prices there have increased at a much faster rate than income.

"There are no longer any quarter million dollar houses," said Abraham. The median home sales price in Londonderry in 2022 was \$414,500, a 67% increase from 2016.

With a stagnant median household income of \$65,166 (compared to the state's median of \$68,916), the typical Londonderry resident could afford a home with a maximum sales price of \$257,600 and not be "housing cost-burdened," i.e., paying more than 30% of their income on housing.

As the result of the "affordability gap" — the \$156,949 difference — this "missing middle" housing is what's needed in town, Abraham noted.

Londonderry, home to Magic Mountain and not far from Stratton Mountain Resort, is nonetheless relatively affordable compared to other resort communities. For these reasons, it attracts seasonal residents, who occupy four out of 10 housing units in the town.

According to the town needs assessment, from 2010 to 2020, the number of rentals and homes for seasonal residents increased by nearly 32%.

That leap has upset the balance between seasonal housing and housing that is available and affordable to local households and workers.

Tourism drives the local economy, but many businesses report that they are unable to attract and retain workers due to the lack of housing. As a result, businesses are open for fewer hours, limiting their offerings or moving towards a seasonal approach. Most workers in Londonderry commute from outside the community.

Like what the state is doing to address the homelessness crisis, Stratton Mountain Resort is addressing its employee housing problem by contracting with local motels. According to the *Manchester Journal*, in the past two years, Stratton Mountain has housed seasonal employees in the Econo Lodge and the Chalet Motel, a Travelodge in Manchester.

### Seniors need housing, too

The aging of Londonderry's population has created what Abraham calls "over housed" seniors, who would downsize or relocate to more suitable housing that better meets their needs if such housing were available.

Almost a quarter of Londonderry's 1,919 residents are between the ages of 65 and 74, the fastest growing cohort in the town.

When this population of "empty-nesters" and retirees can't move, there's less turnover in housing and fewer housing units available for workforce and families.

High construction costs and a shortage of labor, problems felt throughout the state, also contribute to the town's lack of housing.

"I can tell you from personal experience, finding a contractor around here is really hard," said Abraham. "You're gonna wait months to get somebody to respond. Some of my neighbors have had to reach out to companies in Massachusetts who might have a bit more capacity."

Tradespeople "can't afford to live here," he said.

Housing construction in the village is also hampered by the lack of a community wastewater disposal system, which can handle higher-density development. Londonderry is one of 200 villages in the state that lack this capacity.

In 2022 the town was awarded \$7.9 million from Vermont's nearly \$30 million appropriated for village water and wastewater initiatives across the state. Grant funds from this program — funded by the American Rescue Plan Act — will be used for project implementation, including property acquisition and system construction.

The Village Wastewater Committee, appointed by the Selectboard, is evaluating potential locations for systems in both Londonderry and South Londonderry.

Abraham noted that siting wastewater treatment facilities can be a problem, given the location of the town center.

"Most communities in Vermont are along roads, which tend to follow the rivers. We've got limited space in fragile areas," he said.

### 'How do you fix a problem this complicated?'

Acknowledging that "this is a marathon, not a sprint," Abraham outlined several strategies the town is undertaking to address the housing crisis.

The Selectboard is in the process of updating the town's 2009 bylaws. According to Abraham, the revised bylaws will be consistent with the new Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone

FROM SECTION FRONT

(HOME) Act, signed by Gov. Phil Scott on June 5.

This act amends the Planning & Development statute, Act 250, and other laws to enable higher density development in areas served by local sewer and water, and it allows for duplexes in areas already zoned for single-family housing.

Allowing for the construction of this "missing middle" housing will help to close the affordability gap, according to Abraham.

Several strategies outlined in the town's needs assessment involve additional funding.

One such strategy is a voluntary deed restriction program, which typically provides a financial incentive to a property owner to sell a restriction on their property. The restriction could ensure that the property could be owned only by someone living in a predetermined location — like the town, for example.

Woodstock's Local Deeds program, established by the Woodstock Community Trust, does just that.

According to the project website, Local Deeds aims to "protect housing for families and individuals who live and work or will work in the town year-round" by paying up to 16% of the property's fair-market value in exchange for a permanent deed restriction.

The program, which is in its fundraising stage, will launch in the next few weeks, according to Jill Davies, the project leader.

Creating a local housing fund, dedicated to creating housing in town, is another strategy outlined in Londonderry's needs assessment. Such a fund could be funded by a portion of the town budget or by establishing new dedicated funding streams.

"If Londonderry does create a housing trust fund, it's possible that a grant from that fund might ultimately be combined with a "10% in Vermont" loan for a specific housing project," said Leslie Black-Plumeau, research and community relations manager with the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

The "10% in Vermont" program allows the state treasurer's office to invest up to 10% of the state's cash deposits for economic development and job creation in the form of low-interest loans.

On Sept. 13, State Treasurer Mike Picciak announced \$55.5 million in housing investments from this fund.

"Sometimes communities use housing trust fund money to help close the gap that a local affordable housing developer is facing between the total development costs and funding sources available to the project," said Black-Plumeau. "The '10% for Vermont' funds administered by VHFA will be one of the funding sources that developers like this might use."

### A plea to sell to locals

With the Selectboard addressing zoning, Londonderry's Housing Commission will focus on public education efforts, said Abraham.

Such efforts will include developing a web portal with links to housing-related resources and information to find, build, and improve housing in the community.

Public education also will involve "getting the word out to folks" to consider selling to local

## BRATTLEBORO

# Fall water main flushing begins on Friday, Sept. 22

BRATTLEBORO—Utilities Division crews from the Department of Public Works will start fall flushing of the town water mains on Friday, Sept. 22 at 10 p.m. and continue work through Friday, Oct. 13.

Some daytime flushing will continue throughout the week of Oct. 6-13.

Customers are asked to check the flushing schedule closely, as flushing causes water discoloration, low water pressure, and, in some areas, periods of no water.

Water main flushing will occur during both night (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.) and day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). If there are questions, call the DPW at 802-254-4255.

### Schedule

• **Friday, Sept. 22** — Night: Marlboro Road area and Western Avenue from the Chelsea Royal Diner on Marlboro Road to Melrose Street and Stockwell Drive. Water will be off for several hours on Carriage Hill, Yorkshire Circle, and Hampshire Circle.

• **Saturday, Sept. 23** — Night: Western Avenue from Edward Heights to I-91. Water will be off for several hours on Signal Hill, Hillcrest Terrace, Carriage Hill, Hampshire Circle, Yorkshire Circle, Greenleaf Street, Country Hill, Green Meadow, South Street, Thayer Ridge, West Village Meeting House, New England Drive, and Brattle Street.

• **Sunday, Sept. 24** — Night: Western Avenue from I-91 to Green Street/Crosby Street/Williams Street area. Water will be off for several hours on Signal Hill, Hillcrest Terrace, Solar Hill, Greenhill Parkway, Brattle Street, and New England Drive.

• **Monday, Sept. 25** — Day: Carriage Hill. Night: Bonnyvale Road, Glen Street, Cedar Street, Spruce Street area, Greenhill Parkway, Chestnut Hill, Green Street, High Street, and School Street area.

• **Tuesday, Sept. 26** — Night: Guilford Street, Signal Hill, Hillcrest Terrace, Maple Street, Chestnut Street, and Esteyville area, and Sherwood Hollow and Westgate.

• **Wednesday, Sept. 27** — Night: Canal Street from Fairview Street south to John Seitz Drive, Fairview Street, Ledgewood Heights, Winter Street, Fairground Road, Atwood Street, and Sunny Acres.

• **Thursday, Sept. 28** — Day: SIT Graduate Institute, Dickinson Road, Kipling Road, and Black Mountain Road. Night: Canal Street from Main Street to Fairground Road, Lexington Avenue, Belmont Avenue, Horton Place, Homestead Place, Brook and Clark Street area, Flat Street, and Elliot Street (east end).

• **Friday, Sept. 29** — Night: Prospect Street, South Main Street, Marlboro Avenue area, Frost Street, Elliot Street (west end).

• **Saturday, Sept. 30** — Oak Grove Avenue and Pine Street area.

• **Sunday, Oct. 1** — Night: Washington Street area, South Main from Lawrence Street to Prospect Street.

• **Monday, Oct. 2** — Night: Cotton Mill Hill, Vernon Road, Morningside Commons.

• **Tuesday, Oct. 3** — Night: Oak Street area, Main Street area.

• **Wednesday, Oct. 4** — Night: Linden Street, Route 30, Putney Road from Park Place to Vermont Veterans Memorial Bridge. Vermont Avenue and Eaton Avenue, Terrace Street, Tyler Street, Walnut Street, and Wantastiquet Drive.

• **Thursday, Oct. 5** — Night: Putney Road from Vermont Veterans Memorial Bridge to Exit 3.

• **Friday, Oct. 6** — Day: Exit 1 and Old Guilford Road to Welcome Center. Night: Putney Road north of Exit 3, Old Ferry Road, Glen Orne Drive.

• **Friday, Oct. 13** — Flushing of the water mains in Tri-Park Cooperative Housing and Deepwood Park developments. Morning: Lower section to include Village Drive, Valley Road, Maplewood Drive, Edgewood Drive, Lynwood Drive, Reservoir Road, Hemlock Drive, and Woodvale and the lower part of Winding Hill Road. Afternoon: Upper section to include upper part of Winding Hill Road, Deepwood Park, Stonewall Drive, Record Drive, Autumn Hill, Windward Drive, and the rest of Lynwood Drive.

families as a way to improve the community.

"If the seller has five bids on the table and one of them is a local family, is that something they'd consider?" Abraham suggested.

Musing on the worst-case scenario for a town that doesn't address its housing crisis, Abraham painted a picture of a community where the next generation is priced out and can't afford to live there.

"Then it becomes a community of wealthy older folks who, in the end, have to move out because they have nobody to care for their properties," he said. "And they can't go to the local medical center because there's nobody staffing it."

"That's a dark, dystopian view, I know," Abraham continued. "It's not where we're at yet, but you can start to see it with the difficulty of getting professionals out here — electricians, plumbers, contractors, roofers."

But the market makes corrections.

"If you take an economic view of this," Abraham said, "the pendulum will swing back at some point."

He pointed to the increase in short-term rentals as an example.

"Folks that are doing STR buildouts on their properties may find themselves with a lot of empty buildings at some point in

time," Abraham said. "The economics would suggest that these property owners would then do something else."

"But those economic forces take a while to come to play," he cautioned. "I don't know that we have the patience to wait for that to happen. Which is why we're trying to do the right thing here for the missing middle."

"The solution is to have endurance — to stick with it," Abraham said. "And not lose faith or confidence in folks' ability to make a difference."

If you have to ask how much it costs, you can't afford it.

—J. P. MORGAN

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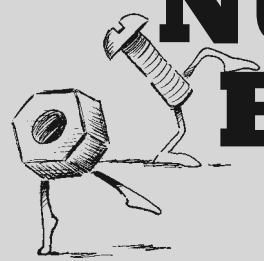
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## MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

### College news

The following local students were named to Ithaca (N.Y.) College Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester: **Cassidy Gallivan** of West Dover, **Mia Graff** of Brattleboro, **Robyn Jensen** of Brattleboro, **Alex Lier** of Brattleboro, **Sophia Renaud** of Guilford, and **Avery White** of Townshend.

The following local students were named to Southern New Hampshire University's President's List for the summer 2023 semester: **Miranda Blake** of Vernon, **Kobe Bazin** of Bellows Falls, **Ozzee Haskell** of Bellows Falls, and **Nolen Donovan** of Rockingham.

Elmira (N.Y.) College recently announced this year's recipients of its annual Key Award. This year's award was given to 783 students in 16 states, including **Priya Kitzmiller** of Brattleboro and **Genevieve Redmond** of Guilford. A tradition that goes back to 1935, the Key Award is presented to outstanding students in their junior year of high school or preparatory school.

### Obituaries



**Mary Barber, 76**. Died Aug. 31, 2023, at her home, after a courageous battle with a terminal illness with

her husband of 42 years and the love of her life, Clark Barber, by her side. She was born on Aug. 15, 1947 and raised in Bellows Falls, and she lived in the area until she moved to Concord, New Hampshire at the age of 68. She and Clark had their first date when she was 16 years old; they were reunited later in life and married in 1981. A graduate of Bellows Falls High School, she held a bachelor's degree from Vermont College of Norwich University and an associate's degree from the Community College of Vermont. She was a passionate teacher of reading and held a Reading Recovery certification from the University

of Vermont. She taught reading to elementary school children during her 30 years of teaching for both the Westminster and Windsor elementary schools. She was proud to have been listed in the publication Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1998, 2004, and 2005. Prior to her teaching career, Mary Barber was a reporter for the *Brattleboro Reformer*; the *Eagle Times* of Claremont, New Hampshire; the *Rutland Herald*; and the *Bellows Falls News-Review*. She also worked as an on-air reporter for WBFL radio and produced her own weekly news show, *The Rockingham Boardwalk*, for FACT-TV. Along with her fierce love of, and dedication to, her family, she was a lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox and devoted countless hours to her community, including her many years as a justice of the peace in Rockingham, as a member of Bellows Falls Elks Lodge #1619, as a poll worker for many elections, and as a member of both the Rockingham School Board and Windham Northeast Supervisory Union School Board. In addition to her husband and a brother, Stanley Marino Jr. of Keene, New Hampshire, Mary Barber leaves her daughters, Cheryl Reed Niyangoda (Sujith) of Norwell, Massachusetts and Tammy Armstrong (Jon) of Rockingham; her stepdaughters, Heidi Barber of Marshfield, Massachusetts, and Shelly Barber of Greensboro, North Carolina; her grandchildren, Daniel Armstrong (Samantha), Christopher Armstrong (Olivia), Ethan and Emilia Niyangoda, and Garrett Walker; and many nieces and nephews. She was also blessed to have spent time with her two great-granddaughters, Elnor and Lydia, and to have learned of a great-grandson-to-be. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emma (Baldasaro) and Stanley Marino Sr.; her sister, Rosemarie Shaughnessy; her brother, Joseph Marino; and an older brother who died at birth. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A Celebration of Life at the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 25 where people can drop in from 1 to 4 p.m. to remember and honor

Mary with family and friends. A Facebook event will be posted, and RSVPs will be much appreciated. Her family suggests a children's book donation in her name to the Rockingham Free Public Library or a local children's library of your choice, or a contribution to Grace Episcopal Church, 30 Eastman St., East Concord, NH 03301.



**Oliver William Hutchison, 21**, of Brattleboro and Westminster West. Died unexpectedly on Aug. 30,

2023. The beloved son of Lucy Burdo Hutchison and Charlie Hutchison, he was born on June 12, 2002 in Boston, and grew up in Jamaica Plain and Lexington, Massachusetts, before moving to Vermont in his early teens. He attended elementary school in Lexington and Sudbury Valley School in Framingham, Massachusetts, followed by Compass School in Westminster and, briefly, Brattleboro Union High School. He made good friends in all of these places. In 2018, Oliver became sick from the combination of Lyme and black mold poisoning. Over the next five years, he spent much of his time bedridden. He fought tenaciously for his health, researching and implementing every Western and complementary modality he and his parents could find. Oliver was a talented musician who played piano and guitar, composed his own songs, and loved to sing. He was inspired by the guitar skills of John Mayer. While at BUHS, he enjoyed chorus, Madrigals, and sang with the Shoulder Narrows a cappella group. With his innate curiosity, he quickly deciphered how to access the secret cash drawer at the old general store at his Westminster West home and on his own initiative, later converted his road bicycle into an electric one, even while he was sick. Oliver was intensely engaged with science and math and was an all around athlete from the moment he could crawl. He especially loved hockey, as well as hip-hop dancing, basketball and baseball (pitcher), as well as karate and yoga. Oliver's innate love and empathy for humanity and for all those he encountered was enormous. He wanted all to be free from suffering. To that end, he was passionate about social justice, and was especially interested in inventing innovative technologies to create healthy green buildings with clean air so others need not suffer the harmful effects of mold contamination. He was a healer by nature, and learned many naturopathic healing modalities which he implemented for his own healthcare. He held an enormous love and compassion for animals, and always advocated for them. Oliver was a bright light and huge heart to all who knew him in his brief time with us. In addition to his parents, Oliver is survived by loving Burdo aunts, uncles, and cousins in Vermont and Hutchison aunts in England. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A memorial service was held Sept. 16 at Dummerston Congregational Church. A private burial will be held at a future date. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society.

## Windham County Genealogy Interest Group offers research help

The next meeting of the Windham County Genealogy Interest Group (WCGIG) will focus on doing "Reasonably Exhaustive" research on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., by Zoom only. This program is free to all; register at [bit.ly/WCGIGSEPT23](https://bit.ly/WCGIGSEPT23). A Zoom link will be sent at least one week before the meeting.

Participants are welcome to pose any questions they have for the presenters when they register.

What is reasonably exhaustive genealogical research? According to the Genealogy Standards, genealogists attempt to collect all information potentially relevant to the questions they investigate for all evidence that might answer a research question about an identity, relationship, event, or situation.

Jerry Carbone and Wayne Blanchard will present some case studies that follow the procedures of a reasonably exhaustive search.

Participants will start with what is known about an individual or a family. Using a known name, place, and time, a research question can be created. "The focus is usually finding out who the people were

and who was related to them," Carbone and Blanchard said in a news release. "The problem we want to solve determines what the search looks like. The patterns of the people's lives open up possible research paths and the types of sources to search. They would have had dealings with government agencies and perhaps religious institutions. They may have served in the military or participated in social clubs. Maybe something was written about them in the newspaper. Depending on how wealthy or poor they were, they might have left a legacy in the form of their belongings or land. Looking at these factors helps to determine the direction of the search."

They add that any sources "may give us clues to answer our research question. But we really want to find original records provided by people who are close as possible to the events in question. Then we need to evaluate what we have found to see how well it correlates with information we already know. If the sources conflict with each other, we may need to do additional research to arrive at a conclusion that answers our research question."

The Windham County Genealogy Interest Group is an informal organization whose members are dedicated to genealogy education, research, and best practices. Meetings are held every other month on Zoom.

Many of these sessions were recorded and are available on the WCGIG YouTube Channel, [bit.ly/WCGIGVIDEO](https://bit.ly/WCGIGVIDEO), which cover topics such as: improving your search results in **FamilySearch.org** and **Ancestry.com**; using family tree software; navigating the crowd-sourced cemetery database, Find A Grave; using land records for genealogy research; using **AmericanAncestors.org**, the database of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; and finding people in the newly released 1950 U.S. Census.

WCGIG is also supported by Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro and Rockingham Free Library in Bellows Falls, with use of their Zoom accounts, publicity, and use of facilities when in-person meetings are warranted. For more information, contact [windhamcountyig@gmail.com](mailto:windhamcountyig@gmail.com).

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.

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

## LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 18-24

CHANNEL 1078      CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

<p><b>Here We Are - Wyn Cooper, Poet, Songwriter</b>. Mon 8p. Tues 3:15p. Wed 10:45a. Thurs 12:15p. Sat 8p. Sun 5:15p</p> <p><b>The World Fusion Show - Ep# 161 - Palaver Strings</b>. Mon 6:30p. Tues 1:30p. Wed 11:30a. Thurs 9a. Sat 12:30p. Sun 6p</p> <p><b>BCTV Annual Members Meeting 2023</b>. Thurs 9:30a. Fri 10a &amp; 9:30p. Sat 2p. Sun 9:25p</p> <p><b>Around Town With Maria - Gun Sense VT Award Ceremony</b>. Thurs 4p. Fri 12:15p. Sat 8:30p. Sun 12:30p</p> <p><b>Keeping Up with Senior Solutions - Ep 29 - Falls Prevention with Dr. Tortolani</b>. Tues 8p. Wed 12:15p. Thurs 1:15p. Fri 2p. Sun 2:15p</p> <p><b>Brattleboro Gallery Walk - September 1, 2023</b>. Tues 10a &amp; 1:15p. Wed 5:15p. Thurs 12:45p &amp; 5:45p. Fri 3:45p. Sat 12:15p</p> <p><b>Couch Potatoe Productions - PLANET ZYDECO presented by Next Stage Arts &amp; Twilight Music</b>. Mon 10a. Tues 8:45p. Wed 3:30p. Thurs 2p. Fri 4p. Sat 9a. Sun 6:30p</p> <p><b>Around Town With Maria - Artful Streets at Gallery Walk 9/1/23</b>. Mon 3:30p. Tues 12:15p. Wed 12:45p. Fri 2:45p. Sat 10:45a. Sun 8:15p</p> <p><b>Vermont Skate Broadcasts - Fall 2023 Promo</b>. Mon 9:25p. Tues 10:15a. Wed 11:25a. Fri 11:55a. Sat 6:55a &amp; 3:55p. Sun 4:55p &amp; 5:55p</p> <p><b>Energy Week with George Harvey &amp; Tom Finnell</b>. Mon 9a. Tues 5p. Thurs 11a. Sat 7p</p> <p><b>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode</b>. Tue 11:30a &amp; 6:30p. Wed 6a. Thu 1p. Sat 12p. Sun 5p</p> <p><b>News Block: WTSN News</b>. Mon-Fri 12p &amp; 6p. <b>Reformer News Break</b>. Mon-Fri 12:05p &amp; 6:05p</p> <p><b>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service</b>. Wed 2p. Sat 7:30a. Sun 11a</p> <p><b>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service</b>. Wed 10a. Thurs 7a. Sun 3p</p> <p><b>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service</b>. Wed 6:30a. Fri 8p. Sun 8a</p> <p><b>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass</b>. Sat 4p (LIVE). Tue 6:45a &amp; 2p. Thurs 8p</p>	<p><b>Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 9/19/23</b>. Tues 6:15p (LIVE). Thurs 1p. Sun 6p</p> <p><b>Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 9/18/23</b>. Wed 6p. Thurs 8:30a. Fri 11:45a</p> <p><b>River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 9/18/23</b>. Wed 8:30p. Thurs 6a. Fri 2:14p</p> <p><b>Windham Elementary School Board Mtg. 9/19/23</b>. Thurs 8:30p. Fri 5:30a. Sat 2:30p</p> <p><b>Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 9/19/23</b>. Thurs 6p. Fri 8a. Sat 12p</p> <p><b>Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 9/20/23</b>. Fri 8:30p. Sat 6a. Sun 2:30p</p> <p><b>Putney Selectboard Mtg. 9/20/23</b>. Fri 6p. Sat 8:30a. Sun 12p</p> <p><b>Brattleboro Development Review Board Mtg. 9/20/23</b>. Sat 6p. Sun 8:30a</p> <p><b>Brattleboro Selectboard EMS Forum 9/12/23</b>. Tues 1p. Wed 9a. Sun 6a</p> <p><b>West River Education District Board Mtg. 9/11/23</b>. Mon 3p. Tues 10a. Sat 8:30p</p> <p><b>Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 9/11/23</b>. Mon 9a</p> <p><b>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 9/11/23</b>. Mon 6:30a. Thurs 11a</p> <p><b>Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 9/12/23</b>. Tues 3:30p. Wed 7:45a</p> <p><b>Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 9/13/23</b>. Sat 5:15p. Sun 11a</p> <p><b>Town Matters - Weekly Episode</b>. Mon 6p. Wed 4:45p. Thurs 11a. Fri 11:30a. Sat 5p</p> <p><b>The David Pakman Show</b>. Mon 8a. Tue 9a. Wed 5p. Fri 10:30a. Sun 5p</p>
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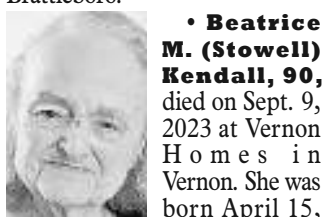
**Note: Schedule subject to change.**

View full schedule and watch online at [brattleborotv.org](http://brattleborotv.org)

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1968 to the late 1990s, serving in many capacities. She attended Keene State College, graduating in 1979 with a B. A. in music. Certified in music education, as well as vocal and choral music, she taught at Chester/Andover Elementary and in Rockingham schools. She was organist for First Congregational Church in West Brattleboro from 1975 to 1977 and Wilmington Congregational Church from 1972 to 1975. She loved sewing and quilting, creating many beautiful quilts and clothes. She is survived by sisters Cherry Wells of Pompano Beach, Florida, Carol Cook of Bryant, Texas; sons Christopher Kelly of Manchester, New Hampshire and James Kelly of Tucson; daughter Barbara Kelly of Keene, New Hampshire; and grandchildren Maegan Williams, Jeffrey Williams, Elizabeth Kelly and Austin Kelly. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** She will be buried at Meeting House Hill cemetery in Brattleboro.



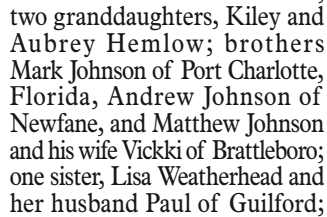
**Beatrice M. (Stowell) Kendall, 90**, died on Sept. 9, 2023 at Vernon Home in Vernon. She was born April 15, 1933 in Wilmington, the daughter of Clifford and Marion Stowell, and attended Wilmington and Brattleboro schools. She married Fredrick Kendall Sr. on April 30, 1951; the marriage ended in divorce in 1966. She worked at the Holstein Association in Brattleboro as a receptionist for 22 years, from which she retired. She liked playing Bingo, dancing, spending time with family, and listening to live bands. She had a love for sharing old family photos and sharing the Stowell family history. Beatrice was more than just a few words. She was amazing, wonderful, sweet, kind, generous, and loving. She was loved by many. She accepted anyone with open arms. If you needed a meal, she fed you. If you needed a place to sleep, she would let you stay with her. She was a very strong willed, independent, sassy, and witty woman. She will be dearly missed by those who knew her. She was predeceased by two brothers, Roy Stowell, and Elias (Sonny) Stowell; a daughter, Sheila (Kendall) McClure; a son, Fredrick Kendall Jr.; a daughter-in-law, Debra Kendall; a son-in-law, Thomas "Mac" McClure; granddaughters Abra Johansen, Natoyia Kendall, and Rachel Lewis; and great granddaughters Audrey Fournier and Cheyanne Boyd. Beatrice is survived by sisters Margaret (Dean) Brown, Lillia (Ginger) Holden, and Gean Schnillinger; her children Nancy (Skip) Lewis, Mike (Tammie) Kendall, Kathy (Adolphus) King, Barry Kendall, Edward Kendall, Curtis Kendall, Glenn Kendall and his partner Tammy Barrett, and Michelle (Martin) Johansen; and

her daughter-in-law, Wendy Bell. She is also survived by 25 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A graveside service was held Sept. 15 at West Brattleboro Cemetery. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information, visit [phaneuf.net](https://www.phaneuf.net).



**Leslee J. Kozyra, 63**, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died unexpectedly at her home on Sept. 12, 2023, following a period of declining health. A lifelong resident of the area, Leslee was born in Brattleboro on April 25, 1960, the daughter of Norman and Roberta (Madden) Johnson. She attended Brattleboro public schools and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 1978. For many years, she was manager of her family's business, Putney Road Market & Deli, helping run the store up until the business closed in 2017. Previously, she assisted with the day-to-day operation of her mother's child day care, Whetstone Day Care, on Williams Street. Leslee was a woman of faith and formerly attended Community Bible Chapel and Agape Christian Fellowship, both in Brattleboro. Of her leisure time activities, she enjoyed visiting and spending time at the beach, with Hampton Beach one of her favorites. She also enjoyed travel, taking cruises, collecting paintings, and working on puzzles. She also cherished time spent with her family, especially her two granddaughters. On Sept. 6, 1997, in Hinsdale, she was married to Roger Kozyra, who predeceased her on Aug. 12, 2011. Survivors include her mother, Roberta Johnson Young of Brattleboro; one daughter, Kaylah Hemlow and her husband Charles of Hinsdale; two granddaughters, Kiley and Aubrey Hemlow; brothers Mark Johnson of Port Charlotte, Florida, Andrew Johnson of Newfane, and Matthew Johnson and his wife Vicki of Brattleboro; one sister, Lisa Weatherhead and her husband Paul of Guilford; and her companion of several years, Phil Laclair of Hinsdale. Additionally, she leaves several nieces, nephews and cousins. Leslee was predeceased by her father. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** Graveside committal services will be conducted Sunday, Sept. 24, at 2 p.m., in Saint Joseph's Cemetery on Plain Road in Hinsdale. A reception will follow the committal to be held at the Eagles Club on Chickering Drive. Friends are invited to call at the Atamaniuk Funeral Home on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. Donations to Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzy Rd., Swanzy, NH 03446. To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit [atamaniuk.com](https://atamaniuk.com).

nonetheless rendered powerless by the sad eyes of a homeless old dog named Teddy with a balding butt and cataracts. (He moved in the next day.) Every little life mattered to her, and she loved every living thing. And that is why her family says they will never understand why she, a gentle, kind, and sensitive soul beloved by all, was stolen from them. Born and raised in Milford, Connecticut, Claudia grew up fishing the sandy shores of Point Beach with siblings Audrey, Sherrie, Larry, Linda, and Heidi. Though she spent the last 23 years of her life in Vermont, her heart was always at home on the water, and she cherished old friendships from her Milford High School, Steak and Ale, and softball days. She believed in the after-life, and her family is comforted to think she's reunited with her parents, Apolonia and Lawrence Cortland Williams, and her first love, husband Douglas Brages, with whom she had two sons, Christopher and James. She was fiercely proud of Doug's service in Vietnam, and for years after his passing, she would listen to audio letters he'd sent her from war to soothe her aching heart. She found love again with Kurt Voight, remarried and raised their three daughters Gretchen, Heidi and Victoria on the beaches of Woodmont. A talented quilter and artist, her creative talents gave us an unfair advantage in the annual Woodmont Day costume parades, downtown Milford window painting, and Walnut Beach sand castle building contests. She forged a unique career as an artisan and ran her own business producing craft fairs and expos across New England. After moving to Vermont in 2000, she put her sales and marketing expertise to work at Mount Snow, Stratton, and Killington ski resorts. She passionately believed everyone can and should help make the world a better, kinder place, and she led by example volunteering for nonprofits, including the Special Olympics World Games, and the Miss Connecticut and Miss Vermont Scholarship Organizations. She proudly served in several roles with the Milford Oyster Festival, eventually as President. She bragged about the fudge recipe she had perfected over a lifetime, but her greatest pride and joy was being "Grandma CC" to Apolonia, Violet, Leonidas, Christopher, Alexa, Haylee, and Douglas James. In her later years, she enjoyed the quiet peace of her front porch in Windham, hand feeding birds, tending to her prized hostas, and resting in a hammock with a good book and cold glass of Chardonnay. She loved bluegrass, picking her banjo, singing along with local bands. Forever a free spirit and child of the 1960s, you knew she was at her happiest when she would let out a high pitched "whoop!" while dancing anywhere the music moved her. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m., at Woodmont United Church of Christ, 1000 New Haven Ave., Milford. All are welcome. A live stream will be available on the church's website. Memorial donations can be made to the United Way of Milford and the Alexander Jordan Jamieson Foundation, helping at-risk youth through musical mentorship.



**Claudia Mary Voight, 73**, of Windham. Died in an act of violence on Feb. 20, 2023 in Windham. It is not how her story was supposed to end after a life spent helping anyone in need. She always swerved for chipmunks darting across the road. She strictly forbade anyone from disturbing her freakishly large porch spiders. And even after swearing the inn was full when childhood hamsters spontaneously multiplied overnight, she was

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AROUND THE TOWNS

Wardsboro Disaster Recovery Center relocates to Ludlow

WILLISTON — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Recovery Center in Wardsboro ceased operations on Sept. 18, and was relocated to the Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main St. It will reopen at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20, and continue with regular hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed on Sundays. The center serves Windham and Windsor counties. For the latest information on Vermont's recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4720](https://fema.gov/disaster/4720). Follow the FEMA Region 1 account on Twitter at [twitter.com/FEMARegion1](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion1), the FEMA Facebook page at [facebook.com/FEMA](https://facebook.com/FEMA), or Vermont Emergency Management Agency on Twitter at [twitter.com/vemvt](https://twitter.com/vemvt) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/VermontEmergencyManagement](https://facebook.com/VermontEmergencyManagement).

Author, podcaster Vicki Robin speaks on 'What Could Actually Go Right?'

BRATTLEBORO — In the face of disruptive climate change, rising authoritarianism, and extreme inequality, Vicki Robin will talk about the cracks in the system, the inspiring organizing, and the emergent possibilities on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m., at 118 Elliot St. "Vicki Robin is a sparkling

thinker, cultural scout and all-around delightful human being," said Chuck Collins of the Institute for Policy Studies in a news release. "She is on a rare East Coast trip, and we are thrilled to host her in Brattleboro."

Robin is host of the celebrated podcast, *What Could Possibly Go Right?* inviting cultural scouts to shine a light on what's emerging as the pandemic, climate, economy, and polarization unravel the old normal. She is also co-author of the bestselling book that transformed millions of lives: *Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence*. First published in 1992, it has been updated in subsequent editions and translated into 12 languages.

Called by *The New York Times*, the "prophet of consumption down-sizers," Robin has lectured widely, has appeared on hundreds of radio and television shows, and has been featured in hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles.

Robin lives on Whidbey Island in Washington State. Robin is also author of the 2014 book, *Blessing the Hands that Feed Us: Lessons from a 10-mile diet*, recounting her adventures in hyper-local eating and what she learned about food and farming as well as belonging and hope.

The event is co-hosted by 118 Elliot, the Springs Farm, and the Institute for Policy Studies. Reserve a seat at [bit.ly/732-robin](https://bit.ly/732-robin).

Bellows Falls Pride hosts community dance

BELLOWS FALLS — Bellows Falls Pride presents a

free community dance on Friday, Sept. 22, at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster St.

DJ Uncle Thicc returns for a family-friendly night of dancing tunes. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Guests are invited to bring their own picnic or order in. A full bar will be available.

There will also be a special meet-and-greet with athlete Roger Barraby, who will be running for Pride at the November 2023 Gay Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, and bringing his story for all to hear. Barraby's appearance is sponsored by the LGBT National Help Center. For more information, visit [bellowsfallspride.com](https://bellowsfallspride.com).

Ensemble Amphion Baroque presents benefit concert

BRATTLEBORO — The Ensemble Amphion Baroque will present "A Musical Journey Through 17th- and 18th-Century Europe" at Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St., on Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

Ensemble Amphion Baroque is a group consisting of Jesse Lepkoff on baroque flute and recorder, Owen Watkins on baroque oboe and recorder, Allen Hamrick on baroque bassoon, and Frances Fitch on harpsichord. All performers specialize in "capturing the essential passion and style of baroque music" through historical instruments and techniques, according to organizers.

The concert offers an opportunity to hear music of Vivaldi, Corelli, Purcell, Telemann, Merula, Boismortier and Corrette played on period instruments in

the lovely acoustics of Centre Church.

Admission is by free will offering and will benefit the Luz Del Mundo Scholarship Fund for Centre Church's sister parish in Cabanitas, El Salvador. For more information, call 802-254-2273.

Take a trip down the Connecticut River at RFPL

BELLOWS FALLS — On Sunday, Sept. 24, at 1 p.m., at the Rockingham Free Public Library (RFPL), *New York Times* best-selling author Michael Tougias offers a narrated slide presentation about the rich history of New England's longest river. He takes the viewer down the entire 410 miles of the river, discussing history from the days of loggers, Indian Wars, steamships, and canals. Suggestions for day trips and weekend outings are included.

Tougias is a graduate of St. Michael's College and has received several awards for his writing, including the Editor's Choice Award from the American Library Association for his book about a sea rescue in the Blizzard of 1978 titled *Ten Hours Until Dawn*. His book *There's A Porcupine In My Outhouse: The Vermont Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wannabe* won the Best Nature Book of the Year from the Independent Publishers. Tougias is a frequent guest on national TV and radio programs.

This program is accessible to those with disabilities and is free. For more information, contact [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org), 802-463-4270, [rockinghamlibrary.org](https://rockinghamlibrary.org).

org, or stop by the RFPL at 65 Westminster St.

Noontime breakfast served in Dummerston

DUMMERSTON — Evening Star Grange and Senior Solutions will serve a "Breakfast at High Noon" Senior Lunch on Wednesday, Sept. 27, with take-out meals available from 11:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. and the in-house meal served at noon.

The menu will be blueberry or plain pancakes with real maple syrup, sausages, and egg strata, with an applesauce dessert. Gluten-free pancakes will be available, as will as a vegetarian sausage substitute.

Reservations are strongly suggested so they know how much food to make, but walk-ins are welcome. Reservations can be made at 802-254-1138, and callers should leave a name, phone number, the number and type (blueberry or plain pancakes) of meals requested, and whether the meals are for eating in or taking out. A donation of \$3 for those 60 and over and \$4 for the younger set is suggested.

Grace Cottage outlines new clinic plans in Wardsboro presentation

WARDSBORO — A public forum to unveil plans for a new

primary care clinic building at Grace Cottage will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 5 p.m., at Wardsboro Town Hall, 71 Main St. Attendees will learn how Grace Cottage is planning for the future of primary care in southeastern Vermont.

The current clinic operates out of two adjoining houses built in the 1840s. With more than 31,000 patient visits annually (up from 20,000 in 2018), it is essential that Grace Cottage move forward with this project, in order to meet the access needs of the community. The new 23,000 sq-ft. building will be adjacent to the existing clinic building, connecting to the hospital building.

Grace Cottage has submitted a Certificate of Need application to the Green Mountain Care Board, Vermont's healthcare regulatory body, and is preparing to apply for an Act 250 permit. It is embarking on a capital campaign for the construction of this new clinic building. This project, fulfilling a long-held dream, has been initiated by generous donors who have pledged \$5 million.

Final exterior and interior designs have been completed for this new building, and these will be shared with community members at the Sept. 27 event. For more information about the new clinic and the forum, call 802-365-9109 or visit [gracecottage.org/future](https://gracecottage.org/future).

BAJC prepares for High Holiday Services

WEST BRATTLEBORO — At sundown on Friday, Sept. 15, Jewish people in Vermont and all over the world welcomed Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year 5784. During the 10-day sacred period known as "the Days of Awe," Jewish belief says people are called to return to their highest selves and make amends to those they have wronged, work toward forgiving others and themselves, and seek atonement (At-One-ment) for the ways they have "missed the mark" during the past year.

On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, a 25-hour fast is devoted to introspection and prayer. Ne'ilah, the closing service of Yom Kippur, begins at sundown, giving the congregation a final chance to ask for forgiveness and to pray for life as the symbolic Gates of Heaven are closing.

Congregation Shir Heharim (Brattleboro Area Jewish Community — BAJC) invites Jews and their families and friends to their Yom Kippur services. Rabbi Amita Jarmon will be accompanied by congregants on voice, cello, guitar, and piano. Services will be held at the West Village Meeting House (All Souls Church), 29 South St., and are

accessible via livestream. Yom Kippur services begin on Sunday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. with the "beautiful and haunting" Kol Nidre prayer, and resume on Monday, Sept. 25th. A Yizkor service to remember and honor departed loved ones will be held at approximately 12:15 p.m.

They will break at 1:30 p.m. before resuming the afternoon service at 5 p.m. with a reading of the Book of Jonah and a contemplative process about transgression, regret, and forgiveness. Ne'ilah begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a communal breakfast. Childcare will be provided from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 25.

BAJC organizers say they hope guests will help cover the expenses of making the services available to all by contributing to their High Holiday Appeal. Contributions can be mailed to BAJC, P.O. Box 2353, Brattleboro, VT 05303. Contributions from guests will be applied toward membership if they choose to become a member at any time during the year.

For more information, leave a message at 802-257-1959 or email [marthadmin@bajcvermont.org](mailto:marthadmin@bajcvermont.org) or [ravamita@bajcvermont.org](mailto:ravamita@bajcvermont.org).

BRATTLEBORO

Charter Revision Commission meets Sept. 21

BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro's Charter Revision Commission will meet on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 6:15 p.m., in the Selectboard Meeting Room in the Municipal Center, 230 Main St.

The meeting agenda includes a discussion with town officials, including Selectboard Chair Ian Goodnow, Vice Chair Franz Reichsman, Town Clerk Hilary

Francis, Town Attorney Bob Fisher, and Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland.

The seven-member commission was established by the Selectboard in 2022 as proscribed by the town charter itself. Members are Hannah Clarisse, Peter Elwell, David Gartenstein, Denise Glover, Maya Hasegawa, Kate O'Connor, and Joy Tournoux.

The document calls on the commission "to review the language of the charter and the rights, powers, duties, and responsibilities specified therein. The commission may propose amendments and may redraft the charter in whole or in part."

All commission meetings are open to the public. The meeting can be accessed from your computer, tablet, or

smartphone via Zoom at [bit.ly/732-charter](https://bit.ly/732-charter). The meeting ID is 3293 9735 and the passcode is 12261753.

The meetings are recorded and available on BCTV's website, [brattleborotv.org](https://brattleborotv.org).

The full text of the town charter is available at [brattleboro.org](https://brattleboro.org).

DAR promotes Constitution Week

BRATTLEBORO — Constitution Week is a great time to reflect on the principles our country was founded on, according to the Brattleboro Chapter Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Carolyn Handy.

She added that the DAR began the observance in 1955, when the service organization petitioned the U.S. Congress to dedicate September 17–23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week. On Aug. 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into public law.

The DAR states that the celebration's goals are threefold: to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787; to remind the

public that the Constitution is the basis of America's great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize the government's responsibility to protect, defend, and preserve the U.S. Constitution.

"We are so proud DAR led the way in making Constitution Week an official commemoration, and our members enthusiastically promote the celebration annually in communities across the country by erecting community displays, sponsoring municipal proclamations, ringing bells, and staging programs to raise awareness of the Constitution's tenets and importance," said DAR President General Pamela Rouse Wright in a news release. "We encourage all citizens to join us in celebrating this powerful document that is so important to American

history and to reflect on the impact the Constitution has had on the lives of American citizens past and present."

Handy says that by fostering knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Constitution and the inalienable rights it affords to all Americans, the DAR helps to keep alive the memory of the men and women who secured our nation's foundational liberties.

On Sept. 8, the Brattleboro Chapter participated in a re-dedication service of a lost patriot's grave in West Halifax. Stephen Otis, a soldier who fought in both the American Revolution and the French and Indian Wars, and his wife, Lucy Chandler Otis, a Mayflower descendant, were both honored in a service that also included the Brattleboro American Legion,

a pastor, a bugler, a bagpiper, an Abenaki tribal leader, the Halifax Historical Society, a stone carver, and a descendant, Carol Otis.

The Brattleboro Chapter members' involvement in the re-dedication was both a patriotic and historical event, Handy said. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service, and more.

One of the largest patriotic women's organizations in the world, says Handy, the DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. For additional information about the DAR and its relevant mission, visit [dar.org](https://dar.org).

Vermont Department of Labor kicks off Fall Job Fest 2023

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Department of Labor has begun its Fall Job Fest, a collaborative effort with key partners across Vermont to provide several in-person hiring events throughout September and October.

"It is crucial for the Vermont Department of Labor to help bridge the gap between job seekers and employers," said Labor Commissioner Michael Harrington in a news release. She says through the hiring events,

they "aim to empower job seekers to explore diverse career paths, engage with local employers, and find fulfilling employment opportunities right here in Vermont."

Upcoming job fair events organized by or in partnership with the Department of Labor taking place in southern Vermont include:

- Bennington: Thursday, Sept. 21, Deer Park; 353 North St., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Brattleboro: Friday, Oct. 6,

11 Green St., 3 to 6 p.m.

- Springfield: Vermont Apple Festival and Craft Show, Saturday, Oct. 7, 13 Fairground Rd., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Brattleboro: Healthcare Career Fair and Vaccination Clinic, Tuesday, Oct. 17, Windham Regional Career Center, 8 Atwood St., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All events above are free for job seekers, and all are encouraged to attend. For more information

about future job fairs and career services, contact the Vermont Department of Labor at 802-828-4394 or visit [labor.vermont.gov](https://labor.vermont.gov).

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Sign-ups begin for WCHS Walk for Animals on Sept. 30

BRATTLEBORO — Windham County Humane Society's (WCHS) 21st annual Walk for Animals is coming up on Saturday, Sept. 30. Humane Society organizers will be on the Brattleboro Elks Lodge front lawn to celebrate their shared passion for protecting, caring for, and finding loving homes for animals in need. They invite everyone to join them.

This yearly event is WCHS's only fall fundraiser and its largest fundraising effort of the year. "It's a morning filled with

fun and community; a 1.3 mile walk through downtown Brattleboro, games, treats, raffles, and more," according to a news release. "Dogs who would enjoy being around people and other dogs are welcome to attend the WCHS Walk with you, so long as they remain on a leash at all times (no flexi-leads, please)."

Registration for the Walk is open and pledge sheets can be downloaded at [bit.ly/731-wchs](https://bit.ly/731-wchs).

"Help raise funds by asking your friends, family, and colleagues to support your walk

with a donation," said organizers. "Every dollar raised from the Walk goes towards shelter needs; everything from pet food and medications to kennel cleaning supplies. It takes approximately \$1,000 a day just to run the shelter."

Walkers who raise more than \$30 are eligible for a swag bag, and those who raise more than \$55 are eligible for a 2023 Walk T-shirt. There are prizes for the top three adult fundraisers and top youth fundraiser (under 16).



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## Galbraith

conservative institution, has downgraded the U.S. from being fully free to a flawed democracy," Galbraith reported. "We're not even in the top category and it's foolish to think this doesn't affect America's position in the world."

Of course, he added, in terms of military strength, the U.S. is still all-powerful, but citing recent events on the U.S. political scene — election denial, insurrection, judicial biases — he said our democracy is, indeed, threatened.

"So much of what we deal with in the world is not military," said Galbraith, and given the interconnectedness of the world today and the challenges faced, democracy is key to coping, to moving forward.

"We have to remember, too, the danger of nuclear war has not gone away. And then there's the existential threat which is, of course, climate change," he added.

"The U.S. is no longer at the forefront, and maybe it shouldn't be," Galbraith observed. "European countries are more democratic. A country where 'the judiciary is nakedly partisan and political' and where an election can be so unfoundedly challenged is not poised to model democracy."

"One thing you expect of judges is that they have the same law, same facts, and same result without regard to the political

party of plaintiff or defendant," he said. "That does not exist today in the U.S."

Part of the problem — a huge part, he said — is that our institutions no longer serve us. "We need to take a look at our institutions — the courts, legislatures, the electoral college — systems that are out of date and many, at the core, undemocratic," he said.

Are these times a blip on the screen? Can America recover?

"You have to question the strength of democracy if one person [Donald Trump] can cause so much damage," Galbraith said.

### Thinking globally

For over six decades, the independent, nonpartisan, educational WWAC has, according to the nonprofit's website, "brought the world to Windham County."

"Our mission is to build community engagement, dialogue, and resilience by helping people better understand our world's issues and problems," he said.

"In this way, we hope to contribute to creating a livable, peaceful, better world in which we are better prepared to participate knowledgeably in public affairs and make informed choices in elections and in our lives," Galbraith said.

"It's so important to have an organization that convenes conversations of a global nature, considering issues beyond our border," said Chuck Collins, of Guilford, a WWAC member.

FROM SECTION FRONT

"At a time when our culture and news are increasingly hyperlocal and nationally focused, WWAC honors Brattleboro's internationalist bent with our sister cities, residents from many nations, and the history of the School for International Training/World Learning," added Collins, an author and the director of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies.

### Community engages in international events

The WWAC is one of more than 90 such organizations across 40 states, with two in Vermont. Windham County's is the smallest of them.

Formally established in 1961, WWAC had been the only all-volunteer chapter nationwide until a year ago, when Susan Healy was hired as administrative director in an effort to get WWAC back on track and moving forward after the pandemic.

The organization's funding depends solely on memberships and donations.

A retired U.S. history teacher with a track record of involvement in youth empowerment, Healy manages WWAC functions and communications, including media relations, outreach, and membership development.

The WWAC engages a different speaker monthly and holds board meetings the fourth Wednesday of every month at 118 Elliot in Brattleboro. Each meeting is followed by a members-and-friends salon, where participants are invited to discuss a specific topic.

"It gives the community an opportunity to not only learn about current international events, but also to have discussions about them," Healy said. "We provide refreshments: It's our way of saying thank you to the people who have been supporting us over the years."

It's also an opportunity for members to bring friends and potential new members into the effort.

"Our meetings are open to anyone who wants to participate," said Healy. "The tangible outcome of the WWAC's work is to provide a forum for people to come together to become better informed about international affairs and our place in the world, and it is an especially pressing need in this era of disinformation."



Peter Galbraith, seen here with the Kurdistan peshmerga on the front line during fighting with the terrorist group ISIS in Iraq in 2015, has been in the middle of several Middle East foreign policy crises over the past four decades.

Treasurer Lissa Weinmann, a member for 10 years, added that the WWAC is entering a "new and exciting phase."

Those new initiatives include some new branding and a partnership with Brooks Memorial Library and other organizations to create programming around "the idea of American identity and global purpose leading up to the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States," she said.

Weinmann would like to see the organization — and broader community — "use the 250th and months leading up to it as a time for reflection and for examining who we are as Americans and who we want to be." This, she added, offers optimal guidance for planning WWAC's programming over the next few years.

The WWAC demographic, Healy admitted, is an older one, "but we are actively doing youth outreach—especially with the local chapter at Brattleboro Union High School of PeaceJam."

The international organization works with Nobel Peace Prize laureates, who offer time, commitment, and insight, with a focus on "preparing a generation of young leaders who will create a critical tipping point for change in all sectors of society," according to the PeaceJam website ([peacejam.org](http://peacejam.org)).

The local chapter, which launched at BUHS in 2021, aims to "raise the next generation of Nobel laureates," Healy said warmly.

Weinmann, who helped establish the chapter, added that the initiative focuses, too, on

encouraging activism among youth — toward whatever cause they hold worthy.

PeaceJam involves gatherings by teleconference with other youth worldwide and a curriculum implemented during high school advisory periods. Now in its second year at BUHS, "the school administration sees its value," and membership is growing, Weinmann said.

The WWAC board chair is Tamara Stenn, Ph.D., an economist and entrepreneur with a specialization in sustainable development, indigenous people, and well-being.

"WWAC is important in bringing global perspectives and options to the Brattleboro community, expanding how we understand our world and neighbors," Stenn said, calling it "a de facto hub for spirited conversation."

"It is also an important connection to youth and community with outreach to the high school through PeaceJam and projects with diplomacy leaders," Stenn said.

Also on the WWAC board are Clare Morgana Gillis, Ph.D., a historian and journalist; Starr LaTronica, director of Brattleboro's Brooks Memorial Library; Rev. Scott Couper, pastor at Centre Congregational Church; Jim Kirbey, who has studied and taught in Mexico, Sweden, Kenya, and China and whose career was in the application of solar energy, conservation, and efficiency in buildings; and Paul Love, board member emeritus, who has had more than two decades' involvement with WWAC.

Weinmann stressed that WWAC is nonpartisan.

"We try to be inclusive and objective," she said. The WWAC also tries "to remain objective about the possibilities for America," Weinmann added, calling the idea of the country "still a very intoxicating concept."

"We feel we need to participate in trying to build that more perfect union," she said. "And we do aim to stimulate action."

### The Galbraith tradition

"Many distinguished individuals have led and participated in WWAC over the years, providing today's generation with strong examples of enlightened public service," according to the organization's website ([windhamworldaffairs.org](http://windhamworldaffairs.org)). "Perhaps the most notable was [Peter Galbraith's father] John Kenneth Galbraith (1908–2006), an important contributor in the early days of the WWAC."

One of the world's best-known economists, his "eloquent and internationally recognized writings on economics, public policy, and culture helped shape the identity of the modern United States and 20th-century American liberalism."

The annual Galbraith Lecture, Peter Galbraith said, "is a Galbraith family-supported venture."

"I think my father was one of the very first speakers when WWAC started. For nearly every one of the WWAC's 62 years, a Galbraith has delivered a seminal lecture," he said.

Having missed only a few — one of which was delivered by his brother James, a professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and at the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin — Peter Galbraith has delivered the annual WWAC lecture for some 30 years, even during the pandemic when Zoom was employed.

A speaker of six languages with degrees from Harvard, Oxford, and Georgetown, Peter Galbraith has held senior positions in the U.S. Government and the United Nations. He taught at Windham College for four years before leaving to work on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

That catalyzed a 14-year leave from the Green Mountain State, during which he taught for a year at the National Defense

University in Washington, D.C., and was the first ambassador to Croatia — appointed by President Bill Clinton and serving from 1993 to 1998, manifesting what the headline of an article about him in *The Harvard Crimson* hails: "Diplomat [Peter] Galbraith Makes Peace His Career."

His has been a rich career, indeed, the highlights of which he lists:

- Being instrumental in the twice-elected Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto's release from prison. Having been schoolmates at Harvard and Oxford, the two remained good friends until Bhutto's assassination in 2007.

- Uncovering and documenting the Anfal campaign against the Iraqi Kurds and prompting the U.S. Senate to pass consequent comprehensive sanctions.

- Negotiating the Erdut Agreement, which ended the civil war in Croatia.

- Director for Political, Constitutional, and Electoral Affairs for the U.N. Mission of Support in East Timor and a cabinet minister in East Timor's first transitional government, Galbraith designed a change in East Timor's system from being strictly a U.N. mission to being a transitional government with eight cabinet ministers. Galbraith served as de facto foreign minister. While there, he also negotiated the Timor Sea Treaty.

- Reuniting young Yazidi women with their children born of rape while they were slaves of the terror group ISIS.

Back in Vermont, Galbraith served two terms as a state senator from 2011 to 2015, representing Windham County during its recovery from the devastation of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. In 2016, he took an unsuccessful stab at the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

"I loved representing Windham County and was proud to represent issues that made a difference," he said.

Among those issues: preserving forest contiguity, tending to biodiversity and the climate, increasing the minimum wage, and trying to implement single-payer health care.

He extols the community for its grit, vision, ingenuity, and intellectual mettle — and the "international character of this extraordinary community," of this region which has been home to SIT and other cutting edge learning institutions, and to his father and family.

The region has also been home to U.S. ambassador to Tunisia Joey Hood, U.S. diplomat Ellsworth Bunker; Nobel laureates Jody Williams and Rudyard Kipling, among other high performers in world affairs.

Sometimes, Galbraith says, he misses being in office. "I enjoyed my time in public life, but it's time for younger people to take the lead," he said.

Author of several books, Galbraith was working on his memoir on his screen porch overlooking Townshend's hills on a perfect late summer afternoon.

"Writing a memoir is complicated business," he quipped, noting that he can "resist the temptation to write a book that's really an ad for a future job or career or campaign."

He said that he aims in his writing for an "honest rendering of the history of the events I was involved in because they actually were consequential."

Galbraith has been to and even lived in myriad places all over the world. Of them all, what's his favorite?

Without pause, he answered: "Vermont."

"I travel to places, and I can say I see more trees from my house than exist in your entire country. There aren't so many places in the world like that," he said.

*The Sept. 27 talk at the ADA-compliant Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St., Brattleboro, is open to all and free, though the WWAC encourages a donation (\$10 suggested). Visit [windhamworldaffairs.org](http://windhamworldaffairs.org) for more information.*

  
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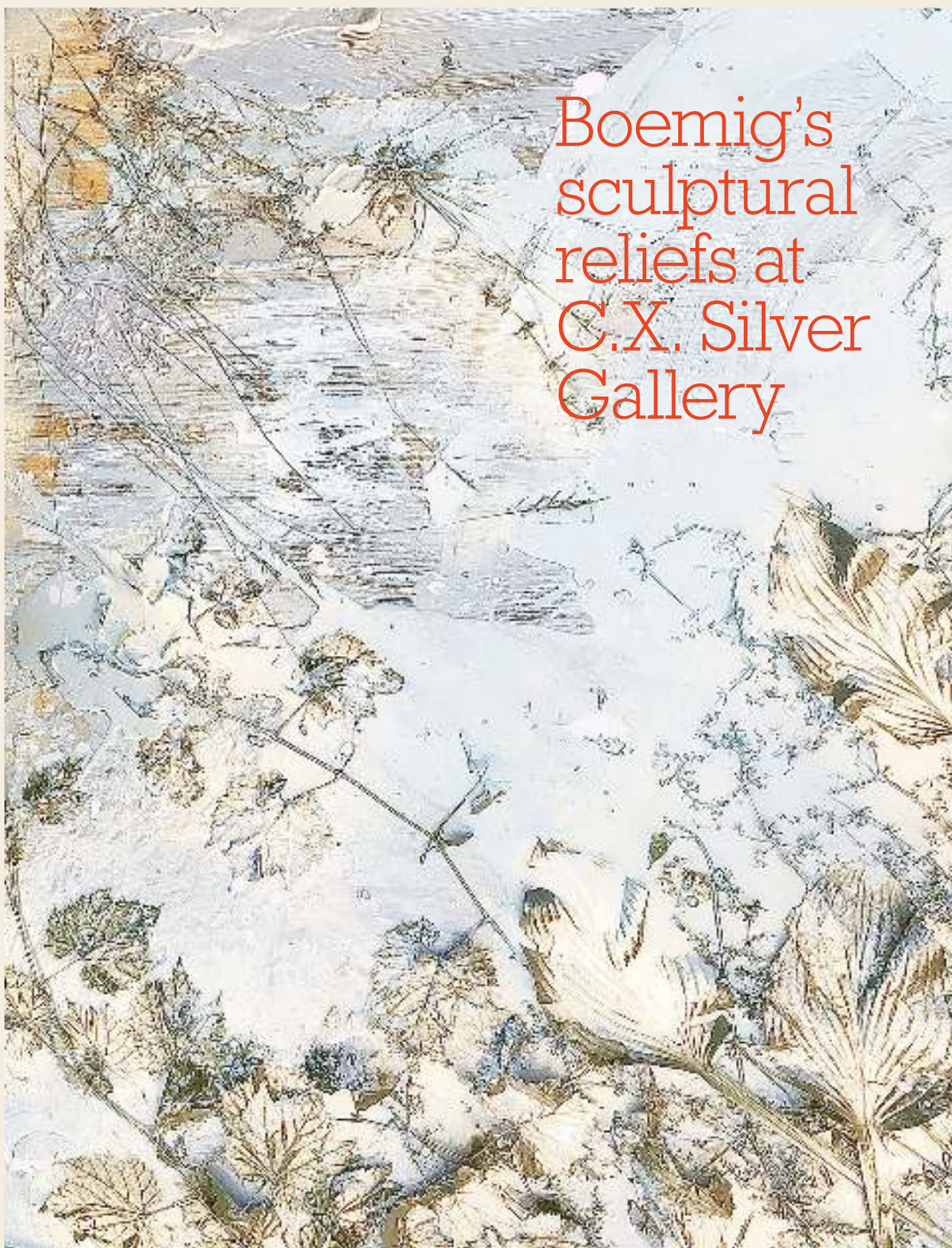
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Boemig's sculptural reliefs at C.X. Silver Gallery

"Dawn" by Bob Boemig and Cai Xi.

COURTESY PHOTO

**B**RATTLEBORO—Bob Boemig has been creating outdoor landscape installations across New England for more than 50 years, including "Landlift" at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, and "The Fiddlehead" at Retreat Farm. A new exhibition at C X Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave., shows a collection of Boemig's interior works made over two decades. Boemig's sculptural reliefs use construction materials and debris, cardboard, house paint, wood, stone, twigs, and branches. The series *Ashes to Ashes* and *Dust to Dust* makes use of fire and tracing paper with

urethane. In the *Nebula* series, Boemig uses chiffon fabric, covering over sculptural reliefs. "These two series represent contrasting themes that are ultimately intertwined—the destruction and deterioration not only in the landscape but in our own bodies," wrote Boemig in his artist statement that introduces the exhibit. As he turned 50, he also examined his existence, "as many of us do as we age," say organizers, "a subject that relates to anyone in their lives as we examine and process our own existence, looking back at our beginnings but also forward to the end." "Nebula was the hopeful and optimistic

response to that examination, representing a new outlook and the possibilities of what our lives can be in the reimagined outside world, and beyond," Boemig wrote. Two recent large works are part of a new series featuring an ongoing collaboration between Boemig and Cai Xi. These works began with hosta leaves and house paint and were completed with little or no verbal communication or specific plans—a free-flowing, open embrace of the creative process. C X Silver Gallery is open Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For information, contact the gallery 802-257-7898, ext. 1, or visit [cxsilversilvergallery.com/](http://cxsilversilvergallery.com/) **bob-boemig**.

Turn trash into art

BMAC invites the public to clean up the Connecticut River on Sept. 23, 30

**B**RATTLEBORO—"Trash is trash—smelly, gross, harmful to the land and plants and animals," say Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) organizers. But repurpose trash and transform it into art, and not only are destructive materials removed from the environment, but the potential is also created to make a powerful statement about consumerism, conservation, optimism, and creativity.

On two consecutive Saturdays this month, the BMAC, along with the Connecticut River Conservancy and the River Gallery School, invite the public to participate in an exploration of trash and art. First, on Saturday, Sept. 23, a team will pull debris out of the river during the Connecticut River Conservancy's 27th annual Source to Sea Cleanup. Volunteers can join the Cleanup by checking in at the Retreat Farm or Vermont Canoe Touring Center anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and help with trash collection for as long as they'd like.

The public is invited to walk the banks of the river or take a boat onto the water and see how much they can find. The Vermont Canoe Touring Center will offer \$10 off canoe and kayak rentals for this event.

Then, on Saturday, Sept. 30, BMAC Lead Educator Kate Milliken will be at the River Gallery School presenting a Found Materials Sculpture Workshop using the plastic trash collected from the Connecticut River—cleaned and prepared to be used as art materials.

The workshop is inspired by the museum's current exhibition, "Aurora Robson: Human Nature Walk," in which the artist uses plastic waste to create intricate, lyrical installations that she says take trash "out of the waste stream and turn its longevity into an asset."

Participants can connect to Robson's work through experiential learning, according to Kirsten Martsis, manager of the BMAC's Education and Community Engagement Programs. "We'll take waste that would have gone to landfills and create art from it, generating new ideas for sculpture materials and design."

For Milliken, the workshop is an opportunity for people to "see the many lives that 'forever' plastics can have, all while they explore their own creativity and self-expression through art making." She will guide participants in building mobiles and wind chimes—to take home—with the hope that using "an ugly or unsightly piece of trash" in an art project "might inspire folks to find new ways to incorporate plastic waste items in their lives."

According to the Connecticut River Conservancy, the Source to Sea Cleanup, which happens at numerous locations along the entire 410-mile river, is not only an effort to pick up trash for a day, "it is also a catalyst for lasting change," inspiring the public to think more deeply about recycling and upcycling waste, and working for legislative action that lessens trash in the first place.

In 2022, more than 1,200 volunteers in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut participated in the Cleanup, collecting more than 34 tons of trash, including almost 12,400 beverage containers and nearly 8,000 pounds of scrap metal.

The public is welcome to participate in the Sept. 23 Cleanup, the Sept. 30 sculpture workshop, or both. There is no charge to join the Cleanup. Admission to the workshop is \$20 (\$10 for BMAC members). Space for the workshop is limited and registration required. Register at [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org) or call 802-257-0124, ext. 101.

COLUMN | Deeper Dive

'An unparalleled journey of evocative mythic imagery'

Daniel Higgs and Chris Weisman perform at Epsilon Spires on Sept. 23

**E**PSILON SPIRES—in the spirit of its tagline, "Rewarding the Curious"—will present an evening of interesting music for interesting people on Saturday, Sept. 23, when Daniel Higgs and Chris Weisman bring their respective multidisciplinary, genre-crossing performances to the Sanctuary of 190 Main St. Perhaps best known as the

**WENDY M. LEVY** is a former reporter and columnist for this newspaper. The Commons' Deeper Dive column gives artists, arts organizations, and other nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate, and analytical about their own creative work and events.

singer and lyricist of the band Lungfish, Higgs, of Baltimore, has been observing and participating in various underground sub-scenes for over four decades, sharing poems, songs,

and paintings. His early band Reptile House and his later side project The Pupils released albums on the Washington, D.C.-based punk/hardcore/emo/

■ SEE HIGGS AND WEISMAN, B3



Daniel Higgs

COURTESY PHOTO

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

21

Music
BRATTLEBORO Murphy's Law performs with special guest Grade 2

Recreation
BRATTLEBORO Season Three: "Thorn In My Side": Thorn In My Side is an original award-winning game show created by Ben Stockman...

Kids and families
Nurturing Parenting & Strengthening Families Program (Virtual): Curriculum-based, parenting education programs for families experiencing stress.

Well-being
BRATTLEBORO Compassion Towards Non-Human Animals: Ask your questions about veganism, check out books and information on animal rights...

BRATTLEBORO World Alzheimer's Day: "Keys Bags Names Words" Film Premiere followed by Community Conversation: New documentary about people living with Alzheimer's disease...

BRATTLEBORO World Alzheimer's Day: "Keys Bags Names Words" Film Premiere followed by Community Conversation: New documentary about people living with Alzheimer's disease...

Community building
PUTNEY Tim Stevenson presents his new book: "Transformative Activism": "Transformative Activism" is a guide to growing into spiritual maturity we need to be effective agents of transformative change...

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THURSDAY CONT.

climate crisis, and the 40 years he's been a practitioner of Buddhist values and a daily meditator.
6:30 p.m. Join Stevenson for this talk/book signing. He also authored "Resilience and Resistance: Building Sustainable Communities for a Post Oil Age" as well as a bi-weekly column in the Brattleboro Reformer...

Community meals
GUILFORD Guilford Cares Food Pantry: All are welcome to shop curbside from a list of fresh and frozen foods, canned and packaged items, dairy products.

Ideas and education
BRATTLEBORO Author & Podcaster Vicki Robin: "What Could Actually Go Right?": In the face of disruptive climate change, extreme inequality, rising authoritarianism, Robin will talk about where cracks are in the system and emergent possibilities...

FRIDAY

22

Performing arts
WEST CHESTERFIELD Actors Theatre Playhouse: Delightful assortment of theatrical monologues, spoken literature, scenes from favorite plays, classic one-act comedy and an original short farce from a local author.

Music
BRATTLEBORO Benefit Concert: Ensemble Amphion Baroque: "Masterworks of 17th and 18th Century Chamber Music": Ensemble Amphion Baroque presents "A Musical Journey Through 17th and 18th Century Europe."

FRIDAY CONT.

the essential passion/style of baroque music through historical instruments and techniques.
Free will offering.
Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. Information: More information: 802-254-2273.

BRATTLEBORO Gong Bath at Sidestream Studio: Embrace the energetic renewal of the Autumnal Equinox with an invigorating, restorative gong experience.

GUILFORD Jason Ennis and Natalia Bernal perform at Wendy's Jazz Soiree series: Jason and Natalia performed in this series several times with their trio "Voz de Tres". Jason also performed far and wide with Samrah Evans and her Handsome Devils.

Well-being
WILLIAMSVILLE Healing Walk at Manitou: Meditative walk. Includes poems or other readings and chances to share. Led by Fred Taylor.

Dance
BELLOWS FALLS Bellows Hall Pride Event: Community Dance and more: DJ Uncle Thicc returns to Bellows Falls Moose Lodge for a night of dancing tunes!

Film and video
WILLIAMSVILLE Friday Night Movie at the Williamsville Hall: "La La Land" (rated PG): Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling star in this Academy Award-winning 2016 romantic musical about a relationship between a jazz pianist and an actress striving to make it big in Los Angeles.

"The Man Who Laughs": Film masterpiece that inspired "The Joker": The 1928 German-Expressionist masterpiece is based on Victor Hugo's tragic tale of wrongful persecution and wrathful anger and features the riveting original performance that inspired "The Joker".

SATURDAY

23

Performing arts
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro-based Circus Theater Company Brings a Dark Comedy about Climate Change to Town: Big Teeth Performance Collective presents "Goodbye Party the Show", a circus/physical theater show.

Music
BELLOWS FALLS The Ray Massucco Concert Series #3 - Chris Smither with The Blues Junket: Chris Smither's suite-drenched vocals and incandescent acoustic guitar stylings have made him a national treasure.

SATURDAY CONT.

unusual genres - Corsican polyphony and early 20th century labor anthems.
\$20 in advance, \$25 at door.
Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/munv63rn 802-257-4523; bmcvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO "Rewarding the Curious": Daniel Higgs and Chris Weisman bring multi-disciplinary, genre-crossing performances: Expect an unparalleled journey of evocative mythic imagery delivered with prophetic power from interdimensional song-seamstress/corps-dancer of the Mystic Crags - Daniel Higgs.

Ceremonies and memoriams
GUILFORD Memorial Shape Note Sing - Remembering Tony Barrand and Larry Gordon: We'll be singing from two collections of four-part a cappella American folk hymns: the "Northern Harmony", edited by Carole Crompton, Tony Barrand and Larry Gordon, first published in 1979.

Farmers' markets
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Area Farmers Market: BAFM has over 50 vendors, bringing our region's best farmers, makers, and chefs all to one place. Live music 11 a.m.-1 p.m., special events and workshops throughout the season.

Local history
WESTMINSTER "Wild Waterways: A Look at Two Towns": Engineer and river scientist Dr. Denise Burchsted studies natural river systems & the way rivers behaved before Europeans arrived.

Visual arts and shows
PUTNEY "Portals" - a series of abstract paintings by Liz Hawkes deNiord: Liz's dynamic paintings reflect her immersion in the physical process as well as her love of saturated, radiant color and luminosity.

SUNDAY

24

Farmers' markets
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro's Share the Harvest Stand: Free Fresh Produce for All!
11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sundays (corner Spruce and Elm). (Gardeners may drop off surplus from their gardens from 10:30-closing; before noon preferred).

Well-being
WILLIAMSVILLE Forest Immersion: Mindfulness with Nature at Manitou: Led by Amanda Kenyon, Landkind guide, co-sponsored by Southern Vermont Young Professionals.

Community building
GUILFORD Guilford Community Park (Grand Opening) and Zara Bode's Little Big Band (playing for the Grand Opening): Zara Bode's Little Big Band performs classic American swing to delight the ears, eyes, feet.

SUNDAY CONT.

Guilford Community Park Pavilion, 24 Church Dr. (behind Country Store, next to Guilford Community Church). Poster of Zara Bode's Little Big Band: https://tinyurl.com/ykwh3h264 guilfordcommunitypark.org.

GUILFORD, Afternoon Workshops followed by Four Shillings Short in concert: Workshops: Planting Fruit and Nut Trees; Herbal Medicine Making; Friction Fire Building; Singing in Harmony for Beginners; Empathy Cafe.

W. BRATTLEBORO "Welcoming the Diversity of Experience, Creating a Strong Embrace" led by Rev. Telos Whitfield (In-Person Zoom): We strive to create a community that welcomes everyone through our doors, and to honor the diversity of our experiences.

MONDAY

25

Instruction
BRATTLEBORO Autumn Apples Cooking Class: Join Edible Brattleboro in preparing and enjoying a 3-course vegan meal featuring apples and winter squash. We'll use seasonal apples and squash to make a savory soup, salad and dessert.

Well-being
PUTNEY Understanding Medicare (In-Person/Zoom): Senior Solutions discusses options for Medicare enrollment and differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage.

Community building
Meeting of VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel: Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee (Webcast): Two U.S. Dept. of Energy experts will discuss spent fuel transportation planning.

TUESDAY

26

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.

Community building
BRATTLEBORO CX Silver Gallery: Invitation to Collaborate: Writers, poets, musicians, performers are welcome for collaborative/interpretive creations of the sculptural works of Bob Boemig.

TUESDAY CONT.

to ensure your voice is heard as critical energy policies are updated. People who attend will be asked: What are your priorities when thinking about where our electricity comes from? How can our policies and programs better support those priorities?

Dance
BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango: Beginners and all levels welcome. Check it out or join in. No partner needed.

WEDNESDAY

27

Government
BRATTLEBORO Annual Ambassador Peter Galbraith Lecture & Fundraiser: "Is the American Century Over?": Galbraith's lecture encapsulates the trajectory of American power over the past several decades.

BRATTLEBORO Windham World Affairs Council: Ambassador Peter Galbraith Lecture: "Is the American Century Over?" and Fundraiser (In-Person/Zoom): Galbraith's annual lecture encapsulates trajectory of American power over several decades.

Well-being
PUTNEY Understanding Medicare (In-Person/Zoom): Senior Solutions discusses options for Medicare enrollment and differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage.

Community building
VERNON Vernon Community Market: This new Market features J&B's Curbside Cafe, handmade crafts, farm produce, baked goods, flowers, and more.

DANCE

BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango Classes: Beginners and all levels welcome. Stop by to check it out or join in. No partner needed.

IDEAS AND EDUCATION

BELLOWS FALLS Explore Habitability of Jupiter's Moon Europa w/ Bob Pappalardo - Project Scientist NASA's Europa Clipper Mission: Unique opportunity to learn from the expert about why Europa may be one of the best places to look for environments where life could exist beyond Earth.

BRATTLEBORO "Shred Event": Bring up to three boxes per car of personal papers, such as credit card bills, legal documents, bank statements, old checks and forms that display your Social Security number. Documents will be shredded on-site.

To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org
Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday



## Zara Bode's Little Big Band helps Guilford celebrate its new park

GUILFORD—Sunday, Sept. 24, marks the coming together of two local phenomena: the grand opening of the Guilford Community Park and Zara Bode's Little Big Band, playing for the grand opening. Both will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Pavilion of Guilford Community Park, 24 Church Drive. Event participants are invited to bring a picnic and dancing shoes.

The park's concept grew out of a committee exploring ways to use the adjacent property acquired by the Guilford Community Church. The committee considered constructing a timber frame pavilion and, as committee member Peter Amidon said, "Then we thought, 'Why not just create a whole new public park for Guilford?'"

The Guilford Community Park Committee, independent from the Guilford Community Church, formed, and two years after their first musings, they — with the help of generous donations from 200 area residents, a few generous out-of-town donors, and some significant grant money — shepherded in the construction of a 24-foot-by-48-foot timber frame pavilion and a seven-circuit walking labyrinth.

The park also includes a grassy play area, a children's play area, and a stone fire pit surrounded by benches. It will soon include a paved basketball court.

In addition to the band performance, the event will feature comments by folks involved in the creation of the Park.



Zara Bode's Little Big Band

COURTESY PHOTO

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

also performs with Signature Sounds artists The Sweetback Sisters. The Little Big Band features a horn section led by clarinetist and arranger Anna Patton

and is anchored by Stefan Amidon on percussion.

For more information about the park, visit [guilfordcommunitypark.org](http://guilfordcommunitypark.org).

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MON.-THUR. 4 / 6:50

## Vaune Trachtman, Rachel Portesi present photo exhibit at The Putney School

PUTNEY—Alternative-process photographers Vaune Trachtman and Rachel Portesi will exhibit their work at the Michael S. Currier Center at The Putney School, 418 Houghton Brook Rd., through Sunday, Oct. 29. An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 22, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Trachtman and Portesi are Vermont-based artists who each use photographic processes that meld historic and contemporary technologies. Trachtman's photogravures bring together cellphone imagery and archival negatives, while Portesi's work ranges from tints to Polaroids, and includes film, 3D imagery, and sculpture. Thematic similarities in their

work include the impact of family, the passage of time, and photography's unrelenting gaze.

Both artists have received Creation Grants from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. They will be available for a meet-and-greet at the annual Harvest Festival, Sunday, Oct. 8, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

In the last year, Trachtman has been a Photolucida Critical Mass Top 50 honoree, the People's Choice Award winner in Klompching Gallery's Fresh Annual, a winner in Soho Photo's International Alternative Processes Competition and the Julia Margaret Cameron Awards, and the recipient of

the Olcott Family Award in The Print Center's International Competition.

Her series "Now Is Always" was named a Top Portfolio by Rfotofolio and an Outstanding Work by the Denis Roussel Awards, and her series "Roaming" was shortlisted for the International Hariban Prize. Both series will be on display at the Currier Center. She is a graduate of The Putney School and lives in Brattleboro.

Portesi's work in tints, Polaroids, film, and 3D imagery explores the nuanced transitions in female identity related to motherhood, aging, and choice. Her work has been exhibited throughout New England most

recently at The Griffin Museum of Photography, The Newport (R.I.) Art Museum, and in New York at Freight+Volume Gallery.

Her work has been featured in *Vogue*, *Forbes*, *The Boston Globe*, *ArtNews*, *Musée*, and many other journals. In 2022, *Analog Forever Magazine* named her as one of the year's top 40 analog photographers. She is featured in the new publication, "Counterculture in Contemporary Photography" alongside Putney's own Sally Mann.

In the spring of 2024, Portesi will debut a new work commissioned by the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, Connecticut. Portesi lives in Saxtons River.



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## Latchis Theatre marks World Alzheimer's Day with a film and a community discussion

BRATTLEBORO—In recognition of World Alzheimer's Day, Thursday, Sept. 21, the Latchis Theatre will be a participating venue in the statewide premiere of the new documentary *Keys Bags Names Words*, a film directed by Cynthia Stone about people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias who share stories of heartbreak and hope in aging.

*Keys Bags Names Words* will be screened at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

The Alzheimer's Association Vermont Chapter, AARP of Vermont, Vermont Department of Health, Community of Vermont Elders, Cathedral Square, and SASH (Support and Services at Home) have partnered to present this event. This powerful new film explores the ways

people can protect their brain health, connect with loved ones, and live a higher quality of life, even after diagnosis.

*Keys Bags Names Words* is a "quirky and inspiring" lens, say organizers, portraying stories of both the personal and global impacts of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, while following a cohort of young scientists and artists from around the

world as they harness every aspect of creativity, humor, and compassion to lead the way toward hope and resilience.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m., with an opportunity to visit community resource tables. The movie is at 7 p.m., followed by a community conversation. To join in, RSVP to [bit.ly/732-alz](http://bit.ly/732-alz) or call 802-440-1881.

## Brattleboro-based circus theater company brings a dark comedy about climate change to NECCA

BRATTLEBORO—Big Teeth Performance Collective presents *Goodbye Party the Show*, an evening-length circus and physical theater show on Saturday, Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the New England School for Circus Arts (NECCA) Trapezium at 10 Town Crier Drive.

Set in the offices of the going-out-of-business Earth, The Planet, LLC, as the corporation collapses, the multi-species staff congregate for a final farewell to

the planet they call their office. This will be an evening of acrobatics, dance, burlesque, and dark comedy. Despite the prospect of a dire future, the workers invite the audience to reminisce and relish millennia of employment at Earth, The Planet, LLC.

Big Teeth Performance Collective works across disciplines to explore the dark comedy of social ecologies. The collective was originally founded as a four-woman acrobatic ensemble

in 2017 and has since evolved to include queer, trans, and gender-expansive artists from across the United States.

"The Teeth" remain committed to rural art making, community collaboration, and "creative practice in the face of existential confusion." Born at NECCA, Big Teeth will return to Brattleboro from a summer tour, where they brought *Goodbye Party the Show* to theater and circus festivals across New England. More about

Big Teeth Performance Collective at [bigteethperformance.com](http://bigteethperformance.com) or on Instagram.

Tickets for this all ages show are \$15–25 sliding scale for adults, \$12 for seniors and people under 12. Run time is 75 minutes. Tickets are available at [necenterforcircusarts.org](http://necenterforcircusarts.org) ([necenterforcircusarts.org/about/goodbye-party-the-show](http://necenterforcircusarts.org/about/goodbye-party-the-show)).

## Higgs and Weisman

post-hardcore label Dischord Records.

As Higgs crossed musical boundaries into experimental/noise, he also crossed international boundaries, joining seven Swedish musicians to form The Skull Defekts, which released 23 albums and a handful of singles and EPs in the 13 years the group was together.

During that time, Higgs also teamed up with Japanese musician and photographer Fumie Ishii to release four albums under the name Fountainsun. While recording with others, Higgs also began releasing his own albums under his name or one of his musical aliases, including Cone of Light and Minerva. Higgs's music has also appeared on such labels as Holy Mountain and Thrill Jockey.

Attendees can expect an unparalleled journey of evocative mythic imagery delivered with prophetic power from Higgs, who describes himself as "an interdimensional song-seamstress and corpse-dancer of the Mystic Crag."

ALSO ON THE BILL for the show is local multi-instrumentalist

Chris Weisman.

Weisman's music is a kaleidoscope of vaulting melodies, wild poetry, overload harmony, melting bridges, and jazz solos. He is the author of *Nonmusical Patterns and their Musical Uses (for Guitar in Standard Tuning)*, the inventor of inverted tuning, and a devoted practitioner of the Yamaha Venova, a recorder-like reed instrument.

Weisman has long been a part of the Brattleboro-based, independent, lo-fi music scene. He has shared albums and stages with Ruth Garbus (Happy Birthday), Kyle Thomas (King Tuff), and Zach Phillips (Blanche Blanche Blanche).

He recently returned from touring the West Coast with producer, composer, and musician Blake Mills. The two collaborated on songwriting for Mills's album *Jelly Road*, on the New Deal/Verve label. Weisman appeared in the video for the album's lead single, *Skeleton Is Walking*.

On his own, Weisman has self-released an astonishing number of solo albums since 2008: 50 in all, with 13 of them coming out in 2021. He has 46

credits on others' albums, primarily as a musician playing bass, guitar, drums, organ, piano, and woodwinds but also as a frequent writer and arranger.

For the evening's performance, Weisman will be joined by elie mcafee-hahn, a songwriter living in Brattleboro. A founding member of the record label and art collective People's Coalition of Tandy, mcafee-hahn is one-half of the trail-blazing guitar duo, Blue Dish, with Julie Bodian. As a mixer, songwriter, singer, and musician playing piano, guitar, and recorder, mcafee-hahn's boatload of credits spans a wide berth and includes releases with Chris Weisman, Ruth Garbus, Ko T.C., Nick Bisceglia, Sam Walters, and many more.

Epsilon Spires' Sanctuary, with its excellent acoustics and fully-functioning Estey pipe organ, is a prime space for musical performance. Housed in the former First Baptist Church, the nonprofit was founded in 2019 to activate the venue and bring diverse cultural experiences to the southeastern Vermont region, highlighting underrepresented and

international perspectives.

*Epsilon Spires* presents *Daniel Higgs and Chris Weisman*, joined by *elie mcafee-hahn*, for an evening of music in the venue's 400-seat Sanctuary on Saturday, Sept. 23. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20; a limited number of sliding-scale tickets are available. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [epsilonspires.org](http://epsilonspires.org).

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Barnstormerz are fiddler and keyboardist Ned Phoenix of Townshend, left, and guitarist Marvin Bentley of South Wardsboro.

## Wardsboro Curtain Call hosts local duo The Barnstormerz

WARDSBORO—On Saturday, Sept. 23, Wardsboro Curtain Call presents a dance and concert with The Barnstormerz.

Marvin Bentley (South Wardsboro) and Ned Phoenix (Townshend) play their original songs and tunes. Their fiddle, guitars, piano, organ, harmonica, and vocals groove in a variety of musical styles through a blues filter. They will feature Marvin's songs about Vermont and Ned's extraordinary improvised fiddling.

The Barnstormerz will play two sets of music for free-form dancing. Their original

dance music includes country, blues, swing, boogie-woogie, ragtime, hot fiddle tunes, and Latin rhythms.

The Barnstormerz have played for many years — together or separately — with Bad To Be Good, Estey's Muse, The Turkey Mountain Window Smashers, and other bands for fairs and events in area towns, and as Ned Phoenix and Friends for the first 15 years of Brattleboro's Gallery Walk.

They have played for weddings and dances throughout New England and for convention receptions such as at Woodstock Country Club,

Equinox Resort, and Stratton Arts Festival. They have also entertained listeners at Wardsboro's Fourth of July and Gilfeather Turnip Day celebrations.

The show takes place in the Wardsboro Town Hall Cafe; doors open at 6:30 p.m., and music begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door. Event organizers say concertgoers should plan to bring their own beverages plus — in potluck tradition — a snack to add to the Refreshment Table for all to enjoy. For more information, email [kwkmdavis@yahoo.com](mailto:kwkmdavis@yahoo.com) or call 802-896-6810.

## The silent film masterpiece that inspired 'The Joker'

'The Man Who Laughs,' with live soundtrack performed on the historic Estey Pipe Organ by celebrated silent film accompanist Ben Model, screens at Epsilon Spires on Sept. 22

BRATTLEBORO—On Friday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m., the downtown nonprofit arts center Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St., presents Ben Model performing a live musical score on the historic Estey organ to the silent film *The Man Who Laughs*.

Model is an organist who regularly performs musical accompaniment to silent films at MOMA and the Library of Congress. He is one of the top 20 most-celebrated silent film accompanists in the United States, and Epsilon Spires organizers say they are "honored to have him return for his fourth appearance."

Model was recently featured in a video piece in *The New Yorker* and has previously written in his blog about playing Epsilon Spires' Estey organ, which was built here in Brattleboro.

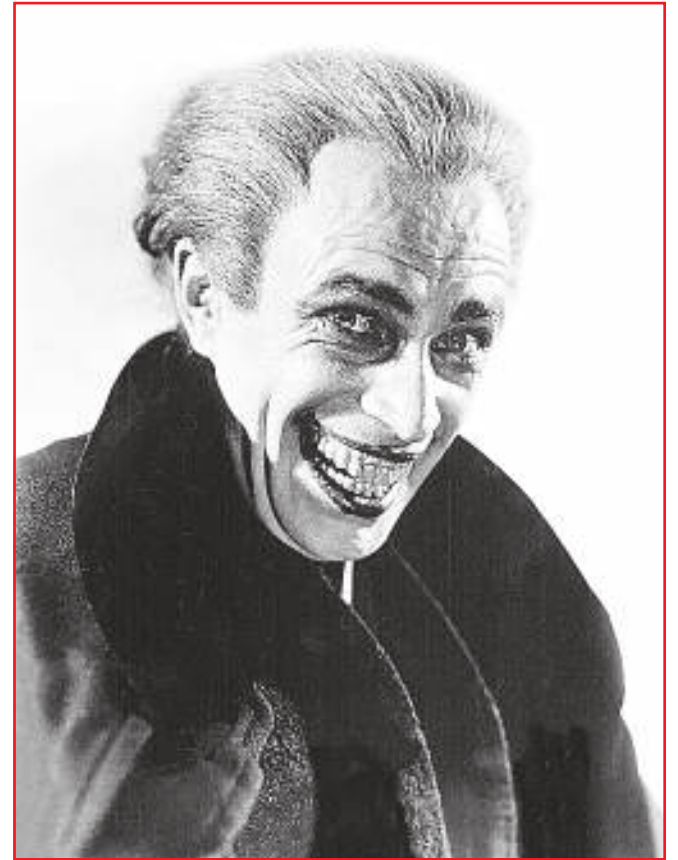
The 1928 German-Expressionist film is based on Victor Hugo's tragic tale of wrongful persecution and wrathful anger and features the original performance that inspired the DC Comics character, "The Joker."

Before the character appeared in the Batman comic book series, there was *The Man Who Laughs*, a thrilling, dreamlike and visually striking historical melodrama, packed with political intrigue and emotionally complicated characters.

Conrad Veidt stars as Gwynplaine, who, as a child, was disfigured with a "permanent smile" at the cruel command of King James II — a punishment carved on the boy's face for his Scottish father's political disservice from the British crown.

Ostracized, Gwynplaine joins a carnival sideshow and rescues and befriends Dea, an innocent blind girl who is not aware of his scarred features but loves him for who he is. However, their lives of contentment living at the fringes of society become threatened by an unexpected confrontation with Gwynplaine's troubled past, forcing him to confront his urge for revenge.

Gwynplaine's grotesque grin was achieved with prosthesis. Veidt was fitted with a set of



COURTESY PHOTO

Conrad Veidt stars as Gwynplaine in "The Man Who Laughs," the 1928 German-Expressionist silent film that will be screened with a live pipe organ music score at Epsilon Spires on Sept. 22.

dentures that had metal hooks to painfully pull back the corners of his mouth, and he couldn't speak when the dentures were in. The distinctive tortured look and the pathos and suffering behind the antihero's backstory are cited as a major influence for the American comic book creators of Batman's grinning nemesis, "The Joker."

"Veidt's extraordinary performance, and the film overall, however, deserve to be celebrated for far more, and as a work of art in itself," Spires staff say in a news release. "The darkly gripping story is propelled by director Paul Leni's masterful visual style, whose pacing rewards us with intrigue and excitement at every surprising turn."

Model, carrying on a tradition he learned from the silent

film organist Lee Erwin (1919–2000), is a resident film accompanist at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City as well as at the Library of Congress' Packard Campus Theatre. He also performs at theaters, museums, schools, and other venues around the United States, as well as internationally.

Over the past four decades, he has created and performed thousands of live scores for several hundred silent films and has performed at many classic film festivals. He has composed film scores for both orchestra and concert band for accompaniment to films featuring Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Laurel & Hardy, and more.

Tickets are available by sliding-scale at [epsilonspires.org](http://epsilonspires.org).

## Annual Fairy House Festival returns to The Nature Museum in Grafton

GRAFTON—The Fairy House Festival returns to The Nature Museum in Grafton on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23 and 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 14th annual celebration of nature, magic, creativity, and community brings together dozens of volunteers and builders to create a fairyland of small structures built from natural materials, including fairy playgrounds, castles, markets, gardens, and more.

Visitors of all ages will have an opportunity to enter the Fairy House Trail Portal and explore the creations through the meadow and forestland, as well as visit a craft tent, fairy house building station, games, bubbles, vendors, and local food.

The Fairy Royal Court will be welcoming all who enter the front gate, and fairy performers will be wandering the Chapman Meadow throughout the weekend. Many participants come in full fairy costume, complete with wings and sparkles.

The Nature Museum welcomes volunteers to help with the festival and donor contributions to the event, which is the Museum's biggest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds support the Museum's year-round programming, including week-long summer camps, in-school and after school programs, and all-ages workshops and immersive experiences.

Additionally, the festival supports the wetland restoration in

the Chapman Meadow and the expansion of the Magic Forest Playscape, which is free and open to families dawn-to-dusk everyday.

The museum also welcomes donations of non-invasive, abundant natural materials (such as pine cones, acorns, small pebbles, dried grasses, daylily stems, and more) for the construction of fairy houses.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children, and free for kids under 2. Tickets at the gate may be limited, so the museum encourages visitors to buy in advance. Visit [nature-museum.org](http://nature-museum.org) to buy tickets, or for more details on the festival.



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## Season Preview

Month	Date	Event
SEPT	Sat 23	Windbourne
OCT	Sun 8	Juno Orchestra—Bach
	Fri 15	In Style Moderna
	Sat 20	Chamber Series: St. Petersburg
NOV	Fri 3 & Sat 4	Music School Student Recitals
	Sun 5	E.O.S. Journey
	Fri 10	Palover Strings
	Fri 17	Seneca Ensemble—Tendrils of the Soul
DEC	Sat 2	Chamber Series: Musicians from Marlboro III
	Sun 10	Brattleboro Camera—Treasure Hidden Within
	Tues 12	Music School Adult Ensembles Concert
	Sun 31	New Year's Eve Concert
JAN	Sat 6 & Sun 7	Music School Student Recitals
	Thu 11	Savasa Ensemble—Brazil: New Wave Banquet
	Sat 16 & Sun 14	Brattleboro Concert Choir—Songs for the People
	Fri 19	Chamber Series: Benjamin Hochman
FEB	Sat 27 & Sun 28	Northern Roots Festival
	Fri 7	Palover Strings
MAR	Sun 11	Juno Orchestra
	Sat 17	Chamber Series: Musicians from Marlboro III
	Sun 26	E.O.S.—Untethered
	Fri 8	Savasa Ensemble—Bolivian Mission Banquet
APR	Sun 10	In Style Moderna
	Sun 24	E.O.S.—2 for 4
	Sat 30	Chamber Series: Castle of Our Skins
	Fri 5	Rava String Quartet
MAY	Sat 6 & Sun 7	Music School Student Recitals
	Fri 12	Loise & Co. with Rache Aucoin
	Sun 21	Brattleboro Camera—Make It a Place of Springs
	Sat 4 & Sun 5	Brattleboro Concert Choir—In Paradise Music of Gabriel Faure
JUN	Fri 10	Seneca Ensemble—Blues of a Feather
	Fri 17 & Sat 18	Music School Student Recitals
	Thu 30	Music School Youth Ensembles
	Sun 2	Juno Orchestra
Tues 4	Music School Adult Ensembles	
Fri 7	Chamber Series: PSPRESSAWOL	
Sat 22	Music Under the Stars	

Schedule is subject to change.

## Marlboro Studio School now enrolling for fall 2023 workshops, studio classes

MARLBORO—The Marlboro Studio School is gearing up for its second term of studio classes beginning Sunday, Oct. 8, on the 500-plus-acre Potash Hill campus on South Road. Fall 2023 course offerings include residential one-week workshops and eight-week studio classes. Enrollment is open for all fall 2023 courses, and space is still available.

The Marlboro Studio School is a newly developing art center with established facilities that offer hands-on instruction to all levels of students in a variety of disciplines. The school, directed by former Marlboro professor and ceramic artist David Eichelberger, began offering studio classes in the spring of this year. In response to positive feedback, the school has increased the number of courses, widened the breadth of media offered in studio classes, and added a variety of workshops.

Spaces include a fully outfitted ceramics studio, a multimedia sculpture studio, and a painting studio, among other multipurpose flexible work and stay spaces.

The school, directed by former Marlboro professor and ceramic artist David Eichelberger, began offering studio classes in the spring of this year. In response to positive feedback, the school has increased the number of courses, widened the breadth of media offered in studio classes, and added a variety of workshops.

"The existing visual arts facilities on the Potash Hill campus are an outstanding opportunity to bring together individuals who communicate through the work of their hands," Eichelberger said in a news release. "As a residential craft school, the Marlboro

Studio School invites students from across the country to stay on campus and immerse themselves in a studio experience to learn, develop, and refine their skills."

The fall 2023 term marks the first time Marlboro Studio School will welcome residential students.

The artist-led, one-week residential workshops will provide the opportunities for both intensive study and cross-pollination across the subjects through residential life.

Workshops include gel plate printing with Holly Hughes; wax carving and lost wax metal casting with Anna Barrio, Vanessa Graham, and Will Nevins-Alderfer; and slip cast ceramics with Eichelberger.

Students enrolled in Marlboro Studio School's inaugural week-long residential workshops will stay in Potash Hill residence halls, take meals in the dining hall managed by the Brattleboro Food Co-Op, and engage in social events on campus. Their days will be filled with studio instruction and independent work time in the school's purpose-built studio spaces. "Students can expect a comfortable, intimate experience," says Eichelberger.

The school's programmatic offerings will expand to include additional studio classes and workshops, public lectures, exhibitions, and artist residencies in the 2023–24 season and beyond. More information can be found at [marlborostudioschool.org](http://marlborostudioschool.org).



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DISPATCH

# STREET CRED

*These people live in downtown Brattleboro — on the street during the day and wherever they can at night. It's complicated. Very complicated.*

**I**T'S VERY DIFFICULT to talk about homeless people without seeming overly idealistic or fatalistic. Or, worse, to seem just clueless.

Even the right phrase: homeless, houseless, homeless-by-choice, housing challenged, couch surfing, tent city-ing. To bastardize Leo Tolstoy, “every homeless person is homeless in his, her, and/or their own way.”

Since I live downtown, I've developed a passing relationship with several people who live downtown — on the street during the day and wherever they can at night.

One of them, Kenny, graduated from Amherst College a few years after I did and tends to be floridly manic. (I tend to just be mildly manic.) Whenever I run into him, he's always “just been looking” for me and can't wait to drown me in whatever's currently pouring forth from the top of this head.

At one point he spent some time up close and personal with the Dalai Lama, so he thinks it'd be fun to go mano a mano with me in the who's-most-enlightened department. Not knowing whether that's a blessing or a curse, I let him decide. Besides, anytime I “get him,” as he puts it, he says he was testing me and then starts mumbling phrases in perfect guttural Tibetan.

Kenny usually has money and “perfectly good” food that supermarkets have thrown out, along with some “incredibly useful” items that he's come upon here or there.

I shouldn't put those phrases in quotes. He recently gave me a classic antique school globe light he found in a dumpster. I'd been looking for one for years. He sometimes asks me for coffee money but only when he pats his pockets and realizes that, while he has many pockets, he doesn't have any money in them. In that case, he always promises to pay me back double.

Sometimes we split a muffin.

JAKE TELLS ME the best stories about why he needs money. Usually it's \$18 for Suboxone or \$19 for a hotel room. Sometimes it's because he has a place to go where he has a job and he just needs bus money.

A while back, I knew the money was for hard drugs — not that it was my business. But something about his affect has changed. So I think he's sticking to the Suboxone. He says he's been turned down three times for Medicaid and, if he can't get the Suboxone, he'll be “tempted” to try that “other stuff.” I'm still getting to the bottom of why homeless addicts have to pay for their Suboxone.

Jake's girlfriend usually hangs back suspiciously or shyly, but she always smiles and says thank you when I give him money. She has some form of cancer, and he says she doesn't have enough money for the regular medicine she needs because she's not on her dad's insurance anymore and she doesn't qualify for Medicaid.

A lot of their stories don't quite make sense to me. But the feeling is probably mutual. (It probably doesn't make sense to them when I say I only have a few bucks and pull out a wallet that clearly has more.)

Brattleboro



PHOTOILLUSTRATION BASED ON IMAGE BY DAVID BLISTEIN

SEBASTIAN AND his girlfriend were staying near the railroad tracks for most of the winter. I could see their tent from my third-floor apartment. One day he told me they'd had a raccoon on the roof and it had really freaked his girlfriend out. For some reason, I had never given him money before. But I gave him some that day.

Sebastian's from Florida. When I found out I said, “What the f— you doing up here?” We looked at each other and said, in unison: “A girl.”

I haven't seen him in a while, and Jake told me he and his girlfriend left town.

There's a good chance they'll be back.

AND THEN THERE'S my friend Melvin. I could write a book about Melvin. We talk quite a bit and, sometimes, when he's not accusing

■ SEE STREET CRED, C2

DAVID BLISTEIN's “day job” is as a scriptwriter for PBS documentaries. He's also has a site on Substack, Fields of Vision ([davidblistein.substack.com](http://davidblistein.substack.com)), which currently includes “Writing Asides—What Writers Do When They're Not Writing,” a serial novel in process, and his latest series of posts, “Street Cred,” which is excerpted in this piece.

All the names in this piece are pseudonyms except for Kenny and Melvin, who, Blistein writes, “I know well enough to use their real names. They assume they are providing valuable material for my writing, anyway. Which now they are.”

In fact, Blistein attributes some of his recent generosity to the fact he is now giving a portion of new subscription proceeds from his Substack site to those on the streets whose lives he is chronicling.

VIEWPOINT

## When foliage is the only color we'll see

For decades, Vermont has been socially conditioning itself and others that our acceptable norm is dominantly white. The latest example? The state's new agritourism videos.



Some of the exclusively white faces in recent ads produced by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.



YOUTUBE.COM/@VTAGRICULTURE

**I** KEEP COMING BACK to the question I frequently hear asked: “Why is Vermont so white?”

It's often accompanied by head scratching or a shoulder shrug, as if the phenomenon of our whiteness is inherent as part of our DNA — a natural law — and not something that can be reasonably explained. Vermont has historically been among the top three U.S. states with the highest percentage of white residents. The 2022 Census lists us at 93.8% white.

One very obvious answer came to me when I viewed the three newest promotional videos that were tweeted out by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture earlier this week. *Aha!* I thought. *Here's an example of how Vermont perpetuates its whiteness!*

Barre

PHAYVANH LUEKHAMHAN, a Laotian refugee who came to Brattleboro in 1975 and grew up here, describes herself as a creatrix, a trickster, and a nonprofit executive focused on community building through arts and being a visible leader of color in mostly all-white spaces. She serves on the board of directors of Vermont Independent Media, which publishes The Commons. This piece was originally published on her Substack site ([phayvanh.substack.com](http://phayvanh.substack.com)), where readers can support her writing.

You can find them posted to the agency's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/@VTAGriculture](http://youtube.com/@VTAGriculture)). These are fairly recent videos, as they do address the effects of the flooding and local recovery effort.

I retweeted them, calling them a “commercial for white people.” Twitter/X trolls did not like that, and Vermont progressives didn't offer conversation around whiteness except to

agree that it does portray a current reality — rural Vermont *is* white.

Since tourism is vital to Vermont's economy, it's necessary to remind folks that this is a lovely place to visit. These videos are fairly bland — nothing controversial. It's the same kind of blah that's been pushed to the outside world for as long as I can remember. Vermont practically invented agrotourism.

The production value is great

— what we'd expect from a professional firm. The slickness and quality is not what I was referring to when I called it a commercial for white people. What I meant was that the absence of other cultural signifiers establishes whiteness as the norm. For decades, Vermont has been socially conditioning itself and others that our acceptable norm is dominantly white.

“Persons who identify as white rarely

have to think about their racial identity because they live within a culture where whiteness has been normalized.” — National Museum of African American History and Culture

FARMERS OF COLOR exist here in Vermont, as do purveyors, producers, markets, and restaurants with professionals of many backgrounds. None of them are represented in these ads. What they farm, produce, and provide are then also not included. Their customers and potential market are likewise not represented. We don't even get to see what these folks like to eat

■ SEE VERMONT'S WHITENESS, C2



Wonderful home with plenty of indoor and outdoor space. The family room has a gas fireplace and hardwood floors. There is a slider to the large deck. The kitchen has a breakfast nook space that overlooks the deck and back yard. Ample dining room for family gatherings and a spacious living room with built in book shelves. The 2nd floor bedrooms are spacious and have great closet space. The primary bedroom has ensuite 3/4 bath and two large closets. The basement media/rec room is ready for your pool table and great as a game room. There is also a potential workshop with slider to the back yard and a cement patio. The in-law apartment has a modest kitchen area/living room area with spiral staircase to the 2nd floor bedroom and slider to the back deck. The attached 2 car garage provides direct access to the house and there is a shed attached for storage. The back yard has terraced garden space and plenty of room for play and relaxation on the 1.58(+/-) acres and a shed to store toys and tools.

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## Street cred

FROM SECTION FRONT

me of “talking that stupid white shit again,” he’ll say something that gives me pause and when I go home I write it on my whiteboard. Like when he told me, “We forget to think and think not to forget.”

Melvin’s business strategy is similar to that of anyone raising money for a struggling nonprofit. Which, in this case, is himself.

First, you reach out to prospective donors — “cultivate relationships,” a consultant would call it. After a few “asks,” you might get a small donation. A little more the next time. Until you’ve achieved the perfect blend of goodwill and generosity — with touches of guilt and self-righteousness as needed.

Soon, your donor will be making an unspoken (perhaps unrealized) pledge of weekly or monthly contributions until, eventually, they take part in the annual fund drive.

Fortunately, in Melvin’s case, at least I won’t ever be asked to be on the Board of Directors.

As I remember, the first time I met Melvin — around 2017 or 2018 — he didn’t ask for anything. He just appeared alongside me on the sidewalk out of nowhere, saying “Uh huh, uh huh” or “Well, all right, all right.” Those are his two basic greetings — either of which makes you feel you’re on the same page. Even if you suspect you’re reading different books. Or at least in different translations.

Soon, he’s walking along as if he happened to be going where you’re going. Just when you think he’s about to ask you for something, at least a light or a cigarette, he slowly dips and turns his sinewy body and rolls it up until he’s facing the other direction — a poor man’s Michael Jackson move — walking away with a “catch you later,” that feels like a promise you’ve asked him to make. Then he’ll give a little laugh like the two of you just completed a perfect basketball pick-and-roll. You’re on the same team.

Our relationship developed slowly. Within a year or two, he had me up to regular \$5 donations to the cause. Maybe I got away with singles occasionally.

Then he went away for a while. I’d say it was two years; he says nine months. Regardless, when I saw him ambling down the street towards me again, I had to admit I had kind of missed him. The feeling was mutual. We gave each other big hugs — me, because Melvin is endlessly entertaining, and him because his “white daddy” was still in town.

Melvin doesn’t drink coffee. He also doesn’t do hard drugs. He drinks bad beer and smokes pot. Pretty much all day. But slowly. Like, homeopathically. Although by seven or eight, he might seem a little drunk or stoned — or both.

Melvin also never uses cardboard signs. He’s not asking for a handout. He’s inviting you to have a relationship. For me, relationship-building is all about asking questions. The kind of questions that most people who are raising money are happy to answer — where they’re from, why they are homeless, why they can’t get work, and where they’re going next.

Whether any of their answers are true or not is irrelevant. To me they’re like street musicians using the spoken word.

Melvin doesn’t answer questions. Even when I ask him some of the basics — *How old are you? How long you been around town? Stay warm last night?* — he responds, “There you go, asking questions again,” a response that triggers a frantic synaptic response as my mind scrambles for a way to get around or over that verbal smack-down, until I find myself in the familiar (and not unwelcome) no-man’s land of stillness.

Compared to that, classic Zen koans — like asking whether a dog has Buddha nature or what’s the sound of one hand clapping — seem amateurish.

A few times, I’ve tried refusing to give Melvin money unless he answers one of those questions — a tactic he clearly feels is beneath me. And usually doesn’t work.

In general, he simply won’t play by my rules. And, when I try to play by his rules — or even pretend I know those rules — we are both disappointed. I should know better. If I presume something important about his life — which can be virtually anything about

## Vermont’s whiteness

FROM SECTION FRONT

or enjoy.

When the white story is the only story, then no other stories are allowed in. It’s erasure by omission. When that erasure gets regurgitated for generations, the pre-writing message becomes the lie that we believe and ends up being the culture we create.

No one likes to be tokenized, and astute viewers will know when there’s a performative inclusion for the sake of checking off that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) checkbox.

Slotting in any melanated person is not what I’m suggesting. Nor am I saying that we should include the rainbow so we don’t mistakenly exclude anyone, either. Savvy storytellers will be able to get their message across without resorting to obvious tricks like casting extras.

*“These ‘oversights’ are actually systemic racism in action, we aren’t saying this is being perpetuated on purpose, but when things are pointed out it becomes the responsibility of the tourism industry to address the topic and make meaningful change. The tourism industry needs to understand that the colour of people’s skin, their faith, their sexuality and their culture are factors in their visitor experience, right from decision making to how much they enjoy their trip and crucially their likelihood of returning.” — “What Does Racism Have to Do With Tourism?”, a blog post by Anti-Racist Cumbria, a nonprofit in Great Britain*

BACK IN 2017, the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing partnered with the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity to create the Vermont African American Heritage Trail in a bid to cater to visitors who wanted a different kind of cultural experience.

“Black travelers, in particular, are increasingly looking for ways to show their support for Black-owned travel businesses,” writes *The New York Times* about post-George Floyd tourism.

“In fact, according to the international survey of nearly 4,000 Black leisure travelers by MMGY Global, 54

percent of American respondents said they were more likely to visit a destination if they saw Black representation in travel advertising.”

The *Times* quoted a travel agent: “These road trips and initiatives that speak to people of color in general are important because we’ve been left out of travel narratives.”

While this trail still exists, promotional efforts seem to have been shelved. It should be a project that is actively maintained. African American history is still being made in Vermont.

The problem with one-off solutions like the Heritage Trail getting archived is that it ceases to be an act of inclusion and becomes, predictably, a temporary acquiescence to the demands of inclusivity. Active inclusion could be taking the Heritage Trail assets and marrying them with our agricultural message.

WHAT CAN WE do about it?

One commenter asked me: “What video would you like to see from the Vermont Agency for [Agriculture], Food and Markets? Asking seriously.”

While this isn’t my work and more brilliant minds can come up with better, here are a few ways to speak to different cultures via film without exploitative tokenism. Feel free to add your other ideas to the comments.

• **Feature farmers of color.** Let us hear their speech and why they choose to farm here, and what they choose to grow.

• **Evoke the farm-to-table ethos** by showing how mint goes from the farm into a meal that is culturally evocative, like a bowl of pho, ribs slathered with sauce on a grill, or a mezze plate with döner kebab.

• **Make a process video** showing how local corn gets turned into masa, gets turned into tortillas.

• **Show people of color** who work in the industry: chefs, distillers, et al.

• **Show shoppers of color** talking with vendors. Show items like okra, chili peppers, tamales, and whatever else is on offer.

his life — he’ll usually start ranting and raving: “There you go with that stupid white shit again.”

In response, I tell him if he’s going to say that, I’m going to call him the N-word. (I say the word to Melvin, but I won’t spell it out because I don’t want to offend anyone who doesn’t feel that’s appropriate. I usually agree with them, but I think this is an exception to that rule. And Melvin seems to agree.)

At this point, we both laugh, and he gives me a fist bump or his signature handshake while throwing his other arm over my shoulder — a gesture of common ground that makes any appearance of discord seem like make-believe.

Even though Melvin occasionally says things or does things that give me pause, if not a full stop, I don’t see him as some kind of unwitting Zen street master who’s taken me on as an equally unwitting student. He’s just Melvin being Melvin. And I’m just me being me.

The suggestion to “meet people where they are” is a fundamental “rule” for helping someone in need. It’s the latest iteration of trying to “look through their eyes,” “understand where they’re coming from,” “put yourself in their shoes,” or some other idiom for being empathic and without judgment.

Putting myself in Melvin’s shoes involves walking much slower than I usually walk, noticing things I usually don’t notice, and looking at most situations in terms of what might be in it for me, ideally money, even if that involved dealing with “aggravating white people.”

Whereas, were he to put himself in my shoes, he’d have to walk really fast, be oblivious to most of the things around him, and get a “real” job.

I have to say — and I imagine some sociologist has written about this — the whole notion of meeting someone where they are can be a little condescending, in terms of a subtle so-called “power dynamic.” But, in this case, the only “power” I have is money. Melvin’s coin is who he is. So who’s condescending to whom? There I go, asking questions again.

IT’S HARD TO TALK about people who live on the street without over-romanticizing the apparent difficulty of their lives.

A FEW DAYS AGO, I found Isaiah sitting on my stoop. Isaiah always looks pretty strung out; his girlfriend Melissa, even more so.

We talked for a while about what he and Melissa were doing in town. Where they were from. How he used to have an antiques business. How they’d had to leave the last house they were in when the owners sold it. Where they were camping. How their tent had been ruined in the rains and then his sneaker had come off at some point and he’d tried to follow it floating along the brook and, just after it disappeared, he came upon two perfectly good tents.

So, he’d lost a sneaker, but at least they had good shelter again — except for the rats that had found their way in the night before.

As I handed him a few bucks, Melissa came over and struggled to give me a grateful look before wiring her cardboard sign to the railing. I couldn’t read the whole thing, but it said it was her birthday, asked for whatever you could spare and, most likely, offered God’s blessing, which she is easily as qualified to dispense as any cleric or rabbi.

Ten minutes later, when I walked back outside, they were gone.

IT HADN’T BEEN a good summer for living outside. The rains have been torrential.

So when Jake approached me from across the street and asked if I could do him a favor, I just said, “How much?”

But Jake always wants to explain first. It’s more important to him than it is to me, like it’s partly to convince himself. I do enjoy his explanations. No two are alike.

His plan this time was to go to northern Vermont the next day to work for his brother. The Drop-In Center had given him bus fare. His partner, Suzanne, would be staying in town to continue her cancer treatment until she could join him. They just needed another \$20 to have enough for a hotel room. To get out of the rain. Clean themselves up.

Kenny has told me that Suzanne uses drugs. Equally unreliable sources have confirmed she has cancer. Either way or both, I figured she could use a night away from a leaky tent that tends to attract skunks, raccoons, and other wildlife.

A few days later, Jake showed back up. I kind of felt like a complete idiot — not because I gave him the money, but because I actually thought he was going to go up north to work with his brother.

I was walking down the sidewalk with the sun so bright in my eyes I didn’t realize it was him until he was right in front of me. He looked more belligerent than penitent, as if his situation was so dire he didn’t have time to deal with my judgments.

I explained that I wasn’t upset, that I had just hoped the thing with his brother would work out. He was grateful for my understanding. Looking at me with his best at-the-end-of-his-rope expression, he explained.

He had indeed begun to establish himself as a professional farrier with his brother in northern Vermont. He loved the work (all three days of it, so far). But then Suzanne called to say that the doctors had given her only 11 to 12 months to live. He was crushed and came right back. He knew she was sick, but he’d thought they were holding the cancer at bay.

As for style choices — background music, tagline/hashtag, attire, clips of a “walking village” that also show wheelchair ramps, bilingual signage — there are so many ways to convey an openness to all sorts of visitors while we play up our agricultural attributes.

*“Whiteness operates in covert and overt ways that affect all of us. It can appear as practices within an institution or accepted social norms. Since whiteness works almost invisibly, we may not always be aware of how it manifests in our daily lives.” — National Museum of African American History and Culture*

NONE OF US LIVES in a vacuum. When we do not allow ourselves an opportunity to meet and engage with people with different backgrounds, we lose out.

As individuals, our circles become echo chambers. As communities, we deprive ourselves of new ideas and energy. As a society, we cloister ourselves, out of touch with the national and global conversation. We become more fractured, divided.

We cannot have important conversations of substance if we do not allow ourselves to interact with folks who are different from us.

Think about why you are reading this piece. What are you learning and experiencing when you read this? Does it challenge or broaden your thinking? Allow that kind of conversation to happen in real life, wherever you are. Likely you’ll give someone something to think about, too. That’s my hope, at least.

I’ll close by stating that I genuinely believe that the state as a whole wants to do better on its inclusivity problem — and, yes, it’s a problem — which is why I offer this critique. We can do better. And we should try, since people of color do visit.

“We” is generally always the term I will use. That’s because I choose to live here, and these commercials represent my tax dollars at work. I am complicit (though not directly involved) in these ads, and so are my fellow Vermonters.

When I came back from a walk late the next afternoon, I found him sitting on my stoop. Suzanne was lying on the landing behind him, a backpack under her hip, her head on what appeared to be a bag for a tent.

She didn’t look good. I weakly asked if some Advil would help at all. She shook her head. Just as I was about to give Jake money to get them both some food, he told me their real problem.

The town, he said, had cleared their whole encampment — theirs, and six or seven other tents.

The police usually ignore people camping in out-of-the-way places: Next to the tracks. Or in the abandoned field behind the lumber yard. Or along the stream, where the banks are steep and nobody will see them from the street above. But this one was in a cemetery, and some mourner must have complained.

Occasionally, as Jake talked, Suzanne slowly opened her eyes and commented like an English teacher correcting an oral presentation. It was endearing. And it dissolved more than one preconception — that this wasn’t a marriage of convenience or desperation. They clearly loved each other.

I tried to remember if the shelter was still giving out sleeping bags or I had an extra one to give them. But then, Jake explained, their real problem was that his Suboxone and her painkillers were in the tent. Along with her iPhone.

The Suboxone made sense. Jake was shaky that afternoon in a way that I hadn’t seen him in a long time. When I mentioned it, he said he had gone more than 80 days without opioids and wasn’t about to blow it now. But without the Suboxone...

Guessing back to Suzanne, he explained, without my asking, that she could get totally wiped out like that after chemo. She opened her eyes and gave me a wan smile.

I gave Jake more than I would usually and wished them the best. Jake said what he always says: “Thanks, boss.”

THERE’S A FOOTBRIDGE across the brook on the north side of the Co-op parking lot.

Every day, hundreds of people walk by or over that bridge. It’s a good place to hang out if you need money. There’s almost always someone there during the day, but never more than one. It’s almost like they have assigned shifts.

A young woman was there not long ago. She was sitting cross-legged, reading a book — not something you see too often there — with a backpack, two water bottles, and some indiscriminate possessions behind her.

I started fumbling around in my pockets for a few dollars. When I reached her, I looked down and asked what she was reading. She showed me the cover. Said it was about some soldier in Afghanistan.

She looked up and gave me a tired smile. I asked her name and whether she was at the shelter or tenting. She said her name was Beth. There wasn’t room at the shelter, so they were tenting, but the tent had been taken away.

I figured it was the same encampment Jake had told me about. “You were at the cemetery?”

They had been. And, like Jake and Suzanne, they’d gone to the fire department to get their stuff, but the fire department didn’t have it.

I said I’d heard the tents were at the Department of Public Works and explained where that was. She thanked me but said the tent wasn’t in great shape and they didn’t have much in it anyway. Also, she’d heard the shelter was getting new tents for people who needed them.

Then I asked her where she was from.

She named a small village about 40 miles away — a very small village of fewer than 500. In the late ’70s, my wife Wendy and I were two of them. In fact, it was our daughter’s first home, albeit very briefly. Beth knew the house we had lived in and said hers was about five houses down, past the general store.

Back then, we didn’t have a whole lot more cash in our pockets than this girl had now. But it was a different time, economically and culturally. Plus, our support system was significantly greater, and a friend owned the general store. We weren’t going to go hungry.

As we continued to talk, Beth’s face became a little more animated. She began to look less like a bedraggled young woman from parts unknown and more like a local kid reading a book at the bridge.

Why was she here? Why was she living in a tent?

She had been living in that house in the small town until her mom found a new boyfriend, locked her out, and sold it.

What was she going to do to next?

Get a job as a certified nursing assistant. She’d done it before. She added that she was also certified as a med tech, which clearly (and rightly) she was proud of.

What was stopping her from working?

She needed an ID. Someone had stolen her birth certificate. She’d put all her stuff in an old jeep when her mom kicked her out and someone broke in and stole everything. Or maybe they stole the whole jeep. I can’t remember.


I started to suggest the shelter could help, but she’d already talked with them and expected to have a new birth certificate soon.

Would she have to be relicensed to work as a CNA again?


She just had to take a short refresher course and a test. It would

■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

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Hi, my name is **Buddy!** I was a very spunky cool dude. I seem to like everyone. I do have quite the personality and loves to snuggle. I love going for walks and being around my peeps. I may be able to live with another dog. Cats are a complete unknown to me. Please come and make my sweet dreams come true.

Hi there! I’m **Turtle**, I’m a sweet older gal with the cutest little head tilt! I came in as a stray so not much is known about my background but I’ve been friendly and lovey with people so far! I was found outside, but with my head tilt I should stay indoor as much as possible since I may not be able to run as fast as a normal kitty. The staff here isn’t totally sure what causes my head tilt but it doesn’t seem to bother me and it’s likely how I’ve been my whole life. I don’t seem to mind other cats so I might be able to have a feline friend in my new home. Dogs and children are unknown so introductions should be gradual and everyone should be cat-savvy. Come make me the happiest girl alive and adopt me today!

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take about a month.

Beth knew what she was doing. She just needed a little help to do it.

I asked whether the fact she kept saying “they” meant she had a partner.

She said yes, adding she wouldn’t feel safe living outside in a tent alone.

I felt better hearing her say that. I know — that’s a little paternal. But, by then, it was as if I were talking with a neighbor’s kid across space and time.

BRATTLEBORO ESCAPED the devastation of the floods that descended this summer on the middle part of the state. But we have had our share of violent storms.

As I drove north on Route 91 on Sept. 8, the rain was as blinding as a blizzard. I was going 40 mph and trying to decide whether to pull over. I began wondering about the things you wonder about in storms like this: Was I about to hydroplane? Would I lose power at home? Which roads would get washed out?

I survived. Power interruptions were minimal. And, as far as I know, no houses were swept away.

I can’t say the same for the homes of my friends on the street.

The next afternoon I noticed Isaiah holding a cardboard sign. I had been hoping he was making enough money from his copper-wire stone pendants that I knew he’d been making and selling on the street.

I asked him what was going on. He said that the storm had wiped out their tent, the shelter didn’t have any more at the moment, and he needed to raise money quickly for something to protect them from the rain.

Practically speaking, the most dependable way to direct money to people who live on the street is to donate to a shelter, food shelf, or other organization that provides direct services. On any given day, I might encounter a handful of people who are in need of food, shelter, and housing. The local service organizations, on the other hand, encounter dozens of people in need 24/7. They know how to deliver practical help far better than I do.

Still, when you see someone in immediate need and you know the shelter is full and the food shelf is closed, you might want to temporarily create what philanthropies call a “designated fund,” i.e., give some cash to a specific person.

So, I gave Isaiah the few singles I had in my pocket and was half-way down the street before I realized how ridiculous that was. I walked back and, pointing at the sporting goods store a few doors down, said, “Let’s see if they have any tents on sale.”

He looked down, like he couldn’t possibly ask me to buy him a new tent and said he knew a guy who was selling an old canvas one for \$20.

I sighed. The tent that had collapsed was probably one of those old \$20 canvas ones. Still, I gave him the \$20 and said I hoped he could get it set up before the rains forecast for that night.

Later that day, I asked him if they’d gotten the tent set up. He told me it was sold by the time they got there.

So we walked a few blocks back to the sporting goods store, during which he told me how he could pay me back in part by making me a really nice leather seat for my bike. I appreciated the intention.

We went in the store and looked for sales. We chose a tent, and Isaiah took off with the box on his shoulder walking in the direction of their campsite.

The next day, Melissa told me they hadn’t set the tent up because they wanted to put it on pallets and she had just gotten permission to take some from a loading dock nearby.

I’ve never spent anywhere near that much money on one of my street friends. Isaiah and Melissa have been around for a while, but I figure I have a decent sense of their story. I suspected that one or both had beat a drug addiction, and he clearly has some serious mood disorder. I knew they’d also had some bad luck—it doesn’t take much these days—and that they were doing the best they could.

Still, I realized that, for all I knew, Isaiah and Melissa had sold the tent for drugs and got one of those \$20 tents. When you give money on the street, you can’t guarantee it’ll go where you assume.

A couple of days later, I was talking to a couple who were just passing through town but seemed to have been here long enough to get a sense of the street. (The woman said she had already used Narcan on someone who overdosed in a public bathroom.)

I guess they’d seen me talking to Isaiah, because the guy told me stories that left me feeling gut-punched. Soon, I found myself in the cycle of rationalization that I thought (and claimed) I was free of: I’ll just make sure they set up the tent. I’ll ask around a little more to see if they are really involved with drugs. I’ll find some subtle way to confront him indirectly. Still, it isn’t like I’m going to ask for the tent back. Why believe those people passing through town; they undoubtedly have their own agendas. I’ll talk to Melissa just to get a sense of where she’s at. No, I’ll find a way to have someone who knows what they’re doing check on her.

I’ve seen both Isaiah and Melissa walking around with a dog. Crouching down to stroke her fur and whisper in her ear. All I can know for sure is that she is a really sweet dog and that they love her. It’s complicated. Very complicated.

STEVIE ALWAYS LOOKS like he knows where he’s going and is determined to get there. He more glides than walks. Like he’s barely lifting his feet off the ground. Or is having trouble convincing them to stay on task.

When he crosses the street, it’s always at a diagonal. He stops. Goes. Stops. Goes. Works his way around the cars as if they were standing still. He’s turned jaywalking into performance art.

Stevie is always barefoot, with his pants cuffs rolled up a bit so he doesn’t end up tripping on them. I don’t remember him from last winter, but I can imagine him wearing unlaced ankle-high boots that don’t really fit. And not tripping on the laces.

Since Stevie is always on the move, I’d never had a chance to talk to him. So I was surprised when I looked up from my table outside the bakery and saw him jaywalking across the street right at me.

As he reached the curb, he stopped, looked at me and said, “Could you give me money for a cupcake?”

I stood up. I don’t know why. But when someone asks you for cupcake money, it seems like a pretty serious transaction.

People have told me they need money for coffee, cigarettes, beer, gas to get home, and a motel room to get out of the rain. But nobody had ever asked me for money for a cupcake. Except a child. And Stevie was no child. He was a barefoot grownup who was determined to get his hands on a cupcake. Right now.

I started asking him my basic questions. He told me his name and that he was from New Hampshire, over by the Seacoast.

What was he doing here? Stevie paused, surprised. He thought his part of the negotiation was finished. He tried to drag his eyes away from my hand which was reaching in my pocket and said absentmindedly that he had a friend here.

I didn’t want to annoy him with more questions, but I couldn’t help ask what his plans were as I found \$5. (A few singles wouldn’t do it. The cupcakes cost like \$3 and are worth it.)

Even though Stevie’s eyes were now fixated on the cash I’d materialized, he managed to drag his attention back long enough to look up and tell me he was planning to buy a house.

“Gee, Stevie, you don’t have money for a cupcake but you might have money for a house?”

I didn’t say this disparagingly. He sounded serious. So I was curious. Maybe he thought he was coming into an inheritance.

While keeping one eye on the \$5, he explained that he was going to start getting his SSI disability payments again. It made perfect sense to him that this might be enough for him to buy a house. So it made perfect sense to me.

Maybe that’s what they mean when they say to meet someone where they are — I was already calculating how much of a mortgage payment he could make with a typical disability check. But he interrupted my financial planning to add that he might go to Canada or Iceland instead.

By now, his hands were getting a little shaky and his eyes were totally riveted back on the \$5. I began to feel like I was torturing the guy, so I gave it to him and said it was great to meet him.

I had just sat back down to start working again when I looked up to see him blasting out of the bakery door, holding the cupcake up like an ice cream cone you didn’t want to drip.

He caught a dollop of frosting just before it fell, and kept walking.

Diagonally across the street. Barefoot.

LETTERS

For people asking for money, punitive SSI policies could be coming into the picture

RE: “No easy solutions” [Reporter’s Notebook, Sept. 13]:

Joyce Marcel’s thoughtful piece offers an opportunity to address some related issues that many well-meaning readers may not be aware of.

It’s reasonable to ask why some of our local panhandlers who appear able-bodied aren’t working, when there are entry-level jobs around. One person’s sign — “I need \$ for work boots” — is one of the reasons.

Especially if you’re struggling back from a tough patch in your life (possibly including eviction and homelessness), getting ready to work requires more resources than you may be aware of.

Also, some may already be working, but many available

jobs are part-time and low-wage, and won’t meet your needs — especially if you’re trying to support a family.

But a major reason for many may be that outdated rules for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) prevent many people with disabilities from working, even part-time, when they might be able and very much want to. (Please remember that many disabilities are not visible — and, yes, someone might be able to stand outdoors in the rain all day, but not to work more than limited hours in different conditions.)

As soon as an SSI recipient starts working at an on-the-books job, benefits that they desperately need to survive (al-ready minimal) are at risk of being taken away. Although “work incentive” rules have changed to allow a little more of earned income to be kept without penalty, what isn’t evident is that new income quickly reduces food stamps and, for people who are housed under

subsidy, increases rent.

(When there’s a cost-of-living adjustment in Social Security, we retirees may benefit, but SSI recipients frequently end up worse off.)

Most important, SSI benefits are also tied to Medicaid, which for many with complex health conditions may be literally keeping them alive (and, ironically, well enough to work at all).

Even if they’re making enough to be much better off without the SSI income, their medical expenses (even in the unlikely event that they have good work-based insurance) may be prohibitive. Working, and losing Medicaid, can be a literal death sentence.

In addition, income restrictions also mean that in many instances, SSI recipients can never marry because their spouse’s income would count toward their income limits. While this might benefit them (and society) enormously, they would lose that desperately needed

medical coverage. A marriage exemption for Medicaid would fix that, but can’t seem to get traction.

(And please note that all of these restrictions also affect many seniors past working age, who might be much less visible to us.)

SSI hasn’t been significantly updated in over 40 years. Almost everything about the present structure is outdated and counterproductive. The SSI Restoration Act of 2021, of which Bernie Sanders is a sponsor, would go a long way to correct this.

Visit [bit.ly/732-ssi-act](https://bit.ly/732-ssi-act) to learn more, and if you’d like to take a meaningful step to put at least some of our local folks to work (and paying taxes!), please read this information, and contact your elected officials, both in Vermont and on the federal level.

Karen Tyler Brattleboro

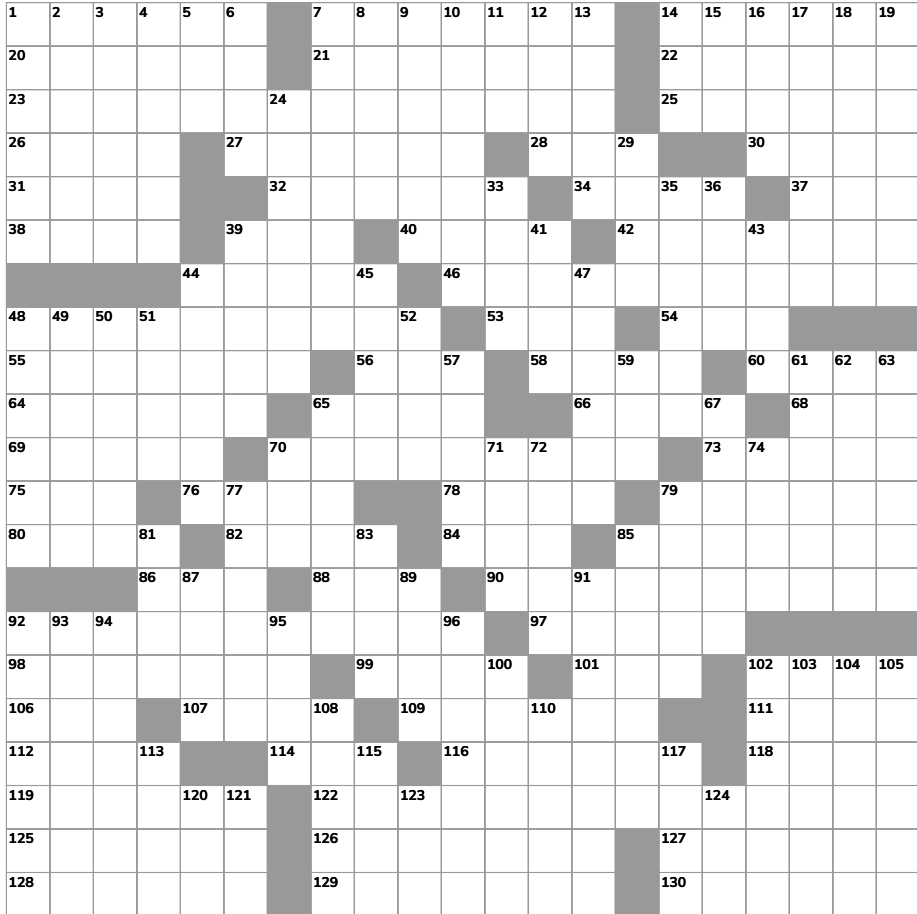
THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

JOON PAHK

“Land of Nod”

Across

- 1. Bacon serving
7. Actress Breslin
14. Sporty Chevy
20. West Texas city
21. Tails, on a coin
22. Attach with a click
23. Be coquettish while irate?
25. Foment
26. \_\_\_ vez (again, in Spanish)
27. Component of natural gas
28. Aurora’s Greek counterpart
30. Part of N.B.
31. Bellow
32. Arizona neighbor
34. “Press \_\_\_ Luck”
37. “Great Expectations” boy
38. Infiltrating agent
39. Filmmaker Jon M. \_\_\_
40. Immorality
42. Sea \_\_\_ (reef creature)
44. Rich soil
46. Corvine-gratifyin g behavior?
48. Helpful answer to a request for printer paper?
53. Brian of Roxy Music
54. Actor Wallach
55. Never
56. Brewery vessel
58. Bawls
60. Interlace
64. Pastor’s bailiwick
65. U2 singer
66. Hubbub
68. Bill the Science Guy
69. Tiny type
70. Unchalant monarch?
73. Least favorable
75. Charles’s regnal number
76. Storage structure
78. Manual consulter
79. Maritime menace
80. “99 Luftballons” singer
82. Thaw
84. Corn unit
85. Scarlet \_\_\_ (colorful avian)
86. Time or GQ, briefly
88. Small batteries
90. Penalizing a clownfish?
92. Cheese on the lam?
97. \_\_\_ Lounge Chair
98. Perfect example
99. No. 1 on the Mohs scale
101. bostonglobe.com , e.g.
102. Grievance, informally
106. Boston inst. with Copley’s portrait of Paul Revere
107. Biblical matriarch
109. Close by
111. Tibetan priest
112. Jason’s ship
114. Cloche or pillbox
116. Venomous snakes (anagram of “at risk”)
118. Sport \_\_\_ (4x4s)
119. Bearlike marsupials
122. Final attempt to satisfy a craving?
125. Fortify with vitamins, e.g.
126. Outlying area
127. Asylum
128. Position
129. Sun blocker
130. Grow, as resentment



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Down

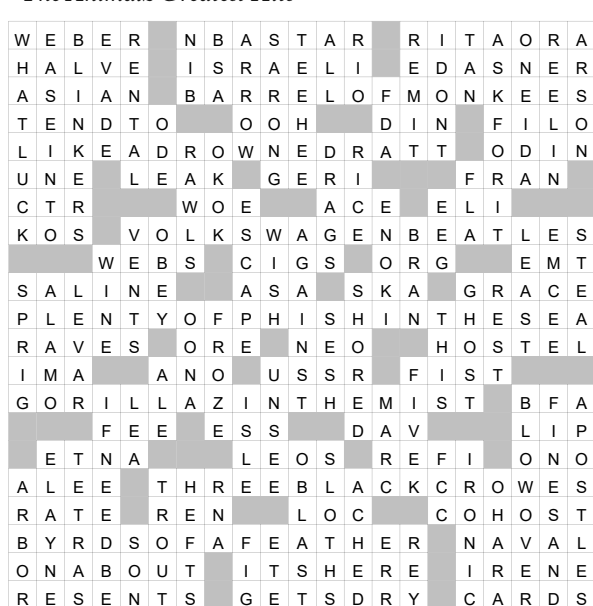
- 1. Turn over a new leaf
2. Very regrettably
3. Corkscrew
4. Zimbabwe’s capital
5. Boston winter hrs.
6. Holly of ESPN
7. Theater for niche films
8. “Borstal Boy” author
9. Russian equivalent of “Johnson”
10. No-name
11. Pope Francis’s birthplace: Abbr.
12. “That makes sense”
13. Jazz violinist Jenkins
14. HTML styling language
15. Formicary creature
16. Principal
17. Germane
18. Gymnast’s performance
19. Theoretically
24. “My package came!”
29. Bar that’s tough to grip
33. 1/640th of a square mile
35. “Except if..”
36. Film spool
39. Joe Mazzulla’s job
41. Unimaginably long times
43. Severely injure
44. Contacts, e.g.
45. Enjoy at length
47. Low speaker
48. Hurting
49. Sub
50. Conveyance in an Ellington tune
51. Basketball maker
52. Lots of
57. Chef’s 114-Across
59. Messy \_\_\_
61. Infuriate
62. Way of working
63. Straight, for short
65. Classroom with microscopes, often
67. Batter’s attempts

- 70. Bass brew
71. Mil. flyers
72. Uncanny
74. Algerian port
77. “Count me in!”
79. Group of experts
81. Amo, amas, \_\_\_
83. Lip-puckering
85. British actor in several Quentin Tarantino films
87. Missing, like a G.I.
89. Actress Phillips
91. Seafaring
92. New movies that aren’t new
93. Frank
94. River from Erie to Ontario
95. “All right!”

- 96. 2005 Jennifer Garner superhero film
100. Lesser Antilles natives
102. Raises on nothing, say
103. Patronize a restaurant
104. Come forth
105. “They’re gaining on us!”
108. Simona of tennis
110. 5/21, e.g.
113. Engineering college near Wellesley
115. Genus, species, etc.
117. Lowly worker
120. BC’s conf.
121. \_\_\_/her pronouns
123. \_\_\_ La Table (cookware company)
124. Service cost

Last issue’s solution

“The Animalz Greatest Hits”



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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

# Bears hang on, beat Patriots, win back Elwell Trophy

The Elwell Trophy returned to Brattleboro on Sept. 15 after the Bears pulled out a 14-9 victory over the Mount Anthony Patriots in a football game that had more emotional twists and turns than perhaps any other meeting in this long rivalry.

This game violated most of the conventions of football. The Brattleboro offense scored only one touchdown and played a thoroughly sloppy and undisciplined first half that saw 10 penalties and a turnover that led to a Patriots touchdown. While Brattleboro cut down on the penalties in the second half, the Bears gave up a safety and had two more turnovers.

So how did the Bears win this game? With great defense that held the Patriots' offense scoreless, and an electrifying 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Trevor Gray to start the third quarter. It also helped that MAU was nearly as sloppy as the Bears. They committed numerous penalties, including two that occurred near the end of the first half that led to the ejection of their best player, running back/defensive back Carter Thompson.

Bears running back Noah Perusse gave his team a 6-0 lead when he scored on a 1-yard run with 6:57 left in the first quarter. Carson Elliot's point-after kick was not good.

As the Patriots' offense was stymied by the Bears' defense, it looked like Perusse's touchdown might be enough. But disaster struck late in the second quarter when the Bears were stuck deep in their end of the field. Gray was hit hard as he was carrying the ball, and Thompson recovered the ensuing fumble in the end zone to give MAU a 7-6 lead with 3:58 in the half.

Mount Anthony had a chance to add another score before halftime, but Thompson was ejected for a pair of unsportsmanlike conduct penalties with a minute left in the second quarter and the Patriots' last drive of the half ended without any points.

Then came the play of the game as Gray atoned, and then some, for his fumble with his first varsity touchdown of his career with his 80-yard kickoff return to start the third quarter. Alex Papadimitriou caught a two-point conversion pass from quarterback Sean Cozza, and the Bears had a 14-7 lead just 13 seconds into the second half.

Being a rivalry game, tempers were hot on both sides and on MAU's first play of scrimmage right after Gray's big play, the game officials stopped the game and spoke with the coaches, who then spoke to their respective players to tell them to cool it or else the game would be suspended. The players obliged, and behaved themselves, more or less, the rest of the way. According to news reports, a racist remark made to an official by an unidentified player prompted the stoppage.

The Patriots later scored a safety when, after another great punt pinned the Bears on their 1-yard line, Perusse was tackled in the end zone by MAU linebacker Preston Baker with 8:19 left in the third quarter.

Brattleboro still had a 14-9 lead and looked like they would get some breathing room as the Bears put together a good drive paced by some hard running by Perusse. But the drive ended on the MAU 20 when Perusse lost the ball and the Patriots recovered in the first play of the fourth quarter.

At this point, both teams struggled to get something going on offense, but somehow, the Patriots had a chance to win the game on another fumble by Perusse that was recovered by defensive back Colin Brady on the MAU 31 with 2:14 left.

The Patriots got close, but linebacker Jackson Emery got his third sack of the game at time was ticking down. Emery managed to knock the

**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).

ball from quarterback John Garland's hands and another Bear defender fell onto the loose ball to end MAU's scoring bid and clinch an improbable, but satisfying, win.

Now 1-1-1, the Bears will be in Keene this Friday night, while the 0-3 Patriots will play in Rutland.

## Terriers tame Cougars

• After getting battered by Division I powerhouse Hartford in Week 2 in a 27-7 loss cut short due to bad weather, Bellows Falls was happy to start its Division II football schedule on Sept. 17, even though it was a Sunday game that involved a long bus ride to Jericho. The Terriers weren't fazed, and ground out a 32-22 win over the Mount Mansfield Cougars.

Mount Mansfield picked up a tie with Brattleboro in another weather-shortened contest in Week 2, but the Terriers were far tougher as they took a 19-8 lead at the half, then opened the second half with a 99-yard kickoff return by Walker James for a touchdown. BF built their lead up to 32-8, but the Cougars got a pair of touchdowns in the fourth quarter to make the Terriers squirm a little.

Bellows Falls, now 2-1, host U-32 this Friday night at 7 at Hadley Field.

## Field hockey

• Bellows Falls started its week with a rain-soaked 5-0 win over Windsor in Westminster on Sept. 11. The Terriers led 2-0 after one quarter on goals from



Bellows Falls forward Emma Bazin (5), seen here being pursued by Brattleboro's Emma Gragen (9) and Rachel White (25), scored four goals as the Terriers won, 9-1, in field hockey action on Sept. 14 at Sawyer Field.

Hannah Terry and Emma Bazin. Ava LaRoss added another goal in the second quarter and Bazin and Moore added goals in the third quarter. Goalie Livie Clough made four saves to earn the shut out win. BF had an 8-2 advantage in penalty corners.

• On Sept. 12, Brattleboro picked up its first win of the season with a 1-0 victory over Otter Valley. The Bears got a goal from forward Emma Gragen early in the second quarter; midfielder Mallory Newton picked up the assist. The defense and goalie Ericka Fletcher did the rest as Brattleboro turned back chance after chance by the Otters, especially late in the game.

• Bellows Falls and Brattleboro then faced each other on Sept. 14 at Sawyer Field, and the Terriers won 9-1 in a game that started out close until the Terriers cracked the Bears' defense and started scoring goals.

Bazin had two goals in the first half and two more in the second half to lead the Terriers. LaRoss had a pair of

goals in the second half, and Hannah Terry, Gracie McGinnis, and Olivia Hallock also scored. Brattleboro's only goal came early in the fourth quarter, when Newton scored with Gragen getting the assist.

BF had a 14-0 advantage in penalty corners and controlled the flow of play for most of the game. But it took some time for the goals to come, as the Bears held the Terriers to just one goal in the first quarter before BF scored three times in the second quarter.

"Brattleboro did a great job and had us on our heels at the start of the game," said BF coach Bethany Coursen. "We're still working on a lot of things, but this is a great group of players and the team chemistry is awesome."

Bazin agreed with her coach's sentiments. "We practiced all summer and encouraged each other to get better," she said. "It really helped to bring us together."

Bellows Falls, now 2-1, faces a tough stretch of games with a pair of home-and-home series with Hartford and Rutland over the next two weeks. "We'd much rather play the harder games," said Bazin. "That's what makes you a better team."

## Boys' soccer

• Brattleboro lost, 6-1, to the Burr & Burton Bulldogs on Sept. 14 in the opening round of the John James Tournament in Bennington. Taylor Harrington scored three goals in the first 27 minutes of the game to put the Bulldogs in front.

By the time Jackson Pels scored for the Bears with a minute left in the first half, the Bulldogs led 4-1 and would stay in control the rest of the game. Burr & Burton outshot Brattleboro, 16-7, as Bears goalkeeper Sam Bogart made eight saves. In the tournament's consolation game on Sept. 16 against Mount Anthony, the Bears came away with a 3-1 victory.

• Leland & Gray needed overtime to defeat Otter Valley, 3-2, to win the Josh Cole Tournament on Sept. 16 at Dorsey Park in Ludlow.

• Mount St. Joseph crushed Bellows Falls, 8-0, on Sept. 11 at St. Peter's Field in Rutland. Brayden Schutt scored three goals, Kyle Costales scored twice, and Malcolm Whitman, Smith Remy, and Mason Greene all scored once. MSJ goalkeeper Dom Phillips earned the shut out victory.

Bellows Falls fared no better against Twin Valley on Sept. 14, as the visiting Wildcats rolled to a 10-1 victory. Hunter Roth scored five goals of the first 11 minutes of the game for Twin Valley, while Brayden Brown added two tallies. Corey Magnant, Steven Oyer and Niko Gerding also scored for the Wildcats. Malik Gordon had the Terriers' lone goal. BF ended the week with a 4-1 loss to West Rutland

on Sept. 16.

Girls' soccer  
• Leland & Gray opened the week with a 2-1 win over Arlington on Sept. 12 in Townshend. Arlington's Avrie Aldrich opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, but Sam Morse got the equalizer for the Rebels off a Maggie Parker corner kick with 19.8 seconds left in the first half.

Avery Hiner then scored the winning goal just a minute into the second half, with Parker once again setting it with a corner kick. Rebels goalkeeper Annabelle Brooks needed to make just three saves to earn the victory.

After a 5-0 win over Springfield on Sept 15, the Rebels won the champion of the Green Mountain Tournament at Dorsey Park in Ludlow with a 5-0 win over Proctor. The Rebels ended the week at 4-1.

• Brattleboro had a breakout game against Green Mountain on Sept. 14 with a 10-1 win in Chester. Reese Croutworst had a goal and four assists for the Bears and Sophia Albright added three goals and an assist. Grace Wright had Green Mountain's only goal.

• Twin Valley is still looking for a win, but the Wildcats keep getting closer. On Sept 12, the Wildcats lost, 2-0, to visiting Bellows Falls. Aubrey Maxfield and Dylan Stewart both scored in the first half for the Terriers. Against a much tougher Proctor team on Sept. 15, the visiting Wildcats lost, 5-0.

## Senior bowling roundup

• Week 2 of the fall/winter season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Sept. 14 saw No Splits and Stepping Stones (both 9-1) hang on to a share of first place, followed by Four Pins (8-2), Hairiers (6-4), Skippers and Four Seasons (both 5-5), Dumblebor and High Rollers (both 2-8), and PEWJ (1-9).

Robert Parsons had the women's high handicap game (249) and series (658). Fred Ashworth had the men's high handicap game (235), while Warren Corriveau Sr. had the high handicap series (664). Hairiers had the high team handicap game (879) and series (2,522).

Robert Rigby had the men's high scratch series (605) with games of 226 and 195. Corriveau had a 598 series that featured games of 211 and 199. John Walker had a 564 series with games of 198 and 192. Chuck Adams had a 556 series with a 190 game, while Milt Sherman had a 536 series and Gary Montgomery had a 507 series.

Shirley Aiken had the women's high scratch series (459). Aiken and Nancy Dalzell each rolled a 164 as the high scratch games, while Carol Gloski rolled a 163 game and Parsons had a 161 game.



Brattleboro's Trevor Gray (5), seen here returning a kick as he is escorted by blocker Will Miskovich (0) during a game against Mount Mansfield on Sept. 9, ran a kickoff back for 90 yards and a touchdown to help the Bears defeat Mount Anthony, 14-9, on Sept. 15 in Bennington.

Promote your events and local offerings this FALL

**FALL FOLIAGE ISSUE**  
Wednesday, October 4th

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