



## Even 'Weirder'

A Ferrisburgh writer experiments with his non-fiction story collection. See Arts+Leisure.



## Rivals duel

Two soccer teams with title hopes tilted, and the MUHS and VUHS boys tied. See Sports, Page 1B.



## Living well

Our Senior Lifestyles section inside looks at how to make the most of the Golden Years.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## VOTERS GUIDE

See where candidates for the legislature and statewide offices stand on issues in our election pull-out.

## Nov. 8's General Election ballot is crowded

### Voters facing many vital decisions

**By JOHN FLOWERS**  
ADDISON COUNTY — A five-person race for two state Senate seats, contests in four local Vermont House districts, the election of a new Addison County sheriff, a proposed school district merger referendum and a town hall repair bond are just some of the Nov. 8 General Election draws for

Addison County residents. And that lineup doesn't even include what has been a spirited race for Addison County state's attorney and a variety of showdowns for state and federal offices, ranging from Vermont auditor to U.S. Senate. The following is a brief summation of the Addison County

contests and the candidates who will be seeking your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8. A more detailed voter guide can be found in this edition of the *Independent*.  
**VERMONT HOUSE**  
• Those residing in the **Addison-1 district**, which includes most of Middlebury — with the exception of a carve-out that includes the Marble Works complex and the Seymour Street neighborhood —

will have three choices for two available House seats. They include incumbent Democratic Reps. Robin Scheu and Amy Sheldon, as well as Republican Peter Caldwell. Caldwell — a writer and a retired college administrator, professor, small-business consultant and accountant — waged a successful write-in campaign on Aug. 9 to have his name placed on the Nov. 8 General Election ballot.

Scheu, former executive director of the Addison County Economic Development Corp., is currently a member of the House Appropriations Committee. Sheldon, a natural resource planner, currently chairs the House Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee.  
• Four candidates are in the running for two seats representing (See General election, Page 3A)

## Voters share questions, concerns about merger

### School closure big focus in ANWSD, MAUSD

**By MARIN HOWELL**  
BRISTOL — Potential school closures and consolidations were among the concerns voiced by attendees of a merger study committee meeting held at Mount Abraham Union High School earlier this week. The public Q&A attracted nearly 100 Addison County residents, many of whom will be asked on Nov. 8 whether to embrace the panel's recommendation that the Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham Unified school districts merge to address shared issues of declining enrollment and increasing overhead costs.

"This committee believes that a (merged) governance structure would provide more opportunity moving forward," MAUSD-ANWSD Merger Study Committee member Troy Paradee said. "It is up to all of you and your neighbors and your friends to decide if you believe that's true."  
The meeting began with a presentation from the committee that was led by Paradee. He outlined the work the committee has done since April of 2021 to analyze the feasibility of a merger between the two districts.

(See Merger, Page 10A)

## City police committee report to get its turn in the spotlight

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
VERGENNES — The Vergennes City Council has agreed to schedule a community-wide meeting to allow the city's Citizen Review Board Exploratory

Committee to present its study. The CREBC concluded that a community advisory panel should be formed to work with city officials on police issues and its (See City residents, Page 10A)



## By the way

With winter approaching and inflation running high, it's important to remember those who must sometimes choose between filling their furnace and having a healthy meal. So the five fire departments in the 5-Town Area will hold their annual "Fill The Firehouses" with food event this Saturday, Oct. 22. Firefighters will collect food and monetary donations for the Have-A-Heart Food Shelf in Bristol. Each fire station in Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro will be open on Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon to receive donations. Please be sure that food donations have "Best By" dates that have not expired. Canned/boxed foods most needed are pasta, pasta sauce, diced tomatoes, black/kidney beans, baked beans, soup, tuna, salmon, chicken, vegetables, fruit, peanut butter, (See By the way, Page 15A)

## Be sure to request local ballots

**By MARIN HOWELL**  
ADDISON COUNTY — Though registered voters in Addison County should have received their General Election ballots in the mail recently, they'll need to reach out to their town clerk or plan on voting in person in order to vote on local issues — such as bond referenda or resolutions — this election season. Last year, Gov. Phil Scott signed into effect a universal mail-in voting law for general elections in Vermont. The law requires local officials to mail ballots to (See Local ballots, Page 14A)



### Would you look at that

REFLECTED IN THE front panel of a 1969 Dodge Charger are a few of the many spectators who came to downtown Middlebury Sunday on a perfect autumn day for the first annual Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival. It was a big hit, drawing scads of people to see scores of classic and distinctive automobiles parked on a closed Main Street, as well as to enjoy music, food and fun activities on the town green. See more photos on Pages 4A and 16A.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Multi-use path eyed for stretch of Route 7

**By JOHN FLOWERS**  
MIDDLEBURY — A consultant has helped Middlebury planners map out a multi-use path and sidewalk that would serve pedestrians and bikers along a key stretch of Route 7 South that's been identified as a logical spot for housing development. The study in question, authored by Jenny Austin of Dubois & King, was designed to improve pedestrian connectivity between

Boardman Street and The Centre shopping plaza, anchored by Hannaford's Supermarket. Boardman Street intersects with Route 7 next to G Stone Motors, south of the Hannaford plaza, and runs up behind the dealership, serving American Legion Post 27 and HOPE, among other concerns. It's a stretch of Route 7 that already encompasses the Stone Hill affordable housing complex and is an area that the Middlebury town

plan has deemed suitable for more residential growth. One of the primary property owners in the study area is Middlebury College, which has already thrown its support behind a major housing development planned on land it recently acquired off Seminary Street Extension. College officials recognize the dearth of affordable and workforce housing in the county's shire town (See Path, Page 13A)



WELLS MOUNTAIN INITIATIVE scholarship recipients (from left) Ephrancia Chao Malindi, Sujana Gautam, Catherine Nagadya, Grace Tiwari and Phoeby Musonda visited Vermont last week and shared with Addison County residents how the Bristol-based organization has supported their work in other countries.

Photo courtesy of Justine Jackson

## Bristol organization helps global leaders

### Former scholars share their stories

**By MARIN HOWELL**  
BRISTOL — For 17 years, the Wells Mountain Initiative has helped fund and support the work of people making a difference in communities far outside of Addison County. The Bristol-based foundation has built a global network of the local leaders they've supported, and last week five of those leaders shared with Addison County residents how WMI has helped them meet needs in their home countries. Community members at the Oct. 13 event also heard from WMI Executive Director and Co-founder Jordyn Wells. Wells started the organization in 2005 with her parents, Thomas and Carol Wells.

"We founded it with the understanding of the great disparity in access to education and opportunity," she said. "It started as just post-secondary scholarships, and it's grown organically, largely led by WMI scholars."  
In addition to scholarships, WMI now provides people in 51 countries with services like leadership training, career counseling and community development grants to support their continued work in their communities. The organization also helps coordinate collective action, with fellowships in 11 countries bringing WMI scholars together to collaborate on meeting local needs. (See Global network, Page 15A)

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LOCAL BEEKEEPER GERALD Posner (far left) leads Middlebury Union High School students Hunter Longley (middle) and Orlinne Maceno through the process of transporting honeybees into an observation hive in the MUHS greenhouse on Tuesday. Students will continue to observe and learn about the honeybees throughout the school year.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

## Bees help MUHS class learn botany

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — On a chilly morning earlier this week, a class of Middlebury Union High School students stepped outside to learn about botany from a large group of winged experts — honeybees. The students were all 11th- and 12th-graders in Steve Colangeli's Plant and Wildlife Biology class. Colangeli teaches a range of courses covering botany and horticulture in addition to running MUHS's greenhouse.

To help students dive deeper into their study of plants, Colangeli invited Ferrisburgh beekeeper Gerald Posner to talk about honeybees and set up an observation hive at the school for students to monitor.

Posner co-owns Swaying Daisies Honeybee Farm, Market & Cafe on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh with his wife Karen. He's also been beekeeping since he was a student at Columbia

University in the 1980s. On Tuesday morning he shared with students some of the pollinator-related knowledge he's accumulated over the years.

*"Little by little we can work together and just see how bees operate under these conditions. To determine what's normal and what's not normal is what we're here for."*

— Steve Colangeli

"It's important that we have bees for many things," Posner said. "As most of you may already know, bees are incredibly important in producing a great portion of the food we eat today."

As he spoke, Posner led two suited-up students through the process of transferring bees into the observation hive. The hive's glass walls allow students to monitor the bees and apply their observations to their studies of plants. Posner paused to point out the queen bee and the brood nest in the hive frames.

He also answered students' questions, such as about the role of smoke in beekeeping.

"Smoke, in general, forces bees to go to honey, right to the

comb and suppresses them from flying," Posner said, adding how climate change has impacted this process. "Now we know out west in California, where all of the smoke from the fire is, bees are no longer doing that since smoke is so prevalent."

As they learned, students laughed and named the bees they will continue to observe throughout the school year. Posner will continue to visit Colangeli's class, monitoring the bees' health with students and talking more about honeybees' role in food production and more.

"Little by little we can work together and just see how bees operate under these conditions," he said. "To determine what's normal and what's not normal is what we're here for."

Colangeli plans to develop a new unit in his Plant and Wildlife Biology classes specific to the bees, which Posner will help him create. Some of the units being proposed include an introduction to honeybees and their importance and a unit on honeybee impacts and responsible management.

And Colangeli said he hopes to expand this lesson on honeybees to other learning activities about pollinators.

"My plan is to have a honey bee science fair and invite elementary students from Mary Hogan. My students will teach short lessons and activities focused around honey bees and what they have learned," he said. "In the spring we will design and plant a pollinator garden on the school property."

## Addison seeks town hall bond

### \$2M ballot ask prior to grants

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON — On Nov. 8, Addison residents will face a \$2.07 million question — should they approve a bond for up to that amount to renovate the town's historic former town hall on Route 22A into a new town office building and community center.

Addison Town Hall Committee Chair John Spencer said if residents back the bond the final cost to taxpayers could be lower. As an example, he pointed to Vergennes, which earned major awards this past spring for its sewer system overhaul after residents supported a bond on Town Meeting Day.

"We also anticipate getting some more grants. That's the most important message. A lot of grant funders won't consider you unless you already have money set aside," Spencer said. "So we need to get the bond issue passed before we get the grants... We're going to be diligent working on those."

Residents of the town were invited to an Open House at the Addison Town Hall on Oct. 15 for music, refreshments, a tour of the building and to find out more about the upcoming bond vote to restore the historic Addison Town Hall.

The more-than-150-year-old former town hall sits just a couple of hundred yards from Addison's current tiny town clerk's office. The building requires a complete interior rehabilitation and foundation work, but retains a sturdy shell, according to Spencer and handouts from the committee. If the bond is approved, work would probably begin next summer.

The building essentially lacks everything except the in-ground septic system that residents have already supported and that has been installed to the west of town-owned land at the junction of Routes 17 and 22A.

That septic system also serves the Addison Fire Department and the church next to the old town hall. Voters approved it in part to serve the church in exchange for ownership of the building, which had rested with the church.

According to the Town Hall Committee, if the former town hall were renovated it could offer much that the cramped current town office building cannot.

Plans call for three levels and 7,000 square feet of space to provide room for town boards to meet and host hearings, accessible

rest rooms, a vault big enough to store all Addison's vital town records, adequate offices and storage for its clerk/treasurer and assistant clerk/treasurer and listers and two community meeting rooms, the larger one to fill the top floor and include a stage.

Spencer, who has been working on the town hall project for more than a decade, acknowledged there is no way to be fully confident about a project's estimated price tag, especially in the current climate.

"I'd say we are as confident as we can be," he said, adding the project architect worked on the plans this summer and "put some margin in there."

Regardless, he said, voter authorization would only allow borrowing up to the face value of the bond: "We have to live within that budget. If we have to cut something, we have to cut something."

The bond is not the only funding for the project. Addison has already won a \$75,000 grant from the Bruhn Foundation, and the selectboard has earmarked \$300,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds toward the project.

The bond vote on Nov. 8 assumes no more grant funding will be obtained. The Town Hall Committee published tax impact estimates using a 30-year bond for \$2.1 million with 4% interest, which would require an initial annual payment of \$155,890 that would drop as loan principal was repaid.

Again, assuming no more grant funding, the committee projects at the present Addison grand list a 7.4-cent municipal tax rate increase would be required to fund that payment. That increase would translate to an additional \$74 a year per \$100,000 of assessed value to fund the project, according to committee projections as a worst-case scenario.

#### OTHER QUESTIONS

Spencer was asked if the project goes forward, for how long would it meet the town's needs.

"Many, many, many years. More than the 30-year bond, that's for sure," he said.

Spencer was also asked if voters should take into consideration the likely return of the Addison Central School to the town.

He said that not only was the school building not well suited and too large for town offices at 18,000 square feet, but it also potentially had greater value as the home for

another use — a school, business, medical facility, childcare and/or senior center, for example — that could bring jobs and tax revenue into Addison.

Spencer also noted the building was insured for \$3.8 million, not a guarantee that it could be sold at that value if the town chose, but an amount that indicated possible future sales revenue for Addison as well as property tax income.

Basically, Spencer said, with other possible beneficial and profitable uses for the school, he believes it doesn't make sense to delay the town hall project any longer.

"I'm sure the town is going to want it back," Spencer said. "But nothing has been discussed or studied ever. So to wait on the town hall while we discuss the town school, it (the town hall rehabilitation cost) has already gone up \$1 million in 10 years. And in another five years it will probably go up another \$1 million. So time is of the essence."

He also noted the top floor of a renovated town hall would offer significant value to Addison as a focal point for not only official events, but also concerts, dances, wedding receptions and other private events that would add to the fabric of the community.

"I think it would be a great thing for Addison," he said. "I think it would bring the town back together, a place to meet and have activities there."

And then, according to a Town Hall Committee handout, there is what Spencer called the "the embarrassment of the current town clerk's office."

The handout reads: "The current town clerk's office is inadequate for the work that goes on there. A design study during the Town Hall planning process determined square footage necessary for town functions far exceeds what is available.

"It is difficult to access records, books are stacked nearly to the ceiling, voting is cramped, and the building does not provide a needed safety exit. The bathroom lacks sufficient privacy, is not ADA accessible, and the building itself is in poor condition with multiple needs for repair."

A presentation on the project will be made at the town information meeting on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Addison Fire Department.

**CORRECTION:** An earlier online version of this story incorrectly stated the building's foundation did not require work.

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## Public forum next stop in city truck saga

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The next major step in the year-old "Planning & Environmental Linkages Study" that is evaluating options to soften the impact of truck traffic on downtown Vergennes will be a public meeting at the Vergennes Opera House on Nov. 3 at which the Agency of Transportation will discuss their findings and accept public feedback.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and is scheduled to last until 8:30.

VTrans Project Manager Katharine Otto and Addison County Regional Planning Commission representative Mike Winslow met with the city council on Oct. 11

to give councilors a quick review of where the study stands and ask them to attend on Nov. 3.

The Planning & Environmental Linkages Study, or PEL, remains a relatively new step in scoping projects and is required for any project that will be supported by federal funding. It requires extensive outreach to public officials and citizens and careful study of options and their feasibility and impact on communities, their land use and economies, officials said.

In simple terms, Otto told the council, "We're looking at alternatives and narrowing them down."

Still on the table, she said, are four options, three of which the PEL study will choose as finalists for more in-depth research.

None are new to those who have followed the decades-long, multi-study saga of how to deal with the 800 trucks that rumble through Vergennes on an average day, fewer than a third of which stop in the city.

They are:

- A new road. In 2019 a study pointed to a route intended to run only through northern Vergennes — although debate remains on where the city's boundary with Ferrisburgh lies — along with a second bridge. It came with a \$27.5

million estimated price tag, a figure that is surely outdated by now.

Otto said further study would include determining if a new road would be limited access or allow for side roads that would allow for more development, and then look further at whether if a new road was built it should spark residential or commercial development.

"Land use vision" runs hand-in-hand with transportation improvements, Otto said.

City officials like to call this option the "Economic Development Corridor," and VTrans officials in 2019 cited its potential as an economic generator.

(See Trucks, Page 3A)

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# General election

(Continued from Page 1A)  
the **Addison-3 district**, which includes Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Addison, Panton, Waltham, along with a small slice of New Haven.

It's a race that features incumbent Democratic Reps. Matthew Birong and Diane Lanpher, both of Vergennes, as well as Republican challengers James McClay of New Haven and Rob North of Ferrisburgh.

Birong, owner of 3Squares Café in Vergennes, serves on the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs.

Lanpher, one of the county's most veteran lawmakers, chairs the House Transportation Committee.

McClay is a 25-year military veteran and former safety, security and transportation manager at Northlands Job Corps.

North worked for 27 years with Collins Aerospace before retiring two years ago.

Four candidates are in the running for two seats representing the **Addison-4 district**, which encompasses Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro.

The lineup includes incumbent Democratic Reps. Caleb Elder of Starksboro and Mari Cordes of Lincoln, who are being challenged by Republicans Lynn Dike of Bristol and Valerie Mullin of Monkton.

Elder is a member of the House Ways & Means Committee and has worked in the construction and renewable energy fields.

Cordes is a longtime Registered Nurse who currently serves on the House Health Care Committee.

Dike also has many years of experience as a registered nurse and has previous experience as a candidate. She ran for an Addison-4 seat two years ago, and competed for one of the county's state Senate seats in 2016.

Valerie Mullin is a longtime

entrepreneur and a staunch supporter for the welfare of animals. She has competed for an Addison-4 seat multiple times, but has yet to break through.

Two are in the running for a seat representing **Addison-5**, which includes all of Bridport and Weybridge, most of New Haven and a northwest carve-out of Middlebury that includes the Marble Works and Seymour Street neighborhoods. Incumbent Rep. Harvey Smith, R-New Haven, decided to take a pass on reelection after having served his constituents for more than a decade.

Hoping to succeed Smith are New Haven Republican Jon Christiano and Democrat Jubilee McGill of Bridport.

Christiano is retired after a lengthy career negotiating equipment purchases for IBM while it was based in Essex Jct. He has held leadership posts with the Addison County Republican Committee.

This will be McGill's second bid for the Addison-5 seat; she ran unsuccessfully against Smith in 2020. McGill currently works as property manager and coordinator of rental housing for Vergennes-based John Graham Housing & Services.

## STATE SENATE

The May 26 filing deadline for major party candidates arrived with no challengers for incumbent Sens. Christopher Bray, D-Bristol, and Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury. But the picture has since changed in the two-seat senatorial district that includes Addison County, Huntingdon, Rochester and Buel's Gore.

Republicans Lloyd Dike of Bristol and Robert Burton of Cornwall waged successful write-in campaigns during the Aug. 9 primary that allowed them to get on the Nov. 8 ballot. And Mason Wade of Rochester filed

as an independent candidate.

Bray is the county's senior senator who currently chairs the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee and serves on the Senate Finance Committee. He's also the member of a variety of other legislative panels, including the Joint Energy Committee and the Joint Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee.

Hardy is vice chair of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee and serves on Senate Finance. Like Bray, she's a member of a variety of other legislative panels, including (chair of) the Senate Sexual Harassment Panel and the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention.

Wade works in organic-sustainable landscape design and specializes in both installation and maintenance of such systems. He's a former organic produce farmer and offered one of the earliest CSA membership plans.

Wade has previously run unsuccessfully for a House seat representing the Windsor-Rutland district and has twice finished out of the running for one of Windsor County's three seats in the state Senate.

Lloyd Dike (Lynn's spouse) is retired, but previously served as a member of the U.S. Army, a farmer and as a longtime rural mail carrier.

Burton spent 12 years in the Navy, followed by around three decades in Emergency Medicine as an ER physician.

## ADDISON COUNTY SHERIFF

Addison Republican Mile Elmore is making his first run for sheriff, and two independent candidates (both former Addison County Sheriff's Department deputies) oppose him on Nov. 8: Mark Stacey of Leicester and Gerald Grant of Addison.

The election for sheriff has drawn a lot of scrutiny given incumbent Peter Newton's arrest

in June on charges of two counts of sexual assault and one count each of domestic violence and unlawful restraint. Newton, who had previously announced he wouldn't seek reelection, has pleaded not guilty to the charges. He's also rejected widespread calls for his resignation.

Stacey has served as Addison County Highway Safety Coordinator since January of 2019. He has served six years as a Vergennes police officer and 16 years (2000-2016) as an ACSD deputy.

Grant spent 11 years as an ACSD deputy, two years as a jail officer and 15 years working within area public school systems, according to his bio.

Elmore joined the ACSD in 2017, eventually earning promotions to corporal and sergeant. He's been serving as acting sheriff during Newton's legal imbroglio.

## ADDISON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

Two candidates are vying to replace former Addison County State's Attorney Dennis Wygmans, a South Burlington Democrat. They include Middlebury independent Peter Bever — a deputy prosecutor with the office that he's been in charge of since Wygmans' departure this past May — and Middlebury Democrat Eva Vekos.

Bever previously ran for the top prosecutor's spot in 2018, losing to Wygmans by fewer than 10 votes. He has previous experience in private practice and before beginning his current job in early 2019 he also worked as an assistant district attorney with the Cape & Islands District Attorney's office in Massachusetts, a domestic violence prosecutor for

the Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office, and as a deputy prosecutor with the Rutland County State's Attorney's Office.

Vekos has accumulated more than 24 years of experience as a criminal law practitioner and litigator. She's served as a public defender and ad hoc appellate counsel in various jobs in the New York and Massachusetts court systems. Vekos moved to Vermont in 2015 and currently works for Middlebury firm Marsh & Wagner P.C.

Vekos bested fellow Democrat Tim Lueders-Dumont on Aug. 9 for the right to face Bever on Nov. 8.

There are no other contested county elections on the General Election ballot, although Leicester Republican Christine Stone has announced a write-in campaign against incumbent Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, in **Addison-2**.

Other lawmakers running unopposed include Orwell Democrat Joseph Andriano, for the **Addison-Rutland** House seat; New Haven Democrat Pam Marsh, for Addison County **Probate Court Judge**; Middlebury Democrat Dave Silberman, for county **high bailiff**; and Cornwall Democrat Patricia Ross and Middlebury Democrat Nicole Wilkerson, both for **assistant judge**.

In other voting on Nov. 8, residents of the Mount Abraham and Addison Northwest School Districts will vote on a merger of those two school systems, and Addison residents will vote on a \$2 million bond to repair their former town hall on Route 22A, a building that would be used for town offices and a community center.

Reporter John Flowers is at [johnf@addisonindependent.com](mailto:johnf@addisonindependent.com).

# Trucks

(Continued from Page 2A)

Upgrades to the existing Route 22A corridor through the city intended to mitigate the traffic impact.

The use of other roads as an alternative route with upgrades. "For example," Otto said, "using Routes 17 and 7 as a detour," mostly through Addison and New Haven.

More intensive use of the state's rail system and/or Lake Champlain as a way to move freight rather than trucks. "Another thing is using other modes" of transportation, Otto said.

When the PEL study was first introduced in November 2021, then project manager Joe Segale said the work was being done in hopes of producing an alternate truck route within a "five-to-10-year time frame."

A year ago the PEL study also came with a Purpose and Need Statement still in effect:

"Maintaining a high level of service for the movement of freight in the region, minimizing and/or mitigating traffic impacts to other transportation corridors, minimizing property and environmental resource impacts in neighboring communities (and) providing a cost-effective use of resources."

"At this point everything is being evaluated across that purpose and needs statement," Otto said. She said when the top three proceed to the next phase they will undergo "conceptual engineering" and exploration of their impact on land use.

Feedback from the city will help determine what advances, Otto said, and she urged attendance at the Nov. 3 meeting, which will have an online option:

"It's really important to have as many voices as possible."

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# Editorial

## The first step in voting is knowing the candidates

In today's issue the staff at the *Addison Independent* spent hundreds of hours putting together this 70-page paper, which includes extensive reporting on the upcoming 2022 Election. We profile and report on 19 Vermont House and Senate candidates, plus 20-plus candidates running for statewide and congressional offices from the governor's race to state auditor to U.S. House and Senate.

We hope this coverage encourages area residents to do the first part of your civic duty: learning about the candidates applicable to each of your districts. The next two steps are to research more about the candidates in any race in which you remain undecided, and voting on or before Election Day, Nov. 8.

By now area residents should have received mail-in ballots and are aware of two state constitutional issues demanding your attention. Prop 5/Article 22 guarantees a woman's right to choose and rejects the idea that the state or courts could dictate control of a person's body. Proposal 2 amends the state constitution to clearly state that "slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited."

Vote "yes" on both items.

As for the half dozen Vermont House and Senate races, and in the statewide races, it's worth reading as many of the candidate's answers (in their own words) to more than a half-dozen questions. Read them all, if you have the time. What you'll notice are patterns of common thought and expression. Republicans generally hone to a certain line of thinking on the various issues (less government regulation, an unwillingness to spend money of programs to help the poor, but also a reluctance to tax the wealthiest among us while also complaining about a growing national debt.) On the other hand, some Democrats are prone to embrace every program without regard to spending. Teasing through the fine points of those arguments and watching for the nuances each candidate brings to the table is what makes it interesting — and educational. Reading through the candidates' answers is a way to see both sides of each question articulated differently by many voices — which brings the issues into clearer focus for voters.

In the congressional races, you'll see more partisan ideology as candidates repeat points that have little bearing to the truth, some of which defy commonsense. But even in those revelations, one understands why so many Americans think as they do. For some, they've been fed — through television, social media, and other means — a diet of misinformation for so long, it's become the only "truth" they know.

You'll also see a lot of names of candidates running for governor, Congress or the Senate that you've never heard of before. One huge advantage of mailed ballots is voters now have the time to research those candidates before casting their votes, as opposed to being surprised when going into a polling booth on Election Day. It's not always easy to find out what some candidates stand for, but two sources (for the statewide races) stand out: Seven Days and VtDigger. The election guide that Seven Days produced got almost every candidate to respond to a few questions and provide a brief bio. VtDigger's questioning was more thorough, but they weren't able to get many candidates to respond Vermont Public also has an Election Guide online. And candidates usually have campaign websites for voters to peruse, though, again, not all do.

Finally, the Election Guide is not meant to read through, cover to cover, in one setting. It's to glance through, read those candidate responses that pertain to your own House and Senate districts, scan the statewide races (and do more research where needed), and then come back to it over the next several days to help you make more-informed choices.

There is a lot to digest and often you're voting for a candidate (like in the Addison County Sheriff's race) you may have had the opportunity to meet. When that's the case, one tip is compare the candidates' websites; look at their platforms (what they say they intend to do and hope to accomplish); question if that is realistic or just campaign gibberish; check their previous experience and backgrounds; read the letters and see if someone else whose opinion you respect has endorsed that candidate. Re-read their comments on the various issues in this voter guide and see what resonates with you — and then ask why.

If you find such scrutiny to be hard work, it is. Living in a democracy requires its citizens to be knowledgeable voters if we are to have good government. Voters have to be able to sort through the lies and misinformation, the deliberate smears and falsehoods about certain candidates and the innuendoes (fair or not) that try to put a candidate in a bad light, and decide what data is most meaningful to help you make an informed choice.

Knowing this, it's easy to see why so many Americans prefer "to go with their gut," to follow leaders (or buy into what television commentators espouse) that appeal to their grievances and emotions rather than do the sometimes difficult analysis required. Not all decisions are tough, of course. Many choices are apparent as soon as you know whether a candidate supports policies you absolutely reject. The information is here to help you make those choices.

Thanks for reading, for caring and for voting. We'll share some of our choices in next week's *Addison Independent*.

Angelo Lynn

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### Little metal man

THE HOOD ORNAMENT radiator cap on this 1917 Model T Ford truck seems like an icon from another era — and it is. The century-old car was displayed by Bristol's Paul and Ginny Curtis at Sunday's Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## We could do better on health care

There is a lovely new project emerging at Mount Abraham Union High School that connects students with health care professionals. They don't need an appointment, they don't need to leave school, and they can receive on-going support from both their school nurse, the care providers from the Mountain Health Center and the wider community. If they have insurance, it can be billed, and if they don't, that is OK. This is one way we might be able to change the dismal situation of health care for our community. I am sure there are many other brilliant ideas awaiting us and encourage people to come together to share ideas.

We all know that there is a crisis in health care delivery in America and here at home. The cost of insurance is excruciating for employers and those who are self-employed. Yet the care we receive for our premiums is limited and ineffectual in leading to good health outcomes. Too many of us have no access to care, the waiting time for mental health services is outrageous, and the systems caring for our physical, mental and social health seem totally disconnected. Surely there is a better way for us to work together with a focus on the whole person, the whole family and the whole community.

Our family was recently in London, helping to care for grandchildren while our daughter was on tour. My husband had damaged his eye shortly before we left. It was not getting better so we went to a specialty vision clinic, nearby, on a Sunday, to have it examined. The clientele waiting to be seen were far more diverse than

any I have ever seen in Vermont. Each person was treated with dignity and respect, including those who were obviously homeless and suffering from mental health challenges. The higher income clients, who were complaining that they should be moved to the top of the waiting list were also treated with dignity and respect; yet they didn't move up on the waiting list or receive any special accommodation.

When our turn came, we got to consult with an amazing specialist in the field who did a thorough examination, far more detailed than anything my husband had received in Vermont, and then he was given a prescription which we were able to fill at no charge. It made all the difference in his eye healing as well as possible.

I know there are huge challenges in the national health service in Britain and Canada, but I also know that the way we are delivering health care in Vermont could be transformed to make sure far more of us are healthy at far lesser cost.

Addison County came together when the adolescent pregnancy rates were some of the highest in the nation, and crafted programs that now mean we have among the lowest rates. We were worried as a community that so few people had decent affordable housing and created the Addison County Community Trust, which has worked with other groups to expand access.

Although we still have a long way to go, we know that people in this community can come together to solve significant social and economic challenges. The

(See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

### Ways of Seeing

By Cheryl Mitchell



## Letters to the Editor

### Bevere touted for prosecutor

I am writing to proudly support Peter Bevere for Addison County State's Attorney.

During his 16 years as a prosecutor (currently as interim state's attorney for Addison County), Peter has exhibited the qualities of leadership, judgment, fairness and professionalism that have earned him the highest respect of those within the legal system and the community at large.

Peter Bevere is the best choice for Addison County State's Attorney. Please join me in voting for him.

Rob Alberts  
Bridport

### Elect Elmore as next sheriff

Here we are at election time for a new sheriff for Addison County. I have had the opportunity to watch Michael Elmore go from rookie police officer to supervisor to second in command and ultimately being asked to manage the entire sheriff's department for several months now. When called upon, he slipped into that position flawlessly.

Mike is a born leader. The deputies follow his lead and together they are a great team. Having worked for three of the last sheriffs in Addison County, the qualities required for this job, integrity, compassion, intelligence and dedication, are prevalent in Mike.

When you cast your vote on Nov. 8 for Michael Elmore for Sheriff, you will have made the best choice. He will work for you, the residents of Addison County.

Jeanette Willey  
Business Manager for  
Addison County Sheriff's  
Department

### Vekos deserves prosecutor job

It is high time to have a juvenile law practitioner in the State's Attorney's Office. The state's attorney is not just our top criminal prosecutor, but is also responsible for filing petitions for truancy, delinquency and for deciding whether to seek Department for Children and Families (DCF) custody in child abuse and neglect cases.

Eva Vekos happens to be the candidate with the most criminal law experience, but she also has the knowledge and experience to help guide the DCF to make smarter choices regarding Addison County kids and their families. Please join me in voting for Eva Vekos to be our first female Addison County State's Attorney in November!

Sarah Star, Esq.  
Middlebury

### Merger won't help schools

On Election Day, Nov. 8, voters in the Mount Abraham Unified School District and the Addison Northwest School District will be asked whether to approve a merger of the two districts. Many residents of our districts share a vision for our communities to work together to improve education for all of our students, and to do so in a cost-effective manner.

A merger won't help us achieve that vision. There are better ways to improve education for all of our students and to prudently manage taxpayer dollars.

The reality is that many residents in Bristol, Monkton, New Haven, Starksboro and Lincoln are very unhappy with MAUSD leadership's educational and financial track record. These problems would only be magnified in a merged, more powerful district, and those problems will then be harder to fix. Residents of ANWSD as well as MAUSD, beware; what you see in the MAUSD Leadership today is what you'll get if the merger is

(See *Olson letter*, Page 5A)

### MAUSD-ANWSD merger would be detrimental

On August 9th voters in the towns of Bristol, Monkton and New Haven had their chance to weigh in on Starksboro's effort to remove itself from the Mount Abraham Unified School District. Despite an overall tally of 1,105 in favor or "releasing" Starksboro to 894 against, a 28-vote margin in the Town of New Haven was enough to derail our effort.

The information campaign by the MAUSD administration and their advocates touted a projected 17% tax increase for the remaining towns if Starksboro was allowed to leave the district. This figure was repeated in many letters to the editor and posts on social media. Just three days before the vote, Superintendent Reen allowed as how the projected tax increase attributable to Starksboro's departure was only 8.6%, or half the amount publicized for weeks. No apology or admission of error was made.

Despite the Starksboro Save our School committee's publication

of our analysis that the likely tax increase was closer to 3%, the damage had been done.

How did we get here? How is it that we have strong advocates of public education on opposite sides of the consolidation issue, both wanting to "preserve and expand student opportunity," but disagreeing on the way forward? We have extremely dedicated school board members putting in many hours of their time to make our schools work despite the perceived crisis of enrollment decline. At the same time we have dedicated community members, some of them former school board members and administrators, working hard to insure that we keep our community schools, and that we keep the governance of those schools close at hand. Perhaps it is a function of our age to be so divided and seemingly at odds with each other.

Now we are fast approaching another important decision concerning our schools. This

time the future of the schools in the nine towns that comprise the Addison Northwest School District (Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Pantton, Bridport and Addison) and the MAUSD (Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro) are at stake. We are being asked to vote on whether or not the two districts should be merged to form one district with one board.

Without a doubt there are ways in which coordinating the work of the two districts makes sense. Food service for example, has been combined very successfully for almost ten years. But this collaboration did not require a merger in order to succeed. The proposed merger that is being promoted by both administrations is not needed and will be detrimental to our community schools. This is a wake-up call to the many voters who are unaware that this question is even on the ballot.

The continuing drumbeat for consolidation of school districts and

(See *DuPont letter*, Page 8A)



# Letters to the Editor

## Addison Town Hall renovation proposal is sound

On Saturday, Oct. 15, I attended the open house held by the Addison Town Hall Committee at the old Addison Town Hall at Addison Four Corners. The building, originally constructed in 1872, has sat dormant for many years. Over the last several years, the all-volunteer Town Hall Committee has been working diligently to move the project forward, with notable accomplishments to date including the resolution of land ownership issue and planning, design and construction of a modern wastewater system for the Four Corners area. These were very challenging and important issues and I applaud the committee for their hard work, as well as the town taxpayers for their financial

support of these efforts.

Our visit to the Town Hall on Saturday was very helpful and informative. The overall structure appears to be sound and the space inside features high ceilings and large windows with great views. However, the inside of the building is also in need of major upgrades, including elevator, restrooms, staircases, energy efficiency improvements, etc. The potential opportunity is fantastic.

I believe that the bond vote that we will be casting ballots on this Nov. 8 is a highly worthy investment for the town of Addison to make that will pay dividends for many decades to come. The use of this ample space for town clerk functions, public meetings/hearings, events,

gatherings, performances and so on will greatly enhance our sense of community in Addison. It will make the town a more attractive place to live in the future. I also understand that if the bond is approved, then the town will be in an excellent position to seek various grants from federal and state agencies, as well as private foundations, to reduce the ultimate cost to taxpayers.

In closing, I wanted to again thank the Town Hall Committee for their hard work over many years, and to urge town voters to get to the polls and support this extremely worthy project.

**Jeff Nelson  
Addison**

## Reproductive Liberty Amendment has problems

In November, Vermont voters will decide whether to amend our state's constitution with what is being called the "Reproductive Liberty Amendment" (RLA), which reads: "An individual's right to reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means." One stated intention of this amendment is to enshrine, at a constitutional level, the ability

of a woman to obtain a safe and legal abortion, but I am more than a little concerned that its passage would, instead, jeopardize the access to abortion already granted under Vermont Statutes 9493-9498, passed in 2019.

The RLA promises reproductive autonomy to all individuals, but a pregnancy represents the reproductive autonomy of at least two people: the female who is pregnant, and the male who contributed the fertilizing sperm. Reproductive autonomy has been defined as "... the power to decide

when, if at all, to have children; also, many — but not all — of the choices relevant to reproduction." For both men and women, birth control can fail, partners can deceive, and the universe can conspire to create a poorly timed pregnancy. With both parties given equal standing under the RLA, whose wishes would prevail if disagreement arose, and who would decide?

In testimony to the Vermont Legislature (March 13, 2019), the Vermont Attorney General's office (See *Walter letter, Page 7A*)

## Olson letter

(Continued from Page 4A) approved.

We need a school district that is trustworthy in its relationship with the community, is competent with our students' education, and prudently manages taxpayer dollars.

Has MAUSD leadership shown that it is trustworthy?

- Prior to the August vote to ratify Starksboro's withdrawal from MAUSD, district leadership repeatedly claimed taxes for the remaining towns in MAUSD would increase 17% if Starksboro was allowed to withdraw. This was a false statement, as conceded by district leadership too late, a mere six days before the election.

- The MAUSD administration recommended two years ago closing elementary schools without town approval, despite articles of agreement which promised a town vote.

Has MAUSD demonstrated effective and competent management?

- In the fall of 2021, concerns about safety and student needs at an MAUSD elementary school grew until parents and teachers were forced to bypass the MAUSD administration and complain directly to the school board. The public still knows very little about why this crisis developed, and what measures have been taken to ensure that a similar crisis doesn't recur.

- Top-down management and centralized control of direct services to students have not resulted in improved student outcomes, per district reports. Interventionists and coaches at local school facilities are hired and managed directly by the MAUSD central office, when a school-based program, managed and supervised by school principals, would be more effective. Not surprisingly, there's been no reported progress in attaining the educational quality goals in the district's Strategic Plan.

Has MAUSD Leadership demonstrated prudent fiscal management of taxpayer dollars?

- MAUSD's Levenson Report

identified potential cost savings for MAUSD of about \$5.6 million, of which by some estimates about \$3.3 million in annual savings would not require merger, or closing schools, or moving all sixth-graders to middle school in Vergennes. One wonders how hard MAUSD leadership is working to save taxpayer dollars.

- The MAUSD administration is significantly over-staffed compared to national norms for a school district the size of MAUSD. MAUSD taxpayers could have achieved annual cost savings of at least \$780,000 with a more streamlined administrative staff.

- MAUSD leadership is on a capital spending spree, to the tune of millions of dollars. Of course, buildings need ongoing maintenance and repairs, but current construction projects appear intended simply to make MAUSD schools more attractive, designed to overcome perceptions that MAUSD facilities are in poor condition. Surely these taxpayer funds could be used better to actually enhance student learning.

There are better ways to offer improved education for students, and to prudently manage taxpayer dollars.

- Forming a cost sharing and education collaboration between MAUSD and ANWSD can save significant taxpayer dollars. A supervisory union is but one example of this type of collaboration. MAUSD's

Levenson Report shows that, by some estimates, around \$3.3 million in savings for MAUSD alone can be achieved without merging districts or closing schools.

- An MAUSD/ANWSD collaboration without a merger of the middle school and high school will save up to \$1.8 million in extra transportation costs projected for a merged district, in addition to sparing students excessively long bus rides.

- Savings from collaboration without a merger can be used to expand educational opportunities at both high schools, such as jointly offering AP, foreign language or remedial math instruction, or investing in critical early education programs.

- Our educational institutions are only as capable of providing the education students deserve as they have the strong support of the communities they serve. The reality is that MAUSD leadership has alienated its communities. It is far better to let the nine towns in MAUSD and ANWSD develop organically into an educational community within a collaborative structure, rather than force our communities into a precipitous, unnecessary and ill-advised merger.

I urge all voters in the towns of MAUSD and ANWSD to Stop the Merger by voting NO in the Nov. 8 election.

**Herb Olson  
Starksboro**

## Vote 'yes' on Proposition 5

I've been a Vermont nurse for 35 years and have worked in three Vermont hospitals. I strongly support proposed Prop 5/Article 22, an amendment to Vermont's constitution that says, "an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

Opponents of Prop 5 (including some candidates for elected office) are sharing false information, such as that Article 22 will require healthcare workers to participate in abortion procedures even if they have objections of conscience. This isn't true. Article 22 will have absolutely no impact upon facility policies related to staff conscientious objection, policies that have been in place for years that allow staff to not participate in procedures such as abortion or blood transfusions — unless there are absolutely no other staff available and the patient's health or life are in jeopardy. Prop 5/Article 22 won't make any changes to these hospital policies. Article 22 is about curtailing state-imposed restrictions, not about dictating hospital policies. It will simply maintain and protect our current rights to personal reproductive autonomy through a constitutional amendment.

The fact that even candidates for elected office are not providing accurate information about such a fundamental right should make us even more certain that no one other than a medical provider and the pregnant individual should be involved in making such a personal decision.

Vote YES for Prop 5/Article 22.  
**Mari Cordes  
Lincoln**

*Editor's note: Mari Cordes is a Registered Nurse and represents Addison-4 in the Vermont House of Representatives.*

**Letters can be found on 4A, 5A, 7A, 8A, 9A.**

## Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) new mobile health van in Bristol is a start. Surely, we can do better about the way we deliver health and wellness services. Please share your ideas with me, your legislators, and your neighbors.

*Cheryl Mitchell is president of*

*Treleven, a retreat and learning program located on her family's sheep farm in Addison County. She does freelance consulting on issues related to children, families, social policy and farm to community work. She can be reached at cheryl.w.mitchell@gmail.com.*

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ADDISON COUNTY

# Obituaries

## James Richard "Butch" Varno, 75, Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — James Richard "Butch" Varno, 75, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away peacefully on October 14, 2022, at Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

Butch was born November 29, 1946, in Middlebury to Helen Varno.

Butch was a long-time resident of Middlebury. He spent a better part of 50 years on Seymour Street, with his mother and Rita Brown. His remaining years were spent at Helen Porter Nursing Home.

Butch was a long-time fan of Middlebury College sports. He was known to attend and cheer on basketball and football games. Butch especially enjoyed visits from his college friends.

The Family would like to thank Roger Ralph, Russ Reilly and



BUTCH VARNO

Jeffrey Brown for all the time, support and love for Butch over the years.

Butch leaves behind his very close cousin Rita Brown and cousins Joan, Jerry, Mickey and Jody. He also leaves behind nieces

Darcie and Marlie, nephew Willis and many other family and friends.

Butch was predeceased by mother Helen Varno, brother Paul Varno, and cousins Jimmy and Janice.

The family would like to say thank you to the Staff at Helen Porter Nursing Home for all the Love and care for him over the years.

There will be no calling hours.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Luke Austin as the Celebrant.

Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven, with a gathering following the burial.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Please leave online condolences at sandersonfuneralservice.com. ♦



BARBARA E. KNAPP

## Barbara E Knapp, 71, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Barbara E. Knapp, 71, of Ferrisburgh passed away early in the morning of Oct. 9.

She was born in Bellows Falls, Vt., and raised in Waltham, Vt., the daughter of Edward and Charlotte Knapp. She graduated from Vergennes High School in 1969.

Barbara had a few different career paths. She was a legal secretary at Marsh and Associates and retired from Verizon.

She volunteered for meals on wheels.

Barbara had a very special son. She enjoyed many road trips including this past spring to Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. One of the highlight trips was to

Alaska and touring the wilds of Denali.

Barbara enjoyed reading, watching birds at her feeder and spending time with her dog Lottie and son Toby.

Barbara was predeceased by her parents and brother, John Knapp. She is survived by her brother James Knapp, nieces and a nephew as well as her son Toby and his partner Jeannine.

A gathering will take place at the American Legion in Vergennes Saturday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. Donations can be made to Vergennes Area Rescue Squad or Homeward Bound/Addison Country Rescue Society. ♦

## Judith Geisler Watts, 81, Cornwall

CORNWALL — Judy died Monday, 10 October, 2022, from Alzheimer's disease at home under the care of Addison County Home Health and Hospice.

She was born and raised in Morenci, Michigan, graduated from Alma College and received her MLS from Pratt Institute. After stints in the aerospace industry and at New York City Public Library, Judy served 25 years as a librarian at Middlebury College.

She married Jack Watts in 1966 and they lived in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Amherst, Mass.; Beltsville, Md.; and Edinburgh, Scotland, before locating to Glen Dale Farm, Cornwall, Vt., in 1980.

Judy served on the Cornwall Selectboard, the board of the United Way of Addison County, and was active in the Cornwall Church. She had a passion for knitting and taught many other knitters. She also liked travel, books, gardening, dogs and cats, and music.

Remaining kin include her



JUDITH GEISLER WATTS



A memorial service will be held at the Cornwall Church on Sunday, Nov. 6, at 1 p.m. Contributions may be made to Addison County Home Health and Hospice, First Congregational Church of Cornwall, or United Way of Addison County. ♦

## Barbara Pauline Broughton, 83, formerly of Addison County

JERICHO — After several years of chronic pain and most recently COVID-19, Barbara Broughton passed into the arms of her Savior, Jesus Christ on Friday Oct. 7, 2022.

Born in Burlington, Vt., on June 17, 1939. Barbara was the daughter of George and Pauline (Lafraimboise) Shackett. She grew up in various towns in Addison County and attended schools in Middlebury. She graduated from Middlebury High School in 1957 and married her high school sweetheart, Bob, in 1958.

Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy. Upon the birth of her first child, she became a stay-at-home mom, raising and nurturing three wonderful children. In the early 1980s, while volunteering with the Community Outreach Group at Fanny Allen Hospital, she created and established a program called "Footnoters" for seniors and their foot care needs. The program was implemented at various senior sites and still exists, albeit modified, under UVM Home Health & Hospice.



BARBARA PAULINE BROUGHTON

For more than 25 years she volunteered with the EJU Ecumenical Food Shelf and also supported numerous blood drives at Catalist Church in Jericho.

Predeceased by her parents, she is survived by her loving husband, Bob, to whom she was married almost 64 years; daughter Kim (Paul) Sonntag of Colchester Vt.; son Scott (Leslie) of South

Burlington, Vt.; and son Matthew of Blue Hill, Maine. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Kyle (Stephanie), Erin (Carlos), Luke (Chris), Steven, Sergei, Oliver, Eliza and Grace; and by her great-grandchildren, Alex, Amora and William. She will be missed by many cousins and close friends.

Barbara was a great cook and is remembered especially for her mashed potatoes and green bean casseroles (yes, there is a story for each!). She also loved gardening and spending time with family and friends.

Barbara's family would like to thank the entire staff at Mansfield Place Assisted Living and all the services of UVM Home Health and Hospice for the wonderful care and loving treatment provided to Barbara during her last weeks.

It's been one hell of a ride and she will be greatly missed by her family, relatives and many friends.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 1-4 p.m. at Catalist Church on Raceway Road in Jericho. All are invited. Please visit awrfh.com to share your memories and condolences. ♦

## Larry Thorpe Notice of Passing

WEYBRIDGE — Larry Robert Thorpe, 68, passed away peacefully at his home in Weybridge early on the morning of Oct. 9, 2022. His family would like to thank the community for all their love and support.



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### Obituary Guidelines

The Addison Independent does not charge to print a 100-word Notice of Passing. Families may opt for unedited Paid Obituaries, which are designated with "♦" at the end. Guidelines are published on our web site: [www.addisonindependent.com/obits](http://www.addisonindependent.com/obits).

## Ann McGuinness Halton Funeral

SALISBURY / MIDDLEBURY — A belated Funeral Mass for Ann McGuinness Halton of Salisbury, who passed away at age 93 on Oct. 27, 2021, will be held on Friday, Oct. 28, at 11:30 a.m., at St. Mary's Church in Middlebury. Following the Mass and prayers at the cemetery, there will be a reception for family and friends to celebrate the life of Ann at the Edgewater Gallery at Middlebury Falls, 1 Mill Street.




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# Obituaries

# Walters letter

## Frank Edward Bigelow III, 55, former Middlebury resident

ATHENS, Ga. — Frank Edward Bigelow III, 55, formerly of Middlebury, Vt., passed away peacefully after a brief illness at Piedmont Hospital in Athens, Georgia, on Aug. 27, 2022.

Known to his Vermont family as “Junior,” he was born Aug. 25, 1967, to Frank Bigelow Jr. and Rosaline (Lacaille) Bigelow.

In his earlier years, Frank attended Middlebury Union High School and worked odd jobs before moving to Georgia, which he called home for many years.

At the time of his passing, he was employed by Nicholas Disinfect Services as a shop foreman.

Frank is survived by his daughter, Amanda Brace, and his grandson, Charlie. He also leaves behind one brother, Michael Bigelow; and three sisters: Linda Cry, Karen Shackett and Tanya LaPlant. He will also be missed by good friends Scott Nicholas, Vicki Rudisill and a community of friends.

Frank will rest in peace in Commerce, Georgia. ♦

(Continued from Page 5A) asserted that “... where two private individuals have competing rights, courts will weigh each of the interests at stake and fashion a solution, which is something we trust them to do all the time.”

This sentiment was echoed by bioethicist Dr. Arthur Caplan, who responded to my query by saying, “I think these (questions) will all be litigated in court unless they spell out a bit more what they intend with the amendment.” Perhaps Vermonters have become accustomed to being a liberal stronghold in a divided nation, but what would be the outcome of such a case, if appealed to the current Supreme Court?

The importance of preserving access to abortion is not restricted to cases involving trauma or immaturity. Consider my own family: My mother and father were married in 1962, at the young but respectable ages of 19 and 24, respectively. They had a baby in 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1967. My mother found out that she was pregnant with their fourth baby while at her postpartum checkup for their third, and when their fourth baby was born — two months past my mother’s 24th birthday — she needed my father’s permission to have a tubal ligation. My mother had met with their parish priest to ask about using birth control, but she was told that preventing conception would be a sin, and with Roe v.

Wade still six years in the future, obtaining an abortion would have been illegal.

When people imagine an idyllic childhood or a thriving family, do they imagine having four babies in as many years? My father, whose reproductive autonomy had never been questioned, dealt with the commotion of energetic children and the stress of an overwhelmed wife by spending his evenings at a bar and arriving home after we had all gone to sleep, until leaving the family altogether during our collective adolescence.

My other concern is that we do not have consensus, in the United States, over when an individual achieves “personhood,” and the question of when an individual’s rights begin is being scrutinized as never before. Does an embryo or a fetus have “rights”? If so, when do they begin — after a baby is born? when the fetus “quickens”? when the heartbeat is detected? Or, as Catholics believe, at the moment of conception? On Feb. 21, 2021, members of Vermont’s House of Representatives presented a motion to establish fetal personhood starting at 24 weeks following the mother’s last menstrual cycle. If this is adopted, then any rights currently held by the mother will be evaluated against those of the fetus.

To some people, the idea of granting legal rights, or assigning personhood, to a fetus will seem far-fetched, but consider that I was

named for a baby that was born, dead, on my father’s 10th birthday. The baby was named, baptized, and buried in the Walter family plot, and if you think this is silly or irrational, try to think, instead, of the balm it might have been for a grieving family. I won’t presume to know what was happening, in 1948, in the hearts of a family that never discussed things, but if “funeralizing” a stillborn baby helped to comfort my grandmother, or if later naming one of his children after the baby that would have been “birthday twin” might have somehow consoled my father, who am I to argue?

Though I regret the lack of nuance that has permeated the abortion debate for decades, I unequivocally support the right of a woman to obtain a safe and legal abortion, and I stand firmly in the camp of those who would allow a woman to decide, with her

health care provider, whether to continue or terminate a pregnancy. As a culture, we need to value and honor the experiences of men, but not at the expense of women because, in the end, a pregnancy is carried to term by a woman, and she will bear the majority of the consequences of deciding whether or not to have that baby throughout her life.

There is fairness in none of this, and that is where the RLA falls short. It seeks to achieve parity in a situation that is inherently and unalterably unfair, and so it places on equal footing the rights of women, men, and potentially “the unborn.” By failing to specify and protect access to abortion, the writers of the RLA have jeopardized the reproductive autonomy that women already have.

Barbara Walters  
Middlebury

Letters can be found on 4A, 5A, 7A, 8A, 9A.

Letters to the Editor: The Addison Independent encourages you to write letters to the editor.

We print signed letters only. Include an address and telephone number, too, so we can clear up any questions.

Send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com).

## Raymond G. Many, 89, Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Raymond Many passed away on October 10, 2022, in Garden Song in Eastview at Middlebury. He was born in New Haven, Vt., on May 16, 1933, the son of Jeanmarie and Clara Many.

Ray graduated from Middlebury High School and then joined the U.S. Air Force. After his military service, he worked as a QC Engineer at Simmonds Precision for over 30 years. He was also a car salesman for 28 years working at Brush Motors and then Foster Motors. Ray was passionate about selling cars and created a sales system that was implemented. After retiring from selling cars, he became a substitute teacher at the Hannaford Career Center, where he enjoyed working and encouraging students. Ray would always say, “You’re doing a good job!” Ray also had a passion for flying and obtained a private pilot license, and he spent many weekends at the Middlebury Airport. Ray will be remembered by his love for working with wood, his impeccable lawn and ability to always compliment you and make you feel good.

He was a member of the St. Mary’s Church parish and served many years helping with maintenance and other services, along with his late wife Yvonne Many, whom he was married to for 60 years.

He is survived by his daughter Carol Rule and husband Jeffery of Salisbury, his son Jeffery Many and wife Kathy of Brandon, and daughter Jill Laberge and husband Jeff of Bristol. Ray is also survived by 7 grandchildren, Jonathan, Angela, Hannah, Caitlin, Morgan, Nathan and Erin; 9 great-grandchildren, Lauren, Jayden, Rosalie, Torin, Colton, Ashton, Layne, Landyn and Lilijana; 4 step-grandchildren, Leigh, Ryan, Gabe, Wyatt, one step-great-grandchild, Nyla; his siblings, Robert, Agnes, Paul and Theresa; and many nieces and nephews.

Raymond was predeceased by his loving wife Yvonne Many, his parents, Jeanmarie and Clara Many, his sisters Helen, Mary and



RAYMOND G. MANY

Doris; and his brother “Pete.”

A memorial service will be held at St. Mary’s Church in Middlebury on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 11 a.m. Contributions may be made in his memory to Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Project Independence or Eastview. ♦

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## Celebrate a spooky night at the Sheldon Friday, Oct. 28

MIDDLEBURY — The Sheldon Museum in Middlebury will host Spooky Night at the Museum, an evening of pre-Halloween entertainment, on Friday, Oct. 28, from 5-7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The night will offer a range of spirit-inspired activities: Tarot card readings, group psychic readings, a murder scene dollhouse, and live spooky music. Take a selfie with one of the spirit photographs from the museum’s collection acquired by Solomon Wright Jewett (1808-94), a successful merino sheep farmer and avid spiritualist collector.

If you have had an encounter with the spirit world or perhaps once lived or now live in a haunted house, come tell your story! The centerpiece of the evening will be a MOTH-style program with ghost stories told by members of the community. If you’d like to share your ghost story (up to five minutes), contact the Sheldon at [henrysheldonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:henrysheldonmuseum@gmail.com), and you’ll be added to the program.

Costumes are optional, but welcome. For more information: 802-388-2117 or visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

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LOTS OF KIDS had fun and a good dose of fresh air in the Oct. 9 Ripton Ridge Run. These happy competitors are, from left, Owen Cash, Emmett Waters, Beatrice Doria, Hazel Albertini and Tenly Wetzel.

## Runners hit the road for annual Ridge Run

RIPTON — It was another amazing turnout for the Ripton Ridge Run this year.

More than 125 participants came from all over Addison County, Vermont and New England for the race that began and ended at Ripton Elementary School on Oct. 9.

New faces mingled with familiar ones as everyone celebrated Ripton's natural beauty, the crisp autumn air, and warm sun on faces. More than 50 volunteers truly helped build and deepen sense of community. Organizers and participants offered a big thank you



RUNNERS AND WALKERS start the annual Ripton Ridge Run at the Ripton Elementary School on Oct. 9.

to Ripton residents and supporters and the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department.

On to some results! Ripton's very own Beth McIntosh and Mary Harrington, a pair of top runners on the Middlebury Union High

School cross country team, tied for first in the Women's 5K with a time of 23:46.

Second place went to another Ripton resident: Najat Croll, who has competed in the Ridge Run for almost 35 years. Third place went to Ginger Lambert, who competed in the 60-69 age group and at first didn't believe she placed in the top three!

The Men's 5K was won by Matthew McIntosh of Ripton. Matthew's time was an impressive

19:26! Jason Ludlow came in second with a time of 20:34 and in third from Hancock was Eduardo Angulo with a time of 23:14.

The 10K run (the course was actually 10.4K) was won by Kyle Friis (Middlebury) with a time of 40:52. Coming in second was Baxter Harrington (Ripton) with a time of 41:17. Julian Schmitt (Middlebury) took third with a time of 42:21.

The winner of the Women's 10K was Kat Moody from Monkton

with a time of 48:56; Emily Landenberger (Weybridge) took second with a time of 56:28; Isabella Parker (Carlisle, Mass.) took third in 56:56.

Around four dozen people also took part in a 5K fun walk.

For more results, pictures, and information, please visit [riptonridgerun.org](http://riptonridgerun.org).

Thanks for running this year, and we hope to see you again next year!

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## DuPont letter

(Continued from Page 4A) School Boards, triggered by Act 46 and accelerated by exaggerated claims of savings and continuing pressure from the state, and certainly by declining enrollment, is pushing our school governance further from our schools. This is bad for our communities that place a high value on their local schools, and bad for the close oversight of our educational tax dollars.

For many years Starksboro had a three-person school board that worked with our Superintendent to manage our budget, hire principals and make sure the school was in good repair. Though we were part of the five-town supervisory union, our board was particularly interested in, and responsible for the success of our school. If a community member or a parent

saw something amiss, or knew of an opportunity for improvement, they called someone on the school board.

Though the governance structure was complex and occasionally exhausting for the superintendent, the local control was tangible and beneficial for both the school and the community.

Act 46 and the consolidation that followed changed this. For better or worse the MAUSD district now has one board of 13 instead of the 27 board members we had prior to consolidation. For administrators, it's easy to understand the appeal of one budget and one board. There are definitely advantages of efficiency with a single board/budget. Less noted is the fact that we now have fewer community members

engaged in school governance and oversight. We now have more of bureaucratic model, with less direct citizen involvement, and more administrative control.

If the merger passes we will continue down this road toward a more consolidated and less representative governance. We will have a single board managing a combined budget of over 60 million dollars and responsible for 10 schools. We will also set ourselves inevitably on a course to close a majority of the elementary schools in the two districts. I urge fellow residents of our two districts to vote no on this question. Please go to [www.saveourschools](http://www.saveourschools) for more information on why we should reject this proposed merger.

**Louis DuPont**  
Starksboro

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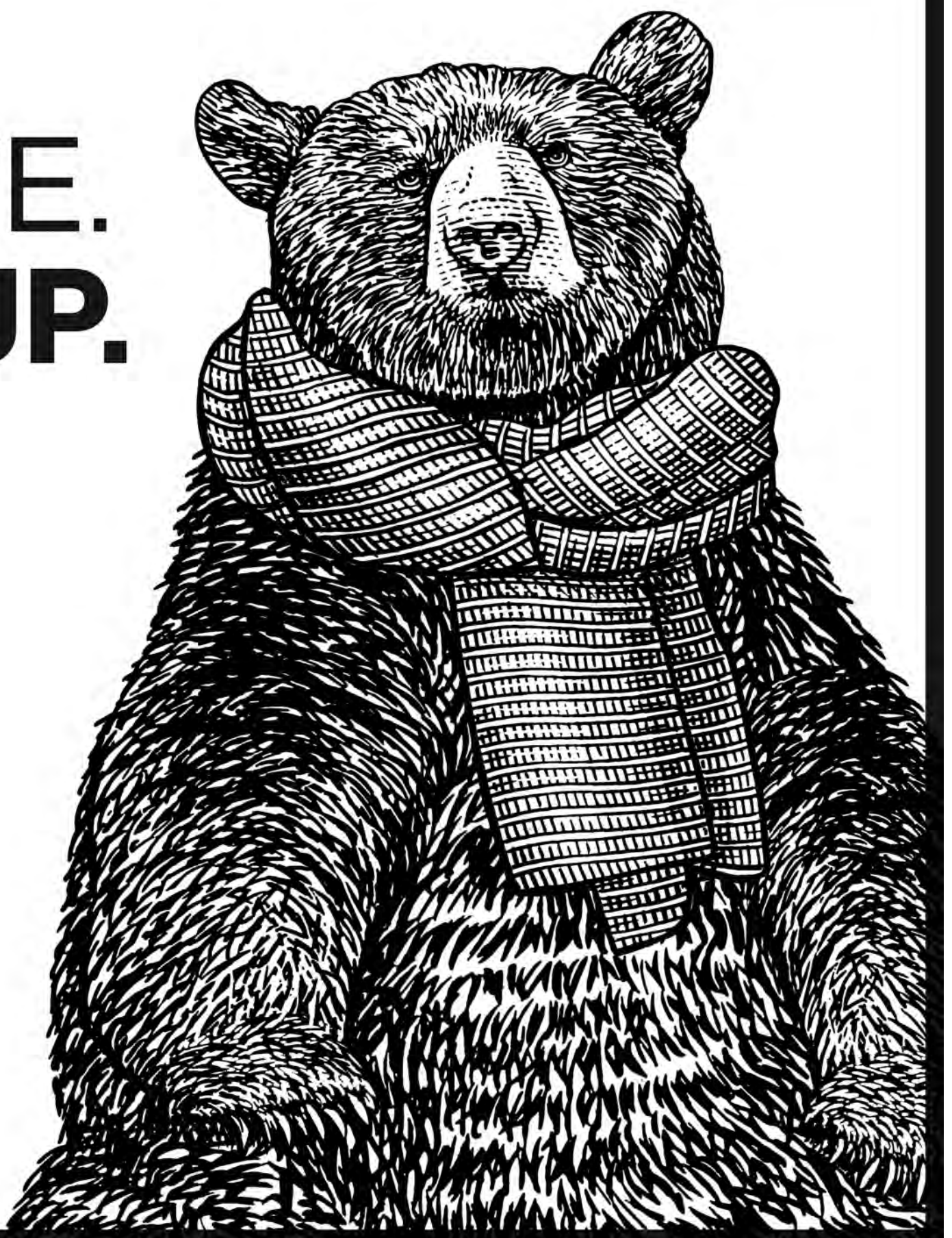
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# Letters to the Editor

## Merger of districts premature

Over the past year, a merger study committee has worked to determine if ANWSD and MAUSD could merge into a single school district. This committee has worked hard and should be commended. However, I believe that it is premature to vote “Yes” at this time for these two school districts to formally merge into one.

First, the public has not been provided an analysis of the pros or cons of merging, including such issues as the financial costs/benefits, the expected student outcomes and family impacts, and the overall educational value. These issues have not been investigated in depth and no additional information is available to inform the public’s vote on this issue. This merger will affect families in both districts and we deserve to better understand both the benefits and the costs of merging before we agree to this change.

The merger study committee only has the authority to determine how a merged district would form, not how it would work; that task must be completed outside of this committee, either by the ANWSD and MAUSD school boards prior to a merger or by a newly formed school board, if the merger vote succeeds. In essence, we are being asked to vote on this merger without knowing all the

questions to ask, let alone any of the answers.

Second, it is important to understand that the existing ANWSD and MAUSD have neither endorsed nor rejected the merger of their two districts. Once the two boards agreed to create this committee, their involvement was over. The merger study committee has presented its findings to both boards, but only as a courtesy. Neither board has an authority to approve or reject the committee’s findings; that is the sole job of the electorate. State statute governs this process; the two entities which have the most knowledge and understanding of how a merger might impact their respective districts cannot provide their opinion regarding the merits or risks of merging. The merger should only move forward after both boards have had an opportunity to weigh in on it.

While I appreciate the work of the merger study committee, acknowledge the declining student populations, and understand the likelihood that some action will be needed in the future, I think both boards should focus on ways to share burdens and costs which could, with time, light the way to a clearer path toward a formal merger.

**Erin Roche Vergennes**

## Voters should be wary of merger

The proposed merger of the Mt. Abraham and Vergennes school districts will be on the ballot on Nov. 8. The MAUSD administration is offering optimistic projections for cost savings if the district merges with Vergennes. Voters should be deeply skeptical of any claims for financial benefits from the proposed merger. The recent history of Starksboro’s attempt to withdraw from the district shows that it would be a mistake to rely on these projections.

Superintendent Patrick Reen actively campaigned against Starksboro’s withdrawal. He put out the false claim that taxes would go up 17% if Starksboro were to withdraw. In fact, the administration’s actual estimate was for an increase of 8.7%, or about half of the 17% claimed. Here are some of the Superintendent’s statements: -In an email to all teachers on July 26, Mr. Reen stated: “If Starksboro withdraws, the education tax rate for 2023-2024 is projected to increase more than 25 cents, or \$507 on a home assessed at \$200,000. This is a 17% increase.” Mr. Reen published an Op/ed in the *Addison Independent* on July 28 containing this same statement.

-Also on July 26 the administration sent an email to all families on the “Impact of a Starksboro Withdrawal.” This said: “Taxes will go up close to 17% for FY 2023-24...”

-This figure was repeated in the district’s announcement for the Informational Meeting: “The district has determined, in short, that if the Starksboro vote is approved: 1. Taxes will go up close to 17% for FY 2023-24...”

All of this was false. The administration’s actual projection for the impact of Starksboro’s withdrawal was for a tax increase of just 8.7% (itself a questionable figure). This true projection was presented only during the Informational Meeting shortly before the vote, when many had already voted. The administration never publicized the correct figure. It never sent the true number out to the people who were misled. If the original figure of 17% was the result of some mistake, the administration should have issued a correction and made sure this went to everyone who might have received the original figure.

Mr. Reen apparently misled not only the voters, but also the MAUSD School Board, as a number of board members repeated this 17% figure in various posts on Front Porch Forum.

People should remember this when voting on the proposed merger. We are being told the merger will save large amounts of money. Given this history we should not believe what we are being told by MAUSD, and we should not assume that these financial benefits will ever actually happen.

**Jim Runcie Starksboro**

Letters can be found on 4A, 5A, 7A, 8A, 9A.

# Climate matters Perspectives on Change



## The shifting shoreline of what we think we know

29th in a series  
By REV. BARNABY FEDER

Dr. Catherine Keller, a feminist theologian working at the intersection of religion and science, once taught a workshop I attended, “It might be the very assumption you know something that blocks you from really knowing, but it might be that there is something unknowable mixed in.”

Dr. Keller advocated for agnotology — the study of intentionally-created ignorance. She asked us to learn what we could about *how* we don’t know what we don’t know. And she made sure her seminary students knew the physicist John Wheeler’s teaching that, “As our island of knowledge grows, so does the shoreline of our ignorance.”

None of my Keller notes speak of climate change observations, but they strike me as relevant wisdom to keep close at hand. They help me address my frequent feelings of futility. I have a commitment to accept those feelings in myself and others as rational. At the same time, I don’t want to ever be someone who uses futility as an excuse to give up the elements of the climate change struggle that may help bend the universe toward justice and compassion for humans and all other beings.

For example, I worked in the failed effort to stop the Vermont Gas pipeline from being extended southward from Burlington to Middlebury and beyond. Thanks to a combination of economics and the organizing power of well-off opponents in western Addison County, the utility’s long-range plans to extend the pipeline to Ticonderoga and Rutland were scuttled, at least temporarily, but it got most of what it wanted.

This, in my view, was a climate change defeat. Not because there was no plausible

green argument for the pipeline. It was a defeat because the utility got away with arguing that there was a very long-term public need for gas as a “cleaner” and “greener” energy. In fact, the deal was structured to reward energy investors and landowners whose property it crossed in traditional ways as if there was no such thing as a climate change crisis bearing down on us. It will slow our shift to renewable resources. We missed an opportunity to act as if we truly understood that burning more fossil fuels needs to be regarded as a last resort, with all pipeline profits allocated to reducing future demand for such gas.

Nevertheless, as a minister preaching that we share in a Spirit of Life-Giving Love, I never felt that the futility of getting arrested opposing the pipeline was the whole story. “What happened?” is no more than the prelude to “What now?” if we strive to hold tight to the disciplines of love.

An honest accounting of the decades since we became aware of the likely impacts of climate change should honor our progress in grasping the challenges. But we must concede that the progress has been overwhelmed by delays in our responses and countless defeats. Some of the problem is related to too many people not knowing what is happening because they are holding on to more convenient truths and misinformation. Some of it is related to the global environment being so complex that we have to be humble about what is actually knowable.

We who style ourselves as advocates for addressing climate change are also among the misinformed — often, there’s a gaping hole in our information about what those reluctant to act know. And we can be naive about our claims that we can address climate change

without further oppressing the world’s most vulnerable populations, at home and abroad.

But “known” and “unknown” are binary categories. In truth, we live in a messy threshold between them. We know *enough* for each of us to do more in many ways, all of the time. We know *enough* to be more thoughtful and honest about what is holding us back, as Ollie Cultrara was in her recent contribution to this column.

We also know — or should know — that any good we do as individuals will be inconsequential to life’s future on Earth if big business and big government don’t move much more aggressively to combat climate change. Our individual shortcomings won’t be inconsequential, though, in writing the story of a future in which the big actors can and must shift course. We have a role to play.

Our ability to tell powerful stories is at the root of all religions. Religions repeatedly address the mysteries that mean the most to us as individuals and participants in the interconnected web of all existence. We can bless or harm Life’s future on Earth. You will find folks like the Interfaith Climate Action Network and other faith-based groups working on how we can address climate change at the shifting shoreline where what is unknowable is mixed in with what we know.

*Rev. Barnaby Feder, minister at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, is a co-leader of the Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN).*

## Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — In a quiet seven-day span for the Vergennes Police Department, officers between Oct. 10 and 16 dealt with a couple disputes and three minor car accidents and ruled a resident’s untimely death was due to natural causes.

In that week, city police also conducted four patrols by foot and two by cruiser, a traffic stop and two VIN inspections; fingerprinted a job applicant; and also:

On Oct. 10 dealt with a fender-bender in the Shaw’s Supermarket parking lot.

On Oct. 11 handled a minor two-car accident on Main Street.

On Oct. 12:

- Served a subpoena to a South Water Street resident on behalf of the state’s attorney’s office.

- Issued a no-trespass order to a man that Champlain Farms employees said had driven inappropriately in the store parking lot.

- Handled a minor two-car accident at the intersection of Main and South Water streets.

- On Oct 13:
  - Calmed arguing family members on High Street.

- Heard from a Macdonough Drive resident that a neighbor had yelled at her during a dispute.

- On Oct. 14 determined the death of a Maple Manor resident was due to natural causes.

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# The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is hosting a composting workshop

## In-person

### • Backyard composting class on Oct. 22nd.

Registration can be found on the District website.

If you are having problems, you can also register by emailing [emily@acswmd.org](mailto:emily@acswmd.org) or by calling

(802) 388-2333.

**Can’t wait to see you there!**

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



[www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org)  
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# City residents

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 The study suggests what such a panel should look like.

City Manager Ron Redmond confirmed this week he had booked the Vergennes Opera House for 7 p.m. on Nov. 28.

There, the CREBC will formally present its findings from lengthy research of how such committees work elsewhere and how one could work in Vergennes. The study panel members will then answer questions from citizens.

At the Oct. 11 city council meeting, CREBC member Cheryl Brinkman and fellow committee members Allison Rimmer and Maggi Shadroui cited the executive summary of their lengthy report, which reads in part:

"A group tasked with undertaking any recommendations of this report will not 'oversee' police, but rather will engage with law enforcement to mutually increase awareness, educate each other, and continue to help Vergennes be viewed as a safe and welcoming place for all of its residents and visitors."

City officials said the CREBC meeting at the opera house next month will be similar to one recently conducted at the opera house by former Vermont State Police Col. James Baker on behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

The IACP recently finished its own lengthy study of the Vergennes Police Department's internal operations and its relationship with

the community it serves. Like the CREBC, the IACP recommended the city create a community panel to work with city officials.

But the IACP recommended only an advisory panel, while the CREBC in its report sought one that, according to its report, could also "review complaints, VPD policies, hiring process, and training" and would have the "ability to act independently from VPD and provide meaningful check on VPD."

Still, the CREBC members last week told the council they welcomed the IACP study and report and did not see the work of the two groups as incompatible.

Deputy Mayor Dickie Austin at the Oct. 11 meeting asked the CREBC members if the IACP report "changed any opinions on what you suggested."

Brinkman said the two groups had different missions, but she could see that a blend of both studies "would be more beneficial than one or the other."

"I can certainly see choosing from both reports makes a lot of sense," Brinkman added.

Rimmer also weighed in: "It seems like the two reports are not diametrically opposed. They're both talking about communication and mission vision, what do we want our police to be, how do we want them to look."

Council members briefly discussed whether the CREBC opera house presentation was

needed, and whether they should instead go ahead and establish the advisory committee recommended by the IACP.

"The IACP report made it crystal clear to me they support the creation of an advisory committee," said Councilor Mel Hawley. "And to me that makes sense."

Mayor Matt Chabot said he was in "full agreement" with Hawley that a community advisory panel should not "usurp the authority of the city manager, nor the council, nor the chief of police," and added the council could create a charge for an advisory committee.

Brinkman responded she saw the CREBC's position as backing a panel to be created that "was always in collaboration," and not challenging the chain of authority.

Austin then said the CREBC should be allowed, as was the IACP, to offer its point of view to the community, and council and committee members agreed.

"It seems like we should be doing the same public presentation with the report that was originated by members of our community," he said.

Brinkman said ultimately Vergennes would benefit from having both points of view if and when the council does choose to create a citizen committee.

"You're in a great position to have the voice of the community and also the external view of the city," she said.

# Merger

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 Paradee explained the rationale behind the committee's recommendation to merge, which is that consolidating districts would, create a more cost-effective structure for taxpayers and better educational opportunities for students.

The committee believes that given the issues both districts face, maintaining programming at its current state without a merger could require a 13-15% education tax increase by Fiscal Year 2027, or a reduction of 40 staff positions in the ANWSD and 66 in the MAUSD.

Committee members stressed that while a merger wouldn't eliminate all the issues the districts are facing, it would allow for increased cost efficiency, shared resources and more time for the districts to tackle common challenges together.

"We felt that the best course of action for all of the communities involved, and for all of our students and the taxpayers, would be to form a new governance model," Paradee said. "One central office with one governance model where we could find efficiencies, save costs and then have more ability to collaborate and plan proactively in the future."

## SCHOOL CLOSURE

The presentation also addressed some of the concerns raised by community members, notably the issue of local control over school closures. The articles of agreement drafted by the committee specify that after four years of operation, a school in the merged district can be

closed with approval from two-thirds of the school board and two-thirds of voters in the entire district.

This article is a shift from MAUSD's articles of agreement, which prohibit the closure of an elementary school without approval from voters in the town hosting that school. It's also a shift from the ANWSD's articles, which don't have such a provision and in 2020 allowed for the termination of the elementary program at Addison Central School.

Paradee said the article in question is the result of committee members seeking to find a compromise for two districts that land differently on the issue of school closure.

"We tried to put in a scenario where (a school closure) would have to be so obvious and so agreed upon by the community and the board that it would be sort of a nonfactor, everybody would agree that this was the right thing to do," he said.

Some community members pressed the committee on the article, asking how voters could trust that a local school wouldn't be closed or repurposed in a merged district.

Carol McBride, an Addison representative on the Merger Study Committee, said the hope of the articles of agreement is to support schools in the district and to avoid circumstances where a school closure would be on the table.

"We really put so much effort in putting together articles that would support the schools and make all communities feel like their community schools were safe and

provided for," she said.

## MERGING HIGH SCHOOLS

School consolidation was another major topic of discussion at the meeting. Multiple attendees raised concern over the potential merging of the middle and high schools in the districts. There was also some confusion expressed on this issue, as some community members said they thought the consolidation of the physical middle and high schools is what the merger vote entailed.

Ferrisburgh resident Chris Hill asked the committee if those who vote "yes" on the merger will have any say on the issue of these schools merging in the future.

Committee members said voters' best course is to elect school board directors who they feel best represent their views on consolidating schools, as that is an issue that the new school board and community would evaluate later on. Voters will be electing representatives from their towns to serve on the school board at the same time that they vote on the merger and were encouraged to speak with the fellow townspeople running for these positions.

The committee also acknowledged that consolidating middle and high schools is a potential outcome of a merged district, something future board members could act on if the larger community felt that was the best way to proceed. The committee has looked into transportation studies to examine the feasibility of merging middle and high schools, though that consolidation is not what voters will be deciding on Nov. 8.

"The merger would not immediately combine any schools. That will be up to a new board and the communities speaking to that board," Paradee said. "There are other examples around the state of school districts that run multiple high schools; we would not be alone."

Community members also asked why other forms of collaboration between the districts couldn't be implemented instead of a merger, such as sharing teachers or busing students to different schools for certain classes. The committee said the districts have collaborated when possible, such as with food services and sports teams, but teachers' contracts make it impossible for teachers to work in both districts and that limits collaboration.

"There are a lot of logistical and legal issues that prevent that sort of deep, curriculum collaboration," Merger Study Committee member Keith Morrill said. "Part of the point of merging a governance structure is to break those barriers down and allow us to participate in some deeper collaboration."

## FUTURE FOR STUDENTS

Community members asked how the merger would impact a key stakeholder: students. In its report, the committee identified that an increased ability to maintain high-quality educational opportunities for students is the most significant benefit of merging. They continued to stress this point on Tuesday.

"We've been using the lens of what is best for students, that has been our primary, driving question," Paradee said. "And on the second level, what is best for taxpayers, because if we can't afford what we're doing then it will ultimately not be what's best for students."

Monkton resident Bailee Layn-Gordon asked how merging would benefit students beyond safeguarding certain classes.

"I've been hearing a lot about extra opportunities for students including AP classes, second languages," she said. "My question is more for students on a very different end of the spectrum, maybe kids who need more years of high school for their educational development and who might need extra services and support."

Committee members said a merged district would allow for cost efficiencies, potentially allowing for more spending on services needed in different schools.

"Anytime you have cost efficiencies, you have more money to spend. And that more money to spend can be spent on programming that the leader of that school decides needs to be spent on," Paradee said. "We would have potentially more funds to use as needed."

Community members with further questions were encouraged to reach out committee members or attend one of the informational meetings taking place on Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. These meetings will be held at Holley Hall in Bristol and at Vergennes Union High School. Voters can find contact information for the committee at tinyurl.com/mergercommittee.

# 2022 Halloween Coloring & Decorating Contest



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## Starksboro farmer uses ‘retro’ farming practices

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — When thinking about the future of farming, Starksboro farmer Kerry Kurt believes the key to success lies in the past. She’s spent the past 13 years running a beef operation at Sentinel Farms that she believes returns to cleaner ways of farming and prioritizes the well-being of both the cattle and their eventual consumers.

Kurt calls her approach retro-regenerational farming — a blend of “retro” farming practices without the use of hormones or herbicides and with the use of “regenerative” practices that work with nature rather than adding to or damaging it.

“Just trying to stay with the natural web of life,” Kurt explained. “150 years ago, most all of our foods were raised in a humane way, which includes an enjoyment of life.”

Kurt offered an example of what this looks like on Sentinel Farms.

“Retro-regenerational farming does not need to seasonally till the land, which breaks up the living microbial communities within the soil and releases additional carbon into the atmosphere,” she said. “Instead, we use rotational grazing of our beautiful happy cows who eat up the ‘weeds’ as a complimentary part of their fully grass and browse diets.”

Another element of this farming style means Kurt chooses not to use man-made fertilizers, herbicides or hormones. She also opts for on-farm slaughtering, a practice she said ensures the animal’s death is as free from fear as possible.

“I choose to be in control of how my animals live their lives from birth through harvest, and it’s really important to me that none of my animals experience fear or stress in their final moments,” she said. “Harvesting on farm ensures that.”

She said doing so can also have benefits for consumers. During a stressful event, corticosteroids are released into the animal’s bloodstream, which affects the meat quality.

“These animals don’t have a corticosteroid release, which

would then be left for us to digest,” she said.

Kurt started her beef operation with seven purebred Hereford calves back in 2009. She bred them with Red Angus to create a breed of strong cows with a thick coat that serves multiple purposes.

“I am creating a specific Vermont specialty breed, bred for Vermont weather conditions so they stay warmer and burn less calories in the winter, and (their coat) also helps keep the bugs off of them,” she explained.

*“I originally did it for my emotional heart, but then the science part of me and doing some research realized it’s actually good for my physical heart as well.”*

— Kerry Kurt

She now raises around 30 cows each year and sells the meat from each harvest to community members and groups that organize local Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) arrangements. She sells the beef by the quarter and half, at around \$5.50 per pound for hanging weight.

Although Kurt’s been raising beef this way for over 13 years, for her crafting this approach began long before that. Her retro-regenerational farming style is a blend of her lifelong love for animals and a passion for science. It’s also informed by previous experiences in the meat industry.

After graduating from the University of Vermont with a nursing degree in 1983 and representing Chittenden County

in the State House for three terms, Kurt moved to Colorado and began ranching in the Rockies. She said her time on the ranch taught her a lot about the practices she did not want to repeat in her own beef raising operation, such as the use of hormones to promote weight gain in cattle.

“I remember being there and thinking ‘we’re doing what?’” Kurt said of the practice. “But of course, I was the new one. I wasn’t going to change the culture, so what I did was I learned a different way to do it.”

As an animal lover, Kurt feels passionately about giving her cattle a good life. And as a meat eater, she recognizes the importance of having clean protein in your diet. She said her approach to beef raising satisfies both priorities, giving the cattle a good life and the consumer a nutritious protein option.

“I originally did it for my emotional heart, but then the science part of me and doing some research realized it’s actually good for my physical heart as well,” she said of her farming style.

Kurt’s beef operation is just one of the things she does at Sentinel Farms. Her farm at 4118 Route 116 is also the homebase for the nonprofit, Unbound Grace, she founded in 2007. Through Unbound Grace, she has fulfilled her lifelong dream of offering farm-based educational programming for youth.

She offers summer camps and horseback-riding lessons and is currently planning for a year-round welding and mechanics studio on the farm that will offer more youth programming.

Kurt sees all her work at Sentinel Farms as a means of achieving her overall goal of encouraging community health and wellness, specifically when it comes to what we eat.

“When we choose to support and consume love-centered foods, we simultaneously promote individual and global holistic health and well-being,” she said. “We have to feed people a diet that helps us maintain our greatest health and enjoy the work of serving our community.”



STARKSBORO FARMER KERRY Kurt is passionate about raising beef in a way that prioritizes the health and wellbeing of both the cattle and their eventual consumers. Her beef operation is one of the many things she does at her farm in Starksboro, which is also the location of her nonprofit Unbound Grace.

Independent photo/Marin Howell



A MOTHER AND her calf graze the fields at Sentinel Farms, where Starksboro farmer Kerry Kurt raises cattle in a way she believes ensures a life of enjoyment for the animals and healthy beef for consumers.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

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# Farm to Plate annual confab set

## Network of participants to gather in Killington on Nov. 10

VERMONT—The 12th annual Farm to Plate Network Gathering has been scheduled for Nov. 10 in Killington.

This year's gathering is all about "Cultivating Connections." Coming out of the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, the desire to reconnect in-person runs deep. With global events intensifying fissures in our society, supply chains, and the climate, more than ever, we need approaches, models, programs, and innovation spanning the private and public sectors that bring people together to strengthen the environmental, social, and economic fabric of our food system.

This is our first opportunity in two years, and since the

launch of the new Farm to Plate Network structure, to truly be in the presence of one another as a full Network and to strengthen and forge new connections in the process that are vital to realizing the vision and goals of Vermont's 10-year food system plan.

In addition to breakout sessions that embody the theme and span topic areas of food security, supporting beginning and young farmers, financing regenerative farming systems, supporting the future of Vermont dairy, understanding the state of migrant farmworkers, and lessons learned about disaster preparedness and food resilience, this year's Gathering will engage participants in group activities

that cultivate connections within the Farm to Plate Network, as well as between individuals and organizations working to strengthen Vermont's food system.

Scholarships are still available to farmers and farm workers, small business owners, food business employees, small non-profits and community groups, students, and black, indigenous, and people of color. Attendees may apply for assistance to cover or reduce their cost of attending the gathering.

More information and registration is online at [vtfarmtoplate.com/events/12th-annual-farm-plate-network-gathering](http://vtfarmtoplate.com/events/12th-annual-farm-plate-network-gathering).



SOME OF THE VERMONT delegates to the 2022 National 4-H Dairy Conference in Wisconsin this month took a break while touring the World Dairy Exposition. They are (front row, left to right): Michael Plouffe, Bridport (standing); Cindy Kayhart, Vergennes (chaperone); Lorryn Trujillo; Erica Goodhue; Emma Seward; Isabella Wilbur, Orwell; Morgan White, Whiting; Andrew Lester, North Ferrisburgh. Back row: Brailey Livingston; Sadie Ellner; and Haley Michaud.

Photo courtesy of UVM Extension 4-H

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## VT 4-H'ers go to U.S. conference

VERMONT — Fourteen Vermont 4-H'ers and their chaperones recently returned from Wisconsin where they participated in the 2022 National 4-H Dairy Conference. The 4-H'ers were among 200 outstanding 4-H dairy members, ages 15-18, from more than 30 states and Canadian provinces selected to attend this year's conference.

The event, held in conjunction with the World Dairy Exposition in Madison, was held Oct. 2-5. The Vermont delegation extended their stay by a few extra days to spend time more at the expo to visit the exhibits and watch the dairy show competitions.

Representing the state were Sadie Ellner, Morristown; Joey Ferris, Braintree; Erica Goodhue, Fairfield; Brailey and Mason Livingston, New Haven; Andrew Lester, North Ferrisburgh; Haley and Lincoln Michaud, East Hardwick; Michael Plouffe, Bridport; Emma Seward, East

Wallingford; Dylan Slack, Bethel; Lorryn Trujillo, North Clarendon; Morgan White, Whiting; and Isabella Wilbur, Orwell. Chaperones were Cindy Kayhart, Vergennes, and Philip Livingston, New Haven.

Throughout the week, the 4-H'ers toured several agricultural enterprises including ABS Global, Hoard's Dairyman Magazine and its registered Guernsey farm, the National Dairy Shrine Museum and Jones Dairy, a centuries-old food company that produces sausages and other breakfast meats. Crave Brothers Farm, a 1,200-head dairy operation in Waterloo, Wis., hosted the delegates for a farm tour, career fair, tailgate party and old-fashioned barn dance.

The conference also provided an exceptional opportunity to network with other 4-H'ers passionate about dairy; look into career options in dairy production, processing and marketing; and learn about the dairy industry

from leading experts. In addition, participants took part in a dairy skill-a-thon and explored the science of dairy foods and ways to be a strong advocate for the dairy industry.

Selection for this national opportunity was based on a number of factors including outstanding dairy project record books, participation in local and state 4-H dairy events and overall excellence in the 4-H dairy project. Delegates also had to be enrolled in the dairy project for a minimum of three years.

Funding was provided in part by the State 4-H Foundation, the Vermont Dairy Industry, United Ag and Turf, Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement, county 4-H foundations and several other Vermont businesses and individuals. To learn more about this and other 4-H dairy events, contact Wendy Sorrell, University of Vermont Extension 4-H livestock educator, at [wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu](mailto:wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu).

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## Local food grants available

VERMONT — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets recently committed grant funds from a USDA cooperative agreement to help organizations purchase and distribute local food to underserved communities. The agency would like to help connect farmers and food producers who may be interested in selling food to participating organizations.

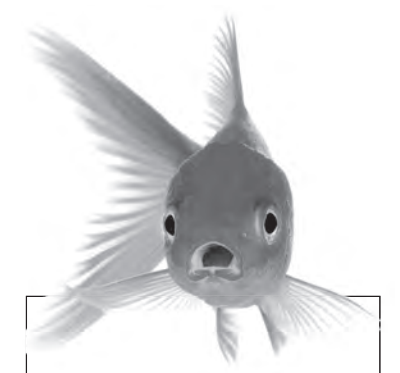
If you are a Vermont farmer or food producer who would like to connect to organizations with funding for local food purchasing, please complete an online form by Nov. 1. Find the form online at [tinyurl.com/LFPAgrants](http://tinyurl.com/LFPAgrants).

This is all part of the Vermont Local Food Purchase Assistance program, or LFPA.

Submitting this form does not guarantee an organization will purchase food from your farm or business. Participating organizations will contact farmers and producers directly about food purchasing opportunities.

Please note that this is not an application for grant funds. State officials expect to announce an opportunity to apply for additional grants for local food purchasing projects later this fall. Farmers and food producers will be eligible to apply for competitive grants to directly distribute food to underserved communities.

Questions? Contact Julia at [Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov](mailto:Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov) or 802-522-7042.



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# REIMAGINING THE ARTS IN ADDISON COUNTY



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



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## Path

(Continued from Page 1A) and are trying to be part of the solution.

The college has no immediate plans to earmark some of its Route 7 South real estate for housing, according to Sarah Ray, the institution's director of media relations. But that could certainly change.

"We are always considering the best use of college lands, which includes potential housing," she said. "There is no master plan or blueprint for that land, but the college has had conversations with the town around the possibility of locating housing as well as commercial and retail on that parcel."

The so-called "scoping study" of Route 7 South, from Boardman Street to The Centre, is in line with the Middlebury Planning Commission's effort to manage sprawl in that key southern gateway into the village. That strategy, according to Middlebury Director of Planning & Zoning Jennifer Murray, includes introducing three development "nodes," with visual

breaks in between.

Boardman Street is one of those nodes, an area that local planners believe "could better relate to the commercial development at Hannaford Plaza without sacrificing the visual break at our southern gateway," Murray said.

Murray praised a Middlebury College summer intern, Max Taxman, for his work in helping the planning commission visualize development possibilities in the southern gateway area.

She conceded more studies would be needed to determine whether a housing complex of some sort can be sited off Boardman Street/Route 7 South, as there are wetlands in that area. But in the meantime, she and planning commission members saw the wisdom in applying for a grant through the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) to see how new pedestrian amenities might serve that neighborhood.

"Creating a pedestrian connection is the first step toward contemplating something out

there," she said, noting the land in question could easily be served by municipal water and sewer.

"I like the location because it is so walkable to services," Murray explained, adding, "we just need to work on the supporting infrastructure."

Austin did a comprehensive review of the study area and developed three pedestrian connectivity alternatives, ranging in estimated price from \$630,000 to almost \$1.9 million. All offered variations of shared-use path and/or sidewalk to funnel walkers and bikers from the Boardman Street intersection to The Centre.

Local officials have embraced a \$1,440,000 alternative that calls an 8-foot-wide asphalt, multi-use path set away from the road on the northerly side of Route 7, beginning at the end of the existing sidewalk. The plan also calls for a 5-foot-wide asphalt pedestrian sidewalk to provide access to the Stone Hill apartment complex that's located just south of The Centre shopping complex.

The plan would require

relocation of a stretch of Route 7 guardrail.

Murray noted the pedestrian connectivity plan doesn't address problems drivers can have waiting to turn onto Route 7 from Boardman Street. Fortunately, the Vermont Agency of Transportation is scheduled to review that intersection within the next few years, according to Murray.

"Hopefully (VTrans) will have completed a safety study and selected an improvement by the time we are ready to move into design for the Boardman Street connector, so they can be designed together," Murray said.

Now that the scoping study is done, the pedestrian connectivity plan will have to move through preliminary design, final design, land acquisition (if needed), bidding and then construction before it can become a reality.

A lot of this will of course hinge on funding and whether the town of Middlebury chooses bigger infrastructure priorities during the coming months.

"I feel so much could change down the line," Murray acknowledged.

But she's happy to have the scoping study completed, as it gives the project an easier on-ramp to VTrans' lengthy construction rotation.

Murray would like to see a lot more Middlebury infrastructure improvement plans go through the scoping process. The ACRPC typically receives enough funding through the Federal Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) to take on two or three annually, according to Mike Winslow, a transportation planner with the commission.

He stressed any community served by the ACRPC has the right to apply for scoping study funding.

Winslow said Middlebury's Route 7 South scoping study was one of three the commission funded during fiscal year 2022. The others were related to a potential sidewalk project on Airport Road in Bristol, and the potential for putting Old Town Road back into service in Ripton as an alternative route to Middlebury if flooding puts Route 125 out of commission again.

While federal TPI money is limited, the regional planning commission can tap other funding sources to help communities subsidize local infrastructure studies, according to Winslow.

"I think odds are good to get funding if you want to do a project," Winslow said.

John Flowers is at [johnf@addisonindependent.com](mailto:johnf@addisonindependent.com).



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## Bus service to Burlington sees increase

ADDISON COUNTY — The local public bus company Tri-Valley Transit (TVT) will double the frequency of service on its weekday Link to Burlington bus effective Tuesday, Nov. 1. This commuter express bus route connects Middlebury to Burlington and points in between along Route 7.

Key destinations include Vermont Teddy Bear, Vermont Day School, Shelburne Road (near the Waldorf School), UVM Medical Center and the Burlington Downtown Transit Center. There is no change at this time to the Saturday Link to Burlington schedule.

All TVT buses are fare-free. Northbound buses will depart Middlebury's Academy Street at 6:15 a.m., 7:15 a.m., 3:20 p.m. and 4 p.m. Southbound departures from the Burlington Downtown Transit Center will be at 7:45 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 4:50 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

"When TVT assumed operation of the Link to Burlington in July 2021, it was only operating one round-trip per day due to the prevalence of pandemic-influenced telecommuting and telehealth," said TVT Executive Director Jim Moulton. "Since then, demand for the service has been growing. But TVT had to delay expansion until we could hire/train drivers and purchase new buses at a time when both resources were scarce."

For more information about TVT and its routes and schedules, visit [trivalleytransit.org](http://trivalleytransit.org) or call 802-388-2287.

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## Woman cited for simple assault

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Abby E. Bray, 52, of Middlebury for simple assault, following an alleged incident near the intersection of Cross and Main streets on Oct. 15.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Attempted to locate a houseless person on Main Street for a welfare check on Oct. 10.
- Interviewed a local resident who had been confronted by an aggressive dog in the Gambrel Court area on Oct. 10.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a man who had been experiencing chest pains on Main Street on Oct. 10.
- Spoke with four houseless people who had been drinking alcohol on town property on Oct. 10.
- Took a drunken person to detox during the evening of Oct. 11.
- Received a report about a damaged mailbox on Quarry Road on Oct. 11.
- Restored peace at a Court Street home where a drunken man had allegedly been causing problems on Oct. 11.
- Ticketed a woman for illegally dumping trash off Boardman Street on Oct. 11.
- Received a report on Oct. 11 about a potential fraud case involving the sale of puppies by a local person. The case remains under investigation, police said.
- Responded to a noise complaint at a South Pleasant Street apartment on Oct. 11.
- Received a report on Oct. 12 about a man who had fallen asleep on a Court Street resident's couch and could not be woken up.
- Investigated reports on Oct. 12 of late-night "suspicious activity" occurring behind the Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects

## Middlebury Police Log

- building off Boardman Street.
- Checked the welfare of a Court Street resident on Oct. 12. She was found to be OK.
- Received a report on Oct. 12 about a loud, late-night party at a North Pleasant Street residence.
- Removed used syringes from the bathroom of a Court Street business on Oct. 12.
- Were informed of the theft of a catalytic converter from a vehicle parked off Monroe Street on Oct. 12.
- Served a no-trespass order on Oct. 12 on a person who had allegedly been causing problems at a Court Street Extension business.
- Assisted a local person on Oct. 12 who was allegedly harassed by a former partner.
- Responded, with Middlebury Regional EMS, to a report of someone experiencing a heart attack at a Chipman Heights residence on Oct. 12.
- Conducted a death investigation at a Burnham Drive home on Oct. 12. Police determined that the death of Paul Schroeder, 73, was from natural causes.
- Responded to a reported family fight at an East Main Street home on Oct. 13.
- Arrested Christopher Gallant, 36, of Middlebury on an arrest warrant on behalf of the Bennington Police Department on Oct. 13.
- Checked on the welfare of a man who had been lying on the grass next to South Main Street on Oct. 13.

- Returned, to its home, a dog that had been found off Springside Road on Oct. 13.
- Received a report about a local child refusing to go to school on Oct. 13.
- Assisted state police on an emergency call off Route 7 in New Haven on Oct. 13.
- Confiscated alcohol from two men who had been drinking in the Shaw's Supermarket parking lot off Washington Street on Oct. 14.
- Assisted Middlebury firefighters at the scene of a fuel spill off Court Street Extension on Oct. 14.
- Served a no-trespass order on a person who wasn't wanted at the Charter House Emergency Shelter on Oct. 14.
- Served a no-trespass order on a drunken man who wasn't wanted at a Court Street Extension business on Oct. 14.
- Responded to a report of a loud group of people walking along Washington Street past midnight on Oct. 14. Police said they found no such group.
- Cautioned a large group of college students who were allegedly causing a disturbance while leaving a party at a Weybridge Street address at around 11:15 p.m. on Oct. 15.
- Arrested Kobe B. Loftus, 23, of Middlebury for violating her conditions of release, following an incident in the Weybridge Street area on Oct. 15.
- Checked on the welfare of a houseless person who had been sleeping under a blanket off Academy Street on Oct. 15.
- Investigated a dispute between some Halladay Road neighbors on Oct. 16.
- Assisted Vermont State Police at the scene of a car crash at the intersection of Routes 17 and 125 on Oct. 16.

# WELLNESS Directory

### Practitioner of the Week

Donna Belcher, M.A., psychologist-master, has been in private practice in Vermont for 34 years. She has felt privileged to work with a wide variety of people. She has experience with such challenges as: depression, anxiety, grief, chronic illness, divorce, caregiver burnout, work stress, mid life transitions and developing a deeper connection with creativity and life purpose.

**Donna Belcher, MA** Licensed Psychologist - Master, Psychotherapy & Hypnosis

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## Local ballots

(Continued from Page 1A) Registered voters ahead of the General Election, but it doesn't include local items.

So, voters won't automatically receive local ballots in the mail. Instead, they'll have to request these ballots, which they can do in a few different ways:

- Vote in person on election day.
- If voters choose to vote in person on the General Election ballot as well, they should bring the ballot they received in the mail with them to the polls. Otherwise, they'll need to sign an affidavit stating they haven't already voted in the General Election.
- Vote early by requesting an early local ballot from their town clerk. Local ballots can be requested in person, by phone or by email. Voters can also request early ballots online, either by filling out a Vermont Absentee Ballot Request form on the Secretary of State's website and delivering it to their town clerk's office, or by visiting [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov).

Town officials are trying to get the word out about how to request local ballots. Ferrisburgh Town Clerk Pam Cousino said it's important that as many people as possible know about this added step for residents in towns voting on local issues.

"I think more people are becoming aware of it, but I don't know if everyone will be aware of it," she said. "You're going to get your ballot in the mail and think 'I've done my duty' and not know there's something else going on."

One of the local issues to be voted on this November is the 'Addison North' merger proposal, which asks voters in the nine towns making up the Mount Abraham Unified School and Addison Northwest School districts if those two entities should merge to address shared issues of declining enrollment and rising overhead costs. At the same time, voters will be asked to elect representatives from their towns to sit on the merged district's 15-person board of directors if the vote passes.

Some Addison County towns will be voting on other local issues. Addison residents will be asked to approve a \$2.07 million bond that would be used to fund renovations of the old town hall on Route 22A

into a new town office building and community center. Bristol voters will be asked to approve spending \$940,000 to repair and improve the Pine Street water line.

Cousino said residents who want to vote by mail on these local issues should request their ballots by the end of October in order to receive them in time. Local ballots and general election ballots can be returned by mail or placed in the secure drop boxes at town clerks' offices.

Bristol Town Clerk Sharon Lucia said it's important that voters who return ballots by mail remember to keep their local and general election ballots separate.

"I've already gotten the question of 'can I put it all together?' and the answer is no, they have to be mailed separately," she said.

Voters who have already mailed in their General Election ballot can still request their local ballots or vote in person for local elections. Cousino said town officials are doing what they can to ensure residents receive their local ballots, whichever way they choose to do so.

"They can come into the office; we can mail it to them," she said. "Just try to get out and vote in one way or another."

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**PAST RECIPIENTS OF Wells Mountain Initiative's post-secondary education scholarships share with a packed house in Bristol's Minifactory last Thursday how WMI has helped them enact social change in their communities around the world.**

Photo courtesy of Justine Jackson

## Global network

(Continued from Page 1A)

Many WMI scholars have used support from the organization to form nonprofits, lead workshops and create other programs that address needs in areas like medicine, agriculture and education in their homelands.

"We deeply believe in community-led solutions rather than a top-down approach," Wells said of WMI's approach. "It's really about empowering and giving resources to young people in their countries with the belief that they have the solutions."

### SCHOLARS SHARE STORIES

Throughout the night, scholars shared stories about the work they've done in their countries and how WMI has supported them. Dr. Catherine Nagadya, a graduate scholar of clinical medicine, received a WMI scholarship to help complete her degree in 2015. At last week's event, she talked about why she decided to pursue a career in medicine.

"The place I come from didn't have a health center and didn't have a qualified human resource, health care providers," she said. "I decided to be a medical doctor so that I could play a part in the health of my community."

Nagadya is now a surgeon at the Kiruddu National Referral Hospital in Uganda, where she sees at least 50 patients a week. She also in 2016 founded Girls Unstoppable Uganda, which offers scholarships to young women and has provided books and feminine hygiene products for local schools.

"Because WMI came along side me and gave me a scholarship, I vowed to pass this on by sponsoring one girl. However, overtime, we've been able to sponsor 36 girls in secondary school," she said.

Other scholars at the event were Dr. Ephransia Chao Malindi, a graduate scholar of medicine from Kenya, and Grace Tiwari, a graduate scholar of agriculture from Nepal.

They both shared some of the hardships they've faced as women

in their fields. Tiwari told the crowd that in her community, the expectation is for women to marry young rather than pursue a career.

"In my village, I don't have any friends that aren't married," she said. "Maybe their dreams were something else, but now they are someone's wife."

Tiwari said she is thankful her family has been supportive of her taking a different path. She is now a graduate student of crop science at Oregon State University. At home in Nepal, she's trained farmers in rural Himalayan communities in sustainable agriculture practices and, with a WMI Community Development grant, started a profitable beekeeping enterprise for female farmers in her village.

*"It's really about empowering and giving resources to young people in their countries with the belief that they have the solutions."*

— Jordyn Wells

Malindi talked about obstacles she faced in becoming a doctor. She spoke of how she originally wanted to be a surgeon, but people in Kenya can make it difficult for women to pursue that career.

"They just find a way of making your life so miserable, and some (prospective female surgeons) ultimately give up on the way," she said.

Malindi now works as a radiologist. With support from WMI, she was able to start an imaging clinic in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2019. The facility provides affordable ultrasound imaging services for over 500,000 patients.

Another scholar at last week's event was Sujan Gautam of Nepal. Gautam received a WMI scholarship in 2017 to fund his studies of agriculture.

"I joined WMI as a scholar when I was going through difficult financial situations in my family, they couldn't fund my education," he said. "This scholarship helped me get through the undergraduate degree."

Sujan is now continuing his studies at the University of Milan. He's served as WMI's Asia and Oceania Regional Coordinator and has sat on various boards within the organization.

WMI grants have also helped him

provide 40 families in Kathmandu with relief packages during the pandemic and train 30 female small-scale farmers on commercial vegetable production.

Also at the event was Phoebe Musonda of Zambia, who received a WMI scholarship in 2014 to continue her studies in law. She credits WMI's support as playing a crucial role in her work, which has included advocating for legislation in Zambia that prohibits child marriages.

"(Without) WMI funding my education, I wouldn't have had that role, I wouldn't have had the confidence to be a leader or take up positions like that," she said.

Since graduating in 2018, Musonda has worked to form a community literacy project in her hometown of Kitwe and has worked for multiple international organizations, largely advocating for women and children.

### A GROWING COMMUNITY

Scholars were also asked about why they've stayed within the WMI network after receiving their initial post-secondary scholarship.

Musonda, who serves as WMI's Central & Southern Africa Regional Coordinator, said she's stayed with the organization because fellow WMI scholars and staff motivate her to put her plans in action.

"WMI encourages us not to not just dream, but to plan and actually implement," she said. "Being part of WMI keeps me on my toes and keeps me accountable to my community."

Gautam echoed that sentiment. "I hear a lot of inspiring stories (from fellow scholars) that always makes me do something more," he said. "When we see graduate scholars doing amazing things, we cannot just sit back."

As the evening came to a close, WMI Board Chair and Co-founder Tom Wells shared with the audience his pride in the WMI scholars present and the growing community they're a part of.

"These five people represent a family of WMI scholars, there's 641 of them," he said. "We never let them go, we keep supporting them and they keep supporting us. It's just a really wonderful thing."

## By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)  
mac 'n cheese and cereal. Checks made out to "Have-A-Heart" are also welcome.

The Addison County Democratic Committee and the Middlebury College Democrats will host a rally in support of Article 22 this Sunday, Oct. 23, 1-2:30 p.m. in Triangle Park in downtown Middlebury. Article 22, which will be on Vermonters' ballots this Nov. 8, would codify reproductive rights in the Vermont Constitution if passed. Speakers will include Addison County Sen. Ruth Hardy and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Brenda Siegel.

Local photographer Anne Majusiak, the featured artist at Art on Main this month, will give a talk this Friday at the Bristol gallery. This Oct. 21 event, 5-7 p.m. at 25 Main St., is also a reception for the show "Season of Change." Majusiak is inspired by the beauty of Vermont's ever changing seasons and in particular the landscape of Addison County. Majusiak will give a short talk about her career and aesthetics as a photographer. Refreshments will be served.

Visit [artonmain.net](http://artonmain.net) or call 802-453-7648 for more info.

Middlebury College will dedicate the newly designated Stephen C. Trombulak Nature Sanctuary as an important educational resource for our community next Tuesday, Oct. 25. The natural area recognizes Professor Emeritus Steve Trombulak's 34 years teaching biology and environmental studies, and his continuing work in natural history education and nature conservation. The ecologically diverse 60-acre sanctuary is a wetland along Otter Creek near the college's campus and is accessible via the Trail Around Middlebury. Trombulak used it annually as a teaching resource and other Middlebury faculty have used it as well. The dedication event will take place at the Franklin Environmental Center (531 College St.) in Room 103.

Here's a reminder: Vermont's Film and Media Task Force this Thursday, Oct. 20, will hold its final (virtual) listening session to receive your ideas and perspectives on establishing a state film commission. The online

discussion — from 4:30-6 p.m. — will also take into consideration and the experiences of other state-supported film offices. In addition to testimony from invited panelists, the task force will hold an open discussion and Q&A with registered participants. Panelists will include Steven Feinberg, executive director of the Rhode Island Film & Television Office; Tim Clark of the Buffalo Niagara Film Office and former executive director of the Association of Film Commissioners International; Scott Finn, CEO of Vermont Public; and Van Dora Williams, a professor of Communications and Creative Media at Champlain College. Register for the session at [tinyurl.com/yc7xnvva](http://tinyurl.com/yc7xnvva). Established this year by the Vermont legislature, the Task Force is charged with examining ways to cultivate a vibrant film and media industry in Vermont. Task Force members are Sen. Randy Brock, Rep. Stephanie Jerome, Vermont Arts Council Executive Director Karen Mittelman (Task Force chair), and Vermont Tourism and Marketing Commissioner Heather Pelham.

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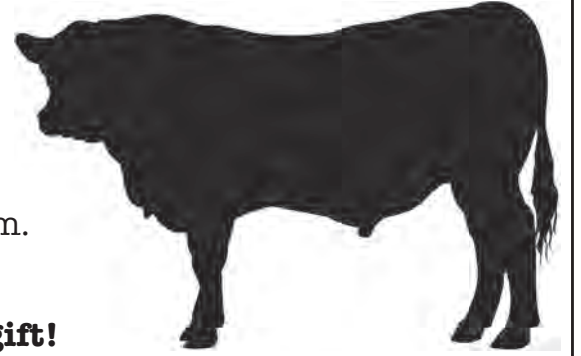
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## SPOOKY WEEKEND AT THE SHELDON MUSEUM

**ADULTHOOD: TRICK OR TREAT?: HOW YOUNG ADULTS STOLE HALLOWEEN JUST AS ADULTHOOD WAS STOLEN FROM THEM**

Thursday, October 27 • 7:00 PM, Free and open to the public

Dr. Linus Owens, Middlebury College Professor of Sociology, will examine how Halloween reflects young adults' responses to contemporary challenges and opportunities.

At the Ilsley Public Library

Sponsored by Table 21

### SPOOKY NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Friday, October 28 • 5-7:30 PM, Free and open to the public

An evening of pre-Halloween entertainment featuring Tarot card readings, group psychic readings, a murder scene dollhouse, and live spooky music. Take a selfie with one of the spirit photographs from Museum's collection and be scared by ghost stories told by members of the community. If you'd like to share your ghost story (up to 5 minutes), contact the Sheldon at [henrysheldonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:henrysheldonmuseum@gmail.com) and you'll be added to the program! Costumes are optional, but welcome. Sponsored by Table 21



### WEST CEMETERY TOUR

Saturday, October 29 • 10-11:15 AM (rain date, October 30)

\$15/person; \$10 Museum members  
Local historian and storyteller David Munford will lead an engaging tour around West Cemetery, one of the oldest in Middlebury. His tour will offer a window into the past by telling captivating stories about local luminaries, locally-buried Civil War soldiers, and the Sheldon's Egyptian mummy. This not-to-be-missed tour will richly illuminate how an old cemetery reflects its community's history. Ages 14 and up. Space is limited, registration required at [henrysheldonmuseum.org/events](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org/events)



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Saturday, Oct. 29th	3 Squares Cafe, 141 Main Street, Vergennes, VT	9:00am to 10:00am

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### Auto heaven

THE INAUGURAL MIDDLEBURY Car Show and Fall Festival on Sunday had beautiful weather that brought out many to gawk at the cars parked on Main Street and Merchants Row. Seen, clockwise from top left, are Sarah Wood of Cornwall showing off her 1961 VW Beetle named Pippin; Daniel Steadman's 1946 Plymouth looking like it had been served by a carhop; 7-year-old Delphine enjoying the face-paint job created by Meaghan McLaughlin at one of the many booths that filled the town green with non-car activities; 3-year-old Jolene Petry of Underhill getting a feel for driving a 1917 Model T Ford truck owned by Paul Curtis of Bristol; Ray Papandrea of Orwell soaking up the sun in an electric blue 1966 Corvette Sting Ray; and the air filter shining on Dennis Brittel's 1966 Chevy Super Nova Sport. Also seen, clockwise from bottom left, Art Cohn's 1959 Chevrolet Apache panel van looming large over Merchants Row; Florence, Mass., visitor Ethan checking out two Halloween-decorated trucks; and a visitor inspecting a classic red Ford Torino —you can almost hear it growl.

Independent photos/Steve James and John S. McCright



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# SPORTS

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## Score BOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football	
10/14 MUHS vs BHS/SBHS	16-8
10/15 MAV vs Mill River	31-28
10/15 Fairfax vs OV	24-6
Field Hockey	
10/12 Burlington vs MUHS	3-0
10/12 CVU vs Mt. Abe	1-0
10/14 Essex vs Mt. Abe	2-0
10/14 MUHS vs Mt. Mansfield	2-1
10/15 Woodstock vs OV	5-1
10/18 Colchester vs MUHS	3-0
10/18 S. Burlington vs Mt. Abe	2-1
10/19 Windsor at OV	Late
Girls' Soccer	
10/12 Woodstock vs OV	2-0
10/12 Rice vs MUHS	2-0
10/12 Milton vs Mt. Abe	3-0
10/14 OV vs Hartford	2-1
10/15 Milton vs VUHS	13-0
10/15 Rice vs Mt. Abe	2-1
10/17 OV vs Springfield	3-1
10/18 MUHS vs VUHS	2-0
Boys' Soccer	
10/12 MUHS vs Rutland	1-0
10/13 Woodstock vs. OV	5-0
10/14 MUHS at VUHS	0-0
10/14 Rice vs Mt. Abe	2-1
10/15 OV vs. FHUHS	2-0
10/18 Stratton vs OV	2-1
10/19 MUHS at Milton	Late

### COLLEGE SPORTS

Field Hockey	
10/12 Midd vs Skidmore	6-3
10/15 Trinity vs Midd	2-1
Men's Soccer	
10/12 Midd vs E. Nazarene	5-0
10/15 Midd vs Trinity	6-0
10/18 Midd at WPI	0-0
Women's Soccer	
10/15 Midd vs Trinity	1-0
Football	
10/15 Trinity vs Midd	27-21

## Schedule

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football	
10/21 MUHS at Burr & Burton	7 PM
10/22 Missisquoi at OV	1 PM
10/22 Oxbow at MAV	1 PM
10/28&29 Playoffs	TBA
Field Hockey	
10/20 Colchester at Mt. Abe	4 PM
10/20 CVU at MUHS	4 PM
10/22 OV at Fair Haven	4 PM
10/25&26 Playoffs	TBA
Girls' Soccer	
10/20 OV at Fair Haven	6 PM
10/21 Milton at MUHS	4 PM
10/21 VUHS at Mt. Abe	4 PM
10/25&26 Playoffs	TBA
Boys' Soccer	
10/20 Mt. Abe at GMVS	4 PM
10/21 White River at OV	4 PM
10/22 Rice at MUHS	10 AM
10/22 Milton at VUHS	10 AM
10/22 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi	10 AM
10/25&26 Playoffs	TBA
Cross Country	
10/29	State Meet at Theford

(See Schedule, Page 4B)



TIGER GOALIE OWEN Lawton only had to make two saves against host VUHS in the teams' 0-0 tie on Friday, but this one was critical: He came out to deny Commodore striker Elijah Duprey on a breakaway in the game's second minute.

Independent photos/Steve James

## MUHS, VUHS boys settle for draw

### Tigers control most of the action

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Friday's 0-0 tie at Vergennes Union High School between two boys' soccer teams enjoying strong seasons left one side feeling better than the other.

Middlebury Coach Chris George watched his 9-2-1 team enjoy advantages of 29-5 in shots and 9-1 in corner kicks.

But the Tigers, in part due to the Commodores' efforts, failed to score despite playing a man up for almost 30 minutes. MUHS saw VUHS goalie Abram Francis make 13 saves, including tough ones; missed from close range; and hit the crossbar in the second overtime.

"Some ties are wins, and some ties feel like the opposite," George summed up.

VUHS Coach Kevin Hayes saw leading scorer Elijah Duprey sent off with 25 minutes left in regulation on a red card. The Commodores were already without another key senior, midfielder Shamus Rooney, due to an illness. Hayes acknowledged his 10-1-2

team — the loss came at MUHS in overtime — had a different outlook on the final.

"I'm pretty happy with the score line," Hayes said.

Things could have gone the Commodores' way. They had a great chance in the second minute. Senior forward Xavier DeBlois sprung Duprey behind the Tiger defense with a clever through pass, and Duprey raced into the left side of the box.

But Tiger goalie Owen Lawton sprinted out to meet him about 10 yards from the post, and Duprey's shot bounced off the sprawling goalie and over the end line.

"If Elijah had put that away, it probably could have been a different game," Hayes said. "The keeper came out really well."

Although Lawton came off his line several times to disrupt plays and prevent threats, he only had to stop one more ball on frame, grabbing a long Oakley Francis direct kick late in the first half.

Abram Francis was busier in the other goal.

(See Soccer, Page 4B)



DESPITE PRESSURE FROM leaping Tiger forward Zack Wilkerson, Commodore goalie Abram Francis tips this dangerous MUHS corner kick over the bar for one of his 13 saves during the teams 0-0 tie at VUHS on Friday, Oct. 14.

## Midd football's rally thwarted

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — In a Saturday battle of NESCAC's only two unbeaten football teams, visiting

Trinity outplayed Middlebury College for much of the game, but the Panthers stiffened on defense and unleashed a second-half aerial

attack before losing in the late going, 27-21.

Trinity improved to 5-0, while the 4-1 Panthers dropped into a second-place tie with Wesleyan. They will visit Bates (2-3) this coming Saturday.

Despite facing heavy pressure (including five sacks) and getting no help from a rushing attack that lost 16 yards, Panther quarterback Cole Kennon threw for three second-half touchdowns and completed 23 of 41 attempts for a career-high 386 yards.

Critically, the Panther offensive and defensive fronts both played better in the second half. Kennon had more time to throw, and at the same time the Bantams' running game, potent in the first half, spun its wheels.

Panther Head Coach Bob Ritter noted the turnaround.

"We felt like we could throw the ball, and we felt like we had some really good receivers, and we weren't getting the time early, and we were getting it late," Ritter said. "And our defense got off the field in the fourth quarter to give us the ball a couple times."

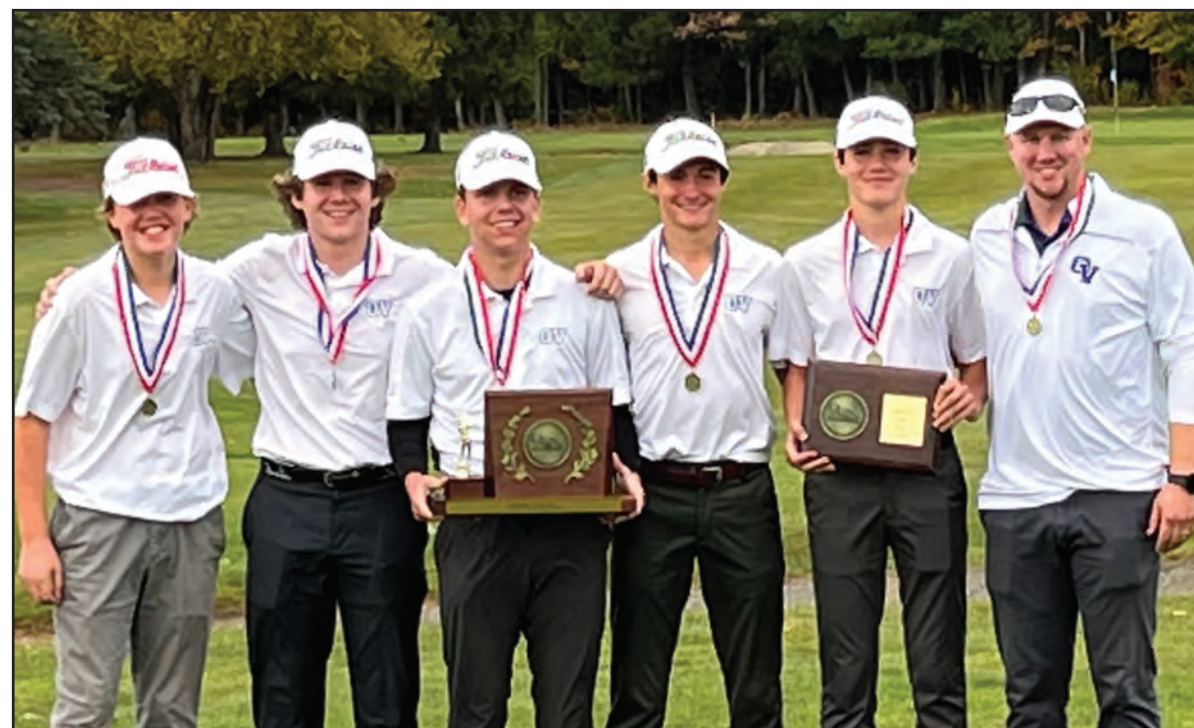
Ritter said he was confident the Panthers would rally, but also credited Trinity for its late game-winning drive after Middlebury had tied the score at 21-21 with 2:53 to go.

"The nature of this team is to fight the whole way, and I really had no doubts that we would. And I feel like we had the players to play with them, and something was (See Panther football, Page 4B)



PANTHER SENIOR CAPTAIN and wideout Greg Livingston hauls in a fourth-quarter touchdown pass during previously undefeated Middlebury's 27-21 home loss on Saturday to still unbeaten Trinity.

Independent photo/Steve James



THE MEMBERS OF the Otter Valley golf team and Coach Greg Hughes pose with the Division II championship trophy they won at the Orleans Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 13. It was the program's second straight D-II title.

Photo courtesy of Greg Hughes

## OV golfers claim 2nd straight D-II title

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ORLEANS — Sparked by a medalist performance by sophomore Lucas Politano, the Otter Valley Union High School boys' golf team on Thursday, Oct. 13, claimed its second consecutive Division II championship. The Otters' 2021 title had been the program's first in 38 years.

In play at the Orleans Country Club, OV edged second-place Hartford, 349-351, reversing the results from the week before, when the Hurricanes edged the Otters

by three strokes in the qualifying tournament held at the Neshobe Golf Club in Brandon.

Following the top two teams in the field were: 3. Harwood, 358; 4. Stowe, 365; 5. Woodstock, 377; and 6. Peoples 385.

Politano shot a 77 on the par-72 Orleans Country Club course to edge Mill River's Matthew Serafin by two strokes and Harwood's Joseph Barwood by three for medalist honors. Barwood was the medalist at the qualifier the week before.

OV senior Thomas Politano tied for fourth with Harwood's Parker Davey; both carded 84s.

Rounding out the scorers for Coach Greg Hughes's Otters were senior Matt Bryant, with a 93, and freshman Jackson Howe, with a 95.

Howe was an unsung hero. He was the last Otter golfer on the course and had to shoot at least a 6 on the par-4 18th hole to clinch the crown for OV, and he came into the clubhouse with a 5.



## Field hockey upset; other Panthers win

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The historic winning streak compiled by the Middlebury College field hockey team came to an end this past weekend, though victories kept coming for the Panther soccer teams.

The field hockey and both the men's and women's soccer teams will all play at Tufts on Saturday and then host Williams on Tuesday.

### FIELD HOCKEY

The Panther field hockey team picked up a midweek win on Kohn Field before seeing its 42-game overall and 51-game home winning streaks come to an end on Saturday at the hands of Trinity College. The Panthers stand at 12-1 and saw their multi-year reign at No. 1 in the NCAA Division III poll end, dropping to No. 2 behind undefeated Rowan this week.

On Oct. 12, the Panthers subdued visiting Skidmore, 6-3. The Panthers jumped to a 3-0 lead and saw the Thoroughbreds rally to tie the game before Middlebury pulled away to prevail.

The Panthers took their lead on first-period goals by Amy Griffin and Caroline Segal, both unassisted, and then on a penalty corner strike by Grace Murphy set up by Griffin.

Skidmore got second-period goals from Brooke Golden on a penalty corner and then CC Wetter in the run of play, and equalized early in the third on a Tobi Dolan tip-in. Those were the Thoroughbreds' only shots on goal.

Middlebury regained the lead soon afterward, when Audrey Lazar redirected a pass from Griffin, and then scored twice in the fourth quarter, with goals from Katie George and Lazar. Middlebury put 13 shots on goal.

On Saturday, visiting Trinity edged the Panthers, 2-1, despite Middlebury's 6-2 advantage in shots on goal. Bantam goalie Olivia McMichael made five saves.

Trinity scored early in the second quarter, when Izzy Deveney converted on a penalty corner. Griffin evened the score later in the period (See Panther wrap, Page 3B)



— MATT DICKERSON —

## Clouds clear off Ascutney

It was early afternoon during a mid-October day. My wife and I stood atop Mount Ascutney in Mount Ascutney State Park, a relatively easy walk of less than a mile from the parking lot at the top of the mountain road. We had the summit to ourselves.

The fact that it had rained hard most of the night and the trails were like streams in places, with the clouds so thick around us that we could barely see the treetops 50 yards down the slope, might have had something to do with the lack of crowds at one of the best vista locations in Vermont during peak foliage season.

This was our seventh new Vermont state park of 2022 — far and away the most Vermont state parks to which we have made a first-time visit in a single year. Although we'd gone the tenting route on our previous few overnight park stays, for this trip I reserved one of the cabins. With the sun setting earlier, and with snow in the realm of possibility at higher elevations in October in Vermont, I figured it would be easier (and more comfortable) to just pull up and haul our sleeping bags into a cabin rather than to set up a tent. And if we got a day of rain (or sleet or snow), we'd have a cozier place to sit under a blanket and read.

Which, it turns out, is just what we did the first evening and the first morning, as the skies opened up and dropped an inch or so of rain on us.

Several of the state parks in Vermont offer cabin rentals, with a two-night minimum stay. All of them are "primitive" in the sense that they offer no running water or indoor plumbing, no heating, and cooking must be done outside. But they are new, clean, well-built and well-maintained structures that (in our experiences) have been rodent-free. They have a table with chairs, a bunk bed, and a futon that when opened is large enough for two persons to sleep on (although persons over six feet tall might not be able to stretch out). Some do have electricity, but the Ascutney cabins — which are a couple miles up the mountain road from the park entrance and most of the campsites — have no electricity and no nearby showers or hot water. While

I'm more often drawn to those state parks with lakes offering a mix of canoeing, fishing or swimming, October seemed like a good time to try out a park with a view instead (despite the fewer amenities). Knowing that cabin reservations can be tough to come by — especially in October in Vermont at a park known for its views — I'd booked the Ascutney cabin months ago.

And the views really were fantastic, although it wasn't until the third day that we were able to enjoy them. We woke on the morning after our second night to crisp air and bright blue skies. The valleys below us were lakes of clouds with the hills rising like islands, but at the elevations of the cabins, we had miles of visibility. We slept in late and enjoyed a leisurely morning. I cooked pancakes outside. We read and drank hot drinks. And finally, we packed.

Returning to the summit after checking out of the cabin, we found a much fuller parking lot with license plates from several nearby northeast states as well as one from Texas. Families, couples and several older hikers (which no doubt was a description some of the kids would have used for me), made use of the short hike from parking lot to peak. On a crystal clear day, you can apparently see all the way to Mansfield and Mount Washington. I don't think I saw Washington, but the views of Killington were clear and Okemo seemed close enough almost to hit with a rock. Farther to the west, I thought I could see the faint gray lines of the Adirondacks.

And nearer at hand, all down the slopes below me, foliage as bright and colorful as Vermont has to offer trailing down into river valleys, farms and farmlands, small towns, and off to the west, wide swaths of the houseless hillsides of the Green Mountain National Forest — which slowly revealed themselves as the morning fog burned away.

The park was certainly worth visiting just for views. And worth waiting through the rain for the clouds to lift. It will be on our list for a return visit, even as we start to ponder which new parks we'll try to visit in 2023.



COMMODORE GREY FEARON, right, and Tiger Matthew Berg run neck-and-neck midway through the NVAC Small School boys' race on Saturday. Fearon helped the Commodores take second place as their No. 2 finisher. Berg finished fourth for first-place MUHS. Photo by Joe McVeigh

## Tiger cross country rules at NVAC meet

### Commodores, Eagles hold their own

SWANTON — The Middlebury Union High School cross-country teams breezed to big wins at the NVAC Small School Championship Meet on Saturday, with Tigers Baxter Harrington prevailing in the boys' race and Beth McIntosh in the girls' race to pace the victories.

Both Tiger teams' main Division II competitors, including defending boys' and girls' champion U-32, didn't race in the NVAC event. Saturday's race was the final tune-up for local teams before the cross-country championship meet in Thetford on Oct. 29, and MUHS will see the Raiders and other tougher competition on that day.

The Tiger boys placed five

runners this past Saturday in the top six to score 19 points, outdistancing second-place Vergennes (61) in the seven-team field. Fairfax (93) edged Mount Abe (100) for third place, with host Missisquoi (119), Richford (140) and Rice (171) trailing.

Calvin Gramling paced the VUHS boys with a scoring finish (not including runners from non-scoring teams) of seventh, while Norman Benoit led the Eagle boys by taking a scoring finish of ninth.

The Tiger girls scored 20 points, with Spaulding (59) in second and Mount Abe (77) in third in a five-team field. Fairfax (86) and Rice (112) rounded out the scoring field. Kayla Friend again led the



AVA SCHNEIDER TOOK second in the NVAC girls' Small School title race this past Saturday. Tiger girls swept the top three places on the way to victory in the event. Photo by Joe McVeigh

Eagle runners. VUHS didn't field a scoring girls' team, but two runners posted respectable times.

#### BOYS' RESULTS:

Scoring runners for each county boys' team, with placements not including non-scoring runners, were:

MUHS: 1. Baxter Harrington, 17:45.9; 3. Baker Nelson, 18:06.4; 4. Matthew Berg, 18:46.1; 5. Matias Citarella, 18:54.4; 6. Ethan Spritzer, 18:55.9.

VUHS: 7. Calvin Gramling, 18:56.3; 8. Grey Fearon, 18:58.9; 10. Calder Rakowski, 19:23.0; 13. Carter Mcguire, 19:39.9; 23. Chance Koenig, 21:44.9.

MT. ABE: 9. Norman Benoit, 19:11.9; 16. Sean Davison,

19:51.6; 19. William Iliff, 21:11.4; 26. Elliot Senecal, 21:55.5; 30. Morgan Barnes, 22:17.6.

#### GIRLS' RESULTS:

Scoring runners for each girls' team with placements not including non-scoring runners from five girls' teams, were:

MUHS: 1. Beth McIntosh, 20:53.6; 2. Ava Schneider, 21:09.6; 3. Mary Harrington, 21:11.9; 5. Seina Dowgiewicz, 22:03.7; 9. Mahina Elchibekova, 24:13.2.

MT. ABE: 6. Kayla Friend, 22:39; 10. Isabella Shea, 24:17.7; 13. Ruby Jean Hall, 25:23.7; 15. Maisy Hill, 25:35.5; 33. Isabella Shackett, 34:18.4.

VUHS: Torrey Hanna, 26:59.5; Jasmine Little, 28:25.2.

## Girls' soccer: Tigers tip VUHS; OV wins 2

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Middlebury defeated host Vergennes and Otter Valley won two out of three to crest .500 to highlight high school girls' soccer action between Oct. 12 and 15. Elsewhere, Mount Abraham, MUHS and VUHS dropped games as the teams headed into the final weekend of the regular season. Playoffs will get underway next

week.

#### MUHS OVER VUHS

On Tuesday, the Tigers blanked the host Commodores, 4-0. Freshman Solstice Binder broke loose for two goals, and Lia Robinson and Lily Lapiner added one apiece. Meredith Horne and Jazmyn Hurley each chipped in assists, and goalie Cassidy Brown made six saves for the shutout as the Tigers improved to 3-8-1.

Goalie Quincy Sabick made four saves as VUHS dropped to 1-11-1.

#### OTTERS

On Oct. 12, the Otters fell to visiting Woodstock, 2-0, when in the second half Wasp Chloe Masillo scored both goals, finally denting the OV defense and goalie Linnea Faulkner, who had another big game. The Otters had lost at Woodstock, which improved to 7-4, by a 9-2 final earlier this fall.

On Friday, the Otters edged

visiting Hartford, 2-1, after falling behind in the third minute. Bryn Blanchard equalized 25 minutes in, off an assist from Elena Politano, and Politano netted the game-winner on a breakaway with 20 minutes remaining.

On Monday, the Otters spotted host Springfield a 1-0 lead early in the second half, but responded with three unanswered goals to win, 3-1. Politano leveled the score before Mallee Richardson put in the game-winner. Politano scored

(See Soccer, Page 3B)

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MIDDLEBURY





**EAGLE IAN FUNKE** lunges the ball over the goal line to score the first of his four touchdowns vs. Mill River in Bristol on Saturday. Funke's dad can be seen in the background rising above the other fans, hands in the air, as he cheers on his son. Mount Abe-Vergennes won the game, 31-28. Photo by Buzz Kuhns

## MUHS, OV elevens net victories

ADDISON COUNTY — Middlebury and the Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative high school football teams posted important regular season victories this past weekend, but Otter Valley came up short on the road.

**TIGERS**  
The Tigers took care of business on Friday night, defeating host Burlington/South Burlington, 16-8. MUHS controlled most of the action.

MUHS improved to 4-3 and remained in fifth place in D-I heading into their Friday night game at second-place Burr & Burton (6-1). A playoff berth for MUHS is assured, with the question now being seeding.

Middlebury took a 9-0 halftime lead and padded it to 16-0 before the SeaWolves scored their lone touchdown in the game's final minute, a 13-yard pass from Nick Kelly to Andrew Bouffard. But the Tigers recovered the onside kick to extinguish the 1-6 Seawolves' faint chances for an upset.

The Tigers scored on a 13-yard pass from quarterback **Jacob Kemp** to tight end **Penn Riney**,

a **Jackson Gillett** field goal and a 9-yard run by fullback **Cam Stone**.

**Cole Schnoor** led the MUHS rushing attack with 15 carries for 106 yards, **Gavin McNulty** contributed 12 carries for 77 yards, and **Kemp** ran nine times for 43 yards.

**Sam Parris** ran 14 times for 105 yards for the SeaWolves, and **Kelly** threw for 155 yards.

**EAGLES**  
On Saturday in Bristol, MAV spotted visiting D-III's third-place team Mill River 21 first-half points, but roared back for a 31-28 victory.

Wide receiver **Ian Funke** scored nearly all 31 of the Eagle points, returning one of his two interceptions for a score, catching three TD passes from quarterback **Zeke Dubois** and kicking a 33-yard field goal.

Those points were unanswered after the Minutemen took their 21-0 lead. MRU (5-2) then scored a late touchdown on QB Anthony Cavalieri's fourth scoring pass of the game to Mason Boudreau.

**Dubois** completed 23 of 40 passes, with **Tyler White** (five catches for 56 yards) his second

favorite target on the afternoon.

The Eagles improved to 3-4 and moved into the playoff picture in seventh place in D-III. They can clinch a D-III playoff berth by defeating eighth-place Oxbow, also 3-4, at home on this Saturday afternoon. MAV now has a good shot at the postseason regardless of the outcome of that game.

MAV Coach **Jeff Stein** called this past Saturday's result a "big win for the season and the program."

**OTTERS**  
On Saturday, host Fairfax-Lamoille held onto second place in D-II by besting OV, 24-6. The Bullets scored three first-half rushing touchdowns to answer the Otters' score on their opening drive, and then added a second-half field goal. Fairfax-Lamoille (5-1) also picked off five passes to stymie the Otters.

OV dropped to 3-4, but held onto sixth place in D-III over the Eagles by virtue of their head-to-head victory. The Otters host winless Missisquoi this Saturday, with a victory clinching a playoff berth and a postseason slot likely regardless.

## Tigers' first is only FH success

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**  
ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury Union High School team's first win of the fall proved to be the only highlight for local high school field hockey teams between Oct. 12 and 18, as Mount Abraham dropped games to the top three teams in Division I while Otter Valley lost at a fellow D-II contender in its only action.

Teams will wrap up their regular seasons this weekend and start postseason play next week. Only the Otters could host a D-II playoff game.

**TIGERS**  
On Oct. 12, **Maria Worden** scored twice in the second quarter to help spark host Burlington to a 3-0 victory over the Tigers.

The Tigers' breakthrough win came against visiting Mount Mansfield on Friday, 2-1. MUHS got both its goals in the second quarter to take a 2-0 lead. **Quinn**

and **Ivy Gates** found the back of the cage, and **Ireland Hanley** chipped in an assist. **Dorothy Kiruthi's** third-period strike made it a one-goal game, but Tiger goalie **Jolee Heffernan** (four saves) and the Tiger defense held the fort. **Kelsey Millard** made one save for the Cougars.

On Tuesday, Colchester's **Ryleigh Garrow** recorded a hat trick to lead the visiting Lakers to a 3-0 victory over the Tigers. Colchester goalie **Trinity Conley** worked a seven-save shutout.

**Heffernan** made 10 saves for the 1-11-1 Tigers.

**EAGLES**  
On Oct. 12, host CVU nipped Mount Abe, 1-0, on **Tess Everett's** unassisted goal, the only shot of 10 that got past Eagle goalie **Greta Jennison**.

On Oct. 14, host Essex improved to 8-1-1 by blanking the Eagles, 2-0. **Paige Rovnak**

and **Ashley Clark** scored for the Hornets. **Jennison** made 13 stops, and Eagle center back **Payton Vincent** made a defensive save.

On Tuesday, defending D-I champion South Burlington outlasted the host Eagles, 2-1. **Mia Kaczmarck** scored both Wolf goals, and SB goalie **Izzy Redzic** made five saves.

**Jennison** made 11 saves as the Eagles dropped to 4-7-2.

**OTTERS**  
On Saturday, host Woodstock topped the Otters, 5-1, sweeping the fall series from OV. Woodstock, which recently dealt D-I contender Bellows Falls its only loss, improved to 10-1.

**Ryleigh LaPorte** scored for OV, and **Lily Morgan** made 14 saves as the Otters dropped to 8-4.

The Otters were scheduled to host Windsor on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition.

## Boys' soccer: Tigers, Otters earn wins

ADDISON COUNTY — In high school boys' soccer between Oct. 12 and 18, Division II Middlebury claimed a D-I victim, Mount Abraham lost a one-goal game on the road, and Otter Valley won once in three tries.

The Tigers also visited Vergennes on Friday, Oct. 14, in a battle of the Lake Division's first- and second-place teams; see story on Page 1B. VUHS, at 10-1-2 the first-place team in D-III, was otherwise idle.

**TIGERS**  
On Oct. 12, the Tigers edged host Rutland, 1-0, when **Ollie Choudhury** scored with 18 seconds remaining in regulation. MUHS goalie **Owen Lawton** made five saves to earn the shutout, and Rutland keeper **Colin Rider** denied

eight shots. The Tigers were set to visit Milton on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition.

**EAGLES**  
On Friday, host Rice edged the Eagles, 2-1. Mount Abe took the lead in the 18th minute on a **Noah Kirshenbaum** penalty kick. **Wilfred St. Francis** equalized for Rice late in the first half, and **Dan Bogre** scored the game-winner nine minutes into the second half.

Both teams had more opportunities: Rice goalie **Nate Degraff-Murphy** was credited with 13 saves, and the Eagles' **Domenic DeNapoli** with 15. The Eagles dropped to 4-7-1 with games remaining on Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday, the Otters bounced back from a 5-0 home loss on Thursday to Woodstock to defeat Fair Haven, 2-0, in a game at Proctor that was part of that school's annual **Jimmy Taranovich** Tournament.

**Ryder Richardson** gave OV a first-half lead on a free kick from near midfield that caught the Slater keeper off his line. **Drew Pelkey** sealed the win by heading in an **Owen Thomas** free kick in the second half.

On Tuesday, host Stratton scored all of its goals in the first half in a 3-1 victory over the Otters. **Thomas** netted the OV goal in the second half, and OV goalie **Isaiah Wood** made 10 saves.

The Otters are 6-7 heading into their final game.

## Soccer

(Continued from Page 2B)  
again to provide insurance, and **Emily Peduto** assisted two of the goals.

The Otters improved to 7-6, but appear to be ticketed to start the Division II postseason on the road even if they win at Fair Haven on Thursday.

**TIGERS**  
On Oct 12, visiting Rice topped the Tigers, 2-0, as **Allie Leduc** scored twice and Rice keeper **Sunshine Clark** made six saves. Brown made four saves for MUHS.

**EAGLES**  
On Oct. 12, host Milton bested the Eagles, 3-0. Three

Yellowjackets scored a goal apiece, and goalie **Lila Martin** made seven saves. **Joanna Toy** made 11 saves for Mount Abe.

On Saturday, host Rice edged the Eagles, 2-1, on goals by **Claire Vincent** and **Raven McCray-Fay**. **Isla Underwood** scored for Mount Abe (3-8-1), and **Toy** stopped seven shots. Rice goalie **Clark** made five saves. The Eagles will

open the D-II playoffs on the road. **COMMODORES**

On Saturday, visiting Milton bested VUHS, 13-0. **Cianna Tomasi** and **Allessandra Hoffman** led Milton with two goals each, and goalie **Sara Ambrose** stopped two VUHS shots. **Sabick** made seven saves for VUHS, which will open the D-III playoffs away from home.

## Panther wrap

(Continued from Page 1B)  
by sweeping the ball home with a reverse stick shot.

Trinity found the game-winner 8:10 into the final quarter. During a scramble in the Panther circle, the ball popped to **Janis Demarest**, who snuck her shot into the left side.

The Panthers earned five penalty corners in the final 1:08, but couldn't equalize as their winning streaks came to a close.

**MEN'S SOCCER**  
The men's soccer team improved to 9-1-3 and took over first place in NESCAC with two wins, one over a league rival, and a tie. They rose to No. 7 in this week's NCAA D-III poll.

On Oct. 12, the Panthers coasted past visiting Eastern Nazarene, 5-0. Five Panthers scored: **Jordan St. Louis**, on a penalty kick; **Ben Powers** and **Liam Sloan**, both on assists from

**Kyle Nilsson**; **Brendan Barry**, from **Ethan Coomber**; and **Jacob Charles**, from **Daniel Kaye**.

Eastern Nazarene (4-6-2) hit the crossbar once, but didn't record an official shot on goal.

On Saturday, Middlebury scored all six of its goals in the second half, including four during a span of 5:37, to defeat visiting Trinity, 6-0.

**Alem Hadzic** started the onslaught by converting a Nilsson rebound 1:26 after the break and 56 seconds later, **Andrew Juarez** drilled in a 25-yard shot after pouncing on a loose ball. **Juarez** scored again soon afterwards on a feed from **Hadzic**, and **Luke Madden** headed in a **Eujin Chae** corner kick at 52:02.


**Hadzic** and **Barry** later added goals, both from **Sloan**, and Panther goalie **Ryan Grady** made one save for the shutout. It was the 27th in his career, a program record.

On Tuesday, the Panthers and host Worcester Polytech (5-4-5) settled for a 0-0 tie. **Grady** made two saves and WPI goalie **Roe Hendrick** denied eight Middlebury bids.

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
The Panther women's soccer team edged previously unbeaten Trinity, 1-0, on Saturday, improving to 10-3 in the process. The Bantams stand at 4-1-6, with more ties than wins and losses combined.

The game's only goal was **Joely Virzi's** unassisted effort in the eighth minute. Panther goalie **Sydney Poppinga** made five saves behind solid defense to make that strike stand up as the game-winner. Trinity keeper **Mariana Cournoyer** stopped six shots.

The Panthers earned advantages in shots at goal (15-13) and corner kicks (4-2) as they won their fourth straight game and fifth in six outings.



**Upcoming Events**


**Tuesday, 10/18**  
Stick & Puck - 3:30-5:00 PM

**Thursday, 10/20**  
Stick & Puck - 3:30-5:00 PM

**Friday, 10/21**  
Stick & Puck- 3:30-5:00 PM  
Public Skating- 5:15-6:45 PM

**Sunday, 10/23**  
Public- 3:45-5:15 PM

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## 2022 Garden Game



**We had just two new entries** in this week's Garden Game, but they were both impressive.

**Ed Blechner** found an even bigger parsnip in his garden after last month's submission. At 9.25" C, Ed's spicy root veg beats his current record of 8" C.



Last year's beet victor, **Steve Reigle**, brought in yet another monster specimen. At 22.5" C, this year's beet takes the top spot and far exceeds his previous winner by 3 inches!

As October comes to an end, so too does the 2022 Garden Game. Be sure to bring in any last-minute submissions before Tuesday, October 25th or you'll miss your opportunity to be crowned one of Addison County's master green thumbs!

Do you have veggies to share in our pages? We welcome entries from any of the below categories. Bring your entry into our office between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday and we'll measure it and snap a photo. Each week we'll publish new entries and update our frontrunners for each category in the contest. At the end of the season, each category winner\* will be eligible to receive a gift certificate from our Garden Game sponsor, Middlebury Agway.



More info online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:**

- Asparagus** (length x circumference) - Laura Asermily, 17" x 2.25"
- Beet** (circumference) - Steve Reigle, 22.5"
- Broccoli** (diameter) - Ed Blechner, 12"
- Cabbage** (circumference) - Phyllis Bowdish, 32.75"
- Cantaloupe** (circumference) - Ted Foster, 24.25"
- Carrot** (length x circumference) - Gary Miller, 15" x 8.25"
- Cauliflower** (diameter) - Ted Foster, 13.5"
- Corn** (length x circumference) - Peter Demong, 11" x 7.5"
- Cucumber** (length x circumference) - Julie Longergan, 25" x 9"
- Edible Leafy Greens** (length x width - leaf only) - Gary Miller, 19.75" x 9"
- Eggplant** (circumference x circumference) - Sue Galipo, 22" x 18"
- Fennel** (length x circumference)
- Green Bean** (length) - Kanyarat Menard, 40"
- Kohlrabi** (circumference)
- Leek** (length x circumference) - Ed Blechner, 43" x 5.5"
- Melon** (circumference) - Barrie Bailey, 32"
- Onion** (circumference) - Gary Miller & Pam Thomas, 14.25" (tie)
- Parsnip** (circumference) - Ed Blechner, 9.25"
- Potato** (length x circumference) - Edward Lafayette, 13" x 10"
- Pepper** (circumference x circumference) - Irene Pierce, 15.25" x 15.25"
- Pumpkin** (circumference x circumference) - Edward Lafayette, 72" x 62.5"
- Radish** (circumference) - George & Patrick Martin, 12.25"
- Rhubarb** (length) - Jill Rainville, 28"
- Rutabaga** (circumference) - Michael Palozzi, 32"
- Summer Squash** (length x circumference) - Ted Foster, 13" x 16"
- Sunflower** (diameter) - Eric Foster, 19"
- Tomato** (circumference) - Lisa Maloney, 20"
- Turnip** (circumference)
- Winter Squash** (length x circumference) - Brud Leedom, 26" x 40"
- Zucchini** (length x circumference) - Jim Payne, 24" x 13.25"

\*Please note: Each individual is eligible to win one gift certificate, even if they win multiple categories.



# Soccer

(Continued from Page 1B)

In the 14th minute he leaped to tip a Trey Bosworth serve away from Tiger forward Eddie Fallis. On the first corner kick that followed he knocked Eliot Schneider's direct corner on goal over the bar, and on the second he denied Fallis.

In the 22nd minute Francis snared a 20-yard bomb from Ollie Choudhury. As the half wound down he tipped away a cross and stopped Fallis from the 18. On a last-second corner kick Tiger Ronen Silberman headed just high at the far post on a Fallis serve from the left.

Still, Vergennes threatened with counters to Duprey up front, even during the second half, when the Tigers earned three corners in the first 12 minutes, keeping Francis busy.

But at 24:58 Duprey was ordered off, and the Commodore attack withered. Their determination did not, according to Hayes.

"I was very, very impressed with the guys and just their resolve, but also their defensive shape. They stayed disciplined," Hayes said. "They've got a very dangerous team, but I thought the guys did what they needed to do today to get the result."

That included going into a defensive shell, taking their time on throw-ins and goal kicks and



**COMMODORE CENTRAL MID Jack Wyman holds off Tiger forward Zack Wilkerson as he awaits a pass during the team's 0-0 tie at VUHS on Oct. 14.**

making frequent substitutions, especially with only three on the bench.

George acknowledged the VUHS pragmatism.

"It's always frustrating when you've got 60% of the ball or more (without scoring), and it's also frustrating when you get to the point where a team is just trying to get out of there and is wasting time. But that's the way the game goes, right?" George said. "That's what you have to do to get a result."

Still, the Tigers easily could have left with a win that would

have clinched a Lake Division title. But Francis dove to stop on Ollie Robinson, Milo Gordon and Zach Wilkerson in regulation, and then the Commodores survived nine Tiger shots in the two overtimes, when the Tigers pressed even though the head official also sent off Robinson early in the first overtime. After that, VUHS launched its only OT shot, Ethan Croke's long bid that sailed high.

The Tigers dominated the second OT. Commodore Eli Brace defended Wilkerson to prevent a break-in, and then Silberman, on the right side of the 18, laced a



**VUHS GOALIE ABRAM Francis made 13 saves and several other key plays in Friday's 0-0 home tie vs. MUHS, including tipping this cross from the right side away from Tiger forward Eddie Fallis.**

Independent photos/Steve James

shot that appeared ticketed to be a golden goal, but hit off the bottom of the crossbar.

Shortly afterward Francis denied a 10-yard Silberman bid, VUHS middies Jack Wyman and Spencer Grimm cleared threats away, Francis sprawled to deny Fallis, and in the final minute Bosworth and then Fallis shots went high.

George said on another day the Tigers probably would have finished several of those chances, but noted the Commodores were "well organized" and "didn't give

us any space."

In the big picture, he remains pleased that his team is having "a fantastic season" and is well positioned for a deep playoff run.

"We're still in a great position to win the Lake Division, even if we didn't win it today," George said. "We're still in a position to get a great seed going forward. So all of our goals that we had at the beginning of the season are still out there for us. We just have to keep playing the kind of soccer we play, and it will happen for us."

Hayes praised the work of

center back Oakley Francis as well as Abram Francis in net, while also citing the defensive work of his central mids Jack Wyman and Parker Kayhart as well as his entire team.

"Everybody who played today contributed," he said.

Like George, Hayes also feels good about his team moving forward, especially as his team looks primed for a No. 1 or 2 seed in D-III.

"We're growing as a team," Hayes said. "I like what we're trying to do."

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## Panther football

(Continued from Page 1B) going to pop. And we had it pop, and we had them on the ropes," Ritter said. "But they came up and made some good plays."

On the game's opening drive, the Bantams moved 75 yards in 14 plays to take a 7-0 lead at 6:43 on Colin McCabe's 3-yard rush. Trinity quarterback Spencer Fetter, who finished 21 for 27 for 198 yards, went three-for-three on the march.

Middlebury moved to the Trinity 4-yard line on its first possession, thanks largely to a 60-yard completion from Kennon to tight end Anson Clough, but back Patrick Jamin fumbled into the endzone

after catching a short pass on third down, and Trinity recovered.

The Panthers twice reached Trinity territory in the first half, but one drive stalled and a Kennon interception ended the other.

Trinity made it 14-0 on its final possession of the half. It started on the Panther 43, with the Bantams taking advantage after winning the battle for field position. A screen pass to back William Kirby and a toss to McCabe put the Bantams on the Panther 12, and from there Fetter hit wideout Davante Reed on a slant pattern for the score.

Trinity continued to win field position in the third period, partially blocking one punt and pressuring

another before taking over on the Panther 16. Two plays later, Fetter hit Thomas Walsh from the 14 with 5:39 on the clock, and the kick made it 21-0.

The Panthers responded by marching 75 yards to make it 21-7. Kennon hit Jamin for 20 yards, and then found him again open down the right side, and he broke it for 57 yards to the Trinity 2. On the next play, Kennon tossed to Jamin in the end zone at 3:24.

After two stops, the Panthers took over on their 24 with 9:56 left in the game and scored 1:57 later. Two passes to wideout Donovan Wood and one to back LeeCharles McNeil moved the ball to the Bantam 36. From there, Kennon found Livingston behind the defense for an over-the-shoulder TD catch. Another Andrew Hass kick made it 21-14.

The Panthers got the ball back on their 37 at 5:55 after stuffing Kirby on third-and-1, and they moved 63 yards in 3:02 to tie the game. A big play was a 10-yard pass to Wood on third-and-9 at the Trinity 40. Soon after, from the Bantam 25, Kennon scrambled to his right and hit Wood in the right side of the end zone, and Haas tied the score.

But Trinity was not to be denied. Fetter completed five passes on the Bantams' winning drive, none bigger than one on third-and-20 from the Panther 40. On the previous play, Panther safety Kwesi Adu-Diawuo sacked Fetter for a 10-yard loss.

But Fetter hit Sean Clapp on a 23-yard out pattern down the left sideline for the first down, and four plays later McCabe waltzed in from the Panther 3 at 1:12.

The Bantams rushed 44 times for 146, with Kirby rushing 25 times for 98 yards, most of it coming in the first half. Safety Finn Muldoon led the Panthers with 13 tackles, and Wood totaled seven catches for 138 yards.

Despite the setback, Ritter acknowledged a lot has gone right this fall.

"It's a great group. They are really dialed in and really focused. They play hard and disciplined," Ritter said. "Today was a loss, but it was a gritty loss that we pushed to the last minute. I just love the fight that our guys have."

# STUDENT OF THE WEEK

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Madison Gile

This week Mt. Abe would like to honor Madison Gile. Madison lives in Bristol with her parents, Carl and Theresa Gile, brother Colby Gile and two pets.

Madi, as her friends call her, is a kind, personable, caring person who is positive and uplifting to be around. She loves being outdoors and hiking with family and friends. Madison exemplifies dedication, amazing work ethic and challenges herself to be the best she can be while balancing academics, athletics and working at Walgreens on weekends and during the summer.

She is an outstanding student with great active listening skills, and teachers say she is an excellent collaborator. She has consistently earned high honors at Mt. Abe and takes challenging classes, such as pre-calculus. She enjoys being challenged academically and learning environments with teachers that challenge her to expand her mind and ability. American Studies with Mr. Beckwith was Madison's favorite class throughout high

school, because he pushed her to be the best she can be.

In addition, Madison is a talented athlete. She plays basketball and really excels at field hockey, where she is the Team Captain for the Eagles this year. In fact she was the 2021 Metro field hockey player of the year, which is quite an honor. Madison's incredible leadership and athletic skills helped lead Mt. Abe to win three State Championships for field hockey, and one for basketball.

Madison said one of the most important lessons she has learned from the school is to push yourself through whatever she is doing and to never give up on herself. "It will open so many opportunities for your future to be successful," she says.

The whole Mt. Abe community wishes Madison all the best as she embarks on her journey of going to college to become a physical therapist and to play field hockey.



Madison Gile  
MAUHS

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## Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

### COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer	
10/22 Midd at Tufts	3 PM
10/25 Williams at Midd	2:30 PM
10/29 Playoffs	TBA
Field Hockey	
10/22 Midd at Tufts	Noon
10/25 Williams at Midd	6:30 PM
10/29 Playoffs	TBA
Football	
10/22 Midd at Bates	1 PM
Women's Soccer	
10/22 Midd at Tufts	Noon
10/25 Williams at Midd	3 PM
10/29 Playoffs	TBA



# community calendar

## oct 20 THURSDAY

**Age Well grab and go meal in Vergennes.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 10:45 a.m., St Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Pork cutlet with gravy, mashed cauliflower, diced beets, roll, watermelon and milk. Advanced reservations only. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Oct. 16, at 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Local bus provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**How Collins Aerospace came to Vergennes: History of the L.F. Benton Company in Vergennes.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Come learn how L.F. Benton Company led the way for Collins Aerospace finding a home here in Vergennes when William D. Benton gives this presentation on his family history. It will also be broadcast on Zoom. More info at [bixbylibrary.org/event/Benton](http://bixbylibrary.org/event/Benton).

**Community Conversation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - LGBTQIA Affinity Group in Middlebury.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 6:30-8 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The first in a series of community conversations aimed at learning more about your experiences and suggestions for how Middlebury can improve in serving the community and what the town should celebrate, too. The larger goal is to inform the Town of Middlebury's Strategic Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) plan. Children welcome. Light refreshments provided. Register at [tinyurl.com/Com-convo-diversity](http://tinyurl.com/Com-convo-diversity) or at the Town Manager's Office, 802-458-8001.

**Artists in the Archives talk in Middlebury/Online.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Curator Ric Kasini Kadour, Sheldon Archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart, Kolaj Institute Coordinator Christopher Kurts and artist Jeanna Penn will have a conversation about the intersection of art, collage, history and archives. This webinar is offered in conjunction with the Henry Sheldon Museum exhibit "Artists in the Archives: Community, History & Collage," which is on view through Jan. 7, 2023. Free, register at [henrysheldonmuseum.org/events](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org/events) or call 802-388-2117.

## oct 21 FRIDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Salisbury.** Friday, Oct. 21, Rattlesnake Point. This is a 4-mile hike of moderate difficulty. A generally gentle hike but with several steep inclines to gain the cliff area, 1,160 ft. ascent. Wear appropriate clothing; bring water, lunch and hiking poles. Limited to 10 participants. Contact leader Ruth Penfield at [ruthpenfield@gmail.com](mailto:ruthpenfield@gmail.com) or 802-458-1116 to register, for meeting time and carpooling from the Middlebury area. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro.** Friday, Oct. 21, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Pork cutlet with gravy, mashed cauliflower, diced beets, roll, watermelon and milk. Advanced reservations only. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Oct. 16, at 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Local bus provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**Musical talent show in Middlebury.** Friday, Oct. 21, 4 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Road. CSAC's Evergreen House is hosting a Variety/Talent Show and benefit to raise funds for new furniture in Evergreen's drop in space. Local talent will be featured, along with local Irish band O'hAleigh and a special guest appearance by Jamie Lee Thurston. Donations appreciated. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided. For more info: Lea Richards at 388-2492.

**Parent/Teen Night Murder Mystery Evening in Middlebury.** Friday, Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m., Ilsley Library. The local library and the Teen Center invite you to bring your favorite grown up to a night of '80s mullets and mystery. Can you find the culprit in this crazy madness that is filled with neon, naughtiness and totally tubular teens? Food served! Contact [nicholas@teencentervt.org](mailto:nicholas@teencentervt.org) to register.

**Family movie night in Vergennes.** Friday, Oct. 21, 6:30-8 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Come watch "Hotel Transylvania" upstairs in the Bixby Hall.

## oct 22 SATURDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Weybridge.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m., Snake Mountain, Mountain Road Extension lot (with the falling down sign). A moderate hike of 5-6 miles, on the seldom-traveled, southern Snake Mountain, elev. 700 ft. Well behaved dogs on leash are welcome. Advanced registration required. Limit 10 participants. Intermediate hikers and fully vaccinated participants are welcome. Rain or shine. Please bring a mask just in case. More info contact leader Deborah Lewis via text at 203-856-6187 or email, [deborahlewis@optonline.net](mailto:deborahlewis@optonline.net). More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**American Red Cross blood donation in Bristol.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bristol Recreation Department, 1 South St.

**Share the Warmth: A Winter Outerwear Giveaway in Bristol.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., town green. Everyone is invited to come take whatever they need for the upcoming winter season — winter coats, snow pants, winter boots, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks. It is all free thanks to the 5 Town Partnership. More info at [familylife@bristolfederated.com](mailto:familylife@bristolfederated.com) or 802-453-2321.

**Craft supply sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. Assorted craft supplies; fabric, yarn, beading, rug hooking, embroidery notions, etc. including unfinished projects. Donations accepted the week of Oct. 16 at the church. Call 802-877-2435 before drop off. All proceeds go to the work of the Vergennes Congregational Church.

**Collage artist talk in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 22, noon, Sheldon Museum. Todd Bartel — one of the 23 artists invited to create a work of art inspired by museum's archives on display in the exhibition "Artists in the Archives: Community, History & Collage" — will bring several examples of his Landscape Vernacular collage series to view up close and personal, including a current work-in-progress. His talk will examine his unique "interlocking collage" process and his unusual blend of traditional and modern book-



## Old service, new truck

**THE CORNWALL VOLUNTEER Fire Department will show off its new computer controlled pumper truck at its open house on Saturday, Oct. 22, from noon to 3 p.m. Bring the kids to see the new truck and all the other fire equipment at the firehouse on Route 30.**

making/printing technologies. Learn how the artist fuses analog collage with digital collage that connects and links research, language, engravings and period ephemera to reflect on the landscape, nature, ecology and climate change. Free with museum admission. More info: [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org) or 802-388-2117.

**New fire engine in Cornwall.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 12 noon-3 p.m., Route 30 Fire Station. Come see the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department's new engine that features tablet control and other 21st century advances. This new pumper truck and all the department's trucks and equipment will be on display. The event will also feature a visit by the LifeNet medical transport helicopter landing in the backyard, and other activities, including fire extinguisher training for young and old. Cider, apples and doughnuts will be provided.

**Family friendly movie in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 2:30 p.m., Marquis Theater. Join Addison County BIPOC+ for a Saturday afternoon showing of "Turning Red." The organization's goal is to provide a space where local folks of color can build community, break bread and come together to support and learn from one another. RSVP to [addisonctypoc@gmail.com](mailto:addisonctypoc@gmail.com) or on the Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/addisonbipoc](http://facebook.com/groups/addisonbipoc). Mask-optional; please respect the choices of others.

**Take-out community meal in Monkton.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 4-5 p.m., Monkton Friends Methodist Church, 77 Monkton Ridge. Menu includes baked ham, macaroni and cheese, squash, coleslaw, dinner roll and apple crisp. Gluten-Free versions of all items available. Please specify the number of gluten-free and/or regular meals that you want. Meal is \$12. Order by Monday, Oct. 17. Pay when you pick up. Order at <https://forms.gle/wqAPbkDpcnm5s2HA> or call 802-453-3020 and leave your name, phone number, number of regular and number of gluten-free meals.

## oct 23 SUNDAY

**Sibling-to-Sibling event in Middlebury.** Sunday, Oct. 23, 1-4 p.m., Chellis House, 56 Hillcrest Rd. Middlebury College's Sister-to-Sister and Brother-to-Brother have merged to create Sibling-to-Sibling, which holds monthly events for middle school students in Addison County, mentoring and facilitating thoughtful discussions with middle school students, focusing on common issues in the students' lives. More info and registration at [go.middlebury.edu/sib2sib/](http://go.middlebury.edu/sib2sib/). Questions? Reach out [sistertosister@middlebury.edu](mailto:sistertosister@middlebury.edu).

## oct 24 MONDAY

**Age Well grab and go meal in Bristol.** Monday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m., American Legion, Airport Dr. Drive in, loop around, and stay in your car. BBQ beef steak, risotto with diced tomatoes, Italian vegetables with black beans, wheat bread, berry crisp and milk. Advanced reservations only. Call Michelle to reserve by Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Local bus provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**Age well sit-down meal in Middlebury.** Monday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m., Rosie's Restaurant, Route 7 South. Doors open at 11 a.m., meal served at 11:30 a.m. of ham with mashed potatoes, peas, and coleslaw and chef's choice of dessert. Seats are limited. Call Michelle to reserve by Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 802-377-1419. \$5 suggested donation does not include gratuity. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Local bus provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice. Masks encouraged unless seated and eating. Please stay home if you don't feel well.

## oct 25 TUESDAY

**American Red Cross blood donation in Vergennes.** Tuesday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Victory Baptist Church, 862 Route 7.

**Age Well grab and go meal in Bridport.** Tuesday, Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m., Bridport Congregational Church, Middle Rd. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. BBQ beef steak, risotto with diced tomatoes, Italian vegetables with black beans, wheat bread, berry crisp and milk. Advanced reservations only. Call Michelle to reserve by Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**Community Conversation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - BIPOC Affinity Group in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Oct. 25, 6:30-8 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The first in a series of community conversations aimed at learning more about your experiences and suggestions for how Middlebury can improve in serving the

community and what the town should celebrate, too. The larger goal is to inform the Town of Middlebury's Strategic Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) plan. Children welcome. Light refreshments provided. Register at [tinyurl.com/Com-convo-diversity](http://tinyurl.com/Com-convo-diversity) or at the Town Manager's Office, 802-458-8001.

## oct 26 WEDNESDAY

**American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct.

**Age Well grab and go meal in Shoreham.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-noon, Halfway House, Route 22A - Age Well Grab and Go Meal - Halfway House Route 22A. Pick up at back door, meals will be brought out. Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll and dessert. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice. Call the restaurant to reserve at least 24-hours in advance. 802-897-5160.

**Age Well grab and go meal in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. BBQ beef steak, risotto with diced tomatoes, Italian vegetables with black beans, wheat bread, berry crisp and milk. Advanced reservations only. Call Michelle to reserve by Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**Age Well grab and go meal in Monkton.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 11:30 a.m., Monkton Town Hall, 280 Monkton Ridge. Drive up, check-in, pick-up. BBQ beef steak, risotto with diced tomatoes, Italian vegetables with black beans, wheat bread, berry crisp and milk. Advanced reservations only. Call Michelle to reserve by Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**Firehouse Apartments groundbreaking celebration in Bristol.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1:30 p.m., Bristol Fire Station. Join Addison County Community Trust and Evernorth to celebrate the start of construction at Firehouse Apartments. When complete, 20 newly constructed, affordable apartments will be open to families in Bristol.

**"Nurturing A Child's Sense of Wonder" discussion series in Bristol.** Sunday, Oct. 23, 3-4:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Join this three-week free discussion series to explore topics and best practices in supporting nature-based play and adventure while nurturing a sense of wonder, place, and well-being in your children.

**Illustrator talk in New Haven.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6:7-30 p.m. New Haven Community Library. As part of their Vermont Humanities program "The Most Costly Journey," Vermont illustrator Kevin Kite will give a workshop on graphic storytelling. He is one of the graphic artists who contributed to the Open Door Clinic's project and subsequent book with the Vermont Folklife Center in the story "It's Worth It." Participants will learn more about the process of telling stories through comics, the different mediums used to create illustrations and even get to work on their own one or two-panel creations. To register for the program, call the library at 802-453-4015 or email [librarian@nhcl.org](mailto:librarian@nhcl.org).

## oct 27 THURSDAY

**Community Conversation on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - General Community in Middlebury.** Thursday, Oct. 27, 6:30-8 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The first in a series of community conversations aimed at learning more about your experiences and suggestions for how Middlebury can improve in serving the community and what the town should celebrate, too. The larger goal is to inform the Town of Middlebury's Strategic Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) plan. Children welcome. Light refreshments provided. Register at [tinyurl.com/Com-convo-diversity](http://tinyurl.com/Com-convo-diversity) or at the Town Manager's Office, 802-458-8001.

**"Adulthood — trick or treat?: How young adults stole Halloween just as adulthood was stolen from them" in Middlebury.** Thursday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. In collaboration with the Henry Sheldon Museum, Professor Linus Owens of Middlebury College will give this presentation, which is free and open to the public.

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# 'Spirits of Rokeby' to be presented Oct. 28, 29

FERRISBURGH — Returning to Rokeby Museum on Oct. 28 and 29 is "Spirits of Rokeby." This participatory dramatization allows you to witness what an actual séance was like for the Robinsons 170 years ago. Ticket holders will gather for hot cider and a short introduction to spiritualism before a "spirit" of Rokeby guides them into the historic house to experience a staged reading of séances. The séances that ticketholders will experience are drawn from transcripts in Rokeby's archive, and were experienced by the members of the Robinson family in the 19th century. "The second generation Robinsons practiced Spiritualism and attended several séances in

Ferrisburgh and Vergennes. Their encounters with spirits were recorded by a family friend and are preserved in the museum's collection. This event draws inspiration from the archive and is an opportunity to experience a 19th century séance just as the Robinsons did over a century ago," explains museum director Lindsay Varner. Tickets to the event are \$20 and are on sale at the museum or by visiting the museum's website. Tickets should be purchased in advance as there is limited seating and tickets are timed. For more information on Rokeby Museum, visit rokeby.org.

## Cornwall to show off its high-tech firetruck

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department recently took delivery of its much-anticipated new frontline engine that features tablet control and other 21st century advances. This new pumper truck and all the department's trucks and equipment will be on display at the CVFD Open House on Saturday, Oct. 22, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Route 30 station. This event will also feature a visit by the LifeNet medical transport helicopter landing in the backyard, and other activities, including fire extinguisher training for young and old. Cider, apples and doughnuts will be provided. The new engine, nearly two years in the making, is equipped with a computer controlled pump system that allows operations with a simple touch pad rather than using a complicated system of levers and valves. This will allow more department members to operate the pump system, further improving the CVFD's ability to respond quickly to an emergency. The truck was paid for through the Cornwall capital budget, with money put aside for it over many years anticipating the need to replace the department's previous frontline truck, purchased in 2003. It remains in service and is stationed at the West Cornwall garage on North Bingham Street.

## Lincoln

Have a news tip? Call Dawn Mikkelsen at 453-7029

LINCOLN — Please help fill area firehouses with food! Firefighters will be collecting food and monetary donations for the Have-A-Heart Food Shelf in Bristol on Saturday, Oct. 22. Each fire station in the five towns will be open this Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon to receive your donations. Expired items cannot be accepted. Boxed or canned items that are the most needed are pasta; pasta sauce; diced tomatoes; black, kidney and baked beans; soup; tuna; salmon; chicken; vegetables; fruit; peanut butter; mac 'n cheese and cereal. Checks made payable to "Have-A-Heart" are also welcome. Thank you for helping to feed those in our communities who are food insecure. A Community Storybook Walk presented by Carolyn and Tim Bradford will be set up from Saturday, Oct. 29, to Tuesday, Nov. 1. Start at the Lincoln Library and continue through the center of town. Follow the journey of "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything" on this self-guided tour while visiting some of our favorite places in Lincoln Center. Perfect for a family walk. SAVE THE DATE: The Ripton Coffee House presents Corner House on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Burnham Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are available now at rchfolks@gmail.com or by calling 802-388-9782. They will also be sold at the door. Until next time... Be Someone's Strength. Be Someone's Inspiration. Be Someone's Reason To Never Give Up.

## Public Notices can be found in this ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 6B and 11B.

### ATTENTION MONKTON VOTERS - PLEASE SEE AMENDED POLLING LOCATION

#### SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING WARNING MOUNT ABRAHAM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVEMBER 8, 2022

The legal voters of the Mount Abraham Unified School District consisting of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven, and Starksboro are hereby notified and warned to meet at the official polling places of the respective towns comprising the District on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at which time the polls will open at 7:00 in the forenoon and close at 7:00 in the evening to vote on the following articles by Australian Ballot:

**Article I. FORMATION OF UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 Shall the Mount Abraham Unified School District #61, consisting of the towns of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro, which the proposed articles of agreement have identified as necessary to the formation of the proposed union school district, join with the Addison Northwest School District #54, consisting of the towns of Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes, and Waltham which are identified as "necessary" to formation, for the purpose of forming a union school district, as provided in Title 16, Vermont Statutes Annotated, upon the following conditions and agreements:

- (a) Grades. The union school district shall be organized to provide for the education of resident students in grades Pre-Kindergarten (PK) through twelfth (12) and shall assume full and sole responsibility therefore on July 1, 2023.
- (b) Operation of schools. The union school district shall operate and manage one or more schools offering instruction in grades Pre-Kindergarten (PK) through twelfth (12).
- (c) Union school district board. The New School District Board of Directors shall be composed of fifteen (15) directors who shall have equal votes and shall be determined as follows:
  - (1) The combined population of all Necessary Towns (and after the formation of the New School District, the town of each forming District referred to as "Member Town"), determined by the most recent U.S. Census will be divided by fifteen (15). Each Member Town shall have at minimum one (1) representative to the Board of Directors. Representation of each Member Town shall be determined by a vote of the eligible voters of each town separately and the number of board members allocated each town shall be done proportionately based on town population and weighted as necessary.
  - (2) The Initial Board of Directors shall have the following allocation:

Town	Members	Population	Individual Weight Value
Addison	1	1365	8.05
Bristol	3	3782	7.43
Ferrisburgh	2	2646	7.80
Monkton	2	2079	6.13
New Haven	1	1683	9.93
Panton	1	646	3.81
Starksboro	2	1756	5.18
Vergennes	2	2553	7.53
Waltham	1	446	2.63

(d) Assumption of debts, ownership of school property, and operating funds surpluses and deficits. No later than June 30, 2023, the union school district shall assume the indebtedness of forming districts, acquire the school properties of the forming districts, and pay for them, all as specified in the final report and proposed articles of agreement. Addison North School District shall assume any and all general operating surpluses and deficits of the Forming Entities that may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2023. In addition, reserve funds identified for specific purposes will be transferred to the Addison North School District and will be applied for said purposes unless otherwise determined through appropriate legal procedures.

(e) Final report. The provisions of the final report and proposed articles of agreement approved by the State Board of Education on the 20th day of July, 2022, which is on file in the office of the clerk of each school district named in this warning, shall govern the union school district.

(f) School Closure.

An elementary school within the Addison North School District cannot be closed for all grades k-5 without a vote of the electorate as follows:

- (1) At any time during the first four (4) years of the Addison North School District's operation, an elementary school for all grades may be closed with a majority of the vote of the towns whose resident students attend that school as of the operational date of the Addison North School District.
- (2) After the first four (4) years of operations, an elementary school may be closed with approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors of the Addison North School

District and approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voters of the Addison North School District.

- (3) An elementary school will not otherwise be closed.
- (4) School closure shall be defined as the District ceases to use the school building for the provision of direct education for a majority of grades operated within the building in the year prior to the first date of operations of the Addison North School District.

#### Article II. ELECTION OF INITIAL MEMBERS OF THE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

To elect a total of fifteen (15) member(s) to serve as initial members of the proposed union school district board for the terms established in the final report and proposed articles of agreement: Representation of each Member Town to the Board of Directors shall be determined by each town separately and not at-large.

- (a) Addison North School District, 1 Addison Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- (b) Addison North School District, 1 Bristol Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- (c) Addison North School District, 1 Bristol Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- (d) Addison North School District, 1 Bristol Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- (e) Addison North School District, 1 Ferrisburgh Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- (f) Addison North School District, 1 Ferrisburgh Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- (g) Addison North School District, 1 Monkton Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- (h) Addison North School District, 1 Monkton Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- (i) Addison North School District, 1 New Haven Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- (j) Addison North School District, 1 Panton Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- (k) Addison North School District, 1 Starksboro Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- (l) Addison North School District, 1 Starksboro Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- (m) Addison North School District, 1 Vergennes Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- (n) Addison North School District, 1 Vergennes Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- (o) Addison North School District, 1 Waltham Board Member to serve for a 3 year term

Voters of the Town of Bristol will vote at Holley Hall located at 1 South St, Bristol, VT 05443. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Town of Monkton will vote at the **Monkton Town Office** located at **92 Monkton Ridge, Monkton** VT 05469. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2020 at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Town New Haven will vote at the New Haven Town Hall located at 76 North St, New Haven, VT 05472. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Town of Starksboro will vote at the Robinson Elementary School located at 41 Parsonage Rd, Starksboro, VT 05487. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00AM and close at 7:00 PM.

**\* Corrected from error posted originally on September 28, 2022.**

The legal voters of the Mount Abraham Unified School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated. The voters are further notified that on November 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM the Mount Abraham Unified School District

The voters are further notified that on November 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM the Mount Abraham Unified School District Board of Directors will hold a public informational meeting at Holley Hall in Bristol to discuss the articles set forth above. Dated at Bristol, Vermont this 27th day of September, 2022. Mount Abraham Unified School District Board of Directors: Dawn Griswold, MAUSD Board Chair Received for the record and recorded this 27th day of September, 2022 by: Jennifer Bauer, Clerk of The District

### TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE

Ralph Stephen Cooper (Appellant) has submitted an appeal of the decision of the Zoning Administrator dated September 26, 2022, declining to issue a notice of violation in connection with the firewood processing business operated by Nickolas Bissonnette located at 991 Jerusalem Road (parcel F41L1N) in the High Density Residential & Commercial district in the Town of Starksboro. The land is owned by Leonard Denice. The Appellant has appealed the Administrator's decision as it pertains to smoke and odor produced by the wood drying kiln operation. The appeal will be considered by the Starksboro Development Review Board at a public hearing pursuant to Section 421(d) of the Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations.

The Development Review Board will hold the appeal hearing on Nov. 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm, in person at the Starksboro Town Offices and online via Zoom with the following login information:  
 Zoom Meeting ID: 878 8416 6793 | Passcode: Stk@drb1  
 Prior to the hearing, a site visit will be conducted on Nov. 10, 2022 at 5:00 pm at the Denice property at 991 Jerusalem Road. The site visit will be held in person only, with no Zoom attendance option.

**Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.** A copy of the appeal and additional information may be obtained at the Starksboro Town Office.  
 Zoning Administrator  
 Town of Starksboro, Vermont

### TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING

**ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.**

Also available via Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84583269450>  
 By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)  
 Webinar ID: 845 8326 9450

For those wishing to watch but not participate:  
 Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTVVT>  
 and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA	
7:00	1. **Call to Order 2. *Approval of Agenda 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda 3.a. Approval of Minutes of the October 11, 2022 Regular Selectboard Meeting 3.b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2022 Infrastructure Committee Meeting 3.c. Small Business Saturday Proclamation 3.d. Agenda Placeholder 3.e. Town Manager's Report - Correspondence from Leon Smith & Jeremy Parker regarding access to trails off Washington Street Extension - National Opioids Settlement Allocation
7:05	4. **Citizen Comments [Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda]
7:10	5. **Agenda Placeholder 6. **Moderator Susan Shashok with the Report of the Town Meeting Working Group
7:20	7. *Dan Werner and Emmalee Cherrington, Directors of Public Work Planning, with Updates from the October 13, 2022 Infrastructure Committee Meeting 7.a. Recommendation for Approval for purchase and replacement of a pump seal at the WWTF under the Sole Source Provisions Policy from Aqua Solutions 7.b. Final Report on Bike/Pedestrian Scoping Study of Boardman Street to Hannaford's Plaza, funded by a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Grant from the Regional Planning Commission 7.c. FY24 Capital Budget Review is underway
7:30	8. **Bakery Lane Redevelopment/Economic Development Project (EDL) – Discussion of the Ilesley Public Library (IPL) 100 Project Team's Inquiry about the Availability of the EDL Site as one of four options for Library Renovation/Expansion of the Ilesley – Reference Pages 112 – 127 of the Downtown Master Plan and the IPL Project Team Document Library, particularly the Team's September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes, line 58
7:45	9. *Discussion and adoption of the proposed revisions to the Selectboard Policy Book as recommended by the Policy Review Committee
7:55	10. **Agenda Placeholder
8:00	11. **Agenda Placeholder 12. *Approval of Check Warrants 13. **Board Member Concerns 14. *Executive Session – Real Estate - Anticipated 15. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
8:20	16. *Adjourn

\* Decision Item \*\* Possible Decision



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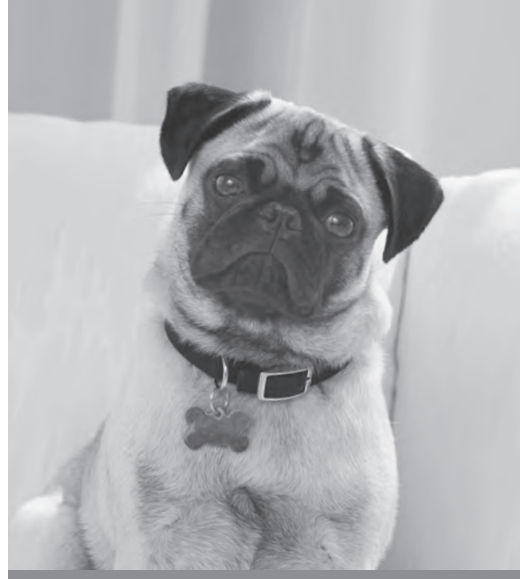
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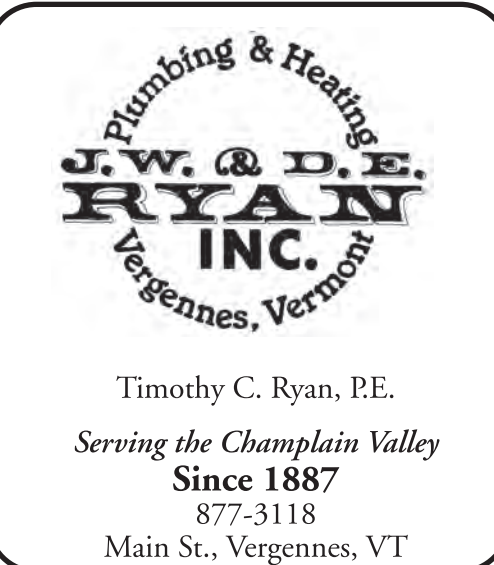
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# CLASSIFIEDS

**Public Meetings**

**AL-ANON OFFERS HELP** and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit [vermontalananonlateen.org](http://vermontalananonlateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aa.org> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-388-9284.

**THE TURNING POINT CENTER** of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

**Public Meetings**

**VERGENNES FREE THINKERS** Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting [Vergennes-free thinkers@gmail.com](mailto:Vergennes-free thinkers@gmail.com) for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

**Public Meetings**

**MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING** Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

**ODD JOBS** lawn work, cut brush, some tree work. Call us we do other jobs too! 802-999-2194 John.

**WE BUY OLD STUFF** Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

**Opportunities**

**HOUSING IN EXCHANGE** for live-in caregiving. 15 minutes from Middlebury. Live-in care for somewhat active 80 year old woman. Two private rooms and bath. Laundry, parking, storage and cats are okay. [lincolnexpress@comcast.net](mailto:lincolnexpress@comcast.net)

**Help Wanted**


**AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY** Hearth is hiring! Offering good compensation, respectful co-workers, and great food. We are hiring for multiple full time and part time positions including bar leadership, daytime prep and evening shifts. Ample opportunities for growth in a positive work environment. Please stop in for an application or email Joe at [joe@americanflatbread.com](mailto:joe@americanflatbread.com). EOE.

**Help Wanted**

**Starksboro VERMONT**  
**Town Administrator**  
The Town of Starksboro seeks an experienced and motivated administrative professional to help oversee the administrative responsibilities of the town. This is a part-time position starting at 18-24 hours/week with the possibility of additional hours in the future.  
The Selectboard is searching for a candidate with strong business and managerial skills, grant administration experience, and knowledge of community planning issues. Municipal knowledge and grant administration experience is required. A college degree or equivalent professional experience is required. A detailed job description is available at [www.starksborovt.org](http://www.starksborovt.org).

This position is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating the affairs of the town, including managing town employees. This position plays an essential role in town operations and will work cooperatively with the Town Clerk to serve the Starksboro community.  
**To apply, please send a confidential cover letter, resume, and professional references to:**  
Starksboro Selectboard, PO Box 91, Starksboro, VT 05487 or email to [jpainter@starksborovt.org](mailto:jpainter@starksborovt.org).  
Salary to be determined based on experience. Prorated health insurance and other benefits to be determined. Applications accepted until position is filled, preferred by Nov. 1. EOE.

**Help Wanted**



**Did you know?**  
ACSD is hiring custodians and we need... *you!*

**Our Custodians**


- Ensure our buildings and outdoor spaces are clean, safe, and healthy for all!
- Set up and clean up so everyone can enjoy class, games, and school events
- Keep our doors open, lights on, and water flowing each day


**Benefits:**

- Health insurance for you/r family
- Dental insurance
- Benefits include paid holiday, vacation, and sick time and retirement match
- Full or part time positions available with flexible shifts
- Join an awesome team who take pride in keeping our schools healthy and safe for kids
- Starting pay: \$15.45-\$21.65/hr

**This could be a great fit if you:**

- Want to help our local kids and school buildings
- Love to improve, fix, and repair things and spaces
- Work independently and show up reliably

To apply for custodian jobs scan QR Code: 

To see all available ACSD jobs: [acsdvt.org/Page/4418](http://acsdvt.org/Page/4418) or scan QR Code: 

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Services**

**VERMONT SUPPORT LINE** Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT-TALKS.

**C+I DRYWALL** and plastering. Call Joe 802-234-5545.

**CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS** new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

*Now Hiring*  
**WEDDING COORDINATORS**

Weddings are perhaps the most beautiful, fulfilling & inspired events a person can take part in.  
**At Mountain Top, Weddings are our World!**

**We are currently hiring Wedding Coordinators!** This is a rare opportunity to join our world-class wedding team. If you are experienced in events/hospitality/food & beverage or a related field - and are passionate about people, celebrations & creating memories - we have the career for you! Email us at [hr@mountaintoppinn.com](mailto:hr@mountaintoppinn.com)  
*For a more detailed description visit [mountaintoppinn.com](http://mountaintoppinn.com)  
Events experience a plus. Training available. Industry leading compensation with benefits.*

**MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT**  
195 Mountain Top Rd. Chittenden, VT  
photos: Idena Beach, Abi Elaine, Hannah Photography

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**More Help Wanted ads can be found on Page 9B, 10B and 11B.**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**



**Thank you!**

Thank you to the Women's Basketball team from Middlebury College for volunteering at the Bixby Library for this year's Days of Caring. They made quick work of moving furniture, weeding garden beds, and so much more all while continuing to smile. Thank you again for your hard work and positive attitudes!



**Five-Town Health Alliance**

*Mountain Health Center*  **Red Clover FAMILY DENTISTRY**

Five-Town Health Alliance is a growing community Health Center with immediate openings to join our team! We are a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing full-spectrum primary care for children and adults, dental care, behavioral health services, medication-assisted treatment, and more. Located in beautiful Bristol, Vermont.

**Current open positions include:**

Medical Director	Psychiatrist
Physician	Human Resource Manager
Nurse Practitioner	Registered Dental Hygienist
Psychiatric Nurse	Certified Dental Assistant
Practitioner	Informatics Specialist

Our benefits combined with a positive and mission-minded staff make us a great work environment. Benefits include a great team environment, positive work atmosphere, competitive salary, attractive insurance package (medical, dental, vision, short- and long-term disability), paid time off, paid holidays, employee wellness program and retirement plan.

We are an equal employment opportunity employer and are especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of our organization.

**Please send resume and cover letter to:**  
[HR@mountainhealthcenter.com](mailto:HR@mountainhealthcenter.com)

The Human Resources Department will contact applicants who have been chosen to continue through the selection process.

**Keep the news coming!**

Subscribe to the Addy Indy online, in print, or on the go!



[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

## Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.**

• 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad  
• \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

**RATES**

- Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted
- |                                          |                                            |                                             |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices         | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals       | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |
- \*\* no charge for these ads    Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...**

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of runs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spotlight Charge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Internet Listing: **\$2.00**  
TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.



# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted Help Wanted Help Wanted



**GREAT SERVERS WANTED AT EASTVIEW**

Do you love people? Working with a supportive team? Serving delicious food? Then join us as a Server at EastView, Middlebury's nonprofit, locally governed retirement community.

We offer a generous benefits package, sign-on bonus for full time & part-time positions, free shift meals, and paid time off. If you are a student, a retiree, or just looking for a second job, our flexible hours & per diem shifts may be perfect for you!

To apply, or to check out more opportunities at EastView, go to [www.eastviewmiddlebury.com/join-our-team/](http://www.eastviewmiddlebury.com/join-our-team/) or email [tdunakin@eastviewmiddlebury.com](mailto:tdunakin@eastviewmiddlebury.com)

Help Wanted Help Wanted Help Wanted



**Employment Opportunities**


**Data Entry Specialist, part time.**  
Enter field specific client data. Must be detail oriented and accurate.

**Homeless Services Coordinator, full time.**  
Work with persons experiencing homelessness to identify and access services. Perform outreach, take and make referrals. Must have strong experience working with persons who have high housing barriers, must have reliable vehicle.

To apply for either job, email resume and brief letter of interest to [receptionist@hope-vt.org](mailto:receptionist@hope-vt.org).

Please specify the position for which you are applying.

Equal Opportunity Employer



**Elderwood is hiring!**

Elderwood at Ticonderoga is seeking an understanding and compassionate **Part-Time Social Worker** to join our team and make a difference in the lives of our residents.

**Elderwood at Ticonderoga Benefits:**

- Full benefits package, including 401k plus employer matching
- Multiple free uniforms with embroidery
- Tuition reimbursement for clinical positions
- Pay in lieu of benefits program for clinical staff

**Social Worker Position Overview:**  
Social Worker team members at Elderwood assist with ensuring the health and well-being of our residents by providing social services for residents. Pay rate starts at \$16.80/hour plus more with experience.

**Social Worker Qualifications:**

- Minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work or a bachelor's degree in human rehabilitation counseling, and psychology from an accredited institution; and services/field including, but not limited to, sociology, gerontology, and special education
- One year of supervised social work experience in a health care setting working directly with individuals
- Experience in casework required
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record required
- Work experience in the admission or discharge area of social work is very desirable
- Desire and ability to work with the elderly and cooperate with other staff members are necessary

Elderwood expects all current and new employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If hired, you will be required to provide proof of vaccination. Employees may request a medical exemption from vaccination.

Apply today at [www.elderwoodcareers.com](http://www.elderwoodcareers.com).

**DON'T DELAY!**

**Help Wanted**



**MAPLEFIELDS**

Looking for work in your hometown?

We offer medical, dental, paid vacation, personal time, sick time and 401K for full time positions.

ALL ADDISON COUNTY LOCATIONS CURRENTLY HIRING!

For openings and to apply, visit [Maplefields.com](http://Maplefields.com)

Hoping to play an important role in your community?  
Want to work in a dynamic environment?  
Looking for flexible hours?



**Join Our Team!**

Slate Valley Unified Union School District is seeking **Substitute Teachers** for the 2022-2023 school year.

Send Inquiries to [comeara@svuvt.org](mailto:comeara@svuvt.org)  
Apply at <https://www.schoolspring.com/>



**SEASONAL HOLIDAY POSITIONS**

Are you looking to make some extra money around the holidays? Dakin Farm is currently seeking applicants to join our holiday team for a fast-paced exciting work environment. No experience is required. These seasonal positions are available from the middle of November through early January.

We have both full and part time positions available in our Mail Order Packing Department, and Specialty Food Production. We offer competitive wages, generous employee discounts, and hours that meet your schedule.

For an application or more information please email: [tdanyow@dakinfarm.com](mailto:tdanyow@dakinfarm.com)  
You can also give us a call or stop by our retail store :  
**5797 Route 7, Ferrisburgh**  
**1-800-99DAKIN**



**Part-time bookkeeping**

We're seeking a bookkeeper who has room in their schedule to take on another account. Payroll (and quarterly income taxes) are done by a third party firm. Position writes checks for accounts payable, but does not handle receivables. Knowledge of Quickbooks essential, as are basic accounting principles. Hours required: about 4-5 per week.

**INTERESTED?**

Send resumé, cover letter with a few references, to: Angelo Lynn, Addison County Independent, at [angelo@addisonindependent.com](mailto:angelo@addisonindependent.com).

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

**Help Wanted**

**AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY** Hearth is hiring! Offering good compensation, respectful co-workers, and great food. We are hiring for multiple full time and part time positions including bar leadership, daytime prep and evening shifts. Ample opportunities for growth in a positive work environment. Please stop in for an application or email Joe at [joe@americanflatbread.com](mailto:joe@americanflatbread.com). EOE.

**Help Wanted**

**FOLEY BROTHERS BREWING** is seeking an enthusiastic sales representative with a desire to build a career in sales. Generous annual salary plus commission, perks, and benefits available. Minimum qualifications: 1+ years of proven results-oriented experience in outside sales or within the food & beverage industry. An intense competitive spirit with an assertive, confident

**Help Wanted**

personality. Ability to work both independently and within a team to accomplish goals. Demonstrated ability to plan and manage multiple responsibilities. Valid driver's license, registered and insured vehicle, and ability to drive to and from accounts. Ability to lift and move cases of beer frequently. Ability to climb, kneel, and stoop to arrange and display point-of-sale frequently. Preferred Qualifications: Bachelor's degree. Please email cover letter and resume to [Brewing@vermont@gmail.com](mailto:Brewing@vermont@gmail.com)

**Help Wanted**

**PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT/COMPANION** for 74 year old man in Addison. Temporary position until January 1. 9 hours/week over at least 3 days/week. Flexible hours. \$25/hour. Contact [eresnik@rcn.com](mailto:eresnik@rcn.com)

**SHARD VILLA**  
Level 3 Residential Care Home

**NOW HIRING CAREGIVERS**

Full-Time ~ Part-Time  
**ALL SHIFTS**  
~ Competitive Pay ~



For more information  
Call 802.352.4369

**SHARD VILLA**  
Level 3 Residential Care Home

**NOW HIRING LPNs and RNs**

Full-Time ~ Part-Time  
**ALL SHIFTS**  
~ Competitive Pay ~



For more information  
Call 802.352.4369

**SHARD VILLA**  
Level 3 Residential Care Home

**NOW HIRING COOK**

Full-Time  
~ Competitive Pay ~



For more information  
Call 802.352.4369

**Help Wanted**

**NOW HIRING!**

Tom Bodette Landscaping is seeking to fill fall landscaping, excavation & snow removal positions. Top pay. Valid driver's license required. We will train the right person.

Please call 802-388-4529 to apply.

**TOM BODETTE**  
Excavating & Landscaping Inc.  
6 Lower Plains Rd., Middlebury, VT 05753

**MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

**MUHS COACHING POSITIONS**

Middlebury Union High School is seeking the following:  
**Varsity Boys' Assistant Hockey Coach**  
**Varsity Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach**

Applicants must possess a strong knowledge of coaching principles with previous coaching experience preferred. Must possess strong organizational skills and the ability to communicate and relate to student athletes.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest, resume, and three current letters of reference to:  
Sean Farrell/Athletic Director  
Middlebury Union Middle School  
73 Charles Avenue  
Middlebury, VT 05753

Applications will be accepted until the positions have been filled.  
E.O.E.

**COURTYARD**  
BY MARRIOTT

**FULL & PART-TIME ALL DEPARTMENTS**

Candidates must be available weekends, evenings, overnights and holidays. We offer competitive wages and benefits. Previous hotel experience is preferred but not required. Training is provided. Join our award-winning team, providing quality customer service, a positive attitude and excellent work ethic.

Interested, qualified candidates can apply in person at 309 Court Street, Middlebury.  
Please, no phone inquiries.



**Production Team Members**

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!


Please send cover letter and resume to [nichole@vermontsoap.com](mailto:nichole@vermontsoap.com).



Build a strong community

**Shop Local!**

More Help Wanted ads can be found on Page 9B, 10B and 11B.





# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted

**SWIFT HOUSE INN** is hiring a Breakfast Server to take and deliver orders. If you're an early bird who enjoys talking to people and thrives in a fast-paced workplace, we'd like to meet you. Weekend availability a must. Full-time. To apply please call 802-388-9925, email: rissa@swifthouseinn.com, or drop by the inn and ask for an in-person application.

## For Sale

**2010 DODGE CHARGER SXT** \$3500. Washer & Dryer \$150. Call Roger 802-551-9044

## For Rent

**12' X 24' STORAGE SPACES** in Brandon. Call 802-349-4212.

**DRY, SECURE WINTER storage.** 12' wide, 16' high, 32' deep. Middlebury. \$300/mo. 802-388-0860.

**DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE** in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or rochon\_m@yahoo.com.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

## For Rent

**EAST MIDDLEBURY** furnished room. All included; fully equipped kitchen, wi-fi, w/d, parking, all utilities. Private entrance. Share kitchen, share bath with one other tenant. Clean, quiet, safe. \$500 per month. Text Sue 802-989-8941.

**HOUSING IN EXCHANGE** for live in care giving. Located 15 minutes from Middlebury. Two private rooms and bath. Live in care assist for 80 year old somewhat active woman. Cats okay, laundry, parking, storage. email lincolnexpress@comcast.net

**MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING** available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

**VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS** is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/no pets. Income limits apply - Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www.SummitPMG.com.

## Want to Rent

**GOOD CHRISTIAN MAN** traumatized and abused by the evils of society and civilization. In therapy, who is looking to rent a piece of land near or close to Middlebury and bus routes for winter. Camping in a four season tent to get away from it all and still be a part of the community. Please write Dana, PO Box 782, Middlebury, VT 05753.

## For Rent

## Real Estate

**12.2 ACRES ADJOINS** State land. Giant Mountain Wilderness. Mobile home, Bouquet river frontage, very private, New Russia, NY. Close to E-Town, Keene & Keene Valley. Owner financing to qualified buyers. 518-597-3270.

## Att. Farmers

**1953 HARRY FERGUSON TO30:** with/without a cart, list of extras, and photos in farm equipment on Craigslist and @ 1814 Country Club Road, Brandon, Vermont. \$4,500. price negotiable.

**HORSE BLANKET WASH** and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdwmiller@icloud.com with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

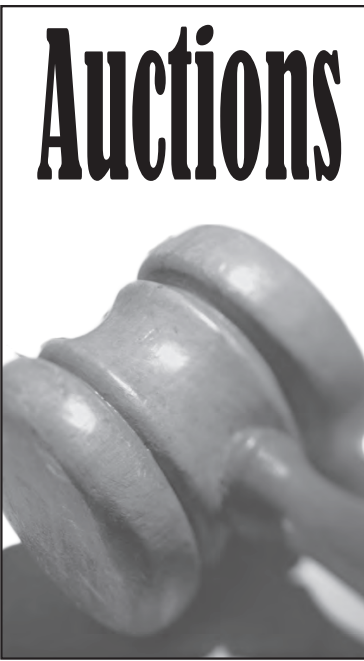
**SMALL SQUARE BALES** \$3.50. Excellent round bales \$30.00. Call 802-377-5455.

**WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK** Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

## Wanted

**OLD & USED GUNS WANTED**  
Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns  
Top prices paid.  
P: 802-775-2859  
C: 802-236-7213

## For Rent



## MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT  
Sales for 10/13/22 & 10/17/22

BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Nop Bros & Sons	1750	.90	\$1575.00
Gosliga Farm	1865	.88	\$1641.20
Woodnotch	1705	.82	\$1398.10
A. Brisson	1710	.82	\$1402.00
DeFreest	1590	.82	\$1303.80
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Kayhart Bros.	105	2.7	\$283.50
J. Allen	96	2.9	\$278.40
Barnes Bros B+W	96	2.5	\$240.00
H. Degraaf	92	2.5	\$230.00
Champlainside	120	2.0	\$240.00

Total Beef - 142 Total Calves - 306

We value our faithful customers.

Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.  
call 1-802-388-2661

## Public Notices

can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 6B and 11B.

## TOWN OF ADDISON

The Legal Voters Of The Town Of Addison Are Hereby Notified And Warned To Meet At 7:00 Am At The Addison Town Clerk's Office On Tuesday, November 8, 2022 To Vote By Australian Ballot (Between 7:00 Am And 7:00 Pm) On The Following Article:

Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the town of Addison in an amount not to exceed Two Million, Sixty-Eight Thousand, nineteen Dollars, and Six Cents (\$2,068,019.06), be issued to finance the cost of certain capital improvements and repairs to the Town Hall, said amount subject to available grants-in-aid?

Dated at Addison, VT this 17th day of October, 2022  
Addison Selectboard

## SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT STAFF NEGOTIATIONS MEETING

Negotiations meeting between the Board Negotiation Team and the Support Staff Association - Executive Session  
Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.  
at the Fair Haven Union High School Conference Room.

Brooke Olsen-Farrell  
Superintendent

## Full Passport Service

### Addison County Courthouse

The Addison County Clerk located in Frank Mahady Courthouse is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

### REGULAR HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
9am to 1pm  
Tuesday 12:30pm to 4:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.

**802-388-1966**  
addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com

## TOWN OF BRISTOL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on November 8, 2022, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 1 South Street. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

Permit #22-300: James and Deborah Cossaart located at 73 Maple Street (Parcel #205151) are requesting a conditional use for a temporary structure per Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article V, Sec. 506

Copies of the complete zoning applications are available for review at the Bristol Town Office during regular business hours.

### Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/ Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823  
Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85786761083?pwd=RFIWSGFwamJIRG5KOEplCalNITDzd09

## SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING WARNING ADDISON NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVEMBER 8, 2022

The legal voters of the Addison Northwest School District consisting of Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes and Waltham are hereby notified and warned to meet at (see locations below) on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at which time the polls will open at 7:00 in the forenoon and close at 7:00 in the evening to vote on the following articles by Australian Ballot:

### Article I. FORMATION OF UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall the Addison Northwest School District #54, consisting of the towns of Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes, and Waltham, which the proposed articles of agreement have identified as necessary to the formation of the proposed union school district, join with the Mount Abraham Unified School District #61, consisting of the towns of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro which are identified as "necessary" to formation, for the purpose of forming a union school district, as provided in Title 16, Vermont Statutes Annotated, upon the following conditions and agreements:

- Grades. The union school district shall be organized to provide for the education of resident students in grades Pre-Kindergarten (PK) through twelfth (12) and shall assume full and sole responsibility therefore on July 1, 2023.
- Operation of schools. The union school district shall operate and manage one or more schools offering instruction in grades Pre-Kindergarten (PK) through twelfth (12).
- Union school district board. The New School District Board of Directors shall be composed of fifteen (15) directors who shall have equal votes and shall be determined as follows:
  - The combined population of all Necessary Towns (and after the formation of the New School District, the town of each forming District referred to as "Member Town"), determined by the most recent U.S. Census will be divided by fifteen (15). Each Member Town shall have at minimum one (1) representative to the Board of Directors. Representation of each Member Town shall be determined by a vote of the eligible voters of each town separately and the number of board members allocated each town shall be done proportionately based on town population and weighted as necessary.
  - The initial Board of Directors shall have the following allocation:

Town	Members	Population	Individual Weight	Value
Addison	1	1365		8.05
Bristol	3	3782		7.43
Ferrisburgh	2	2646		7.80
Monkton	2	2079		6.13
New Haven	1	1683		9.93
Panton	1	646		3.81
Starksboro	2	1756		5.18
Vergennes	2	2553		7.53
Waltham	1	446		2.63

- Assumption of debts, ownership of school property, and operating funds surpluses and deficits. No later than June 30, 2023, the union school district shall assume the indebtedness of forming districts, acquire the school properties of the forming districts, and pay for them, all as specified in the final report and proposed articles of agreement. Addison North School District shall assume any and all general operating surpluses and deficits of the Forming Entities that may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2023. In addition, reserve funds identified for specific purposes will be transferred to the Addison North School District and will be applied for said purposes unless otherwise determined through appropriate legal procedures.
- Final report. The provisions of the final report and proposed articles of agreement approved by the State Board of Education on the 20th day of July, 2022, which is on file in the office of the clerk of each school district named in this warning, shall govern the union school district.
- School Closure. An elementary school within the Addison North School District cannot be closed for all grades K-5 without a vote of the electorate as follows:
  - At any time during the first four (4) years of the Addison North School District's operation, an elementary school for all grades may be closed with a majority of the vote of the towns whose resident students attend that school as of the operational date of the Addison North School District.
  - After the first four (4) years of operations, an elementary school may be closed with approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors of the Addison North School District and approval of a two-thirds

(2/3) majority vote of the voters of the Addison North School District.

- An elementary school will not otherwise be closed.
- School closure shall be defined as the District ceases to use the school building for the provision of direct education for a majority of grades operated within the building in the year prior to the first date of operations of the Addison North School District.

### Article II. ELECTION OF INITIAL MEMBERS OF THE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

To elect a total of fifteen (15) member(s) to serve as initial members of the proposed union school district board for the terms established in the final report and proposed articles of agreement: Representation of each Member Town to the Board of Directors shall be determined by each town separately and not at-large.

- Addison North School District, 1 Addison Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Bristol Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Bristol Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Bristol Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Ferrisburgh Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Ferrisburgh Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Monkton Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Monkton Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 New Haven Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Panton Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Starksboro Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Starksboro Board Member to serve for a 3 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Vergennes Board Member to serve for a 1 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Vergennes Board Member to serve for a 2 year term
- Addison North School District, 1 Waltham Board Member to serve for a 3 year term

Voters of the Town of Addison will vote at Addison Town Clerk's Office located at 65 VT RT 17 W, Addison, VT 05491. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Town of Ferrisburgh will vote at the Ferrisburgh Town Office located at 3279 US RT 7, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Town of Panton will vote at the Panton Town Hall located at 3176 Jersey St, Panton, VT 05491. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Town of Vergennes will vote at the Vergennes Fire Station located at 50 N Green St, Vergennes, VT 05491. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 9:00AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Town of Waltham will vote at the Waltham Town Hall located at 2053 Maple St, Waltham, VT 05491. The Polls will open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 10:00AM and close at 7:00 PM.

The legal voters of the Addison Northwest School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The voters are further notified that on November 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM the Addison Northwest School District Board of Directors will hold a public informational meeting at the Vergennes Union High School to discuss the articles set forth above.

Dated at Vergennes, Vermont this 26 day of September, 2022.  
Addison Northwest School District Board of Directors:

John Stroup, ANWSD Board Chair  
Received for the record and recorded this 26th day of September, 2022 by:  
Martha Kenfield, Clerk of The District

## Friends of the Vergennes Opera House REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Friends of the Vergennes Opera House (FVOH) seeks proposals from qualified construction management ("CM") firms to provide complete pre-construction and construction management services to accomplish accessibility improvements to Vergennes City Hall and Opera House located at 120 Main St in Vergennes, Vermont. Qualified firms will have experience complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, accessibility modifications and bonding capacity in excess of \$1M.

A copy of the Request for Proposals may be downloaded from:

https://www.vergennesoperahouse.org/the-all-access-project.html

A mandatory site visit for respondents will be held October 26, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. and proposals are due November 3, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

FVOH reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or to accept any proposal deemed to be in its best interests. FVOH does not discriminate and proposals from minority and women-owned business enterprises are invited.

## It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing

It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing. Its easier to break the law than you might think. You can't say "no children" or "adults only."

There's a lot you can't say.

The Federal Government is watching for such discrimination.

Let us help you sift through the complexities of the Fair Housing Law. Stay legal. Stay on the right side of the nation's Fair Housing Law.

Call the Addison Independent at (802) 388-4944.

Talk to our sales professionals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



## TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following applications:

(20-22-DRB) Jane L. Dessureault, 289 Shackett Road for a 3-bedroom single-family residence and garage at Lake Dunmore Road and Red Gate Road (setback waiver from property boundary and center line of town highway). Section 2.4. E of the Leicester Unified Regulations. Parcel ID #222018, Residential Agricultural District, submitted by Barnard & Gervais, LLC.

Applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, 44 Schoolhouse Rd., Leicester, VT during regularly scheduled hours.

Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Jeff McDonough  
DRB Chairman  
10/17/2022



# Homes First VT

## NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

### Goal: \$40,000

Hannaford Career Center Students are building our first home for our working neighbors! We need your support to raise \$40k more for materials for this economically, environmentally sustainable home!



FIRST RIGHT SIZED HOME under construction now by Hannaford Career Center students.



## HOMES FIRST

HomesFirstVT is a local no-profit, an entirely volunteer effort from our community.



### Join Us!

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16<sup>th</sup>,  
6:30-8 p.m., at the Marquis  
for a 30 min. documentary film  
about communities doing this  
work across the country, and a  
community dialogue to follow,  
with a special guest  
**Andrew Lunetta**  
Syracuse, NY  
Tiny Homes For Good.



### Our Vision:

A village of 9-12 'right-size' homes with a community gathering space, situated within walking distance or on the bus line in Addison County. Short-term goal: To build homes funded by the community in order to offer necessary homes ASAP.

# Thank you!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Middlebury Congregational Church's Table 21, and THANK YOU to all the rest who have supported our community supported housing!

Learn more and donate at [homesfirstvt.org](http://homesfirstvt.org)





# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

October 20, 2022



The Vermont Arts Council awarded 25 Creation Grants this summer including one for Ferrisburgh writer Leath Tonino (pictured) and one for Ripton musician Sarah King.

PHOTO / OLIVER PARINI

## Arts grant enables Ferrisburgh writer to get weird

**L**ate this past summer, the Vermont Arts Council awarded 25 Vermont artists Creation Grants. Two of those 25 were Addison County artists: Sarah King of Ripton, to support the creation and recording of a solo full-length album; and Leath Tonino of Ferrisburgh, to support the creation of a creative

nonfiction book manuscript.

BY **ELSIE**  
LYNN PARINI

A record 218 applications were received, totaling \$870,188 in requests. Recipients were selected by two independent panels composed of 38 practicing Vermont artists and arts professionals. Grant awards are \$4,000.

Since its inception in 2009, the Creation Grant program has supported 180 Vermont artists. The award is only available to artists who have not received a Creation Grant within the last five years.

Tonino recently told us about the book project

“THIS CREATION GRANT  
**ALLOWS ME TO GET WEIRDER**  
THAN USUAL!”

— Leath Tonino

for which the award money will go toward.

**Where are you in the process of your new book?**

I'm well on my way! Closer to the end than the beginning, but I've been writing professionally for 15 years now, and from all kinds of projects — big, small, the gamut — I've learned that the finish line has a tendency to recede as you near it. Much of the actual writing is done at this point, but the manuscript — tentatively titled “Drinking With The Creek” — is a collection of creative nonfiction pieces, and that word “collection” is important to me. I'm interested in the notion of the gestalt, which as far as I understand the term means a bunch of pieces that hang together to create a whole. The sum is greater than the parts, basically.

Now I'm in the stage of shuffling the pieces around, cutting chunks out of them, messing with organization, experimenting with form and flow, trying to see if I can get everything to resonate, to say something larger than what the isolated pieces of text say. Once I have the manuscript more or less sequenced — once I've found the shape of this thing — then I'll likely see some gaps where new writing needs to be inserted.

**How does this grant help? What do the funds support?**

This Creation Grant helps a lot. Simple reason: It gives me time to work on the project, to pursue my own idiosyncratic vision, to explore the possibilities of these many inky pages I've generated.

Put another way: It allows me to not take on contracted freelance magazine assignments, which is how I usually keep the lights on and food in the cupboard. There's nothing wrong with that kind of writing, but it does distract from larger, weirder projects.

SEE GRANT ON PAGE 3



# FILM SCREENINGS

## Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Selects monthly film screenings begin this week at Town Hall Theater

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 2022-23 season of MNFF Selects begins this evening, Thursday, Oct. 20, with its monthly screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. The series will continue into April. MNFF Selects has chosen a "Larger Than Life" theme this season and the series will feature seven films about individuals whose lives and presence have genuinely impacted our culture: Maya Angelou, Kurt Vonnegut, Leonard Cohen, Toni Morrison, Ted Kaczynski (The Unabomber), Golda Meir and Yogi Berra. Three of the films will be having their Vermont Premieres at MNFF Selects: Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise, Ted K and Golda. Additional information, including each film's trailer, can be found at [middfilmfest.org/selects-2022-23](http://middfilmfest.org/selects-2022-23).

Now on sale, MNFF Selects Series Passes are \$90; individual advance tickets, \$14; and tickets at the door are \$16. Visit [middfilmfest.org/](http://middfilmfest.org/)

[selects-2022-23](http://middfilmfest.org/selects-2022-23) for passes and individual tickets.

"Larger than life characters are essential to riveting cinema," said Jay Craven, MNFF Artistic Director. "These documentaries and the Ted K drama all deliver the goods."

"The MNFF Selects series is one of our signature programming events," noted Lloyd Komesar, MNFF Producer. "It has come to represent great storytelling and high quality filmmaking. This season's 'Larger Than Life' theme affords us the opportunity to present seven distinctive films about individuals whose cultural influence was remarkable and truly memorable."

Here are the films of the MNFF Selects "Larger Than Life" series:

**MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE**  
[Documentary, 114 min]



**Thursday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m.**

Winner of the prestigious Peabody Award, the evocative documentary "Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise," from directors Rita Coburn and Bob Hercules, is the first feature film to be made about the incomparable Maya Angelou, the singer, dancer, activist, poet and writer who inspired generations with modern African-American thought that pushed boundaries. The film presents her incredible journey, shedding light on the untold aspects of her prolific life with remarkable unmatched access.

In weaving Dr. Angelou's words with rare and intimate archival photographs and videos, we are offered many hidden moments of her singular life during some of America's most defining moments. From her upbringing in the Depression-era South to her work with Malcolm

SEE FILM ON PAGE 14



A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY

Spooktacular is Coming...

NEW!

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

Trick or treating downtown 3:30-5 p.m.

Ghostly gathering at Town Hall Theater 4-7 p.m.



Get ready for tricks, treats and lots of fun new activities on the green in Middlebury!

Visit [ExperienceMiddlebury.com](http://ExperienceMiddlebury.com) for more information about Spooktacular, the rest of Experience Middlebury signature events and all of the ways you can live, work and play better in Middlebury!



## GRANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And so that's one more way to phrase it: This Creation Grant allows me to get weirder than usual!

I'll devote the months of November and December exclusively to this project, which is to say I'll shut out the world (except for walking) and immerse myself in the manuscript. I'm the kind of person who requires large chunks of time to sort of let the "regular" world drift off and to switch over to a different state of being in which the creative project in front of me is everything. That's when things can begin to get weird — weird in the best of possible ways, of course.

### Why these three topics: solitude, community and nature? How does (or will) your book touch on these themes?

It's sort of laughable, the amount of ground those three small words cover. You could probably put, say, 80% of the books ever written under that umbrella of solitude, community, nature.

I suppose that in my application for the Creation Grant, when I had to describe the project, I kept things vague so that I wouldn't be pinned down later on. Not a conscious decision, but rather a kind of unconscious resistance to penning myself in. (Again, it's hard to get weird — to splash the ink around, to treat a manuscript as if it were an opportunity to finger paint, to collage, to experiment — if you've chained yourself to a strict plan and furthermore filed that plan with the authorities.)

All that said, the more I work with the thing, the more I realize that what the book is really about is contemplation, especially in the context of wild nature. There are personal narratives. There are hundreds of quotes from scientists, adventurers, artists. There are deep dives into the Desert Fathers of Egypt — the original Christian monastics — and also the "rivers-and-mountains" recluse-poets of Ancient China, who were Taoist-Buddhists. As I put it in my Creation Grant application, "If an ecologist and a mystic sat down together in a bar and tipped back a couple of beers..."

### What ages is this book geared toward?

I suppose it's geared toward anybody who can read? Teenagers up through octogenarians? But if a 12-year-old wants to pull it down from the shelf and crack it open, go right ahead, kiddo! The book will hopefully, when all is said and done, be a strange mongrel, a mixed bag, a treasure chest to dig around in. I love books where you stumble on things, where you discover a strange fact or idea that makes your own life seem deeper and wider.

From what I can tell, that experience of literature — that experience of being expanded and deepened — is available to all ages.



Leath Tonino, a writer from Ferrisburgh, is one of the recipients of the Vermont Arts Council Creation Grants.

PHOTO / OLIVER PARINI

I don't actually think in terms of an ideal reader — I just write and try to make it good, sentence by sentence, page by page — but I'd be proud to lead a young person to some new trails, some new vistas, some new (old!) traditions of reclusion, contemplation, silence, listening, ecological intimacy, etc.

### What does your writing process look like?

Like so many scribblers before me, I get up early, abuse the black coffee with glee, and sit right down to work. I work from home, often putting in much longer hours at the laptop screen than my achy eyes would like.

There are two other parts to my typical writing day, and both of them involve inviting the world back into me. I am an inveterate walker — if it came down to rambling around in the woods or writing, well, sorry words, see you later — and I get outside in the evening for a couple hours every single day. (Note to self: The Little Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area deserves a shout in the book's Acknowledgements section.) And at night I read novels, poems, history, philosophy, whatever. Sometimes my reading is research for what I'm writing, but not usually. Like walking, it's more a way of clearing my head, keeping inspired, and passing the time until that next sunrise cup of coffee and tête-à-tête with the laptop's glowing screen.

### Have you applied for this grant before?

I've applied for the Creation Grant multiple times over the years. Struck out again and again. And now I've been awarded one. Clearly, artists have to be patient and persistent, not to mention relish so-called "failure." (Lucky for me, my main hobby is hiking and mountaineering, so I have a goatish character that thrives on both long

slogs and being shut down by bad weather and the like. Great training for a life in the arts!)

With those past applications, when the "sorry, try us again" note would appear in my inbox, I would feel very discouraged for about five minutes. Then I would remember that somebody else — a painter, a composer, a puppeteer, a fellow writer, a peer — was receiving good news. Nobody is entitled to this kind of support. It's a rare and special gift. And so even in rejection I always (after those grumpy five minutes passed) came around to a positive perspective: Some artist is getting money to do their thing! Whether it's me or somebody else, how awesome. The world will be a better place for it! I just think it's amazing that the Creation Grant exists. I'm grateful.

For more info on the Vermont Arts Council Creation Grant visit [vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/creation](http://vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/creation).

**MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES**

**Choral Chameleon: Healing Sound Bath**

Saturday, October 29 ■ 4:00 PM  
Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall; audio stream available  
\$25/20/10/5

802-443-MIDD (6433) • [go.middlebury.edu/pas](http://go.middlebury.edu/pas)



# The Little City roars into the '20s with fundraiser

**I**t's going to be the bee's knees!

Mark your calendars for a roaring night of dance, drink, food, bag raffles and "best dressed" prizes during The Little City Gala on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 8-11 p.m.

The Little City Gala is a fundraiser put on by the Vergennes Union Elementary School Community Group. The Gala will be held at the Vergennes Opera House and the evening will feature a DJ, cash bar, charcuterie board and snack table with various foods donated by local restaurants and businesses. There will be a bag raffle with great packages such as an overnight stay with breakfast at Basin Harbor and a one-year family membership to Shelburne Farms. The crowning of the "Little City Royals" will go to two attendees voted as the "roaring '20s best dressed." The winners will each receive a \$100 gift card to a much loved local restaurant.

All proceeds from Gala and raffle ticket sales



will directly support VUESCG's mission: "to provide enrichment and community building activities for VUES." Money raised will support school activities like: field trips, the implementation of Four Winds nature based programming, a book for each student at

the Book Fair, family fun events, and teacher appreciation activities.

Tickets cost \$30, with donations accepted, at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (search "Little City Gala").

# Quilters explores 'Forgotten Textiles' with Kathleen McVeigh

**T**he Milk & Honey Quilters' Guild of Middlebury will host guest speaker Kathleen McVeigh from South Burlington for a presentation on "New Life to Forgotten Textiles: Creating Clothing That Looks Towards the Future by Honoring the Past" on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m., at the American Legion Hall, 49 Wilson Road in Middlebury. The guild is extending an open invitation to the public.

Vintage handmade textiles are all around us and often unnoticed. Some are honored in galleries and museums, but most of the others fill thrift stores, collect dust in the back of closets and even end up in landfills. So, what is to be done with these forgotten pieces?

What started as a quilting hobby for McVeigh grew into a passion for repurposing vintage and heirloom textiles in a way that is mindful of its impact on the world around it. She will talk about her journey to create modern clothing that not only honors materials from the past but creates a more sustainable future.

If you happen to have any vintage quilts, bring one or two to share at our show-and-tell segment.

Anyone interested in quilts, fashion design, or guild meetings is encouraged to attend for free. The \$5 non-member meeting fee will be waived for this event. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for those who wish to come and socialize prior to the meeting. You may enter the building from the south double door. Ample parking is available.

For more information on the Milk & Honey Quilters' Guild, visit [milkandhoneyquilters.com](https://milkandhoneyquilters.com). To learn more about McVeigh, visit [kittybadhands.com](https://kittybadhands.com).



*Kathleen McVeigh will present to the Milk & Honey Quilters' Guild of Middlebury on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m., at the American Legion. The event is free and open to the public*



# ART ON EXHIBIT

## ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

Visit [artonmain.net](http://artonmain.net) or call 802-453-7648 for more info.

**Season of Change.** Local photographer Anne Majusiak is Art on Main's featured artist for the month of October. Majusiak is inspired by the beauty of Vermont's ever changing seasons and in particular the landscape of Addison County. An artist's reception and talk will be held at the gallery on Oct. 21, from 5-7 p.m. Majusiak will give a short talk about her career and aesthetics as a photographer. Refreshments will be served.

## BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon

Visit [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org) or call 802-247-4956 for more info.

**"Common Thread"** featuring fabric and fiber art by Althea Bilodeau Lamb and Judith Reilly. While these two fabric/fiber artists had a similar introduction to "threads," their journey with them has led to two completely different worlds. On view Sept. 9-Nov. 6.

## EDGEWATER GALLERY AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com) for more info.

**"Tidal,"** a solo exhibition of new paintings by Ellen Granter, who chronicles the effect of the progression of the day and the changing seasons on the coastal landscape and its birdlife. On view Oct. 1-Nov. 15.

## EDGEWATER GALLERY ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-989-7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com) for more info.

**"Fragile/Familiar,"** a solo exhibition of new work by Kathleen Kolb. This new collection of paintings embody her study of light, exploration of sense of place and community, and her relationship with the specific landscape of working Vermont. On view Sept. 27-Nov. 8.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"Feral Stitching: Four Artists Collaborating,"** featuring a collection of fiber art explorations created by Sarah Ashe, Janet Fredericks, Kari Hansen and Lily Hinrichsen. On view through Nov. 30.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 16



**ARIES:** March 21-April 20. This should be a very interesting week, Aries. Money matters will be at the heart of it. Figure out what you want to do with the extra cash that you have accumulated.

**TAURUS:** April 21-May 21. Treat everyone with a bit of caution, Taurus. Someone in your circle may need a little extra support this week, and your calm and even approach could be just what's needed.

**GEMINI:** May 22-June 21. Gemini, this week has the potential for a few bumps in the road that could be avoided if you simply slow down a bit. Think things through or you could trip yourself up.

**CANCER:** June 22-July 22. An exciting few days lie ahead, Cancer. You may be tempted to spend much more than you usually would. Have fun, but keep track of your finances.

**LEO:** July 23-Aug. 23. Leo, even if you have plans to hang out with friends, something at home could crop up that will need your immediate attention. Be flexible and at the ready.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24-Sept. 22. Virgo, find balance where you feel out of sync. Maybe you have been having relationship woes or seem out of touch with family. Make an effort to respond to these feelings.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23-Oct. 23. Libra, even if your best plans do not work out, that doesn't mean you have to scrap everything and sulk. Make the most of what worked and build on that.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Scorpio, you may find yourself in a situation that tests your levelheadedness in a big way this week. It could throw off your equilibrium when your plans go awry.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23-Dec. 21. Sagittarius, focus on communication in the days to come. The ability to communicate effectively will be a true asset as you work more with others.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22-Jan. 20. A problem that arises may initially seem insurmountable, Capricorn. But you're more than capable of overcoming this obstacle. Look to Pisces for help.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Are you ready to take action and get to work, Aquarius? An unexpected home project has fallen into your lap, and it will take some effort to get it all done.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19-March 20. You could wind up learning something simply by letting the wind take you where it will, Pisces. Firm plans are unnecessary this week.

## Learn how to knit with us!

Saturday, October 22nd 2:30-4:30  
Visit [www.hermitthrushfiberco.com](http://www.hermitthrushfiberco.com)/  
classes or call (802) 453-7799  
to sign up!



Tues-Thurs 11am-5pm  
Fri 11-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm  
Sun 11-3pm • Closed Mon

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**Save 20% on Batik Fabrics**

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**QUILTERS' CORNER**  
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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCT. 20 — John Krasinski, actor (43)  
OCT. 21 — Celia Cruz, singer (d)  
OCT. 22 — Doris Lessing, novelist (d)  
OCT. 23 — Pele, soccer player (82)

OCT. 24 — Bill Wyman, bassist (86)  
OCT. 25 — Zadie Smith, writer (47)  
OCT. 26 — Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer (d)



# CALENDAR

OCTOBER  
20-26  
2022

## THURSDAY, OCT. 20

### UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION THROUGH LATINX ART" ILLUSTRATED LECTURE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Oct. 20, 4:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium, Sunderland Language Center, 356 College St. Charlene Villaseñor Black, professor of Art History and Chicana/o Studies at UCLA, gives this presentation in conjunction with the exhibit "No Ocean Between Us: Art of Asian Diasporas in Latin America & the Caribbean, 1945-Present."

**"SPIRITS OF ROKEYBY" IN MONKTON.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 6-7 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, Monkton Ridge. Members of the Robinson family held and participated in séances at Rokeby Museum 170 years ago. Lindsay Varner will discuss the Spiritualism papers in the Rokeby Museum's collection. She will also share stories of communicating with people beyond the grave. Free. More info at 802-453-4471. Leave your name and number in a message and someone will get back to you.

**"ARTISTS IN THE ARCHIVES: COMMUNITY, HISTORY & COLLAGE" VIRTUAL PRESENTATION.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Collage artists and exhibit curator, Ric Kasini Kadour, will discuss their work in a round-table discussion presented online. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**"MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. An MNFF Selects Series monthly movie screening. Advance tickets, \$14, available at townhalltheater.org, THT box office at 802-382-9222,

or Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. in person. Tickets night of show \$16.

**SCARLET ANNIE'S JAZZ QUARTET IN CORNWALL.** Thursday, Oct. 20, 7-9 p.m., Cornwall Congregational Church, 2598 Route 30. The first performance of the new Cornwall Coffee House series features Annie Nessen and her band. Expect to hear classic jazz covers and some Latin jazz as well. Friends of Cornwall School will be on hand selling coffee and pastries. Freewill cash donation will be accepted for the performers.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 21

**MUSICAL TALENT SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 21, 4 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Road. CSAC's Evergreen House is hosting a Variety/Talent Show and benefit to raise funds for new furniture in Evergreen's drop in space. Local talent will be featured, along with local Irish band O'hAleigh and a special guest appearance by Jamie Lee Thurston. Donations appreciated. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided. For more info: Lea Richards at 388-2492.

**PARENT/TEEN NIGHT MURDER MYSTERY EVENING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m., Ilsley Library. The local library and the Teen Center invite you to bring your favorite grown up to a night of '80s mullets and mystery. Can you find the culprit in this crazy madness that is filled with neon, naughtiness and totally tubular teens? Food served! Contact nicholas@teencentervt.org to register.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 22

**"FROM ARCHIVE TO HYPERFOLIO," A GALLERY TALK**

**BY COLLAGE ARTIST TODD BARTELL IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Oct. 22, noon, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Presented in conjunction with the "Artists in the Archives: Community, History & Collage" exhibition on view until Jan. 7. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**POETRY READING IN VERGENNES.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 12:30-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Come hear local poet and essayist Ruth Farmer read from her new book of poetry, "Snapshots of the Wind." Signed books will be for sale.

**MEDEA LIVE IN HD IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 12:55 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Sondra Radvanovsky stars as the mythic sorceress who will stop at nothing in her quest for vengeance in this Metropolitan Opera performance. Tickets \$24 adult/ \$10 student, available at townhalltheater.org.

**SISTER SPEAK PERFORMS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 5-7 p.m., Happy Valley Orchard, 217 Quarry Rd. Mountain Mac Cider Company presents this free concert in the orchard. Feel free to bring a chair and your own picnic. Hard cider and donuts will be available to. Not a dog-friendly event. More info at 802-388-2411.

**"NOSFERATU" SILENT FILM IN BRANDON.** Saturday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m., Brandon town Hall, 1 Conant Square. Just in time for Halloween, celebrate the 100th anniversary of F.W. Murnau's original adaptation of Bram Stoker's "Dracula." Live music for each silent film program by Jeff Rapsis, a performer and composer who specializes in scoring and presenting silent films. Admission is free; donations are welcome to help support ongoing Town

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 15

## MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION:  
P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.

### MCTV Channel 1071

**Friday, Oct. 21**  
12 a.m. Candidates - Through the Night  
5:30 a.m. VTDigger US Senate Debate  
7:03 a.m. Meet the Candidates: Brenda Siegel, Candidate for Governor  
7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service  
10 a.m. Selectboard  
12:30 p.m. Public Affairs, Candidate Interviews & Debate  
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service  
5:30 p.m. Energy Week  
6:30 p.m. VTDigger US Senate Debate  
7:40 p.m. Meet the Candidates: Rick Morton for Auditor of Accounts  
8:02 p.m. Brenda Siegel  
8:18 p.m. Governor's Press Conference  
9 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour: When the Food Money Dries Up  
10 p.m. Candidates & Public Affairs - Through the Night  
**Saturday, Oct. 22**  
4:30 a.m. Be Aware to be Prepared  
5 a.m. The 251 Club of Vermont  
6 a.m. Treasurer Candidate Interview  
6:30 a.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
7:45 a.m. Candidate  
9 a.m. Interview with Brenda Siegel  
10 a.m. Select Board, Public Affairs  
3 p.m. Energy Week  
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service  
5:30 p.m. Eckankar  
7:00 p.m. Catholic Mass  
7:30 p.m. Candidate Forum

8:45 p.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
9 p.m. Governor's Press Conference  
Candidates - Through the Night  
**Sunday, Oct. 23**  
6 a.m. Treasurer Candidate  
6:30 a.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
7:39 a.m. Meet Brenda Siegel  
8:01 a.m. Meet Rick  
8:17 a.m. Governor's Press Conference  
9 a.m. Catholic Mass  
10 a.m. Energy Week  
11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service  
4 p.m. Congregational Service  
6:30 p.m. Eckankar  
7 p.m. Catholic Mass  
7:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell  
9:30 p.m. Middlebury Select Board  
Candidates & Public Affairs - Through the Night  
**Monday, Oct. 24**  
4 a.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
5:10 a.m. Meet Brenda Siegel  
5:32 a.m. VT Secretary of State Forum  
6:01 a.m. Treasurer Candidate  
6:30 a.m. Candidate Forums  
8:01 a.m. Meet Rick Morton  
9 a.m. Energy Week  
10 a.m. Select Board  
10:35 a.m. Lt.Gov.Candidates Forum  
12 p.m. Secretary of State Forum  
12:30 p.m. Candidates for Lt. Gov.  
4 p.m. VT Secretary of State Forum  
7 p.m. Candidates for Lt. Governor  
8 p.m. Meet the Candidates

9:30 p.m. Treasurer Candidate  
10 p.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
11:10 p.m. US Congress Forum  
**Tuesday, Oct. 25**  
Candidates & Public Affairs- Through the Night  
5 a.m. Energy Week  
6 a.m. Candidate Forum  
9:30 a.m. Eckankar  
10 a.m. Select Board, Public Affairs  
12 p.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
4 p.m. Congregational Service  
5:30 p.m. Energy Week  
7 p.m. Select Board  
7:35 p.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
**Wednesday, Oct. 26**  
Candidates & Public Affairs- Through the Night  
6:30 a.m. Energy Week  
7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service  
9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass  
10 a.m. Select Board,  
Meet the Candidates  
3 p.m. U.S. Senate Debate  
5 p.m. Energy Week  
7 p.m. Select Board  
8 p.m. US Congress Forum  
**Thursday, Oct. 27**  
Candidates & Public Affairs- Through the Night  
5 a.m. Select Board, Public Affairs  
8 a.m. Congregational Service  
12 p.m. Select Board, Press Conf.,  
Public Affairs  
8 p.m. Energy Week  
9 p.m. Eckankar  
9:30 p.m. Brenda Siegel

10:30 p.m. Candidates & Public Affairs - Through the Night  
**MCTV Channel 1091**  
**Friday, Oct. 21**  
6:30 a.m. Current Topics in Science  
10 a.m. School Board Meetings  
4 a.m. Shedding Light on Neurodegenerative Diseases  
5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting  
9:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ  
10:30 p.m. Current Topics in Science  
**Saturday, Oct. 22**  
12 a.m. State Board of Education  
5 a.m. Current Topics in Science  
7:20 a.m. Kid's Yoga, Yoga  
8 a.m. School Board Meetings  
1 p.m. All Brains Belong VT  
5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ  
6 p.m. Current Topics in Science  
8:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell  
**Sunday, Oct. 23**  
5 a.m. All Things LGTQ  
6 a.m. All Brains Belong VT  
7:20 a.m. Kid's Yoga, Yoga  
8 a.m. Neurodegenerative Diseases  
9:30 a.m. Current Topics in Science  
12 p.m. School Board Meeting  
5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ  
6 p.m. GMALL Lecture - Birdsong  
7:20 p.m. All Brains Belong VT  
9:30 p.m. Neurodegenerative Diseases

**Monday, Oct. 24**  
6 a.m. Yoga  
7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ  
8 a.m. School Board Meetings  
5:30 p.m. All Brains Belong VT  
7 p.m. Dr. John Campbell  
**Tuesday, Oct. 25**  
6 a.m. GMALL Lecture - Birdsong  
6:30 a.m. School Board Meetings  
12 p.m. All Things LGBTQ  
1 p.m. Festival On the Green  
8 p.m. Shedding Light On Neurodegenerative Diseases  
9:22 p.m. Current Topics in Science  
**Wednesday, Oct. 26**  
6 a.m. GMALL Lecture - Birdsong  
7:20 a.m. Kid's Yoga  
8 a.m. Festival On the Green  
12 p.m. School Board Meetings  
5:30 p.m. Neurodegenerative Diseases  
7 p.m. Current Topics in Science  
9:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ  
10:30 p.m. All Brains Belong VT  
**Thursday, Oct. 27**  
12 a.m. All Brains Belong VT  
5 a.m. Book Talks  
7 a.m. Kid's Yoga  
8 a.m. School Board Meetings  
1 p.m. All Brains Belong VT  
5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ  
6 p.m. Festival on the Green  
9 p.m. Book Talks



# MiniBury

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## Is it Halloween yet?

My 5-year-old keeps asking me if Halloween is just one day. I mean, technically, yes: It's October 31. But she must be picking up on a deeper truth: That the joy of Halloween begins the day the 10-foot skeletons and front-yard graveyards appear, which in our neighborhood is October 1.

This year the 31st falls on a Monday. But the local fun kicks off the Friday before, October 28, with one of my family's favorite events, the **Med47 Haunted Forest** in Bristol. This entirely volunteer production — which also runs Saturday, Sunday and Monday — is a wacky woodland wonderland appropriate for little kids starting at 4 p.m. (the



jump scares begin after 6 p.m.). Our favorite part last year? The mysterious man tossing us candy while gliding along a zip line high above in the trees.

### Other events that Friday:

The Bristol Rec Department is hosting **Mad House Halloween**, a dance party and costume contest (5-10 p.m.) at Holley Hall.

Kids collect candy at the **Spooksville Trunk or Treat** (5:30 p.m.) in Brandon's Estabrook Park.

Brave souls head to Lake Dunmore to explore the new (quite scary, we're told) **Kampersville Haunted House** starting at 7 p.m. (same time Saturday night, too).

### Saturday events include:

A **Halloween Costume Storytime** at Bixby Library (11 a.m.).

**Pumpkin carving** at the **Cornwall Town Hall** (10 a.m.-noon) and on the **Bristol Town Green** (1-2 p.m.).

Families don costumes and trick-or-treat at local businesses as part of Middlebury's annual



**Spooktacular** (3:30-5 p.m.).

**Town Hall Theater** hosts a **Family Ghostly Gathering** (5-7 p.m.) featuring a dance and costume contest, crafting and Mexico in Vermont eats.

### On Halloween itself:

Pop into the **Salisbury Free Public Library's Halloween Party** at 5 p.m. for free pizza and cider. In Bristol, **Lawrence Memorial Library** staff will greet trick or treaters until 6 p.m.

### Trick-or-treating in Middlebury:

Our favorite place to take little kids is **South Street** because it's short, manageable and well-lit. For a longer, more adventurous trick-or-treat experience, try **Buttolph Acres**.

## Costume Contest

How's your costume coming along? Any time now before Halloween, you can snap a pic and submit it to ECHO's Facebook page for a chance to win tickets to ECHO's 3D movie theater. (Send your photo via Facebook messenger or tag @echovt in a post.)

There will also be an in-person photo area at ECHO from Oct. 22-31, if you'd rather wear your getup there. Extra points for science, nature, or Champ-themed costumes. Winners will be announced on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

See more online

MiniBury.com

THINGS TO DO • MEET PARENTS & FRIENDS  
NEWS FOR FAMILIES • TIPS, TRICKS & TRENDS • CALENDAR



# UPCOMING MUSIC

## Choral Chameleon Presents a “Sound Bath” Oct. 29 at Mahaney Arts Center in Middlebury

Imagine yourself sitting comfortably in a calm room, with a soft mask over your eyes, and the soothing sounds of beautiful voices all around you. This is what New York City-based vocal ensemble Choral Chameleon calls a “sound bath” — and it’s coming to Middlebury.

The Middlebury Performing Arts Series will present Choral Chameleon’s healing sound bath on Saturday, Oct. 29 in Mahaney Arts Center’s Robison Hall. Collaborating with certified sound healers, the singers will surround the audience and “bathe” attendees in the layered sounds of voices, Tibetan

singing bowls, chimes, gongs and more. This intensive sound experience is designed to wash over the body for healing, peace and restorative contemplation.

“Choral Chameleon has developed a great reputation for innovative programming — our students have taken notice,” said Performing Arts Series Director Allison Coyne Carroll, “and we have an alumna in the ensemble: Annie Beliveau ’18.” As for why she’s presenting this event now: “It feels like the right time for something healing — a new, shared experience as we move out of isolation.”

professional singers and experienced avocational singers, the larger Chorus welcomes new music, genres and approaches that advance vocal music and address the unique expressions of music in the world.

Choral Chameleon’s Chorus was named a second-place winner of The American Prize, celebrating American excellence in the arts in Choral Performance, Community Chorus Division, 2018-19. In 2019, the Chorus recorded their first album with the premiere of “Goshu Ondo Suite” on the Aum Fidelity label. Their second album “Deus Ex Machina” features contemporary works for choir and organ by Rex Isenberg and Dale Trumbore. During the 2020 pandemic year, undeterred, the chorus went into the studio in groups of four and recorded the album “Woven” during a time when society had halted.

Choral Chameleon’s smaller ensemble will also return to the MAC in the spring for a more traditional concert, as an “encore” to this month’s sound bath event.

### PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Choral Chameleon’s Sound Bath will take place live at the Mahaney Arts Center’s Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Saturday, Oct. 29, at 4 p.m. Tickets (with assigned seating) are \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Middlebury faculty/staff and alumni, \$10 for youth, and \$5 for Middlebury College students. Vaccinations and boosters (or valid medical or religious exemptions) are required; masks are optional (except under certain circumstances) but welcome. The concert will also be streamed, and will remain available online for a 48-hour window. Audio streaming tickets are \$10, or \$5 for students (and all in-person tickets include access to the stream.) For tickets, health and safety protocols, and information, call 802-443-MIDD (6433) or visit [middlebury.edu/arts](http://middlebury.edu/arts).

Because of the unique audience seating configuration designed for this concert experience, capacity will be limited — this event is expected to sell out in advance.

The concert is open to on- and off-campus audiences, and will also be streamed (audio-only; it’s recommend to wear headphones for the best experience.)

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Choral Chameleon’s semi-professional chorus of more than 50 voices meets weekly in Manhattan, with its smaller performing group, the Ensemble, at its core. Bringing together both seasoned



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The NYC-based vocal group Choral Chameleon will present a healing “sound bath” experience at the Mahaney Arts Center on Saturday, Oct. 29.

PHOTO / JACOB MCCOY.





**BONE BUILDERS INSTRUCTOR** Gisela Palmer (left) and attendees Jean Panicucci and Kathy Jewett at a class at Memorial Baptist Church in Middlebury. These classes offer a space for local seniors to build community as they practice the program's strength training exercises.

Independent photos/Steve James

# Senior Lifestyles



**INSIDE:**  
Bone Builders  
Pickleball • Scams  
Social Clubs

A publication of the Addison Independent  
October 20, 2022





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# Bone Builders classes boost strength, community

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — When the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Addison County started hosting Bone Builders classes 22 years ago, the organization was simply hoping to offer a way for local seniors to stay active and build strength. But program coordinators soon realized the classes were offering older adults in the area much more than that.

Patricia Facey, Addison County's Bone Builders Program Coordinator, said the classes turned out to be a place for seniors to build community as well.

"We would just listen all day to these classes, and they were just having so much fun. As you get older, your social circle tends to shrink so this gives them an opportunity to get together and socialize," Facey said.

While certainly a welcomed benefit, the social aspect wasn't the reason RSVP of Addison County decided to organize the classes. Local RSVP Program Coordinator Lynn Bosworth said the organization, which pairs older adults with nonprofits and other volunteer opportunities in the community, was inspired by research pointing to the physical benefits of strength-training classes.

One of these benefits is helping prevent osteoporosis, a disease that causes bones to weaken and is prevalent in post-menopausal women.



**I noticed that I am a lot steadier and confident on my cross country skis when going downhill and rounding a bend. I never knew that balance was something that could be improved."**

— Deborah Dickerson

"(RSVP) started two pilot classes in July of 2000 based on research at Tufts University. The research shows that individuals who participate in a weight training program twice weekly can gain bone density, muscle strength and balance. It also shows that these exercises could protect against osteoporosis and bone fractures," she said.

The hour-long classes consist of weight-exercises that focus on strength training using appropriately sized weights — no 200-pound barbells. The classes also target improving participants' balance and coordination and are completely free for participants. RSVP of Addison County hosts the classes in donated spaces like school libraries and church basements, and Facey writes grants to cover the cost of equipment and trains volunteers to lead the classes.

## 'A LOT STEADIER'

Deborah Dickerson has volunteered as a Bone Builders instructor since 2007. She teaches a class at Memorial Baptist Church and said through the years she's seen results in both herself and regular attendees.

"I noticed that I am a lot steadier and confident on my cross country skis when going downhill and rounding a bend. I never knew that balance was something that could be improved," she said. "Some of our stretches make getting dressed eas-

ier (putting on socks and shoes) or driving (being able to turn the head for backing up)."

Fran Nelson is a loyal attendee of Dickerson's class. Now 90 years old, she's been attending Bone Builders classes in Addison County for 15 years. She said the classes are a positive environment and encourage participants to stay active at their own pace.

"At Bone Builders, everybody tries their best. There's no pressure that you have to do more of this, or you have to do that. We're all careful with each other," she said. "The idea is you do what you can."

Nelson also enjoys the social aspect of the weekly classes.

"It's camaraderie. Everybody chats, and you don't mind doing exercises because you're having a good time visiting with each other," she said.

Dickerson has appreciated the fellowship in her class, too.

"Books and garden produce get shared. Recommendations for an electrician get passed along. Plans for a movie outing or a bridge game are made," she said. "They inspire me with their hobbies, their service in the communities, their wit, their strength. I hope to age as beautifully as these women."

The social aspect of classes like Dickerson's are a big part of why Bone Builders (See Bone Builders on Page 7)



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# Aficionados say you are not too old for pickleball

By KARL LINDHOLM

Seriously? What serious person — athlete, ex-athlete or non-athlete — is going to play a sport called “pickle-ball,” such a silly name.

The answer is just about everyone who tries it, regardless of age, previous athletic experience, or gender. Every time I read a reference to “pickleball,” the next words are “the fastest growing sport in America.”

And that’s undoubtedly true. There are about 5 million pickleball players in the country and that number is indeed growing fast. According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, pickleball participation jumped nearly 40% from 2019-2021, clearly benefitting during the pandemic from the fact that it could be played outdoors in relative safety. The SIFA reports that 40% of pickleball players now are under 35, so it’s no longer a game just for “seniors.”

Curious about the sport’s presence in Addison County, I wandered over to the two outdoor pickleball courts at the Middlebury Rec Park recently just to watch casually and get a sense of the sport.

At the breaks in action, I was greeted warmly by those playing — and was proselytized fiercely! Not prepared for such evangelical fervor, I demurred and backpedaled. “I’m too old,” I said.

“Younger than I am,” scoffed a woman



**PLAYING PICKLEBALL AT the Middlebury Rec Park earlier this month were Bob Hanson, left, Jenry Morsman, Woody Jackson and Mark Gibson. These four are high-level players: Woody and Bob (the former Middlebury College tennis coach) were the Vermont Senior Champions (65-69 age group) in Colchester in 2021, and Woody and Mark were champs at the first ever Islands Tournament (Champlain Islands) in 2019.**

Independent photo/Karl Lindholm

player who asked my age, and turned to her playing companions: “How many of you are older than this guy.” A number of hands went up.

“I have replacement knees!” I pleaded. “Two knees, a hip, and a shoulder for me,” a man coming off the court informed me and agreed to show me his scars.

“I’m too busy!”

“Too busy for an hour of competitive exercise with good company, and the most fun you’ve ever had?” another pickleball fanatic offered. “Here,” she said, “I have an extra paddle. Do take it and come back tomorrow.”

I beat a hasty retreat to my car, thinking to myself, “This isn’t a sport . . . it’s a cult!”

Wanting to know more, I met at Haymaker for coffee with two local sports gadabouts of my acquaintance who I know are pickleballers: Woody Jackson (who paints cows and other things) and Bill Kingston (only the winningest tennis coach in America: true, look it up).

“I have played tennis in college at Middlebury, squash, paddle tennis, and ping pong,” Woody explained, “and pickleball is the most fun, while also a good workout, using skills from all those sports.

“I was attracted to it when I heard the laughter and good cheer happening on the courts at the rec park. That was five or six years ago — so I went over to see what

**(See Pickleball on Page 6)**

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# Pickleball

(Continued from Page 5)

the fuss was about. Rosie Lovshin lent me a paddle and the next thing I knew I was hooked.”

Bill offered, “Pickleball is enough exercise to make me think I am staying fit, while not being overly taxing and injury prone — and it appeals to my competitive juices. I also like the social aspect: I make friends with people of all ages I would not otherwise meet.

“On one day, in separate games, I lost in mixed doubles to a woman in her 80s and won against a pair of young men in their 20s.

Both Woody and Bill told me I had to talk to Mark Gibson of Bristol, whom they call the “Pied Piper” of pickleball in Addison County — and indeed he does wax enthusiastic. Mark describes himself as an “addict” and plays as often as he can, nearly every day.

“I’m a programmer,” he told me. “I’m at my computer all day. Pickleball pulls me out. I gotta be there. It’s always a joy. I love the competitive nuances of the game.”

I also spoke with Rosie Lovshin about how she got into the game, in 2016. “I was retiring, looking for things to do. I had no idea it was going to grab me so. It’s just such great fun, and easy to pick up. I was playing five times a week but I’m on the DL now (disabled list) with Achilles tendonitis.”

Rosie acknowledged those who sup-



**ALEC LYALL MAKES** a backhanded return in a recent mixed doubles match at the pickleball courts at the rec park near Middlebury’s Mary Hogan School. Awaiting his shot is Ilana Brett of Bristol. His partner (right) is Bill Kingston.

Independent photo/Karl Lindholm

ported pickleball in Addison County early on: Terri Arnold, former Middlebury recreation director; Betsey Almeter of Bristol, who helped organize pickleball play; and Mike Korkuc, who offered clinics and taught folks to play this new game.

What then is it — this sport, pickleball? It’s been described many ways but is

essentially a combination of tennis, badminton and ping pong and is played with a modified yellow wiffleball (smaller than a softball, bigger than a baseball) on a court about the size of a badminton court (but not exactly) with a net about the height of a tennis net. The wiffle ball mitigates against truly high velocity shots.

Points begin with a serve (underhand) and most points are played close to the net, but no volleys are allowed in the “kitchen,” a seven-foot area closest to the net. Points are often quite extended back and forth, the action is very fast paced. Games are played to 11 points, gotta win by two.

You can always tell when a pickleball is being played nearby by the distinctive POCK POCK POCK of ball hitting paddle.

Pickleball has an origin story. It was invented by the Pritchards, Joel and Joan, in 1965 in Bainbridge Island, Washington, as a way to placate a bored teen-ager. When he was told by his parents of the good old days when imaginative kids made up games to play, the 13-year-old in essence said, “Yeah, prove it.”

So Joel, the Naismith of pickleball, went to the paved backyard badminton court, lowered the net, grabbed a wiffleball and a couple of ping pong paddles . . . and it all went from there.

The “pickle” in pickleball belongs to Joan, a crew enthusiast in college, who named the game after “pickle boats,” which in rowing competitions have leftovers or non-starters competing in them, a prophetic nod perhaps to the diversity and inclusivity of pickleball.

Now, for you all, non-starters and leftovers too, who might be interested in pickleball, be advised!

It’s known to be addictive.

*Karl Lindholm can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.*

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# Bone Builders

(Continued from Page 3)

ers has become so popular in the county. RSVP of Addison County now offers 25 classes in 11 towns, and the number of local participants has swelled to more than 300.

In terms of finding a class to join, the best way to start is by reaching out to Bosworth. There's some paperwork that will need to be filled out, such as getting approval from your physician, but otherwise those interested just need comfortable clothing and closed-toed shoes to participate.

With lots of Bone Builders classes offered in Addison County, Dickerson said there's flexibility in finding the class that's right for you.

"Many found the way to our group because a friend invited them," she said. "I think that each class develops its own personality so if someone tries one and it isn't a good fit, I would encourage them to try another group."



**"It's camaraderie. Everybody chats, and you don't mind doing exercises because you're having a good time visiting with each other."**

— Fran Nelson



PARTICIPANTS IN A Bone Builders class at Memorial Baptist Church are led through a series of strength-training exercises by instructor Gisela Palmer. These classes are meant to increase strength and bone density and improve balance in attendees, with the goal of preventing falls and fractures in older adults.

Independent photos/Steve James



## Interested in joining a class?

Learn more at the RSVP of Addison County's website, [tinyurl.com/bonebuilders](http://tinyurl.com/bonebuilders), and can reach Bosworth at [lynnrsvpfpg@gmail.com](mailto:lynnrsvpfpg@gmail.com).

## EastView musicians and residents who wanted to learn about music formed an orchestra!



Photo by Max Kraus

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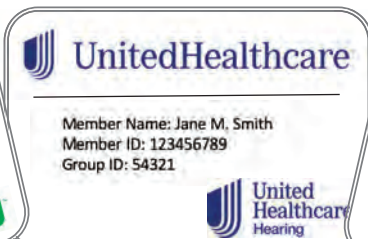
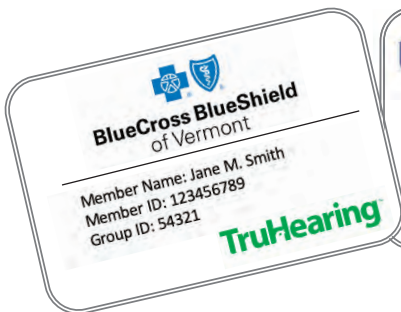
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# Stay wise to scammers

Phone scams are a particularly insidious experience for many Vermonters and often target older citizens. Among other issues, Legal Services Vermont and Vermont Legal Aid have created a website, [vtlawhelp.org](http://vtlawhelp.org), to aid citizens with legal issues, including scams.

The site updates regularly with the latest scams to look out for.

According to the website, scammers are always dreaming up new ways to get your money. Your best protection is to simply hang up when you think it might be a scam call, or stop the online conversation.

You will find helpful information on Vermont's Consumer Assistance Program website at [uvm.edu/consumer/stopping-scams](http://uvm.edu/consumer/stopping-scams). It has information on:

- common scams

- what to do to stop a scam
- reporting a scam
- how to sign up to receive scam alerts by text, voice message or e-mail.

The Attorney General's website also lists details about the top scams in Vermont in 2021 and includes informational videos. To see the site head online to [tinyurl.com/vt-Ag-scams](http://tinyurl.com/vt-Ag-scams).

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says Vermonters lost \$10 million to fraud and scams in 2021. They say recent top scams seen in Vermont include imposter scams; foreign money offers and fake check scams; prizes, sweepstakes and lottery scams; and identity theft.

The [vtlawhelp.org](http://vtlawhelp.org) provides a menu of links for information about other common

## The Top 10 Scams of 2021:

1. Computer Tech Support (Variation)
2. Social Security Number Phishing
3. Computer Tech Support (Traditional)
4. Legal Authority Imposter
5. Sweepstakes/Lotteries
6. Identity Theft
7. Online Listings
8. Medicare Card Phishing
9. Family Emergency/Imposter
10. Auto Warranty Expiration

scams, such as:

- Social Security Scams — [tinyurl.com/soc-sec-scams](http://tinyurl.com/soc-sec-scams)
- Coronavirus Scams — [vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-scams](http://vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-scams)
- IRS Tax Scams —

[tinyurl.com/IRs-scams](http://tinyurl.com/IRs-scams)

- IRS Tips About Scams — [tinyurl.com/suspicious-calls](http://tinyurl.com/suspicious-calls)
- Identity Theft — [vtlawhelp.org/identity-theft](http://vtlawhelp.org/identity-theft)

## HOW TO REPORT A SCAM

In Vermont, report the scam to the Vermont Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) if you think you've experienced a scam. Learn how at [vtlawhelp.org/consumer-rights#report](http://vtlawhelp.org/consumer-rights#report).

Also, stop payment if money has been sent (by wire transfer, mail, gift card, or any other means) to a scammer. Contact the bank or institution you sent it through right away to stop the money before it is picked up. Usually the funds are picked up quickly by scammers, but it's worth trying.

# 10 steps for healthy aging

Eating right, exercising the body and mind, getting proper sleep and being socially active all contribute to healthy aging and good brain health, and can potentially reduce the risk of developing a dementia-related illness.

That's the word from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and its president

and CEO, Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.

"Lifestyle choices play a vital role in healthy aging and brain health, and it's never too soon to start," Fuschillo said.

The organization offered the following 10 steps for healthy aging:

**Eat Well.** Adopt a low-fat diet high in fruits and veggies, like strawberries, blue-

berries and broccoli. Take daily vitamins. Limit intake of red meats, fried and processed foods, salt and sugar. In general, foods that are "heart healthy" are also "brain healthy."

**Stay Active.** Physical activity increases blood flow to the brain and can also help improve mood and overall wellbeing. Brisk walking benefits brain health, while aerobics can boost your heart rate, and weight training builds strength and flexibility.

**Learn New Things.** Challenge your brain by starting a new hobby like playing tennis, learning to speak a foreign

language, trying a cooking class, or something you have not done before. Even something as simple as brushing your teeth with your non-dominant hand stimulates the brain by forcing it to think outside of its normal routine.

**Get Enough Sleep.** Getting a consistent sleep every night is key; at least seven to nine hours is ideal. Having a good sleep environment is also helpful. Insomnia or sleep apnea can have serious physical effects and negatively affect memory and thinking.

**Mind Your Meds.** Medication can af-

(See Aging on Page 10)

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## Elder Law Project helps seniors

Vermont Legal Aid's Elder Law Project focuses on the legal needs and problems of Vermonters older than 60. Through our Senior Citizens Law Project (SCLP) and Medicare Advocacy Project (MAP), the project provides a full range of legal services that includes advice, assistance with documents such as powers of attorney and advance directives, advocacy and full representation.

SCLP represents seniors on legal issues like public housing, health care, government benefits and guardianship. It advocates on behalf of seniors, including testifying before the Legislature regarding policy matters that impact se-

niors' safety, dignity and rights.

MAP represents Medicare beneficiaries who also receive Medicaid in Medicare appeals concerning home health services, durable medical equipment, nursing care, and prescription drug coverage. MAP has helped improve the lives of thousands of seniors in Vermont by prosecuting successful lawsuits that hold Medicare accountable to follow the rules when making decisions about care and services.

Vermont Legal Aid has developed online materials on a variety of legal topics that affect seniors. Access them at [vtlawhelp.org](http://vtlawhelp.org).

*Edna is in her 70s. Early last year, she allowed her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild to move into her home because they were having financial problems. Shortly after moving in, they padlocked several interior doors and prevented Edna from entering those rooms.*

*Feeling increasingly uncomfortable, Edna asked her daughter to move out several times. The daughter refused and made life even more unpleasant. Edna eventually abandoned her home and moved in with relatives, who encouraged her to contact Vermont Legal Aid for help.*

*VLA sent a written demand for the daughter and her family to leave the property, but they refused to move out. We requested an emergency abuse prevention order based on the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, which was granted by the court.*

*On the day of the hearing, VLA negotiated a settlement with the daughter in which she agreed to move out in three weeks or admit to exploitation and abuse of a vulnerable person.*

*The daughter and her family moved out, and Edna is comfortably living in her own home again.*

## Aging

(Continued from Page 9)

fect everyone differently, especially as you age. When getting a new medication or something you have not taken in a while (whether over the counter or prescription), talk to your doctor or local pharmacist about how it will affect you.

**Stop Smoking and Limit Alcohol.** Smoking can increase the risk of other serious illnesses, while too much alcohol can impair judgment and cause accidents, including falls, broken bones and car crashes.

**Stay Connected.** Social interaction and maintaining an active social life are very important for brain health, cognitive stimulation and mood. Invite friends and family over for a meal, board games, or just to hang out. Engaging in your community and participating in group activi-

ties is also beneficial.

**Know Your Blood Pressure.** Blood pressure can impact your cognitive functioning. Visit your physician regularly to check your blood pressure and make sure it is in normal range.

**See Your Doctor.** Maintain checkups. Health screenings are key to managing chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity, all of which can impact brain health. Speak with your physician about any concerns or questions you have about your health.

**Get a Memory Screening.** Our brains need regular checkups, just as other parts of our bodies do. Memory screenings are quick, noninvasive exams for our brains. Alzheimer's Foundation of America offers free virtual memory screenings every weekday — visit [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org) or call AFA at 866-232-8484 to learn more about getting a free virtual memory screening.





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# Do you know the benefits of social clubs?

The early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic taught the world many lessons, not the least of which was how easy it can be to take socializing for granted. Lockdown was a big part of life during the early days of the pandemic, as people were forced to stay home from work and school and remain largely isolated, even from their own friends and family members.

The sense of isolation that many people developed during those early days of the pandemic likely didn't come as a surprise to medical researchers, particularly those who have studied the effects of isolation on aging populations. The National Institute on Aging indicates that social isolation and loneliness are linked to depression as well as a host of other negative health outcomes, including high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and cognitive decline.

Social clubs can be a great way for adults over 50 to avoid isolation and loneliness. Such clubs can provide opportuni-

“

**Perhaps the best thing about social clubs is that anyone can start one.”**

ties to connect with individuals who share similar interests, laying the foundation for new friendships that can be hard to develop in midlife.

Perhaps the best thing about social

clubs is that anyone can start one. These tips can help individuals over 50 start social clubs that appeal to locals who are on the lookout for fun ways to meet new people.

- Think of a hobby unique to your location. One of the best ways to attract other locals is to find a hobby that caters to residents in your area. For example, coastal residents may want to start a local fishing club, while city dwellers may draw more interest starting a club focused on local museums or restaurants.

- Take all comers. Individuals over 50 may aspire to meet people in situations similar to their own, but they should still allow anyone interested in their club to join. Adults in the early stages of midlife (i.e., their thirties and forties) are often too busy with their personal and professional lives to make much time for social clubs, so it's likely that those interested will be 50 or older. But accepting all who are interested can increase the chances of

starting a diverse and engaging group.

- Spread the word. Meetup (meetup.com) has been facilitating connections for two decades, making it a great place to start a group for people with shared interests. In addition to utilizing a service like Meetup, founders can spread the word through their social media apps and create fliers to post on public boards at local community centers and libraries.

- Find a public place to get together. It's best to avoid hosting club events and meetings at a private residence, including your own. Instead, prior to starting the club, look around for meeting places, which can include local churches, libraries or community centers. Ask about reserving spaces for meetings and look for places that are accessible for all people, including those with mobility issues.

Starting a social club can be a great way for individuals over 50 to meet new people and explore new or existing passions.

— Metro Creative



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ELDERLY SERVICES INC. knows how important it is for seniors to keep active and engaged with others, so it regularly hosts dances for participants of its Project Independence adult daycare program at the agency's Middlebury clubhouse. In this photo taken prior to the pandemic, participant Arlyn Foote and Project Independence staff member Betsy Stine have fun taking a turn together on the dance floor.

Photo courtesy of ESI


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# PUZZLES

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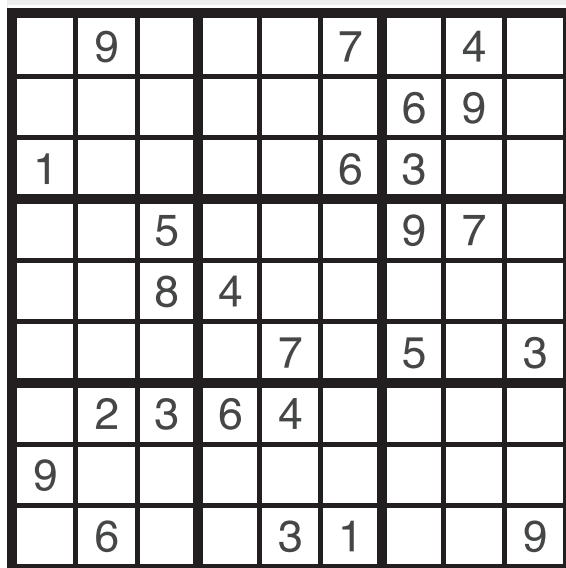
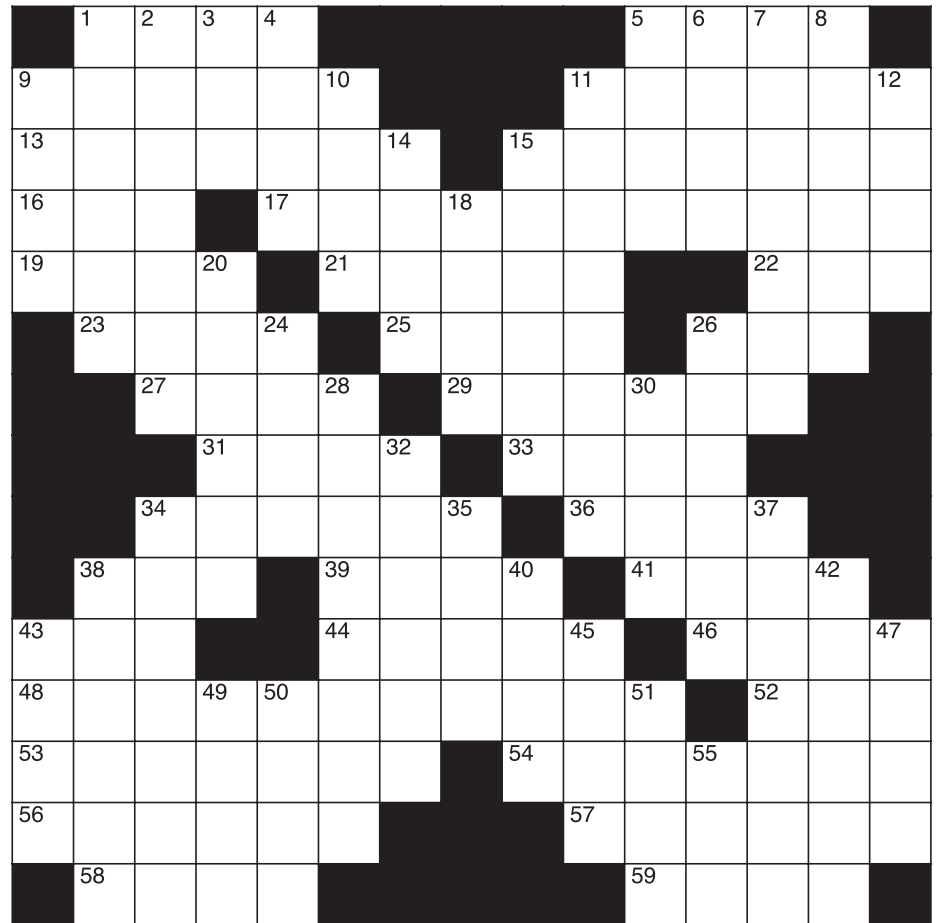
- 1. A way to communicate
- 5. Historic city
- 9. Not the same
- 11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
- 13. One hurt the Titanic
- 15. Fine dense cloth
- 16. Architectural structure
- 17. Where Serena works
- 19. Stringed instrument
- 21. Estimate
- 22. Where sailors work
- 23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel

- 25. Popular slow cooked dish
- 26. Twisted Sister's Snider
- 27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
- 29. Put the ball in the net
- 31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
- 33. High school math subject
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Rhode Island rebellion
- 38. A pea is one type
- 39. You can put it on something
- 41. Where golfers begin

- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Inanely foolish
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. "Dennis" is one
- 57. Soothes
- 58. Exam
- 59. Leaked blood

## DOWN

- 1. Triangular bone in lower back
- 2. Building toy
- 3. Pointed end of a pen
- 4. Insect repellent
- 5. College army



## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

**Level: Medium**

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

- 6. Highly spiced stew
- 7. Exploited
- 8. Main course
- 9. A bottle that contains a drug
- 10. The most worthless part
- 11. Everyone needs one nowadays
- 12. Japanese wooden shoe
- 14. Antelopes
- 15. A way to cut
- 18. Brooklyn hoopsters
- 20. Gradually receded
- 24. Ripped open
- 26. College grads get one
- 28. Amino acid
- 30. Unruly gathering
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Resembling pigs
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Some build hills
- 49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Unwell



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*Pictured artwork by Justin Northup*



# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

## ALL ABOUT DECORATIVE GOURDS



Andrea Knepper is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Bolton.

It's the time of year when strangely-shaped, multi-colored, warty gourds begin to appear in gardens, markets, CSA boxes and on front porches. If you planted any type of gourds in your garden this year, enjoy peeking under leaves now to see what variations have developed.

BY **ANDREA KNEPPER**

Decorative gourds belong to the cucurbit family and can be classified into

two types. Miniature pumpkins, warty varieties, winged and others with soft shells belong to the genus *Cucurbita*.

Those with hard shells, such as bottle, birdhouse and Calabash gourds, are members of the genus *Lagenaria*. Both types are easy to grow at home and share some basic harvesting and curing strategies to extend their decorative life. *Lagenaria* gourds, however, require an additional step to fully

utilize their unique characteristics.

Gourds can be harvested when the stem begins to turn brown. Clip the stem a few inches from the gourd. Gourds can be left on the vine to dry completely but should be harvested before a frost.

Fully ripe gourds will have a tough skin that cannot be pierced with your fingernail. Underripe gourds can still be used but will begin to rot sooner.

To extend the life of your mature gourds, they also need to be dried to prevent decay. Wash the surface of harvested gourds and dry thoroughly.

Place gourds somewhere out of direct sunlight to continue drying. They can be set on a screen to increase air circulation or hung with string tied around their stems. Be sure to check regularly for moisture and prevent mold

growth if you are drying the gourds on a solid surface.

The skin of *Cucurbita* gourds will be dry and hard in a couple of weeks. Now that your gourd is dry, it will last on display throughout the season. Gourds can be polished with vegetable oil for an attractive shine.

You may also choose to wax, shellac or paint your gourd at this point. If you do, remember that some decorative treatments should not be composted.

*Lagenaria* gourds require additional drying time to dry out the interior flesh as well as the outer skin. This drying process can take several months.

These varieties will be ready to use for displays or crafts when you can hear the seeds rattle inside. Historically, fully dried gourds of this type have been used for art or as musical instruments, utensils and containers.

Compost your gourds when they begin to show signs of deterioration or when you are done with them. You may find a surprise in your compost pile next spring! Gourds love the warm, nutrient-rich environment of the compost.



Gourds come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors, making them an ideal choice for both autumnal displays and crafts.

PHOTO / ANDREA KNEPPER



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# Middlebury College Theatre presents dark satire: *'Rhinoceros'*

**T**he Middlebury College Department of Theatre will present Martin Mooney's adaptation of Ionesco's "Rhinoceros," directed by Jay Dunn. It is the first offering in a season dedicated to examining the stories we tell in order to survive.

Written by Eugene Ionesco as a thinly-veiled clap-back at the rise of fascism in Europe, this quasi-allegorical dark satire about a political pandemic stretches towards its bookend a century later as the rise of authoritarianism and post-fascism again rears its ugly head in our global political systems.

An outbreak of rhinocerotis stampedes through Anytown, USA, quickly becoming a pandemic that turns its citizenry into a savage herd of "rhinoceri." All of them that is, except for Bérenger, who refuses to relinquish his humanity. In this dire comic vision of civilization run amok, Ionesco depicts the struggle of the individual to maintain integrity and dignity alone in a world where all others have succumbed to the primal thrill of brute force and the mindlessness of the mob.

A play and playwright typically described as absurdist, Rhinoceros finds a new, terrifying resonance in our collective experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the story of an ideology defeated decades ago finds its historical rhyme in a contagious,

## performance details

**When:** Oct. 27-Oct. 29

**Where:** Mahaney Center for the Arts, Seeler Studio Theater, Middlebury

**Tickets:** \$15/\$10/\$8/\$5

deadly virus killing millions right now. While once contemporary audiences could comfortably watch a comedy about other people in another time, Rhinoceros in 2022 reflects the horror of Nature, and our own natures, clawing modern humanity back onto the food chain.

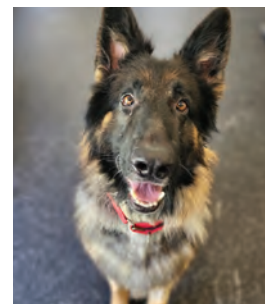
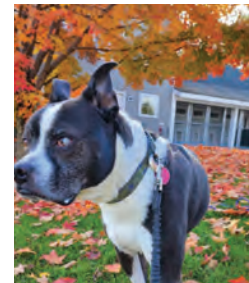
Rhinoceros will be performed on Thursday, Oct. 27 through Saturday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 29, at 2 p.m., in the Seeler Studio Theatre in the Mahaney Arts Center on the campus of Middlebury College. The production is open to the public, and spectators must be vaccinated. Come for a post-show discussion following the Friday evening performance. The production runs approximately 1.75 hours with one intermission.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public; \$10 for Middlebury College faculty, staff, alumni, emeriti, and other ID card holders; \$8 for youth (under 21); and \$5 for Middlebury College students. For tickets or information, call 802-443-6433 or visit [middlebury.universitytickets.com](http://middlebury.universitytickets.com).



## PETS IN NEED HOMeward BOUND Addison County's Humane Society

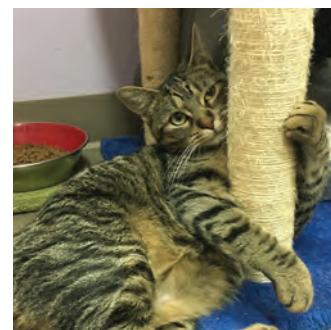
**Buddy** is a 10-year-old terrier mix. He was adopted from our shelter many years ago and is now back, ready to find a new home. He can't see too well through one eye and can get startled easily. In general, he's a super sweet dog who loves being around people. Buddy resource guards and doesn't seem to like other dogs. He is highly treat motivated and likes to do tricks. He definitely values his naptime!



**Jake** is a 3-year-old, 94-pound German shepherd. He is a very friendly dog but can be a little timid at first when meeting new people. Jake loves exploring in the grass when he's out for a walk. He walks well on a leash even though he's a big, strong dog. He will get his random bursts of bouncy, puppy-like energy and is currently working on not jumping on people when he's excited. He's very food motivated and will eagerly do tricks for treats. Jake has not had much socialization growing up and

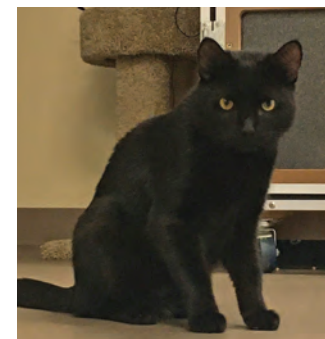
has some separation anxiety. He seems to like other dogs.

**Scooby** is an 11-year-old happy-go-lucky senior who is constantly wagging his tail! He absolutely loves being around people and has previously lived with children. Scooby likes yard playtime and is dog friendly. He loves his food and is currently on a fish diet due to skin issues. He is strong but walks well on a leash. You will find Scooby playing with his toys or rolling around in his blankets in his kennel. Every day is a happy day according to Scooby!



**Donut** is a goofy and sweet almost 1-year-old gal. She frequently gets the zoomies and loves to wrap and scratch on cat trees. Donut likes to be cuddled and held. She gets along with other cats but we are unsure about dogs.

**Pookey** is a very active 1-year-old cat who goes nuts for his toys. He particularly likes interactive toys that he has to "hunt" and he likes to figure out puzzle feeders. Pookey was previously an indoor/outdoor kitty and would make a great mouser. He is very sweet but gets agitated around other cats.



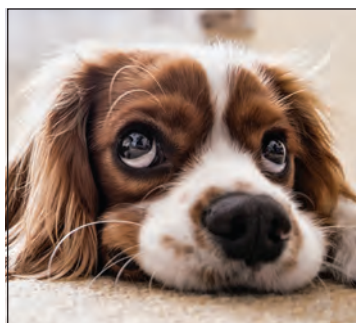
**Jitterbug** should look familiar by now – she has been waiting for a forever home for a long while. Jitterbug is a very curious, eager, and playful bunny! She likes to follow people around, waiting to be petted and get forehead



kisses. She is litterbox trained and comes when you call her name. Jitterbug loves her treats and toys! She enjoys company and gets along great with bunny-savvy kids and adults alike. She does not like to be picked up but, with patience, she could get used to it. She is not interested in having bunny friends but gets along with bunny-friendly cats and dogs. If you think Jitterbug is the right fit for you, please call the shelter today!

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property includes nature trails, a spring fed pond, and sugarbush. Whether you're a hunter, nature-lover, or just want to unplug and get away from it all, this magical cabin in the woods is a rare find!

*This property is listed by Laine Margolin of the Chris von Trapp Team at Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman. For more information please call 802-846-9588*



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## FILM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

X in Ghana to her inauguration poem for President Bill Clinton, the film takes us on a memorable journey through

the life of a true American icon.

Never before screened theatrically in Vermont, MNFF Selects presents the Vermont premiere of "Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise" on Thursday, Oct. 20. Audience discussion following the film will be led by Natasha Ngaiza, Assistant Professor, Department of Film and Media Culture, Middlebury College.

**KURT VONNEGUT: UNSTUCK IN TIME****[Documentary, 127 min]****Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m.**

"Kurt Vonnegut: Unstuck In Time" is a dazzling, worthy tribute to the celebrated author Kurt Vonnegut and a compelling introduction for the uninitiated. The feature documentary — the first of its kind on Vonnegut — is a deep, immersive dive into the author's upbringing and his creative output. It spans his childhood in Indianapolis, his experience as a Prisoner of War in World War II, his marriage, family, and divorce, his early careers as a publicist for General Electric and a car salesman, and his long years as a struggling writer, leading to eventual superstardom in 1969 following the publication of his lightning-bolt anti-war novel "Slaughterhouse-Five".

The film began 39 years ago when young, fledging filmmaker Robert Weide wrote a letter to his literary idol proposing a documentary on Vonnegut's life and work. Shooting began in 1988, and the resulting film reflects the friendship and bond Weide and Vonnegut formed over the decades.

"Kurt Vonnegut: Unstuck In Time" is first and foremost a biography of a beloved American author. But it also documents a filmmaker's odyssey as he examines the impact of a writer's legacy on his own life, extending far beyond the printed page. Co-directed by Don Argott.

Audience discussion following the film will be led by Jay Parini, D. E. Axinn Professor of English and Creative Writing, Middlebury College.

**HALLELUJAH: LEONARD COHEN, A JOURNEY, A SONG****[Documentary, 115 min]****Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.**

Directed by Daniel Geller and Dayna Goldfine, "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song" is a definitive exploration of singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen as seen through the prism of his internationally renowned hymn, "Hallelujah." This impressive documentary weaves together three creative strands: the songwriter and his times; the song's dramatic journey from record label reject to chart-topping hit; and moving

testimonies from major recording artists for whom "Hallelujah" has become a personal touchstone. Approved for production by Leonard Cohen just before his 80th birthday in 2014, the film accesses a wealth of never-before-seen archival materials from the Cohen Trust, including Cohen's personal notebooks, journals and photographs, performance footage and extremely rare audio recordings and interviews.

Audience discussion following the film will be led by Robert Cohen, Professor of English and American Literatures, Middlebury College.

**TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM****[Documentary, 120m]****Sunday, Jan. 8, at 2 p.m.**

Directed by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, this artful and intimate meditation on the legendary, Nobel Prize winning storyteller Toni Morrison examines her life, her works and the powerful themes she confronted throughout her literary career. From her childhood in the steel town of Lorain, Ohio, to '70s-era book tours with Muhammad Ali, from the front lines with activist Angela Davis to her own riverfront writing room — Toni Morrison leads an assembly of her peers, critics and colleagues on an exploration of race, history and the human condition as seen through the prism of her own literature.

Inspired to write because no one took a "little black girl" seriously, Morrison reflects on her lifelong deconstruction of the master narrative. Woven together with a rich collection of art, history, literature and personality, the film includes discussions about her many critically acclaimed works, including novels "The Bluest Eye," "Sula" and "Song of Solomon," her role as an editor of iconic African-American literature and her time teaching at Princeton University. The film offers interviews with Hilton Als, Angela Davis, Fran Lebowitz, Walter Mosley, Sonia Sanchez and Oprah Winfrey, who turned Morrison's novel "Beloved" into a feature film.

Audience discussion following the film will be led by Bill Hart, Professor Emeritus of History, Middlebury College.

**TED K****[Narrative, 120 min]****Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m.**

Theodore John Kaczynski lives a life of almost complete seclusion in a simple wooden cabin in the mountains of Montana. But then this former university professor, who despises modern society and its faith in technology, becomes radicalized. What begins with local acts of sabotage, ends with deadly bomb attacks. To the outside world, Ted K becomes known as the Unabomber.

Based on Ted Kaczynski's diaries and writings, director Tony Stone's riveting narrative film is a kaleidoscopic true crime journey into the life of one of America's most complex and eccentric killers. It features a tour-de-force performance from Sharlto Copley (as Ted K) who portrays the complexity of this unique outsider, raging at the forces of both

the inescapable technological society that plague him and his own inner demons.

Director Tony Stone will attend and participate in a Q&A session following the screening, moderated by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven. This will be the film's Vermont theatrical premiere.

**GOLDA****[Documentary, 88 min]****Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m.**

Shortly before her passing, Golda Meir was interviewed for Israeli television. After shooting ended, the cameras kept rolling, recording an intimate talk with the first and only woman to ever govern the State of Israel. As she lit one cigarette after another, Golda spoke freely, pleading her case for her term as Prime Minister — five turbulent years [1969-74] that secured her place in history, albeit at a high personal cost. Based on these never-before seen materials, plus testimonies of supporters and opponents and rare archival footage, "Golda" tells the story of Meir's dramatic and eventful premiership — from her surprising rise to power and iconic international stature as "queen of the Jewish people," to her tragic and lonely demise.

Directed by Sagi Bornstein, Udi Nir and Shani Rozanes, the film is a fascinating portrayal of this larger than life historical figure who invoked so much emotion and controversy. MNFF Selects will present the Vermont theatrical premiere of "Golda" at this screening at Town Hall Theater.

**IT AIN'T OVER****[Documentary, 98 min]****Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m.**

An intimate and revealing portrait of a misunderstood American icon, "It Ain't Over," directed by Sean Mullin, is an emotional and uplifting documentary about Yogi Berra that takes us beyond the caricatures and "Yogisms," and into the heart of a sports legend whose unparalleled accomplishments on the baseball diamond were often overshadowed by his off-the-field persona. Arriving seven years after Berra's death, the film draws on interviews with former teammates, Berra's family members and baseball devotees like Billy Crystal and Bob Costas, while tying all of this together with remarkable game footage and archival interviews with Berra and others.

Audience discussion following the film will be led by Karl Lindholm, Emeritus Dean of Advising, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Middlebury College and Alex Wolff, acclaimed Middlebury journalist and author and a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame's Print Media Wing.

*At this time, masks are optional for these in-person screenings at Town Hall Theater but that is subject to change based on evolving Federal and State COVID guidelines. For the most up to date information, consult the Town Hall Theater website at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) prior to attending.*



**CALENDAR**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Hall renovation efforts.  
**SUNDAY, OCT. 23**

**DIANA FANNING, PIANO, IN MIDDLEBURY.**

Sunday, Oct. 23, 3 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. A solo concert featuring Schubert's monumental Sonata in A Major, D. 959. One of the outstanding piano works of the Romantic era, it is a dazzling masterpiece of imagination, virtuosity, and expressivity. Works by Chopin, Lili Boulanger, and Ravel complete the program. Free. Open to the public. More info at [middlebury.edu/college/arts](http://middlebury.edu/college/arts).

**THE CHAMPLAIN PHILHARMONIC IN MIDDLEBURY.**

Sunday, Oct. 23, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Maple St. Featuring works that reflect all the different ways we have love in our lives: passion, joy, beauty, the stories that love can tell, and love for our family and community. The orchestra will perform Bernstein's, Selections from West Side Story, Elgar's, Salut D'amour, and Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture. The program will also feature works by VT composers, Su Lian Tan, and CPO's own Matt LaRocca. Tickets \$15 general admission/\$10 seniors /\$5 students, available online at or [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or at the door.

**MONDAY, OCT. 24**

**"TRES VECES APÁTRIDA" — REDEFINING WORLD LITERATURE THROUGH THE WORK OF CONTEMPORARY ASIAN/LATIN AMERICAN WRITERS ILLUSTRATED LECTURE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Monday, Oct. 24, 4:30 p.m., Robert A. Jones '59 House, 148 Hillcrest Rd.

Paula C. Park, associate professor of Spanish, and Chair, Latin American Studies at Wesleyan University, gives this presentation in conjunction with the exhibit "No Ocean Between Us: Art of Asian Diasporas in Latin America & the Caribbean, 1945–Present."

**"OVERSTORY" DISCUSSION ON THE TAM IN MIDDLEBURY.** Monday, Oct. 24, 5-6:15 p.m., meet at Otter Creek Gorge parking area on Morgan Horse Farm Rd. In the second of two sessions, discuss the second half of "The Overstory," by Richard Powers. Bring your camp chair. Simon, from MALT will lead a 5-minute easy walk to his favorite tree, where we will discuss the book.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 25**

**"NEW LIFE TO FORGOTTEN TEXTILES" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. Milk & Honey Quilters guest speaker Kathleen McVeigh will talk about repurposing vintage and heirloom textiles in a way that honors materials from the past and helps create a more sustainable future. See story page 4.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26**

**"GOT BATS?"** in Middlebury. Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6-7 p.m., Room 121, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Vermont Fish and Wildlife bat specialist Alyssa Bennett will be giving a presentation on Vermont's bats on Wednesday. Learn about bat lifecycles and lifestyles, how Vermont's are bats doing, and how to help bats live where you want them to. Register online at <https://forms.gle/M5Qca4n4ECoMTBqeA> or text Len Schmidt @ 802-265-0808 with questions or to register.

**FUNGI BIOBLITZ IN NATURALIST VIRTUAL WRAP UP.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7-8 p.m., Zoom. Meg Madden

will share the results of the mushroom bioblitz work in Wright Park. What mushrooms were discovered? How many species were there? Was there anything unexpected? Celebrating fungal diversity and the amazing things that can happen when the community engages in science and exploration together.

**"THE LYCIAN WAY: A MONTH CROSSING THE TAURUS MOUNTAINS AND ANCIENT RUINS OF TURKEY" PRESENTATION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian-Universalist Society, Duane Ct. The Green Mountain Club Breadloaf Section presents this talk by Morris Earle as part of its Fall Speaker program. Come explore goat paths and ruins of the Mediterranean. Free. Light refreshments offered. All are welcome. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**"HOPPER: AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The Greet Art Wednesdays series returns to THT with this new film that takes a deep look into Hopper's art, his life, and his relationships. Tickets \$13 plus applicable fee, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**ILLUSTRATOR TALK IN NEW HAVEN.** Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6-7:30 p.m. New Haven Community Library. As part of their Vermont Humanities program "The Most Costly Journey," Vermont illustrator Kevin Kite will give a workshop on graphic storytelling. He is one of the graphic artists who contributed to the Open Door Clinic's project and subsequent book with the Vermont Folklife Center in the story "It's Worth It." Participants will learn more about the process of telling stories through comics, the different mediums used to create illustrations, and even get to work on their own one or two-panel creations. To register for the program, call the library at 802-453-4015 or email [librarian@nhcl.org](mailto:librarian@nhcl.org).

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**267 CHURCH STREET, ADDISON**  
This beautiful home boasts a master bedroom on the 1st floor with a bathroom. The 2nd floor features another master suite with a bath. In addition, there is a fully finished basement as well as a kitchenette. There is also a 2 car garage and front porch to enjoy the mountain views.  
**MLS: 4909284 \$637,450**



**206 SLEEPY HOLLOW LANE, FERRIS.**  
This gorgeous home is very spacious and features cherry cabinets and hardwood floors. The beamed ceiling in the living room, wide wall boards, and fireplace give this home the feeling of early Americana. This perfect property also boasts a 2-story barn/garage.  
**MLS: 4922133 \$665,000**



**2847 VT. ROUTE 22A, ADDISON**  
This magnificent 6 BR, 5 BA home sits on 20 acres and boasts 360-degree mountain views. The home is a zero net energy efficient home featuring wood accents, large windows and glass doors to bring the beautiful views inside.  
**MLS: 4926527 \$975,000**



**COMMUNITY CORNER**

**How Collins Aerospace came to Vergennes**

William D. Benton will present on his family history, come learn how L.F. Benton Company led the way for Collins Aerospace finding a home here in Vergennes. This program will be held live in Bixby Hall on Thursday Oct 20th 6-7pm. It will also be broadcast on Zoom

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# Sheldon hosts gallery talk with collage artist

This Saturday, Oct. 22 at noon, there will be a gallery presentation "Landscape and Community: From Archive to Hyperfolio" at the Sheldon Museum by collage artist, Todd Bartel. He is one of the 23 artists invited to create a work of art inspired by Museum's archives on display in the exhibition, "Artists in the Archives: Community, History & Collage."



"A Group of Nations Claiming Unity of-Purpose or Common Interests" by Todd Bartel.

Bartel will bring several examples of his "Landscape Vernacular" collage series to view up close and personal, including a current work-in-progress. His talk will examine his unique "interlocking collage" process and his unusual blend of traditional and modern book-making/printing technologies. Learn how the artist fuses (analog) collage with digital collage that connects and links research, language, engravings and period ephemera to reflect on the landscape, nature, ecology and climate change.

The exhibit and program is supported by Walter Cerf Community Fund. Free with Museum admission. For more information visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call 802-388-2117.

## EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org)

#### "Artists in the Archives: Community, History

& Collage." Artists from Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Ukraine, and several US states created collages to explore how the archival material expresses an aspect of a community. On view Sept. 2 through Jan. 7, 2023.

### SPARROW ART SUPPLY

52 Main Street, Middlebury.  
Visit [sparrowartsupply.com](http://sparrowartsupply.com) for more info.

"6x6" features 2D artwork with dimensions of only 6 inches by 6 inches. Spanning painting to collage to fibers across all subject matters, "6x6" is a showcase of pieces by over 50 local artists. The theme of this mini show commemorates Sparrow Art Supply turning 6 months old. On view Sept. 22-Oct. 29.





2022

# Election Guide

## Statewide and Addison County races

### Get involved, learn about the candidates and cast your vote

ADDISON COUNTY — When local voters go to the polls next month or fill out the ballot that arrived in the mail from the Secretary of State's Office, they will see more of something they haven't always had in the past few years: Options.

Seven of the nine state representatives from Addison County are running for re-election, and both incumbent state senators are also on the ballot. All but one

of them face competition from a member of another party or an independent or both.

As part of our election coverage, the *Addison Independent* has published stories on most of the challengers and we give space in the regular paper for updates from incumbents during the Legislative session, as well as for regular Legislative stories.

We have gathered together all of our 2022 election stories on our

website — [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) — for voters go look at again.

To give local voters more information on where candidates stand on issues, we asked each candidate the same six questions and offered them space for additional comment. See the list of questions in this Voter Guide and then read the responses for the candidates in your district.

In addition to the county races, there are contested races for five

Vermont's Constitutional offices — governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor. Read this guide to learn more about those candidates. Plus, two-thirds of Vermont's Congressional delegation will change as a result of this election, since Sen. Patrick Leahy is retiring. We've got those candidates covered here, too.

All Vermont residents who are registered to vote were sent

a ballot at the beginning of the month. If you have not received one in the mail contact your town clerk. Vermonters may mail in their ballots, return them in a secure ballot box outside town offices, return them in person to your town clerk during regular office hours, or vote on Election Day, Nov. 8, before 7 p.m.

"Whether you plan to vote early by mail, in-person at your Town Clerk's office, by dropping

your ballot at a secure ballot drop box, or in-person at the polls on Election Day, having a voting plan helps ensure that you don't experience any issues when casting your ballot," Secretary of State Jim Condos says.

To check on the status of your ballot, use Vermont's online ballot tracking service at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov) or contact your town clerk.

## In Vermont's gubernatorial race, the housing crisis is taking center stage

By LOLA DUFFORT, VTDIGGER

Politicians of all stripes, up and down the ballot, running in Vermont's busiest election cycle in years agree on one thing: Top of mind for most voters is the state's housing crisis.

But they do not necessarily agree about how to solve it. And nowhere are the differences in vision starker than in this year's gubernatorial contest.

Thanks in large part to a massive influx of federal cash during the pandemic, Gov. Phil Scott's administration, in partnership with the state Legislature, has made historic investments in affordable housing in recent years. But the state's housing crunch is a stubborn problem, and it has become perhaps the greatest test of the one-word credo that the Republican has consistently invoked throughout his governorship: affordability.

Scott's Democratic opponent, Brenda Siegel, has made her housing activism a centerpiece of her campaign. She has seized on this tension, and argued that Vermont is failing those who need help the most.

"Vermont has not become more affordable. It has become less," Siegel said in a recent VtDigger

debate. "The housing crisis has been barreling at us, and we still do not have a plan."

Since March 2020, the state has plowed \$338 million into affordable housing and shelter space, according to a tally provided by the governor's office. Gustave Seelig, the executive director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, which is doling out much of the money on the state's behalf, estimates that recent state investments will create close to 4,000 new housing units.

Remarkably, about half are already built, according to Seelig, although that total also includes new shelter beds and motels converted into permanent housing. Local dignitaries just

cut the ribbon on 20 affordably priced condominiums in Winooski, for example, and a 30-unit complex for seniors — the first new multi-family housing project on the Lake Champlain Islands in more than 15

years — is slated to open this fall.

"Almost every month, there's a new project coming online that was funded during that period," Seelig said.

But even amidst these successes, a dearth of housing remains. And while Scott has said he estimates the state's investments will leverage hundreds of millions more in financing for housing projects, he's also asked voters to be patient.

"It does take time. Permitting takes time," Scott said during VtDigger's debate. "And all the infrastructure and the construction takes time as well. So we have a long ways to go, but we're on a path that I think is sustainable."

**SOLUTIONS**  
As Vermonters wait, some advocates echo Siegel's critiques and say the state is leaving some of its most vulnerable behind as massive, pandemic-era federally

funded public assistance programs end abruptly for thousands of residents. A failure to plan ahead for this moment, they argue, makes a steep rise in evictions all but inevitable — just as temperatures drop. And with shelters full, they say there will be no place to go but the streets.

"A lot of money was put into building new housing, which is wonderful. We were advocating for that. But the government needs to make a commitment to the people who are stranded without housing while they wait," said Rev. Beth Ann Maier, of Vermont Interfaith Action, a coalition of faith-based congregations working on social justice issues.

Like Siegel, Maier said she'd like to see the state government explore options like "pod" and "pallet" housing to temporarily provide those without homes shelter, as Burlington is doing. Several colleges across the state have shuttered in recent years, and she argued their empty dormitories could also serve as transitional housing.

Meanwhile, the state is spending upward of \$5,000 a month per room in privately-owned motels to provide shelter to people (See *Housing*, Page 7)



SCOTT



SIEGEL

## Peter Welch leads field of eight in U.S. Senate race

By ANGELO LYNN

In Vermont's U.S. Senate race, Democrat Peter Welch is the only candidate of eight with any political experience. He runs on a solid legislative record following 13 years in the Vermont Senate, including being minority leader from 1983-85, and he has served in Congress for the past 15 years. He was elected as Vermont's lone congressman in November 2006, following now-Sen. Bernie Sanders. Since 2011, he has served on the Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Government Reform, and Agriculture committees.



WELCH



MALLOY

Welch was born in Springfield, Mass., earned a bachelor's degree from College of the Holy Cross and a juris doctor from the University of California at Berkeley. Welch's career includes working as practicing attorney. He is married to Margaret Cheney, and the couple's home is in Norwich.

**Republican** Gerald Malloy is the only other of the six challengers who has an active campaign. Malloy is a Massachusetts transplant who moved to Vermont in 2020, is an avowed Trump (See *Senate*, Page 12)

## Balint, Madden among six candidates vying for Vermont's U.S. House seat

By ANGELO LYNN

Six candidates are vying for Vermont's lone congressional seat as Congressman Peter Welch, who has held that seat since 2007, makes a run for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Patrick Leahy.

Democrat Becca Balint, who was Senate Pro Temp in the Vermont Legislature for the past four years, is the best known among the candidates and is leading the race in state polls.

Republican Liam Madden has gotten ample press for his unique views and that the fact that he claims to be an Independent and chose to run as a Republican because he was more likely to have a larger platform on which to make a run. Having won the Republican primary

against that party's favored candidate, the Republicans have not backed Madden as one of their own.

Madden's views are an interesting mix of liberal positions, similar to

those embraced by many Democrats as well as some Libertarian ideas, along with a streak of independence from both major parties. He has been running on a platform that the nation's two-party system is "broken" and needs a healthy dose of outside thinking to right America's politics.

Libertarian Erica Redic, who lost the Republican Primary to Madden, and three other Independents are also on the ballot. The Independents are Luke Talbot, Adam Ortiz and Matt Druzba. Of the six candidates, all responded to VtDigger's questions and provided a brief biography except Druzba.

This report will sketch each candidate's bio and the brief yes-no answers to eight questions, but will not repeat each candidate's in-depth answers to six other questions because of length. We do encourage readers to log on to VtDigger to read those longer responses and learn more about what (See *House*, Page 10)



BALINT



MADDEN

## Democrats favored for four state offices

By ANGELO LYNN

If you have wondered why the state races for Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor and Attorney General are not on this year's election radar, it's because well-known Democrats are virtual shoe-ins to races in which the Republican Party has only token opposition.

Republican perennial candidate H. Brooke Paige is on the ballot for Secretary of State and Treasurer, but his campaign is mostly inactive. Republican Rick Morton is challenging incumbent State Auditor Doug Hoffer (who is a Dem/Prog). And Republican Michael Tagliavia is challenging Democrat Charity Clark for Attorney General. The races have not generated much attention. Neither Republican took the opportunity to fill in their bio-information in VtDigger's candidate profiles, not answer any of Digger's questions, though they have web pages from which to glean some information.

Here's a quick overview of those four races:

### SECRETARY OF STATE:

Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Democrat  
Vs.  
H. Brooke Paige, Republican

This position is up for grabs because Democrat Jim Condos, who served as Vermont's Secretary of State since 2011, is retiring.

Copeland Hanzas, 52, writes in her bio that she grew up in a large, politically diverse, family in Corinth. She graduated from Oxbow High School and University of Vermont with degrees in History and Geology. She completed her teacher training at Upper Valley Educator Institute and taught science and coached field hockey, basketball and softball. Sarah and her husband John have three adult children.

In 2004, she ran for the Vermont legislature. Copeland Hanzas has served 18 years representing Bradford, Fairlee and West Fairlee. In 2010, she co-founded The Local Buzz Cafe on Main Street in Bradford, which she operated for

11 years.

In the legislature, she has led on such issues as PTSD coverage for injured first responders, sexual harassment prevention, cannabis reform, paid family leave and sexual assault protections. She stepped into the political ring in the backlash against civil unions and proudly supported full marriage equality. She leads the Climate Solutions Caucus and was sponsor of the Global Warming Solutions Act. More info can be found at her website, SarahForVermont.com.

Paige is a resident of the town of Washington, Vt., is a retired sales executive and retail CEO. He did not provide a bio or answer any of VtDigger's questions, but more information can be found on his website at [www.brookepaige.us](http://www.brookepaige.us).

### VERMONT ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Charity R. Clark, Democrat  
vs.  
Michael Tagliavia, Republican

With T.J. Donovan stepping

down as Vermont's Attorney General, Charity Clark, 47, of Williston was one of the first to enter the race, having been the assistant attorney general under AG William Sorrell and Chief of Staff under Donovan. She writes in her bio for VtDigger that she is a "lawyer, a mother, a public servant, and a proud Vermonter. I grew up working at my family's grocery store in southern Vermont. After time at the Governor's Office and at law firms in Vermont and New York City, I served as an Assistant Attorney General under Attorney General Bill Sorrell. In 2018, I was promoted to Chief of Staff by Attorney General T.J. Donovan."

"The time I spent bagging groceries, stocking shelves, and seeing the challenges of Vermonters and small businesses has informed my work fighting for Vermont consumers and small businesses," she says. "Throughout my career, I have remained rooted in the values and lessons I learned early on: work hard, serve your community, and (See *Democrats*, Page 7)

## Zuckerman and Benning square off in Lt. Gov. race

In the race for lieutenant governor, Republican Joe Benning faces Democrat David Zuckerman, who was Lt. Governor from 2017-2021. Also on the ballot is Green Party candidate Ian G. Diamondstone, though he has not run an active campaign, nor has he answered basic questions about his views on the issues.

The race between Benning and Zuckerman, however, pit two well-qualified and public-minded Vermonters in a race for Vermont's second in command.

### JOE BENNING

Benning has served in Vermont's Senate since first elected in 2010, and has a long history of community service prior to that election. He served 10 years as Lyndon Town Moderator and for years as a Town Agent, plus

10 years as Lyndon Town GOP chair. He also served two terms on the Lyndon Town School Board. He has also been Chair of Vermont's Human Rights Commission and was the first student elected to the Vermont State College Board of Trustees.

Benning graduated from Lyndon State College in 1979 and from Vermont Law School in 1983 before becoming a trial lawyer. He has been married to Deb Benning since 1983. She is an elementary school teacher, and



BENNING



ZUCKERMAN

they have two grown children.

In the state legislature, he has served on the Natural Resources & Energy Committee, the Institutions Committee, the Government Operations Committee, the Education Committee and the Judiciary Committee, where he spent four years as Vice-Chair. He has served the past four years as Chair of Senate Institutions.

In answering five yes-no questions posed by VtDigger, Benning:

- Said "no," to whether Vermont

should allow overdose prevention sites where drugs can be used under supervision;

- Did not answer whether he supported universal mail-in ballots for all Vermont elections.

- Said he supports a Vermont constitutional amendment to protect reproductive rights.

- Said the state should not provide free meals to all K-12 students on an ongoing basis.

- And gave no response to whether he supports a mandatory paid family and medical leave program funded by a payroll tax.

On the in-depth issues posed by VtDigger, Benning's responses are below:

- How should the state work to meet its carbon emission reduction goals?** (See *Lt. Gov.*, Page 11)

## Poll finds 75% of Vt. voters support abortion amendment

By JERALYN DARLING, VtDigger

A proposed constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights in Vermont could see a landslide victory in November, according to a new poll released last week.

The University of New Hampshire survey, commissioned by WCAX, found that 75% of respondents said they would support the measure, known as Proposal 5 or Article 22. Just 18% said they would vote against it and 6% said they were still unsure.

The amendment, which has been approved by the Vermont House and Senate twice over four years, would guarantee "an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy." If approved by a majority of voters in November, it would become part of the Vermont Constitution.

Support for the amendment varied by political party with 94% of Democrats backing it and 56% of independents. Republicans were divided, with 41% supporting it and 45% opposing it.

Only 45% of the voters polled said they fully understood the amendment's wording, though another 43% said they understood it "somewhat well."

The text- and web-based poll, conducted from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3, surveyed 765 Vermont residents above the age of 18. The margin of error was 3.5%.



# Re-Elect Rep. Diane Lanpher

Addison, Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Panton, Vergennes, Waltham

“ We’ve got to send Diane back to Montpelier. She’s one of the crown jewels of our delegation: prepared, informed, hardworking, and dedicated. She’s widely respected by other legislators and, as a woman in leadership, is in a position to make a real difference for us.

- **Claire Ayer, former Senator, Addison, VT** ”

“ Diane is a steady and thoughtful legislator. She is sophisticated enough to understand the big issues in our district like transportation, child care, housing and health care and still appreciates that what matters more than the policies are the people she represents.

- **Erin Roche & Mark Koenig, Vergennes** ”

“ We elected Diane Lanpher and she has proven herself in Montpelier. Politics can be a daunting business, full of lofty speech and unclear goals. Diane has something that cannot be taught and cannot be bought, she cares, and works hard for us.

- **Kelsey Stetson and Andrea Cousineau, Waltham** ”

“ Diane does an excellent job representing all of us in our District. She is Consistent, Thoughtful, A Good Listener, and she always follows up when you ask for her help and support.

- **Jean Richardson, Ferrisburgh** ”

“ With so many new people running for elected positions this Fall, I am grateful to have a tried and true, trusted representative like Diane Lanpher on the ballot. Re-electing Diane gives me peace of mind, knowing she will act in our best interest with integrity.

- **Cheryl Brinkman, Vergennes** ”

“ I’ve known Diane Lanpher for almost 20 years, since her days in the Vermont Department of Health and then as a colleague in the Vermont State Legislature. Diane is an incredibly qualified and responsive representative, and she has forged strong connections in the legislature and in her community. The residents of her district can be proud of the work she has accomplished on their behalf. I heartily support her candidacy and proven legislative record.

- **Congressman Peter Welch, VT** ”



“ I got to know Diane when I ran for House in 2016. I was impressed with her commitment to our community and with her service to the State. She is an important voice for us in the State House. I consider her a friend and support her fully in her campaign for re-election. Diane is the best.

- **Frank Fritz Langrock, Ferrisburgh** ”

“ Diane has always been an energetic supporter of Vergennes’ revitalization efforts offering pragmatic ideas for positive growth.

- **WD Benton, Vergennes** ”

“ Rep. Diane Lanpher is one of the most dedicated public servants I know. Her experience and perseverance have paid off in the replacement of the Champlain Bridge and most recently in Amtrak service to Addison County and points north. She is responsive to local concerns, helping Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, and all of the towns in the district achieve solutions to transportation and other concerns. She is effective, knowledgeable, caring, and principled. Please join me in voting for her!

- **Arabella Holzapfel, Member: Ferrisburgh Planning Commission, Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council** ”

“ Diane continues to be a tremendous asset to this community as our Representative. She is a proven leader, and we know where she stands on the issues that matter to us - promoting women’s reproductive health, supporting early childcare, and investing in our transportation infrastructure to grow Vermont’s economy. On a personal note, I have always been impressed and grateful for Diane’s engagement and advocacy for our local public schools.

- **John Stroup, Vergennes Resident** ”

“ Rep. Diane Lanpher is the perfect example of a devoted, smart public servant. I have never met a harder worker for Vermonters.

- **Zoe Kaslow, Addison County Democratic Committee Chair** ”

“ Diane has been a leader in Montpelier for issues that are important to our community. She deserves our continued support.

- **John Spencer, Addison VT** ”

## Other endorsements:

- VTNEA
- VSEA
- Let’s Grow Kids Action Network
- VT Conservation Voters
- Planned Parenthood VT Action Fund IE PAC

PO Box 165, Vergennes, VT • (802) 877-2230

Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Diane Lanpher • Treasurer - Jim Lanpher



# Local legislative candidate answer key questions for 2022

To give local voters a baseline for comparing candidate for the Legislature we asked each of them the same six questions, and then gave them a seventh spot to express their views on a topic of their choice. Our space and your time is finite, so we asked that they limit their answers to 100 words each.

When you read the Q&As with the candidates, use these Qs to match up with their As.

We let the candidates answer as they thought best, each giving their opinions on how to address the problems that Vermonters face. However, we feel obliged to our readers to point out that some of the candidates' answers went beyond opinion to assert as fact some things that just are not true. The vast majority of climate scientists are in agreement that humans

are responsible for climate change, for example. While it is not ideal to let untruths go unchallenged, it is also not possible — again, given space and time — to debate the gradations of truth and falsehood on every point here; we paint in broad strokes. We trust that you, the voter, will be evaluating the answers given by the candidates.

Here is what we asked:

## Candidate questions 2022

**Economy.** Vermont saw an influx of federal funds for recovery from the pandemic and the state's unemployment rate is currently very low. But we face difficulties in maintaining and building our economy including a continuing shortage of skilled and unskilled workers; a perceived difficulty in attracting and

retaining businesses that provide good-paying, stable jobs; and a stagnant population. What measures would you propose to bolster Vermont's economy?

**Housing.** The Green Mountain State saw home prices and apartment rents skyrocket over the past two years. What can the state government do to make housing more affordable — is it more about increasing the supply or helping people afford the housing that is already built? Are there any pieces of legislation you would champion to help resolve this problem?

**School consolidation:** How should Vermonters balance the value of their local schools vs. the cost of keeping them open? Do we need to change the way we fund primary and secondary schools?

How has Vermont managed the rising per-pupil cost of education and what should the Legislature do to improve oversight of that?

**Environment.** There is a lot to address here: water quality, climate change, protecting open land. As a lawmaker, what areas of the environment would you put your energies toward?

**Health care.** Vermonters have bemoaned the high cost of medical care and health preventive maintenance for a long time. What existing public policies would you support, what new policies would you push to institute, and what would you abandon?

**Agriculture.** Most Vermonters don't

live on farms, but we all enjoy the benefits of living in a farming community. Farming in all facets can be a challenging business; the number of dairy farms in Vermont has declined over the past three decades from 4,000 to 600. How would you as a lawmaker help our current farmers evolve and meet public requirements for good land stewardship? And with many retail and other small businesses also struggling, is there a limit to how much we subsidize Vermont's farms?

**Candidate's choice:** There are many other issues that Vermonters care about, including childcare, better cell phone and internet service, guns, opioid deaths, threats to democracy, racial equity etc. Tell us about your thoughts on a topic we haven't asked about.

## Robin Scheu, Democrat, Addison-1

**Economy:** To help build a stronger workforce and economy, for FY23, the legislature put significant money into scholarships for Vermonters pursuing a career in the trades, loan reimbursement for Vermont trades and nursing programs, grants to support nurse educators, forgivable loans for mental health professionals, free tuition for two classes at UVM and the Vermont State Colleges for upskilling or job transition, and free last-dollar tuition for one year of undergraduate studies for critical occupation careers. We must continue to monitor and fine-tune our programs, including the need for more childcare, to meet the needs of employers and offer workers well-paying jobs.

**Housing:** Affordable and sufficient housing is a nationwide problem. In Vermont, we are doing many things to provide more housing at affordable prices, including funding for the rehab of unlivable property, supporting accessory dwelling units, and grants to municipalities to update their zoning laws to allow for denser building in downtowns. We need to continue to support the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board so it can leverage federal funds and create more affordable housing for low- and moderate-income earners. We also need to understand the impact of the short-term rental market on housing and what we can do to encourage builders and property owners to support building for and renting to Vermonters.

**School consolidation:** All students should have access to a quality education, no matter where they live. With declining enrollment, each year school

districts are having to cut back on programs, maintenance, etc. in order to keep costs down. I worry that students who struggle will be left further behind and not all children will have access to equal learning opportunities.

Local school districts need to proactively engage and listen to all voices. Decisions that are made must balance what is best for our children with what taxpayers can afford. I believe we should explore the notion of income-based taxes to pay for public schools.

**Environment:** The most pressing environmental issue of our time without a doubt is climate change. It touches every other environmental issue as well as the resiliency of our farms, our businesses, and our communities.

One only need look to the wildfires consuming thousands of acres in the West and destroying air quality, the now-common record-breaking temperatures worldwide, increased flooding, and serious drought. We are in a climate crisis.

I proudly sponsored the Global Warming Solutions Act, supported the Clean Heat Standard bill, and will be actively engaged in the work we must do to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and build resiliency in our communities.

**Healthcare:** Healthcare is both a complex and broken system. We have learned from an earlier failed attempt to move to a single-payer system that it's extremely difficult to change something as complicated as healthcare. And it's more difficult to do so as a small, rural state when change should really be enacted at the federal level.



REP. ROBIN SCHEU

Nevertheless, I support finding a responsible way to create a sustainable universal primary care program that will save Vermonters money and increase access. Any change we choose to make should not make people's lives worse or make it more difficult or expensive to access their healthcare.

**Agriculture:** As Vermonters, we value our working lands highly, and Addison County has more farms than any other county in Vermont. Supporting farms to be both environmentally and economically sustainable is a goal, but often a challenge.

We must support regenerative agriculture, which improves soils, increases needed biodiversity, and improves resilience to climate change. We should also continue to fund the Working Lands Enterprise Grants to help farmers transition to healthier agricultural practices and grow their businesses. Agriculture is a business but with a greater environmental impact, so we need to balance how we offer subsidies here against other struggling businesses.

**Candidate's choice:** Threats to Democracy

In addition to climate change, the threat to democracy is the biggest issue of our time. Some Americans refuse to accept defeat in elections, support voter suppression, spread lies and ignore the facts, and supported overturning *Roe v. Wade*. All these and more highlight the disconnect between what most Americans want and what certain politicians and judges are deciding must be the law. The rise in authoritarianism is threatening to take away our hard-won freedoms. As President Biden recently said, "Equality and democracy are under assault." This is true, sadly, even in Vermont. I will personally continue to fight for "liberty and justice for ALL."

United States is at a disadvantage. Healthcare is still 20% of our economy and that is way out of line with outcomes and costs in other developed countries. I support Vermont pursuing primary care for all as the logical incremental step toward universal coverage.

**Agriculture:** Agriculture is fundamental to Vermont's identity, invaluable to our economy and integral to community resilience in uncertain times. The pandemic and climate change have magnified the need for regional, sustainable food production and Vermont is well situated to fill that need. Vermont's hard working, innovative, entrepreneurial farmers and producers have fueled a local foods movement that is inspiring the nation, feeding many Vermonters, and spreading out of State. I support increasing investments in the diversification of our agricultural sector and in promoting value added agricultural businesses. These investments benefit the environment, economy, and our health.

**Candidate's choice:** PFAS chemicals are building up in our environment and in us. Ninety-nine percent of Americans have them in their blood and studies have linked them to disease, including cancer, endocrine disruption, and weight gain. Although we've known about their toxicity for decades, PFAS chemicals, known as forever chemicals, continue to be used in products today. In Vermont we find them in landfill leachate and seepage that can be spread on farm fields. We need to stop introducing them to the environment and use the most effective means available to remove them from our environment.

## Peter Caldwell, Republican, Addison-1

**Economy: Problem:** Compared to other states, we have under-average incomes but much higher living costs, forcing productive younger people from the state and wrecking businesses. **Source:** high taxation inflating all costs, driven by too many government bureaucrats (pigs) regulating too much of our lives. Abraham Lincoln: "Too many pigs for the teats." The teats is us.

**Solution — Apply Classical Public Finance Theory:** First the people through their representatives decide how much government shall spend — probably a lot less than now; then government budgets accordingly. The tax level matters more than the form taxation takes. Take it from an old Economics PhD.

**Housing: Problem:** Housing growth normally driven by home building costs too much, partly due to government lot-size regulations. (*Land costs* make Vermont housing more costly than in the Middle West.) House ownership and rents get driven up by property tax rates — driven in turn by out-of-control public education costs. Both builders and we common folk get caught between a rock and a hard place.

**Solution:** One: put the bureaucrats and their land regs out to pasture. Two: Return education costs, driven by too many bureaucrats, to something like the national average. "Too many pigs for the teats." Then build like heck.

**School consolidation:** Consolidation is *pisshing into the winds of change:* Parents increasingly dislike public schools, for destroying learning and indoctrinating their children. They withdraw them from this madness. And, our school-age population is shrinking: Consolidation will fail — *no economies of scale to education.*

**Two Problems:** Education costs

too much and yields too little learning — grade "F". Some children have learning needs only small organizations provide: learning hands-on, in cooperatives, and through homeschooling and therapy-assisted tutoring.

**Solution:** A marketplace for learning: All learning organizations, large and small, receive similar state subsidies *per enrolled student*; each reports results. Parents choose! Winners thrive, losers die.

**Environment:** **Principle:** *Humans don't mess their own beds*, nor do farmers with their lands. Private ownership with reasonable oversight should replace regulators seeking an idyllic neverland — land becoming controlled by outsiders for

"carbon sequestration": "Bugger off, smelly country yokels with your lush fields and lowing cattle!"

**The Great Danger:** Burying private land use in the belief that "climate change" constitutes normal, "settled" science. Climate science is *theoretical* and as such is *never settled*. Preponderance of evidence: climate goes through natural cycles determined by sun activity and deep planetary forces. It is presumptuous to think we can change the course of nature.

**Health care: Transaction costs:** From 1970-2010, U.S. physicians increased 150%, bureaucrats 3,200%. Some 30-50% of healthcare transactions produce *no health care* — truly perverse. (Pity the poor bureaucrats processing confusing insurance claims.)

**Solutions:** Cut transaction costs. Single payer? A monumental change with a large drawback: the destruction of experiments in improving care — one-size fits all medicine. Doable right now: Cost-sharing cooperatives and "conierge" medicine. Significantly, one such cooperative

— Medi-share — cuts patient costs in half! So do "conierge" fixed-payment plans. Both minimize transaction costs. (Partly by purchasing member term-life policies, so that death gives a big bang payoff against operating costs?)

**Agriculture: And the Farmer is Screwed.** In this old book, weather "screws" the farmer — now also "screwed" by the government through out-of-control property taxation driving up land costs. State bureaucrats have built the farmer a *mousetrap* called Current Use. Beware all who enter here!

**Problem:** For temporarily-lowered taxation, farmers give up best practices experimentation for bureaucratic micro-regulating — with a future lien against their retirement funds.

**Dire Warning:** Soon the state may outlaw nitrogen fertilizers and dictate major manure reductions. Bye-bye farming.

**Better Practice:** Radically reduce property over-taxation and ditch Current Use legislation. Let markets restore a natural balance. Manure is good!

**Wildcard: Professional Politicians** threatening individual liberties. Our Constitution calls for *the citizen legislator* to represent majority constituent interests. Professional pols seek permanent perches from whence they collectively pass each other's ideological darlings — overwhelming the people's will. Singly, they resemble members of Britain's Clown Party; collectively, they dirty the legislative nest with their bloated spending offsprings.

**Cause:** The pols used the 1964 "one man/one vote" ruling to nearly halve the House — creating small towns "share-a-reps." Bye-bye town-rep relationships.

**"No Taxation without Representation!"** Citizen legislators: double the house size. Restore representative government. Be Thomas Paine — reborn: No "sunshine Patriots" need apply.



PETER CALDWELL

## Amy Sheldon, Democrat, Addison-1

**Economy:** Vermont's strong small communities, relatively undeveloped landscape and diverse geography make us special and a particularly attractive place for climate refugees. Any investments we make in economic development need to focus on sustaining our small, rural character and high quality of life for residents while modernizing infrastructure like broadband and a building a climate resilient transportation network. Conserving our forest and agricultural land base and encouraging development in our villages while investing in and promoting local food production will build the foundation of a vibrant and resilient Vermont economy.

**Housing:** The housing crisis is a complex national problem, fueled in part by the fact that housing has become an investment vehicle for some, putting upward pressure on the market while also leaving properties underutilized and making housing unaffordable for many. Vermont had a 24% vacancy rate during the 2020 census. We know that the growing market for air BNBs has also removed long-term rentals from the market. Burlington recently enacted local regulations to try to fairly limit the short-term rental market. Better information on the prevalence of second homes and short-term rentals is needed to help guide state policy.

**School consolidation:** The costs of our education system are disproportionately driven by the cost of healthcare. Until we address

this issue, we cannot fairly assess the costs of our education system.

The current system of funding education is progressive, with the majority of Vermonters paying based on their incomes. However, the current system does not account for an individual's wealth and an unknown number of wealthy people are able to pay lower taxes based on annual income despite an ability to fully pay their share. I would support the legislature assessing the frequency of this and finding a way to address it.

**Environment:** Protecting Vermont's forests has been a primary focus for me during my tenure in the legislature. Intact forests clean the air and water, support healthy wildlife populations, sequester carbon, and give us recreational and spiritual renewal. For the first time in over 100 years Vermont is losing forest lands — approximately 14,000 acres per year. Vermont's geography puts us in a unique position to provide travel corridors and habitat for species as they migrate north and uphill due to climate change. Conserving intact ecosystems is key to climate resilience. I will be reintroducing legislation to set conservation goals this session.

**Health care:** The ever-rising cost of health care is a drag on our economy and is bad for our health. I am a supporter of a federal universal healthcare program, like Medicare for all. The pandemic has highlighted that as the only developed country without universal healthcare, the



REP. AMY SHELDON

## Peter Conlon, Democrat, Addison-2

**Economy:** The past few years have shown how tightly tied our economy is to other issues, especially housing, affordable and available childcare, and broadband/cell service in rural areas, among others. The good paying, stable jobs are out there, whether it be the private sector (look at Beta Technologies) or public (schools, hospitals, mental health agencies). But workers can't find the needed housing or childcare. We need to continue to support the creation of more of each, and that is going to require public investment.

**Housing:** Vermont needs to take a good look at its home and apartment housing stock and be strategic where we invest. For example, many older Vermonters are seeking smaller homes in towns and villages. If they can move, that likely opens up larger family homes, but those smaller homes are hard to find. I support continued government investment to incentivize new housing and improving older housing, especially weatherization. Additionally, we need to continue to invest in the infrastructure that housing needs, especially village sewer and new technology for septic systems in rural areas. It may also be time to look at a vacancy tax on unoccupied residences.

**School consolidation:** Vermonters are asked every Town Meeting Day to balance

the value of their schools vs. the cost of operating them, and have largely supported the spending proposals made by their elected school boards. The state needs to assure that schools are achieving quality standards and other key standards. I support moving the education property tax to an income tax. This would end pitting one district's tax rates against another and better tie people's ability to pay with the budgets they are voting on. It is also important to note that creating relatively larger schools is not just done for financial reasons. It can also create a more vibrant learning environment with better services and more robust programs.

**Environment:** Our environment is why businesses start here and stay here despite other challenges. And protecting our environment and working landscape helps water quality, supports mitigating climate change, and keeps our state a mecca for environmental tourism. One of my priorities is smart growth policies that support and encourage thoughtful town and village center development. That sort of development helps water quality by having the necessary infrastructure, helps fight climate change by creating walkable communities, and maintains our wildlands and working landscape by encouraging development in more appropriate areas.

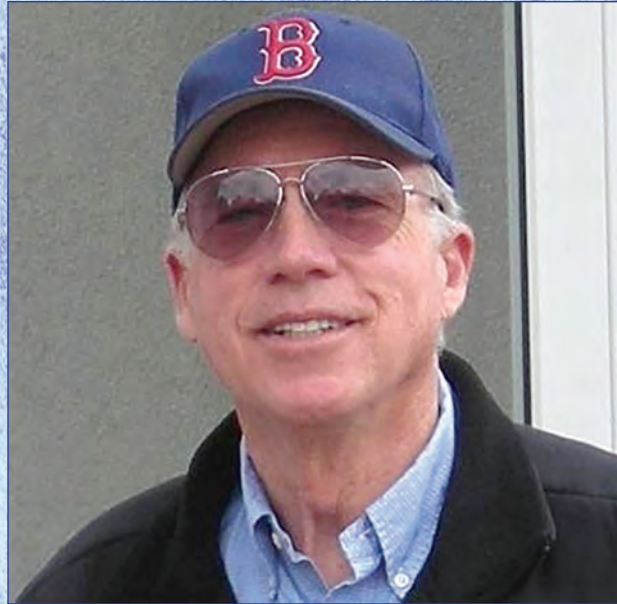
**Health care:** I supported efforts to create single-payer health care and lament our state leaders' timidity in not enacting it. Short of that, I support a universal primary care system, though it would face the same hurdles. That leaves Vermonters with some tough conversations to have. We like having small hospitals that serve all needs nearby. But it is proving to be a very expensive system. We need to look carefully at that system and balance Vermonters' needs with what we can afford. We also need to encourage more groups of covered Vermonters (employee groups) to participate in One Care, which pays doctors to keep you healthy, not for procedures.

**Agriculture:** While the number of Vermont dairy farms has dropped significantly, we continue to produce more milk. Those who remain have either evolved into larger, more efficient dairies or have controlled expenses. Most farmers strive to be excellent stewards of the land. They know more regulation could come if they aren't. Government subsidizes many businesses and individuals to protect a public good and make people's lives better, and farms are definitely part of that. State subsidies to farms generally help with conservation. That is a better investment than subsidizing a company for hiring people they were going to hire anyway.

**Candidate's choice:** Opioid use and record overdoses represent a serious health and quality of life crisis for everyone. Vermont needs (See Conlon, Page 5)



# Send local Republicans to the Vermont Legislature, to vote in the interest of Vermont taxpayers.



**ROBERT BURTON**  
Addison Senatorial District  
All towns and the one city in Addison County, plus Buel's Gore and the towns of Huntington and Rochester



**PETER CALDWELL**  
Addison-1 (Vermont House)  
Most of the town of Middlebury, but not certain addresses in the northwest part of town



**JON CHRISTIANO**  
Addison-5 (Vermont House)  
Bridport, most of New Haven, Weybridge, and a sector of northwest Middlebury



**LLOYD DIKE**  
Addison Senatorial District  
All towns and the one city in Addison County, plus Buel's Gore and the towns of Huntington and Rochester



**LYNN DIKE**  
Addison-4 (Vermont House)  
Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, and Starksboro



**JAMES MCCLAY**  
Addison-3 (Vermont House)  
Addison, Ferrisburgh, Pantton, Vergennes, Waltham, and a western section of New Haven



**VALERIE MULLIN**  
Addison-4 (Vermont House)  
Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, and Starksboro



**ROB NORTH**  
Addison-3 (Vermont House)  
Addison, Ferrisburgh, Pantton, Vergennes, Waltham, and a western section of New Haven

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## Matt Birong, Democrat, Addison-3

**Economy:** As the only sitting legislator who owns and operates an independent restaurant, the difficulties of our business communities is always top of mind. First: Housing. We need more apartments as well as homes for first-time buyers. We have seen there is a strong desire to live here; we simply need more inventory. The cost of housing is far too high. Second: We need to continue to look at modernizing/amending statutes to enable and nurture business growth and development. Third: We must continue to focus on policies that support working families so we can have a healthy and balanced workforce.

**Housing:** As a member of the committee that oversees housing, this is an issue I have been working on for the past few years. Simply stated, we need more inventory, and we need it as quickly as possible. Over my first two terms, I worked on and helped deliver a significant and responsible modernization of Act 250. This allows municipalities with select designations and specific infrastructure to forgo a redundant state permitting process (and thus) speed up and mitigate the cost of development. I also worked to implement and fund programs that get out-of-code units back up to quality standards and fund a new program that will buy down a portion of the purchase price for Vermont residents buying their first home. I am very proud to say that I worked closely with housing organizations and the Governor's team to get these programs and policies in place.

**School consolidation:** Vermonters have a special



REP. MATT BIRONG

relationship with our schools. They are often the foundation of our local communities and the building blocks of our children's future. When economically feasible, we must do all we can to maintain these institutions. However, in some cases, tough decisions will need to be made. This is another instance where housing growth can help. More homes mean an expanded grand list and the opportunity for more families to enroll their children in our districts. I have and will continue to support alternative funding structures by shifting some funding to income tax to relieve property tax stress. The legalization and taxation of recreational activities such as sports betting is another way we can find additional revenue for education.

**Environment:** Water quality is consistently a top concern for residents in this area. I am very enthused that the upcoming municipal investment in the Vergennes wastewater system is finally in motion. These long overdue upgrades will have a real impact on the health of the Otter Creek, surrounding wetlands, and Lake Champlain. Although this is a positive step, we must continue to focus on our development patterns, fragmentation of woodlands, and how we manage our agricultural landscape. As legislators, we also need to stay focused on preparing for the impacts of climate change as storm patterns are more aggressive and summer heatwaves are far more intense. We need to be diligent in our preparation for what is transpiring.

**Health care:** My wife and I are

both independently employed, and our current monthly premium is almost \$500 a month more than my first mortgage. Dr. Dynasaur is a great program that ensures that our state's children can attain the medical care they deserve at a reasonable cost. I would support the concept of universal primary care. Preventative care is key to keeping long-term health issues at bay and as a result, keeping long-range high-cost care at a minimum. I would also be open to allowing more insurance providers into the marketplace.

**Agriculture:** I have dedicated the majority of my 25-year career as a chef to the Farm to Table movement. Vermont's agricultural heritage is something that is near and dear to my heart. We have seen wonderful growth in meat production, produce, orchards, vineyards and more. These efforts are a primary reason for our culinary sector's stellar reputation. Dairy has proven to be an increasingly difficult sector of agriculture to be profitable. I believe we need to put state dollars and efforts towards aid in diversification as a broader range of products can offset the stress and uncertainty of fluctuating commodity markets.

**Candidate's choice:** Childcare is an issue I've worked on since before I was elected. The expansion of early childhood education will not only jumpstart our children's development but also afford parents the stability and consistency to continue in the workforce. Lack of affordable childcare is one of the biggest barriers for many workers. We must also help provide better wages and benefits for those who work in childcare without passing the cost onto already strapped parents. This should be provided through state partnerships and subsidies.

## Diane Lanpher, Democrat, Addison-3

**Economy:** Businesses are closing across Vermont and across the country because of workforce shortages. Vermont's economy is its workforce, and they need housing, childcare, and broadband. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, childcare has been a priority and will continue to be as the state enters the final years of a five-year plan. Vermont has also seen business increases because of our attractive environment, which includes public health, safe communities and our buffer against climate change. Federal one-time relief funds have been invested in the long-term needs for infrastructure: broadband, clean water, climate, economy, workforce and housing [lifo.vermont.gov/assets/Meetings/Joint-Fiscal-Committee/2022-09-21/5225a979f2/ARPA-Report-09-15-22.pdf](http://lifo.vermont.gov/assets/Meetings/Joint-Fiscal-Committee/2022-09-21/5225a979f2/ARPA-Report-09-15-22.pdf)

**Housing:** Housing currently is the most referenced issue by Vermont employers and Vermonters. In a well-functioning market, supply meets demand, and in Vermont both homeownership and rental supply has not been able to meet demand. Developers unable to make a profit is creating some of the shortage. Therefore, this issue becomes a priority for your government. Strong financial investments have been dedicated to housing development by appropriating hundreds of millions in federal relief funding, but this alone will not overcome the zoning and other regulatory barriers. The Legislature, in partnership with municipalities, businesses and citizens will continue to work on barriers.

**School consolidation:** Throughout my past 14 years in Montpelier, I have been a part of supporting Vermont's education system. Most of Vermont's districts have consolidated and our



REP. DIANE LANPHER

district might be on the verge of consolidating further, as a merger question will be on the ballot this year. Improvements to the funding system are an almost constant discussion and will continue into 2023. Local school boards have made all the difference as they are on the front lines to meet the needs of our students within the ability of taxpayers to fund. In 2022, the Legislature passed (S.287) into law (Act 127). [legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT127/ACT127%20Act%20Summary.pdf](http://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT127/ACT127%20Act%20Summary.pdf).

**Environment:** As Chair of the House Transportation Committee, I am aware of the environmental impacts from emissions and my responsibility, as a leader, to guide legislation to achieve reduction goals. To take seriously climate change, and make real and lasting progress, the Legislature passed The VT Global Warming Solutions Act (2020) and with the work of the VT Climate Council in 2021, Vermont has an initial Climate Action Plan. The Council's work will follow into 2023. [climatechange.vermont.gov/sites/climatecouncilsandbox/files/2021-12/Initial%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Final%20-%2012-1-21.pdf](http://climatechange.vermont.gov/sites/climatecouncilsandbox/files/2021-12/Initial%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Final%20-%2012-1-21.pdf)

Clean water, land and air have not been forgotten. It is important to stay engaged with the activities of Department of Environmental Conservation. [dec.vermont.gov](http://dec.vermont.gov)

**Health care:** Affordable, quality health care is one of the top issues for citizens and businesses. It is one of the largest economic factors for businesses and families. Government run Medicare, Medicaid, and Tri-Care, are all programs that form a base on which Vt. could continue to explore expansion. I have supported steps

and Portugal, where controlled legalization is proving effective. We need to continue to support our hub-and-spoke treatment model, but also invest in more psychiatric in-patient facilities which have been woefully inadequate since the loss of the Waterbury State Hospital in Tropical Storm Irene.

to date that achieved several health care reforms in Vt. and will continue to support building on incremental investments, like universal access to primary care, which is key to preventing disease. The Legislature has previous studies which can provide the data needed to advance investments on behalf of Vermonters.

**Agriculture:** Supporting our agricultural industry is yielding lasting results. Legislative initiatives I have voted for and supported show they were good investments, including Farm to Plate (2009) and Working Lands (2012). In 2019, the Legislature reauthorized the Farm to Plate Investment Program for another 10 years, with specific goals including improvements to soils, water, and resilience due to climate change. Support going forward must consider the 279 recommendations provided in the recently released (2022) Vermont Agriculture & Food System Strategic Plan 2021-2030. More than 1,500 voices were included, with 52 lead authors and 111 expert contributors. Here is link to the plan: [agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/doc\\_library/Vermont%20Agriculture%20and%20Food%20System%20Strategic%20Plan%202021-2030\\_0.pdf](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/doc_library/Vermont%20Agriculture%20and%20Food%20System%20Strategic%20Plan%202021-2030_0.pdf)

**Candidate's choice:** Democracy requires engaged commitment in Vermont. This is not the time for me or anyone to hold back their engagement. I sponsored (H293) signed into law (Act 109) creating the Vt. Youth Council, which will advise the governor and the Legislature on policies that impact youth today. Rarely does a legislator have an opportunity to lift the voices of so many. Our Vermont youth are eager and willing to bring their voices to democracy. I worked with youth across the state and with VUHS students to pass this law, which will have influence for decades. [vermontafterschool.org/big-day-for-vermont-youth](http://vermontafterschool.org/big-day-for-vermont-youth)

This issue touches everyone, whether you are an educator, cop, affected family, employer or simply walking through City Hall Park in Burlington, and past policies aren't working or keeping up with new threats like synthetic fentanyl.

## James McClay, Republican, Addison-3

**Economy:** The current policies, which have all been voted into place, need to be modified or replaced to address and reverse the issues, including higher taxes, increasing costs of energy, housing and education. As well as complicated and expensive regulations which contribute to an unpredictable environment for new and existing businesses within the state which can offer attractive wages to the qualified work force.

**Housing:** All affordable housing projects should be explored and supported by the Legislature. Any opportunities to capitalize on loss of use or vacant property/facilities that are owned by the state should be examined as practical locations to provide affordable housing, for young families especially, to retain them in the community, state and available local job market.

**School consolidation:** Since the current education funding model has produced sky-rocketing costs, this may very well be an example of control of that cost back to the local level, with a local

administration of the education system. These current expenses contribute to the high cost of the economy in most all municipalities in the state. Consolidation may also be the solution in some areas to reduce the funding and maintain a good quality of education based on realistic funding.

**Environment:** Vermont has long been noted for its pristine environment, no matter what the season. At the top of my list would be the lakes and waterways. In Addison County, the farmers have taken the lead in voluntarily reducing the levels of phosphorous in the run-off from their agricultural lands. They need to be supported by the Legislature, not shouldered with restricting rules and regulations.

**Health care:** To increase the availability of medical services in the state, those services need to be made less costly and less complicated for other providers to supply services. Most areas of the state are serviced by one major provider in that area. The Legislature should ensure fewer



JAMES MCCLAY

## Robert North, Republican, Addison-3

**Economy:** Vermont's economy struggles because we have high taxes, high energy costs, high housing costs, complicated and expensive regulations and an unpredictable business environment. I will work across the aisle to: 1) Negotiate common sense legislation for affordable housing, affordable energy and reduce expensive government bureaucracy; 2) Communicate with existing businesses and develop policies to keep them in Vermont and attract other large, clean companies to invest in Vermont; and 3) Incentivize collaborative educational opportunities ensuring our students are trained for the needs of our local businesses. This is the #1 issue shared by business owners.

**Housing:** As I've visited well over half the homes in our district, the #1 issue people raise is the high cost of housing. This is causing the real "existential problem" in Vermont: the existence of the working Vermont. I will address this as follows: 1) Reform Act 250 so it's faster and more predictable, keeping high standards, but streamlining the process. 2) Restore balance between tenant and owner rights, removing current legal disincentives to offering rental property. 3) Encourage development of affordable retirement communities enabling aging Vermonters to downsize, stay in the area, and free up housing for younger families.

**School consolidation:** Root causes of high education costs are complicated mandates and low population densities. Improving

the economy and housing will help both. Vermont's per-pupil costs of \$22K/year — 50% more than the national average — aren't sustainable long-term. I will encourage expansion of Vermont's existing public/private school collaboration and school choice programs (e.g. Vermont's academies, tech Centers, Job Corps, preschools) to ensure our students are trained according to their needs, their parents' needs and the needs of our local businesses, while ensuring costs are competitive. I will also incentivize retention of the best teachers and promote state-level facility maintenance to standards.

**Environment:** Protecting our precious lakes and waterways is the environmental priority I've heard from the more than 1,900 homes I've visited so far. I'll work with farmers, who have already achieved 97% of the phosphorous reduction to date, to continue reducing methane and phosphorous. We can also stop untreated human waste discharge into Lake Champlain from overflowing sewage treatment plants in Burlington, St. Albans, and Vergennes. This is a serious quality of life issue as well as an economic one. I will stay focused on the local solutions to local problems. We need to modernize our wastewater treatment systems.

**Health care:** The root cause of high healthcare costs is the same: our Legislature has created the most onerous and expensive process in the country for healthcare Certificate of Need (CON). If we want a greater supply of affordable medical services in Vermont, we

have to make it less costly and complicated for multiple providers to supply those services. The UVM Medical Center has a monopoly, charging whatever it wants. The costly and lengthy CON process restricts other healthcare providers from entering the market and costs are passed along to the patient. I will reform our Certificate of Need laws.

**Agriculture:** Agriculture is an inseparable part of Vermont's soul. Farmers manage significant portions of our state's land, giving it the beauty and economic productivity we all enjoy. Farmers are active participants in the stewardship of our land and waters, at their cost, achieving 97% of the phosphorous reduction to date. I will promote systems that foster collaboration and sharing of best practices amongst farmers to set and achieve realistic goals for both economic development and environmental improvements reducing both methane and phosphorous. Taxpayer money spent to improve the environment, whether spent on farms or municipalities, supports the common good.

**Candidate's choice:** Other concerns I've heard from the people include mental health, opioid crisis and childcare. The primary concern is how we're going to stay warm this winter with sky-high fuel costs. In January, the Legislature will have to make a decision on the Climate Council's recommendations to increase taxes/fees on heating oil, propane, natural gas and kerosene, as well as gasoline and diesel motor fuels. Both Addison-3 incumbents voted to increase taxes on heating fuels this past spring and in 2020. I believe such taxes are regressive and out of touch with reality and what most Vermonters can afford and need.

unless you have an emergency. The urgent care centers have helped with this. I would also like to see more conscious protection for the medical staff. I also think that lifting the vaccine mandates and the regulations around covid protocol would help.

**Agriculture:** There is so much to say about this issue. I believe that the farmers have to get more consideration when policies are being made. They have been given so many regulations and incurred so much expense that they can not keep up with it all. I have been seeing some good things, including help from the extension service, but I don't know how much personal cost they are bearing for these changes.

**Candidate's choice:** This is a hard choice but I'm choosing child care and family. In many ways it feels like we have lost the personal touch. We went to a "registered" "on site" child care home yesterday and what we saw was amazing! It was obvious that she truly loves what she is doing. She doesn't close when the schools are closed and she works with the parents to meet their needs. What we need is more subsidies for parents and good wages for the child care providers. We can make changes that would help everybody concerned.



ROB NORTH

## Lynn Dike, Republican, Addison-4

**Economy:** I agree that the shortage of workers is a big problem. I think the crisis we are seeing now is largely due to COVID. There have been early retirements, deaths, and vaccine mandates to name a few. I guess the first thing I would want to do is lift the vaccine mandates. I would also look at the subsidies — if workers make over a certain amount they will lose any assistance that they need or have gotten used to and don't want to lose, esp. now that everything is more expensive.

**Housing:** I believe that there needs to be more balance between the regulations that landlords and renters have to follow. I have heard some horror stories where landlords or homeowners who have opened up their places get badly hurt and there seems to be no help for them. (I have a story of my own). Part of the reason rents are so high is because of high property taxes and high risk.

**School consolidation:** I like the smaller community schools and local control. I think that when community schools are closed it hurts everybody's quality of

life. There are some things more important than money! I don't know about the funding part — but it seems like what we have is not working very well. It would also be a good idea to look at some of the regulations surrounding what the schools have to provide to make sure they are necessary.

**Environment:** My main concerns are water quality and decreasing pollution. We have made some good and necessary changes in that area but there is still more we can do. I don't feel that increasing taxes on fossil fuels is helping anything or anybody, except, maybe, those who are making money on the "green" energy. I would stop this attack until we have a reliable, available and affordable alternative. I appreciate being warm, etc. and relying solely on electricity makes me nervous.

**Health care:** I would like to see more concentration on preventative maintenance. Things like vision, hearing and dental care for seniors. These are quality of life issues. For some reason, the wait to get a doctor's appointment is very long,



LYNN DIKE

## Conlon

(Continued from Page 3)

to take a close look at strategies to address this in other states and countries, notably Oregon

**VOTE!** Make your voice count.



## Caleb Elder, Democrat, Addison-4

**Economy:** Vermont has a strong economy, but when we consider where to invest, we should look to those areas with unmet needs. For example, the construction industry is doing well, but could be doing even better if labor bottlenecks could be addressed. During the past year, the Vermont Legislature has invested heavily in workforce training, career technical education as well as traditional higher education. These investments are the key to growing our local economy, since they can help put our young people on career paths early on, while connecting them with local businesses. If re-elected, I'll continue these efforts.

**Housing:** The housing crunch in Vermont feels like it's at an all-time high. Availability is scarce, so prices are up. Additionally, the cost of new construction has soared. One trend that contributed to this situation is increased migration to Vermont during covid. Another, arguably larger, trend is that of homes purchased by non-residents. In short, we need more supply! We can respond on multiple fronts: job training for new workers in the construction industry, regulatory



REP. CALEB ELDER

reforms to make downtown development less restrictive, while addressing the impact of short-term rentals on the availability of long-term housing.

**School consolidation:** Vermont spends about 1/3 of its budget on public education and another 1/3 on human services. Unfortunately, these two areas of state government work separately, often in a "siloed" fashion. Additionally, as the student population has decreased statewide during the past decades, we have seen an increased rate of emotional and behavioral need among our students. This means more of our school budgets are going to non-educational needs. This trend has to change. We should keep small schools open if communities want them. And we should shore up these small, valuable institutions with state-funded human services provided under the same roof and separate from the school's budget.

**Environment:** In the coming biennium, I will be focused on updates to the Vermont Renewable Energy Standard. We need more renewable energy in Vermont and

we need to lean into the ways in which renewable projects can strengthen our traditional construction industry. The Renewable Energy Standard that was passed in Vermont five years ago has not been very successful. In fact, the current RES has served mostly to dampen renewable energy development since it contains a de facto moratorium on most ground-based solar projects. We need to reconsider our priorities, placing more value on green energy production than on the view during our daily commutes.

**Health care:** First and foremost, I want Medicaid for all at the federal level and I will continue to support a D.C. delegation committed to that goal. With that said, we have important work to do in Vermont as well. The time has come to either abandon the OneCare experiment, or to actually put enough people in the system so that it has a chance to work. The status quo feels like an expensive and fundamentally hamstrung effort, due to a low census within the all-payer system. In Montpelier, I will push for increased price transparency within our healthcare economy.

**Agriculture:** This past biennium we passed legislation supporting farms in several

(See Elder, Page 12)

## Valerie Mullin, Republican, Addison-4

**Economy:** Thinking long term, we can increase our workforce by placing an emphasis on vocational education. We could use some of the ARPA and infrastructure federal funds to do this and create real incentives for students in late middle school and early high school to become interested in the "trades". The jobs and good incomes are there, it's the employee base which is lacking. This will in turn spur more companies to want to grow in V.T. and employees which want to stay.

**Housing:** I'd like to create incentives for towns to encourage re-use of abandoned homes, those sold at foreclosure or tax sale. Many towns have such properties. Improving labor force skills can assist with higher incomes. Rent affordability is a perfect example of how Montpelier raising the taxes of non-residential property tax not affecting the "rich" as much as those who can least afford it along with the high cost and time of regulations along with the broken act 250 is adding to the problem. I'm grateful Gov. Scott vetoed the past act 250 bill which would have added even more costs.



VALERIE MULLIN

**School consolidation:** If the state continues to consolidate schools, it should also open school choice so parents and students have options. One key argument to keep small schools open is parents feel they have more input in smaller school systems. I also feel the legislature and the school boards should seek ways to involve parents more, not less, in school policies. School governance has sadly become disconnected from the consumers and funders of Pre K through 12 education--the parents and taxpayers. Since act 46, costs have risen by 11 million, more taxes will not fix our problems, just exacerbate them.

**Environment:** I feel farmers have really stepped up to do the right things to protect the waters. Vermont has too many unmonitored septic systems and densely populated communities which don't currently have a public wastewater system.

I strongly oppose a carbon tax scheme of any kind, the "Clean Heat Standard" or the Global Warming Solutions Act. It'll have a detrimental impact on lower income, working

Vermonters, small businesses and farms. I also oppose banning gas-powered vehicles by 2035 as proposed. Currently, California has serious issues with energy supply due to "green" policies and ironically, can't charge electric vehicles due to shortages!

**Health care:** The Green Mountain Care board (taxpayers) have spent millions supporting staff and paid board members, yet the problem persists and not produced results. The legislature needs to examine why this is so and understand why it's not working as promised. It's past time to stop the monopoly of health insurance choices and allow more opportunities. Putting resources where it has the most impact is also important such as Addison Home Health and Hospice which works to give care to Seniors in home, thus allowing a higher quality of physical and emotional well-being for them and at a lower cost.

**Agriculture:** No farms, no food. I support farms which also maintains our agricultural heritage as a matter of pride, quality of life and national food security. Farmers have met the environmental regulations imposed on them over the last 15 years. It's time to stop regulating and let them recover. Most farm

(See Mullin, Page 12)

## Mari Cordes, Democrat, Addison-4

**Economy:** Vermont's population continues to grow and is expected to for the next few years. This increase will help. Economic growth will depend on multiple factors — affordable housing, access to higher education including skilled trades, access to childcare/early childhood education, and broadband expansion. The Legislature has made significant progress on all of these issues during the past four years. We must continue with these investments while evaluating their impact and effectiveness. We must increase the progressivity of our state revenue systems, including funding public education to make sure high income residents and very large businesses are investing their fair share.

**Housing:** We not only need to continue to increase the number of housing units available, but we must

also ensure housing is affordable. We have invested nearly \$400 million in state and federal dollars during the past few years for shelter enhancement, construction of more than 1,000 units of low/middle income housing, repair of rental properties, addition of accessory dwellings, and to provide down-payment grants for first-generation homebuyers. This biennium, we must address any additional factors that contributed to the dramatic increase in housing costs. It will be important to also enhance access to skilled trade education.

**School consolidation:** Vermont's education funding system is unnecessarily complex, not necessarily equitable, and favors those with high incomes. The value of one's house is often not directly correlated to the ability to pay property taxes. This is why I

introduced legislation to eliminate the homestead property tax and replace it with a resident education tax. In addition, the largest increase of education cost is caused by something towns, school districts and property owners have no control over: the cost of health insurance. Schools are integral to the fabric of small towns and should be maintained when feasible.

**Environment:** I introduced and passed legislation that improved protection of Vermont's wetlands. I support legislation to ease state regulation to promote community growth in town centers while protecting forest and wildlife corridors as

much as possible. I am a champion on addressing climate change with a focus on community led engagement and equity.

**Health care:** I continue to believe that the best approach to healthcare is through a universal, publicly funded system through our federal government. In order to decrease cost and improve quality of healthcare and health insurance, I would support Vermont universal primary care and other state programs that move Vermont away from systems with exorbitant administrative costs and little accountability. I introduced and passed a pharmacy bill that will protect residents of Vermont as

well as our independent pharmacies from the unchecked power of vertically integrated insurance companies.

**Agriculture:** As a former organic vegetable farmer, I know how vital farms are to our state and how hard a job it is. I continue to support local, county and state programs that assist farmers with regenerative farming practices, grants/loans, opportunities for training and education, and marketing supports. I also believe it's important to assist farmers feeling the impact of a shifting agricultural economy by providing transition or diversification support. Most importantly, farmers and food producers must be at the lead in policy making about their profession.

**Candidate's choice:** My leadership style has developed from years of experience as a front-line nurse as well as years

of meditation practice. I'm compassionate and strong, with well-honed practices of engaging with others to solve problems. In my life, I have had the blessing of working with and befriending a very diverse group of people. I am very concerned about the current level of intolerance and at times hatred toward others and their human rights, particularly with regard to race, gender and sexual orientation. I will continue to work together to fight to protect human rights and commit to examining how my own bias impacts others. I believe that we as a community are called to this very consequential opportunity as a responsibility. Consequential, because there are outcomes to action as well as inaction. In gratitude, I fully commit to choosing action, for the benefit of all, with all of you.



REP. MARI CORDES

# PETER BEVERE

FOR STATE'S ATTORNEY



## EXPERIENCED

16 years of prosecutorial experience, over 20 as an attorney

## DEDICATED

An active member of our community and committed to working with our community partners to keep Addison County a safe place to live and work

## COMPASSIONATE

Ensuring victims of crime and survivors have a voice and prioritizing violent crimes and crimes against our most vulnerable populations

**During my years as a prosecutor, I have learned that there is no one size fits all approach to prosecution, especially when it comes to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.**

Paid for by Bevere for Addison County PO Box 939, Middlebury, Vermont, 05753 Megan Mandigo, Treasurer



## Jon Christiano, Republican, Addison-5

**Economy:** Encourage the formation of additional trade/tech schools coupled with incentives for successful completion/graduation. Reduce regulations on businesses which discourage expansion. Dramatically reduce job related licensing fees for startups. For example a CDL fee of \$4K +/- for straight trucks, \$6.5K for semis keeps many potential operators out of this job market.

**Housing:** Follow the money of what forced housing prices and apartment rents to skyrocket & work to correct those factors. The state cannot MAKE housing more affordable, but a free

market will. Builders are not going to increase the supply without potential owner/renters to occupy the units. An excess of units will force a price reduction by builders if that means empty units.

“Helping” people afford existing housing sounds like an additional tax increase in the works that I would find hard to support.

**School consolidation:** The “value” of our schools lies in the education received by the students that prepares them for careers and for responsible citizenship. The cost for funding primary and secondary schools should be based on total household income applied against a sliding scale which would be more equitable than one based on property value.



JON CHRISTIANO

Administrative costs are out of control due to an excessive number of supervisors and associated administrative staff. I would support increasing an emphasis on the three r’s, with a corresponding decrease in emphasis on social issues.

I believe Vermont has done a poor job of managing the rising per-pupil cost. We spend significantly more than other states per-pupil; perhaps we should determine why that is!

**Environment:** Water quality focus because it is so important to our overall health.

The climate has been changing since time began. Our efforts should be directed towards doing what we can to lessen man kinds impact on the climate without expecting to significantly alter it immediately.

Protect open land by restricting renewable energy projects such as fields of solar panels. Provide tax incentives for keeping land open and undeveloped.

**Health care:** Place increased emphasis on preventive care followed by medical care. Provide financial (reduced costs) reward for being more responsible for oneself. Examples: Non-smokers, drinkers, lessened obesity, etc.

I would support a plan that allows setting aside a portion of income, tax free that would be

utilized for medical expenses.

Single payer medical plans do not work and I don’t think they can be successfully changed to do so.

**Agriculture:** Many Vermont farms are currently diversifying to grow cash crops, for example grains, or cheese in addition to or in place of milk production. Reducing burdensome restrictions placed on farmers would certainly help their bottom line. Most other small businesses do not produce food for us to eat. And we need to retain that capability. I think that the majority of farmers recognize the importance of good stewardship of the land they farm as that largely determines their farms profitability and life.

Like other businesses some farms prevail better than others because of better business plans and work ethics. Help the stronger farms prosper and grow.

**Candidate’s choice:** I think that the greatest threat to our democracy is the seemingly constant attack on our U.S. Constitution! Our founding fathers were amazing and forged the Constitution to be a lasting document that would serve our nation in good stead. It was also, in my opinion, meant to be understood and interpreted by the average citizen.

It would be good to remember that we are Americans and strive to work together toward a common good.

## Joe Andriano, Democrat, Addison-Rutland

**Economy:** I believe that Vermont’s housing and affordability crises are holding our economy back. People are turning down jobs because they can’t find a place to live, and people who have lived here for generations are leaving because institutional buyers are buying up homes and jacking up the rent. If people who work here can’t afford to live here, our economy will crumble. Our focus should entirely be on supporting the working people of Vermont.

**Housing:** We can no longer take a piecemeal approach to the housing crisis. This is a full blown, 5 alarm fire, and we need to do everything we can to make it affordable to live and work here. Building more housing must be part of the solution, but we must do so in a way that respects Vermont’s values. Let’s revitalize our villages by encouraging compact development, and build new housing using modern, energy efficient methods that help us do our part against climate change.

**School consolidation:** The movement towards closing elementary schools against the will of a community is entirely wrongheaded. No community should have its elementary school closed without an affirmative vote from that community after they are presented with the financial

and educational realities of school closure. Our children and our communities benefit from having small elementary schools close to home. It promotes parent involvement, bolsters the economy of our villages, and keeps our communities vibrant. Communities who have lost their schools should be able to petition to have them reopened. It’s time we let our communities control the destinies of their schools.

**Environment:** We must address the existential crisis of climate change to save

ourselves and the natural world around us. I believe the most important thing we could do in the short term is make solar power and heat pumps easily affordable to everyone so Vermonters can stop burning fossil fuels. Right now, affording the switchover is too much of a stretch for most people. We need bigger incentives immediately so we can produce our own energy and heat our homes more affordably while helping to save the planet.

**Health care:** Two things we can address right now are the medical debt crisis and universal primary care. I was very happy to see H. 287 passed in the last session, but I want to be sure those who were taken advantage of by bad billing and insurance practices aren’t left

behind. Universal primary care will ensure everyone has access to a doctor no matter their ability to pay. More work on both these issues will go a long way to making health care more affordable to everyone.

**Agriculture:** Farming is not only central to Vermont’s history, it is central to the day to day rhythm of our communities. But farms are also businesses, so anything we do to support our business sector will support our farms. For agriculture practices, I intend to listen to my neighbors who are active farmers and take the lead from them. But from a business perspective, anything we do to make Vermont more affordable for those who work and build businesses here will help our farmers make ends meet.

**Candidate’s choice:** When someone is charged with a crime they have the right to an attorney, even if they can’t afford one. But when they’re sued in our civil courts — evicted, maybe, or blamed for a debt that isn’t theirs — they can end up out of their home and financially ruined without any help. Let’s make Vermont more affordable by making sure people have the tools to defend themselves when sued. Three solutions to this issue: 1) more funding to Legal Aid, 2) a “user-friendly” court system that anyone can understand, and 3) teach civics and court procedures in high school.

## Jubilee McGill, Democrat, Addison-5

**Economy:** I will bring workers and small business owners together to find creative solutions that work for everyone and protect our downtowns and Main Streets. In our response to the climate crisis, we can create new jobs and promote economic development. Fossil fuels direct \$0.75 on the dollar outside of our state. By investing in electric vehicles, public transportation, weatherization, building energy-efficient affordable housing, and increasing renewable energy sources, we not only create thousands of good paying jobs, we keep more money in our state, boosting our economy.

**Housing:** We have rental units right here in Addison County that have or soon will go offline due to issues with habitability while most of the COVID related funding was funneled towards creating new buildings. There are homeowners watching their homes fall apart because they can’t afford to repair them, but just miss qualifying for home repair programs meant for low-income households. This next biennium I would focus on programs to repair existing housing stock for both low- and middle-income Vermonters and an expansion of income limits for these types of programs to help ensure our workers can afford to stay here.

**School consolidation:** Small schools are the center of their community, and they are a huge motivator if we are committed to

attracting families to Vermont. I would like to see us change how we view and use our schools so that they are true community centers. By providing services like medical clinics, teeth cleanings, mental health support and counseling, satellite clinics with local service agencies, community meals, and social activities in the off hours, we can tap into multiple funding sources to make maintenance and operations sustainable. We also create strong communities where our seniors, our children, and all residents thrive.

**Environment:** We can reduce our carbon emissions by re-imagining our transportation system. I will explore ways to improve our public transportation options and increase access to and affordability of electric vehicles for all Vermonters. I will support “Green New Deal” policy that achieves carbon reduction while also addressing economic, social, and racial disparities through community-based solutions and working across state lines with others in our region to achieve the best possible outcomes. Clean water is also a huge priority for me, it is a matter of health & safety, but it is also essential to the future of our economy.

**Health care:** In my work, I see the negative outcomes of our broken health care system daily. There are too many Vermonters who lack access to quality healthcare that is affordable. The pandemic made clear that health care should not

be tied to employment and getting sick should not lead to financial hardship or bankruptcy.

In a small state it is difficult to enact full Medicare for All, but we can work in that direction by starting with universal primary care. We must slow increasing premiums, lower prescription drug costs, and keep insurance providers accountable in how money is being spent, by leveraging state regulatory measures.

**Agriculture:** I know that our farmers have been personally feeling the effects of climate change. With endless rains last summer and then a drought for most of the summer, this is our new norm if we don’t take action soon. We should be helping them move to sustainable farming methods like diversification and soil regeneration. If done correctly, we can continue to boost our local economies and bolster our communities simultaneously. Farming is our heritage; we must invest in helping them transition.

**Candidate’s choice:** Vermont’s population is aging, and our young adults and families are struggling to make ends meet.

We must enact a robust paid family and medical leave program for all workers, as well as increase access to high quality, affordable child-care. We need to support our seniors, bring services into rural communities and improve quality of life, while also making sure they have affordable long-term care options. This is how we will retain our youth and our young families, and this is how we will get people to relocate permanently to Vermont.



JUBILEE MCGILL

## Democrats

(Continued from Page 1)

look out for each other.”

“I am running for Attorney General,” she continued, “because Vermont is at a critical moment. Reproductive rights, global warming, safer gun laws, and internet safety are on the line. Vermont needs a leader with the experience to meet this moment. As Attorney General, I will be ready to lead on Day 1.” Readers can find more information on her website at [CharityForVermont.com](http://CharityForVermont.com).

**Tagliavia**, 59, of Corinth, did not respond to the VtDigger candidate questions, but did answer three brief questions in the *Seven Days* Election Guide concerning how he would improve public safety, ensure accountability of law enforcement officials and protect Vermonters’ civil rights, which Clark also answered. Tagliavia does not list a campaign website.

### STATE TREASURER

Democrat Mike Pieciak  
vs  
Republican H. Brooke Paige

A resident of Winooski, Mike Pieciak, 39, notes in his bio for VtDigger that he grew up in Brattleboro, returned to Vermont

after law school and served as the Commissioner of the Department of Financial Regulation, “where he recouped millions of dollars for taxpayers and worked to protect consumers from financial harm.”

With the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, Gov. Phil Scott asked Pieciak to help lead Vermont’s COVID-19 response as the state’s chief data and modeling expert — and was a familiar face at the governor’s weekly COVID updates throughout the spring of 2020 and throughout much of 2021. Pieciak lives with his partner, Will, and their English setter, Jetty. More information can be found at his website, [MikeForVermont.com](http://MikeForVermont.com).

See info above in the Sec. of State race for Republican H. Brooke Paige.

### STATE AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

Democrat Doug Hoffer, Dem/Prog  
Vs.  
Republican Richard “Rick” Morton

Doug Hoffer, 71, was first elected State Auditor in 2012. He was raised in Norwalk, Conn., but has also lived in the Berkshires,

Central Florida, Baltimore and Los Angeles. Hoffer was educated at Williams College (B.A.) and SUNY Buffalo School of Law (J.D., Magna Cum Laude). He came to Vermont in 1988 to work in Burlington’s Community & Economic Development Office. He left City Hall in 1993 and was a self-employed policy analyst for 19 years. Over the years, Doug provided considerable pro bono policy guidance to legislators dealing with economic development and related tax policy before eventually running for the State Auditor’s office. More info can be found at his website [HofferForAuditor.com](http://HofferForAuditor.com).

Republican Rick Morton, 74, a resident of Brattleboro, chose not to answer VtDigger’s candidate questions or submit a bio. A retired bank compliance security officer and a part-time chaplain at an assisted living facility, Morton did provide two short answers to questions in the *Seven Days* Election Guide, which Hoffer also answered. More info can be found at Morton’s campaign website, [Morton4VT.com](http://Morton4VT.com). Morton is also running for State Senate in Windham County.

## Housing

(Continued from Page 1)

experiencing homelessness. The federally funded project is set to run out of money in March.

“The administration is not putting forth any major plans to provide temporary housing other than the hotels, and unless they buy those hotels, it’s just a black hole,” Maier said.

But in an interview this week with VtDigger, Scott said his administration has been looking at creative solutions. It’s partnering with Burlington on the pod shelter pilot, he said, and has investigated the possibility of using empty dorms to provide housing to refugees. That effort faces a litany of obstacles, he said, including money and renovations to bring units up to code.

“It’s not as easy as it might seem,” he said.

Scott has also argued that his administration has done its best to ramp down federal assistance in a way that protects the most vulnerable. And he cast doubt on concerns that “mass evictions” were on the horizon.

“I don’t see that it’s going to be an issue this winter, especially with our eviction laws. I don’t believe you can evict during the winter,” he said.

No such policy exists. Landlords can and do evict tenants year-round in Vermont. Rebecca Plummer, a staff attorney at Vermont Legal Aid, which provides legal services to low-income people, wrote in an email to VtDigger that it was “shocking

that the Administration’s housing policy seems to be based on a myth.”

About 150 Vermont households are evicted by the courts every month, Plummer continued, adding that court evictions are “the tip of the iceberg,” since many tenants who receive termination notices leave before a landlord takes them to court.

Tori Biondolillo, Scott’s campaign manager, later acknowledged in an email that evictions “can happen in Vermont in the winter,” but said that, “in some cases, judges have discretion and choose not to.”

“In general, the eviction process in Vermont is very lengthy and can sometimes take up to a year,” she added.

### PROPERTY RIGHTS

Siegel has been in the public eye for years, advocating for drug policy reform and twice running unsuccessfully for statewide office. But she is perhaps best known for an act of protest she staged last year, when she and Josh Lisenby, a friend who was experiencing homelessness at the time, camped out on the Statehouse steps for 27 days to pressure the Scott administration to fully reinstate a pandemic-era motel program housing the homeless population. It largely appeared to work, although Scott insists Siegel’s “stunt,” as his surrogate has called it, did not factor into his decision.

Like most of her activism, Siegel’s work on housing is informed by personal experience: the Democrat talks openly and often about having relied on public benefit programs, including Section 8 housing vouchers, at various points throughout

her life. Asked in a recent VtDigger debate when the gubernatorial candidates had last lived in rental housing, Scott paused before pegging it at “probably” 35 years ago. Siegel did not hesitate before answering with a smile: “Right now.”

Siegel and Scott perhaps diverge most sharply where regulation and tenant protections are concerned. Siegel supports rent control, stricter regulations on short-term rentals, and a just-cause eviction standard, which would ban the practice of evicting tenants or terminating leases without stating a reason.

Scott, on the other hand — a moderate with a pronounced libertarian streak — has consistently opposed proposals that he believes infringe on private property rights.

“It’s not government’s role to determine what you do with your own property,” Scott said this week.

Besides, the governor argued, what Vermont needs is not rent control — it is more housing. “There’s nothing like flooding the market with housing stock to reduce the cost,” he said.

To that end, Scott returned to familiar culprits: permitting, zoning and Act 250, Vermont’s landmark land-use law. The state’s regulatory thicket continues to inhibit desperately needed growth, he argued, echoing legions of for- and non-profit developers alike.

Scott for years has pushed lawmakers to make significant changes to Act 250 in order to make outcomes more predictable for builders, although his most

ambitious pitches have consistently fallen prey to squabbles with the Legislature. Still, modest reforms were passed into law last session.

But many of the impediments to building also come from municipal zoning rules — not state regulations. Developers frequently cite parking minimums, allowable uses, or density restrictions, to name a few obstacles. Scott freely acknowledges that those are a problem, although he’s much vaguer about the changes he’d like to see, or how to get there.

“I think we need to have that conversation. But whatever we do, across the board — that’s why I’m suggesting that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns needs to be at the table — whatever we do should be consistent,” he said.

### ‘THE DEMAND IS THERE’

Housing experts and nonprofit builders say the state’s recent investments in affordable housing money are both welcome and overdue. But new construction in Vermont has been on the decline for decades, and they argue yet more will be needed.

An oft-cited report released by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency in 2020 estimated that Vermont would need just shy of 6,000 new homes and apartments by 2025. But that report was written before Covid-19 made remote work so ubiquitous, and new urban transplants flocked to the state. Factoring in the domestic migration into Vermont during the pandemic, Seelig, of the Vermont Housing and Conservation

Board, now guesses that the state will need to build far more.

“We’d love to see another 10,000 homes in Vermont of various types,” he said. “The demand is there.”

Chris Donnelly, community relations director at the Champlain Housing Trust, said he expects nonprofit affordable housing developers like his to push the state to put part of this year’s surplus toward more one-time housing investments.

But builders of affordable housing also want more ongoing funding. And by law, they’re already entitled to it.

State statute says that the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, an independent agency established by the Legislature in 1987, should be getting 49% of all revenues from the state’s property transfer tax. But for basically as long as that rule has been on the books, successions of Legislatures and governors — Democrats and Republicans alike — have ignored it, cannibalizing large shares back into Vermont’s general fund.

Donnelly referenced an analysis that showed the housing board would have received an additional \$65 million between 2011 and 2022 if the state had followed its own rule.

“If we want to get on a sustainable path, then that’s the way to do it — to return to that formula,” he said.

Siegel and Scott, who don’t frequently agree about money, agreed on that point. Yes, both said: The state should give the agency its due.



## Christopher Bray, Democrat, State Senate

**Economy:** Small, local businesses form the heart of our healthy economy. And for them to succeed, they need reliable, trained employees.

For this reason, all the major bills developed during my eight years as chair of Senate Natural Resources and Energy actively and explicitly support training for workers — both new workers and existing workers who wish to improve their skills and pay.

As a result, Vermont has added over 27,000 jobs during my time in office, many with good wages and benefits. If re-elected, I will introduce a Strategic Trades and Professions bill to continue such economic growth across all sectors of the economy.

**Housing:** During my time in office, Vermont has made record investments (totaling approximately \$300 million) in the development of more and better housing. In addition, my committee has supported this work by streamlining planning laws, including Act 250, to support the timely creation of more housing in smart growth locations, such as existing downtowns and village centers. This enables us to develop housing without destroying the green fields and woods that surround so many Vermont towns.

In addition, we have supported energy efficiency features for these new homes so that they are more affordable to own and operate.

**School consolidation:** The right to an education in Vermont is constitutional, so we must ensure that we're providing a program that is of equal quality regardless of the student's location. Depending on the school, it may or may not be in the best interest of a school's students to remain open. Further complicating



SEN. CHRISTOPHER BRAY

this analysis are the competing thoughts and feelings of residents impacted by any proposed change. This level of participation makes sense and needs to be supported, as schools remain the heart of many communities on many levels.

To keep our focus on the quality of education, rather than the cost to a town of keeping their school, we need to consider shifting school funding from taxing property to taxing income.

**Environment:** The clear and pressing environmental challenge of our day is climate change, which damages the health and well-being of all living creatures every day. Climate change is also jeopardizing the future well-being of our children and grandchildren, to whom we have an obligation to act responsibly.

Every environmental and energy bill in the last eight years has either originated in my committee, or we led the Senate's work. We have tackled climate change, clean water, and plastics, and we've cut our exposure to toxic chemicals. We have also led on programs to save Vermonters money, such as weatherization for 90,000 more homes.

**Health care:** The cost of health care insurance is rising 3.5 times faster than wages; for example, from 2013 to 2020, while Vermont worker wages rose an average of 18.6%, the cost of premiums at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont rose 65.6%. This growing affordability gap results in more Vermonters either not purchasing insurance at all, or in purchasing insurance with very high deductibles (e.g. \$10,000). As a result, patients are financially discouraged from visits to physicians and hospitals in all but the most urgent situations —

and urgent care is one of the most costly ways of delivering health care.

We KNOW that timely primary care saves not just money, but also saves lives and preserves health. Therefore, I will introduce a bill this session to create universal primary care.

**Agriculture:** Agriculture, and its first cousin, forestry, are responsible for the beautiful green landscape we have counted on for generations. In my 14 years in the legislature, I have supported both, including helping these operations diversify and become less dependent on low-price commodity markets. I created the Vermont Farm to Plate program, which has added approximately 7,700 food and agriculture jobs and over \$400 million to Vermont's annual economy.

This evolution of Vermont food and agriculture operations is leading to more fresh whole foods being produced and consumed in Vermont, improved health, new jobs and wages, and the increased use of more environmentally friendly practices.

**Candidate's choice:** Community And Democracy

The key to a healthy democracy is broad citizen involvement so that the best thinking is shared and used to shape the state's programs to support essential services across the lives of Vermonters — from free and fair elections, and quality childcare and education, to employee training, supports for citizens who have stumbled, affordable housing, tackling climate change, and addressing toxins in our water and air.

Through my committee's work on Environmental Justice and more, we are helping Vermont walk the walk: bringing together citizens with opposing points of view to craft balanced, tolerant solutions that work for the entire community.

## Local districts for Vt. House and Senate are slightly different for 2022 election

**ADDISON COUNTY** — The Legislature rejiggered Vermont House and Senate districts a little bit after the 2020 Census. Most residents in this part of the Green Mountain State are in the same legislative districts they were in for the last election.

But that's not true for all of our readers.

Here is a rough outline of our districts, with a \* marking districts that have changed.

**\*Addison Senate District** is represented by two state senators who represent at 23 towns in Addison County plus Huntington, Buel's Gore and Rochester.

**\*Addison-1**, a two-seat district in the Vermont House that covers most of the town of Middlebury, except a portion that includes the west side of Route 7 to Main

Street, Elm Street, Seymour Street, the Marble Works, the west side of Main Street and the north side of Weybridge Street. All of that carveout was put in the Addison-5 district.

**\*Addison-2**, a single-seat district that includes Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton and Salisbury. Hancock is no longer in Addison-2.

**\*Addison-3**, a two-seat district including the communities of Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Addison, Panton and Waltham and a new slice of New Haven that is north of Lime Kiln Road, west of Route 7 and north of the New Haven River.

**Addison-4**, a two-seat district including Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro.

**\*Addison-5**, a single-seat district that encompasses

Bridport and Weybridge, most of New Haven (minus the northwesterly part put in Addison-3, and a northwest carve-out of Middlebury as described above in Addison-1.

**\*Addison-Rutland**, a one-seat district that includes Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting, Hubbardton and Sudbury.

**\* Windsor-Addison**, a one-seat district that includes Hancock, Rochester, Bethel and Stockbridge.

**Orange-Washington-Addison**, a one-seat district that includes Granville, Roxbury, Brookfield, Randolph and Braintree.

For a more precise description of the Vermont House district boundaries, head online to the Secretary of State's website at: [tinyurl.com/VtHouseLines](http://tinyurl.com/VtHouseLines).

## Ruth Hardy, Democrat, State Senate

**Economy:** The Vermont economy is generally strong, in large part because of the persistent legislative focus on pandemic recovery for businesses, community organizations, and families. As federal funding wanes, we may need to shift strategies, but I'm confident that our support for workforce training, business development, and creative economy initiatives will pay off.

In addition, we'll need to increase support for families so parents and caregivers can re-enter or remain in the workforce. Increased funding to build childcare capacity, quality, and affordability, and the creation of a paid family leave program are crucial for a strong Vermont economy.

**Housing:** This past session, we invested over \$100 million in programs to target the housing shortage from several angles — construction, renovations,

workforce, rentals, home ownership, weatherization. In part, it will take time for these programs to have an impact because building and renovating housing takes time. However, (we)

also need to increase focus on supportive housing programs for Vermonters who need mental health or substance use treatment, disability assistance, or community re-entry support. We also must include tax policy reform to ensure that second-home and short-term rental

owners are paying their fair share to abate the housing shortage for Vermonters.

**School consolidation:** It's clear that communities value their schools and that school boards are striving to provide a quality education and maintain collaborative, multi-town school districts which improve opportunities for students and

moderate per pupil costs. I have led efforts to update our school funding formula to direct more resources to school districts with students in poverty, ELL students, and rural schools. I have advocated to move our school funding system to a mostly income-tax-funded system, which would enable more Vermonters to afford education taxes and stay in their homes. We need to stop public funding of private schools through vouchers and instead support public schools.


**Environment:** Next session I hope to return to the Finance Committee to work on updating Vermont's renewable energy standard (RES). As more systems convert to electricity, we need to increasingly generate and store electricity locally, and ensure that regional energy sources are renewable and low-impact. I have been working with legislators during this off-session to learn more about our current RES system and options for improvement. The Governor vetoed several critical environmental bills last session, so

(See Hardy, Page 9)



SEN. RUTH HARDY

**VOTE!** Engage in your community.



Eva

# VEKOS

Democrat

## Addison County State's Attorney

www.evapvekos.com

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VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOV. 8 2022

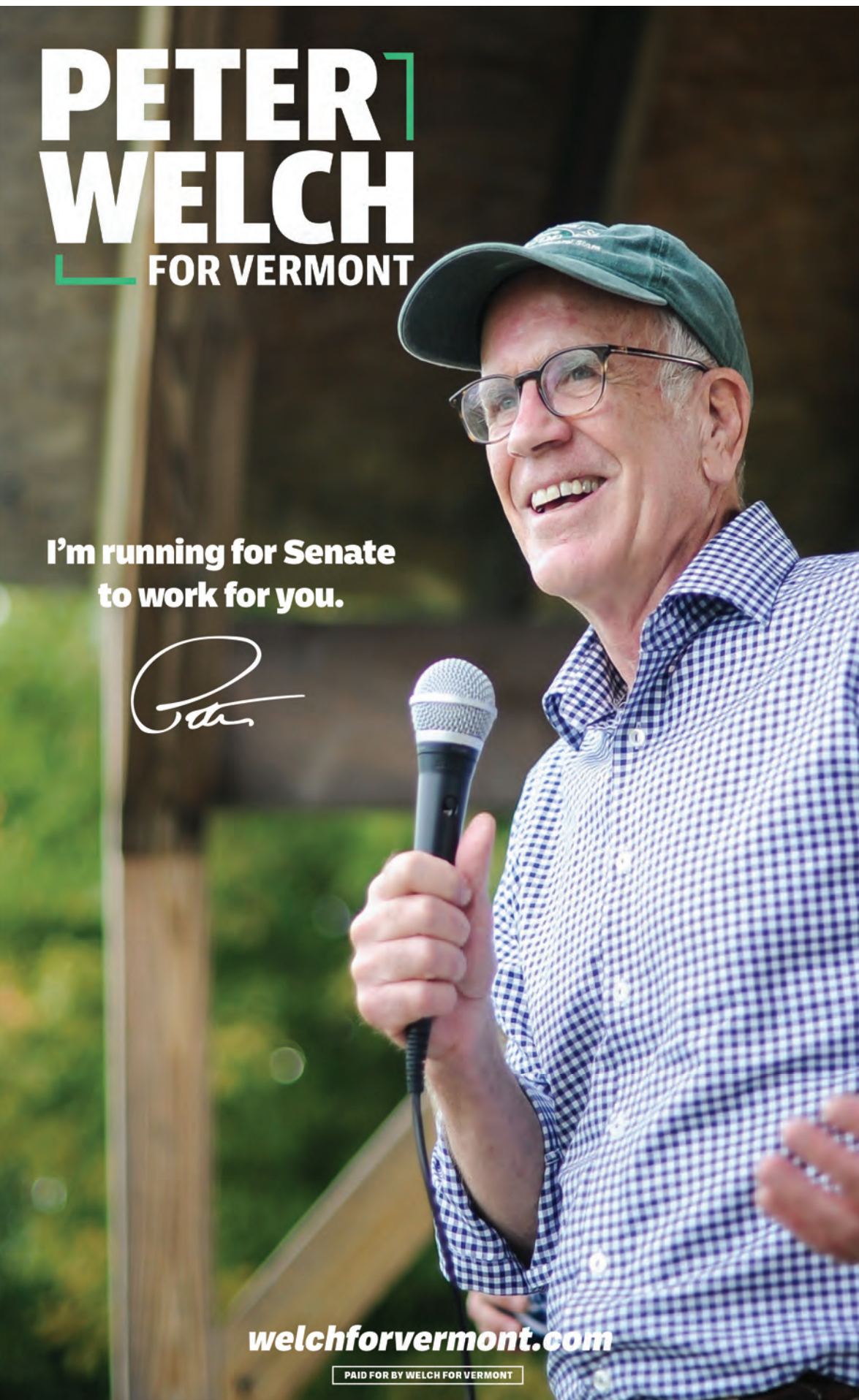
*Eva is a criminal defense, juvenile and family law attorney with 25 years of experience representing the most vulnerable. She lives and works in Addison County as a dedicated public defender and private practitioner.*

**Vote for Eva to put her experience into action: to reduce court backlog and establish a more compassionate and effective State's Attorney's office in Addison County.**


- Focus on the most serious cases: dangerous, repeat offenders who act with malice and cruelty.
- Stop criminalizing poverty and addiction.
- Lift up mental health and addiction services.
- Double-down on diversion and reparative justice.
- Stop charging minor technical violations.
- Collect data regarding underlying issues (drugs, alcohol, firearms, mental health, housing, education, etc.) to inform public policy.
- Be a better partner to law enforcement so that prosecutions are effective, successful and just.

# PETER WELCH

FOR VERMONT



**I'm running for Senate to work for you.**



welchforvermont.com

PAID FOR BY WELCH FOR VERMONT



## Mason D. Wade III, Independent, State Senate

**Economy:** The economy is not just about making money or growth in more population. When we put quality of life first we discover others come to live and experience our Green Mountain State. We need to allow our visitors, like for so many years before us, to not be shoved into what other states call Tourist Industry. Vermonters are not interested in "DISNEYMONT!" Our Addison economy will see a huge boom in a new agriCULTURE (not agri-business or farming industry) The East Coast populations will be hammering at our door to grow food as climate issues create a need for regional farming.

**Housing:** Housing in Addison County will need to respond to our soon-to-be boom in agriCULTURE. We have too much push by statewide non-profits trying to urbanize us all. We'll need new rural villages for the many involved in this new regional farming community. Vermont can aid Addison County to help our young farmers with their dreams of owning a small two-acre farmstead. Instead of driving land prices out

of their reach, now forcing many to leave their farming hopes. We'll also need smart building education and good old barn raising parties. Meaning energy smart, small home building efforts using local building materials. While building, the state can aid with a one-year portable small home loaner. This is how we grow a proud Vermont.

**School consolidation:** Consolidation is the Wrong direction for Addison County farming future. We don't need to endanger our children with unnecessary road traveling. Which leads to lost learning time and good old play time.

We all get it, better education now using the tools of the internet. Bringing more educators to more students, an equalizer for all.

Allowing for much smaller physical learning centers which will solve this consolidation mess! Taxpayers understand that the big

cost problem is the supervisory unions in the state. Now for Sports and the Arts, these need to be outsourced and not the taxpayers' responsibility.

Parents in need may apply to grants from a pool of statewide taxpayers feeling they can afford more support for these activities.

**Environment:** The environment of Addison County is a very small piece of a much bigger humanitarian issue on this changing new planet, EARTH. Do

we work collectively to do better OR do we commit to collective suicide for all life as we now know it. So it's not what I'll do as a lawmaker, it's what you'll do as my neighbor. Laws and taxes will only delay the emergency action of us all to respond. We can hide our heads in the sand like so many before us, who believed the world was flat and the center of the cosmos. Those humans who



MASON D. WADE III

have traveled to space understand this paradise planet we steward. Vermont needs to revisit it's 1930s agreement with the USFS, our Green Mts. We need at least a five-year moratorium on all forms of development to understand better the science of : "do not touch, take shoes off and walk In." Many non-profit profiteers are overwhelming us creating their DISNEYMONT, just a fact!

**Health care:** Health care is a no brainer; a healthier agriCULTURE, better health for all. A happier public understanding their work life balance with their true personal drive will go a long way toward a healthy Vermont life for all of us. We get it, if you're down and needing your fellow citizens for help with medical care and recovery time, we'll do it! This democracy cares about your well-being (HealthCULTURE). The issue is the Health industry shoving way too much down our throats. We the people need to drive our health system, not greedy get-rich guys! Science research is grand but when the world was flat we understood the

herbalists' knowledge for healing health which goes a long ways today. Got to know your past to know your future, as a great past human healer spoke of.

**Agriculture:** As your future lawmaker, first thing would be STAY OUT of the way of our Addison County farmers! I would want them to come to the table and agree on the path to our new future. Will farming be returning to its cultural roots, with a strong soil understanding that the healthiest soil makes the happiest farmers?

You ask is there a limit that the general public may want to subsidize (aid) our future food systems? It's the MOST important Vermont issue we have and if aid is needed we will! Aid may come not only in the form of dollars, but possible like in the 1930s younger folks (boys and men then) joined the CCC nationally. Young womyn and men may discover joy in hard work, seeing a new future, and gaining knowledge for a lifetime.

**Candidate's choice:** First I want to thank the Addison Independent for reporting on our

working democracy. As you can see from reading my replies and watching the debate of Sept. 22 (mediafactory.org/live), I do have HOPE and the drive to be your only Independent state senator.

My number one issue is the well-being of Addison County's democracy. I will push for term limits for State Senate and House.

I believe in two terms is all anyone should hold. If your elected lawmakers have done a good job, others of us (Addison folks) will carry the torch on! With 40,000-plus here in Addison, the baton-passing strengthens our freedoms and rights!

As your Senator, I'll push for a job description for Senators and Representatives as the incumbents to be responsible for County debates happening during election years. For example we need at least five Senate debates here in Addison with 27 towns. With early voting in gear already but we have only had one Public forum as of now. So much more I can share but space has run out. Thank you for more than just voting, get others to the polls!

## Hardy

(Continued from Page 8)

we must again advance bills on land preservation and more sustainable transportation and heating. I also hope we move forward with an expanded and improved bottle bill.

**Health care:** As vice chair of the Health & Welfare Committee, I have worked to ensure healthcare providers have had the flexibility and support necessary to maintain operations and provide care during a global pandemic. Currently, workforce shortages are a significant cost-driver, so we must sustain efforts to train nurses and other front-line providers. As more care shifts away from hospitals, we need to better contain hospital costs and assess the necessity of some facilities. We should invest further in mental health care, prevention & public health, and long-term care, and improve social determinants

of health. Finally, we should re-evaluate the role of OneCare in our healthcare system.

**Agriculture:** At the start of the pandemic, I was serving on the Agriculture Committee and helped advance pandemic relief to both farmers and farm workers. I also helped establish the Ecosystems Services Working Group tasked with recommending how farms can better improve soil and water quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Most farmers want to protect the environment and make a sustainable living, and state policy must support both goals. There is a limit to the amount the government can and should subsidize any private business. Vermont's incredible local food system, including farm-to-plate and school meal programs, and increased agrotourism & direct

sales provide market opportunities for diverse farm operations.

**Candidate's choice:** Especially in light of the June U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the landmark abortion rights decision in Roe v. Wade, one of the most important items on our ballots this year is a proposal to enshrine the right to personal reproductive liberty in the Vermont Constitution. In order to ensure future access to comprehensive reproductive health care and protect the personal reproductive autonomy of individual Vermonters, I encourage you to vote to approve Article 22, the Reproductive Liberty amendment. For more information on this issue, please visit my legislative blog at [ruthforvermont.com/updates](http://ruthforvermont.com/updates). Thank you for voting!

**Economy:** To maintain our economy, we need to supply goods and services to customers. Manufacturing or farming work requires raw materials, equipment, and skilled- or at least semi-skilled workers.

Vo-tech training, business loans, reduced regulations and/or paperwork and access to help and guidance could help. Government can legitimately help with some of these, but it needs to know when to get out and let business take care of business.

**Housing:** Increasing the supply of housing is necessary; when the supply is short, prices go up. Older houses could be updated. Making the laws more favorable to landlords will encourage the supply as well. If the landlords could operate without fear of damage to property or nonpaying tenants being protected by laws that keep

homeowners from evicting people when there is a cause they would be more willing to take a risk.

**School consolidation:** Local schools are very important, the more I hear these days, the more convinced of this I am. As the school population drops, the costs keep going up. Getting back to basic education for grade schools would cut costs and prepare students with needed skills for learning in High School, where some consolidation is needed.

**Environment:** There is a lot being done on water quality now and we need to continue work in this area. We need to protect open land by making transfers of farms to new owners easier, especially for intergenerational transfers.

**Health care:** I think medical insurance should be available for everybody, but this insurance

should be protected from monopoly control of medical or pharmaceutical groups. Controlling costs by allowing competition would help lower the cost of medical care

**Agriculture:** Small or large farms need good sources for capital loans. Increased requirements by government should often include financial help when large expenses are required.

**Candidate's choice:** In the last few months there have been opportunities to see some successful programs from daycare/preschool, alternative education, food insecurity & outreach programs, and alcohol & drug addiction programs to name a few. These programs deal with different ages, different problems, different funding, but they offer a chance to see some ways to help with some important social issues of today. I was encouraged with what I saw and would like to build on these in the future.

# VOTE DAVID ZUCKERMAN

**PROGRESSIVE / DEMOCRAT FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

**YES ON ARTICLE 22, Reproductive Liberty Amendment**  
**YES ON PROP 2, Ban Slavery Amendment**

**ENDORSED BY SEN. BERNIE SANDERS**

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Paid for by Zuckerman for VT, Orly Munzing, Treasurer

✓ Re-elect

# Matt Birong

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ADDISON | FERRISBURGH | NEW HAVEN | PANTON | VERGENNES | WALTHAM

- ★ **Secured an historic \$400m in housing investments.** Matt delivered historic investments and common sense reforms on Act 250 to increase housing inventory, and he will continue working to solve our housing crisis.
- ★ **Fought for pandemic relief for Vermont businesses.** Matt's firsthand experience as a local small business owner was instrumental to securing desperately needed relief for small businesses.
- ★ **Co-founded and leads the National Guard/Veterans Affairs Caucus.** Our service members and Veterans must be a priority in our policy making process. The caucus ensures those who serve our country are not forgotten.
- ★ **Modernized regulations to promote business and job growth.** With a historically tight labor market, high inflation, and uncertain supply chains, we need leaders like Matt who understand Vermont's small business economy.

ELECTION DAY IS  
NOVEMBER 8

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# House

(Continued from Page 1)

each candidate represents.

## LUKE TALBOT: INDEPENDENT

Talbot is an Island Pond resident and has been married to his wife for seven years. After his discharge from the U.S. Navy, he writes that he has been “doing inspection work in the manufacturing and power generation industry” for the past 30 years. He says he “enjoys motorcycling, snowmobiling, and is an avid gun enthusiast.”

In answering Digger’s yes-or-no questions, he:

- Would not support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would not support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would not support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Does believe F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Would not support legislation requiring the federal government to continue funding free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.
- Gave no response to whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits, but in his

in-depth comments he notes that congressional term limits would help break up the partisanship in Congress.

- Would not raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans.
- Does believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as “Obamacare,” should be repealed.

## LIAM MADDEN, REPUBLICAN/INDEPENDENT

Madden is a Marine Corps veteran who became the leader of America’s largest antiwar organization of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Afterward, Madden then co-won M.I.T.’s Solve Award for organizations innovating climate change solutions. His work has been covered by “60 Minutes,” the *New York Times*, and most major media. Madden was awarded the Institute for Policy Studies Human Rights Award, and he has also been a Climate Fellow for the social entrepreneurship accelerator Echoing Green.

Madden attended Northeastern University and focused his studies on policy and science pertaining to energy, economics, food systems and the environment. He is currently the Solar Energy Director at a Vermont home energy company.

He lives in his hometown of Bellows Falls with his wife, Lauren, and young sons June and Winn.

Madden’s campaign for Congress is centered around what he terms Rebirthing Democracy — a set of technological and structural innovations to dramatically improve the problem-solving processes of government.

In responding to Digger’s yes-or-no questions, his answers are in sync with most Vermont Democrats. He:

- Would support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Does not believe F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Would support legislation having the federal government continue funding free testing, vaccination and treatments for COVID-19.
- Does believe members of Congress should be subject to term limits, suggesting 10 years as the sweet spot.
- Agrees taxes should be raised on the wealthiest Americans.
- Does not believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as “Obamacare,” should be repealed.

## ERICKA REDIC, LIBERTARIAN

“Being born and raised in Vermont, I was taught values like hard work, perseverance, and acceptance,” writes Redic. “With a Bachelor’s in accounting from Champlain College, I have spent much of the last 2 years helping individuals and businesses achieve their goals and dreams. I’ve always had a heart for the underdog and public service.”

“In a representative republic,” she continues, “it is our duty to be honest and take care of the vulnerable. Through work with organizations like the Women’s Rape Crisis Center, I’ve helped influence policy changes at the local and state level. I call myself a Conservative because I believe in the liberal values established by the Constitution. I trust Americans to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. In order to maintain a civil and just society, we all must demonstrate a real tolerance of others and their viewpoints. We do this by conserving Constitutional

Rights and Values.”

In her yes-no responses, Redic said she:

- Would not support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would not support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Does believe F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Would not support legislation directing the federal government continue to fund free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.
- Gave no response to whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits.
- Would not raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans?
- Does believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as “Obamacare,” should be repealed.

## ADAM ORTIZ, INDEPENDENT

“I’m a workaholic,” Ortiz says. “I believe in dotting every ‘I,’ crossing every ‘T,’ and checking every box. Big things are only a bunch of small things put together. I’m smart enough to know I don’t know everything and sometimes it’s best to find a subject matter expert and take a supporting role. I understand how important teamwork is.” Ortiz lives in Rutland.

In his yes-no responses, Ortiz:

- Would support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Believes F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Supports the federal government continuing to fund free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.
- Had no response to whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits.
- Does not believe taxes should be raised on the wealthiest Americans.
- And does believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as “Obamacare,” should be



BECCA BALLINT

repealed.

## BECCA BALINT, DEMOCRAT

Balint introduces herself as “a former public-school teacher, mom, and President of the Vermont Senate. I was first elected to the Vermont State Senate in 2014, later becoming Senate Majority leader.” She is quick to add that she is the “first woman and first openly gay person to serve as President Pro Tempore of the State Senate.”

In the Senate, Balint says she “led the charge to pass the first gun safety laws in Vermont history, the strongest reproductive rights in the nation, and the largest investment in affordable housing in a generation.” That’s partly true, though she was part of a supermajority of Democrats in the Legislature, those pieces of legislation were marshalled through via their respective committees, and Republican Gov. Phil Scott was also leading the way on those same issues.

Balint says she is “running for U.S. Congress because I know Vermont alone can’t solve the problems we face. I know Vermont has long been a place that moves the rest of the country to think differently, to imagine a better future and a brighter world. That’s what moved me to join this race.”

In her yes-no responses, Balint hoes to the Democratic positions. She:

- Would support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for

All.

• Would support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

• Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.

• Believes F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.

• Would support legislation authorizing the federal government to continue funding free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.

• Does believe members of Congress should be subject to term limits.

• Would support raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

• Would not support any effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as “Obamacare.”

## MATT DRUZBA, INDEPENDENT

Druzba, 58, did not fill out the VTDigger questionnaire, but did contribute to a brief candidate profile in *Seven Days*. He’s a resident of Burlington and is the chief operating officer in a financial industry business.

Druzba says he is a left-leaning Independent and moderate (with conservative undertones) and says in his interview with *Seven Days* that he will “never be beholden to any political party or special interest group.”

More information can be found on Druzba’s website, MattDVT.com, or in *Seven Days* Election Guide.



LIAM MADDEN



## Vote for Michael Elmore, the candidate who is . . .

### Accomplished

- 4-year college degree in Criminal Justice
- Received the Gaiotti Award for honesty, loyalty, and enthusiasm for the Law Enforcement Profession
- Addison County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 2020

### Certified

- As the only Level 3 certified police officer running for Sheriff, I am ready and able to lead the department in serving Addison County.

### Fair

- No matter who you are or what political party you choose, I am here to serve all of Addison County.

**Vote** MICHAEL ELMORE

Addison County

★ SHERIFF ★

**Building Together ★ Building Stronger**

Paid for by Michael Elmore for Sheriff, PO Box 220, Vergennes, VT 05491

## The General Election is November 8th

### Senator Hardy is a champion for:

- Reproductive rights
- Childcare & paid family leave
- Equitable public school funding
- Health care access
- Broadband expansion
- Mental health support
- Gun safety measures
- Affordable housing
- Fair & reasonable taxation
- Healthy forests & sustainable farms



Re-Elect

**Ruth HARDY**

for Vermont Senate

**Addison District**  
Addison County, Buels Gore, Huntington, Rochester

[ruthforvermont.com](http://ruthforvermont.com)

Paid for by Ruth Hardy for VT Senate  
PO Box 343, East Middlebury, VT 05740



**Vote to re-elect Ruth Hardy. She works hard for you!**



## Lt. Gov.

(Continued from Page 1)

A: The state does not have reduction goals; it has reduction mandates. I supported goals that focused on using the right tools to achieve realistic expectations. I do not support mandates that use the wrong tools pursuing impossible objectives. My first priority would be to weatherize homes with a goal towards carbon emission reductions and resiliency.

• **How should Vermont continue to manage the Covid-19 pandemic?**

A: I believe it is time to acknowledge that Covid-19 is at endemic stage. Free testing should still be available and, if infection rates climb again to the point where our available medical resources are threatened, free vaccines as well. But with infection rates falling and our medical resources no longer threatened, I believe it is time for the Judicial Branch to remove Administrative Order #49 and get the judicial system moving again.

• **Should the state strengthen restrictions on hunting methods, including on the use of hounds and traps? If so, to what extent?**

A: No. The General Assembly took fairly extensive testimony on this subject. What we learned is that problems in these areas have come to light because of a relatively few number of people who can't seem to stay within the law. I would support strengthening penalties for those who bring a bad name to hunters and trappers.

• **How would you change the system of health care delivery and oversight in Vermont?**

A: Having learned through "Shumlinecare" that this state does not have the resources to make major changes to health care delivery, I would argue that this is a discussion that should be had at the national level. I am not familiar enough with oversight to determine whether the Green Mountain Care Board is functioning properly or not.

• **How should Vermont expand access to mental health treatment?**

A: We need to have better (and more) facilities to meet patient needs. Those facilities need to be spread throughout the state in a way that meets patient demographics. Those facilities need to be properly staffed with providers who are properly paid. We also need to spend more money on suicide prevention programs that are proven to work.

• **Would you support new restrictions on the sale and use of firearms in Vermont? If so, what restrictions?**

A: No. We have enacted several gun bills over the past few years, and they need a chance to work.

• **What would you do to help ease the housing crisis in Vermont?**

A: We have just devoted many millions of dollars of ARPA funds to address this problem and much of that money is now awaiting shovel-ready projects. Many of those projects face challenges being built, which would be eased by addressing Act 250 reforms.

• **How would you address the shortage of affordable childcare in Vermont?**

A: I would start by repealing the legislation that required educational degrees for childcare

workers. That well-intentioned legislation wiped out 40% of daycare facilities in Essex County and 7% statewide (according to the Joint Fiscal Office).

• **How would you address the shortage of workers in key professions, such as nurses and tradespeople?**

A: As a legislator I supported creation of nursing laboratories in our state college system and training facilities for trades through the Capitol Bill as chair of the Institutions Committee and as a member of the Education Committee. If elected Lt. Governor, I will use the office to travel far and wide recruiting students to populate those facilities. I would also use that podium to promote Vermont's brand, Vermont's workforce and Vermont as a wonderful place to live.

• **If you could make one change to Vermont's tax code, what would it be?**

A: I would strike the tax on military pensions.

### DAVID ZUCKERMAN

As a member of the Vermont Progressive Party, David Zuckerman has served as Vermont's Lt. Gov. from 2017-2021; was a Vermont state senator from 2013-2017; and served in the Vermont House from 1997-2011. He is also, as he says on his website, a husband, a father, and a small business owner living in Hinesburg. In 1995, he graduated from UVM with an environmental studies degree and became an organic regenerative farmer.

He writes on his website that he was "inspired by the politics of then U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders and first ran for the legislature in 1994, starting my nearly 30-year stretch in public service."

In answering VtDigger's five yes-or-no questions, Zuckerman:

• Said Vermont should allow overdose prevention sites where drugs can be used under supervision.

• Supports mail-in ballots for all Vermont elections.

• Supports a Vermont constitutional amendment for reproductive rights.

• Says the state should provide free meals to all K-12 students on an ongoing basis.

• Supports a mandatory paid medical and family leave program funded by a payroll tax.

In VtDigger's in-depth questions, Zuckerman's answers follow:

• **How should the state work to meet its carbon emission reduction goals? (Edited for brevity.)**

A: In Vermont, transportation and housing account for about 75% of our overall greenhouse gas emissions ... We must move towards implementing clean energy solutions for transportation and heating our homes in order to meet our carbon emission reduction goals ... We must make electric vehicles accessible by offering incentives for people to trade out their old, inefficient vehicles for EVs and offering support for low-income Vermonters to purchase more efficient electric vehicles. We must also expand our public transportation systems, electrify our fleet of public vehicles, and

explore options such as micro transit that will reduce overall emissions.

For housing emissions, the clean heat standard was an important step in the right direction. It is extremely unfortunate that this was vetoed. However, we must also generate more renewable energy to ensure that we are not expanding the use of carbon-based fuels.

• **How should Vermont continue to manage the Covid-19 pandemic?**

A: One thing we must do is listen to medical experts and use their advice and guidance to keep Vermonters healthy. As Lt. Governor, I would work to make sure the people that we called "essential" during the pandemic continue to be held in high regard and would look for ways to adjust how we value these workers ... I will elevate the voices of the medical community and amplify the advice that they give us.

• **Should the state strengthen restrictions on hunting methods, including on the use of hounds and traps? If so, to what extent?**

A: While this is something to be reviewed, I think there are far higher priorities that we need to tackle.

• **How would you change the system of health care delivery and oversight in Vermont?**

A: Nurses and medical staff at our hospitals are pillars of our community that should be respected and adequately compensated ... On top of this, I have long supported a universal healthcare system and would continue to advocate for such as Lt. Governor. This will help smaller businesses retain employees that they currently lose to larger employees who offer benefits. It would also allow all Vermonters to seek preventative care and treatment in the early stages of a medical issue rather than encouraging them to seek treatment only after it becomes an expensive emergency remedy.

• **How should Vermont expand access to mental health treatment?**

A: Preventative care and treatment for mental health should be on par with our physical health treatment. However, my boldest proposal is to stop seeing the government as an end-of-the-line solution to problems that we let get out of control. Instead, we should plan ahead and make investments in our communities and families in order to greatly reduce the number of people who become mentally ill. Let's start with finding the successes around the state where human services and education are breaking down barriers and finding ways to help young people when they first start to be impacted by the negative situations that often lead to lifelong mental health issues. It is important to recognize that Human Services and Education are the two largest line items in the Vermont state budget. If we learn from those in Vermont who have merged some of these functions, we can reduce duplication, save money and help Vermonters earlier when we can do the most good.

• **Would you support new restrictions on the sale and use of firearms in Vermont? If so, what restrictions?**

A: It's clear that this country has a gun violence problem. Nowhere else in the world do we see the rates of mass violence carried out with firearms as we do here. This is

an issue that has many causes. But one of the realities is that we have more high-powered and rapid-fire weapons in this country per capita than anywhere else in the world. We also do not discuss the issue of suicide by gun nearly as much as it deserves. Nearly 90% of gun deaths in Vermont are by suicide ... It is shown that implementing a relatively short, possibly 48- to 72-hour waiting period between the time of purchase and the physical transfer of getting a firearm can greatly reduce the number of suicide attempts. We should also work to find a way to subsidize lockable firearms cases in homes with young children so that the access to firearms for kids can be reduced.

• **What would you do to help ease the housing crisis in Vermont?**

A: The housing crisis has reached a critical point over the last few years ... We need to invest in building more affordable housing and home ownership options to ease the strain on our housing system. I am pleased to hear of the Housing Trust's recent announcement that they are going to provide 3-year forgivable loans of up to \$25,000 to help Vermonters with their down payments.

In order to combat the housing price spike, we will need to put a larger amount of perpetual funding into our affordable housing models ... We should also focus on addressing the infrastructure challenges to creating denser, walkable village centers ... Additionally, we have many vacant housing units that we should incentivize owners to bring back on the market.

Finally, we need to explore the challenges created when long-term rental housing is converted to short-term rentals.

• **How would you address the shortage of affordable childcare in Vermont?**

A: Vermont needs to invest money in our childcare system to make it more affordable. We have a shortage of qualified early childhood educators, a shortage of wages for those educators, and a shortage of high-quality and affordable programs. Many Vermont families spend more than 40% of their income on childcare, and some parents choose to leave the workforce because the cost of childcare is greater than their wages. This is unsustainable ... We must invest state money in our childcare system.

• **How would you address the shortage of workers in key professions, such as nurses and tradespeople?**

A: Our trade schools should be expanded and tuition subsidized to encourage more Vermonters to train for and pursue these careers in plumbing, contracting, nursing, and more. We should also look into programs, including loan forgiveness, for those who decide to pursue professions such as nursing where we are facing massive shortages of workers.

• **If you could make one change to Vermont's tax code, what would it be?**

A: I believe that we need to create a more progressive tax system that would relieve some of the pressure that regressive fees and taxes put on working-class, low-income, and middle-class families.

## Robert A. Burton Jr., Republican, State Senate

**Candidate's choice:** Global Warming, Taxation, Pandemic Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA): Global Warming Not Man Made. Atmospheric CO2 at 400 ppm Not primary Green House Gas. Fossil fuels Not the problem, EVs Not the solution. The details evident in un-manipulated data.

Excessive taxation coupled with frivolous spending put working Vermonters in jeopardy. Youth are fleeing Vermont looking elsewhere to start their productive life. Vermont is paying replacements a \$10K stipend. That isn't good.

The Pandemic was Man Made. Vermont management was subpar. Ivermectin, successful Rx, was "banned." Vermont MDs were forbidden to prescribe it. 250 million people of a province in India Rx'd with Ivermectin are now free of COVID-19.

**Economy:** Our Economy suffers from poor Pandemic management, ineffective GWSA taxation, labor and material shortages, business failures/departures, and excessive government costs, all of which are based on regulatory and legislative overreach and resulting in higher taxes.

The solution: Trim spending, cut non-essential services, eliminate excess regulations, shrink bloated government, to lower taxes, to revive businesses, and develop ways to encourage fleeing youth and our labor force to stay. We should not force our kids to leave or pay \$10K to encourage outsiders to take their place. Much work needs to be done.

**Housing:** Over taxation to support excessive government spending on non-essential services impacts cost of building and produces housing shortages. Property taxes are too high further reducing our labor supply and affordability. Liberal welfare benefits encourage non-working opportunists who further erode limited resources and increase non-productive spending. Low-cost housing is priced out of existence through property and other taxes required to support excessive spending.

Solution: Cut taxes, reduce overhead, and stop frivolous spending. Adjust welfare requirements to reduce frivolous and non-productive misuse of funding. Initiate oversight and creative welfare changes that eliminates both misuse and bureaucracy.

**School Consolidation:** Vermont schools have been among the highest national education costs per student with the poorest education outcomes. School consolidation issues and added bureaucracy has increased cost per student as student numbers have decreased.

Solution: School choice with \$\$\$'s following students and

parents in charge. Versatile school options including: private, charter, and home schooling can match needs with desirable outcomes. Poorly managed and underutilized schools need to close or re-organize. Virtual and versatile teaching models offer resources. The internet during the Pandemic has proven and expanded these potentials. Explore: voluntary teacher rotation ("circuit riders")?

**Environment:** Always essential. Never stop improving our land, water, and air to its cleanest natural state. Recognize and reduce or eliminate pollution through reliable management and technology practices. Reduce waste and recycle all material that qualifies. All land and water management should be according to its best and most sustainable and functional use.

Some waterways should be re-evaluated as to best possible conservation management. Hurricane Irene demonstrated major deficiencies that were corrected. Other lesser areas are showing need. There is evidence of soil erosion due to stream management restrictions and soil loss in the process. Those challenges should be addressed.

**Health Care:** Health care is over-regulated and under-served. In addition, there are "cost saving" monopolies appearing that are no longer "cost saving" in practice. Part of this cost increase comes from bureaucratic overhead. Part comes from avarice.

Solution: We need to find ways to provide services with less overhead and align costs with oversight where those costs are not justified. The cost of education at every post HS level has increased much faster than the growth of the economy or even inflation. That is a mismatch that needs serious evaluation and appropriate oversight. Health maintenance should always be affordable.

**Agriculture:** Vermont needs to protect and promote our agricultural resources above all. Good agricultural practices with preservation and sustainability have the capacity to reach across all other Vermont economies from marketing and support systems to recreation and tourism.

The farm labor challenges need to be updated. Out-sourcing labor needs to be protected and abuse eliminated. Land management always deserves support and vigilance. The increase in diversity is a welcome stabilizing influence. Technology and innovation can expand that diversity benefit as resources and infrastructure become available or mature. Extension service and supported marketing options also have stabilizing potential.



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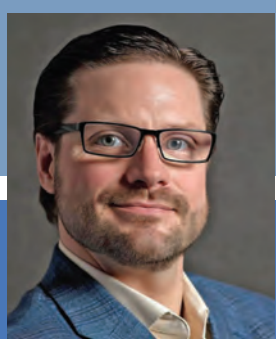
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# Senate

(Continued from Page 1)

supporter and says he supports the Jan. 6, 2021, riot on the Capitol, even though he claims not to be an election-denier.

He represents many perspectives of the national Republican Party, including avid support for ex-president Trump, championing tax reductions for the wealthy, but rejecting Medicare for All and the Affordable Care Act as programs that contribute to the national debt.

Even though the race has drawn little statewide attention, Malloy, at least, has been campaigning and has articulated a platform based on conservative ideology.

The other candidates are: Natasha Diamondstone-Kohout, representing the Green Mountain Party; and five Independents — Dawn Marie Ellis, Mark Coester, Ms. Cris Ericson, Stephen Duke and Kerry Patrick Raheb. In a question-answer platform provided by VtDigger, none of those five candidates took the time to answer the basic questions that would provide an inkling of their political perspectives or policy platforms, nor did they provide biographies.

Only Kerry Patrick Raheb of Shelburne outlined a rough platform in his biography, which suggests he would:

- fight for term limits to put an end to the “career politician;”
- reject promoting green energy, maintaining that the nation needs to become “energy independent” and advocated for more drilling of oil and gas and the construction of more pipelines. “We need to approve, not cancel, permits (for oil and gas projects),” he said.

• support more restrictive voter ID laws, hinting he was against mail-in ballots so that the country would return to voting on a single “Election Day,” which he said should be a national holiday.

- vote to stop illegal immigration and secure the nation’s borders, but didn’t say how or advocate for specific ideas;
- vote to “stop the unconstitutional federal mask and vaccine mandates;”
- support the 2nd Amendment rights to bear arms, without saying anything about limits.

On other issues, he supports the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v Wade, criticizes the high cost of childcare (but doesn’t offer any solutions), and would reduce the size of government. His concluding statement, of course, has

God blessing America.

In short, the race to fill the seat long occupied by retiring U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy will be against Democrat Peter Welch and Republican Gerald Malloy.

In previous weeks, VtDigger posed eight yes-or-no questions to all candidates, as well as eight in-depth questions on specific topics. The responses from Welch and Malloy (again, the other candidates didn’t answer them) follow:

## PETER WELCH

In answering yes-or-no to eight questions, Welch answered “yes” to:

- supporting a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All;
- strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act;
- federal legalization of marijuana;
- having the federal government continue to fund free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19;
- raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans; and
- continuing the operation of F-35 fighter jets out of South Burlington.

He responded “no” to:

- whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits, and whether Congress should repeal the Affordable Care Act (known as Obamacare). Obamacare, enacted in 2010, has significantly reduced medical expenses for millions of Americans, allowed children to remain on their parent’s family plans until they were 26, and now prevents insurance companies from preventing millions of Americans to access health care insurance because of pre-existing conditions.

Of the eight questions Welch answered in depth, those questions and his answers follow:

### • What, if anything, would you do to reform how political campaigns are funded in the U.S.?

A: We must get dark money out of politics and strengthen our ethics laws. I strongly support a constitutional amendment to overturn the disastrous Citizens United decision and campaign finance and election reforms that will ensure our government is accountable to the people it serves, not special interests or corporations. I also strongly support public financing, which was included in H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which passed the House with my support.

### • How would you work within a legislative body that is starkly divided

## along partisan lines?

A: We’re witnessing a dangerous breakdown in what is essential to building a strong political system and strong communities, and that’s trust. I believe the best way to deal with it is for each of us, individually, to treat one another with respect and civility. It’s the Vermont Way. Each of us is responsible for carrying that on in our lives, and I’ve tried to bring that approach to Congress for 15 years.

I will continue to focus on concrete issues that are important to Vermonters — and folks across the country. I’ve been able to make real progress in Congress when I focus on specific issues with my Republican and Democratic colleagues. It’s what I have done to help address our broadband problem in Vermont. I co-founded the bipartisan Rural Broadband Caucus, and we worked to get massive investments in broadband deployment in the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, which will bring more than \$100 million to Vermont. We are also on the verge of passing a major bipartisan bill (the Honoring our PACT Act) to help our veterans who have been exposed to toxic burn pits. I learned of the burn pit issue from Vermont veterans and their families and brought their stories to Washington and stayed on it to help make progress. It will help veterans get the health care and benefits they need to deal with the adverse impact of burn pit exposure while they were serving overseas.

Finding commonality on specific, concrete issues like broadband and burn pits is how I have always approached my work and would continue to in the U.S. Senate.

### • What should Congress do to make higher education more affordable, attainable and accessible?

A: What was once a gateway to the middle-class has become a crushing financial burden on Americans trying to achieve the American Dream of a better life. We must reduce the burden of student debt.

I support canceling some student loan debt for certain borrowers, loan forgiveness for graduates employed in public service and frontline healthcare jobs. I’ve also cosponsored the Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act to double the Pell Grant award and tie grants to the inflation rate.

We must also make college more affordable. One way to do that is through the Debt Free College Act, which I have cosponsored. It would incentivize states to achieve debt free college by unlocking matching federal funds. Expanding access to community and public colleges is also critical. I am a strong supporter and cosponsor of the College for All Act to waive tuition and fees for every community college student and qualifying students at public colleges and universities.

### • What would you do to address the rising costs of food, fuel and other goods?

A: The rising cost of fuel and goods is brutal for working families. We can and must relieve the pressure working families are feeling at the pump in the short term, while we work towards a more affordable future. It starts with addressing the Big Oil rip off. They are price-gouging during a time of instability around the world and we need to hold them accountable for profiteering and keeping production low to boost prices at the pump. The cost of gas is hurting Vermont families, while the oil companies are raking in record profits. This is outrageous and unacceptable. Congress must pass a windfall profits tax to stop this and bring down the cost of gas.

I also supported the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act, which passed the House and would help combat price gouging by the oil industry by giving federal regulators more authority to go after profiteering during this crisis. We also need to pass the COMPETES Act, which will help address supply chain issues and make sure we’re making the products we need in this country.

In the long term, we need to be doing everything we can to fight the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs and lower the cost of childcare and housing. We addressed these affordability challenges in the Build Back Better Act, which passed the House with my support, but has since stalled in the Senate.

### • How would you work to restore

## public trust in elections?

A: I was in the House chamber on January 6th and heard the shot fired and saw the insurrectionists try to break down the doors to get to the House floor. It was a violent and terrible day, but what was even more shocking was that after the violence occurred 147 of my Republican colleagues voted against certifying Joe Biden as the duly elected President of the United States. And what has happened since then is that Trump-aligned state legislatures across the country are rolling back voting and election protections in an attempt to undermine the next election.

It is critical that Congress take steps to protect the right of all Americans to vote and ensure the certification process is done without interference from politicized state legislatures.



GERALD MALLOY

Vermont has been leading the country in making it easier to vote, not harder. But that fight is raging outside of our state and a threat to anyone’s right to vote is a threat to us all.

Congress needs to act now to address and prevent these attacks taking place all across the country. We must pass the Freedom to Vote Act, the For the People Act, and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. I cosponsored and helped pass these bills in the House, but they have stalled in the Senate because of the filibuster. It is another reason we need to abolish the filibuster.

### • What actions would you take to support rural areas and farmers?

A: Rural Vermont and our farmers help make Vermont such a special place. The beautiful scenery, the hard-working people, and the culture of community and care is core to our rural state... (Farmers) must play a role in our future local food system, the fight against climate change, and our state economy. I have been a fierce advocate my entire career in Congress for our dairy farmers, working to strengthen the dairy safety net with the Margin Protection Program, protect our trade agreements to ensure Vermont dairy has access to international markets, and instituting a supply management system.

I’m working to end The Renewable Fuel Standard, an artificial corn ethanol subsidy that raises the cost of food prices, makes it more expensive for our farmers to buy feed, damages small engines, and harms the environment. I’ve fought to help Vermont families and children get access to affordable, nutritious meals that include locally sourced food products. This includes working to expand SNAP benefits, achieve universal school meals, increase funding for food banks, and help Vermonters in need.

### • Would you support new federal restrictions on the sale and use of firearms? If so, to what extent?

A: Yes. Enough is enough. We must enact gun safety reforms to address the epidemic of gun violence... I support banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, universal background checks, and closing loopholes in the federal background check law. Parents should not have to worry about the safety of their children when they are at school. Kids should not have to fear for their lives when they walk into their classroom. And teachers should not be required to be a security force on top of everything we ask them to do for our children and communities.

### • Under what conditions should the U.S. engage in the use of military force?

A: Diplomacy should always be the focus of our international engagement and approach to conflict. But there are times when the United States must engage militarily to protect our allies, national security, or address a humanitarian crisis. A major step in that process has to be Congressional engagement. The Constitution gives Congress the authority to declare war and far too often in recent

decades, Congress has abdicated that authority to the President. We have seen wars expand into new territory and last too long with devastating consequences in the Middle East without Congressional involvement. Congress must be engaged by debating and voting on the Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) when the United States sends our brave servicemembers to fight a foreign war.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GERALD MALLOY** was born in Boston and became a West Point graduate. He spent 22 years on active duty as Field Artillery Officer with duty in Germany, Korea, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait. He used that experience to work in the federal government with defense contracts, and then used that experience to work in the private sector, primarily with defense and intelligence contracts.

He moved to Vermont in 2020 from Massachusetts, and now lives in Windsor County. He’s married with four children, three in Vermont schools. He’s never run for political office before at any level.

In answering Vt.Digger’s 8 yes-or-no questions, Malloy said:

- “no” to supporting a comprehensive health care program known as Medicare for all;
- “no” to strengthening federal voting rights protections;
- “no” to the federal

legalizing of marijuana;

- “no” to raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans;
- “no” to continued federal funding for free testing and vaccination and treatment of COVID-19; and
- “no” to term limits on members of Congress.

He dodged the question on whether to support the continued operation of F-35 fighter jets out of South Burlington by writing “no response.”

He responded “yes” to repealing the Affordable Care Act.

His in-depth answers follow as written with editing only when needed for clarity:

### • What, if anything, would you do to reform how political campaigns are funded in the U.S.?

A: I am interested in reform, but do not have specifics developed.

### • How would you work within a legislative body that is starkly divided along partisan lines?

A: Find the Tip O’Neill types.

### • What should Congress do to make higher education more affordable, attainable and accessible?

A: Stop overspending on stimulus and pork in omnibus actions; start making tough decisions to spend on important areas for future of USA, like Education. Mandate a percentage to go to Education.

### • What would you do to address the rising costs of food, fuel and other goods?

A: Overturn Oil/Gas Executive Orders; promote regaining independence and trade surplus. Promote farming/agriculture in U.S. for food independence. Implement real sanctions on countries USA should not be trading with, like Communist China. Made in USA, Made in Vermont.

### • How would you work to restore public trust in elections?

A: State-level reforms - paper only/ no electronics, ID, dump rolls and complete redo, in person voting only with very limited exceptions; voting Holiday. Amend the Constitution so that there is no question that the VP/ President of the Senate does in fact have the right to call for investigation if there is 25% of Congress vote of perception of impropriety, BEFORE certification.

### • What actions would you take to support rural areas and farmers?

A: I intend to seek to work on Senate Agriculture committee to support and grow Vermont farming, dairy, agriculture.

### • Would you support new federal restrictions on the sale and use of firearms? If so, to what extent?

• No.

### • Under what conditions should the U.S. engage in the use of military force?

When diplomacy fails and there are compelling needs to use force; last resort and only upon agreement and support from military leadership. (I am a combat Veteran).

*Editor’s note: As indicated, candidate Q+As were provided by VtDigger.org.*



PETER WELCH IN MIDDLEBURY

# Mullin

(Continued from Page 6)

subsidies come from the federal government, rather than the state coffers due to funding priorities of the majority in the legislature. Farmers are especially impacted by the high cost of fuel, labor, health care and taxes (property, sales, inheritance, income) so addressing

these issues for all Vermonters also supports farmers.

**Candidate’s choice:** I’m worried about the high cost of living in our state. My opponents voted to raise taxes on you at each opportunity, including gas and heating fuel. I’d work to lower

taxes, streamline regulations, lower the cost of healthcare, childcare, keeping small schools, and add to our police force. I’d urge our congressional representatives to address the problem of the southern border if we care about Fentanyl deaths and human trafficking which is impacting all states. This is a humanitarian crime which especially includes violence against women and children. I ask for your vote if you also care about these issues.

# Elder

(Continued from Page 6A)

ways. One bill makes it easier to create an accessory on farm business, bolstering flexibility and entrepreneurship. Additionally, we directed significant federal funds to grants for meatpacking businesses to expand and grow their capacity. In H.188, we amended the cannabis licenses to treat small grows on

farms as “agriculture.” We must find new and creative ways to keep our farmers successful and thereby keep land open. Open lands are key to climate resiliency and we can’t achieve this without successful farms.

**Candidate’s choice:** In the coming biennium, I’ll be focused on climate legislation. I believe we need to try again following the Governor’s veto of the Clean Heat Standard. Additionally, we need to revisit our Renewable Energy Standard and reduce some unneeded

regulatory roadblocks to green-energy development in Vermont. I’m committed to connecting our local economy to our career and technical education centers. As a member of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation board, I’m aware of the incredible programs and resources currently available to students pursuing a technical education in Vermont, but I think we can do more to prepare those students with relevant, transferable skills early in their careers.



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### Addison - 2



Peter Conlon

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### Addison - 4



Mari Cordes

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Caleb Elder

### Addison 5



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