

2015 Q3 Issues & Programming WTSA (AM)

This is the programming and issues file for WTSA (AM) Brattleboro for July through September, 2015. The radio station features local news weekday mornings at 6:55, 7:55, and 8:55. In addition, numerous local groups are allowed time to record and air public service announcements. The radio station also broadcasts Brattleboro Union High School Football, Basketball, Hockey, Baseball and Softball. Here are some of the local news items covered during the period. This is not meant to be a complete list, only a representative sample. For additional information, please contact Tim Johnson at (802) 254-4577 during normal business hours, or email tj@wtsa.net.

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Agriculture

July 2: As the campfire season gets into full swing with the July 4th weekend, northern New England states remain vigilant about the unwanted passengers those split logs can carry: invasive insects like the emerald ash borer or Asian longhorned beetle that can wreak havoc on hardwoods.

July 3: Vermont specialty food producers struck gold at this week's Summer Fancy Food Show in New York City. The Sofi Awards, which stands for "specialty outstanding food innovation," are the most prestigious awards in the specialty food industry and represent the best of the best.

July 16: Brattleboro's Commonwealth Dairy will be one of three suppliers of Greek style yogurt for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's school lunch program.

July 20: Singer Neil Young has made a \$100,000 Vermont Food Fight Fund, which was established to protect Vermont's mandatory GMO labeling law from those waging a legal battle to overturn it.

September 2: It's time to get ready for apple picking: New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan is visiting an orchard in Londonderry as part of New England Apple Day to kick off the season.

September 30: Seven Vermont nonprofits are getting grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that support the startup or growth of rural businesses in the state.

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Arts

July 6: A call for artistic submissions in Brattleboro is intentionally broad, according to new information from the planning service department.

July 9: Brattleboro Community Television has won two national Hometown Media Awards from the Alliance for Community Media.

July 10: It will be a weekend of food and music in Grafton this weekend. The annual Grafton Food Festival takes place Saturday, and then Saturday night, a concert by the Boston-based chamber music orchestra Far Cry.

July 14: The budget for a public arts project in Brattleboro has been increased to \$56,000, thanks to additional donations coming in.

July 16: Brattleboro is hosting the third annual Southern Vermont Dance Festival this weekend.

July 17: Brattleboro Community Television is looking both internally and externally for input about its future.

August 5: It will take some extra time to narrow down the choices for a publicly funded art project in Brattleboro. Town manager Peter Elwell says one of the applicants had submitted two proposals and one was not considered by a screening committee.

August 6: Brattleboro is in the running - out of 33 curated towns across America - to become one of the Top Ten Towns for Craft Lovers in the country.

August 12: Brattleboro Selectboard members have added one public art finalist to the dozen selected by a screening committee.

September 2: All the applicants for Brattleboro's Our Town grant screening committee have been appointed by the Selectboard. The seven have been tasked with recommending finalists for a publicly funded art project.

September 29: Brattleboro Selectboard members will be asked to endorse a public arts project by Andrea Wasserman, Elizabeth Billings and Evie Lovett.

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Business

July 2: Federal approval in hand, the sale of IBM's microchip plants in Vermont and New York to Global Foundries has been completed.

July 6: Two large national chains of discount stores will merge after selling two Vermont stores and more than 300 nationwide.

July 7: Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin says the new owners of Vermed in Bellows Falls have received more than a half million dollars in incentives geared toward the company remaining in Vermont.

July 8: Brattleboro will have a seat at the table in recommending future uses of the Windham County Economic Development Fund.

July 22: Vermont officials have decided to change how of \$10 million in economic development funds that will be used to help cushion the economic blow from the closing of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant will be handed out.

July 24: Six Windham County startup businesses will pitch their ideas to a "gang" of motorcycling investors, entrepreneurs and advisors who are stopping in Brattleboro on August 4.

July 31: A southwestern New Hampshire organization is getting a \$350,000 economic development grant from the parent company of Vermont Yankee to benefit communities affected by the closure of the nuclear power plant.

August 4: Five area businesses got the chance for a face to face pitch to a group of nearly 30 investors and consultants in Brattleboro today.

August 6: A paper company that operates in Brattleboro has been sold. Fiber Mark has been purchased by Nenah Paper, Inc. as of August 1. FiberMark is a specialty coating and finishing company with a strong presence in luxury packaging and overlapping technical product categories.

August 6: One of Brattleboro's micro brewing companies says it's weighing its options about how to expand.

August 20: Halifax hits the internet age, with a wireless broadband tower run by VTel activated in the center of town.

August 21: Brattleboro Town Manager Peter Elwell confirms the Selectboard will be asked September 1st to approve a Community Development Block Grant application to support G.S. Precision's expansion plans in Brattleboro.

August 28: The state of Vermont is backing G.S. Precision's plans to expand at Brattleboro's Exit One Industrial Park.

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September 1: The \$265,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration was the final piece of funding needed to launch Development of a Green Building Cluster Study and the initiation and operation of the Southern Vermont Business Innovation Accelerator.

September 22: Brattleboro will send a letter of concern about a proposed cell tower on Putney Road.

September 23: Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation Director Adam Grinold says you can grow the local economy and still be green. Grinold is part of an October 6th Public Forum on Advancing Vermont's Climate Change Economy.

September 28: The height of foliage season means Brattleboro's I-91 West River Bridge construction project will become clogged with traffic during peak hours.

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Education

July 1: Marlboro College's ninth president, Kevin Quigley, has begun his new job.

July 3: The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation is calling for residents to view an on line video produced by a pair of college bound twins from Putney, and like it as part of a national competition.

July 6: Many Vermont school districts are gearing up to offer pre-K to children ages 3-5 this coming school year, in advance of a state mandate that such programs be in place by the 2016-2017 school year.

July 10: The Brattleboro Retreat's Dr. Michael Kahn has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Teaching Award for Excellence in Medical Education, an honor that is given out jointly by the Retreat and Albany Medical College.

July 15: A new law that aims to give kids a jump start on saving for college by opening a savings account for every child born in Vermont got a boost today.

July 17: The Windham County Sheriff's Department is co-sponsoring a parent night for driver's education enrolled students tonight at Brattleboro Union High School.

July 17: A Vermont State College committee has given preliminary approval to a proposal to change the name of Castleton State College to Castleton University.

July 23: Windham Southeast school officials are advertising for a new Assistant Principal at Brattleboro Area Middle School.

August 4: Marlboro College is included in Forbes' annual list of America's Top Colleges this year, and is the first college to appear in their promotional video for the 2015 list.

August 11: Former Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin will be the commencement speaker for the 18th Marlboro College Graduate and Professional Studies commencement, on Saturday, August 22.

August 13: A video featuring a Vermont family about education opportunity has won a national video competition.

August 20: Marlboro College's "Teaching with Technology" program is now offering a pathway to becoming a licensed Vermont teacher with an Educational Technology Specialist endorsement.

August 27: Bellows Falls Central Elementary is one of eight Vermont and New Hampshire grade schools to be awarded a special literacy sponsorship valued at \$25,000 from the Children's Literacy Foundation.

September 18: Leland and Gray Union High students are getting a lesson in traffic safety from a professional race car driver today.

September 24: An important weekend is ahead for Landmark College in Putney. The school's 30th anniversary is being celebrated this weekend, along with the opening of the school's McFarlane Center, the first new academic structure on the former Windham College Campus.

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Energy/Environment

July 1: Vermont's Solid Waste Division says pay as you throw allows the homeowner or business to have greater control over their trash costs.

July 8: More than a week in, pay as you throw is going smoothly in Brattleboro.

July 9: Three interveners will be allowed into the Vermont Public service board hearings on Entergy Vermont Yankee's request to build a second independent spent fuel storage installation storage pad and related improvements.

July 9: July 22nd has been set as the deadline for additional comment about Iberdola's proposal to build and operate a 17-turbine, 35 megawatt wind generation facility with interconnection facilities on 80 acres in the Green Mountain National Forest in Searsburg and Readsboro.

July 13: A Maine company says it's making a cat box liner that can be accepted into Brattleboro's curbside compost program.

July 14: Vermont's Public Service Department is preparing an update of the state's comprehensive energy plan, and among the areas getting attention are the solar boom and changes in the transportation sector.

July 22: Brattleboro's transition to pay as you throw for residential trash disposal has survived some early bumps in the road, and is going ahead of expectations.

July 23: The Windham Solid Waste District has approved a 20 year lease of their closed landfill site for a solar net metering project.

July 23: The Nuclear regulatory commission has closed its Resident Inspector's Office at Entergy Vermont Yankee.

August 3: Officials in Vermont are using a computer game to encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint. Executive director Kathryn Blume says the statewide game, called Vermontivate, is a climate and sustainability game designed to tackle climate change.

August 5: Brattleboro, Bellows Falls and Springfield are among six recipients of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency brownfield grants.

August 6: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has found no significant environmental impact related to Entergy Vermont Yankee's plans to reduce its emergency planning zone next year.

August 10: Green Mountain Power is looking into the cause of a turbine fire at its Searsburg wind farm early Sunday.

August 25: A judge has ruled in favor of Rockingham in a dispute with energy giant TransCanada over the tax assessment of a hydroelectric station.

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August 28: Opponents of a proposed natural gas pipeline slated to run through Cheshire County plan a Saturday rally in Keene.

September 4: Atlantic Wind will get two additional years to collect weather data for a proposed wind power facility in Windham and Grafton. The Vermont Public Service Board endorsed the request late Thursday.

September 8: Dummerston's Conservation Commission is calling attention to the dangers associated with climate change, with a talk by wildlife researcher Sue Morse this Thursday.

September 10: Vermont Congressman Peter Welch is challenging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to give state and local officials a seat at the table in decommissioning the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon.

September 21: The Windham Regional Commission is stressing the importance of water conservation.

September 22: Officials in Vernon continue to weigh the merits of locating a natural gas power plant in town.

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Healthcare

July 6: Dartmouth-Hitchcock medical center is exploring a partnership to improve access to home health care and hospice services in New Hampshire and Vermont.

July 6: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital has won a \$27,000 grant from the National Breast Cancer Foundation to underwrite the services of BMH's Breast Care Nurse Navigator.

July 10: A group working to revise how New Hampshire evaluates health care provider networks is holding another session to discuss the issue.

July 14: The Vermont Department of Health is testing mosquitos around the state for evidence of Eastern equine encephalitis and West Nile virus.

July 20: Officials from Vermont's White River Junction Veterans Affairs Medical Center are going to be co-hosting a Brattleboro meeting to get feedback from veterans, family members and other beneficiaries.

July 30: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont has agreed to trim its request for a rate increase for consumers who get health coverage through the Vermont Health Connect insurance exchange.

August 3: Fundraising and community support were behind this past weekend's annual Grace Cottage Hospital Fair.

August 7: The Brattleboro Retreat's 10th annual golf tournament was a record-setting success, bringing in \$42,000 for children's services.

August 11: Cheshire Medical Center-Dartmouth Hitchcock chief officer and President Arthur Nichols will retire at the end of October after 27 years in working in the Monadnock region.

August 12: The annual Grace Cottage Hospital Fair was its most profitable ever.

August 14: Vermont healthcare regulators have approved rate increases for people covered by the state's online health benefit exchange known as Vermont Health Connect.

August 17: The Brattleboro Retreat's 6th Annual Ride for Heroes set a new fundraising record by netting more than \$28,000 to support the Retreat's Uniformed Service Program.

September 1: Over 50 trucks and other big rigs, along with their operators will be on hand for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's 7th annual Touch a Truck benefit September 12th.

September 3: A Brattleboro mental health organization is getting a federal grant. Vermont Congressman Peter Welch this morning announced the Copland Center would receive \$330,000 a year for the next five years from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the Doors to Wellbeing program.

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September 11: Vermont's Green Mountain Care Board has set the total fiscal year 2016 budget increase for Vermont's hospital system at 3.5%, including one half percent that qualifies as investments in health reform.

September 11: Three area hospitals are promoting wellness, with an event this Saturday at the Brattleboro Retreat.

September 11: Vermont's department of health is moving the WIC program from a home delivery system to a retail e-card system.

September 22: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital will begin offering a free diabetes prevention program next week.

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Human Service

July 7: Brattleboro Housing Partnerships says the construction phase of their Red Clover Commons development is underway near the corner of Fairground Road and Canal Street.

July 7: Some minor changes to the annual Glove Sweat and Cheers softball tournament to benefit the Women's Freedom Center in Brattleboro.

July 20: United Way of Windham County is investing \$101,000 in high-impact human service programs in the areas of health, opportunity, prosperity and education in the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

July 23: The Winston Prouty Center is studying whether the former Austine School campus is in its future plans.

July 24: Rescue, Inc., has a new swift water rescue boat, thanks in part to a grant from Walmart Community Grants.

August 6: The Winston Prouty Center's future depends on the ability to collaborate with other groups to improve the lives of children.

August 7: Brattleboro's noontime Rotary club is running a car show tomorrow to raise money for the scholarship program and other charities.

August 11: Social workers and investigators with the Massachusetts child welfare agency are planning a vigil in memory of a slain colleague from Vermont. The vigil is planned for 5 p.m. Tuesday outside the Greenfield office of the state Department of Children and Families.

August 13: The Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club is raising money to pay for a used van, after their current vehicle has fallen into disrepair.

August 13: Windham County's United Way is looking for volunteers, to be part of its sixth annual Day of Caring September 12th.

August 14: Putney now has 11 new units of affordable housing, thanks to the Windham Windsor Housing trust. Renovations have been completed on the Laura Plante Building on Old Depot Road.

August 20: Golfers are needed to help Windham County Safe Place. Spokeswoman Alyssa Todd says the regional Child Advocacy Center will benefit from a September 1st Golf Tournament at the Hermitage Golf Club in Wilmington.

August 21: The Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity has released a new updated booklet dealing with what families and others should do when a child becomes the victim of school-based bullying or harassment.

August 25: The Winston Prouty Center Board of directors has voted to pursue a purchase of the former Austine School campus.

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August 26: Brattleboro's Winter Overflow Homeless Shelter will be eventually located in a former auto body shop at 39 Frost Street.

August 26: Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy is scheduled to be in Brattleboro Monday, for ground breaking of the Brattleboro Housing Partnerships new Red Clover Commons on Fairground Road.

August 27: Groundworks Collaborative will hold its 5th annual Hike for the Homeless fundraiser on Saturday, September on Mount Wantastiquet in Hinsdale.

August 29: Vermont's Interfaith Action Council is calling for the governor to publish a service based budget, and the idea found favor at a Brattleboro discussion.

September 1: Construction is underway in Brattleboro on a new 55-unit housing complex that will replace a senior housing complex that was heavily damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene four years ago.

September 9: The Monadnock Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coalition of Keene is one of ten New Hampshire groups that will each receive \$125,000 in federal funding.

September 10: Youth Services of Windham County has a new Executive Director. Russell Bradbury-Carlin had been director of the Center for New Americans, an agency that works with immigrants and refugees in western Massachusetts.

September 14: The United Way of Windham County fall campaign is underway, and is looking to raise \$400,000.

September 24: Brattleboro's volunteer Living Memorial Park Snow Sports group has received an anonymous challenge grant, aimed at paying off the bank loan for their snow groomer.

September 25: Money raised from Brattleboro's annual Buddy Walk helps keep a volunteer inclusion center open two days a week with space in two area churches.

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Local Government

July 2: Keene has been awarded a Bronze designation from the Bicycle Friendly Community program.

July 10: Repairs are scheduled for next spring to a bridge that carries traffic over the Connecticut River from New Hampshire to Vermont.

July 22: Brattleboro Selectboard members will spend \$7,500 for new concept plans aimed at reducing the size of Brattleboro's central fire station expansion, and moving the police department to an as yet unnamed Putney Road location.

July 31: A lawsuit claiming that the Selectboard acted improperly in the days before this year's March election against the town of the town of Brattleboro has been thrown out by a Windham County judge.

August 3: Brattleboro's Main Street sidewalk reconstruction project gets underway today.

August 5: The Brooks Memorial Library will extend its operating hours, thanks in part to a \$1.2 million inheritance from a Brattleboro man who died last year.

August 10: At least four Vermont towns now have unofficial town web sites. Vernon has joined Townshend, Wardsboro, and Windham in having unofficial town websites.

August 11: Spohn Ranch Skateparks, LLC will return to the Keene Recreation Center August 18 to introduce the design for the new skate park concept to be located in Wheelock Park.

August 17: The fate of one of Brattleboro's most notable signs will be discussed by the Development Review Board tonight.

August 18: One of Brattleboro's most famous signs can either be repaired or changed, according to a ruling by the town's Development Review Board.

August 19: Brattleboro's American Legion is reaching out to families of service people who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. The American Legion's Tom Costello says six names are engraved at the Brattleboro Common War Memorial, but research has found 5 other area residents who died in the war.

August 25: Brattleboro's Development Review Board has endorsed, with conditions, a proposal for five mini storage buildings and a small office for the vacant lot at the intersection of Putney and Black Mountain Roads.

September 8: Repairs will be made to Brattleboro's downtown traffic lights.

September 22: City of Keene staff and an engineering firm next week will present traffic data and traffic calming alternatives for the city's last Safe Routes to School Pilot Project in the subdivision north of Maple Avenue.

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September 30: Brattleboro Selectboard members have three possibilities for upgrading the town's police facilities. Two would upgrade their current offices at the municipal Center, while the third targets an as yet to be named Putney Road location.

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Public Safety

July 1: Brattleboro Police are asking for your help to solve an attempted robbery at the Putney Road Dunkin Donuts.

July 7: The man who robbed Brattleboro Savings and Loan last year has pled guilty, and under a plea agreement, 69-year-old David Abbott will spend the next four to ten years in jail.

July 8: Brattleboro Police have issued an arrest warrant for the June 29th robbery at People's United Bank. 22-year-old Jared Fahmy of Bedford, N.H., is being sought.

July 13: Over 4,500 Green Mountain Power customers in Brattleboro lost power for several hours last evening, because of a downed tree and wires near the intersection of Guilford and Maple streets in Brattleboro.

July 15: A Brattleboro man faces multiple charges after being involved in a downtown vehicle/pedestrian accident.

July 21: \$2,500 bail for a Springfield, Mass., resident after Vermont State Police discovered seven grams of crack cocaine hidden in his underwear.

July 24: A Putney man has been released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond after pleading not guilty to charges related to a Monday stabbing and home invasion.

July 29: Keene Police are looking for the public's help in identifying and locating a suspect involved in an armed robbery in the city yesterday.

August 4: No injuries reported after a lightning strike at the Valley Cares assisted living facility in Townshend. Multiple fire departments responded to the scene after the 5 p.m. incident was reported, and crews quickly extinguished a small fire in the attic area.

August 10: A Westminster resident has died from injuries sustained in a car motorcycle crash on the Kurn Hattin Road in Westminster Sunday. Vermont State Police identified the victim as 26-year-old Benjamin Watkins.

August 21: Walpole Police took a report of an antique military ordinance in the water near the Westminster Bridge.

August 24: The death of a Brookline man remains under investigation. Trevor Farrell was found near his Brookline home around 11 p.m. Saturday.

August 26: Vermont State Police are seeking information that would help solve a burglary at the Putney town garage.

September 3: The Keene State College Department of Campus Safety will be conducting tests of the College's emergency broadcast system.

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September 9: Some of the projected \$1.7 million in savings from closing two of the state's 911 call centers are being eaten up by displaced workers traveling across the state to staff the remaining two in Rockingham and Williston.

September 10: Fire in a remote area of Wilmington Wednesday was contained until last night's rain put the blaze out.

September 11: According to a pair of published reports today, investigators appear to have new leads in Burlington for a 2011 arson fire that happened at the headquarters of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Company in Brattleboro. 32-year-old Anthony Gotavaskas of Montpelier will be arraigned at Windham District Court at a later date.

September 14: A Brattleboro man was shot and wounded by a Vermont State Police trooper during a confrontation in Fayston over the weekend.

September 24: Brattleboro Police are investigating several complaints of fraud at a Western Avenue business. Authorities say Tuesday a "skimmer" was found attached to an ATM at the business.

September 25: A Brattleboro man has been jailed on sexual assault and unlawful restraint charges. 28-year-old Levy Pierce is being held at the Brattleboro Police Department on \$10,000 bail pending his arraignment in Windham Superior Court.

September 30: The state Public Utilities Commission has fined Eversource \$250,000 for failing to repair a broken arm on a utility pole in Keene, where a Keene State College employee was electrocuted while investigating a report of a low-hanging wire.