

2014 Q1 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

This is the programming and issues file for WTSA-FM Brattleboro for January through March, 2014. 96.7 WTSA-FM provides local news updates every Monday through Friday at the following times 5:30 6:03, 6:30, 7:03, 7:30, 8:03, 8:30 and 9:03 AM; plus 12:03, 3:03, 4:03, 4:30, 5:03, 5:30 and 6:03 PM; and on Saturday mornings at 6:03, 7:03 and 8:03 AM. In addition, WTSA-FM allows local groups time to record and air public service announcements, and our staff members are regularly involved with local charities. 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

January 18: Migrant workers in Vermont are celebrating a new law that allows them to drive. Groups today held demonstrations outside Department of Motor Vehicle offices in South Burlington and Montpelier, where people in the country illegally can now apply for driver privilege cards.

January 18: Federal scientists say more research shows an invasive beetle that has destroyed hardwood forests thrives in red maple trees.

January 20: It's almost that time of year again — time for Vermont's annual Farm Show. The event returns to the Champlain Valley Fair Grounds in Essex Junction Jan. 28-30.

January 21: Small farming is seen as an area of growth in Vermont's economy. Deb Boudreau of the Vermont Small Business Development Center in Brattleboro says farmers also need to be good business people, and the top priority is keeping a close eye on the bottom line.

February 4: Area farmers are getting a pre-Valentine's Day thank you from a community event. Love Local begins during Friday's monthly Gallery Walk in Brattleboro, according to organizer Kristin Flutterjohn.

February 17: Grants are available to Vermont farms and food hubs serving schools, hospitals and other institutional markets. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets says \$40,000 will be available through the Local Food Market Development Grant program.

February 17: Vermont house agriculture committee member Tristan Toleno of Brattleboro says the committee is facing a tough task, finding a way to improve environmental compliance for small farmers, and keep a resurgence in agriculture going.

February 21: A Christmas tree farm in Dummerston that was up for sale is getting new owners.

March 13: The up-and-down temperatures have made for a challenging maple syrup season so far for some New Hampshire farmers.

March 20: Vermont cheese makers won big on the world stage wowed judges on the world stage.

March 21: The Vermont Agency of Agriculture is urging horse owners to have their animals vaccinated against Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus.

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Arts

January 8: The Putney Historical Society and Next Stage Arts Project have launched a half million dollar campaign to preserve and renovate the historic, former church building at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney into a professional performing arts center.

January 14: A Friday concert in Brattleboro features the ultimate pick up band, the 137 person Valley Rock Choir. Director Tony Lechner says they've been growing since their start at the beginning of 2012.

January 21: Organizers of the Brattleboro Film Festival are raising funds, as they've set in motion plans for this fall's event. The third annual festival will take place from October 31 to November 9, 2014 at the Latchis Theatre in downtown Brattleboro.

January 22: Thanks to a generous gift, the New England Center for Circus Arts has purchased land on Town Crier Drive in Brattleboro. The center plans to build a circus school on the site.

February 13: The Greenwood School of Putney is collaborating with filmmaker Ken Burns for "The Address", a feature length documentary focusing on students' challenges and triumphs in studying, memorizing, and publicly reciting The Gettysburg Address.

February 20: The filmmaker and producer of the Sundance Award winning film, "Watchers of the Sky" will be honored in Keene, following a showing of the film next month.

February 26: An exhibit of Vermont's best student art and writing is underway, thanks to the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center.

February 27: Brattleboro's 23rd Women's Film Festival is also the 40th anniversary year for its sponsoring organization, the Women's Freedom Center in Brattleboro.

March 3: Next Stage Arts in Putney has been selected as a finalist for the ArtPlace America 2014 Innovation Grant.

March 10: A Guilford man has won a statewide writing prize. Michael Nethercott is the winner of the 2014 Vermont Writers' Prize, awarded by Green Mountain Power.

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Business

January 2: Despite some rain, Vermont's ski areas say the early season is looking good, with the slopes full of skiers, many of whom are also staying in area hotels and eating in local restaurants.

January 6: Andrew Robinson will be joining the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation staff as the Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies Director of Workforce Development.

January 9: Brattleboro has a new grocery store, with Aldi opening at 762 Putney Road. The national chain has nearly 1,300 stores in 32 states.

January 18: A 120-million-gallon water storage pond for snowmaking and a new 36,000-square-foot base lodge for skier services are two of the projects Mount Snow will fund through the federal EB5 investor program.

January 22: Brattleboro Selectboard members have endorsed sending \$36,000 worth of grant payback funds to the Southeast Vermont Economic Strategies group.

January 28: Brattleboro's Chamber of Commerce is looking to close a projected \$20,000 revenue gap this year.

January 29: A trio of Southern Vermont organizations have each received a \$10,000 grant to support workforce development in the region.

February 1: New Hampshire manufacturers are praising a program that crams a semester's worth of training into two weeks.

February 12: A Vermont House committee approved a grant of \$500,000 for economic development in Windham County as the region plans for the closing of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant.

February 20: A Brattleboro company says it's poised to be part of a new growth in the financial service industry in Vermont. Anna Petropolis of Apetrop USA says a new state law will allow insurers to resell blocks of commercial policies, with the work to service them done in Vermont.

February 27: A non-binding question on implementing a local option sales tax in Brattleboro will be on the town wide ballot on Tuesday. The owner of two Brattleboro car dealerships is urging for its defeat.

March 10: Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin today called on lawmakers to approve a phased-in increase in Vermont's minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017.

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March 17: Job growth and job creation the top concerns at a Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce legislative breakfast. House democrat Valerie Stuart claimed a lot is already being done to grow the economy, while Newfane's Dick Marek says he'd favor new start-ups over larger more established firms.

March 24: Brattleboro town meeting members have rejected a proposed 1% local sales tax.

March 24: New Hampshire Employment Security officials are teaming up with the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce and area employers to present the 18th Annual Monadnock Regional Job Fair.

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Education

January 8: Brattleboro Union High School board members tonight hold a 6:30 public information meeting on the proposed FY 2015 budget.

January 13: The Brattleboro town school board is looking for input about the future of education locally. A January 22 discussion has been scheduled at Academy School.

January 20: With Vermont's statewide education property tax expected to go up this year, house appropriations committee member Ann Manwaring of Wilmington says there needs to be a greater relationship between spending and outcomes.

January 22: National attention for Kurn Hattin school of Westminster, after the school's music director, Lisa Bianconi, was named a top-ten finalist for the inaugural Grammy Music Educator award.

January 27: Bellows Falls Middle School is using a new text messaging program that it hopes will cut down on bullying. The program allows students to electronically report harassment. Text messages from students and parents would go to school staff.

January 29: The Vermont Education Agency has launched a new website to help schools and students develop personalized learning plans.

February 4: No one showed up for a Brattleboro Union High School budget hearing last night.

February 6: Vermont Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe calls closing gender and income gaps in state testing “a critical state priority”.

February 11: Marlboro College has announced it would not increase its undergraduate tuition and fees for the 201415 academic year.

February 24: Keene State College has joined an online coalition that helps support first generation college students.

March 3: Six area colleges have signed the Windham Higher Education Cooperative Agreement, allowing undergraduate degree seeking students to take classes at partner institutions as part of their regular course load.

March 6: Keene State College says it has fired an employee being investigated for alleged misconduct.

March 13: Vermont's Agency of Education is partnering with three regional professional development organizations, to get teachers ready for the new common core state standards.

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March 14: Getting Vermont teachers ready for the new common core standards has been a three year process for a regional group. The Southeast Educational Collaborative's Casey Murrow says they are now working with educational professionals in the state's four southern counties.

March 24: Legislation restructuring Vermont school governance caught the attention of Brattleboro's representative town meeting.

March 25: The principal at Vernon Elementary school is leaving, to become principal at Green Street School in Brattleboro. Mark Speno will replace John Reed in the position.

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Energy/environment

January 6: A solar array project has been approved for the former landfill in Townshend. The Vermont Public Service Board has approved an application to build a 149.5-kilowatt solar array at the landfill. The town applied for the project, which will be funded by private investors and built by Westminster-based Soveren Solar.

January 14: The Vermont Public Service Board tonight uses Vermont Interactive Television for a hearing on Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee's proposed Certificate of Public Good.

January 29: Environmental activists have begun an on line funding campaign, to help support the removal of invasive plants in and near the Connecticut River in the Brattleboro area.

January 30: U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders is calling for additional federal control in the shutdowns of nuclear power plants like Entergy Vermont Yankee.

February 7: A Williamsville couple have donated a conservation easement on 287 acres of woodland in Guilford. The property owned by George and Joan Weir is a large working forest that abuts other conserved lands and borders the Green River.

February 14: The former BFI landfill in Rockingham is one of six Vermont locations where the EPA will conduct a five year update of the sites federal superfund status.

February 18: Green Mountain Power says customers experienced shorter outages and more reliable power service last year, according to a new report filed with the state Public Service Board.

March 7: The soon to be closed Entergy Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant was among 80 nuclear power plants in the country that received top grades from federal regulators.

March 13: Stratton Mountain is among nine Vermont corporations that have signed a new agreement with Efficiency Vermont. The Continuous Energy Improvement Partnership is the first of its kind in the northeast, and provides companies with technical assistance and support to reduce waste and improve energy performance.

March 25: A 300-mile power cable line would be buried on land and run underwater from Maine to Boston in a proposal to tap Canada's hydropower for power-hungry southern New England.

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Healthcare

January 2: The state official who led the state's effort to get people signed up for health coverage through the Vermont Health Connect system says it's rewarding to see the system start providing coverage.

January 9: Governor Peter Shumlin says heroin and addiction to opium-based drugs has grown into a full-blown crisis. Shumlin made the comments during his State of the State address.

January 22: Two Vermont Senate committees are slated to take up the sensitive question of when it's permissible to force people with mental illness to take medications against their will.

January 23: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital has hired Robert Gailey as the new Director of Organizational Improvement.

January 30: The Vermont Department of Health will be distributing an updated dose of potassium iodide – also known as KI – to anyone who lives or works in the six towns within the emergency planning zone around Vermont Yankee.

February 4: A new report from the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice at the Geisel School of Medicine claims telemedicine can cut costs for nursing homes.

February 6: It now appears it will be at least next week before a Vermont Senate panel completes its work on a bill to streamline the process for getting people into mental health treatment and on medications against their will.

February 6: Keene State College has upgraded its nursing lab, now providing a realistic hospital and clinic setting, and cutting edge medical technology.

February 10: Vermont has its first certified pediatrician trained in recognizing child abuse.

March 3: Residents purchasing insurance through Vermont Health Connect can now pay their bills online.

March 7: A year-end fundraiser by Brattleboro Subaru brought in nearly \$20,000 for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. The dealership's Share the Love event was allowed to designate the hospital's emergency room expansion as an eligible recipient.

March 12: The Vermont House is expected to give final passage to a bill that would give doctors more flexibility in treating Lyme disease.

March 12: Students at Vermont Technical College nursing program in Brattleboro are working to increase the supply of potential bone marrow donors.

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March 14: Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin says it costs Vermont more than \$1,000 a week to lock up an addict, but \$136 a week to put that same person into outpatient treatment.

March 21: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital has announced a pair of new health care providers are joining the hospital's physician practices.

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Human Service

January 2: As of today at a Bellows Falls library, people with overdue books can settle their fines with food donations to the local food shelf. The modified fine amnesty will accept non-perishable food in lieu of overdue fines through the end of the month.

January 16: Brattleboro's Winter Overflow Shelter coordinators are reaching out to the community and asking for continued volunteer support.

January 17: Windham County's United Way campaign has reached 80% of its \$500,000 goal.

January 24: Morningside Shelter gets an upgrade, thanks to a team of volunteers from Entergy Vermont Yankee.

January 31: A new scholarship has been named for Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing founder Byron Stookey. The Brattleboro man retired from the Affordable Housing Board last year.

February 5: Brattleboro Union High School junior Sydney Fisher has been named youth of the year by the Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club.

February 7: The Pink Heals Tour comes to Brattleboro tomorrow. The local Guardians of the Ribbon chapter will be at the Marina Restaurant at 2 pm Saturday, raising awareness about fight against breast cancer.

February 20: Tickets are now on sale for the Windham County Humane Society's 7th annual Wags to Riches fundraiser.

March 3: Employees at World Learning in Brattleboro offered their space to raise money for Project Feed the Thousands over the weekend.

March 6: Keene State College says it has fired an employee being investigated for alleged misconduct.

March 14: A harsh winter means an extended season for the Brattleboro winter overflow shelter. May 1st is the closing date according to Brattleboro Area Drop In Center director Lucie Fortier, and she's looking for additional volunteers.

March 24: The Brattleboro Housing Authority will be accepting initial waitlist applications for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) wait list effective Monday April 7.

March 26: A Brattleboro organization wants the discussion about prejudice to include talk about self-esteem issues faced by women of color.

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Local Government

January 3: The host community of the soon-to-close Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is planning for a future without the property taxes paid by the plant.

January 8: The Selectboard in Vernon has signed a contract with the owner of the closing Vermont Yankee nuclear plant that will stabilize the town's tax base through March 2015.

January 22: Brattleboro Selectboard members pass a budget for next year, even though they aren't happy with a projected hike in property taxes.

January 28: Selectboard members in the host community of Entergy Vermont Yankee have proposed a 16% municipal budget cut, as a step toward dealing with the loss of tax revenue expected when the nuclear plant closes.

January 29: Former Vernon Police chief Kevin Turnley is being rehired by the town, at the rank of corporal for 20 hours a week. The information was made public at a Monday night budget hearing.

January 31: Putney gets a \$300,000 state grant to continue building a sidewalk from the center of town to Landmark College.

February 7: Residents in Rockingham have reached an agreement with officials to buy remnants of an old covered bridge destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

February 10: Water and sewer rate hikes are coming in Brattleboro. Interim town manager Patrick Moreland says the goal is keeping the town's utilities fund sustainable.

February 19: Winter has hit Brattleboro hard in the wallet. Interim town manager Patrick Moreland says many of the winter maintenance line items are nearly expended.

The operator of Brattleboro's Bee Line bus says ridership has stabilized, and they plan to do additional outreach to riders.

March 4: Residents of Vernon last night heard Windham County state senator Peter Galbraith pledge to help preserve an education tax break now enjoyed by the host community of Entergy Vermont Yankee.

March 5: Residents of Wilmington have voted down a measure that would have established an emergency/disaster fund.

March 10: Brattleboro's town finance committee says the cost of maintaining service has outstripped our ability to pay.

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March 13: A slightly higher salary may help Brattleboro attract a new town manager.

March 27: Brattleboro Selectboard members didn't get very far in their bid to free up more state money for local needs.

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Public safety

January 2: A Winter Storm Warning continues for Windham, Cheshire and Franklin Counties until 10 am Friday.

January 6: Vermont State Police are investigating a fire that claimed two lives on Schoolhouse Road in Dummerston.

January 15: The New Hampshire Supreme court has refused to reduce a Hinsdale man's jail sentence for sexually assaulting a minor.

January 21: Vermont motorists are being reminded by police a new state law makes it illegal for drivers to use portable electronic devices in work zones. The law took effect Jan. 1.

January 24: Severe cold with periodic breaks in the temperature mean additional maintenance for anyone heating with wood.

January 27: Police say a Surry man killed in a crash in Keene earlier this month was driving in excess of 100 mph when he lost control of his car.

February 1: A Springfield, Vt., woman is facing heroin charges in Windham County.

February 4: New Hampshire highway crews are scrambling to restore depleted salt stocks. State officials have just ordered another 21,000 tons of salt to add to the 99,000 tons left in storage.

February 10: A Westminster woman is being held on bail after an incident Sunday. Vermont State Police say 21-year-old Deserae Allen was allegedly holding an HCRS caseworker against her will in her bedroom.

February 13: New Hampshire Attorney General Joseph Foster says he won't retry David McLeod for a 1989 fatal fire in Keene, and McLeod has been released from jail.

February 25: Police have charged a Brattleboro man with cocaine possession after he dropped a white, powdery substance on a store floor in Brattleboro that tested positive for cocaine.

February 26: Rescue, Inc., director Drew Hazelton says the region's emergency medical service is both in good financial and organizational shape.

February 28: The Vermont Department of Public Safety will have two veteran law enforcement offices sharing the job of Deputy Commissioner.

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March 5: Brattleboro Selectboard members last night endorsed the work toward final design of the police and fire project, even though David Schoales was concerned the West Brattleboro Fire Station design wasn't a good fit with the neighborhood.