

2014 Q2 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

This is the programming and issues file for WTSA-FM Brattleboro for April through June, 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

April 1: Vermont maple syrup producers are trying new wireless monitoring systems that allow them to keep track of their sap lines from the sugar house. They're using computers and smartphones to pinpoint the location of leaks, allowing them to make quick fixes and get better yields during the four-to six-week sugaring season.

April 4: A Vermont senate committee has unanimously approved a genetically modified food labeling bill. The Senate Judiciary Committee reviewed the bill and passed it with a bipartisan 5-0 vote Thursday.

April 7: Vermont and New Hampshire top a new locavore index, a measurement of commitment to local foods.

April 10: One of two US Department of Agriculture rural development grants announced for the state is coming to Brattleboro. The Brattleboro Area Farmers Market received \$6,300 to assist with the purchase of its current site off Western Avenue in Brattleboro.

April 11: A scientist says efforts to breed a version of the American chestnut tree that is resistant to a blight that almost wiped out the species are making progress, but it could be a century before the trees can offer much economic benefit to the Vermont economy.

April 17: Two Windham County projects are among 19 funded by the Vermont working lands program. The Big Picture Farm of Townshend will receive \$20,000 for materials to be used in caramel and cheese production. The Boyd Family Farm in Wilmington will receive \$20,000 to renovate an existing barn.

April 18: Marlboro College is gearing up its use of local foods, with a goal of at least 20 percent locally sourced food by 2020. Marlboro is part of the Real food challenge, according to President Ellen McCulloch Lovell.

April 22: The Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation is highlighting the importance of the ash tree. The department's Urban and Community Forestry program is working with a number of other state and federal agencies to host a series of events to celebrate the importance of the tree.

April 23: Mud season and maple syrup seem to go together, and Brattleboro's Strolling of the Heifers group is trying to enter the mix, with a Maple and Mud event Saturday.

April 28: The fiddlehead fern is getting its own festival in southern Vermont. The Mount Snow Valley chamber is planning the first ever fiddlehead festival May 23 through 25.

May 9: A national food industry group says it will file suit in federal court within weeks challenging Vermont's new law that requires labels on genetically modified foods.

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May 20: The 13th annual Strolling of the Heifers festival in Brattleboro is a couple of weeks away, and founder Orly Munzing says this year they are celebrating a new downtown presence with the purchase of the Robert Gibson River Garden.

May 28: Five Windham County farms are opening their doors for tours during Brattleboro's Strolling of the Heifers weekend. Helen Robb says it makes sense for people to see how their food is produced.

June 18: Several Windham County projects have received open lands grants from the state of Vermont. Big Picture Farm of Townshend and Boyd Farm of Wilmington have each received a \$20,000 grant. Ironwood Brand LLC of Brattleboro received a \$37,000 infrastructure grant, and the Brattleboro area Farmers Market received \$30,000 for property acquisition.

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Arts

April 2: Brattleboro hosts a documentary premiere tonight. The first ever showing of the Ken Burns Documentary, "The Address", will be shown at the Latchis in Brattleboro beginning at 7 tonight. The film shows work by students at the Greenwood School in Putney to memorize and read aloud Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

April 4: The Monadnock International Film Festival Kicks off tonight with the premiere of FRED, the brand new documentary by John Fitzgerald Keitel in Peterborough, New Hampshire. A statewide screening tour of FRED will take Keitel, Fred Karger and former Karger for President Political Director Kevin Minter all over the Granite State ending Saturday, April 12, 4 at 10:00 am in the Putnam Theater, at Keene State College.

May 8: The New England Center for Circus Arts remains an important part of the region's economy. The latest crop of graduates will begin six public shows, including a benefit for the Windham County United Way Saturday night at Landmark College's Greenhoe Theater.

May 9: More than 2,000 people came to Brattleboro last summer for the first ever Southern Vermont Dance Festival. Organizer Brenda Siegel says the festival returns for four days in mid-July.

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Business

April 1: Vermont Tax Credits & Grants Coordinator Caitlin Corkins will update Building a Better Brattleboro members on the state Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Program this morning. The credits are designed to stimulate private investment, create jobs, restore historic buildings, and to jump start downtown revitalization.

April 1: The Vermont Attorney General's office says it has settled a consumer protection complaint against Irving Oil for about \$425,000 because it delayed removing propane tanks and issuing refund checks after customers ended their propane service.

April 2: The work to increase high speed internet service continues. FairPoint has announced they have expanded broadband to 90 homes and businesses in Brattleboro, Putney and Westminster.

April 3: A day-long conference in Putney Wednesday addressed how nuclear plant closings affect the local economy. Organizer Jeff Lewis said the event at Landmark College dealt with issues which other parts of the country with aging nuclear plants may find useful.

April 4: Telecommunications officials from across Vermont are telling a group of residents in Putney they are trying to get them broadband service. Officials from V-Tel said they are close to finishing work on four towers to service the entire town with high-speed service. The goal is to have service available during the summer, but that the new technology could present some "surprises."

April 7: Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation chief Pat Moulton Powden says having a comprehensive economic strategy helped convince Entergy to include ten million dollars for development in Windham County into an agreement with the state of Vermont.

April 10: Pat Moulton Powden says it's her career goal, being appointed as Vermont Commerce Secretary. Powden is leaving the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation after a year on the job, the past three months as its director.

April 11: Building a Better Brattleboro is looking for volunteers to take on a downtown beautification effort. An informational gathering is planned for 5 pm April 18 at McNeill's on Elliot Street.

April 25: A petition to build a cellular tower in Putney has been filed with the state, despite mixed feelings on the project from local officials. AT&T says the tower would be needed to improve wireless and cell service around Putney and Interstate 91.

April 28: Cell phone coverage should be improving in rural areas of Windham County. The Vermont Telecommunications Authority is supervising the installation of microcells on utility poles along about 450 miles of rural Vermont roadways.

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May 1: New Hampshire Business Magazine has named a pair of Cheshire County businesses tops in the state. According to the magazine, the 2014 business of the year winner in Health Care is Cheshire Medical Center in Keene.

May 12: The chairman of the Vermont Board of Education is serving as interim executive director of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation. Stephan Morse is a former Speaker of the Vermont House. He also served for many years as director of the Windham Foundation.

May 14: A federal jury in Vermont has ordered the promoter of a major winter sports event to pay Mount Snow more than \$2 million, agreeing that a contract was breached when a tour stop was moved from the ski resort to Killington in 2010. The jury on Tuesday found against The Alliance of Action Sports, NBC Universal media and MBC Sports Venture regarding the Winter Dew Tour.

May 15: A Vermont company continues to see rapid growth in serving large industrial companies with compressed natural gas. NG Advantage founder Tom Evslyn says paper mills in Brattleboro and Putney were among NG's first customers, and the customer base now includes at least four hospitals in the Vermont and New Hampshire region.

May 23: Craft producers in the Windham County area and statewide are opening their studios to the public this weekend. Thirty-one producers in the Windham County area are part of the Vermont Craft Council's annual Open Studio Weekend.

May 29: Brattleboro's Commonwealth Dairy has received a workplace safety award from the Vermont Department of Labor.

June 3: A special state designation in Guilford could make it easier for it to preserve historic buildings. The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development has awarded "village center designation" to Guilford Center to protect its historic core.

June 6: A pair of Vermont based companies say a buyout by corporate America hasn't hurt their social mission.

June 6: Kyle Garner is the chief officer of New Chapter in Brattleboro, which is owned by Proctor and Gamble. Rob Mahalik of Ben and Jerry's says their acquisition by Unilever has allowed them to expand their social mission to other countries. June 9:

With almost no warning, the Friendly's Restaurant franchise at 1089 Putney Road in Brattleboro has closed its doors. A corporate spokesman said the closing happened at the close of business Sunday.

June 13: Sidehill Farm in Brattleboro is being recognized by the Vermont Small Business Administration this week. The Brattleboro company is being honored as the state's top family owned business of the year during an event Tuesday in Shelburne.

June 16: Brattleboro's Development Review Board is being asked to approve use of the former Pizza Hut restaurant to a medical clinic.

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Education

April 2: New Hampshire's Colby-Sawyer College is changing its curriculum structure to increase both class time and out-of-class work. Under changes approved by the school's board of trustees, Colby-Sawyer will switch from a mostly three-credit per course model to a predominantly four-credit per course model starting next fall.

April 3: For a second time, voters have rejected next years proposed Leland and Grey Union High School budget, on a vote of 300 no and 299 yes. Windham Central CFO Frank Rucker says the \$6.9 million budget originally presented in February was brought back a second time because of a petition campaign.

April 4: One hundred students from across New Hampshire are competing in the state-level part of the National Geographic Bee. The contest is taking place Friday afternoon at Keene State College.

April 7: Prospects appear to be dimming for big changes in how Vermont governs and pays for its public schools this year.

April 7: The Austine School for the Deaf in Brattleboro is facing declining enrollment and staff cutbacks. Austine had about 140 students in the early 1980s, but is down to about 20 students this year.

April 8: Landmark College in Putney is planning to build a \$10 million education and research center focused on science, technology, engineering and math.

April 17: Community colleges in New Hampshire are lowering their tuition by 5% starting this fall. The in-state per credit cost will be reduced to \$200, down from the current price of \$210. For an in-state student taking a minimum full-time course load of 12 credits per semester, annual tuition costs will drop from \$5,040 to \$4,800.

April 17: Two elementary school principals in the Windham Central district are being recognized by the state. The Vermont Principals Association has announced Rosemary Fitzsimons, Principal of Wardsboro Elementary School, is the winner of the Henry Giaguque Vermont Elementary Principal of the Year. William Anton, Principal of Dover Elementary School, is the winner of the National Distinguished Principal Award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

April 21: Students from a Keene elementary school will be heading up Mount Washington via the Cog Railway as a reward for winning a statewide video contest. Debbie Sawyer's fourth grade class at Wheelock Elementary School got a surprise visit from tourism officials last week. Their video, "Alpha-Bet of New Hampshire" won the grand prize in the Division of Travel and Tourism's Class Act Video Awards. Keene State College is among the nation's greenest, according to the Princeton Review, in collaboration with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council.

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April 24: A tentative teacher contract settlement in the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union. Superintendent Chris Kibbe says the deal includes raises over its three year life. Several of the district school boards have already ratified the deal, which would be retroactive through July first of last year, and through the end of the 2016 school year.

April 24: A top official of the Grammy Foundation visited Westminster's Kurn Hattin Homes to formally recognize music teacher Lisa Bianconi as a finalist for the GRAMMY Music Educator Award.

May 1: Marlboro College President Ellen McCulloch-Lovell announced that she intends to step down from the presidency in June 2015.

May 2: Hinsdale High School students received a sobering message the day before the annual school prom. Emergency crews staged a mock fatal accident and trial at the school, to show the dangers associated with underage drinking and driving.

May 5: Keene State College will hold commencement ceremonies on Saturday, and one of the grads has been honored for his artwork. Kenneth Carr of Nashua was given the People's Choice award for an exhibit of work at Keene State's Thorne-Sagendorf Art Gallery.

May 6: Two Vermont colleges remain on track to start their fall semester in the newly renovated Brooks House in downtown Brattleboro. Vermont Technical College site director Cliff LaPlante says their Brattleboro offices and those of Community College of Vermont will move downtown in early August.

May 9: Keene State College tomorrow will award diplomas to nearly 1,100 graduates.

May 12: Vermont governor Peter Shumlin says this fall's opening of Vermont Technical College and Community College of Vermont in downtown Brattleboro, plus expanding dual enrollment opportunities for high school students, will help the region's economy.

May 14: Vernon has a school budget. Residents voted 158 to 130 in favor of a revised spending plan for the year beginning this July.

May 19: Professor, author and social critic Andrew Delbanco applauded Marlboro College's spirit of democracy Sunday.

May 20: Vernon School has a new principal. Dana Gordon-Macey was appointed by the Vernon School Board. Ms. Gordon-Macey is currently Director of the Kindle Farm School in Newfane, and will replace Mark Speno, who has been hired as the principal for Brattleboro's Green Street School.

June 11: Brattleboro Union High School received a new ten year accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

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June 12: Oak Meadow, a local provider of progressive homeschooling curriculum for independent learners around the world, will celebrate the accomplishments of 37 high school seniors at its graduation ceremony on Saturday at 2pm at the West Village Meeting House in West Brattleboro.

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Energy/Environment

April 1: For one area expert, energy efficiency is about more than just saving money. Alex Wilson of Building Green says making homes more disaster resilient make sense in the era of climate change. Wilson hosted a discussion with Vermont congressman Peter Welch Monday in Brattleboro.

April 2: Vermont's new net metering law provides an opportunity for the Windham Solid Waste District to generate power with a solar array at the closed Brattleboro landfill site. Waste district director Bob Spencer says the matter is under study.

April 4: The frigid temperatures that gripped much of the nation this winter posed operational challenges to the New England power grid, led to spikes in natural gas and wholesale electricity prices, and further highlighted issues related to resource performance and the importance of a secure fuel supply. ISO New England's Peter Brandien.

April 18: The company that owns the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant wants to do away with the 10-mile emergency planning zone surrounding the reactor after it ceases operation later this year. In the formal request filed by the Entergy Nuclear, Site Vice President Christopher J. Wamsler says that within just under 16 months of the shutdown, the spent fuel pool will have decayed to the extent that no additional actions will be needed.

April 22: A Vermont group that promotes renewable energy says it can support new power lines running through the state to southern New England — with conditions. Renewable Energy Vermont issued a position paper on Monday saying that the state should push to build a "green energy corridor."

April 28: Customers of Green Mountain Power will benefit, from a revenue sharing agreement that was part of the utility's 2002 sale of Vermont Yankee. GMP's Kristin Carlson says nearly \$18 million will be returned to customers, in the form of lower rates.

April 29: The region's electric grid operator says the region will have the resources needed to meet consumer demand for electricity this summer, but ISO New England is voicing concern about the future supply.

April 30: A spokesman for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant says it experienced a small leak of radioactive steam last week, but that the leak was contained and the public was not in danger.

May 7: Entergy Vermont Yankee nuclear plant staff continue to plan for a year end shutdown and future decommissioning of the Vernon plant. Entergy president Bill Mohl says continued safe operation remains their top priority during the process.

May 8: Entergy Vermont Yankee has given the state of Vermont \$5.3 million for the development of clean energy, and \$10 million as the first payment into the Vermont Yankee Site Restoration Fund. Both payments were part of the Settlement Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Entergy and the State signed in December 2013.

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May 13: Vernon gets an extended phase out of its education property tax break associated with Entergy Vermont Yankee.

May 13: Vermont's top forestry official is planning to visit Guilford to talk about the future of a waterway that was drained. Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Michael Snyder is expected to visit Guilford on Wednesday to tell local officials the department is committed to restoring Sweet Pond.

May 14: Vermont's Public Service Department chief says the sooner Entergy Vermont Yankee is decommissioned, the better. Chris Recchia says even though the state made an agreement with Vermont Yankee owner Entergy, the state was limited by existing federal law.

May 15: Entergy will seek state approval to place a second concrete pad at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant site to complete the move of all its spent nuclear fuel to dry cask storage.

May 19: Vermont state officials are discussing how to spend more than \$2.5 million for clean energy projects in Windham County, part of a payment from the owner of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant that's scheduled to close at the end of the year.

May 28: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is giving the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant positive reviews for its performance last year. Bill Dean, the agency's northeast regional administrator, is in Brattleboro for meetings Tuesday and Wednesday.

May 28: A developer says it may take two to three years to collect enough data from several wind test towers to determine the future of a commercial project in Vermont.

May 29: Two Windham County groups, and two in Cheshire County are among those receiving a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant for brownfield clean up.

May 30: The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is seeking help in finding a young tagged bear that has been getting into birdfeeders and garbage cans in southeastern Vermont.

June 3: A Vermont company is proposing a 75 megawatt biomass power plant on part of the soon to be closed Entergy Vermont Yankee Nuclear plant in Vernon. Selectboard Chair Patty O'Donnell says it's an idea worth pursuing, converting part of the soon to be closed nuclear plant site into a renewable energy hub.

June 4: Vermont's Fish & Wildlife Department has partnered with the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation and the Vermont Agency of Transportation to help a rare snake species found near Interstate 91 in Guilford.

June 10: Federal regulators want more information about Entergy's financial ability to continue operation of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant and two other facilities.

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June 11: Solar panels are going up along Interstate 91 in Brattleboro. The goal is to get more than 8,000 of them in place and start generating electricity by the end of the summer. Developer Winstanley Enterprises received a certificate of public good for the project earlier this year.

June 20: Vermont governor Peter Shumlin will be in Brattleboro July 9, and he's expected to address the use of an Entergy Vermont Yankee settlement in Windham County during a Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

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Healthcare

April 1: More Vermonters were signing up for health insurance right down to the wire. The Department of Vermont Health Access said that as of Monday morning about 46,800 Vermonters had enrolled in a plan directly through Vermont Health Connect, including about 2,600 over the weekend.

April 2: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and Southwest Medical Center in Bennington will benefit from legislation signed by president Obama. The president signed into law Rep. Peter Welch's bipartisan legislation to provide additional funding to hospitals serving disproportionately large numbers of seniors in rural communities.

April 11: New Hampshire's Department of Health and Human Services has received a federal grant to work on ways of helping patients with high blood pressure better manage their condition. Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock-Keene is a partner in the effort to develop and use patient registries to get patients involved with better managing their condition.

April 21: The Vermont Medical Practice Board has issued new rules designed to prevent the abuse of prescription opiate-based painkillers. The new policy encourages doctors to screen patients needing pain medication for any history of mental health disorders and alcohol or drug abuse. It also advises doctors to use a system that tracks prescriptions for controlled substances.

April 22: Vermont officials say they won't know for several months how many people who looked at buying health insurance through Vermont Health Connect determined it was too expensive and decided to go without.

April 23: Brattleboro Retreat chief officer Rob Simpson says the private psychiatric hospital continues to see strong growth, because they are serving unmet needs in mental health and addition, often by tailoring their treatment to different groups. In the process, the Retreat may have become Windham County's largest employer.

May 9: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield says more than 80% of the people who have signed up for health plans through the new federal marketplace were new customers to the company.

May 12: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital President & CEO Steven R. Gordon has been honored with a 2014 American Hospital Association Grassroots Champions Award for exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of a hospital's mission.

May 13: Grace Cottage Hospital is facing the possible loss of federal Medicare funding, but hospital officials are confident that will not happen. Grace Cottage was notified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that they have determined that the hospital failed to maintain compliance with Medicare requirements.

May 27: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's Center for Wound Healing has been awarded a Center of Distinction Award, by Healogics, Inc., the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services.

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May 28: Grace Cottage Hospital has met the conditions of a follow up inspection, and their federal Medicare and Medicaid funding will continue.

May 29: The Brattleboro Retreat has begun an awareness campaign designed to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

June 2: New Hampshire residents shopping for health insurance under the federal health care overhaul law will have a choice among three companies and two cooperatives next year.

June 4: The two health insurance companies offering coverage through the state health exchange want to raise their rates for people and small businesses. The state's largest insurance provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, has requested an average 9.8% increase and MVP Health Care is seeking an average 15.4% increase.

June 10: Grace Cottage Hospital has made a listing of the top 50 New England hospitals, and the best in Vermont, according to a report published by GoLocalProv. The rankings are based upon consumer surveys completed by patients.

June 26: A walk-in clinic offering free medical care in Putney has closed after nearly 23 years. The number of visitors to the clinic at the Putney Medical Office has dropped through the years. Director Leon Cooper also said by remaining open, the clinic was, in a way, preventing people from signing onto the state's new health insurance.

June 27: Due to flood damage from Wednesday's rain storm, the Richards Building lobby at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital will be closed for the next several weeks for cleanup.

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Human Services

April 9: Windham County's Safe Kids program will be the recipient of money from this year's 9th Marina Plunge for Charity.

April 10: The value of volunteering is being stressed by the United Way of Windham County. Coordinator Sue Graff says volunteers are needed to be part of their annual Free Dental Day on May 3.

April 15: A community meeting is planned in Brattleboro to help parents keep their children safe. Alyssa from Windham County Safe Place says in many cases a sex offender is known to the victim and or their family.

April 16: The numbers of homeless are up in Vermont and Windham County, as federal support of local programs declines. Josh Davis at Morningside Shelter, who says their program will benefit from a Saturday night event at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro.

April 21: A Guilford woman is closing on raising a quarter million dollars for the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont. Shirley Squires has raised money for the annual walk for life since her son, former state rep Ron Squires died in 1993.

April 30: Brattleboro area residents are being urged to get involved with Saturday's annual Green Up Day, out of a sense of community pride.

May 1: The United Way of Windham County said last week's Handbags for HOPE event in Brattleboro, raised over \$10,000 for early education programs.

May 2: The Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center and Morningside Shelter are conducting a tent and sleeping bag drive in response to the closing of the winter Overflow Shelter at the First Baptist Church.

May 5: Windham County Safe Kids picked up a nearly \$8,000 boost, from the ninth annual Marina Plunge for Charity.

May 5: Brattleboro's River Gallery School of Art is gearing up for its biggest yearly fundraiser. The school's Donna Hawes says their 24th annual benefit auction takes place this Saturday at the Scott Farm Orchard in Dummerston.

May 6: Two area programs that help the homeless invite you to Camp for a Common Cause on the Brattleboro common Friday night.

May 7: Girls on the Run is conducting its 15th anniversary 5k run in Brattleboro next week. Annie Guyon says the nonprofit group conducts the run at the end of a ten week training program for girls in grades three through eight.

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May 19: Vermont governor Peter Shumlin and Olympian Sophie Caldwell helped celebrate 15 years of Girls on the Run in Brattleboro.

May 27: Beginning next week, The Brattleboro Area Drop In Center food shelf is expanding its hours to include Tuesdays.

May 29: Tough Mudder – a fundraiser for the Wounded Warriors project, returns to Mount Snow this weekend.

May 30: Vermont's Department of Children and Families has an urgent need for foster parents in the Brattleboro area.

June 6: A pair of non-profits serving young women will be helped by a special movie showing at Brattleboro's Latchis Theater Sunday evening. The 7 PM showing of "Funny Girl" with Barbara Streisand will benefit the Brattleboro boys and girls club and Girls on the Run.

June 12: The Brattleboro Goes Fourth committee is stepping up fundraising, after a longtime supporter has pulled out. Entergy Vermont Yankee has said it would no longer sponsor the annual fireworks display, and committee member Carol Lolatte is hoping community members will increase their donations.

June 13: With the start of summer, Brattleboro Area Drop In Center director Lucie Fortier is making an appeal for donations to their food shelf.

June 18: There will be over 20 sites around Windham County providing free lunch to youth 18 and under this summer.

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Local Government

April 2: There will be a town wide revote on Brattleboro's municipal budget. Lynn Russell was one of the town meeting members who were successful in petitioning for the vote, which will be scheduled next week.

April 2: Brattleboro's Skatepark Committee will get another month to complete its work. Betsey Gentile says they've trimmed a list of 50 possibilities down to ten, and want to do site visits on the finalists before turning their work over to the Recreation and Parks board, and then the Selectboard.

April 10: A small, but vocal, crowd of Brattleboro voters say the town can't afford the police and fire station improvements. Downtown property owner Hugh Barber was among those who addressed an information session about next week's municipal budget revote.

April 18: Brattleboro's proposed municipal budget has been overturned on a town wide vote of 771 to 448. Interim town manager Patrick Moreland says it's up to the Selectboard to submit a revised budget to a special representative town meeting, and he's not sure what changes will be made.

April 23: Brattleboro Selectboard members say they will not take additional bonds out for the police and fire project and will look at other cuts.

April 24: Putney will be holding a special Town Meeting on May 22 at 6:30 pm at the Putney Central School. Town manager Cynthia Stoddard says the town received a petition for a revote of the Town Budget article.

April 26: Brooks Memorial Library officials are speaking out about budget cutbacks being considered in Brattleboro.

April 29: Just days before a special town meeting in Vernon, police chief Mary Beth Hebert has resigned. Selectboard members will hold an emergency meeting tonight at 6 to discuss the resignation. Voters will gather May 5 to reconsider the town's budget, which saw a deep cut to the police department budget back in March. Meanwhile, Vernon school board members hope a \$57,000 budget cut will satisfy voters, who rejected the school budget back in March.

April 30: On the third try, voters in the Leland and Gray Union High School district have passed a budget for next year.

May 2: Brattleboro Selectboard members have scheduled a June 2 representative town meeting, but made no budget decisions yet.

May 6: Vernon residents vote to hire the Windham County Sheriff's Department for round the clock police coverage beginning July 1. Residents also voted against restoring the town auditor's office to current funding levels.

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May 7: Brattleboro Selectboard members have, so far, not been able to reach a consensus about budget cutbacks to recommend for next month's special representative town meeting. Another special Selectboard meeting has been scheduled for May 13.

May 7: The Rockingham Public Library director is back on the job after she fought her dismissal last year and received an out-of-court settlement for \$35,000. Celina Houlné was rehired Tuesday by the Library Board of Trustees. Houlné was library director for about five years before her termination last September.

May 8: Brattleboro will be getting state funding to repave the section of Western Avenue that has been marked by numerous potholes this spring. Public works deputy Hannah O'Connell says the town was notified of the funding by the state agency of transportation Wednesday.

May 8: Brattleboro is gearing up for pay as you throw trash collection. Interim town manager Patrick Moreland says it's part of the statewide mandatory recycling requirement that must be in place by mid-2015.

May 9: The Windham County Humane Society is voicing concern about the possible loss of Brattleboro's animal control officer. The organization, in an e mail to supporters, said cutting the position would be bad news for animals and their pet parents.

May 15: No matter what happens with Brattleboro's police and fire project, town officials have been ordered to make over \$400,000 worth of safety improvements to the town's municipal center.

May 20: Vermont State Police are planning for a new \$6.2 million dollar barracks in Westminster. The state has filed a permit application for the 16,000 square-foot project. State police want to shut down the barracks in Brattleboro and Rockingham and consolidate all the troopers in the single station in Westminster.

May 21: Brattleboro Select board members will take a \$15.8 million budget, to a special representative town meeting June 2.

May 23: Putney voters decide to keep Rescue Inc. as the town's emergency medical service provider. On a paper ballot vote, residents favored Rescue on a 141 to 33 ballot over Golden Cross Ambulance. Residents also decided on an additional \$22,000 over the budgeted line item to pay for the service.

June 3: Brattleboro representative town meeting members approve a \$15.6 million municipal budget for next year, on a 112 to 12 vote.

June 4: Southern Vermont businesses affected by tropical storm Irene back in 2011 still have a chance to get a state grant to help recover. Community Development Block Grant applications now being accepted. Businesses may apply for funding to help with unmet needs that are a direct result of flooding.

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June 5: Beginning in July, Vernon will switch to pay as you throw for trash collection. Recycling committee chair Mike Coutermarche says the systems will be in place for residents to reduce what they throw away.

June 9: Two regional development groups in Vermont have been awarded \$1.5 million in grants to help businesses recovering from Tropical Storm Irene. Brattleboro Development Credit Corp. and Springfield Regional Development Corp. received the Community Development Block Grants for a second round of disaster recovery.

June 10: The engineer initially involved with Brattleboro's wastewater treatment upgrade has been hired by the state of New Hampshire. The state department of Environmental Services says Eugene Forbes has begun work as the state Water Division Director.

June 18: Brattleboro Selectboard members have agreed to recognize the town's fourth employee union. Board vice chair Kate O'Connor says the group of clerical and administrative staff asked for representation back in February.

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Public Safety

April 1: It's the time of year where snow thawing and refreezing can put black ice on the roads, and a morning accident in Guilford can be blamed on the conditions. Vermont State Police say no injuries were reported when a pick up south bound on Route 5 hit a patch of ice, went off the road and overturned.

April 2: Vermont senators are considering using subpoena power to obtain child abuse documents. The senate review panel on child protection will discuss a draft resolution to grant subpoena power for the panel to review certain confidential documents related to child abuse cases.

April 4: A Springfield, Vt., man has been arrested in Rockingham for possession of heroin. 27-year-old Sean Lowden is being held on \$1,000 bail.

April 4: Vermont State Police say Brattleboro Police were conducting a search warrant on hotel room, when a male occupant was shot and killed. State police were called to the America's Best Inn on Putney Road just after 5:30 this morning. Officers were entering room 301 to conduct a court ordered search as part of a drug investigation. Upon entering the room, an officer discharged his weapon. The male occupant was pronounced dead at the scene.

April 7: Fire caused extensive damage to a second story apartment in a four unit building at 119 Green Street in Brattleboro.

April 8: Vermont State Police have identified the man shot and killed last week by a Brattleboro officer as 35-year-old Michael Santiago of Brattleboro. State police say Brattleboro Police obtained a search warrant in a drug investigation for the room and occupant of a room at a motel on Putney Road.

April 8: Police departments in Hinsdale, Walpole, Jaffery, Dublin, Marlborough and Alstead are partnering with Monadnock Voices for Prevention during National Drug Take Back Day.

April 11: A minimum security inmate has been found less than 24 hours after he failed to return from work at the New Hampshire State Prison farm in Concord. Chad Lawlor of Keene had been serving a 2½ to seven year sentence for assault.

April 14: More details this afternoon about a weekend closure of interstate 91 in Brattleboro. Contractor PCL Construction says during the demolition of the I-91 northbound bridge, safety concerns were raised when the northbound bridge shifted during the removal of a portion of the structure.

April 16: Mud season has been difficult and costly in Brattleboro. Interim town manager Patrick Moreland says the town has spent \$20,000 in the past two weeks on gravel to improve conditions.

April 21: Fire officials say a man has been electrocuted by a downed power line on property next to Keene State College Athletic Complex. Fire Chief Mark Howard says firefighters and police responded to a Saturday afternoon call to the scene. The Keene Sentinel and family members have identified the

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victim as 46-year-old Nate Demond of Fitzwilliam, who was employed as a groundskeeper at Keene State.

April 24: Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark says chances are good that he'll be running a pilot program that uses electronic monitoring bracelets instead of jail for pretrial detainees beginning in July.

April 26: A prescription drug take back day is being coordinated by the Windham County Sheriff's Department today from 10 to 2.

April 30: The owner and caretaker of the Santa's Land theme park have pleaded not guilty to animal cruelty charges. Lillian Billewicz and Brian Deistler have been arraigned on one misdemeanor count each and have been released on court-ordered conditions.

April 30: Select board members in Vernon appoint police corporal Matt Stains as acting police chief.

May 2: The New Hampshire Attorney General's office says a man who died in a collision with a fuel tanker last year was responsible for shooting and killing a man in Chesterfield. Douglas Farr was considered a suspect in the April 14, 2012, shooting of Mark McAuley.

May 7: A Halifax woman has been charged with several residential burglaries in Windham County over recent months. Vermont State Police say 33-year-old Amy Gabriel was hired as a house cleaner for several of those residences.

May 7: The New Hampshire Attorney General's office says a February death in Keene was a homicide and remains under investigation. February 4, officers from the Keene Police Department responded to a 911 call for a report of an unresponsive female at 16 Lee Street. Once there, they discovered a deceased female, subsequently identified as 52-year-old Katherine Churchill, inside.

May 13: A predawn brush fire on Mount Wantastiquet in Hinsdale has been brought under control. Southwest Fire Mutual aid says units remain on the scene doing mop up work at this hour.

May 14: A Brattleboro man will spend five years in jail for possession of child pornography. 77-year-old David Schnyer will also spend five years on supervised release after the completion of his prison term.

May 15: A former Saxtons River man accused of killing his wife in New Hampshire on the day she filed for divorce doesn't want prosecutors to have access to recordings of his phone calls and other communications. The lawyer representing 44-year-old James Robarge, told a judge it's a matter of his client's right to privacy.

May 15: Keene Police assisted in the arrest of a Hartford Connecticut man on drug charges. 42-year-old Ronald Sears was arrested on a warrant, which wraps up a nine month long investigation into Sears' alleged cocaine trafficking activities.

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May 16: A change in the leadership positions for Rescue Inc. Drew Hazelton has been appointed chief of operations. He'd been serving as interim chief since June 2013.

May 17: A missing Jamaica woman has been found. 56-year-old Laura Hawksley had been missing since Tuesday. Friday afternoon, the woman returned safe and unharmed to her residence.

May 19: A Jamaica resident faces drug charges. 54-year-old Lorenzo DeConinck will appear in court next month for alleged possession of Oxycodone.

May 22: A Brattleboro man has been sentenced to a year and a day in prison for a child pornography conviction. 46-year-old Ralph Schnyer was sentenced Tuesday.

June 2: Nearly 1,600 Vermonters will be participating in statewide emergency drills this week. The Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security says health care facilities will be presented with a surge of patients and some towns will set up emergency shelters.

June 2: Brattleboro Police Chief Gene Wrinn has announced plans to retire from the department effective June 27th. Chief Wrinn has spent nearly 28 years in the department, beginning in 1986.

June 5: The Windham County Sheriff's Department has a two year contract to do electronic monitoring for up to 50 low risk offenders in the region.

June 30: A Hinsdale man has been sentenced to spend 25 years in prison for sexual exploitation of a minor. 32-year-old Benjamin Maes was sentenced at U.S. District Court in Concord

June 30: A former Vermont state trooper who was accused of assaulting two men he thought had stolen his canoe has paid \$27,000 to settle their lawsuit. Eric Howley had previously pleaded no contest to criminal charges of simple assault in February 2013.