

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

This is the programming and issues file for WTSA-FM Brattleboro for October through December, 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, 4:30, 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.

Contents

Agriculture	2
Arts	3
Business	4
Education	6
Energy/Environment	8
Healthcare	10
Human Service	11
Local Government.....	13
Public Safety	14

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Agriculture

October 2: A total of \$1 million in grants is available to projects that enhance Vermont's farm and forestry economy. The Working Lands Enterprise Board announced the grants on Wednesday.

October 15: The Attorney General's office today released a preliminary draft of the rule to implement Act 120, the law requiring the labeling of food produced with genetic engineering.

October 24: Over 300 acres of organic vegetable farm property in Westminster and Putney have been conserved by the Vermont Land Trust.

November 17: More international awards for Grafton Village Cheese. The company earned two Super Gold Awards at the 26th annual World Cheese Awards held in London.

December 5: Vermont's congressional delegation says the deadline to apply for the new dairy Margin Protection Program will be extended until December 19.

December 29: An organization that represents the owners of Vermont woodlands is getting a \$10,000 grant from Tom's of Maine for educational programs.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Arts

October 2: Brattleboro holds its annual Literary Festival this weekend, with workshops and talks by numerous authors tonight through Sunday.

October 9: Vermont U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy has long been known as both a political leader and a photographer. Now, an exhibit of the senator's photos is scheduled to open November 1st at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center.

October 17: Another world record will be attempted tomorrow at the Keene Pumpkin Festival. The festival is free and from 12-8:30 p.m. in the downtown area.

October 29: The 3rd annual Brattleboro Film Festival opens Friday night.

November 4: The 3rd annual Brattleboro Film Festival winds down this weekend. Organizing committee member Lissa Weinmann says over 40 young film makers submitted their work, and prizes will be awarded Friday night during Gallery Walk at Headroom Stages.

November 25: The Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro has begun an online funding campaign to replace equipment stolen last month.

December 5: A Guilford group is in the running for a \$50,000 dollar National Endowment for the Arts grant. The Vermont Performance Lab would use the grant to support six artists in area communities to engage members of the public.

December 24: Officials in Keene want the organizers of the annual Pumpkin Festival to pay \$90,000 in costs incurred after violent disturbances broke out this year.

December 26: A controversial movie has opened in the region. "The Interview," which is a fictional account of two interviewers being ordered to assassinate the leader of North Korea, has opened in Keene, and other theaters across the country.

December 31: Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy played a key role in secret negotiations between the u s and Cuba that led to the release of American Alan Gross from a Cuban jail. Leahy made the comments as he conducted a guided tour of a photo exhibit at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Business

October 4: The Brooks House is back. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin was among those on hand for a grand reopening last night.

October 8: Brattleboro Country Club members will be getting a letter from the club's new owners this week. John Judge and Melanie Boese say their intent is to continue operation of the club as is: memberships, but open to the public as it has always been.

October 9: About 45,000 Vermont customers of AT&T Mobility who lost an estimated \$1 million in authorized charges placed on their cell phone bills stand to benefit from a global settlement that it engaged in a practice known as "mobile cramming".

October 14: The imposition of FairPoint's final contract over objections of two unions representing more than 1,700 workers in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine is becoming real for workers.

October 17: More than 1,700 FairPoint Communications workers in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine are on strike.

October 20: Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrell says the state will get \$83,000 in a settlement that states reached with TD Bank to resolve a 2012 data breach that affected almost 16,000 Vermont consumers.

October 22: The regional Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation says it is working to narrow the search for a new chief officer.

October 23: Striking FairPoint workers in Brattleboro say all they want is a fair contract, and they say what's been imposed, is not.

October 28: Vermont U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders is calling on FairPoint to return to the bargaining table with striking workers, and negotiate a contract in good faith.

November 3: A FairPoint Communications spokeswoman is confirming that the company has stopped providing health coverage for its striking workers.

November 3: Vermont's Killington Resort is opening for the season — a little later than in past years.

November 4: The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation Board has selected Adam Grinold of Wilmington as the next Executive Director.

November 6: Change atop Brattleboro's Downtown Alliance. Board president Matt Livingston says downtown coordinator Jacob Alan Roberts will be leaving his job next week, and the board is focused on finding the right person to fill the role.

November 18: FairPoint Communications and representatives of more than 1,700 striking workers in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine are going back to the negotiating table.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

November 20: The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant has officially notified the state that it will be laying off 165 employees starting in January.

November 25: Hundreds of FairPoint workers in Vermont who have been on strike for weeks are getting unemployment benefits, but officials in Maine and New Hampshire have denied requests for such assistance.

November 28: Brattleboro's annual tree lighting ceremony will take place this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. at Pliny Park on the corner of High and Main Streets in downtown Brattleboro.

December 1: Vermont's Department of Public Service has filed a petition with the Public Service Board requesting that the board open an investigation into the adequacy of FairPoint's service quality.

December 3: Police say three striking FairPoint workers were struck by a vehicle driven by a replacement worker as they were picketing in Keene.

December 3: Brattleboro's Downtown Alliance says it's been revitalized by new energy in recent months. Board chair Matt Livingston says things are much different now than they were in June.

December 11: FairPoint has developed a temporary fix to an internet outage that hit customers in Vermont and parts of New Hampshire overnight.

December 16: The Amtrak Vermonter is making some changes south of the Vermont border, beginning December 29th. Stops in Greenfield and Northampton are being added, and a stop in Amherst will be discontinued.

December 23: New Hampshire's Executive Council is set to debate a \$13 million state contract with FairPoint Communications as the company's Northern New England workers continue to strike over contract negotiations.

December 26: Within the next seven years, a new study predicts the loss of over 1,100 jobs and a loss of \$480 million of annual economic activity in Windham, Cheshire and Franklin Counties.

December 29: Larger ski resorts in New Hampshire say they expect this weekend to be a good one in spite of this month's up-and-down weather.

December 30: FairPoint Communications says the National Labor Relations Board has dismissed complaints accusing the company of bargaining in bad faith, disappointing news for striking workers in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Education

October 1: The Community College of Vermont is getting nearly \$2.4 million in grants to help people develop job skills needed in health care, business, technology, and other industries.

October 3: Vermont Technical College interim President Dan Smith is applauding their new Brattleboro space at the Brooks House, saying southeastern Vermont could be a future growth area for VTC.

October 8: A New Hampshire lawmaker wants the state's colleges and universities to adopt 'yes means yes' sexual assault policies or risk losing state aid amid rising concerns over sex abuse on campuses nationwide.

October 10: A coalition of deaf and hard-of-hearing residents and their allies wants Vermont to re-open the Austine School for the Deaf as a public school and create a commission to address their concerns.

October 27: Brattleboro town school board members have a second community conversation scheduled on how performance testing affects elementary education.

October 31: The Vermont State Board of Trustees is tapping Vermont Tech interim president Dan Smith to be the college's next president. Smith is a lawyer and Middlesex native who was head of community relations and public policy at the state colleges for four years.

November 24: Students at Keene State College in New Hampshire and Mount Wachusett Community College in Massachusetts are leading a national project to engage students on the relationships between economic inequality, public policy, economic opportunity and social mobility.

November 26: Former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card has been named Franklin Pierce University's fifth president.

November 26: Marlboro College is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Education over issues related to sexual misconduct allegations.

December 2: Keene State College President Anne Huot said Monday that 170 students have been sanctioned through the college's judicial process for their involvement in the Oct. 18 riots.

December 3: Keene State College President Anne Huot will be in Washington tomorrow for a White House College Opportunity Summit.

December 4: Keene State College says it's stepping up its work in the fields of science, math, technology and engineering, committing to increasing the number of STEM graduates by 50% by 2019.

December 5: A new building project is getting underway at Marlboro College. Groundbreaking for the new Snyder Center for the Visual Arts takes place this afternoon.

December 10: Vermont's early childhood educators have fallen short in their bid to unionize. According to the Vermont Labor Relations Board, the results were 398-418 against the union. Union supporter Kay Curtis of Happy Hands in Brattleboro said supporters are not done fighting.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

December 12: The Brattleboro School Endowment Fund is looking for money, and the fund is helping sponsor a ski bus beginning tomorrow.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Energy/Environment

October 8: Vermont Lieutenant Governor Phil Scott is applauding a new solar energy project in Brattleboro, saying it's good for the environment and good for the local economy.

October 13: A washed out bridge on the Ashuelot River in Surry was removed by volunteers as part of the annual source to the sea clean up.

October 14: Entergy Vermont Yankee officials are reviewing a new state permit allowing them to discharge heated water into the Connecticut River.

October 16: The Vermont Public Service Board has approved a minor change to an upgrade to the high voltage transmission lines and a switching station in Wilmington and Searsburg operated by National Grid.

October 17: Vermont Yankee nuclear plant operators are out with a new estimate of what it will cost to decommission the reactor, manage high-level radioactive waste and restore the plant site.

October 20: An electric vehicle fair is planned in Brattleboro Saturday.

October 28: Vermont Attorney General William H. Sorrell has joined his counterparts in New York and Connecticut, challenging the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission over its latest rule on the storage of spent nuclear fuel.

November 18: Grace Cottage Hospital is the latest group to look to the sun, for electricity savings. The hospital has signed an agreement to partner with Green Lantern on a 500 kilowatt community solar array.

November 18: Federal power regulators say the nation's electric reliability may be at risk, if other nuclear power plants around the nation follow Entergy Vermont Yankees lead and close because of economic reasons.

November 19: Vermont's Department of Public Service is looking for proposals to design and administer a modern wood heating program in, and for the benefit of, Windham County.

November 26: PSNH reporting about 3,000 customers without power mostly in southwest New Hampshire. 900 Green Mountain Power customers in Windham County are out.

November 28: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the hazardous waste site at the former industrial landfill in Rockingham warrants continued monitoring.

December 4: Emergency management officials say the state of Vermont will be testing a radiological emergency response plan near the Vermont Yankee plant. The drill takes place Thursday evening at the Bellows Falls Union High School in Westminster.

December 5: A Windham County Advocacy group has begun a series of weekly protests against the proposed Keystone Pipeline.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

December 16: Customers of Public Service of New Hampshire will likely pay an extra \$5 to \$6 per month for electricity starting in January.

December 18: About to lose their biggest employer and taxpayer with the closing of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, leaders in Vernon are hoping a gas-fired power plant will be built to replace it. But any such project would face big questions — including whether enough gas would be available to fuel it.

December 20: The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant has made formal its prediction that decommissioning the reactor will cost \$1.24 billion. The soon-to-close plant announced that cost estimate in October and repeated it Friday in documents filed with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

December 22: Entergy Vermont Yankee in Vernon will stop producing power next week, and action will signal a change in the focus of plant employees.

December 29: A Keene man has pleaded guilty to a pair of misdemeanor charges of failure to report the unlawful disposal of hazardous waste.

December 29: Entergy Vermont Yankee has ended production of electricity, after more than 42 years and 9 months of operation. Plant spokesman Marty Cohn says operators disconnected the nuclear plant from the New England Power Grid at 12:12 pm today.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Healthcare

October 2: The Brattleboro Retreat is undergoing an inspection following problems found at the psychiatric hospital.

October 9: Emergency medicine in Brattleboro and across the nation is becoming more highly specialized, but its payment system has not.

October 27: Federal regulators have accepted a correction plan for the Brattleboro Retreat. Retreat Vice President Konstantin Von Krusenstiern says they were notified by the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid services late Friday.

November 1: The Brattleboro Retreat has signed a Systems Improvement Agreement with the federal government. The agreement will extend the hospital's Medicare Provider Agreement and establish a framework for improving practices related to quality of care.

November 1: Vermont's online health insurance marketplace could run nearly \$20 million over budget.

November 13: Officials overseeing Vermont's troubled health insurance exchange say they're ready for a new open enrollment period beginning Saturday.

November 19: New Hampshire colleges and universities are working with students and faculty to promote and adopt tobacco-free policies as part of the Great American Smoke Out this week.

November 25: Rescue, Inc., is raising money to replace a pair of cardiac monitors, and use of the units helped save a Guilford woman's life.

November 28: Vermont lawmakers are expected to focus on responding to Gov. Peter Shumlin's plan for financing a universal health care system during the upcoming legislative session.

December 2: The Vermont Department of Health's Brattleboro Office is expanding its resources to improve oral health with the hiring of dental hygienist Susan Rand.

December 8: Less than six months after sign-ups began, New Hampshire is already close to meeting its first-year enrollment target for the state's newly expanded Medicaid program.

December 10: For the second year in a row, Vermont was ranked as the second healthiest state after Hawaii in the America's Health Rankings 2014 report released today by the United Health Foundation.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Human Service

October 1: Tickets are now on sale for a dinner which helps the hungry, and is symbolic. The 11th annual Empty Bowls Dinner provides a locally crafted bowl, plus the foods eaten by someone who might be on a limited budget.

October 2: A Keene man in need of a kidney transplant will be honored with a fundraiser at this month's Keene Pumpkin Festival. The NFT New Hampshire Transplant fund will be raising money in the name of 49-year-old Erik Ranta, who is currently on the waiting list for a transplant.

October 6: It was all about inclusion, as Brattleboro's 5th annual Buddy Walk was raising awareness and support for people with disabilities.

October 9: Brattleboro will hold the line on human service funding. Advisory committee member Ellen Martyn says the local needs have gone up, even if the money is tight.

October 21: The Brattleboro Winter Overflow Homeless Shelter will open in a couple of weeks.

October 31: Windham County's United Way fund drive is making progress, according to community chair Ben Underhill.

November 6: Vermont has the nation's lowest rate of pre mature births. State March of Dimes spokesman Roger Clapp says the state can do better, by convincing pregnant women not to smoke for the health of their baby.

November 7: Project Feed the Thousands, the region's annual holiday season food drive gets underway today.

November 14: A Brattleboro couple has added to their family, and is using the experience to push the need for adoptive parents in the state.

November 17: The annual Project Feed the Thousands food drive makes a big difference to several food shelves in the greater Windham County area, including the Townshend Food Shelf.

November 18: The numbers of homeless youth in the region are growing, in part because of the economy. Danielle Southwell runs the homeless youth program at Youth Services of Windham County.

November 21: The Meeting Waters YMCA is moving its offices to rented space in Bellows Falls and is getting rid of their Atkinson Street headquarters.

November 24: The Brattleboro Housing Authority's name is changing to Brattleboro Housing Partnerships.

November 28: The region's oldest holiday appeal, the Brattleboro Reformer Christmas Stocking, officially begins today.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

December 1: Today is World AIDS Day, and the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont will hold a noontime observance at the Robert Gibson River Garden.

December 2: Windham County's United Way has partnered with Walgreens and FamilyWize to offer no cost flu shot vouchers, for families and individuals who are uninsured or underinsured, and otherwise unable to afford a flu shot.

December 5: Brattleboro's Morningside Shelter will share in a \$5,000 donation made from charity bridge games played in Vermont.

December 11: Entergy Vermont Yankee employees have made a \$4,200 shopping trip to benefit project Feed the Thousands.

December 15: The Brattleboro area Marine Corps League teamed up with area law enforcement and emergency service workers Saturday to collect items for the annual Toys for Kids program.

December 15: A report on homelessness says New Hampshire's overall homeless population has decreased by 3%, but says there's been an increase among veterans and chronic cases.

December 18: The region's schools are winding down food collections for the annual Project Feed the Thousands campaign. Green Street School principal Mark Speno says the Brattleboro elementary school is nearing its goal set for the student run food collection efforts.

December 19: Homelessness will be the theme of three events in Brattleboro and Keene this weekend.

December 23: Organizers are making final preparations for the 33rd annual Charlie Slate Memorial Christmas Breakfast Thursday in Brattleboro.

December 29: Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark has been chosen by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America as Vermont's "Big" of the Year.

December 29: Brattleboro's Last Night observance will take place on Wednesday, but organizers say additional donations are needed for future years.

December 30: Vermont U.S. Senator and amateur photographer Patrick Leahy will be in Brattleboro for a display of photos he has taken during his 40 years in the Senate.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Local Government

October 1: Keene planners want ideas about development for a corridor of underutilized land and buildings along the Beaver Brook Corridor, from the former Kingsbury property north to the former YMCA and Middle School.

October 13: The Green River Covered Bridge has been reopened.

October 21: Brattleboro's Development Review Board has approved the local permits for a new senior housing complex on Canal Street. Red Clover Commons is a proposed 55-unit, three-story building to be located on a 2.8-acre site at 464 Canal, next to Walgreens.

October 24: Brattleboro has a new town manager, and he's Brattleboro native Peter Elwell.

November 3: An East Side Re-Use Forum scheduled for this week in Keene has been postponed to mid-February.

November 4: Guilford is looking for a new town administrator. Selectboard member Ann Rider has confirmed that Katie Buckley has decided to seek another opportunity.

November 5: Windham County Senator Jeanette White has been reelected, and she'll be joined by fellow democrat Becca Balint.

November 12: A recently reopened covered bridge in Vermont has been approved for more renovations, estimated to cost \$500,000. It cost nearly \$290,000 to make some repairs to 144-year-old Green River Covered Bridge in Guilford, which reopened last month.

November 19: Brattleboro Selectboard members say they want dedicated sidewalks and bike lanes in both directions through the West Brattleboro village.

November 26: Brattleboro Selectboard members could have nearly \$400,000 in uncommitted reserve funds available next year to help lower taxes.

December 2: One lane of Brattleboro's Elliot Street Bridge will be closed for the foreseeable future. Public Works director Steve Barrett says damage appears to be more severe than first thought.

December 3: Brattleboro Selectboard members are making progress on next year's municipal budget, but some big ticket items remain according to board chair David Gartenstien.

December 8: New Hampshire State Police say an assistant to the Troy Selectboard has been accused of taking at least \$15,000 in town funds to pay her utility bills and several rental properties.

December 17: On a 3-2 vote, Brattleboro Selectboard members say they'll continue moving forward with plans for police and fire facilities upgrades.

December 18: Brattleboro Selectboard members say they need additional answers about what the town is getting from the Windham Solid Waste District.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

Public Safety

October 2: Two Hinsdale women were taken to the hospital after a morning crash Wednesday on Route 119.

October 10: A pair of New Jersey men have been charged, after a police chase in both Vermont and New Hampshire.

October 13: A Massachusetts resident suffered a severe head injury in a motorcycle accident Sunday in Putney.

October 16: The Vermont New Hampshire Valley Red Cross is helping 8 tenants temporarily displaced by a predawn fire in Brattleboro.

October 17: A convicted murder is being held on \$100,000 bail following arraignment for violating his parole conditions on Friday. Police say 32-year-old Scott Favreau walked away from his job at a Brattleboro restaurant Sunday night.

October 20: New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan is expressing outrage over the weekend's events in Keene, saying irresponsible, terrible actions marred a New Hampshire tradition.

October 21: A task force has been established to investigate violent disturbances near Keene's annual Pumpkin Festival that led to property damage, dozens of arrests and many injuries over the weekend.

October 28: A Brattleboro man will serve a year in jail and another ten years on probation for a federal child pornography conviction. The U.S. Attorney's Office says 33-year-old Grant Klein, was sentenced Monday at U.S. District Court in Rutland.

October 30: A New Jersey man is being held on bail following arraignment today on heroin trafficking charges.

November 10: Police in Keene are investigating a Sunday robbery on Key Road.

November 14: Vermont State Police continue to investigate a fatal fire in Halifax.

November 17: Vermont public safety officials are vowing to make improvements in a sex offender registry that a recent audit found had critical errors in more than 10% of its reports.

November 19: Two men are dead, and a woman is in custody after a shooting at Townshend residence.

November 20: One man is in custody for allegedly robbing the Brattleboro Savings & Loan Main Street branch.

November 28: Cheshire County, with Keene, Hinsdale, Winchester, Swanzey and Richmond among the hardest hit, still is having power problems this morning in the wake of Wednesday's wet heavy snow. Green Mountain Power reports only a handful of customers still out in Vernon and Guilford.

2014 Q4 Issues & Programming WTSA-FM

December 2: City officials in Keene are holding a public meeting to discuss the future of the Keene Pumpkin Festival after violent disturbances took place near the family-friendly event this year.

December 4: Nearly 500 Vermont inmates are being sent out of state to privately run prisons in Kentucky and Arizona. Putney house Democrat Mike Mrowicki says additional sentencing options for drug offenders are needed to reduce the strain on Vermont jails, and bring inmates home.

December 9: The latest winter snow storm making its way across Vermont has already caused a number of outages, and Green Mountain Power says it is prepared for the likelihood of many more outages occurring as the snow builds up overnight into tomorrow and possibly Thursday.

December 22: The Vermont Agency of Transportation has established truck chain-up areas in both Bennington and Wilmington, in order to better serve the needs of motorists traveling on Route 9 and to help reduce traffic tie-ups during severe weather.

December 31: Brattleboro Police are asking motorists to take extra care in avoiding pedestrians.