

This is the programming and issues file for WTSA (AM) Brattleboro, AM 1450 ESPN radio, The Ticket. The radio station features local news weekday mornings at 6:55, 7:55, and 8:55. In addition, numerous local groups are allowed time to record and air public service announcements. The radio station also broadcasts Brattleboro Union High School Basketball, Hockey, Baseball and Softball. The following is a representative sample of the news items aired during the second quarter of 2013. For additional information, contact Tim Johnson at 802 254 4577, or tj@wtsa.net.

Agriculture

April 1

Maple syrup season is coming to an end across much of the Northeast, but a different kind of sap is just starting to run: birch. Birch syrup is made in a similar manner as maple syrup, but it tastes completely different and commands a significantly higher price. University of Vermont researchers are studying whether it could be a profitable venture for established maple syrup producers in the Northeast.

April 2

A Brattleboro farm has begun the transition from one generation to the next. The Bailey family at Fairwinds Farm has agreed to lease half their property to the operators of the Wild Carrot Farm. Two young couples, who have been farmers without their own land for years, have run the CSA.

April 5

The Strolling of the Heifers organization is developing a proposal to assume responsibility for Brattleboro's Robert Gibson River Garden. Stroll founder Orly Munzing, says the priority would be to maintain the building as a community resource

April 6

The Vermont Senate has advanced legislation aimed at allowing workers on Vermont farms to become legal drivers despite the fact that they may be in the country illegally.

May 3

A Brattleboro company has received one of the working lands grants announced by governor Peter Shumlin and the state agency of agriculture. Sidehill Farm partners Kristina and Kelt Naylor of Brattleboro will use their 15 thousand dollar grant to purchase new equipment and frozen storage capacity

May 6

One of Vermont's oldest farmers markets opened for the season in Brattleboro Saturday.

May 14

The US Senate Agriculture Committee has passed a new farm bill. Vermont's Patrick Leahy says the bill contains a dairy program favorable to the state, plus language to protect organic farmers.

May 23

Vermont senator Barnard Sanders wants Vermont and other states to have the right to label genetically modified foods. Sanders was unsuccessful with an amendment to the farm bill.

May 29

Next month's annual Strolling of the Heifers event in Brattleboro will feature numerous exhibits of farm inspired art.

June 1

Vermont agriculture officials say an invasive fly will be seen more often this summer. The spotted wing drosophila lays its eggs in soft, ripe fruit and can damage raspberries and blueberries.

June 5

Brattleboro's Strolling of the Heifers weekend gets under way today. The winners of a small business plan competition will be awarded this afternoon at the Marlboro College Graduate Center this afternoon.

June 6

Vermont agriculture secretary Chuck Ross says the farm and food sector continues to be a growing part of the state's economy.

Growth in Vermont's farm and food business also means the start of a new program at Vermont Technical College in Randolph.

June 7

A Long time Brattleboro farm is celebrating stroll weekend, even after switching from dairy to beef production.

Arts

April 1

Latchis Arts is hoping a fund raising spelling bee can attract a big crowd Saturday evening. Tom Bodette will be the master of ceremonies for Spell Check.

April 10

Five Storytellers on a Mission are coming to the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro next week, to raise money for a new arts oriented non-profit. The Hatch was formed to produce events and donate the proceeds to nonprofit organizations throughout the southern Vermont region.

April 17

A pair of Brattleboro artisans has received state funding to help with a move. Fulcrum Arts LLC is planning to move to an 11 thousand square foot space in the former Tom and Sally's Chocolate building on Route 30

April 24

Latchis Arts is celebrating the tenth anniversary of operating the Latchis Theater and Hotel building as a non-profit. Director Gail Nunziata says they've been able to keep the hotel and theater open, while expanding its use for live events

April 25

The Kurn Hattin Homes Select Choir has been chosen as one of nine regional choruses to appear on the finale of a regional choral competition aired live on WGBY-TV. Lisa Bianconi is the schools director of music and directs the Choir. She says it's the first group experience with music that many have had, and that carries over to other areas of their life.

May 10

Brattleboro's River Gallery School holds it's annual fundraising auction tomorrow night. Kim Colligen says a number of one of a kind vacations are available.

Businesses

April 4

Keene has partnered with local organizations, businesses and residents to set aside a “Green Up Day” on Saturday, April 13th with some of the participating businesses conducting their clean up efforts the week leading up to the event.

April 11

FairPoint Communications plans to eliminate approximately 90 positions across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont over the next several months, in accordance with a new collective bargaining agreement. The company did not break down how many jobs each state was losing.

April 18

A Brattleboro motel and restaurant is changing hands next month. Shamir Patel says Vivek Ayan LLC will complete it's purchase of the Colonial Motel and Tavern restaurant in early May.

April 19

A plan to revive a Vermont ski area is back in play. The Maple Valley Ski Area in Dummerston closed in 2001. A proposal from a developer interested in bringing it back as a year-round recreational resort was withdrawn in 2011 Now, the review board has scheduled a hearing on April 23.

At least two area ski resorts are opening for the weekend. Mount snow will reopen for this Saturday and Sunday, claiming excellent spring conditions still exist. Meanwhile, New Hampshire's Wildcat Mountain in Pinkham Notch will be the final New Hampshire resort closing the door on the ski season.

April 23

Construction could start in the summer on plans to rebuild a 142-year-old building damaged by fire in Brattleboro, VT. The five-member investment group says the project to save the Brooks House is still moving forward.

April 29

A series of discussions about southeast Vermont's economic future is only a start toward its improvement. The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's Laura Sebela says a series of meetings are ongoing as a regional economic plan is refined.

April 30

A Brattleboro company that sought to grow vegetables, make bio-diesel and raise fish from the power generated by the former Windham Solid Waste Landfill has filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

The Vermont senate has voted to exempt newspapers from paying unemployment insurance on paper carriers. Windham County democrat Peter Galbraith was a supporter of the amendment added to a house bill.

May 3

The US Environmental Protection Agency has fined a Brattleboro manufacturer \$198,000 for clean air violations. Fulflex, a division of the Rhode Island based Moore Company, will pay the civil penalty for violating its Vermont air quality permit.

How do you convert a former auto junkyard into a yogurt manufacturing plant? It isn't easy according to Commonwealth Dairy's Tom Moffitt. Commonwealth is being honored with a Phoenix Award for brownfield redevelopment.

May 8

One of Vermont's longest running public access television groups is raising money for a facelift. A fundraising telethon will be shown between noon and 8 pm Saturday on channel 8 in southern Windham County communities, and on line at Brattleborotv.org.

May 9

The New England Youth Theater and the Windham Regional Commission are each getting a share of \$1.8 million of federal brownfield grants announced by Vermont's congressional delegation.

May 14

Some AT&T cell phone customers in Putney should see their service restored soon after it was inadvertently cut during an upgrade. AT&T officials have reassured Governor Peter Shumlin, who lives in Putney, the service outage was an oversight.

May 24

Memorial Day weekend in Vermont also means the Vermont Craft Council's 21st annual Open Studio Weekend. Over 240 crafters statewide, and over 20 in Windham County will have their studios open to the public Saturday and Sunday.

June 1

A Brattleboro insurance company is expanding. The Richards Group has acquired the Brattleboro and Keene offices of Downey Insurance. Downey is described as an insurance agency and brokerage firm, based in Marlborough Mass.

June 25

Home sales are up a little over 11 percent in New Hampshire compared to a year ago.

June 26

The Guilford Country store is ready to reopen. Marc and Suzanne Tessitore are planning to open the Guilford Country Store and cafe on Friday.

Education

April 12

An international gathering of student exchange programs is taking place in Brattleboro this weekend. Eileen Todd says Federation EIL was founded over 80 years ago, with World Learning and the School for International Training as its US affiliate.

April 22

The University System of New Hampshire will be presenting its case for state aid before the Senate Finance Committee. The university system will be among the agencies meeting with the Senate panel on Monday.

April 23

Vermont's Department of Education is looking for ideas that would benefit Vermont's students. A community dinner is being held at Brattleboro Union High School Thursday, a chance for educators, students, business leaders, and community members to discuss developing and promoting innovative educational practices at the high school level.

April 26

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin says his education agenda is all about training young people for high paying jobs that are now available but going unfilled in the state. The education package includes additional money for pre kindergarten, additional money for higher education, and expanding the ability of high school students to also gain college credit for course work.

May 1

An area college professor has been honored by her peers. Landmark College associate professor Dorothy Osterhout was awarded the Outstanding Educator Award from the College Reading and Learning Association at their spring meeting in Connecticut.

May 9

A New Group at Brattleboro Union High School is working to help homeless veterans. Kayla Boyd is the co-chair of Students Supporting Veterans.

May 10

It's prom weekend in Brattleboro. Brattleboro Union High School director of counseling Paul Cohen says it's okay for students and adults to ask for help if they or a friend are in trouble.

May 13

A Brattleboro Area Middle School student has been recognized for her creative writing. 13-year-old Olivia Howe was a silver medalist in the novel category in the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, for her story, "The Battle of Darkness, Arrival".

May 13

A top official with the U.S. Agency for International Development and a former U.S. ambassador is going to become the next president of the Vermont-based organization World Learning. Donald Steinberg will take over at the Brattleboro-based World Learning in July.

May 20

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin was the commencement speaker at Marlboro College Sunday, as 60 graduates received diplomas.

May 31

The Community College of Vermont says it's graduating its largest class so far. The school says 614 students will receive associate degrees at the Saturday graduation at Norwich University in Northfield.

June 10

New England Kurn Hattin Homes of Westminster has joined an elite group of nationally certified Healthier US School Challenge schools. The US Department of Agriculture program recognizes schools which are committed to promoting healthy lifestyle choices and creating a wholesome school environment.

June 27

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has approved New Hampshire's request for a waiver freeing the state from some provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Energy

April 1

An estimated 500 anti-nuclear activists marched through downtown Brattleboro Saturday, protesting the continued operation of Entergy Vermont Yankee.

April 6

The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon is back on line after the latest refueling outage at the plant, according to Entergy spokesman Rob Williams.

April 8

Brattleboro continues to gear up for the start of town-wide voluntary curbside compost pick up. Coordinator Moss Kahler says last fall's test proved the merits of recycling the organic material, and reducing the volume of trash to be picked up.

April 10

Green Mountain Power wants to create a large-scale solar energy demonstration project in Rutland, in much the way that commercial wind energy was tested in Searsburg.

April 24

A legislative debate that started with a proposed moratorium on wind development in Vermont has been reduced to a review of how electric generation projects are sited.

April 30

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials say Entergy Vermont Yankee continues to operate safely, and regional director of reactor safety Chris Miller says staffing at the plant remains stable.

May 6

Officials in the Vermont town of Dummerston say they're considering working with a private company to install solar power panels to produce electricity, but they want to make sure there's support in the community.

May 7

Residential curbside compost pick up is coming to Brattleboro beginning May 20. Project coordinator Moss Kahler says approved containers are available for sale at a discount this Wednesday night and Saturday morning at the Nelson Withington ice rink, and there's still time to sign up.

May 9

Local and state officials are gearing up for a federally graded test of preparedness near the Entergy Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. A warm up exercise was held Wednesday.

June 4

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is sending an inspection team to Entergy Vermont Yankee next month, to review whether new procedures ordered after the Fukushima nuclear accident were completed.

June 5

The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant's owner again is trying to limit the state's regulatory authority over the Vernon reactor — this time over a new diesel-fired backup generator the plant intends to install.

June 7

The Vermont Public Service board will allow the construction of a 3 thousand kW diesel generator, a 9 thousand gallon fuel tank, a switchgear assembly, a resistive load bank and equipment enclosures within the protected area of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant.

June 12

A Windham County group says it plans to become more active in its call for alternatives to fossil based fuels.

June 18

Gov. Peter Shumlin has signed three bills that promote energy efficiency and clean energy for homes, farms and businesses.

Government

April 2

The Vermont Senate is likely to pass a campaign finance reform bill this week. Government operations chair Jeanette White of Putney says the bill addresses spending limits and reporting requirements.

April 3

Brattleboro select board members appoint a nine-member police fire committee, but only after reviewing last month's town meeting discussion about the 14 million dollar project's cost.

April 10

Vermont senator Bernard Sanders has introduced legislation that calls for the break up of banks that have grown so big that the Justice Department fears the financial system would be put at risk if criminal charges were filed.

April 12

Brattleboro Selectboard members are setting out their priorities for the year ahead. David Gartenstien says the board needs to take the widest possible look at new revenues

April 22

The Vermont Agency of Transportation says it has budgeted about \$324 million on transportation projects this construction season that's now getting underway. This year's spending is about 1 percent higher than last year.

April 25

New Hampshire's U.S. senators are continuing to fight against legislation that would require online retailers to collect state and local taxes for purchases made over the Internet and send the money to the states where shoppers live.

April 27

Vermont's State Park season is officially here, with Jamaica State Park opening this weekend.

April 29

Brattleboro's Brooks Memorial Library is moving to a new on line resource sharing network. The library will be closed thursday for staff to attend training on the new system. Brooks Memorial will join with four other public libraries in Vermont for phase 1 of the Catamount Library Network

April 30

The director of the University of New Hampshire's Survey Center says provisions in state election laws meant to prevent the dubious practice of "push polling" actually prohibit legitimate research widely used by political campaigns. Andrew Smith testified before a House committee Tuesday.

May 6

Vermont senator Patrick Leahy says he'll fight attempts to charge a fee for crossing the US-Canadian border. Leahy says the US Department of Homeland Security made a mistake with the proposal.

May 7

A new official Historic Marker has been erected on Rt. 103 in Rockingham. The new marker, celebrating the Rockingham Meeting House was made possible through a joint effort between the Rockingham Historical Commission and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

May 8

Brattleboro Selectboard members are considering when and how much to bond for the police/fire upgrade.

May 13

Wilmington is one of three Vermont towns getting a federal grant to help replace municipal buildings made unusable by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene. Wilmington will get \$68,182 to study six potential sites for the relocation of its police and fire departments.

May 14

A \$1.8-million federal grant for a Vermont National Guard outreach program. The grant was announced Monday by senate Veterans Affairs Committee chair Bernie Sanders.

May 15

The Vermont Legislature has finished its business for 2013, with the House passing by a 128-9 vote a nearly \$1.4-billion state budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Vermont lawmakers are not expected to have new campaign contribution limits in place in advance of the 2014 election.

May 16

Vermont transportation secretary Brian Searles says Vermont would have lost over 50 million dollars in federal highway funds if the legislature failed to raise the gas tax this year. Searles told the Windham Regional Commission that the increase was handled in a way that may blunt it's being felt at the pump.

A Hinsdale legislator says he was against killing a casino bill that failed by one vote in a New Hampshire house super committee. Bill Butinski was on the losing side as the bill failed 23-22 yesterday, in a vote of the Finance and Ways & Means Committees.

New Hampshire Congresswoman Ann Kuster used the case of Hudson resident Judy Atwood Bell to call for action on the epidemic of sexual assault in the military.

May 17

Brattleboro's first new major recreation area in decades will open tomorrow. Recreation and parks director Carol Lolatte says the West River Park features a softball, multipurpose and practice fields, a walking path and access to the West River.

May 18

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and Pope Francis are speaking the same language when it comes to the state of poverty in the world. In a major speech at the Vatican, the Pontiff said the global financial system has worsened poverty while benefiting the wealthy few. Later, Sanders echoed those comments on the senate floor.

May 22

Brattleboro Selectboard members will split the police/fire improvement bond in two parts, saving about a half million dollars in borrowing costs.

May 27

Several days of heavy rain — and even some snow — gave way to sunny skies for Memorial Day events in communities large and small. In Brattleboro, history teacher Bill Holiday applauded the sacrifice made by this nations war dead, lost in conflicts both large and small, and some unknown.

May 30

A new southeastern Vermont state police barracks in Westminster was included in a new capital construction budget signed by Vermont governor Peter Shumlin.

May 31

Brattleboro Selectboard member Ken Schneck has submitted his resignation, effective June 19. Schneck announced earlier this year he was leaving the area for a job at a college in Ohio.

June 5

An architect has been chosen for Brattleboro's 14 million dollar police and fire department upgrades. Project manager Steve Horton said the oversight committee had selected Northeast Collaborative Architects out of a field of 12 applicants.

June 10

Brattleboro and other communities continue working on repairs related to tropical storm Irene. Public works director Steve Barrett says the work includes rebuilding a portion of Williams Street.

June 13

A lawsuit by a Brattleboro publisher and the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont is raising a question about what happens to the idea of access to public records when government services are privatized. Prison Legal News of Brattleboro says it's been stymied in its efforts to get information about settlements of suits brought by inmates against the Corrections Corporation of America.

June 14

Four candidates have expressed interest in an opening on the Brattleboro Selectboard. Donna Macomber and Ian Kiehle had been on the March ballot. Michael Bosworth heads the westb brattleboro neighborhood association. Steve Cormier is the station manager at WTSA radio.

June 15

A Vermont group will hold a Brattleboro Common vigil tomorrow night to mark the six month anniversary of the Sandy Hook Connecticut school shootings, and renew a call for stronger background checks for weapons purchasers.

June 18

Brattleboro Town Manager Barbara Sondag handed in her resignation to the Brattleboro Selectboard last night. Selectboard chair David Gartenstien made the surprise announcement at the beginning of last night's meeting.

Development of a trail near Dummerston has come to a halt as its ownership is being questioned. The goal is have the trail follow a 36-mile former West River Railroad route from Brattleboro to Londonderry.

June 20

The Brattleboro Selectboard, at a special meeting last night, appointed Donna Macomber to replace board member Ken Schneck, who announced earlier this year that he would be moving out of the area. Macomber was chosen from a field of four candidates.

June 27

Brattleboro has received a \$163,000 state grant to rebuild a retaining wall on Washington Street. Selectboard members will meet tomorrow morning to decide whether to commit \$37,000 in current year funds to the project.

Health Care

April 1

As Vermont prepares for its move toward a single payer health care system, the Brattleboro Retreat and Blue Cross Blue Shield have started a partnership to integrate the treatment of medical and mental health and substance abuse care. The new company, Vermont Collaborative Care, LLC, will start serving Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont customers on July 1.

April 4

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital is opening Vermont's only comprehensive Center for Wound Healing later this month. Hospital officials say the center will provide the most advanced therapies available for the treatment of chronic and non-healing wounds.

The Vermont Veterans Home has passed a state inspection and needs to pass one more to ensure it will keep receiving federal funds. The home is on "special focus" status following a near-loss in funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services last year.

April 9

The new 14-bed Adult Intensive Unit at the Brattleboro Retreat psychiatric hospital has officially opened. Gov. Peter Shumlin, legislators, community leaders, consumers and staff gathered Monday afternoon for a ribbon cutting to mark the privately operated Retreat's new role as part of the state mental health system.

April 23

The Shumlin administration may be taking a more public look at how to finance a universal care system. State health care reform director Robin Lunge says the governor has his own advisory council, now the legislature and governor may consider forming a public advisory group.

April 26

An anonymous foundation has provided a grant for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital to upgrade its cancer treatments. The grant fully funds the training and implementation of the STAR Program into the Rehabilitation and Oncology Departments.

April 30

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and Grace Cottage Hospital of Townshend are only 17 miles apart. They're turning to Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Lebanon, N.H., and a consulting firm to gather data.

May 7

Vermont is rural state, but it still has one of the highest rates of asthma in the nation. One in 10 Vermont children and approximately 11 percent of adults had asthma in 2010. The Vermont's department of health has published a new state plan, which seeks to lower those numbers.

May 22

The organization helping Vermont prepare for the federal health care reform has hired groups to help people navigate the system. Vermont Health Connect announced Tuesday it had awarded \$2 million in grants to organizations that would provide in-person enrollment assistance for health care coverage.

May 24

The state of Vermont has rejected the application of a newly formed health care cooperative that had wanted to offer health insurance as part of the federal health care reform plan.

June 17

People wanting to weigh in on proposed consumer rates to be charged under the Vermont Health Connect health insurance exchange can do so this coming week.

June 24

Vermont's smallest hospital has become the latest one to opt out of the state's new aid-in-dying law, but hospital officials expect to revisit the issue soon. Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend made the decision Friday.

June 28

A spokesman for the Brattleboro Retreat says federal inspectors at the private psychiatric hospital this week have followed up on a series of patient complaints and have found no basis for further actions.

Human Services

April 4

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, and a Windham County organization is raising awareness and working to keep children safer. Alyssa Todd is the director of Windham County Safe Place, an office that allows a neutral setting for children to speak with investigators.

Two area men are gearing up for their fourth annual bicycling fundraiser for the Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club. John Bentley says he and Dr. Robert Nassau are inviting cyclists to sign up for "Going the Distance" June 29.

April 5

Windham County's Big Brother Big Sister program is gearing up for its major fundraiser of the year. Director Rob Szpila says the annual Bowl for Kids Sake provides a third of their annual budget.

April 11

The Vermont March of Dimes has given a \$6,000r grant to a young moms mentoring program in Windham County. Bianca Barry is the program's manager, and she says it began because of a high number of young mothers who were being seen by Youth Services of Windham County.

April 12

Homelessness appears to be on the rise in the Brattleboro area. Brattleboro Area Drop In Center director Lucie Fortier says their winter overflow shelter at the Baptist Church will close Monday morning, and the season's numbers have continued to rise.

April 19

Brattleboro volunteers are gearing up for the Vermont's annual Green Up Day May 4th. The West Brattleboro Association's Nancy Barber says green up is a long tradition in the state.

April 24

Law enforcement agencies and prevention groups across Windham County are participating in the annual Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday.

April 27

A volunteer tax program in Windham County served over 375 residents this tax season. Windham County United Way's Carmen Derby says the participants recovered over \$147,000 in Earned Income Credits. State and Federal refunds totaled over \$423,000.

April 29

The Vermont Red Cross has been called in to assist a family of five burned out of their home in Jamaica overnight.

May 2

Windham County's United Way and area dentists will offer a free day of service this Saturday. United Way's Carmen Derby says the day is geared toward people without dental insurance, who cannot afford the cost of fillings or extractions.

May 6

A very successful fundraiser for Brattleboro's Living Memorial Park Snow Sports program. The 8th annual Marina Plunge for Charity brought in nearly \$11,000 for the volunteer group that runs the Living Memorial Park ski lift.

May 10

The National Association of Letter Carriers in the Brattleboro area is gearing up for its annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive this Saturday. Local coordinator Sharon Tobey says postal customers are asked to put out donation's of non-perishable food for pick up when their mail is delivered.

May 13

Eight Americorps volunteers are in Windham County for work on Tropical Storm Irene recovery projects such as debris clean-up, painting, and home rehabilitation projects. The volunteers will work in Windham County until May 14, and then they will move on to help in Springfield and the upper valley for the rest of the month.

May 14

The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont is raising money, and taking time to remember Saturday. Maugarite Monet says the project's 26th annual Walk for Life begins and ends at the Brattleboro American Legion. Money says long time supporter Shirley Squires has been their top fundraiser.

Green Mountain Camp for Girls is hosting a 96th reunion Saturday at the camp in Dummerston, and an open house Sunday. Director Billie Slade says Green Mountain Camp prides itself on its original mission, promoting the health and well being of girls from 5 to 13.

May 20

Whether in Vermont or Oklahoma, it's been a busy spring for the Red Cross. Vermont spokesman Doug Bishop says additional volunteers for local disaster relief are being sought.

May 24

A Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club staffer has been recognized by his peers, receiving the statewide Working With Youth Award. Ricky Davidson was nominated by colleagues and youth from Youth Services and the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro for his dedicated work with young people in Windham County.

A Vermonter has written a new book about Alzheimer's disease, from the perspective of watching her father's life and death. Nancy Stearns Bercaw says the message of her book "Brain in a Jar" is the importance of families and community members talking about the disease.

May 31

A first ever beanbag tournament will be held next month in Brattleboro, to benefit Northeast Family Institute.

June 11

Over 20 sites in Windham County will be offering a free meal program to children 18 and under this summer. The USDA supported meals will be served from mid-June through August at 17 sites in Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Grafton, Putney, Westminster, Wilmington, and Townshend.

June 12

A replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is coming to Wilmington this weekend. American Legion Post #15 is sponsoring the display from June 13 – 17 at Mount Snow's Howe Farm Field.

June 13

The United Way of Windham County is investing over \$214,000 in high-impact human service programs in the areas of Education, Income, and Health. Starting in July 2013, grants will begin for 24 programs to 14 organizations serving over 14,000 residents of Windham County.

June 29

A Tent and Sleeping Bag Drive is underway in southern Vermont. Brattleboro Area Drop In Center director Lucie Fortier says the new state budget reduces General Assistance emergency temporary housing statewide.

Public Safety

April 1

New Hampshire law enforcement officials say the man shot dead by police in Walpole was hit in the head, chest and abdomen. The attorney general's office and state police on Saturday released the results of the autopsy of the suspect shot after allegedly robbing The Snow and Lear Newton Business store Friday in Bellows Falls and then crossing into New Hampshire.

April 3

Keene Police have arrested three men for a March 28 home robbery. 19-year-old Hairs Kahn of Keene has been charged with armed robbery, while 17-year-old Robert Ervin and 17-year-old Jonathon Poanessa were charged with being accessories to the crime.

April 9

Keene Police are investigating a late night robbery at Romy's Market on Marlboro Street. Just after 10:30 pm, initial reports indicated that a male subject had entered the store, approached the clerk and demanded cash.

April 12

On a 98 to 44 vote, Vermont house members today endorsed a proposal to reduce penalties for small amounts of marijuana, making them similar to a traffic ticket with a fine.

Brattleboro Police have identified a woman found dead at an Elm Street residence Thursday. 34-year-old Samara Washington was found after emergency services responded at about 11 am Thursday.

April 16

A Vernon woman was among those running in Monday's Boston Marathon. Nancy Heydinger crossed the finish line about four minutes before a pair of bomb blasts killed three and injured 140 others. Heydinger told WTSA News via text message Monday she was within sight when the blasts took place, but she and her daughter were unharmed.

April 18

New Hampshire's attorney general says police use of deadly force against a convicted felon fleeing an armed robbery was justified. Officials say 51-year-old Larry Bohannon was fleeing a Bellows Falls business he had just robbed March 29 when officers from two New Hampshire towns pursued his truck.

April 22

Brattleboro fire chief Mike Bucossi was honored by his department with the Distinguished Service Award. Deputy chief Pete Lynch says the chief was being recognized for his calm leadership during the Brooks House fire in April of 2011.

April 23

A Hinsdale home was destroyed by fire Monday. Police and fire officials say the call came in just before noon to the Steven Bordner residence on Plain Road, and the blaze was not declared under control until nearly 2 pm.

April 27

Keene police say the city's emergency services have responded to multiple explosions over the past two months, and they've been identified as chemical reaction bombs. The devices are also known as acid bombs, bottle bombs, and MacGyver bombs, are explosive devices that can be made easily from volatile household chemicals purchased at a local hardware or grocery store.

May 1

Fire officials in New Hampshire and Vermont have limited the number of burning permits due to a combination of dry weather and increased brush fires.

May 4

A double fatal in Keene. 32-year-old Douglas Farr Junior and 35-year-old Erin Breault of Hinsdale were killed when their car crossed the center line on Route 12 and hit the tractor trailer unit. The driver of the rig, 54-year-old Jeffery Cloran of Becket, MA, was treated and released from Cheshire Medical Center.

May 14

The New Hampshire Supreme Court says prosecutors may use the testimony of arson experts in their case against a man charged with the 1989 arson deaths of four members of a Keene family.

May 17

Wilmington Police have a new dispatch console, thanks in part to a \$10,000 grant from the Vermont Sheriffs Association.

Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell says his office continues to work on derailing fraud committed against the elderly. But in the case of wire fraud, the current options are limited.

May 20

Expect lots of traffic in southern Vermont this upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Brent Curtis at the Vermont Agency of Transportation says there's been lots of calls seeking information about day trips in the region for the upcoming three-day weekend.

May 23

A Virginia man has been identified as the man arrested by police in Hinsdale last night. 40-year-old Joshua Converse of Richmond was apprehended near a Monument Road address, after police spent nearly 9 hours searching for the operator of a stolen vehicle found abandoned in the area.

May 24

Four have been arrested on kidnapping charges in Brattleboro. 30-year-old Salahdin Trowell of Jersey City, NJ, is being held without bail following arraignment today. 29-year-old James Manning, also of Jersey City and 19-year-old Marcus Koritz of Springfield, MA, are being held on \$100,000 bail.

May 29

Less than a month after he was declared competent to stand trial, a Brattleboro man has pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting an elderly person suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Martin Stuart was sentenced Tuesday to serve seven to 17 years in prison.

June 1

It's highway construction season. Windham County sheriff Keith Clark is asking motorists to put their cell phones down when they are driving in a construction zone.

June 4

A Claremont man has been charged after trespassing at the Twin Falls swimming hole in Westminster. Vermont State Police say 20-year-old Michael Hoague was charged with unlawful trespass. He was rescued from the waters with a rope and life ring, and was unhurt.

June 5

Yes, there was a bear at Brattleboro Union High School Tuesday. The bear was spotted near the Outlet Center, and later found its way to Wilson's Woods where it ate the contents of a residents bird feeder before lumbering off.

June 10

Two Vernon residents remain hospitalized after a two-car accident on Route 142 in Vernon Saturday night. Police say Edward Class the third was airlifted to the Bay State Medical Center after the 8 pm crash. His passenger Tanya May, was flown by helicopter to the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

June 17

A 22-year-old Whitingham man will appear in court to face multiple charges following a domestic dispute Sunday night.

June 20

The Windham County Sheriff's Department and the Town of Westminster have entered into a contract, which will provide for 40 hours a week of patrol services in the town.

June 25

A Brooklyn man has been jailed for an assault in Keene. Police say 38-year-old Gerald Rivers was arrested Monday for his alleged role in a June 22nd attack at the Railroad Tavern.

June 29

Police are searching for a missing Charlestown, N.H., woman who they believe may have suffered physical harm or death. The attorney general's office says 42-year-old Kelly Robarge was reported missing Thursday afternoon.