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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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Around the Towns

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TEXT BODY:

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BDCC's Windham Leadership Series to explore

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housing and infrastructure solutions

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BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro Development Credit

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Corporation (BDCC) will host the next session of the Windham

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County Leadership series Thursday, March 12, from 11:30 a.m. to

9

1 p.m. at Retreat Farm's North Barn, 136 Farmhouse Square.

10 The event, “The Blueprint for Growth: Financing and
11 Managing Local Development,” will focus on practical strategies
12 to advance housing and infrastructure in Windham County
13 through coordinated state and local action.

14 “Vermont is at a crossroads where the demand for
15 housing and modern infrastructure meet the reality of rising costs
16 and complex regulations,” organizers wrote in a news release.
17 “This session of the Windham Leadership Series is designed to
18 provide local leaders with tools and an in-depth exploration of
19 topics including strategic financing, infrastructure and policy,
20 state alignment, the municipal “playbook,” and innovative
21 delivery.”

22 Featured panelists include State Treasurer Mike Pieciak;
23 Jessica Hartleben, executive director of the Vermont Economic
24 Progress Council; Alex Farrell, commissioner of the Department
25 of Housing and Community Development; Dominic Cloud, city
26 manager of St. Albans; and Miro Weinberger, executive chair of
27 Let’s Build Homes. To register to attend the session, go to
28 brattleborodevelopment.com/event/wls-housing.

29 ***Literary Cocktail Hour hosts author Jane***

30 ***Borden March 13***

31 BRATTLEBORO — Are cults rising in America? The
32 March edition of the Literary Cocktail Hour, set for Friday, March
33 13, at 5 p.m., will examine this question.

34 Author Jane Borden and Brattleboro Literary Festival
35 committee member Stephanie Greene will present an hour of
36 discussion on Borden’s newest book, *Cults Like US: Why*
37 *Doomsday Thinking Drives America*.

38 Longlisted for an Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence
39 in Nonfiction, this pop history explains why the doomsday beliefs
40 of our Puritan founders still drive American culture today,
41 contextualizes the current rise in division and extremism as a
42 natural result of our latent indoctrination, and proposes the
43 United States is the largest cult of all.

44 Borden is an author, culture journalist, and editor. She
45 contributes regularly to *Vanity Fair* and has written for *The New*
46 *York Times Magazine* and *The Washington Post*, among other
47 outlets.

48 This event will be presented free on Zoom. Join the
49 discussion by registering at bit.ly/856-borden.

50 ***Healthcare, SNAP info hours at Brooks Library***

51 BRATTLEBORO — The Vermont Workers' Center is
52 hosting drop-in hours at the Brooks Memorial Library Community
53 Meeting Room on March 13 and March 27, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.,
54 to help people understand and navigate changes to SNAP,
55 Medicaid, and Medicare.

56 There will be information about the new SNAP work
57 requirements and exemptions, and on the rights of individuals
58 currently on or applying for these programs. People who were
59 recently denied SNAP benefits are encouraged to stop in to find
60 out whether they still qualify and how to re-enroll. There will also
61 be information about a recently expanded program to help
62 Medicare recipients afford premiums and co-pays.

63 Workers' Center members can work with people on
64 submitting applications and other paperwork. For more
65 information, email windham@workerscenter.org or call 802-257-
66 4436.

67 ***Dummerston Cares, AARP Fraud Watch Team*** 68 ***offer scam prevention tips***

69 DUMMERSTON — On Wednesday, March 18, at 1:30
70 p.m. at Dummerston Congregational Church, Dummerston Cares
71 and the AARP Fraud Watch Team will host a free, hour-long Fraud
72 101 Workshop to learn how to spot sneaky scams and pick up
73 simple tools to protect personal information and financial well-
74 being.

75 Last year, the Vermont Attorney General's office received
76 more than 4,000 reports of fraud, and many more instances went
77 unreported. A member of the Fraud Watch Team will break down

78 real-world examples of scams and fraud, share insider tips, and
79 give participants the confidence to stay one step ahead of today's
80 fraudsters — whether it's a suspicious call, a too-good-to-be-true
81 offer, or an email that just “feels off.”

82 To help them plan, RSVP by calling the Dummerston
83 Cares Message Line at 802-257-5800.

84 ***Senior Meal in Halifax***

85 HALIFAX — On Friday, March 20, volunteers will serve
86 the monthly Senior Meal at Halifax Community Hall. The menu
87 will feature spinach salad, corned beef, carrots, potatoes,
88 cabbage, and onions, Irish soda bread, and dessert.

89 Come at 11:30 a.m. to socialize and enjoy an appetizer.
90 The main meal will begin around noon. A suggested \$4 donation
91 (\$5 for those younger than 60 years old) will help to support the
92 Halifax Senior Meal. The historic hall, located at 20 Brook Road
93 in West Halifax, is wheelchair-accessible, including an accessible
94 bathroom. If you have questions, or if a large group plans to
95 attend, call Bettye at 802-368-7797.

96 ***Sign-ups begin for Ames Brook Community*** 97 ***Garden***

98 BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks
99 Department says they are now accepting reservations for the
100 Ames Brook Community Garden. This garden is located in the
101 nine-acre Stockwell Park overlooking the Ames Brook in West
102 Brattleboro.

103 Returning gardeners have until March 27 to stop by the
104 Recreation & Parks Department main office, located at 207 Main
105 St., to sign up for the 2026 season for the regular fee of \$30; after
106 that, the fee increases to \$40. The office is open Monday through
107 Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

108 New gardeners can sign up beginning Tuesday, March 31
109 for \$30; after April 30, the fee increases to \$40. New gardeners
110 will be required to pay an additional \$30 garden plot deposit.
111 Space is limited. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served

112 basis. For more information, call the Gibson-Aiken Center office
113 at 802-254-5808.

114 ***Guilford Chamber Singers seeks singers for***
115 ***June concert***

116 GUILFORD — Guilford Chamber Singers, sponsored by
117 Friends of Music at Guilford, is seeking voices for their June
118 concert, “A Cappella a la Carte” (exact date TBA).

119 They are led by Tom Baehr, director of multiple concerts
120 since 2014. The repertoire will include part-songs covering five
121 centuries, the 17th to the 21st. The lyricists are quite varied,
122 including Elgar, Campion, Thoreau, Emerson, Blake, and
123 Sterndale Bennett.

124 Rehearsals will be Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m., starting
125 March 16, in West Brattleboro. For more information, contact
126 Tom at tombaehr@myfairpoint.net or 802-387-2796.

127 ***Free community lunch in Wilmington***

128 WILMINGTON — The Community Table is a free
129 community lunch served every Wednesday through June 3, from
130 noon to 2 p.m., at St. Mary’s In the Mountains, 13 East Main St.

131 Every week, a community organization sponsors a free
132 public lunch at St. Mary’s hall. The menu varies, but often is
133 soup, salad, bread, and a dessert. The purpose is to encourage
134 greater sociability and neighborliness. Folks may also stop by to
135 pick up a lunch for eating at home. Send an email to
136 carpesquire@gmail.com for more information.

137 ***BMH Auxiliary offers scholarships***

138 BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
139 Auxiliary is pleased to once again offer college scholarships to
140 graduating local area students who plan to pursue a career in
141 healthcare. A combination of financial need, academic
142 achievement, and community service will be used as the criteria
143 for selecting the recipients.

144 Application forms are available at local schools'
145 counseling departments and must be submitted by May 8 to the
146 school's counseling department or directly to JoAnne Rogers,
147 Auxiliary Liaison, 17 Belmont Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301.
148 Homeschooled students who are interested in applying should
149 contact JoAnne Rogers directly by calling 802-257-8238 or
150 emailing jrogers@bmhvt.org. The awards will be presented during
151 graduation festivities at each high school.

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