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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Brooks Memorial Library launches online resource  
2 directory

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Brooks Memorial Library is launching a new public  
6 resource, "Access Brattleboro Community" (ABC), a  
7 comprehensive online directory of local organizations and  
8 projects that promote quality of life in the Brattleboro area.

9 The directory went live last week, to coincide with  
10 National Library Week, which celebrates the vital role libraries  
11 play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

12 For years, Brooks Memorial Library (BML) has served the  
13 community by maintaining and distributing an annually updated  
14 print resource guide. ABC is designed to modernize this effort,  
15 providing a more easily searchable and up-to-date online  
16 platform for patrons seeking local assistance and information.

17 “We want the ABC Directory to be a first stop to discover  
18 all of the organizations and services that help our community  
19 thrive,” said Information Services Librarian Jeanne Walsh in a  
20 news release. “Even at this early stage, ABC contains a nice  
21 variety of resources large and small, formal and informal.”

22 ABC is the result of a collaborative effort with numerous  
23 community organizations that have partnered with the library to  
24 create detailed profiles. These profiles list essential information,  
25 including websites and contact details. Organizations will be  
26 able to edit and update their information directly, ensuring  
27 accuracy for users.

28 Users of the platform will be able to search by keywords  
29 or categories. Simply clicking the Search button will point the  
30 public to every entry in the directory.

31 “The mission of BML is to connect people and resources  
32 to inspire, inform, and empower our diverse community,” said  
33 outgoing Library Director Starr LaTronica. “Libraries are  
34 committed to gathering, organizing, and disseminating  
35 information, and we recognize that the wide array of good work  
36 being done by a remarkable panoply of agencies, organizations,  
37 and institutions comprises one of most valuable resources of this  
38 community.”

39 LaTronica continued, “This project is the result of the  
40 perseverance and technical troubleshooting of Brooks’ staff,  
41 resulting in a platform that’s simple to use for both the public and  
42 the organizations looking to share information about their  
43 services.”

44 She said the project first took shape through the work of  
45 Beth Johnson, who joined the library a few years ago through the  
46 AmeriCorps VISTA program. Johnson gathered data on local

47 organizations and created a database that was instrumental in  
48 drafting an early version of the print resource guide. From there, a  
49 core team of library staff developed and tested the online  
50 directory.

51 LaTronica said library staff frequently receive requests for  
52 help, referrals, and information about local services, and ABC  
53 will serve as a definitive guide, helping staff members more  
54 effectively direct these conversations and connect patrons with  
55 the resources they need.

56 Local agencies and organizations are encouraged to sign  
57 up and create a listing in the directory by visiting  
58 [brookslibraryvt.org/abc-sign-up](http://brookslibraryvt.org/abc-sign-up). For more information about  
59 creating a profile, Brooks has published a detailed guide for users  
60 at [brookslibraryvt.org/abc-faqs](http://brookslibraryvt.org/abc-faqs).

61 The community is encouraged to visit the Access  
62 Brattleboro Community directory from the Brooks Memorial  
63 Library website at [brookslibraryvt.org/communityabc](http://brookslibraryvt.org/communityabc). Copies of  
64 the print resource guide are distributed at the library, and a PDF  
65 version is available on the ABC directory.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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