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Notes from editor (not for publication):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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Senior meal in Halifax

WEST HALIFAX — On Friday, July 17, volunteers will prepare and serve the monthly Senior Meal at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Rd. Back by popular demand, the meal will feature David's famous fried chicken. Fresh fruit, German potato salad, cole slaw, rolls or bread, and dessert will round out the menu.

11 Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m. with appetizers. The
12 main meal will begin around noon. A suggested \$4 donation (\$5
13 for those younger than 60 years old) will help to support the
14 Halifax Senior Meal. If you have questions, or if a large group
15 plans to attend, call Bettye at 802-368-7797.

16 ***‘BF3F’ returns this Friday***

17 BELLOWS FALLS — Friday evening, July 17, will be
18 Bellows Falls Third Friday (BF3F) downtown. The evening begins
19 alongside the Bellows Falls Farmers Market from 4 to 7 p.m., with
20 BF3F continuing from 7 to 9 p.m. as downtown businesses stay
21 open late and visitors are invited to explore Canal Street and the
22 surrounding downtown district.

23 This month’s event features live music down Canal Street
24 and a community raffle with prizes donated by participating
25 businesses. Visitors can enter the community raffle at
26 participating businesses throughout the evening for a chance to
27 win this month’s prizes while also being entered into the season-
28 ending Grand Prize Basket drawing.

29 BF3F is a free monthly downtown event that organizers
30 say celebrates local businesses, encourages community
31 connection, and creates a vibrant evening experience in the heart
32 of Bellows Falls. For updates, participating businesses, and event
33 information, follow “Bellows Falls, VT” on Facebook and
34 @BellowsFallsDowntown on Instagram.

35 ***Summer reading celebration at RFPL***

36 BELLOWS FALLS — Families are invited to celebrate
37 summer reading at the Rockingham Free Public Library Saturday,
38 July 18, at 11 a.m., with a special visit from children’s author and
39 photographer Steve Swinburne as part of the Children’s Literacy
40 Foundation (CLiF) Summer Readers program.

41 Swinburne has inspired young readers for decades
42 through his engaging nonfiction books about nature, wildlife, and
43 the world around us. During this free family program, he will

44 share stories about his books, adventures, and the creative
45 process behind his writing and photography.

46 Following the presentation, every youth in attendance
47 will have the opportunity to choose two brand-new books to take
48 home and keep. The book giveaway is designed to encourage
49 children to build their own home libraries and to foster a lifelong
50 love of reading. Families who are unable to attend the event are
51 encouraged to contact the library, and staff will select and set
52 aside books for their children.

53 This free event is open to the public. For more
54 information, contact the library at 802-463-4270 or
55 youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org.

56 ***Ice cream social in Windham***

57 WINDHAM — On Sunday, July 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., the
58 Windham Community Organization and the town of Windham
59 Historical Society will host an Ice Cream Social. Roger Allbee
60 will be on hand to speak about his recent book *Turning the Soil:*
61 *250 Years of Vermont Agriculture*, a historical book illustrating
62 changes in rural communities and farm policies over a period of
63 more than 250 years.

64 Wilcox ice cream will be provided in several flavors to
65 choose from, served in a cone or a cup, as well as a variety of
66 toppings. The event will be held at the former Windham School,
67 5940 Windham Hill Rd., and is free and open to all, with
68 donations welcome.

69 ***Family fundraiser at Lilac Ridge Farm***

70 WEST BRATTLEBORO — For 50 years, River Gallery
71 School has been serving Brattleboro families. In celebration of
72 this milestone, they invite everyone to join them Sunday, July 19,
73 from 4 to 6 p.m., for a day of family fun at Lilac Ridge Farm on
74 Ames Hill Road, including flowers, food, crafts, creemees, music,
75 and more.

76 Guests can listen to songs by Emily Margaret as they
77 gather pick-your-own flowers, participate in River Gallery School

78 arts and crafts activities, and enjoy the farm's famous organic
79 creemees. Attendance is free, and Lilac Ridge is generously
80 donating 100% of pick-your-own flower sales and a portion of
81 creemee sales to support River Gallery School. For more
82 information, visit [rivergalleryschool.org/family-fundraiser-at-lilac-](http://rivergalleryschool.org/family-fundraiser-at-lilac-ridge-farm)
83 [ridge-farm](http://rivergalleryschool.org/family-fundraiser-at-lilac-ridge-farm).

84 ***Wind Wisdom series continues at Retreat Farm***

85 BRATTLEBORO — The Wild Wisdom series at Retreat
86 Farm continues Sunday, July 19, at 6.p.m., as they team up with
87 The Nature Museum of Grafton to host Sean Southey, CEO of the
88 Canadian Wildlife Federation for his talk, "Falling in Love with
89 Nature: Nice Idea or Survival Strategy?"

90 Organizers say Southey has been a champion of nature-
91 based education internationally for over 35 years, having worked
92 with Environment Canada, the United Nations, and the
93 International Union for Conservation of Nature.

94 "Falling in love with nature is often framed as a nice
95 idea, something soft or optional," wrote organizers in a news
96 release. "This talk offers a different perspective: that our
97 connection to nature may be one of the most practical and urgent
98 survival strategies we have. It invites us to rethink how we learn,
99 lead, live, and to rediscover our relationship with nature not as a
100 luxury, but as something essential, something worth loving, and
101 something worth protecting."

102 The event will take place at the Retreat Farm's North
103 Barn. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Registration is encouraged on
104 The Nature Museum's website (nature-museum.org). There is \$10
105 suggested donation with a free option. Walk-ins are welcome as
106 long as there is space available. The Thirsty Goat bar inside the
107 North Barn will be open for drinks.

108 ***'Among Dinosaurs' at Townshend Library***

109 TOWNSHEND — Travel back in time to when giant
110 dinosaurs roamed the Earth and learn about the history of these
111 ancient mammals and ocean invertebrates at "Among Dinosaurs,"

112 a live animal presentation Wednesday, July 22, at 1 p.m. at
113 Leland & Gray Union High School.

114 Though they get the mega-share of the prehistoric
115 spotlight, dinosaurs weren't the only ones out there. They were
116 joined by plants and animals who thrived among the dinosaurs
117 and still exist to this day.

118 This program is presented by the Vermont Museum of
119 Natural History and sponsored by the Townshend Public Library
120 as part of its Summer Reading Program. With the help of some of
121 the museum's animal ambassadors, the presentation will delve
122 into the history of extinct prehistoric mammals, ancient ocean
123 invertebrates, fossils both living and long-gone, and more.

124 This program is free and open to all ages. For more
125 information, contact the library at 802-365-4039.

126 ***Sign-ups begin for Guilford Town-Wide Talent***

127 ***Show***

128 GUILFORD — Musicians, dancers, ventriloquists, poets,
129 storytellers, yodelers, jugglers, bird callers, and artists of all kinds:
130 the Guilford Recreation Commission wants to showcase you.

131 The Recreation Commission is on the lookout for 5- to-
132 10 minute, family-friendly talent show acts of all ages for the
133 Saturday, Aug. 8, Talent Show at the Broad Brook Community
134 Center at 6 p.m. Spots will be limited and on a first-come basis.
135 Organizers will prioritize Guilford residents, but they will also
136 accept acts that include at least one Guilford resident.

137 They are also on the lookout for donations of artwork,
138 gift baskets/cards, produce, offers of 1-hour services, tickets to
139 events and any other donations for the Silent Auction. The
140 auction will help raise funds for Guilford food programs, the
141 Guilford Food Pantry and the Guilford Food Hub. For more
142 information, contact Recreation Commissioner and Town Clerk
143 Uriel Najera at townclerk@guilfordvt.gov.

'Share the Harvest' stand returns

BRATTLEBORO — Edible Brattleboro's Share the Harvest stand, offering free fresh produce for all, is open Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Turning Point garden at the corner of Frost and Elm streets.

Gardeners may drop off surplus from their gardens on Saturdays at 57 Spruce St. (leave in cooler on porch), or from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Sundays at the stand. Questions? Email Marilyn at ediblebrattleboro@gmail.com or call 802-254-9121.

Food drop in Putney

PUTNEY — The next Putney food drop will be Thursday, July 23, 9 to 9:45 a.m. The Vermont Food Bank and Putney Foodshelf co-sponsor this service, free and open to all, offering a selection of produce and assorted foods.

The Putney Food Drop is located at 78 River Rd. More details, including a map, can be found at putneyfoodshelf.org/food-drop.

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