

CIUUSD voters defeat second budget proposal in Tuesday special election

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

GRAND ISLE – Voters in the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District (CIUUSD) again rejected the school district’s proposed budget, narrowly defeating a \$10.3 million proposal for funding the district’s two elementary schools and tuition for local middle and high schoolers during a special election Tuesday.

According to preliminary results shared Tuesday evening, voters in Grand Isle, Isle La Motte and North Hero narrowly rejected the unified district’s proposed budget, with 453 voters opposing the district’s spending plan and only 406 voters supporting it.

The proposed budget would have totaled around \$132,000 less than what voters initially rejected on Town Meeting Day this past March. According to school officials, proposed spending cuts amounted to removing a classroom teacher from one of CIUUSD’s two elementary schools, as well as reduced supervisory union spending and around \$15,000 initially budgeted for athletic transportation.

CIUUSD’s revised budget also maintained the loss of both a social emotional learning coach and a clinician also included in the spending plan voters defeated on Town Meeting Day earlier this year.

According to CIUUSD officials, the staffing reductions proposed under the district’s last budget proposal still kept CIUUSD’s two elementary schools aligned with the district’s local education policies and Vermont’s statewide education standards.

CIUUSD was one of nearly 30 school districts in Vermont to see its budget rejected on Town Meeting Day amid a statewide backlash over increased spending prompted by complications with education funding reforms and challenges with inflation that, according to Vermont tax and education officials, were expected to surge local education taxes statewide.

In the Champlain Islands, property taxes were expected to further increase as the result of the common level of appraisal, a ratio weighing property sales

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‘We’d like to see more of them’: Local commission, VINS partner to protect the islands’ tiniest falcon

By MICHAEL FRETT
 Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO – Earlier this spring, volunteers hoisted a pair of rectangular nesting boxes at Island Acres Farm and Health Hero Farm in South Hero, braving the seasonal mud in the name of a small, fierce-looking bird known to call this Grand Isle County town home.

Both boxes were hung out of site from nearby roadways, offering their would-be tenants some needed privacy, and while both were large enough for a number of the birds and animals calling the Champlain Islands home, the boxes’ caretakers, the South Hero conservation commission and their partnering farmers, had only one tenant in mind: the American kestrel.

“We have excellent habitat for them here, and those of us who watch birds know they’re here,” Bridget Kerr, the commission’s chair, told *The Islander* in an interview late last month. “They are in decline, and we’d like to see more of them.”

The American kestrel is a small, rust-colored bird with a falcon’s profile streaked with black markings and a face tattooed with black and white stripes. At about the size of a mourning dove or robin, kestrels are the smallest of North America’s raptors, often observed perched on power lines above the open fields and meadows where kestrels manage most of their hunting.



A worker at South Hero’s Health Hero Farm displays an American kestrel rescued from netting at the South Hero farm last summer shortly before releasing the bird.

Photo courtesy of Health Hero Farm.

Earlier this year, the South Hero conservation commission began a partnership with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), an education and rehabilitation center based in Quechee, Vt., that works with local organizations like South Hero’s conservation commission to help monitor and preserve raptors like the American kestrel.

According to Jim Armbruster, the lead biologist for VINS’s Center for Field Research, partnerships like the relationship VINS was building with the conservation commission in South Hero were invaluable for the rehabilitation center, an organization with a limited staff headquartered in Southern Vermont.

“We have a small staff,” he told *The Islander*. “We’re very limited in what we can do ourselves, so to have the community involved like this is invaluable to what we’re doing.”

While most of North America’s imperiled raptors have seen their populations rebound after dramatic, pesticide-linked lows in the early 1970s, the American kestrel has continued a steady decline across the continent. Experts are not exactly sure what is affecting North America’s kestrels, but biologists like Armbruster think several factors are likely at fault for the tiny raptor’s decline.

“There’s no clearcut answer as to why they’re declining,” Armbruster told *The Islander*. “It’s likely a combination of factors... and everything is obviously connected.”

Habitat loss is at least partially at fault, Armbruster suggested, with development replacing the meadows and fields kestrels prefer, and natural trends in reforestation further suffocating those open spaces. There are probably fewer tree snags and hedgerows favored by kestrels as nesting sites, as well, and kestrels face competition for what sites are available from nonnative species like European starlings.

According to the National Audubon Society, kestrels are also likely seeing reproductive failures and food chain pressures related to modern pesticides, including the hotly debated neonicotinoids also linked to the collapse of many

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of North America's pollinators, as well as growing predation by the increasingly common Cooper's hawk, a medium-sized hawk that sometimes hunts the smaller kestrel.

According to biologists like Armbruster, the changing climate might also be affecting North America's kestrels, distorting the birds' usual migration and breeding schedule, and bringing it out of sync with their preferred insects' springtime return often occurring earlier in the season.

"It seems like the climate is affecting their migrating and breeding," Armbruster said. "That disconnect might be throwing off their success."

Vermont Fish and Wildlife's most recent wildlife action plan, approved in 2015, describes the American kestrel as one of Vermont's bird species with the "greatest conservation need," an official classification also granted to endangered species like the common tern and eastern meadowlark, and other declining species like the chimney swift and wood thrush.

According to Armbruster, kestrels were known to, at least historically, have nested in South Hero.

Kestrels are still readily observed in the islands, appearing somewhat regularly to locals birding in the Champlain Valley. According to eBird, a public portal created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for recording bird sightings and data on bird populations, kestrels have been sighted everywhere from South Hero's Roy Marsh to the Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area in Alburgh.

As recently as last year, a worker at Health Hero Farm in South Hero discovered a female kestrel tangled in some netting, releasing it shortly thereafter.

Distributing nesting boxes like those installed by South Hero's conservation commission could, according to Armbruster, help shelter kestrels in lieu of the tree snags they typically preferred while also allowing organizations like VINS a chance to study the birds' reproduction habits and their eventual dispersal from the Champlain Valley into other locales.

"The thought was that this network might be able to provide them with nesting habitat while they're losing habitat," Armbruster said. "It's one way we're able to monitor kestrels."

For the conservation commission in South Hero, the kestrel project was one of their first major projects following the commission's creation in late 2022. Partnering with VINS for a local kestrel project was, according to Kerr, a way for the commission to promote wildlife education and conservation in South Hero, two of the commission's self-ascribed charges.

"We want our community to understand what lives here," Kerr told *The Islander*. "We want to help manage these for future generations, which is why I see this as an ongoing project."

The two nesting boxes, an early gift from VINS, were installed shortly before the kestrels' nesting season, with the hopes that either box could host a pair of kestrels sometime later this year. Already, according to Kerr, a pair of kestrels near one of the two boxes showed signs of possible courtship, suggesting that at least one of the conservation commission's two boxes could be occupied in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, according to Kerr, the commission is hoping to expand its partnership with VINS over the coming year and manage its local kestrel initiative as an ongoing project.

The conservation commission has already scheduled a presentation featuring a VINS educator and one of the organization's rehabilitated kestrels at



Volunteers from South Hero's conservation commission recently installed nesting boxes for American kestrels at two area farms, part of a larger effort to promote and monitor the small charismatic raptor. Photo courtesy of Bridget Kerr, South Hero Conservation Commission.

the Worthen Library later this summer, and the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions announced just last week that South Hero's conservation commission would receive grant funding for additional nesting boxes.

"It's my hope that it continues," Kerr told *The Islander*.

CIUUSD BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

against their assessed values used to determine local education taxes in Vermont. Given the islands' tight housing market, sales prices have surged well above properties' assessed values in each of CIUUSD's three towns, dramatically spiking local education taxes.

With its second budget proposal defeated, CIUUSD officials will need to prepare another spending plan and warn a third school election later this year.

Without an approved budget, CIUUSD is allowed under state law to only use up to 87% of what voters last approved for a spending plan to afford the district's next school year, an amount likely resulting in significant staffing and programming cuts for the islands' schools.

CIUUSD maintains two elementary schools in the Champlain Islands and oversees public education for children from Grand Isle, Isle La Motte and North Hero.



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Volunteers tidy up Isle La Motte causeway in Saturday workday

By MICHAEL FRETT
 Islander Staff Writer

ISLE LA MOTTE – More than a dozen volunteers gathered along the entryway to Isle La Motte this weekend to help cull invasive plants and tidy up the island town’s “front door to the world.”

According to the Isle La Motte Community Organization (ILMCO), 13 volunteers in all had met near Burying Yard Point this past Saturday to help clean up the point’s northern half, a public wooded area helping frame the island’s entrance with an overlook aimed at Lake Champlain.

“The cleanup targeted the northern portion of the entrance, raking leaves, removing invasive species, disposing of an old campfire and picking up trash,” Sylvia Jensen, ILMCO’s president, told *The Islander* in an email. “Everyone worked with smiles and joy as our goal was quickly being realized!”

This weekend’s “Causeway Clean Up” was, according to Jensen, an extension of a larger effort to beautify Burying Yard Point, the site of both a small park tracing the island’s entrance and a historic cemetery where the town’s first elected officials and several veterans from the American Revolution were interred.

According to Jensen, volunteers spent around two hours tending to the island’s entrance this weekend.



More than a dozen volunteers gathered at Burying Yard Point this weekend to help tidy up Isle La Motte’s “front door to the world.” Photos courtesy of Beth Meese, Isle La Motte Community Organization.

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Local library, historians celebrate 'Racing in Milton'

By ISLANDER STAFF

MILTON – There are likely few Vermont communities with as storied a relationship with automobile racing than Milton, a town that once hosted both Vermont's only legal dragstrip and a renown racing circuit, and continues to this day to raise champions in the Vermont racing scene.

That heritage was on display this weekend as the Milton Public Library and Milton Historical Society came together for "Racing in Milton," a collaboration celebrating Milton's ties to automobile racing with history presentations, crafts and visits from more than a few storied racers calling Milton home.

According to Rick Stowell, the vice president for Milton's historical society, around 200 people turned out Saturday for the organizations'



Owner and driver Greg Gilbert poses with his restored racing coupe outside of the Milton Public Library during Saturday's "Racing in Milton" event. Photo courtesy of Rick Stowell, Milton Historical Society.



Robert Maynard stands with the car driven by his son, local racing champion Adam Maynard, during this weekend's "Racing in Milton" event. Photo courtesy of Rick Stowell, Milton Historical Society.



Car owner and builder Jacques Courchesne and local racing legend Bobby Dragon pose for a photo with Dragon's car outside of Milton's library. Photo courtesy of Rick Stowell, Milton Historical Society.

"Racing in Milton" event to meet a few local drivers and car owners, and hear a presentation from local author, retired educator and racing historian Bill Ladabouche.

Outside, several storied racing cars, including the Chevy Nova run by local racing legend Bobby Dragon and *The Vermonster*, a restored dragster that once raced the Milton Speedway, were lined up for visitors.

"The event went really well," Stowell recalled for *The Islander* in an email, "and we estimate about 200 people came to it."

According to Stowell, the two organizations also partnered on a raffle themed around racing in Milton, and children attending Saturday's event had a chance to craft and race their own homemade cars along-



Local author and racing historian Bill Ladabouche presents Milton's colorful history with racing during Saturday's "Racing in Milton" event. Photo courtesy of Rick Stowell, Milton Historical Society.

side diecast Hot Wheels cars.

Beyond being home to local racing champions like Dragon and Adam Maynard, Milton also once hosted two long-shuttered but legendary racing tracks – the Milton Speedway and the Catamount Stadium.

"Both the Catamount Stadium and the Milton Speedway are no longer in existence," Stowell said, "but the sharing of memories by those who attended the races is still popular at these events."



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CHS class of 1985 reunion

By Teresa Poquette

BURLINGTON – The Colchester High School class of 1985 will hold its' 40th reunion at the St. John's Club on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025 from 4:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

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Colchester man on trial stemming from fatal shooting during drug deal in Swanton

By MIKE DONOGHUE
Islander Staff Writer

RUTLAND – A Colchester man went on trial this week in federal court in Rutland on drug and gun charges stemming from an investigation into the fatal shooting of a narcotics dealer at a Franklin County home two years ago.

Dominique "Wop" Troupe, 37, of Bay Road has pleaded not guilty to four felony charges.

Troupe has denied a count of conspiring with one of his former girlfriends, Jayme Sartelle, 42, of Colchester and Misti-Lyn Morin, 44, and her housemate, Eric Raymond, 33, of Swanton to distribute crack cocaine between July 2021 and at least Feb. 2, 2022.

Elijah Oliver, 22, of Haverhill, Mass. was found dead inside the residence at 45 First St. in Swanton about 4:35 a.m. Feb. 2, 2022, authorities have said.

At least nine people were in the single-family residence of Crystal Ahl and Elvin Sweet at the time of the shooting, state police said. Ahl, 44, was among the witnesses to take the stand early this week.

Nobody has been charged in Vermont Superior Court with the killing of Oliver, who was identified as a member of the Gangsta Disciples gang by his hometown newspaper.

Troupe, who also uses the street name "Juice," and Raymond were the main people behind the drug trafficking conspiracy, records maintain.

The Vermont State Police, the Vermont Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives took the lead on the sweeping investigation.

Troupe also has denied a charge of possession with intent to distribute nearly a half-pound of crack cocaine in September 2022, records show.

The crack cocaine was found in his vehicle when the Vermont Drug Task Force arrested him in the current case as he got off a Lake Champlain ferry in Grand Isle, court records show.

A federal grand jury charged Raymond and Troupe for one count of carrying a firearm on Feb. 2 while furthering their drug trafficking and the gun was discharged that day – the same date as Oliver's death.

Raymond and Troupe and others conspired to commit a robbery and "threaten physical violence to persons and property in furtherance of robbery" by taking drugs, money and personal property by actual or threatened force on Feb. 2, the indictment said.

Troupe was a primary source of supply for crack cocaine being sold at the River Street residence, Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael P. Drescher has said in court records.

Drescher and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Turner are prosecuting the case and have used three task force detectives from state and South Burlington Police and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department.

Veteran defense lawyer Chandler Matson of Stowe has been assigned to represent Troupe. Matson is the fourth defense lawyer on the case since Troupe's arrest.

Chief Federal Judge Geoffrey W. Crawford is presiding over the trial, which is projected to last two weeks, officials said.

Court records note multiple witnesses have indicated Oliver was a rival drug dealer operating out of the First Street residence and his business was impacting the profits of Troupe, Raymond, Morin and Jesse L. Sweet, 28, of Swanton.

Troupe, Sweet and others implemented a plan to carry out an armed robbery of Oliver, seeking to steal drugs and money, court papers note. Sweet reportedly backed out of the holdup, but witnesses reported Troupe drove at least one robber to Oliver's home to execute the armed robbery, Drescher wrote.

"The evidence against Raymond includes admissions from those with whom he sold cocaine that the shooting victim's drug business was eating into Raymond's," Drescher has indicated in court papers.

"Witnesses also recount that Raymond made admissions relating to his involvement in the shooting and admonishing others with information about the shooting not to talk about it," Drescher said at the time.

Authorities have maintained Troupe is a dangerous and untruthful defendant. Troupe, who also has traveled internationally, is a risk to flee, officials have said.

Raymond had left his residence at 361 North River Street during the early morning hours of Feb. 2, 2022 despite a court order requiring him to observe a curfew, Drescher noted. He added Raymond went to the First Street residence where the fatal shooting happened and while en route back to North River

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Street he was picked up by Sweet.

Sweet also had been charged earlier as part of the sweeping investigation. Court records note that Sweet was aware of the planned robbery and he disabled a video surveillance system at 45 First Street.

Sweet filed a signed plea agreement with the prosecution on Dec. 13, 2022 -- the same day the new 10-count indictment was announced.

The fatal shooting happened during a robbery and Eric Raymond was trying to protect his drug-selling turf, a federal prosecutor has said. He shared with Morin the home at 361 North River Street.

Raymond was among those to flee before Swanton Village Police and the U.S. Border Patrol could arrive, court records indicate.

Morin has pleaded guilty in federal court to 5 felony charges that were filed as part of the investigation into an out-of-state gang member getting fatally shot at a Swanton home.

Morin has admitted she was among at least four people to willfully conspire to distribute crack cocaine between July 2021 and February 2022 and that she knowingly allowed her residence at 361 River Street to be used as a "Crack House" to help distribute the drug between April 2021 and Feb. 2, 2022.

Morin also admitted to three counts of knowingly possessing various firearms while being an unlawful user of and addicted to a controlled substance. The cases involved a 9-mm semiautomatic pistol on July 4, 2021, a multi-caliber receiver assembled as an AM-15 semi-automatic assault-style rifle on June 19, 2020 and a Berretta 9-mm short (.380) semi-automatic pistol on Feb. 2, 2022 -- the day the homicide was reported.

Judge Crawford has set the sentencing for Morin on May 17 and ordered a Pre-Sentence Report by the U.S. Probation Office.

Drescher said Morin managed or controlled 361 River Street in Swanton and used it to help conspirators to distribute crack cocaine. He said if her case had gone to trial several witnesses would have outlined Morin's conduct and her illegal possession of firearms.

Public health risk remains 'low' after officials confirm measles case in Vermont

By ISLANDER STAFF

COLCHESTER – Public health officials have confirmed a case of measles among a group of travelers visiting Vermont as a part of an international group program.

According to Vermont health officials, the public health risk to Vermonters remains low, though there was a limited risk of exposure to those visiting a Colchester hotel where the travel group was staying.

Vermont's health department announced last month that a group of travelers visiting the state as a part of an international group program had been exposed to another traveler later identified by Georgia health officials as having a confirmed measles case following an April international flight into Atlanta.

While one member of the traveling group was later confirmed to have contracted measles, most of the other 25 members of the visiting traveling group had prior immunity protecting them from the measles virus, Vermont health officials reported in a recent statement.

Measles is a highly contagious virus capable of causing severe illness. While there is no treatment for measles, the disease is almost entirely preventable through vaccination.

Health officials are asking anyone who was inside of Colchester's Holiday Inn hotel on April 17 before 3:45 p.m. to confirm they were vaccinated against measles and, if not, to contact the state's health department "as soon as possible" for additional guidance.

"The department has been working closely with the Hampton Inn management, which has been cooperative throughout the response, including to provide information to known guests and visitors," Vermont's health department reported in a statement shared last week.

There was "no ongoing risk of measles associated with the hotel," according to the health department.

The number of confirmed measles cases identified in the U.S. has steadily increased in recent years after being virtually eliminated in the U.S., a trend public health officials have attributed to both increased exposure to measles outbreaks outside of the U.S. and an increased number of unvaccinated people living in the U.S. impacting community immunity.

Outbreaks of measles have also increased globally in recent years, according to public health officials, including in the nearby Canadian province of Quebec.

This would be the first case of measles confirmed in Vermont since 2018.



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DC Energy Innovations, Inc. has sold the security division to long time employee, Jamie Bushey.

DC Security will be a DBA of Blue Tiger Integration.

Jamie can be reached at 802-363-0182 or jamiebushey@comcast.net



LIQUIDATION SALE

May 11th, 10am - 3pm



DC Energy Innovations, Inc. has closed its Electrical and Solar divisions and will be liquidating what is left. There are lots of tools and electrical stock for sale.

5072 US Route 2, North Hero, VT 05474

Sand Bar park construction 'on schedule' for Memorial Day reopening

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

MILTON – Ongoing construction at the Sand Bar State Park is expected to wrap up by Memorial Day later this month, Vermont State Parks officials confirmed for *The Islander* last week.

In an email, Emily White, the regional manager for state parks in Northwest Vermont, said that construction at the popular day park was on schedule for completion in time for the park's reopening around Memorial Day, the date generally viewed as the start for Vermont's summer tourism season.



SATURDAY, MAY 4

- beCAUSE Craft Show at Holy Family Parish Hall, 28 Lincoln St, Essex Jct.; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$3 per adult, under 12 free.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

- Celebrating National Train Day at Clinton County Historical Association Museum, 98 Ohio Ave., Plattsburgh, NY; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

- Early Tourists Visiting the North Country in style at Meadowbrook Healthcare, 154 Prospect Ave., Plattsburgh, NY; 2:30 p.m.

Please email

islander@vermontislander.com for information on listing events in the calendar section.

"The work at Sand Bar State Park is on schedule to be completed for park opening on Memorial Day weekend, with no closures expected," White told *The Islander*. "We are incredibly excited to have a safer park entrance, not just for visitors and staff but for everyone traveling on Route 2."

Construction is currently underway to move the state park's entrance further west along Route 2 and away from a bend in the state highway where, according to state park officials, limited visibility posed a risk for cars entering and exiting the state park, and for vehicles traveling the state highway connecting the Champlain Islands and Chittenden County.

Once completed, construction in the Sand Bar State Park would also see the day park's contact station, where visitors check-in with park staff, moved further into the park, allowing for more cars to queue up within the park's perimeter on busier days where traffic might have otherwise stretched onto Route 2.

Over the course of several public meetings and hearings preceding construction in the park, state park officials described traffic safety as a priority for their work planned for the Sand Bar State Park, noting that, as recently as last year, several accidents and "near misses" involving park visitors and staff

had taken place near the state park's prior entrance.

According to White, while an archaeological dig previously covered in *The Islander* was still planned for this coming fall between Route 2 and the Sand Bar State Park's new parking area where, eventually, officials planned to install a wetland for helping manage stormwater runoff from the park, officials did not expect the dig to impact operations at the popular day park.

"There will be an archeological dig happening there this fall between Route 2 and the new parking area, where the stormwater treatment will eventually be going," White told *The Islander* in an email, "but that should not have any impact on operations."

Archaeologists working in the park have found Native American artifacts dating back to the 1500s resembling a set of ceramics recovered near the Chittenden County town of Bolton. Some archaeologists have linked those latter ceramics – the "Bolton Jars" – to St. Lawrence Iroquoians, a group of indigenous people whose historic homeland stretched between parts of Ontario and Quebec.

One of Vermont's first and most popular state parks, the Sand Bar State Park draws tens of thousands to its sliver of shallow, sandy shoreline between Milton and South Hero every summer. The park, according to a Vermont State Parks writeup, is "the most visited day park" in the Green Mountain State.

At least some facilities in the park date back to the 1930s, when the Sand Bar State Park was built under the Civilian Conservation Corps, a public works program created in response to the Great Depression.

Milton's development review board approved Vermont State Parks' plans for moving the state park's entrance following a hearing in 2022.



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‘Our concern is that we have some say’: Isle La Motte gathers for first major planning forum

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

ISLE LA MOTTE – Isle La Motte residents gathered for the first of several public forums this weekend to discuss the town’s first ever municipal plan, hearing from local planners as locals mulled everything from recreation space to the future of the town’s former and current offices.

Collecting Saturday at the former Isle La Motte Elementary School, residents entertained questions raised by the town’s planning commission ranging from how the town’s former Main Street offices could best serve islanders to the future challenges potentially facing the Champlain Islands’ smallest town.

“People don’t know where the Goodsell preserve is,” said one village center resident arguing to repurpose Isle La Motte’s former Main Street office as an information center for travelers. “People were always stopping by to ask the town clerk questions.”

“It could be a smaller version of Alburgh’s visitor center,” offered another Isle La Motte resident, “but with more community space.”

Saturday’s meeting was the first of several larger forums planned by Isle La Motte’s planning commission as commissioners iron out the details for the town’s first ever municipal plan.

Under Vermont law, municipal plans are official documents drafted by towns and cities mapping local trends in land use and demographics, and outlining possible goals for a local community. The document directly influences a community’s relationship with certain state grants and tax incentives, as well as a community’s relationship with Vermont’s development review process under Act 250.

According to commissioners, the plan could be essential as Isle La Motte begins answering questions about how to best use its former school building, how to repurpose its old Main Street office and how to serve the wider Isle La Motte community with publicly owned land like the town’s recreation park and the ten acres surrounding its new offices at the former Isle La Motte Elementary School.

“We’re looking at where we are, where we want to go, how to get there and how we’re doing,” Carmine Centrella, the commission’s chair, said. “Even when you’re going to Costco, you’ve got a plan.”

Isle La Motte officials began drafting a new town plan in 2023, shortly after the town reassembled a planning commission years after its prior commission last met. In the months since, the planning commission has met regularly and publicly, often with representatives from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, to iron out the town’s first ever municipal plan.

Outside of a survey circulated by the commission last year, however, Saturday’s event was the first major gathering hosted by the commission to draw public input into the community’s still-pending plan.

“We’ve done some stuff electronically, but we need to make contact directly with the community,” Centrella told *The Islander* after Saturday’s workshop. “With the stuff that comes out today, hopefully we can take those ideas and translate them into something that makes sense in the town plan.”

Saturday’s focus fell largely on the town’s two major public buildings – its vacant town hall and the former school building now housing Isle La Motte’s municipal office.

According to Isle La Motte’s planning commission, the two buildings had featured prominently as priorities in the surveys initially circulated by the planning commission last year, as had other topics discussed Saturday, like opportunities for recreation in Isle La Motte and discussion around public services and other community needs likely facing Isle La Motte over the coming decade.

After an initial presentation Saturday, a crowd of around 30 Isle La Motte residents was divided into smaller groups to talk more casually about the town’s plan and, for the most part, mull ideas for how to best use the two public buildings Isle La Motte’s government currently maintains.

Ideas floated during Saturday’s forum ranged from using Isle La Motte’s former school building to also host community programming and offer space where visiting organizations working in the islands, like Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources (CIDER) or Northwest Counseling and Support Services (NCSS), could meet directly with locals on Isle La Motte.

Other suggested using parts of the building for a child care center or a larger, public library to complement the smaller library in the town’s village center, as well as possibly leasing space to an area credit union to host a local ATM or soliciting the Community College of Vermont to use some of the building’s classroom space for a Grand Isle County satellite.

When it came to Isle La Motte’s older town hall, which officials vacated for

more modern facilities at the town’s school several years ago, residents proposed repurposing the building as a visitor center or a community space for locals, though there seemed to be a greater concern over maintenance given that officials had opted for the elementary school due to the costs of sustaining a historic town hall.

“They had some robust discussions,” Centrella told *The Islander*. “The groups had all taken off and were not just talking about issues but getting to the heart of those issues.”

One thing loosely touched on during Saturday’s forum was zoning, a controversial proposal in communities like Isle La Motte that, historically, maintained no local development regulations.

While town plans are a prerequisite for municipal zoning regulations in Vermont, local officials said Saturday there was little interest in pursuing zoning laws for Isle La Motte. The town plan’s eventual relationship with the Act 250 review, they said, would be enough of a “guardrail” to help manage larger developments in the Grand Isle County town.

“Right now, we’re vulnerable if somebody came in and wanted to make a big change to Isle La Motte,” the chair of the town’s selectboard, Mary-Catherine Graziano, said during Saturday’s forum. “This protects us and the town’s character in a hopeful way.”

“Our concern is that we have some say,” Centrella added when he spoke with *The Islander* shortly after Saturday’s forum came to a close. “Some guardrails to maintain the character of our community.”

Officials are planning another public forum in either May or June, according to the town’s planning commission. In the meantime, officials are circulating another public survey to gather input for the town’s pending municipal plan.

A final draft for Isle La Motte’s town plan is anticipated for a required planning commission hearing in July, according to a timeline presented Saturday, and for the selectboard’s final review this September.



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Obituary

BEVERLY JEAN (YOUNGMAN) AUSTIN

SOUTH HERO - Beverly Jean (Youngman) Austin, 92, of South Hero, passed away peacefully on April 21, 2024. She was born in Hardwick, and graduated from Burlington High School. She married John M. Austin in 1952 and they raised their family in Burlington and South Hero.



Bev's hobbies included making novelty cakes, traveling, square dancing, singing with the Champlain Echoes, and volunteering at schools and C.I.D.E.R.

In later years, Bev spent winters in Florida, but especially loved spending the warmer months at her summer home on Lake Champlain in South Hero. Family and friends will cherish memories of all the happy times at camp.

Bev is survived by her three daughters; Linda Houton, Gayle Gardner and husband Michael, and Kendy-Sue Hardy and husband Stephen. She leaves seven grandchildren; Brigid Mayer and husband Mac, Aaron Williams and partner Callie Richardson, Shane Houton, John Austin and wife Miranda, Kathleen Austin, Katelyn Hardy, and Trevor Hardy and wife Marie. She also leaves thirteen great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Bev was predeceased by her husband John, her two sons Mark and Steven, and her daughter Pam.

At Bev's request, there will be no service. A celebration of life will be held by the family at a later date.

Memorials in Bev's name may be made to: C.I.D.E.R (Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources) PO Box 13, South Hero, VT 05486



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ARMAND BLOW

VENICE, FL - Armand Blow, age 89, passed away on Feb. 11, 2024 after a brief illness.



Armand was born in South Hero on Jan. 8, 1935. He was the youngest of 8 children born to George and Elizabeth (LaPointe) Blow.

He married his high school sweetheart, Kathryn (Kitty) Brunelle on July 5, 1954. Soon after, they moved to New York as Armand worked on the St. Lawrence Seaway and Niagara Power Project. After the projects were completed, they returned to South Hero to help his father with the family farm. He worked for VT Transit driving the Burlington to Boston run for several years. His love was to turn back to the farm life, which he did as a child with his father. They purchased a dairy farm in South Hero that the family ran for several years. There was a beautiful maple sugar grove on the property, so he built a sugar house. Armand and his best friend Jim Potvin would sit together for hours sharing the love of making maple syrup and enjoying casual conversation. Syrup cans lined the back stairs of the farmhouse where locals would stop by to purchase them. Since farmland was soon being consolidated into larger farms, they sold the property and moved to South Burlington where he landed a job with the City of Burlington Parks Department until retirement. He loved NASCAR and Dale Earnhardt, they would travel to many cities to watch the races. Armand and Kitty spent their time traveling to Florida in the winters and eventually made Florida their permanent residence. They celebrated their 69th wedding Anniversary in July of 2023. They were a true inspiration to the family and their bond was inseparable.

He is survived by his wife Kathryn (Kitty) Brunelle Blow. His children Deborah Morgan, Chris Blow and partner Eileen Yandow, Diane Martin and her husband Brian, Donna Daigle and her husband David, Mark Blow and his wife Michelle, and his "other son" Jimmy Baker. He was predeceased by his parents George and Elizabeth (LaPointe) Blow, his brothers George, Edwin, Ivan and Paul, his sisters Marion, Marjorie and Katherine, his son in-law Paul Morgan, his great grandson TJ Duncanson. He leaves 13 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, and 6 great great grandchildren.

A service will be held at St. Rose of Lima Church, in South Hero at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024. After the graveside service is concluded at the South Hero cemetery, a luncheon will follow at the St. Rose of Lima Church Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude - stjude.org/donatetoday or Season of Sharing - www.CFSarasota.org

CELIA HACKETT

SOUTH HERO - Celia Hinman Hackett passed away peacefully in her home on April 25, surrounded by family. Celia was born on March 24, 1938, and raised



in Greensboro with her 7 siblings. At 19, she married her husband Reynold (Ron), and they spent the next 67 years raising a family and growing a business. They began their life together in Essex before moving to South Hero in 1967 where they remained. Together they had two daughters and built one of the most popular apple orchards in Vermont, Hackett's Orchard. During the orchards early years, Celia was heavily involved overseeing the wholesale business, picking and grading apples, and raising their two daughters all while Ron worked off the farm.

Celia was a beloved and devoted wife, mother, sister, and grandmother. Ron and Celia were very involved in the lives of their grandchildren, always making sure they never went without. She devoted her later years to them and could often be found on the sidelines of an athletic game, chauffeuring them to and from school events, or waiting in the crowd with a bouquet of fresh tulips, cut from her garden. She spent many patient hours teaching all of them invaluable life lessons. She was influential in helping them become the individuals they are today.

In the little spare time she had, she enjoyed cooking and gardening. She was a master gardener and was always willing to give gardening advice to friends. You could always count on her to have a fresh loaf of bread in the kitchen as well as homemade applesauce. In high school, she and her twin sister, Delia, dominated the defensive side of the basketball court, seldom letting the ball by the dynamic duo. She enjoyed swimming, and during the winter months, ice skating and cross-country skiing.

She is survived by her loving husband Ron, daughters Debbie and Jill, 7 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, two great great grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews. All of whom will miss her dearly. She is predeceased by her mother, father, and siblings.

Celia's family would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the nurses and the hospice team involved in Celia's care with special recognition to three caregivers, Hannah, Kate, and Val.

In honor of her wishes, there will be no funeral services. A small family burial will be held at a future date.

Celia cherished her community and the organizations that helped make South Hero so great. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to CIDER or South Hero Rescue or plant a flower in your own garden in Celia's memory.

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ANDREW "ANDY" LAVALLEE (1952 - 2024)

MILTON - Andrew "Andy" Roger Lavallee, a loving father, brother and devoted friend, passed away peacefully on April 25, 2024. Born on Feb. 21, 1952, in Colchester, Andy lived a life filled with a passion for helping others and a love for spending time with his family.



Andy's career path led him to his tenure as an Engineering Manager at Green Mountain Power. His natural curiosity and knack for fixing anything, from cars to antique clocks, was a lifelong pursuit. This desire to contribute extended beyond his profession, evidenced by his dedication to volunteering with Randolph Center, South Hero, Saint Albans, and Westford Fire Departments. He later became a Certified Firefighter Instructor with the Vermont State Fire Academy where he served for many years.

Known for his great sense of humor and commitment to others, Andy was happiest surrounded by family and friends. Whether it was fishing on the boat, sharing stories, or simply enjoying each other's company, Andy cherished these moments. He found joy in spending countless summer days at the family camp on Lake Champlain.

Andy leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and a helping hand. He will be deeply missed by his children, Matthew and Lauren Lavallee, his siblings Joanne Wilkins, Dennie Lavallee, Peter Lavallee, David Lavallee, Marie Mcklay, Ted Lavallee, Richard "Dick" Lavallee, and Rebecca "Becky" Roy. Andy was predeceased by his daughter Catherine Lavallee, brother Robert "Bob" Lavallee and his parents Roger and Elaine Lavallee.

The visitation service to honor Andrew's life will take place on May 4, 2024, at Minor Funeral and Cremation Center in Milton. Friends and community members are invited to pay their respects from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on that day, with a brief service to follow.

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2024 Green Up Day:

ALBURGH

Those interested in participating in Green Up Day are asked to reach out to the town's clerk Danielle Choiniere at the town's offices. The town is offering \$5 coupons for Kraemer and Kin to volunteers turning in Green Up bags at pick-up sites at the town's office and Alburgh's transfer station on Green Up Day, and Kramer and Kin is planning a Green Up Day afterparty at its Alburgh taphouse.

GRAND ISLE

Green Up Day bags are available at the town's office and transfer station before Green Up Day. Volunteers are asked to gather at Donaldson Park at 8 a.m. on Green Up Day. Those with questions are asked to reach out to Grand Isle's town office for more information.

ISLE LA MOTTE

The Isle La Motte Community Organization is asking locals to meet at the town's offices outside the former Isle La Motte Elementary School on Green Up Day at 8:30 a.m. A free lunch is scheduled at the town's offices later that morning at 11:30 a.m. Those with questions are asked to contact coordinator Alex Montagne at vermontislandgirl@gmail.com or 831-212-9481.

MILTON

Green Up Day bags will be available at the Milton Municipal Building starting this week, and volunteers are asked to highlight the areas they will be cleaning on the town's Green Up map. Milton's conservation commission will be offering coffee, hot chocolate and donuts, as well as information about Milton's natural areas, for volunteers starting Green Up Day at 8 a.m. at Bombardier Park East's pavilion.

NORTH HERO

Bags can be found at the town's office, Hero's Welcome and the Harborside Harvest Market. The town's offices and library also have trash grabbers available for local Green Up Day volunteers to borrow. Those with questions can reach out to Berney Skutel from the town's recreation commission at bskutel@gmail.com.

SOUTH HERO

The town's conservation commission is organizing Green Up Day routes, and can be reached at southherocc@gmail.com. The commission is looking for help with covering Route 2, Ferry Road and West Shore Road, and the town's beach, in particular.

The South Hero Land Trust is holding a separate clean-up and tree-planting at the South Hero Recreation Park, with a volunteer appreciation barbecue planned in the late morning. Information and registration for the land trust's clean-up can be found at <https://www.shlt.org/events/gud2024>.

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Turtles must be left in the wild

By Joshua Morse, VT Fish & Wildlife Dept.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says keeping native turtles as pets is prohibited because it can harm the turtle and pose threats to wild turtle populations.

“Capturing a wild turtle and keeping it as a pet, even if only for a short time, is not only bad for that individual turtle but it could hurt entire turtle populations as well,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff. “Releasing captured turtles back into the wild can spread wildlife diseases and also affect the genetics of the local population.”

Groff explains that adult turtles usually have well-defined home ranges and know where to find food, mates and shelter. However, a turtle released in unfamiliar habitat may roam great distances, increasing the odds it will cross roads and risk being run over.

For turtles, the loss of even a couple mature females can have serious consequences because they are slow to develop, especially at northern latitudes where the growing season is short.

“Many of Vermont’s turtle species do not reproduce until they are at least 10 years of age,” says Groff, “and older, sexually mature females are critical to the long-term persistence of some of Vermont’s turtle populations.”

Two common species you are likely to see are the Painted Turtle and Snapping Turtle. The Wood Turtle, Spotted Turtle and Spiny Softshell are rare in Ver-

mont, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department urges you to report sightings of these species to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (vtherpatlas.org). If you see some of Vermont’s native turtles in the wild, feel



Bringing home a native Vermont wild turtle to keep as a pet is illegal because it can be harmful for the individual animal and local turtle populations. VT Fish & Wildlife photo by Luke Groff.

free to take a photo home with you, but leave the turtles in the wild.

For more information on Vermont’s native turtle species, visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website or contact Vermont Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff at Luke.Groff@vermont.gov.

North Hero Public Library

What's happening in May?

Ongoing Programs:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 5pm-7pm:
Knitting Club

3rd & 5th Tuesdays, 5:30pm-7pm:
Cribbage Crew

Wednesdays, 10am:
Playgroup

Stay tuned for info about the Social Thought Book Club.

Questions: Email Caroline at library@northherovt.com or stop by 3195 US Route 2, North Hero

New Programs:

FYI - Our book sale has moved to the Community Hall at 3541 US Route 2 (next to Hero's Welcome). Donations are on hold.

Saturday, May 4, 9am-1pm:
Star Wars Day! Join us for Star Wars crafts and take home your own Princess Leia hair!

Tuesday, May 7, 2pm-4pm:
Age Well will be at the library to answer questions and assist with signing up.

Thursday, May 9, 4:30pm:
Reading & Discussion Series - This year's theme is "American Stories Across the Generations". Scholar Geof Hewitt will lead this 5-part series. Our first book is *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Copies available at the library!

Sunday, May 19, 9am-12pm:
The annual Friends of the Library Plant Sale is back again! On the lawn of the Community Hall-3541 US Route 2.

Saturday, May 25, 10am:
Adventures in Gardening! "Planting Outside!" Learn about where, what, and how to plant outside. We'll be doing some planting at the library! Local Master Gardeners are on hand to help. This family-friendly event is open to all ages!

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Ryder is a 1 year old bully breed. He's a goofy meatball who enjoys a good walk around the block or hike. Ryder is a social guy and would love to go for rides with his new family. No cats or kids for Ryder. He would do okay with another calm dog but by no means needs one.

Fill out an application at www.pottersangelsrescue.org

Property Transfers

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April 2024

ALBURGH

- John Dragoon transferred property at 26 Hunter Road South Lot 4A, 0.22 ac., to Wayne & Linda L. Dragoon, \$N/A.

- Claude & Susan Tibbits transferred property at 1 Little Beach Rd, 10 ac., to Claude K. Tibbits Revocable Trust & Susan M. Tibbits Revocable Trust, \$N/A.
- Antoine & Virginie Di-Lillo transferred property at 7459 US Route 2 South, 0.55 ac., to Michel & Antoine M. Di-Lillo, \$N/A.
- Mae Cooke transferred property at 2657 West Shore Rd, 1.18 ac., to Julie Asselin, \$226,900.
- John Dragoon transferred property at 54 Hunter Road South Lot 5A, 0.26 ac., to Wayne & Linda L. Dragoon, \$N/A.

MILTON

- Halie Labelle transferred property at 119 Pecor Ave. to Brooke Lathrop & Cynthia A. Carter-Farrell, \$45,000.
- Laurie Brunelle Mcavoy transferred property at 12 Johnson's Court, 0.3 ac., to Samuel David Ploof, \$N/A.
- Shaun & Felecia M. Rock transferred property at 31 Edgewater Terrace, 2.33 ac., to Rock Family Living Trust, \$N/A.
- Ernest Mead transferred property at 116 Murray Ave., 0.91 ac., to Rebecca Alger, \$N/A.
- Matthew Hinton transferred property at 92 Maplewood Ave., 0.51 ac., to Jessica Babcock & Kody Gage Ballard, \$500,000.
- Janice Bartlett transferred property at 13 Erin Court, 0.03 ac., to David Bartlett Jr., Kathy Chase, Linda Hanson & Elizabeth Miller, \$N/A.

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LEGAL

Notices

SOUTH HERO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The South Hero Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing at their 7:00 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at the Town Office, to act on the following:

Applicant & Landowner: Ronald Gentile, Applicant; Brent Hazen Trust, Landowner
Hearing Type: Minor Subdivision Administrative Review
App. No.: 24-68-SR117
Proposed: 3-Lot Subdivision
Location: 117 Station Rd.
Date of Notice: 5/1/24

*This hearing will be held in-person at the Town Office. There is a Zoom option: this is the sign-in: 849 2924 9458 – Use Passcode 699999

Participation by an interested person in this hearing, either through oral or written testimony, evidence, or a statement of concern related to the subject, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

SOUTH HERO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The South Hero Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing at their 7:00 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at the Town Office, to act on the following:

Applicant & Landowner: Joe Danis
Hearing Type: Minor Subdivision Administrative Review
App. No.: 24-73-FL086
Proposed: 2-Lot Subdivision
Location: 86 Featherbed Lane
Date of Notice: 5/1/24

This will be the second hearing of the evening.

*This hearing will be held in-person at the Town Office. There is a Zoom option: this is the sign-in: 849 2924 9458 – Use Passcode 699999

Participation by an interested person in this hearing, either through oral or written testimony, evidence, or a statement of concern related to the subject, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

VILLAGE OF ALBURGH ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of the Village of Alburgh are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Alburgh municipal building, in said Village of Alburgh, on Tuesday evening May 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. to transact the following business:

ARTICLE 1: To elect the remaining officers, namely a trustee to serve a term of 4 years to fill a vacancy, and a trustee to serve a term of five years, an auditor to serve a term of three years and a delinquent tax collector for one year.

ARTICLE 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the various village officers.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to raise the sum of \$21,499.86 by taxation, to be used for general village purposes to include street lights.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to authorize the trustees to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses of the Village of Alburgh.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to pay taxes to the village treasurer heretofore.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to donate the sum of \$700.00 towards the support of the Alburgh Public Library.

ARTICLE 7: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Dated at Alburgh, Vermont this 25th day of April A.D. 2024.

/s/ Cheryl Dunn, Village Clerk/Treasurer
/s/ Francis "Skip" Lewis, Chairperson
/s/ Herbert Durham
/s/ Heath Bovat
/s/ Travis Arnold
/s/ Aidan Poquette

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT - PROBATE DIVISION GRAND ISLE UNIT DOCKET NO. 24-PR-00110 IN RE ESTATE OF: COLIN SHARP LATE OF LAVAL QUEBEC CANADA AND ISLE LA MOTTE VERMONT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the creditors of COLIN SHARP late of Laval Quebec Canada and Isle La Motte, Vermont:

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: April 19, 2024
/s/ Lise Sharp
c/o P.O. Box 1323, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450

Name of Publication: The Islander
Publication Date: May 2, 2024

Name and Address of Court:
Grand Isle Probate Court
PO Box 7, North Hero, VT 05474

PUBLIC NOTICE From April 22 – May 24

The Town of North Hero water distribution flushing.
The North Hero Water Department conducts a comprehensive water line flushing program throughout the Town. This process rapidly moves water through the Town's water piping system to scour the inside of the water lines. Flushing is a common practice to improve water quality and maintain the water distribution system. Minerals and other materials that accumulate in the lines are removed by flushing. This material is not harmful but can cause discolored water.

Customers may notice discolored water or a change in water pressure when flushing is conducted in their area. When flushing is taking place, we recommend that customers check to ensure their tap water is running clear before using it for drinking, cooking, or clothes washing. Customers who experience some coloring or sediment in their water should run the cold water faucet for a short time. This should clear up any discolored water.

If you have any questions, call the water plant at 372-6258 or email at watersystem@northherovt.com.

OFFICIAL WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING OF GRAND ISLE FIRE DISTRICT #4

The legal voters of the Grand Isle Fire District #4, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Grand Isle Fire District #4 Pump House at 204 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, Vt. on Monday May 13, 2024 at 7 P.M., to transact the following business.

- 1.) To elect members of the Prudential Committee to fill the following positions:
One (1) Three Year Term
One (2) Two Year Term

CURRENT PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Andy Paradee, TERM 3 Yr., DATE CURRENT TERM EXPIRES: May, 2024.

Peter Riegelman, TERM 2 Yr., DATE CURRENT TERM EXPIRES: May, 2024.

NOTICE: NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

(Andy Paradee is seeking re-election)
(Peter Riegelman is seeking re-election)

- 2.) To review and approve the Treasurer's Report.
- 3.) To receive a report from the Chairman.
- 4.) To transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Prudential Committee of Grand Isle Fire District #4, held on April 8, 2024.

Received for record and recorded in the records of the Clerk of the Grand Isle Fire District #4 on April 9, 2024, and in the Office of the Grand Isle Town Clerk on April 9, 2024.

Dated at Grand Isle, Vermont: April 9, 2024.
Esther F. Blow
Clerk/Treasurer
Grand Isle Fire District #4

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT - PROBATE DIVISION GRAND ISLE UNIT DOCKET NO. 24-PR-02477 IN RE ESTATE OF: RICHARD F. ROSE LATE OF GRAND ISLE, VERMONT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the creditors of RICHARD F. ROSE late of late of Grand Isle, Vermont:

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: April 30, 2024
/s/ Cagney Hamblett
5 Adams School Rd., Grand Isle, VT 05458
802-233-3884
cagneyh13@gmail.com

Name of Publication: The Islander
Publication Date: May 2, 2024

Name and Address of Court:
Grand Isle Probate Court
PO Box 7, North Hero, VT 05474



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-EMPLOYMENT-

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JOB OPENING ASSISTANT. TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER. The Town of Swanton is seeking an organized and motivated individual to serve in a dual capacity role of Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Town Treasurer. Town of Swanton residency is not required, but is highly desirable. The Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Town Treasurer will report to the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer as appropriate for the duties assigned. The Assistant Town Clerk will perform all duties assigned by the Town Clerk in accordance with Vermont Statutes and Town of Swanton Policies & Procedures as follows: Assist in the maintenance of official records and documents pertaining to real property, vital statistics, permits, licenses and other matters. Will report to the Town Clerk in accordance with Town policies and applicable laws. Assist in overseeing the office vault, which is the house of records for the Town of Swanton. As an assistant custodian for Town documents, the individual will follow the Records Management Plan to ensure the preservation and protection of all Town documents. Assist in the recording/filing of Town documents which include but are not limited to, all real estate records (deeds, lien, attachments), vital records (birth, death, marriage) Issue licenses for marriage, dogs, and any other such license, permit, document as so directed by Federal, State, or local government. Assist the Town Clerk in the Election process. This includes posting, advertising, warning, maintaining the voter checklist, mailing of early ballots, and completing the mandatory reporting. Other such duties as may be assigned. The Assistant Town Treasurer will perform all duties assigned by the Treasurer in the management of all the Town's financial activities. These duties include: Assist in the processing of financial reports required monthly, quarterly, and yearly. Perform reconciliation of financial accounts and bank statements. Process payroll in Town Treasurer's absence. Process State employee pension program requirements in Treasurer's absence. Maintain account funding balances and calculate school tax payments. Other such duties as may be assigned. A degree in accounting, public administration, or similarly applicable experience is preferred, or at least two years' practical experience in municipal, public, or private accounting including

experience managing payroll, employee benefits, accounts payable and receivable. A working knowledge of Word and Excel is required. Experience with NEMRC accounting systems is a plus. The position will be 40 hours per week with a 4-day, 10-hour schedule. Compensation will be commensurate with the above knowledge and experience. A competitive benefits package is included. Current open Town Office hours are: Monday – Friday 7 am to 5:00 pm. Position open until filled. To apply for this position, please send your resume, three letters of reference and a cover letter to: Cathy L. Fournier Town Clerk and Treasurer P. O. Box 711 Swanton, VT 05488 email: townclerk@swantonvermont.org The Town of Swanton is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, gender, or familial status.

-AUCTION-

ONLINE AUCTION
(1573) SPRING SPORTING RELATED
AUCTION CLOSES: Monday, May 6 @ 10AM
PREVIEW: FRIDAY, MAY 3 FROM 11AM-1PM
Location: 131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT
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www.alburghpl.org
Burnham Memorial Library - 898 Main Street, Colchester, 802-264-5660
burnhamlib@colchestervt.gov
Grand Isle Free Library- 10 Hyde Road, 802-372-4797
www.grandislefreelibraryvt.wordpress.com
Isle La Motte Library- 2258 Main Street, 802-370-2148
Milton Public Library- 39 Bombardier Road, 802-893-4644
miltonlibraryvt.org
North Hero Library- 3195 Route 2, 802-372-5458
www.northherolib.org
Worthen Library- 28 Community Lane, South Hero, 802-372-6209
southherolib.org
Swanton Public Library- 1 First St., 802-868-7656
swantonlibrary.org

**View the Milton Police Log and
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Church Services

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BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER-WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM

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Isle La Motte ~ North Hero ~ Grand Isle

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 a.m. Isle La Motte - 1st & 3rd Sundays
10:30 a.m. North Hero - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
10:30 a.m. Grand Isle - 2nd & 4th Sundays

Rev. Mathew J. Enzler "Pastor Matt"
Jacqueline Hughes, Lay Leader
ChamplainIslandsUMCWorship@gmail.com
Emergency Contact: 406-531-5985

Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Nursery for ages 5 & under
Sunday School

Pastor: Rev. Cordelia Burpee
24 South St. South Hero, VT 05486
Tel: 372-4962 • ccshvt@gmail.com
Office hours M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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Dr. John C. Kehoe, Pastor

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SUNDAY Worship _____ 10:30AM
WEDNESDAY Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study 7:00PM
WEDNESDAY Children's Bible Club _____ 7:00PM
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MASS SCHEDULE

St. Rose of Lima, South Hero-
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

St. Joseph, Grand Isle- Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

St. Amadeus Parish, Alburgh-
Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Fr. Joseph Sanderson

Tel: St. Amadeus Office 802-796-3481

Tel: St. Rose of Lima Office 802-372-4092

*Website: <https://ourladyofthelake.vermontcatholic.org/>
Email: ourladyofthelakeparish@vermontcatholic.org*

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The Islander May 2 - May 8, 2024



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