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observer

The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires

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New York's push for police reform draws support, resistance locally

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HILL COUNTRY

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DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires



New York pushes local debates over police reform

The summer's protests over police brutality and racial injustice have lately begun to spur talk of reform among local government officials around eastern New York. In most cases that's thanks to a state mandate issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in June, at the height of demonstrations sparked by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The governor's executive order required local governments across New York to set up local stakeholder committees to review and recommend changes to the policies and practices of local police agencies in each community. These new panels are supposed to focus special attention on policies governing use of force, procedural justice, evidence of bias, community outreach and conflict resolution. Page 4



Election 2020: Results from three states

Our detailed chart shows local results from the presidential race and contests for Congress, state legislative seats and statewide ballot questions. Page 11



Creating art in a holiday season darkened by Covid

Across the region, artists and artisans are facing a holiday season unlike any other. The pandemic has closed many of their traditional ways to reach people -- the workshops and classes, festivals and open studios. With cold weather arriving and Covid-19 cases increasing, restrictions are tightening just as the holiday season begins. Holiday artisan markets are the main source of income for many artists. But with the pandemic having forced the cancellation of in-person markets, makers are looking for new ways to survive -- banding together online or in new artist cooperatives, for example. Page 16

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Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: Police cars line the street opposite the Saratoga Springs Police Department headquarters at City Hall.



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From Saratoga, flavor by the clove

Horse trainer's garlic-growing sideline becomes family business

By **STACEY MORRIS**
Contributing writer

NORTHUMBERLAND, N.Y.

On a windy, gray November afternoon, Bill Higgins and his son Max make their way to a newly mulched half-acre square of land on their farm.

Homestead View Farm, set in a wooded area in eastern Saratoga County, is a bit of an agricultural anomaly in an area dominated by dairy and horse farms.

Come late spring, upwards of 5,000 pounds of certified organic garlic will be harvested here. Some will be sold at area farmers markets. But the majority will be alchemized into creamy aioli sauces that will be collected in glass jars and plastic squeeze bottles to be sold locally and shipped around the country under the Higgins' brand name, Saratoga Garlic.

The half-acre harvest will be enough to keep pace with demand for now, but Bill and Max are discussing planting two to three acres of garlic in the near future – enough for a 20,000-pound yield. The growing conditions of the six-acre farm are nearly perfect for a garlic crop, Bill said, and he rotates to growing fields with alfalfa to replenish the soil nutrients.

"Garlic is easy to grow if it's not in clay," he explained. "It likes a nice sandy loam."

Saratoga Garlic got its start 25 years ago somewhat by coincidence. Bill, a longtime Saratoga Springs horse trainer (he trains under the name W.P. Higgins), would retreat to his secluded farm after a long, sometimes stressful days at Saratoga Race Course. His method of choice to unwind was firing up the tractor and plowing the fields.

Bill's training career has spanned four decades and has included wins at all the major East Coast tracks. One afternoon, while Bill was pursuing his favored form of stress relief, the famed restaurant owner Jerome Brody stopped by the farm for a visit.

Brody, who owned horses that Bill trained, wanted to inquire about purchasing some small-batch vegetables for the menu at Gallagher's Steak House in Manhattan, which he owned at the time.

Bill sheepishly explained that he plowed for relaxation and didn't actually grow a crop.

But the proverbial seed was planted. Brody soon introduced Bill to Vito Latilla, the co-owner of the Manhattan Fruit Exchange, a produce distribution company at Chelsea Market.

"Vito's the one who got me growing, by telling me he'd buy all the organic garlic I could produce," Bill recalled.

So he decided to put his ecology degree from Cornell University to use.

"I've always been interested in agriculture," he said. "I tried out several garlic varieties in the beginning and learned that the German White grows best here."



Joan K. Lentini photo

Bill and Max Higgins stand with bunches of garlic bulbs at their Homestead View Farm in the town of Northumberland. The father-and-son team produce their own line of Saratoga Garlic sauces.

Word began to trickle out in the late 1990s about Homestead View Farm's exceptional garlic. Bill still sells heads of German White garlic, which offers juicy cloves with a pleasant bite, at area farmers markets. His longtime customers know something that Bill realized early on: There's no comparison with the supermarket variety.

"It's not even garlic: What you see at a supermarket are from leeks, and most of it is from China with no quality control," Bill said.

His farm's growing practices, he added, adhere to guidelines set by the nonprofit Garlic Seed Foundation.

Sauces with garlic as the star

Homestead View Farm began to take a new direction in 2001, when Bill collaborated with area chef David Britton to develop six garlic-based aiolis. He ended up buying the recipes

from Britton and registered them with the state Department of Agriculture and Markets under the brand Saratoga Garlic.

"I sold the idea of garlic aioli by doing samples," Bill said, recalling his first year selling the line in 2001. "I angled in from the garlic standpoint, and once people tried the aiolis, they came back for more."

The five flavors are Homestead (straight garlic), Wasabi and Horseradish, Saffron, Curry, and the chili-infused Sambal. Bill said they pair

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Seeking justice for all

New York's push for police reform draws support, resistance locally

By EVAN LAWRENCE
Contributing writer

The summer's protests over police brutality and racial injustice have lately begun to spur talk of reform among local government officials around eastern New York.

In most cases that's thanks to a state mandate issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in June, amid a national wave of demonstrations that followed the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The governor's executive order required local governments across New York – cities, counties and villages – to set up local stakeholder committees to review and recommend changes to the policies and practices of local police agencies in each community. These new local panels are supposed to focus special attention on policies governing use of force, procedural justice, evidence of bias, community outreach and conflict resolution, and other factors that affect fairness and community safety.

Nearly six months after the governor's order, many communities around the region appear to have barely started the review process. Some have faced criticism after appointing stakeholder committees that were made up mainly of local



Joan K. Lentini photo

Glens Falls 5th Ward Councilman Jim Clark leads a new 14-member stakeholder committee that will review and recommend changes to the practices and policies of his city's police department.

law enforcement officials, rather than the broad community cross-section envisioned in the state's order. And there've been reports that some of the new committees were meeting in secret or lacked meaningful provisions for public input into their reviews and recommendations.

But in at least a few of the region's urban centers, advocates say the state's order has created an unusual opportunity to rethink and perhaps reshape the practices and culture of policing in their communities.

"We are definitely able to put in our input, and we have a lot to put in," said Mary Gooden, the president of the Glens Falls chapter of the NAACP, who serves on that city's new 14-member stakeholder panel.

Among other issues, Gooden has pushed for diversity in hiring to be a higher priority for Glens Falls, which she said has just one person of color on a police force of 30 officers. The even larger Warren County Sheriff's Office has none, she added.

Other advocates serving on local stakeholder

panels are concerned with issues ranging from how police handle calls involving mental health crises to how local agencies interact with federal immigration authorities.

Whether this process leads to meaningful reforms will be tested over the next few months. Under the governor's order, local governments are supposed to review and act upon their stakeholder panels' recommendations – and document their efforts for the state – by April 1. Those that fail to comply risk losing state funds for law enforcement.

A recipe for reform?

The governor's order directs local governments to engage with stakeholders from across the community, particularly with representatives of groups that have historically had strained relationships with police – racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, LGBTQ people, those with mental health or substance abuse issues, and people with limited English or physical or mental handicaps that hamper communication with police.

Meetings of local police-reform committee must be open to the public, and the public must be able to comment. The committees are charged with drafting proposals for reforming department procedures and policies and submitting them to the local governing body.

In August, the governor's office issued a 139-page handbook that spells out the topics local reform committees should consider as well as guidelines for creating a collaborative

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reform plan. The recommended schedule was to start organizing the committee and its work in August, gather community input in September and October, spend November and December drafting a plan, publish it for more community comment in January, revise as necessary, and submit for ratification no later than March.

Some communities, like the city of Hudson, already had their own reform initiatives under way. Others, like Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls, embraced the mandate as a chance to improve their police departments.

Others have been slow to start. The village of Fort Edward in Washington County, for example, didn't even form its committee until November. In some cases, critics say law enforcement agencies have made it clear that they're not terribly interested in the reform effort, and officials have argued that their current policies already meet requirements and that their internal audits are sufficient.

At the same time, local governments and law enforcement agencies across the region are struggling with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many municipalities are facing higher costs and sharply lower tax revenues. With emergency federal aid stalled, some communities are considering "defunding" their police departments simply because they're cutting budgets across the board. Reforms that involve hiring new staff are unlikely to fly.

Although the state's order requires transparency, some stakeholder committees have been avoiding meeting in person because of the pandemic. The result has effectively been closed meetings in communities that lack a suitable digital platform for broad public participation.

Hudson aims for change

Hudson, the Columbia County seat, has a

diverse population of about 6,000 and a police force of 26. Mayor Kamal Johnson, who was elected in 2019 on a platform that called for better policing, released an executive order June 15, three days after the governor's order, that calls for a 10 percent cut in the city police budget, creation of a commission to improve police-community relations, a new city program to connect people with substance abuse issues to appropriate resources, and an end to accepting military surplus equipment for police use.

Johnson explained in an e-mail interview that the city's new Police Reconciliation and Advisory Commission was tasked with talking with residents about their experiences with the city police, writing a report for the mayor, and sending out a public survey for more comments. The report was due at the end of the first week of December.

"We will be releasing information soon" about the survey results, which had just come in at the end of November, Johnson wrote.

"I will be putting together a package of reforms to present to the public" based on the report, he added. "Some reforms will need financial backing, but others will need policy changes. We are going to evaluate what can be done now and plan for other items to be completed or taken on by other city agencies."

The mayor said Hudson's commission was conceived before the governor's order but will effectively meet the state's requirements – and go beyond them.

"All deadlines will be met, but we want to build a five-year plan," Johnson said. "Some cities are just going through the motions to fulfill the governor's orders. That will not be Hudson."

'On track' in Glens Falls

Glens Falls has about 15,000 residents and a police force with 30 sworn officers. The city's

Common Council appointed 14 people to a reform committee that includes city officials, members of the police department, people who work in addiction services and mental health, and representatives of various interest groups.

The committee started work in October, but it wasn't until its fourth meeting, in November, that it tried livestreaming on the city's YouTube channel. Technical difficulties cut off the livestream, but the city police department has recordings of the meetings and other information about the reform initiative, as well as a place for comments, on its website.

A comparison of the city police department's policies with the governor's handbook "affirms some things we're already doing, but there's always room for improvement," said Jim Clark, the 5th Ward councilman and chairman of the reform committee.

Glens Falls Assistant Police Chief Joseph Boisclair, who will take over as chief in January when current Chief Anthony Lydon retires, said the committee has identified several areas on which to focus: departmental transparency; how the department engages with the community; officer training; recruiting and retaining diverse, high-quality officers; better ways of gathering and handling public complaints; and how police respond to people with mental health or addiction problems.

Clark said the committee is considering whether it would be better to have someone with more specific training be the first responder to certain types of police calls.

"We're looking to provide a social worker to address things that don't need a police officer," he explained.

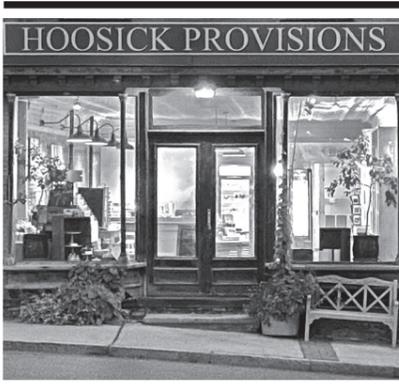
Gooden, the local NAACP president, said building a more diverse police force is a priority for the local black community.

"It's essential at this time," Gooden said. "You

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need someone you can identify with. Otherwise there's no accountability."

Committee member Jabes Prado, who runs Lower Adirondack Visionary Association, a nonprofit that helps at-risk youth, said he's had the experience of being a member of a minority group pulled over by police on a dubious pretext.

"Unconscious bias needs to be addressed," Prado said.

He's in favor of restorative justice programs, which allow people arrested for low-level offenses to go through court programs that connect them with services, rather than sending them to jail.

Prado said he's advising several other law enforcement agencies in the area, but he called Glens Falls' reform committee is "a model structure."

"We're right on track," he said. "We have our ideas out there. The sky's the limit in what we can do in restructuring police."

Clark said the committee will draft a plan to present to the Common Council. He encouraged residents to offer comments and suggestions through the police department website.

"We want to know your thoughts," he said.

Once the reform proposal is completed, committee members "are interested in continuing in some form" to ensure that recommended changes happen, Clark said.

"Once we're done with this, we're not done," he said. "It's a good group of people. We want to continue."

'Robust discussion' in Saratoga Springs

Saratoga Springs has about 28,000 year-round residents and a police force of 73. The city's budget depends heavily on sales tax revenues from summer visitors to the Saratoga Race Course, Saratoga Performing Arts Center and other seasonal events and attractions.

This year, with almost all of those attractions closed or canceled, the city expects a 2021

budget reduction of \$6.8 million. An initial budget proposal for 2021 would have cut 32 positions from the police force, but the city is looking at ways to prevent public safety layoffs, Police Chief Shane Crooks said at the panel's online meeting on Nov. 25.

In August, Mayor Meg Kelly appointed 12 people to a police reform task force. Members include Crooks, the city attorney and representatives of the city's African American, immigrant, college and LGBTQ communities.

The task force set up 12 subcommittees to review "the most impactful areas" and propose revisions to police policies, said Jason Golub, the co-chairman of the panel. Individual subcommittees are focusing on such issues as police culture and mission, the department's use-of-force policy, data analytics, outreach to high school and college students, community policing, use of body cameras, cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, and the creation of an independent review board - something local activists have requested.

The department has been criticized for its handling of the case of Darryl Mount Jr., a young black man who died in 2013 of injuries suffered while he was fleeing city police. The city police chief who was in office at the time told reporters he had launched in an internal review of the incident, but he later admitted in a sworn civil deposition that no investigation was done.

The subcommittees have been working independently and will start providing their recommendations, two subcommittees at a time, to the broader task force on Dec. 8, Golub said. The recommendations will be forwarded immediately to the City Council to ensure that there's time for review and revisions before the April deadline, he said.

All meetings, either in person or online, are open to the public and allow time for public comment, he said.

"Fifteen to 30 people usually attend," Golub

said. "The community is pretty passionate about the issues. There's a robust discussion. Chief Crooks has attended all the meetings and has come with an open mind."

Golub, who is a vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion at the commercial real estate finance firm Walker & Dunlop, said he'd like to see more people talking about "what is the path forward for healing and trust in our community - that's our ultimate goal."

Task force member Terry Diggory of the Saratoga Immigration Coalition said many of the summer employees who work at the racetrack and in the hospitality industry come from outside the United States.

"We're trying to make sure immigrants' concerns are included," he said.

Those concerns include police services for people whose English is limited and how city police interact with federal immigration authorities.

Public outreach is happening "in a variety of ways," Diggory said.

"We're all aware of concerns not just locally but nationally," he said. "The big surprise for everyone is the pressure of the pandemic. There's a budgetary impact for the police department and everyone else. Defunding of the police is being forced upon city governments."

A panel of insiders?

The Saratoga County Sheriff's Office has about 270 officers covering more than 800 square miles with a population of about 228,000.

In October, the chairman of the county Board of Supervisors appointed a seven-member group to bring sheriff's department into compliance with the governor's executive order. But some critics pointed out that the group is hardly diverse: Six of the seven members are either elected or appointed county officials, including two supervisors, the county undersheriff and the district attorney.

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Since late October, the group has met virtually with other law enforcement officials, town supervisors and mayors, school superintendents, and mental health and addiction service providers. Future meetings are planned with representatives of faith groups and community leaders and activists.

Mental health service providers who spoke at the Saratoga County compliance group's Nov. 18 meeting generally praised how the county's deputies handle those calls. Sam Bastian, with Four Winds Saratoga, called his organization's relationship with the Sheriff's Office "very, very positive."

But speakers said they wanted more funding for mental health and addiction services to "reduce the necessity of law enforcement being involved in the first place," as Meg Jordan of Saratoga County Mental Health and Addiction Services explained.

In a series of cases around the nation, police agencies have been faulted for responding to calls involving mental health or addiction crises in ways that ranged from insensitive to deadly.

Michael Prezioso, the county's mental health commissioner, heads the Saratoga County compliance group. The public can listen in to its meetings, which have a call-in number, and can contact the group via a dedicated email line on the county government's website, he said. Meeting notes are posted within a few days.

The Sheriff's Office put together a survey that is available through county and town websites. However, the survey requires the ability to either print or view an accompanying 33-page PDF file as the survey is filled out. If people don't have the capability to do that, they can email their comments, Prezioso said. The group is working on a separate survey for high school students, he said.

Supervisor Tara Gaston, D-Saratoga Springs, expressed concern in late September that the county didn't appear to be making progress toward compliance with the governor's mandate and risked the loss of state funding.

"I think that we've made some forward momentum" since then, Gaston said in an interview last month.

Although Undersheriff Richard Castle said at the time that the department already met the fair policing criteria in the governor's order, "the requirements lie with the governing body, not the sheriff's department," Gaston said.

Without an independent review, "we would not have been compliant," she added.

Gaston said she is still concerned with "how public comment will be brought in.

"Covid makes it hard, but that means we have to try harder," she said.

Community groups should have been invited to participate, Gaston added.

Although it's possible for the current

compliance committee to handle that outreach, "I'm not sure that's happening," she said.

Building community trust

Melanie Trimble, the director of the Capital Region Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said she's hopeful the governor's order will lead to better policing but is waiting to see how well individual communities handle the process.

"The NYCLU is supportive of a really robust review of police and funding," she said. "To the largest extent possible, we want every police department to take this seriously. They need to do an analysis of their records and make details of their policies available to the public."

Trimble cited the city of Albany's website as an example "of the information we think task forces ought to have for the public," including recordings of task force meetings. The city has also started community-police discussions.

"The more people are involved with the police department, the greater the trust and familiarity with each other," she said. "That will ameliorate some of the tensions."

On the other hand, "some municipalities are doing very little," Trimble said.

The effectiveness of the effort will become clear over the coming months, she added.

"Let's see what changes they come up with and what changes occur," Trimble said.

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EDITORIAL

Reviews of local police offer first step to reform

Let's start by stressing that the vast majority of police officers in our region and elsewhere are good people doing work that can be difficult and dangerous.

Most of the time, they're doing exactly what the public asks of them: They show up when we call for help, and they do their best to navigate a huge range of situations where the public's safety is at stake – everything from neighborhood disputes to domestic violence, car crashes and major crimes.

So it would hardly be surprising if some of the police in our region feel they're under siege after a year in which so many headlines, and so much public criticism, has focused on the problems and failures of the law enforcement system they serve.

But those problems and failures are real, and they need to be faced and fixed. Curing them might require major changes to the way we handle policing and public safety, even in local communities.

As our cover story this month details, local governments across eastern New York are in the process of reviewing the practices and policies of the police agencies they oversee – the many city and village police departments and county sheriff's offices in our area.

Under a state mandate imposed at the height of the summer protests over police brutality and racial injustice, every local government with a police agency is required to appoint a local stakeholder committee – involving a broad cross-section of the community – to guide these reviews and make recommendations for change.

The emphasis of the review process is on policies governing use of force, racial bias, conflict resolution, de-escalation tactics and other issues that have been at the center of the national debate over policing.

It's too early to know whether this process will lead to any meaningful reform. But it's encouraging to see that some of the more diverse urban communities in our region – the cities of Hudson, Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls – have at least made an effort to include representatives of groups that have had historically strained relationships with police: black and brown people, immigrants, those with mental health and addiction issues, and more.

At least in these communities, it appears likely that the review process will involve discussion of some of the real problems that have shaken public confidence in law enforcement.

Unfortunately many other communities in the region appear to be dragging their feet or doing as little as possible to fulfill the state's requirements for considering police reform. In Saratoga County, for example, county supervisors appointed a stakeholder committee made up almost entirely of county employees and elected officials, all but one of them white. Does anyone think that committee will recommend bold changes?

We are well past the point of pretending that our law enforcement system treats everyone equally and that incidents like the killing of George Floyd are merely isolated cases. Nationally, the list of unarmed black man killed in police encounters over minor crimes is simply too long for anyone to deny that some level of racial bias is baked into the system. That list has included cases in our region – Edson Thevinen in Troy, Darryl Mount Jr. in Saratoga Springs, and more.

We should hope that the local government reviews now starting in New York will help lead us to a better, fairer system of protecting public safety in the years ahead.



Letters to the editor

Lack of federal leadership fuels Covid cases, deaths

To the editor:

Where in the world does this guy Ken McCarthy ["Toll of Covid-19 deaths doesn't justify restrictions," November 2020 letter] come from to say the deaths we are having due to Covid-19 are basically nothing much to be concerned about?

There is a lot to be concerned about, as the country is now in its second wave along with the rest of the world. Numbers are going up rapidly and hospitals are running out of beds to save the people that are suffering from Covid. Healthcare workers are working beyond the max now to try to keep up, but the wave is growing that much quicker than before.

Maybe Ken has yet to lose someone from this disease, but the many who have survived have now received other health issues they had not had prior because of the weakening of their bodies' systems. If the federal government had taken proper steps to lead people to stop the virus, maybe we could have enjoyed spending time together this holiday season with less concern.

Wake up, Ken, and realize it is not all about you!

Al Faller
Queensbury, N.Y.

Claims of rigged vote help keep cash flowing

To the editor:

President Trump is about to make a cool \$100 million on a book deal and television pro-

mo. Yes, he is interested money, but not in dealing with the damned virus and U.S. economy.

He is terribly interested in making the almighty dollar. Plan on seeing him on TV and watching him fabricate a promotion about a 2024 presidential run so he can keep the campaign dollars coming in.

This guy with his "Art of the Deal" ideas for business is a walking, talking, germ-spreading BS artist. He is all about making himself rich and happy. His jive talking about a rigged election is all about getting TV shows to focus on him so he can negotiate a big book and TV deal.

Pay no attention to it, and he'll move to South America and make his fortune. I can see him in Brazil at his new hotel and golf club. Cheers, Mr. President!

Thomas W. King
Shaftsbury, Vt.

It's GOP that poses threat to safety-net programs

To the editor:

A C-SPAN caller recently voiced her fear that Democrats would get rid of Medicare and Social Security. An article about black men who support Trump mentioned concerns that President-elect Biden would cut Medicare and Social Security. I've heard the same in everyday conversations.

That level of ignorance by people who care about these programs is unforgivable. It is Republicans and conservatives who have always sought to kill these programs. It takes little effort to find public information showing that beyond a hint of a shadow of doubt.

In 1935, George B. Chandler of the Ohio

continued on page 10

A populist campaign in the swing state of NY

On the afternoon of Oct. 28, 1884, about 800 people, many from out of town, listened in a drizzling rain in the park at Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls, N.Y.) as third-party presidential candidate Benjamin Franklin Butler delivered a 90-minute speech.

Butler, the candidate of the Greenback-Labor and Anti-Monopoly parties, forerunners of the progressive movement, lashed out at corporations, such as Armor & Company meatpackers of Chicago, that controlled prices.

"If I had the power, I would issue an order that every monopolist speculating in the necessities of life should suffer the death penalty," Butler said, according to a report the next day in *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls. "I look on those who create an illegitimate advance on the price of food as worse than criminals."

Butler, who had just completed one year as the governor of Massachusetts, said federal policies and a "defective" financial system enabled a handful of monopolists to accumulate exorbitant riches while the rest of society struggled financially.

"This great country of ours is rich but not prosperous," he said. "Why is this? God has given us inventive genius for manufacturing, and our eastern storehouses are bustling."

Butler, who was born in New Hampshire and raised in Lowell, Mass., was a successful trial lawyer before he entered politics. In his third-party presidential bid, he said railroad barons had undue influence on politicians of the two major political parties, rendering government

ineffective at reform.

"The party in power says it is not able to do this," he explained. "Then for God's sake, get out of the way and let somebody else do it."

Butler had switched back and forth between political parties in the course of a long political career that included two terms as a Massachusetts state legislator and five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He had most recently been elected governor of Massachusetts as a Democrat.

There had been speculation Butler might emerge as a dark-horse candidate at the 1884 Democratic National Convention.

"The doorkeepers of the Democratic National Convention will please look out for a man with a bad eye and a stout club under his arm," *The Palatka Daily News* of Putnam County, Fla., wrote in an editorial on July 6. "His name is Butler – Benjamin Franklin Butler – and he wants to get in for the purpose of kicking up a row."

The "bad eye" was a reference to a bug-eye condition that made Butler often appear as if he was sleeping. The condition manifested itself as Butler listened to music and warm-up speakers at the Sandy Hill rally, *The Morning Star* reported.

When the national Democratic Party didn't embrace Butler, the Greenback-Labor and Anti-Monopoly parties, which were closely aligned in political philosophy, recruited him to run in a tandem presidential campaign that became known as the "People's ticket."

Butler's platform called for a public transportation system, an eight-hour workday,

federal control of interstate commerce, and a return to currency backed by gold bullion. He also opposed repealing taxes on whiskey and tobacco.

At first, Butler's "ambitious scheme" was to secure enough votes in the Electoral College to prevent either of the major-party candidates from reaching 50 percent, thereby forcing the U.S. House of Representatives to choose the new president. There, he hoped to use his electoral votes as leverage to get attention to his issues, the *San Marcos Free Press* of Texas reported on Sept. 18.

That strategy failed. Butler received just 1.33 percent of the national popular vote, coming in fourth behind Prohibition candidate John Pierce St. John, a former Kansas governor. Butler earned no electoral votes.

But his presence on the ballot might have influenced the outcome in New York, where Democrat Grover Cleveland prevailed over Republican James G. Blaine by just 1,149 votes, or 0.1 percent of the 1.16 million ballots cast. New York's electoral votes proved crucial to Cleveland's narrow victory nationally.

In New York, Butler received 17,004 votes, or 1.46 percent statewide, including 179 votes in Warren County, 92 votes in Saratoga County and 686 votes in Rensselaer County.

In Vermont, he received 785 votes, and in his home state of Massachusetts, he garnered 24,382 votes, or a little more than 8 percent of the statewide total. Blaine carried all of the New England states except Connecticut.

Butler said after the election that the vote *continued on page 24*

Maury Thompson

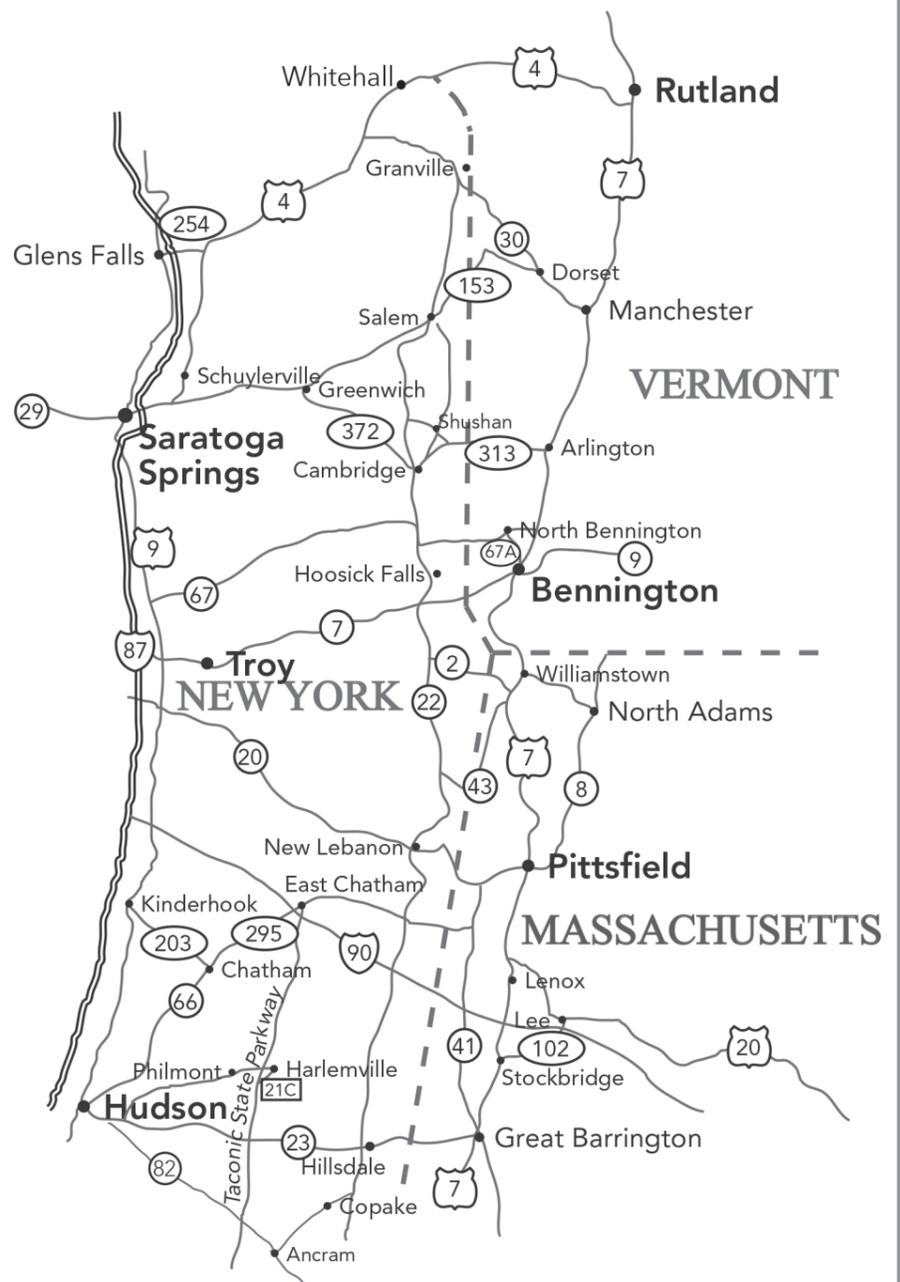
News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

We're told we live in an information age, yet the traditional gathering of news is in decline.

Conventional news organizations are scaling back their efforts to ferret out the facts, even as they spread each factoid ever more widely via 24-hour broadcasts and the Internet. Is this the best way to keep you informed?

At the *Hill Country Observer*, we still take time to connect the dots, to put the news and issues of our region into a broader perspective. We only publish once a month, but we shine a light on stories and trends that aren't getting much attention elsewhere.

Judging from our growing circulation, readers like the results. Tell us what you think.



Letters continued from page 8

Chamber of Commerce, testified about Social Security: "This legislation starts this country on a pathway from which there will be no retreat in the course of the next two generations. When the time comes, as it surely will, to reverse these policies, incalculable harm will have been done to the character of the population."

The opposition runs right through Paul Ryan, the former Republican speaker of the House, as well as current Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell and other Republicans too numerous to name. The Libertarian Party platform specifically says, "We favor the abolition of Medicare and Medicaid programs."

If you sincerely care about these programs, you owe it to yourself and everybody else to put at least some effort into learning the facts. And

while you're at it, spend some time learning why other countries have better, more affordable health care. (It's not because the free market works so well).

Lee Russ
Bennington, Vt.

LED lights pose risks, may run afoul of law

To the editor:

LED lights can cause seizures for people with photosensitive epilepsy and migralepsy, 30 percent of whom can't treat their condition with medication. For those that can, medication can fail when faced with powerful seizure-provoking agents, or when their physical health shifts due to other factors.

Consequently, people with epilepsy need to avoid seizure triggers as much as possible. Seizures are serious, even deadly. In fact, in a 2017 Texas court case, knowingly exposing a person with epilepsy to a seizure trigger was ruled to be a form of battery.

Epilepsy is explicitly covered by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Under the ADA, people with epilepsy have the same right to equal access, basic safety and freedom of movement as any citizen without epilepsy.

LEDs are now suddenly appearing everywhere in the public sphere, in interior and exterior settings. Governments, businesses and

public service providers need to know that LED installation can create a potentially dangerous and discriminatory environment for people with this disability. In some cases, entire communities are rendered unsafe and inaccessible when the lights are on.

The January 2009 ADA Amendments Act, Title II, clarifies the law's application to people with epilepsy. The law applies to all public buildings (such as village halls, parks, libraries, etc.), all public service providers (e.g., utilities) and all public rights-of-way (e.g., sidewalks and streets).

In Cambridge, N.Y., the village trustees voted to convert public streetlights to LEDs beginning in December 2019. The board was alerted in 2018 that a local resident with epilepsy and migralepsy would suffer harm and loss of access if exposed to inescapable LED lighting. The board chose to vote in favor of the LEDs anyway.

The village's leaders cite majority rule and utility costs as priorities over the disabled resident's subsequent loss of health, safety, employment and freedom of movement. No pleas from the affected family or other residents, and no amount of supporting materials from the Epilepsy Foundation or medical, scientific and technical sources, have moved village officials to take any corrective action.

As unavoidable LED lighting presents a specific, dire risk to a subset of our fellow citizens, municipalities and business owners would be wise to get out ahead of this issue before it gets any worse. Tens of thousands of Americans have photosensitive epilepsy and many more will be diagnosed in the coming years. They deserve to live safely, freely and fully in their communities, secure that their governments will enact policies to protect them at the same level as everyone else.

Kelsey Whittemore
Keene, N.H.



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ELECTION 2020 RESULTS

Here are the results of the Nov. 3 election for federal and state offices across the region. Winning candidates are in boldface type if the outcome is not in dispute. Incumbents are marked with an asterisk (*).

Statewide results for the presidential race are listed in the main table; a separate county-by-county tally of presidential returns is provided in the chart on this page. All figures from Massachusetts and Vermont are final, official returns certified by the secretaries of state. Figures for New York are unofficial returns but include counts of absentee (mail) ballots reported as of Dec. 1; final figures were not expected until the week of Dec. 7.

C – Conservative Party	LU – Liberty Union Party
D – Democratic Party	P – Progressive Party
G – Green Party	R – Republican Party
GR – Green-Rainbow Party	SAM – Save America Movement
I – Independence Party	WF – Working Families Party
i – independent (no party)	
L – Libertarian Party	

MASSACHUSETTS

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris (D) 2,382,202 (65.9%)
 Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker (GR) 18,658 (0.5%)
 Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy Cohen (L) 47,013 (1.3%)
 * Donald J. Trump and Michael Pence (R) 1,167,202 (32.3%)

U.S. SENATOR

Shiva Ayyadurai (write-in) 21,134 (0.6%)
 * **Edward J. Markey (D)** 2,357,809 (66.3%)
 Kevin J. O'Connor (R) 1,177,765 (33.1%)

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Question 1 -- Motor vehicle 'right to repair'

A Yes vote requires manufacturers to provide vehicle owners and independent repair facilities access to mechanical data stored in vehicles' on-board diagnostic systems. Supporters said the ballot measure will guarantee that as technology advances, and that drivers will be able to obtain repairs at independent shops rather than being forced to rely on authorized dealers whose service typically are more expensive.
Yes 2,599,182 (75.0%)
 No 867,674 (25.0%)

Question 2 -- Ranked-choice voting

A Yes vote would have allowed Massachusetts voters, beginning in 2022, to rank political candidates in order of preference when they cast ballots for most statewide and federal offices. In races with more than two candidates, votes would be counted in rounds, with candidates receiving the lowest first-choice vote totals being eliminated – and their supporters' second choices being counted – until one candidate received a majority. The new system would not have applied to presidential races or certain local offices.
Yes 1,549,919 (45.2%)
No 1,877,447 (54.8%)

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Biden & Kamala Harris (D, WF) 4,956,057 (60.3%)
 Howie Hawkins & Angela Nicole Walker (G) 31,180 (0.4%)
 Jo Jorgensen & Jeremy Cohen (L) 57,652 (0.6%)
 Brooke Pierce & Karla Ballard (I) 21,399 (0.3%)
 * Donald Trump & Michael Pence (R, C) 3,153,086 (38.4%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 19TH DISTRICT

(11 counties including Columbia and most of Rensselaer)
 Victoria N. Alexander (L) 4,224 (1.2%)
 * **Antonio Delgado (D, WF, SAM)** 192,100 (54.8%)
 Steven Greenfield (G) 2,799 (0.8%)
 Kyle Van De Water (R) 151,475 (43.2%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 20TH DISTRICT

(Albany, Schenectady, southern Saratoga and parts of Montgomery and Rensselaer counties)
 Elizabeth L. Joy (R, C, SAM) 139,446 (38.8%)
 * **Paul D. Tonko (D, I, WF)** 219,705 (61.2%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 21ST DISTRICT

(all or part of 11 counties including Warren, Washington and northern Saratoga)
 Tedra L. Cobb (D, WF) 131,642 (41.1%)
 * **Elise M. Stefanik (R, C, I)** 188,283 (58.9%)

STATE SENATE

43rd district (Columbia County and parts of Rensselaer, Saratoga and Washington counties)
 * **Daphne V. Jordan (R, C, I)** 86,146 (52.7%)
 Patrick F. Nelson (D, WF) 77,425 (47.3%)

44th district (parts of Albany and Rensselaer counties)
 * **Neil D. Breslin (D, I, WF)** 93,015 (73.1%)
 David R. Yule (R) 34,269 (26.9%)

45th district (Warren County, most of Washington and all or part of four other counties to the north)
 Kimberly A. Davis (D, WF) 56,925 (42.1%)
 * **Daniel G. Stec (R, C, I)** 78,130 (57.9%)

49th district (Fulton, Hamilton and parts of Herkimer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties)
 Thearse McCalmon (D) 52,406 (36.4%)
 * **James N. Tedisco (R, C, I)** 91,467 (63.6%)

STATE ASSEMBLY

102nd district (part of Columbia County plus all or part of six other counties west of the Hudson)
 Betsy Kraat (D) 24,277 (36.5%)
 * **Christopher Tague (R, C, I)** 42,316 (63.5%)

106th district (parts of Columbia and Dutchess counties)
 * **Didi Barrett (D, I, WF)** 37,189 (57.6%)
 Dean Michael (R, C, RF) 27,405 (42.4%)

107th district (parts of Columbia, Rensselaer and Washington counties)
 * **Jacob C. Ashby (R, C, I)** 38,517 (54.1%)
 Charles A. Senrick (L) 672 (0.9%)
 Brittany L. Vogel (D, WF) 31,983 (44.9%)

112th district (parts of Saratoga and Schenectady)
 Joseph S. Seeman (D, WF) 33,750 (42.2%)
 * **Mary Beth Walsh (R, C, I)** 46,189 (57.8%)

113th district (parts of Saratoga and Washington)
 David M. Catalfamo (R, C) 32,726 (44.9%)
 * **Carrie Woerner (D, I, SAM)** 40,173 (55.1%)

114th district (Essex, Warren and parts of Saratoga and Washington counties)
 Claudia K. Braymer (D, WF) 28,021 (42.3%)
 * **Matthew J. Simpson (R, C, I)** 37,581 (56.7%)
 Evelyn M. Wood (SAM) 630 (1.0%)

VERMONT

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph Biden & Kamala D. Harris (D) 242,820 (65.4%)
 Don Blankenship & Bill Mohr (i) 208
 Brian Carroll & Amar Patel (i) 209
 Phil Collins & Billy Joe Parker (i) 137
 Roque De La Fuente & Darcy Richardson (i) 48
 Richard Duncan & Mitch Bupp (i) 213
 Howie Hawkins & Angela Walker (G) 1,310 (0.4%)
 Blake Huber & Frank Atwood (i) 54
 Jo Jorgensen & Jeremy "Spike" Cohen (L) 3,608 (1.0%)
 Alyson Kennedy & Malcolm Jarrett (i) 195
 Kyle Kenley Kopitke & Taja Yvonne Iwanow (i) 53
 Christopher LaFontaine & Michael Speed (i) 856
 Gloria Lariva & Sunil Freeman (LU) 166
 Keith McCormic & Sam Blasiak (i) 126
 H. Brooke Paige & Thomas James Witman (i) 1,175
 Brock Pierce & Karla Ballard (i) 100
 Zachary Scalf & Matthew Lyda (i) 29
 Jerome Segal & John De Graaf (i) 65
 Gary Swing & David Olszta (i) 141
 * Donald J. Trump & Michael R. Pence (R) 112,704 (30.4%)
 Kanye West & Michelle Tidball (i) 1,269

continued on next page

	How area counties voted in the 2020 presidential race				
	Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D)	Donald Trump (R)	Jo Jorgensen (L)	Howie Hawkins (G)	Other candidates
Berkshire County, Mass.	51,705 (72.4%)	18,064 (25.3%)	927 (1.3%)	465 (0.7%)	214 (0.3%)
Columbia County, N.Y.	20,253 (57.3%)	14,453 (40.9%)	357 (1.0%)	185 (0.5%)	115 (0.3%)
Rensselaer County, N.Y.*	40,969 (51.7%)	36,500 (46.1%)	1,016 (1.3%)	386 (0.5%)	374 (0.5%)
Saratoga County, N.Y.*	68,471 (51.6%)	61,305 (46.2%)	1,737 (1.3%)	580 (0.4%)	511 (0.4%)
Warren County, N.Y.*	17,642 (48.8%)	17,699 (49.0%)	424 (1.2%)	204 (0.6%)	162 (0.4%)
Washington County, N.Y.*	11,565 (41.2%)	15,941 (56.7%)	340 (1.2%)	128 (0.5%)	119 (0.4%)
Bennington County, Vt.	12,705 (62.1%)	7,114 (34.8%)	200 (1.0%)	72 (0.3%)	371 (1.8%)
Rutland County, Vt.	18,230 (53.7%)	14,672 (43.2%)	339 (1.0%)	84 (0.2%)	645 (1.9%)

Party key: (D) Democratic; (R) Republican; (L) Libertarian; (G) Green; (i) independent
 * Figures for New York counties are unofficial results but include absentee/mail-in ballots reported as of Dec. 1. Figures for Massachusetts and Vermont are final, certified results.

Election 2020

GOVERNOR

Wayne Billado III (i)	1,431 (0.4%)
Michael A. Devost (i)	1,160 (0.3%)
Charly Dickerson (i)	1,037 (0.3%)
Kevin Hoyt (i)	4,576 (1.2%)
Emily Peyton (i)	3,505 (1.0%)
* Phil Scott (R)	248,412 (67.0%)
Erynn Hazlett Whitney (i)	1,777 (0.5%)
David Zuckerman (P, D)	99,214 (26.7%)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Wayne Billado III (i)	5,101 (1.4%)
Ralph Corbo (i)	2,289 (0.6%)
Cris Ericson (P)	7,862 (2.1%)
Molly Gray (D)	182,820 (49.3%)
Scott Milne (R)	157,065 (42.3%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Peter R. Becker (i)	8,065 (2.2%)
Miriam Berry (R)	95,830 (25.8%)
Christopher Helali (i)	3,432 (0.9%)
Marcia Horne (i)	4,334 (1.2%)
Shawn Orr (i)	1,926 (0.5%)
Jerry Trudell (i)	1,881 (0.5%)
* Peter Welch (D)	238,827 (64.4%)

STATE TREASURER

Carolynn Whitney Branigan (R)	114,177 (30.8%)
Cris Ericson (P)	14,142 (3.8%)
* Beth Pearce (D)	197,255 (53.2%)
Alex Wright (i)	17,939 (4.8%)

SECRETARY OF STATE

* James C. Condos (D)	214,666 (57.9%)
Cris Ericson (P)	11,171 (3.0%)
H. Brooke Paige (R)	99,564 (26.8%)
Pamala Smith (i)	21,210 (5.7%)

STATE AUDITOR

Cris Ericson (P)	48,731 (13.1%)
* Doug Hoffer (D, R)	266,445 (71.8%)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

* T.J. Donovan (D)	234,081 (63.1%)
Cris Ericson (P)	15,846 (4.3%)
H. Brooke Paige (R)	94,892 (25.6%)

STATE SENATE

Bennington District (two seats)

* Brian Campion (D) of Bennington	10,483
Michael Hall (R) of Sunderland	5,657
Meg Hansen (R) of Manchester	6,275
Kevin Hoyt (i) of Bennington	1,943
* Dick Sears (D) of Bennington	11,063

Rutland District (three seats)

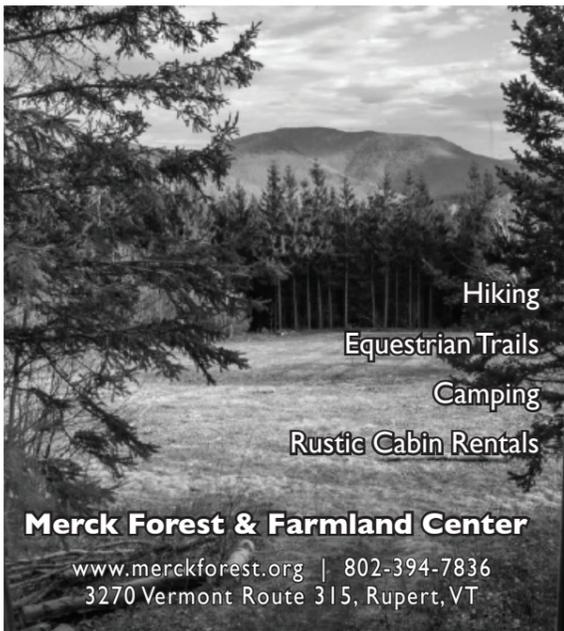
Brittany D. Cavacas (i) of Rutland City	4,731
* Brian "BC" Collamore (R) of Rutland Town	14,861
Larry Courcelle (D) of Mendon	8,334
Greg Cox (D) of West Rutland	10,280
* Cheryl M. Hooker (D) of Rutland City	13,196
Casey Jennings (i) of Rutland City	1,009
Richard "Sensei" Lenchus (i) of Benson	552
Michael Shank (i) of Brandon	2,266
Joshua C. Terenzini (R) of Rutland Town	14,008
Terry K. Williams (R) of Poultney	11,828

STATE HOUSE

Addison-Rutland District

Ruth Shattuck Bernstein (D) of Shoreham	725 (33.5%)
Richard "Sensei" Lenchus (i) of Benson	157 (7.3%)
* Terry Norris (i) of Shoreham	1,281 (59.2%)

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Election 2020

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 * **Timothy R. Corcoran II (D)** 2,220
 Colleen Harrington (R) 1,116
 Dane Whitman (D) 1,889

Bennington District 2-2 (town of Bennington, two seats)
 Peter J. Brady Sr. (i) 773
 * Jim Carroll (D) 1,416
 * **Mary A. Morrissey (R)** 1,940
 Michael Nigro (D) 1,491

Bennington District 3
 * **David K. Durfee (D)** 1,331 (57.9%)
 Victor K. Harwood Jr. (R) 967 (42.1%)

Bennington District 4 (two seats)
Seth Bongartz (D) of Manchester 2,651
 * Cynthia Browning (i) of Arlington 2,111
 * **Kathleen James (D) of Manchester** 2,797

Rutland-Bennington District (Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rupert, Wells and Tinnmouth)
Sally Achey (R) 1,417 (50.6%)
 * Robin Chestnut-Tangerman (D, P) 1,385 (49.4%)

Rutland District 1
 Tyler-Joseph Ballard (i) of Poultney 513 (28.6%)
 * **Patricia A. McCoy (R) of Poultney** 1,283 (71.4%)

Rutland District 2 (two seats; Clarendon, Proctor, Tinnmouth, Wallingford and West Rutland)
 * **Tom Burditt (R) of West Rutland** 2,424
 Ken Fredette (D) of Wallingford 1,853
Arthur Peterson (R) of Clarendon 2,192
 * Dave Potter (D) of Clarendon 2,150

Rutland District 3 (two seats)
 * **William Canfield (R) of Fair Haven** 2,604
 * **Robert Helm (R) of Fair Haven** 2,207
 Robert Richards (D) of Fair Haven 1,671

Rutland District 4 (town of Rutland)
 Barbara Noyes Pulling (D) 1,107 (45.9%)
 * **Thomas Terenzini (R)** 1,306 (54.1%)

Rutland District 5-3 (city of Rutland)
 John P. Cioffi Jr. (R) 639 (44.2%)
 * **Mary E. Howard (D)** 806 (55.8%)

Rutland District 5-4 (city of Rutland)
 * **William Notte (D)** 1,020 (54.6%)
 Sherri Prouty (R) 847 (45.4%)

Rutland District 6 (two seats)
 * **Stephanie Z. Jerome (D) of Brandon** 2,112
 * **Charles "Butch" Shaw (R, D) of Pittsford** 2,803
 David Soulia (R) of Pittsford 1,869

Windham-Bennington District (Readsboro, Searsburg, Stamford, Dover, Somerset, Wardsboro, Whitingham)
 * **Laura Sibilis (i) of Dover** 1,520 (63.7%)
 Matthew Somerville (R) of Searsburg 867 (36.3%)

- Compiled by Fred Daley



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- from Hudson: 2 hours (Dorset, 2:10)
- from Pittsfield: 1 hr, 20 min (Dorset, 1:30)
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See map on page 9

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- From Manchester: 35 minutes
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- from Williamstown: 45 minutes

See map on page 9

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Garlic continued from page 3

well with crackers, crudite, on sandwiches, and as an enticing finish to cooked vegetables.

"I like to put it over steamed Brussels sprouts," he said.

Max, he added, likes to put the saffron aioli under the skin of a turkey before roasting it.

Rounding out the Saratoga Garlic product line is pickled lemon dill garlic cloves, which are available by the jar for salads, garnishes or just eating on their own.

The sauces sold themselves at farmers markets, and New York Times food writer Florence Fabricant sang Saratoga Garlic's praises in a 2003 column. It wasn't long before the line of gourmet condiments caught the eye of major retailers such as Price Chopper, Hannaford and the distributor and exporter Haddon House Food Products.

Bill ran the operation largely on his own for years, but Max came aboard more recently to focus on the business aspects and to help expand the mission. It was Max who decided they should offer the aiolis in squeeze bottles in addition to their traditional 9-ounce glass jars, and he also began offering half-gallon drums for the food service industry.

The Hannaford supermarket chain remains their biggest regional customer, but Saratoga Garlic's aiolis also can be found at area food co-ops and specialty markets. Max also helped solidify contracts with Sysco outlets in Albany, Syracuse and Raleigh, N.C., to distribute the aiolis within the food industry, and they also work with a distributor to ship retail jars out of state.

Adding a pungent taste

Saratoga Garlic's sauces are now featured on menus across the country and locally. Matthew DiCarlo, who runs food service operations for the Springwater Bed and Breakfast in Saratoga Springs, says they're a favorite on the breakfast menu.

"The classic blend goes really well with our home fries and on our breakfast sandwich," said DiCarlo, who operates the business with his mother, owner Leslie DiCarlo. "They really bring great flavor to a simple dish."

Production takes place in a commercial kitchen at the farm, with a work force that varies by the season. The fresh garlic is mechanically peeled, then mixed with other ingredients before it's packaged. Prices vary depending on where the products are sold, but the price for direct orders

via Saratoga Garlic's website ranges from \$7 for a 9-ounce glass jar to \$16 for a half-gallon drum.

When Bill first began production, he sold 20 cases per week. The figure quickly leapt to 70. Now, in the summer months and the holiday season, they sell as many as 120 cases weekly.

The Covid-19 crisis forced some changes this year, and both father and son are lamenting the absence of one of their favorite aspects of the business: participating in garlic festivals.

"They were all canceled this year because of the pandemic," Max said. "So we had to pivot to focus more on online sales."

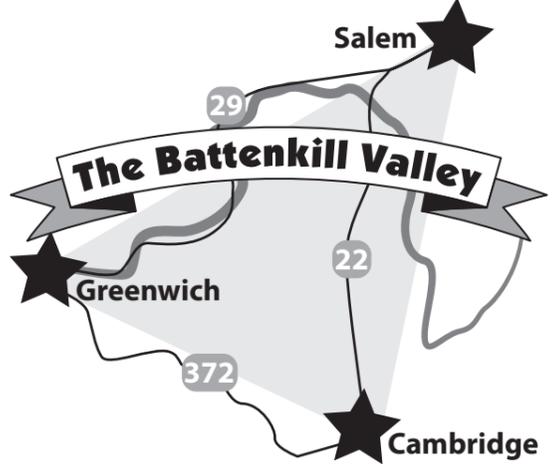
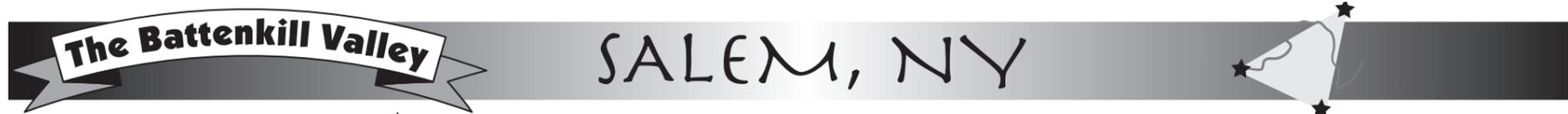
Despite the never-ending demands of running a small business, Max said he takes pride in the family achievement.

"It's been very fulfilling for me to help my dad grow a brand he began 20 years ago," he said.

For Bill, the most rewarding part of the business is hearing direct feedback from customers.

"There's nothing better than someone coming up to my table at the farmers market and saying, 'This is the best stuff I ever tasted,'" he said. "It makes all the hard work worthwhile."

Visit www.saratogagarlic.com for more information about Saratoga Garlic and its products.



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See map on page 9

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ARTS & CULTURE

Creating in a Covid world

Artists, nonprofits
steer toward light
in a darkened
holiday season

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

CHESHIRE, Mass.

Rods of glass stand on a workbench in every color, red and amber, green and gold.

Hold one in a blowtorch flame, and it will melt and flow like honey. Catch the drip with a metal rod and turn it, and the glass will spin around the metal in filaments like hard candy. Keep turning, and they will melt smooth.

In her studio at Cheshire Glassworks in the Berkshires, Jill Reynolds is making beads. They reflect the changing seasons, the shifting landscapes outside her window. Not long ago, she said, she made one that felt like a November day. She striped the glass green and gold, with blue for the autumn sky.

"The colors you get are so rich," she said. "A dot of color, and a clear lens of glass magnifies it, like a planet or under water."

Across the region, artists and artisans are facing a holiday season unlike any other. The pandemic has closed many of their traditional ways to reach people – the workshops and classes, festivals and open studios. With cold weather arriving, restrictions are tightening just as the holiday season begins.

Holiday artisan markets are the main source of income for many artists, said Kristen



Courtesy photos

Michael Scupholm, the glass studio director at Salem Art Works in Salem, N.Y., shapes a blown-glass ornament. The pandemic has forced artists to work alone in SAW's studios, rather than in groups.

Kanter, co-founder of the Great Barrington Arts Market. In a year when Covid-19 has forced cancellation of in-person markets across the region, makers are looking for new

ways to survive.

Kanter has become part of a new pop-up artists cooperative in Great Barrington, as towns, museums and artists evolve new online markets and outdoor festivals. Some smaller shops are forging on, and local online entrepreneurs like Berkshire Box and Only

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in My Dreams are creating care packages with local gifts.

Reynolds offers her translucent beads at her shop in Cheshire and at the Red Lion Inn and Hancock Shaker Village, where the village shop is open through the holidays. Hancock Shaker Village also will host a modest holiday pop-up marketplace on Dec. 12.

Reynolds said she loves to experiment with colors as they play together and set each other off in contrast.

“There are so many colors and ways to make what you’re making,” she said. “I’ve been doing this for 20 years, and I feel like I’m still in elementary school. It’s vast, and there are so many ways to learn. I don’t follow videos. It just depends on how I feel that day and what I feel like making.”

She often works with her husband, Jeff. They have a workshop at home, in the shed behind their house, and they will work there quietly together. He makes settings in silver for her pendants, and he also works in glass.

He had studied glassblowing before they met, she said, and at this time of year they both make ornaments, melting and shaping glass tubes into hollow spheres. The technique is much like glassblowing with a furnace, but on a smaller scale, working in detail.

Artists, studios adjust to pandemic

Over the ridge in Salem, N.Y., Michael Scupholm, the glass studio director at Salem Art Works, is working singlehandedly at tasks that usually would require a partner



Like other arts organizations in the region, Salem Art Works has set up a new online shop to help its artists sell their wares.

– someone to help with the fine control of speed and temperature and air flow.

He breathes into tube with a rubber fitting, through the long metal rod, while he turns it to keep an even curve in the molten, glowing orb on the far end.

He is shaping blown-glass ornaments as broad as a baseball. He can add color in powdered glass that melts and marbles, he said, and texture the surface with optic molds. They swirl and gleam in facets.

And they’re now available online. Salem Art Works has opened a new web shop for its artists in ceramics, cast iron and more.

The pandemic has also changed the way artists create at SAW. Workshops and residencies have been paused since the spring,

and the artists who live at the sprawling former dairy farm are working alone in the studios.

In the foundry, the larger tasks — the iron pours that take a team of six — are on hold. Zac Ward, SAW’s sculpture park manager, recalled how a dozen metalworkers often showed up to help in the past. For now, they will wait on gathering even a group of six.

The forge is open for blacksmith work, though, and so are the walking paths. Ward designed trails through SAW’s 119 acres, where old logging roads spiral up the hill.

Executive Director Anthony Cafritz said SAW is installing new work in the sculpture park, including Ward’s own work — organic abstract shapes in iron and steel. They can blend in and emerge subtly as walkers and snowshoers pass by.

“I don’t want to disturb the landscape as much as fit into it,” Ward said.

Some elements show clearly, near the road or the edge of the woods, he said, and some will feel hidden in the warmer months and reveal themselves after the leaves fall.

“The park is a living, breathing place,” he said.

Festivities disperse, move outdoors

Downtowns and local businesses are also looking for breathing space as they navigate a season where the traditional holiday walks, pageants and processions are yielding to new safety precautions. In many places, people are spreading out or shifting activities outdoors.

The Berkshire Museum’s annual Festival of

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- from Williamstown 1 hour, 45 min

See map on page 9

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10. The Hyde Collection Art Museum

NorthCountryARTS

www.artsdistrictofglensfalls.com

Trees, normally held in the museum's galleries, is moving out into the community. In this year's event, with the theme "Legends of the Berkshires," decorated trees will appear in shops, offices and business lobbies from Nov. 28 through Jan. 10. (Check berkshireremuseum.org for a full map.)

This new, spread-out forest will take root in Pittsfield, Lenox, Great Barrington and Sheffield, said Kimberly Donoughe, the museum's marketing and brand manager, with installations as varied as "Legendary People of the Berkshires," "Tree-duce, Tree-use, Tree-cycle," "The Big Foot," and "Legends of the Cuckoo Cuckoo Clocks of the Black Forest."

In Lenox, the annual Winterland celebration is planning its first annual tree walk, as local artists will decorate more than 30 trees downtown.

And the Walker Street Grill at The Gateways Inn will move outside for a daytime Christmas pop-up on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 20, with holiday decorations and grab-and-go concessions, a food trailer, fire pits and heat lamps, holiday music and clips of holiday movies. The inn calls it "Miracle on Walker Street," a play on the classic film, said Carrie Holland, managing director at Mill Town Capital, which bought the inn in July.

"It's festive spot to warm up and get something to eat and move on," she said.

Chef Trish Wagner will offer a menu items that are easy to eat with one's gloves on – soup, chili, big pretzels, bags of nuts, toasted breads and cheeses, as well as cookies, hot chocolate and mulled wine.

Berkshire artists online

Just down the road in Stockbridge, Mill

Town is partnering with IS183 Art School of the Berkshires to create a virtual holiday market for artists in the region. The virtual pop-up shop will be open Dec. 4-11 through IS183's website.

"It's like an Etsy shop or a virtual gallery," said Lucy Castaldo, IS183's executive director.

IS183 has invited its faculty and the network of artists it has worked with to join in, along with Berkshire artists who have inspired classes based on their work. Visitors to the website (www.is183.org/online-holiday-fair-2020) can see each artist and the work they have on offer.

They may find ceramics from Lorimer Burns and Ben Evans, and Jesse Tobin McCauley's abstract paintings – in the bright colors of her new murals on Pittsfield's North Street. Longtime IS183 photography instructor Thaddeus B. Kubis captures landscapes and light, and Dylan W. Kubis shares a love of classic cars. Victoria Fiorini creates jewelry in cast metals, and Amy DiLalla of The Peach Tree beads with natural gemstones.

IS183 wants to make the artworks widely and easily accessible Castaldo said. Works available through the online shop cost as little as \$15, though some may range into the hundreds. IS183 will offer free delivery in the Berkshires, as the faculty, artists and staff will volunteer to transport the art by hand.

"Everyone should be able to have local art in their home," Castaldo said.

Browsing through, guests may find Diane Firtell's photography and collage, Ali Herrman's mixed media paintings and jewelry, Stacy Scibelli's clothing and fiber art, Brielle

Rizzotti's fiber art plush creatures and Kim Waterman's drawings.

The artists will receive 70 percent of the sale, and 30 percent will benefit IS183. And though the pop-up is only for one week in December, the art school is building a virtual gallery shop, Castaldo said, and visitors will soon be able to find the artists' work all year long.

A new holiday celebration

In Sheffield, the local historical society is creating its own new tradition in lights. In the grounds of the historic Dan Raymond House, 20 lighted Fraser firs from Ioka Valley Farm in Hancock will glimmer.

"It started as a response to Covid – to bring some happiness to the community in a safe way," said Jennifer Owens, administrator of the Sheffield Historical Society. "We think it will be a tradition for years to come."

At the Old Stone Store next door, the annual Festival of Holidays returns on weekends into early January. The annual marketplace gathers work from Berkshire artisans, from wooden bowls to photographs, whimsical ornaments and fiber art, chenille scarves in gentle shades and felted scarves in wild colors.

The festival becomes a benefit for Sheffield Historical Society and the scholarships it offers to local high school seniors, said Kathleen Tetro, a volunteer with the historical society and co-owner of Corner House Antiques in the center of town.

The event also aids the Sheffield Breaking Bread program, which creates and packages meals, without question, for anyone in the community who seeks help.

Tetro said volunteers have made tabletop trees, some mature and some childlike, some

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lighted, some made of shells or milkweed with a glint of gold. Designer MaryEllen O'Brien will offer evergreen wreathes.

Local families and organizations — SoCo Historical Restoration, the old Parish Church, the Marketplace Kitchen and many more — have decorated the full-sized trees at the Dan Raymond House.

The historical society will decorate the grounds as well as the historic greenhouse that now holds the organization's education center. At the hub, a remembrance tree will bear messages for loved ones and local heroes — and the opportunity for people to add their own.

The society is planning a carefully calibrated holidays celebration on successive Saturdays, Dec. 12 and 19. Children will be able to see Santa at a distance, Owens said, as he sits in the historic law office, and they may be able to send him a note. On the porch, Jeannie Romeo will sing rock classics from the 1950s and '60s.

The festive lights will brighten every night through Jan. 6, she said. And because the trees stand next to the Town Hall lot, visitors can see them from inside their cars.

"The event is free," Owens said. "It's a community event. Just wear a mask."

Artists band together

Just up Route 7, the Great Barrington Arts Market is adapting both online and in physical space.

When it became clear the organization could not hold its annual market at St. James Place this year, Kanter and co-founder Molly de Sant Andre turned to highlighting local artists and artisans on social media.

The Great Barrington market traditionally pulls from a larger radius than some Berkshire artisan markets, Kanter said, because it comes

late in the season. As it result, it has attracted makers from the lower Hudson Valley to southern Vermont. She and de Sant Andre are curating a series of posts to keep people aware of these artists — to remind them of makers they may have met at the summer farmers markets and let them know where to find their wares now.

Losing the in-person market is a big blow to some artisans, and Kanter said she wants to help. She feels the loss as an artist herself.

Kanter and her husband moved to the Berkshires from Brooklyn 16 years ago and founded JK Custom Furniture and Design. As they worked on larger pieces, they began to make serving trays and cheese boards as a way to get into the community and meet people.

They adapted wood from their own furniture making and sourced more from a small shop in Ashley Falls and from a friend and woodworker with a collection of rare woods. They would shape the boards and finish them in their own custom oil, made to be safe for contact with food. They made handles from salvaged railroad spikes.

The boards took off. "We didn't know the homewares would become a large part of our life and income," she said. "It's half of what we do."

This year, without the conversation and energy of in-person markets, she began to be afraid they would lose that ability to meet people face-to-face.

And then the chance came to join a group of a half-dozen local artists in a new cooperative — the Workshop — on Railroad Street in Great Barrington.

"It's in the old Gatsby's, across from the 20 Public House," she said.

The opportunity came through de Sant Andre and her husband, Aurel, who collaborate as Petit Pilou / Moho Designs.

They got talking with Jamie Goldberg, the weaver and dyer behind Hart Textiles. Goldberg tints fibers with native plants and weaves on a floor loom.

In the pandemic, Goldberg has suspended the classes and workshops she usually teaches, and she was looking for a new studio space. Her quest has brought a group of artists together.

Ben Krupka shapes wood-fired and slipware ceramics in tones of terra cotta, slate and ash. Karema Deodato, a former assistant milliner at the Metropolitan Opera House, forms contemporary hats on antique hat blocks, from fedoras to newsboy berets.

Snoogs and Wilde offers abstract paintings. And Hudson Valley artist Maude White creates delicate designs from cut paper — fiddlers and ravens, silken-veined poppies, women with long braided hair.

Each of the artisans brings their own experience to the co-op. Kanter has run a pop-up shop in Housatonic. Goldberg has experience in running a showroom during design week in New York.

In this group of artists, Goldberg said she has found a new kindness and forgiveness and joy.

"We're very interested in the creative arts world of the Berkshires," she said, "and in making sure we can all sustain ourselves and continue to live in this wonderful, beautiful place while making things. ... In a Covid world, all of our lives are constantly changing."

The artists have pitched in to help each other adapt.

"That's the thing I love about the Berkshires," Goldberg said. "It feels like a less competitive place. We're working to create and sustain the kind of place and community we want to live in."

Destination:

BENNINGTON, VT

Bennington Performing Arts Center's 'Family Affair' cabaret show hosted online • 8p Sat., Dec. 5 tickets/info at benningtonperformingartscenter.org

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- from Williamstown 20 minutes

See map on page 9

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Arts & Culture

THEATER LISTINGS

Adirondack Theatre Festival • ATFestival.org • IntheBoxEntertainment.com: Live from the comfort of home • 518-480-4878 • Tickets: woodtheater.org/events • \$45 per household, unless noted otherwise • Subs \$115 for 4 shows (Magic [choose production]; Cruise; Mystery; Painting) • No guarantee your box will arrive in time if tix purchased less than 5 days in advance.

• Dec. 10 (Bloomington, IN) and Dec. 17 (Glens Falls, NY) • Holiday Family Talent Show • 7:30 pm • \$40/household
• Jan. 12-16, 19-23, 2021: "Manhunt" Mystery in a Box • 7:30 pm
• Feb. 9-13, 16-20, 2021: "Painting for One" • 7:30 pm • \$45/person

Ancram Opera House • ancramoperahouse.org • 518-329-0114

• "Local Characters" • A teacher, a parent and a student, each share a story on navigating a school term like no other. • Livestreams Dec. 12 • No reservations needed

Catskill's Bridge Street Theatre • bridgest.org/archival-videos/ • Archival videos, titles change regularly

Columbia County Historical Society • www.cchsny.org/drive-through-history.html • Drive Through History series (Download itineraries, including "Legends & Folklore;" "Sacred Spaces I;" NEW: "Sacred Spaces II;" "Artifacts of Industry;" "Patriots & Patroons: Politics in Columbia County;" "Good Apples;" and "Schoolhouse Stories"

Great Barrington Public Theater • "Bear Tales: Six Feet Together" • 10 full-length, free, streaming Solo Performances, including "Dorothy Kilgallen," by David Mamet, with Rebecca Pidgeon • Watch at www.GreatBarringtonPublicTheater.org

Hudson Valley Radio Theater • Online at https://www.murdercafe.net/radio-theatre • Free, donations accepted online • Multiple titles "Murder Me Always;" "Sorry, Wrong Number;" "The Lodger;" "Murder at the Speakeasy;" "Death by Chocolate;" "POE LIVE: The Last Mystery;" "The Masque of the Red Death;" "Murder on the Air;" "Wuthering Heights;" "The Virtual Variety Show;" NEW: "Arsenic and Old Lace"

Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area • thereadinseries.com • Black Reconstruction in America, by W.E.B. Du Bois

Ventfort Hall • www.gildedage.org • Tix and link for streaming on Vimeo • "A Christmas Carol" starring Gerald Charles Dickens • Charles Dickens' great, great grandson Gerald will take you on the magical journey of Ebenezer Scrooge's heartfelt transformation by acting out all 26 characters in this favorite holiday tale • Through Dec. 31.

THE CALENDAR JANUARY 2021

Fri 1 through Thu 14

 imagescinema.org • Streaming through Jan. 14: "World of Wong Kar Wai" (6 Film Series)

Fri 15 through Sat 30

 Music  Dance  Theater  Film  Speech  misc. Misc.

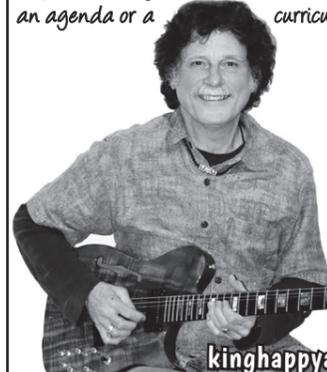
Consult hillcountryobserver.com, @hillcountryobserver on Instagram, and the websites of our regular contributors for artistic and cultural events TBA in the month of January.

Sun 31

 SaratogaChamberPlayers.org • Beethoven for Violin (Jill Levy) & Piano (Peggy Kampmeier) • 3 pm



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Arts & Culture

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Art Omi International Arts Center • 518-392-4747 • www.artomi.org
• Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, download from website

Arts Center Gallery at Saratoga Arts • www.saratoga-arts.org • 518-584-4132
• through Jan. 9: Annual Members' Show

Bennington Museum • 802-447-1571 • benningtonmuseum.org
• through Dec. 28: Winter exhibition & closed-bid auction: "Vermont Utopias: Imagining the Future"

(SCHS at) Brookside Museum • 6 Charlton St., Ballston Spa, NY • brooksidemuseum.org
• Ongoing online: "IndusTREE"
• Ongoing online: "#518RainbowHunt, Coping with Crisis"
• through Dec. 24: "20th Annual Artisan market"

Cambridge Valley Fine Art • VIRTUAL TOUR
• <https://www.cambridgevalleyart.org>
• through Jan. 17: Matt Chinian; Sara Kelly; Elana Mark; Mark Tougias; George Van Hook

Carrie Haddad Gallery • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • carriehaddadgallery.com • 518-828-1915
• Dec. 2-Jan. 31: "Place as Memory," featuring Richard Britell, Sue Bryan, Shawn Dulaney, Leigh Palmer, Susan Hope Fogel, and Linda Newman Boughton

Clark Art Institute • 413-458-2303 • www.clarkart.edu/museum/clarkconnects • Adv timed tickets required
• through Dec. 13: Lines from Life: French Drawings from the Diamond Collection
• through Jan. 3: Pia Camil: "Velo Revelo"
• through Oct. 17: Ground/work

Collar Works • 621 River St., Troy, NY • www.collarworks.org • info@collarworks.org
• through Dec. 13: Kyoung Eun Kang's "Traces: 28 days in Elizabeth Murray's Studio"

Virtual Courthouse Gallery • 518-668-2616
• www.lakegeorgearts.org/courthouse-gallery/
• through Dec. 18: Steve Rosenzweig
• Jan. 16 – Feb. 19: Susan Hoffer

Housatonic Valley Art League • <http://www.hvart.org>
• through Jan. 3: Members' End-of-Year Art Show VIRTUALLY

The Hyde Collection VIRTUALLY • <https://hydecollection.org> • 518-792-1761
• through Jan. 3: Online: Images of the People: Russian Lacquer Painting
• through Jan. 3: Online: J.S. Wooley, Adirondack Photography

Image Photos Gallery • 413-298-5500
• photography of Clemens Kalischer

The Laffer Gallery • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181 • www.thelaffergallery.com

• through May 31: Gravity and Balance: Featuring the Artwork of Constance Kheel and Chris Duncan

National Museum of Dance VIRTUALLY • 518-584-2225 • www.dancemuseum.org
• "Posters from Hollywood's Golden Age"
• "On Being Still: Portraits by Joanne Savio"
• "Dancers After Dark" photos by Jordan Matter
• A Tribute to 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees Carmen de Lavallade & Frederick Ashton

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100 • Timed tix REQ'D

• Unity Project: Art that inspires us to VOTE (prints & gifts on sale)

• through Jan. 18, in person & online: Norman Rockwell: Imagining Freedom • rockwellfourfreedoms.org

• through Jan. 18: Weekly Virtual Quick Pic of the Week (for K-6) - 5 minute videos • Activity
• through Jan. 17: Pops Peterson: Rockwell Revisited

Olana State Historic Site • 518-828-0135 • www.olana.org • Free; daily 8 am-sunset
• OLANA EYE Skycam at olana.org/OLANAEYE • follow @olanashs
• Historic Landscape Video Tour • <https://www.olana.org/tour-category/virtual/>
• Olana Outdoor Tours (Tix req'd. for all)

Pamela Salisbury Gallery • 361 ½ Warren St., Hudson, NY • www.pamelasalisburygallery.com
• through Dec. 6: "Escape Clause" (Bard & Bennington Colleges' Classes of 2020); Rebecca Purdum's "Every Day Painting"
• Dec. 12-Jan. 17: "ALL Small:" Feat. Silas Borsos, Farrell Brickhouse, Tom Burckhardt, & others

Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts • www.pncreativeartscenter.org • 2736 NY St. 30, Gloversville, NY • 518-661-9932
• through Jan. 22: Fall/Winter Art Show, feat. folk art-inspired paintings of Linda Finch

Hart Cluett Museum • hartcluett.org • 518-272-7232
• through Jun. 26: Rensselaer County's Black History
• through Dec. 18, 2021: The Way We Work(ed)

Salem Art Works • 19 Cary Lane, Salem, NY • 518-854-7674 • salemartworks.org
Cary Hill Sculpture Park and Trails • Open dawn to dusk

Salmon Falls Gallery • 413-625-9833 • salmonfallsgallery.com • VIRTUALLY & in-person
• through Dec. 31: Bill Rowley: "Monochrome, Mon Amour" - Growing Things in Black & White
• through Dec. 31: Artists for Food! Small Works under \$100 • 25% sales goes to Food Bank Farm

The Sembrich • www.TheSembrich.org
• 20/20: Virtual Visionaries: "Stravinsky and the Premiere of the Century"
• The Thatcher Photos

SEPTEMBER • septembergallery.com • 449 Warren St., #3, Hudson, NY
• through Dec. 20: "Allison Schulnik: Moth"

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon • shakermuseumml.org
• through Dec. 31: "In Union, Remotely"

Sohn Fine Art • 69 Church St., Lenox, MA • 413-551-7353 • www.sohnfineart.com
• through Jan. 18: "Solidarity," highlights Black Lives Matter movement and Black beauty
• Jan. 22-Apr. 12: "Perspective" feat. Teresa Camozzi, Richard Alan Cohen, Marcy Juran plus
• Jan. 22-Apr. 12: "iMotif" feat. various artists

Spa Fine Art Gallery • 376 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY • 518-587-2411
• through Dec. 24: "Small Works Show"

Southern Vermont Arts Center • www.svac.org • Manchester, VT • 802-362-1405
• through Jan. 3: All Member Exhibition; Yester House Study Exhibition – Works by Marion Huse

Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT • stonevalleyarts.org • 802-325-2603
• ongoing: dance performances photography by George Bouret

Susan Lemberg Usdan Gallery • One College Drive, Bennington, VT • usdangallery.bennington.edu
• Senior Show 2020 "A Hole to Climb Into"
• ongoing: Patricia Johanson "House & Garden"
• Lisa Anne Auerbach "Cooped-up Knitting" Zoom gatherings in anticipation of Fall 2021 exhibition

Tang Teaching Museum and Gallery • 518-580-8080 • <http://tang.skidmore.edu> • ONLINE
• through Dec. 6: "Hyde Cabinet #9: Neither Snow nor Rain"
• through Jun. 6: "Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond" & "We've Only Just Begun: 100 Years of Skidmore Women in Politics"
• through Jun. 13: "Energy in All Directions"
• through Sep. 11: Nicole Cherubini: "Shaking the Trees"

tANJA gRUNERT Salon • tanjagrunert.com • 21 Prospect Ave., Hudson, NY
• through Dec. 13: Emily Ritz "Feeling Myself"

Valley Artisans Market • 518-677-2765 • www.valleyartisansmarket.com
• ongoing: On Line Shop at <https://potteryeggs.square.site/s/shop>
• through Dec. 31: Matt Chinian, Annie McNeice, & Terry Teitelbaum

World Awareness Children's Museum • 518-793-2773 • www.worldchildrensmuseum.org
• Child-friendly activities with multi-cultural flavor

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2020

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

6

 **bardacademy.simons-rock.edu** • Faculty Recital: Aaron Likeness, piano • 3 pm • Zoom link req'd.

CaffeLena.org • Sawyer Fredericks Night Two • 7 pm Livestream

Little Theater on the Farm • Old Friends Band • 7 pm • Facebook page

SaratogaChamberPlayers.org • Violinist Jill Levy & cellist Ashley Bathgate • 3 pm

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4

 **Sara. Jew. Comm. Arts** • Zoom disc: "Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story" • 7 pm • Reg. req'd for link: sjca.sjcf@gmail.com

13  **CaffeLena.org** • The Restless Age • 7 pm Livestream

Close Encounters with Music • "A Night at the Opera!" • 7:30 pm • link at mahaiwe.org

Proctors Virtually • Jim Brickman's "Comfort & Joy at Home 2020" Virtual tour • 8 pm • Tix at tinyurl.com/brickmanholiday

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4 & 11

20

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

27

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

7

 **bennington.edu** • Music Mondays from Carriage Barn: Merche Blasco • 7-8 pm Virtually

CaffeLena.org • Jeanine Ouderirk & Rich Clements • 7 pm Livestream

Little Theater on the Farm • Hale Mountain Pickers • 7 pm • Facebook page

14

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rick's Picks: Seth Warden & Matt McCabe • 7 pm Livestream

Spencertownacademy.org • Roots & Shoots Streams: The Nields • 7 pm • link on site

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

21

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rick's Picks: Carolyn Shapiro & Lucas Garrett • 7 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

28

 **CaffeLena.org** • Randall Mauger & Maurizio • 7 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4

 **Northshire.com** at home • Publisher Rep Book Picks Night • 6 pm

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4 & 11

 **Northshire.com** at home • Bookseller Office Hours • 4-6 pm

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

 **PowellHouse.org** • Solstice Virtual Workshop • 4-8 pm • Pre-reg. req'd

mas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

1

 **Little Theater on the Farm** • Bob Marcotte • 7 pm • Facebook

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" starring Gerald Charles Dickens, on Vimeo, daily until ends Dec. 31 • Tix at gildedage.org

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming • "NY Intl. Children's Film Fest 2020-21" (ends Dec. 2) • "Collective"; "NY Cat Film Festival"; "NY Dog Film Festival"; "The Donut King" (all end Dec. 3)

 **Northshire.com** Live at home • John Gray "Manchester Christmas" • 5 pm

8

 **Little Theater on the Farm** • Linda Abare • 7 pm • Facebook

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4

15

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rochmon Record Club: 2020 Retrospective • 7 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4 & 11

22

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

29

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

Bennington.edu • Visual Arts Lecture: Kota Ezawa • 7-8 pm on Zoom

 **Northshire.com** at home • Jane Smiley "Perestroika in Paris" • 5 pm • Jen Atkin "Blowing My Way to the Top" • 6 pm

Bennington.edu • Visual Arts Lecture: Dayna Danger • 7-8 pm on Zoom

16 Wed

 **CaffeLena.org** • Bluegrass Jam w High Peaks Bluegrass Band • 7 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4 & 11

 **CaffeLena.org** • Storytelling Night • 7 pm Livestream

30 Wed

 **CaffeLena.org** • Opera Saratoga - America Sings: Brandie Sutton & Damien Sneed • 7 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

2

 **Little Theater on the Farm** • Kim Skoll • 7 pm • Fbook

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 1

 **Northshire.com** at home • Saratoga Book Fest online: Fred Guttenberg "Find the Helpers" • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Poetry Night w David Graham, Rana Bitar, Shira Dentz • 7 pm Livestream

9

 **CaffeLena.org** • Chuck Lamb Trio w Zach Brock • 7 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4

 **Northshire.com** Live at home: James Patterson • 6 pm

 **Northshire.com** at home • Bookseller Office Hours • 11 am-1 pm

 **misc.** Railroad Street Youth Project • Celebrate our Youth, Virtually! • 5:30 pm • rsyp.org

23

 **CaffeLena.org** • Saratoga Acoustic Blues Society • 7 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

mas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2020

Thurs

Fri

Sat

3

 **CaffeLena.org** • Mark Gamsjager & the Lustre Kings • 7 pm Livestream

Little Theater on the Farm • High Peaks Bluegrass Band • 7 pm • Fbook page

 **Jacobspillow.org** • Inside the Pillow Lab: Emily Johnson/Catalyst • 7 pm

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 1

 **Northshire.com** at home • Bookseller Bookchat • 6 pm

Olana.org • After Hours: Heather Bruegl & Joe Baker: Indigenous histories of the Hudson River and surrounds • 6-7 pm • Adv. reg. req'd

Brattleboromuseum.org • Curator Karen Wilkin • 7 pm

Berkshirebotanical.org • Gallery of Wreaths opens 9 am

misc.

10

 **CaffeLena.org** • Fenimore Blues Band • 7 pm Livestream

 **Jacobspillow.org** • Inside the Pillow Lab: Shamel Pitts/TRIBE • 7 pm

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4

 **Friendsofchambermusic.org** • MacArthur-winning violinist Joseph Curtin, about acoustics of fine violins • Pre-reg. req'd for Zoom link

Brattleboromuseum.org • Artist Andy Yoder discusses "Overboard" • 7 pm on Zoom

misc.

17

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4 & 11

24

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

31

 **Berkshirebach.org** • Bach at New Year's • 6 pm • free streaming

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

misc.

Hancockshakerville.org • Frosty Fun-Day • 10 am-4 pm

4

 **Little Theater on the Farm** • John Muller & Pat Stallmer • 7 pm • Facebook page

CaffeLena.org • Middle Grove Trio • 8 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • "Zappa" (ends Dec. 10); "76 Days" (ends Dec. 17); "Monsoon" (ends Dec. 17)

misc.

Ballston Spa • Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting • 6-6:30 pm • Wiswall Park • distance & masks req'd.

Berkshirebotanical.org • Online Holiday Marketplace • 10 am - 4 pm • Integrative Pest Management • 1 pm • Reg. req'd

11

 **Boston Early Music Festival** • The Tallis Scholars • 8 pm • youtube.com/bostonearly/

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4

plus "Born to Be" (ends Dec. 24); "The Twentieth Century" (ends Dec. 24); "World of Wong Kar Wai" (6 Film Series, ends Jan. 14)

18

 **St. Ann Church** • Virtual Christmas Spectacular! Livestreamed on AVPTriParish.org • 6:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Jes Hudak • 8 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4 & 11 plus "Museum Town" (ends Dec. 24) & "Coded Bias" (ends Dec. 31)

25

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

5

 **ClarionConcerts.org** • Amir ElSaffar • Streaming 5 pm, on site indefinitely

Little Theater on the Farm • Keanen Stark & Orion Kribs • 7 pm • Facebook page

CaffeLena.org • Sawyer Fredericks Night One • 8 pm Livestream

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4

 **SalmonFallsGallery.com** • Zoom demo: Bill

Rowley "Lighting for the Internet" • 2 pm • Reg. req'd.

ScovilleLibrary.org • 860-435-2838 for Zoom link • "Cesar Family: Noble African Citizens" • 4 pm • "The Color of Law" w Richard Rothstein • 7 pm

misc.

Hancockshakerville.org • Pop-up Holiday Market • 10 am-2 pm

Berkshirebotanical.org • Online Holiday Marketplace • 10 am - 4 pm

Varosy Gallery • Pop-up Holiday Market • 2-8 pm • 1522 North Rd., Greenwich, NY

Waldorfsaratoga.org • Virtual Holiday Auction! • 7 pm on Zoom

12

 **Art Omi** • Phil Kline's "Unsilent Night" • Pre-reg. req'd., instructions: omi.unsilentnight.com • live web-stream: wavefarm.org/listen

CaffeLena.org • Holiday Show • 8 pm Livestream

HelsinkiHudson.com • Dust Bowl Faeries • 8 pm • broadcast on stage & virtually

 **Olgadunndance.org** • "A Gift of Dance" • 7 pm virtually, until Jan. 15 • 413-528-9674

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 4 & 11

 **Powell House** • Virologist: Q&A on COVID-19 • 2-4 pm • pay as led • Reg. req'd. at https://poho.org • Info at 518-794-8811

WGXC.org 90.7-FM • "You-" online • 7am - 7 pm EST

misc.

Hancockshakerville.org • Hancock Holidays AND Pop-up Holiday Market • 10 am-2 pm

Berkshirebotanical.org • Women's Chainsaw Skills • 10 am-4:30 pm • Pre-reg. req'd.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Virtual Trivia Night BENEFIT • 7 pm • Tix req'd for Zoom link

19

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

misc.

Hancockshakerville.org • Pop-up Holiday Market • 10 am-2 pm

Olana.org • Family Explorer Tour: Winter Solstice Edition • 11 am-12 pm • Olana Visitor Center • Adv. reg. req'd

26

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

26

 **Ventfort Hall** • "A Christmas Carol" (see Dec. 1)

 **Imagescinema.org** • Streaming titles on Dec. 11 & 18

Thompson continued from page 9

count did not accurately reflect the level of support for his candidacy, because many who supported his platform voted for Blaine in an attempt to stop Cleveland.

Butler said each of those votes redirected to Blaine was effectively a "half-vote" for the People's ticket, *The Morning Star* reported on Nov. 11.

Some newspapers lampooned Butler.

"Benjamin Franklin Butler's address to the people of this country is too long-winded a document for our columns," *The Dillon Tribune* of Montana wrote in an editorial on Aug. 30. "Old Ben's address is something like his candidacy. His candidacy grabs at all the combinations, while his address attempts to catch all of the votes."

The Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser of Port Tobacco, Md., wrote in a June 6 editorial: "Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Butler is one of those persons who is expected to notice that the world moves. There may be some doubt

as to the sincerity of his convictions, but none in the world as to his acuteness in discovering the lay of the land."

Butler received the rank of major general in the Civil War. His service in the Union Army was controversial, and he was recalled from duty. But Butler was praised for his role in emancipating slaves on the basis that they were "contraband of war," liberated from Confederate states.

Supporters of Butler's candidacy touted his intellect, his expertise in the arts and his civil rights record.

While in Congress, Butler wrote the Enforcement Act of 1871, also known as the KKK Act, which gave the federal government stronger powers to protect the voting rights of freed slaves and to suppress the efforts of white supremacist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan to intimidate and unlawfully detain blacks.

Butler was a co-sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which provided equal treatment in public accommodations and transportation for people of all races. (The law, however, was not enforced for many years.)

President Ulysses S. Grant signed both pieces

of legislation into law.

Butler broke what was then a longstanding tradition of presidential candidates wrapping up their campaigns on the Saturday night before the election.

He continued campaigning through Election Day, speaking to about 7,000 people at a rally at Natick, Mass., just after noon, and speaking later in the afternoon at Marlboro, *The Morning Post* reported on Nov. 5.

The Brooklyn Eagle, calling Butler the "court jester" of presidential politics, rejoiced in his defeat.

"Among the results of Tuesday's election, for which the American people have every reason to be thankful, is the final disposition made of Mr. Benjamin Franklin Butler," the paper editorialized on Nov. 6. "Mr. Benjamin F. Butler is not likely to be heard of again in politics. If he is, it will be in his own county and nowhere else."

Maury Thompson was a reporter for The Post-Star of Glens Falls for 21 years before retiring in 2017. He now is a freelance writer focusing on the history of politics, labor and media in the region.

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