

The REPORTER

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ATTN: JEANNE COLLINS
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BRANDON VT 05733-9407

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Brandon to assess weatherization options to support homeowners

BY NEIL P. ALLEN

BRANDON — On Friday, the Town of Brandon will be meeting with state Rep. Stephanie Jerome and Executive Director Heather Starzynski of NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, a community development nonprofit in West Rutland focused on homeownership and weatherization, to assess the town to see what assistance NeighborWorks can provide for homeowners in modernizing their homes.

"We will be doing a drive through town on Friday to see what homes may be good for

retrofitting," said Town Manager Dave Atherton at the selectboard meeting on Monday.

"This is a good opportunity to get in on the ground floor with them," said Jerome. "It is a step in the right direction and one piece of the puzzle to help more people in Brandon."

"There's a lot of groups with programs out there," said select board member Tim Guiles. "It's the outreach to the community that is missing."

"There's so much work being done in Vermont, it's hard to get a handle on it," added Jerome.

That bit of news preceded a short selectboard meeting spanning half an hour, during which Brandon Energy Committee member Jim Emerson apologized to the selectboard for providing wrong cost estimates for a solar project the town might consider funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and for his actions on the committee in which he did not understand that town committees had to comply with the state Open Meetings laws.

"I provided the board with
(See weatherization options, Page 16)

OVUU board to meet Sept. 15 to discuss school facilities, middle school expansion

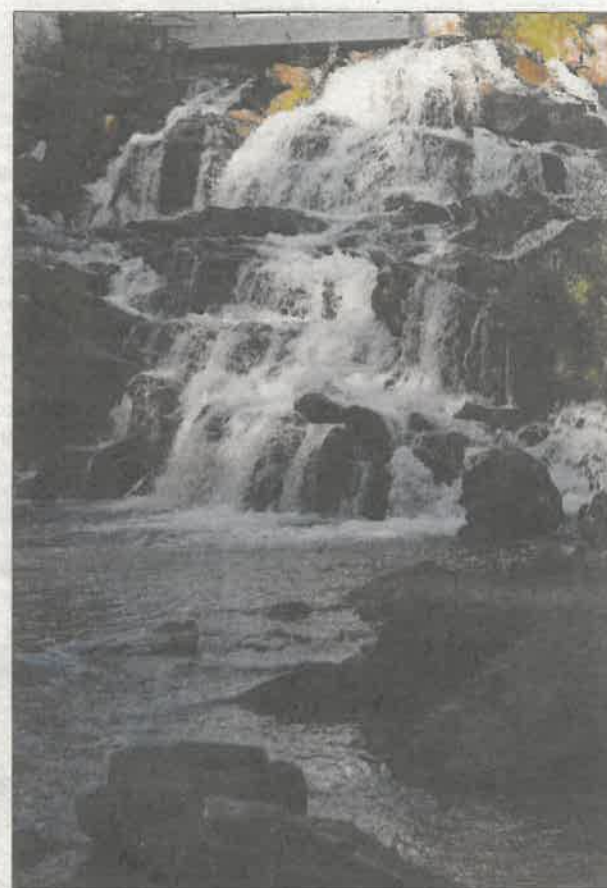
BRANDON — At its upcoming meeting this Wednesday, Sept. 15, the Otter Valley Unified Union School board will conduct a brief tour the Otter Creek Academy at Sudbury at 6 p.m., after which the rest of the meeting will be held at the school facility starting at 6:10. The meeting leads off with communications with parents/citizens/staff during its public comments and the board's "Let's Talk" report.

An hour of the meeting, from 6:15 to 7:15, will be devoted to board professional development in the form of a presentation on "Trauma Informed Classrooms and alternative settings to meet students' emotional and behavior needs."

Following that discussion and presentation, the board will devote a half hour or more to discuss district facilities, including the Sudbury Campus and OV North Cam-

pus facility cost estimates, as well as discussion on a Middle School expansion to OVUHS. The discussion will also cover the 2021 enrollment numbers for the school district, the OVUU facilities task force review and will review the board's annual work plan.

Citizens who wish to attend the meeting and tour the Sudbury school and campus are required to wear facial coverings, even if fully vaccinated.



Hidden view

THE NESHOBE RIVER cascades down the falls below Brandon's Green Park in a seldom seen view of the river as it flows into the 6-acre flats and wetlands that is framed by Brandon's Smith Block, the Congregational Church, Hanaford, Pearl Street and the railroad tracks. The area is being considered as part of several walking paths through and around the town, known as Brandon's Greenways, an initiative that has been in the works for the past several years.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn



OV SENIOR DEFENSIVE star Marissa Connors bats the ball far downfield and was key to the team's defense against Windsor on Monday afternoon. The teams battled to a 2-2 tie, including a 10-minute overtime where the teams played seven-on-seven, but neither could score.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

Vermont's COVID cases and hospitalization counts surge

BY MIKE DOUGHERTY
VTDIGGER

MONTPELIER — Vermont set recent records for daily Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations over the past three days, through Monday, Sept. 13.

The Department of Health reported 108 new Covid-19 cases and one new death on Monday.

Over the weekend, the state reported 405 total new cases and three additional deaths. Saturday's

total of 222 cases was the highest one-day count since April 10.

Totals for Saturday and Sunday were increased from the counts initially reported. Saturday's total jumped from 184 to 222, and Sunday's total moved from 141

(See Record COVID cases, Page 5)

