



LEBANON QUESTIONS IF ALLOWING DRUNK CHILD TO ENGINEER ROUTE 12-A TRAFFIC WAS RIGHT DECISION
Weaving pattern and unsynchronized traffic lights bear the mark of an omnipotent drunkard seeking to incite conflict among motorists.

> **TRAFFIC** PAGE 7



DOG IN WEDDING PHOTO KNEW IT WOULDN'T LAST
Good boy knew marriage bad.

> **LOCAL** PAGE 8

OLD PEOPLE OPPOSE NEW THING
Newfangled idea concerning.

> **TECH** PAGE 6

Non torsii subligarium.

UNREAL COVERAGE OF THE UPPER VALLEY, PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY

N.H. GOVERNMENT UNVEILS NEW WEST LEB WATERFRONT PARK DELAY



The West Lebanon waterfront at the confluence of the White and Connecticut Rivers remains obstructed by red tape and an abandoned rail yard.

Collaborative effort will continue public inaccessibility to waterfront

WEST LEBANON— A few representatives from the NH Department of Transportation Rail Bureau gathered alongside the Connecticut River at the former Westboro Rail Yard to address the 20-year community effort to transform the waterfront property that has been abandoned for 40 years, and announce their latest effort to prolong the progress.

“We’re pleased to announce

a new initiative that will ensure West Lebanon is kept in the 20th century,” said the NHDOT spokesperson, adding “it’s an important way to honor Westboro Yard’s heritage of abandonment and inaction.”

Vacant since the rail yard closed in the 1970s, the 22-acre Westboro parcel runs the entire length of downtown West Lebanon, stretching from the new bridge on Bridge Street to

the collapsing bridge at the corner of Main Street and Seminary Hill. The proposed Westboro Park and West Leb Greenway trail network (www.westle.org/greenway) would connect from the Mascoma River Greenway to Boston Lot

“We might need it again if the choo-choo trains come back” said a man who could allow Greenway to connect to West Lebanon

via downtown West Lebanon and River Park, along a “string of pearls” that has been called for in repeat community planning efforts for decades. A commitment to bureaucratic apathy and the belief that the late 19th century heyday of railroad

travel may return are among the strategies previously employed to ensure that the proposed park encounters sufficient delays. Acknowledging that they had been busy designing a Route 12-A bridge big enough for two passenger trains to pass each-other on a line that only serves a concrete facility and dead-ends into 59-miles of rail trail the

> **DELAY** PAGE 13



UNITED NATIONS IN SILENT AWE AS NORWICH SELECTBOARD SUBCOMMITTEE SOLVES CLIMATE CHANGE

NORWICH— A Subcommittee formed by the Town of Norwich Selectboard to tackle the global issue of climate change stunned the international community by announcing a conclusive solution that both scientifically and politically solves an existential problem that has eluded experts from all 193 members of the United Nations since the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Having put aside their local responsibilities to keep the streets plowed and municipal finances balanced in order to tackle the worldwide challenge, members of the Committee received accolades from NASA, NOAA, and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

The Subcommittee chair was unable to attend the press conference as his road had still not been plowed by the Norwich DPW. The Chair noted that not driving that day had in fact reduced his usage of fossil fuels, but it was becoming a problem as the propane truck was unable to make a delivery.

> **LOCAL** PAGE 5

LOCAL ROUNDUP: YESTERDAY'S NEWS, TODAY

Man Must Not Need It As Dan & Whit's Don't Have It

A Norwich man was caught off-guard by the law of retail contraposition when he went to the local general store in search of a hardware item he was quite certain he needed, only to find that the store did not in fact have it in stock. He thusly concluded that he did not in fact need said item, but upon returning home he discovered his basement was in fact still flooding.

Committee Formed To See If Thing That Works Everywhere Else Might Also Work Here

Hesitant to consider an initiative that has numerous anecdotal and empirical examples of succeeding in other, comparable municipalities without ample opportunity for the public to talk in circles about it for 12 months, Town Hall instead established a Committee to eventually reach the expected conclusion next year.

Daybreak Provides Quick Preview Of Tomorrow's Valley News

Thursday's 5:03AM publication of the daily *Daybreak* email newsletter contained a concise preview of the local news and events to be covered in the Friday edition of the *Valley News*.

Burnt Out Economic Dev. Commission Not Even Sure City A Great Place To Live, Work, Play Anymore

Exhausted after another of their multi-year initiatives received opposition from a small group of vocal and ill-informed non-participants in earlier planning exercises, dejected and mentally exhausted Commissioners began to question what was the point of having a walkable, vibrant downtown with plenty of opportunities for the young and young-at-heart if people were just going to complain about their efforts to (re)invest in the downtown the whole time.

New Listserv Set Up To Discuss Members Of Town's Listserv

A wildly popular new email service that was formed to discuss the ideas and personalities of the regular posters on the town's official listserv has become overwhelmed with subscribers seeking a place they can exchange ideas about others exchanging ideas, goods, and services.

Norwich Farm Has More Board Members Than Cows

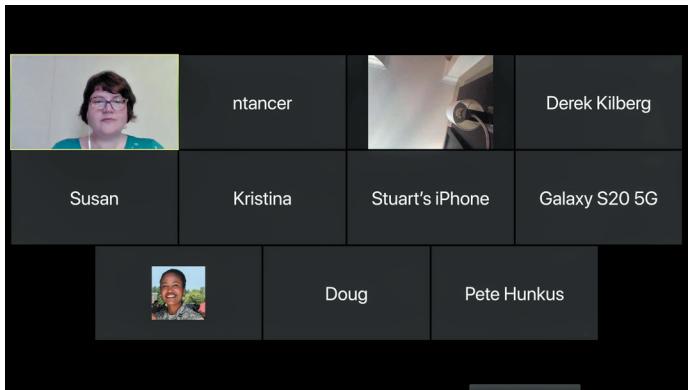
The issue came to light when a cow broke free of the state-of-the-art and not-tax-exempt educational facility and could not be corralled despite being outnumbered, as no board member had actual experience with cattle. Calls to the Norwich Police for assistance went unanswered, as it was between shifts. The Land Trust could not be reached for comment over the roar of laughter erupting from their board room.

Hartford High School's Hurricane Mascot Deemed Insensitive To Those Who Have Experienced Big Storms

Activists saying the time has come to change offensive mascots have demanded that the Hartford School Board change the school's long-standing hurricane mascot, saying it is inconsiderate to those in the community who have dealt with serious weather events.

Beautification Effort Reported To Authorities

A volunteer effort to clean-up an overgrown and abandoned park along the river was reported to City and State authorities for running afoul of the arcane rules & regulations that had been preventing any action in the park for years. Organizers apologized, saying if they knew that was all it took to see progress they would have cleared more riverfront. Authorities asked them to restore the original condition of poison ivy and discarded diapers.



Attendees work to determine the socio-economic future of the Upper Valley and how their camera works.

FUTURE OF TOWN TO BE DETERMINED BY BOARD THAT CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO JOIN ZOOM

WEB.ZOOM.US— Members tasked by the Town Council with making critical decisions that will determine municipal finances, policies, and operations for the next decade were again unable to commence their fifth regularly scheduled meeting due to [self-inflicted] technological issues with Zoom, the ubiquitous video conferencing platform.

Focused on “helping modernize the town, address the

“I just wish they would leave everything the way it is” said one attendee believing their microphone was on mute.

housing crisis, and ensure a more equitable future,” the Board was unable to reach a quorum as two members couldn't log-in, a third couldn't get their [un-plugged] headphones to work, and the Chairman was erroneously logged into Microsoft Teams.

The nine member board, consisting of a representative sample of townsfolk with every-other Tuesday night free, could not vote on the night's agenda when the screen-share function could not be found, but one member attempted to hold a print version of the agenda up to the camera.

> **ZOOM** PAGE 9



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CONDOM STORE TO OPEN BETWEEN WEST LEB SEX SHOP, PREGNANCY CENTER

City hopes it will prevent further undesirable retail from opening at gateway to downtown West Leb

WEST LEBANON– Right between the existing sex shop and pregnancy center located at the southern entrance to downtown West Lebanon, a new store is opening its doors for business that municipal leaders hope will prevent any unexpected and unwanted stores from appearing in the future.

Responding to criticisms that the building’s facade didn’t give the best first impression of the downtown, a representative of the sex shop said stated, “we run a productive small business catering to the quiet habits and vices of the region’s citizens,” adding, “if you don’t like our business we’re happy to recommend a silicone, metal, or even a splintery wooden device

The City has taken an abstinence approach to the development of West Lebanon for decades, which experts warn has been proven ineffective at preventing unwanted auto parts stores.

and offer guidance as to where you can stick it.” Asked if they had considered utilizing the proposed facade improvement grant process the spokesman replied, “I don’t think we sell a bong big enough in our headshop to make anyone think it’s worth the headaches of dealing with the bureaucratic process and likely increase we’d see in our taxes if we invested in our property. Despite the products we sell, we’re not in the business of screwing ourselves.” Some have suggested that the City should seek help with their own E.D. issues, as problems with Economic Development are nothing to be embarrassed about and help is available.

POLICE BLOTTER

NORWICH

Police had to free two identical Priuses stuck in an endless yield as they tried to exit Dan & Whit’s.

Multiple parents were arrested after a bare-knuckle brawl over the last Montshire Museum summer camp spot.

LEBANON

The architect of the Centerra Co-op Food Store layout was finally arrested for design crimes against humanity.

The Fire Department was called to investigate life safety issues at their own Fire Station after the City failed to renovate it.

WOODSTOCK

A driver of a BMW with NY plates was witnessed upholding the stereotype.

HANOVER

All crime was outsourced to neighboring towns.

CANAAN

Two hopelessly lost Dartmouth students called to be evacuated by helicopter.

FAIRLEE

Police reported no injuries in the latest incident of ongoing Fairlee vs. West Fairlee gang violence.

WEST LEBANON

The deposed leader of a Homeowners Association was marched through the common area to their death by condo owners.

The tunnel to White River Jct. was blocked for hours when the driver of an oversized leaf-peeping SUV got their ski-rack stuck in the overhead *EZ Pass* reader.

LYME

No racially motivated crimes were reported due to the statistical realities of Lyme.

TODAY IN REGIONAL NEWS

Historical Society Recommends That All New Housing Be Built In The Year 1906

Saying that they recognize the critical need for more housing in the Upper Valley but seeking to preserve the existing character of the neighborhood, the guidance memo suggests that all new construction must be built in the year 1906. To remain period-appropriate, asbestos insulation and lead paint are required to be used and then immediately remediated; the housing must be sold at early 20th century prices regardless of the cost of construction; and female members of the historical society were not allowed to vote.

Study Analyzes Ineffectiveness of Studies

The “Interim Report On The Impact Of Final Reports” found that most planning studies aren’t worth the paper they are printed on, but planners suggest there may be opportunity for further study.

Center For Connecticut Diaspora Opens In Downtown Woodstock

In an effort to celebrate the cultural diversity of Woodstock, the new center will be open long-weekends throughout the leaf-peeping, horse-showing, and ski seasons.

Downtown Revitalization Strategists Suggest Renaming West Leb As “East White River Jct.”

The recommendation came after past revitalization experts had suggested to “literally just do whatever they are doing directly across the river in Vermont, like helping local businesses and making it look nice” as the village of White River Junction has seen an explosion of arts and culture in recent years.

TODAY IN BUSINESS



Pawn Shop Can’t Make Rent

“We’re going to lose it all,” sighed the owner, saying this was all he could afford to pay today. “This was my grandfather’s shop.”

Asshole Manager Of Crappy Restaurant Complains He Can’t Find Unappreciated Staff For Poor Wages

Saying it was impossible to conduct business due to economic forces beyond his control, the manager said he’d still had no luck finding a waitress willing to demean herself enough to work for him.

West Lebanon EMS Enters 7th Year Of Presumed Going-Out-Of-Business Sale

With overflowing racks of discounted outdoor wear marked down to clearance prices and gear piled akimbo throughout the store, there was little discernible evidence that they were still open for business apart from the gigantic sale signs in their windows.

Keurig Coffeemaker Used For Single Serving

A brand-new Keurig machine was used once before being promptly discarded in favor of a traditional coffee maker. The remaining single-serve K-Cup coffee pods were deposited in a local landfill, where they are expected to quickly but weakly pollute the ground-water before taking over 100 years to decompose.

Craft Beer Label Reflects Brewery’s Dire Financial Reality

The bright colors and stylish design of the 16oz cans of “Please Buy This IPA” belied that all was not sound at one of the region’s many craft brewery start-ups seeing an over-saturation in the market.

TODAY IN EDUCATION

New Dartmouth Building For Engineering And Computer Science Built In Wrong Spot Due To Engineer’s Computer Error

More technology than put a man on the moon was used to construct a building 10-feet in the wrong direction.

Dartmouth President Embellished Class Notes

The outgoing college president ’77 is being investigated for fabricating a submission to the Alumni Magazine in which he wrote he was “really enjoying the golf team.”

Take Your Child To Work Day Enters 4th Decade As Leading Cause Of Adolescent Depression

TODAY IN FAMILY



Dad’s Fondest Memories Of White River Junction Bowling Alley Very Different From Rest Of Family’s

HARTFORD–A long-time member of the Thursday night mens-league at the former WRAP bowling alley and strip club recalled the establishment in a considerably different manner than his wife and children who were sharing memories of a bowling-themed 7th birthday party. The father of two recalled the arcade area as his second favorite place in the building to spend \$1 bills.

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ECONOMY COLUMNIST

Jonathan Doe – Regional Employer

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As a regional employer I know that the housing shortage is the number one concern facing our employees and my company’s ability to hire and grow.

That’s why we’re proud to play a small role in a functionally meaningless effort to talk in circles for a few more years about how we need more housing, while continuing to wilfully turn a blind eye towards the structural issues that caused– and continue to exacerbate– this crisis are addressed in any meaningful way.

Now, we could adjust our company’s wage structure to catch up with three decades of cost of living increases so that our valued employees can afford suitable housing in the region, but instead we’re just going to issue a call for more “Affordable Housing” and hope that someone will magically create housing they’re willing to rent or sell for far-less than it would cost them to build it.

Could we consider just building more housing in a manner that responds to the Supply/Demand realities that anyone who has ever heard the word “economics” can understand? Maybe! But instead, let’s see what the 4th report we’ve commissioned on the same issue says when its published.

Once we’ve confirmed everything we already know, I’ll be the first to quietly oppose anything proposed near my house under the guise of protecting neighborhood character.

Regional News Briefs

Futuaris Nisi Irrisus Ridebis

VERMONT

Vermont Resident Who Moved Here 20 Years Ago Mad About Vermont Residents Who Moved Here 2 Years Ago

Cartographers Discover Lost Civilization Of North Strafford

Hippie Not Such A Fan Of Trees Now That He’s Trapped Under One

Libertarian Upset About Power Outage

Historic Resident Opposes Modern Residences

Massachusetts Achieves 51% Ownership Of Vermont, Seeks Majority Control

Muck Boots Worn To Funeral

Town Selectboard That Voted To Defund Police Now Afraid To Hold Public Meetings In Person

Only Restaurant In Town Somehow Ranked #2 Restaurant In Town On Yelp

Deer Survives Hunting Season By Hiding Out On Property Posted With *Warren* Sign

Stove Hot As Shit

Environmentalists Propose New Way To Prevent Enjoying Yourself

Five and Ten Store Nickled And Dimed

Only Person Who Knows How To Run Critical Piece Of Infrastructure Wished A Happy Retirement

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Recent Threat Of Common-sense Gun Legislation Turns Out To Be Hoax

Divorced Dad’s Basement Named Upper Valley’s Hottest Night-life Spot By Local Teens

3rd Party Review Finds DPW Sewer Plan Full Of Shit

Scariest House On Block Wants To Make America Great Again

City Takes Over 90 Days To Determine If Man Dug Hole

City That Bemoans Lack Of Housing Votes To Make It More Expensive To Build More Housing

Dante’s 9th Circle Of Hell To Become Roundabout

Proposed Streetscape Improvements Would Transform 2-Foot Strip Of Unmaintained Grass Into 4-Foot Strip Of Unmaintained Grass

Man Finds Self Nostalgic For When Garden Shop He Never Shopped At Was Locally Owned

Homeschool Teacher Retires To Spend Less Time With Family

Dartmouth Sticker On Range Rover Redundant

Leather Jacketed Man Strolls Into Bar To Looks Of Intrigue And Admiration Imagines Leather Jacketed Man

Town Hall Sick Of Dealing With Townspeople

UPPER UPPER VALLEY

Haverhill Uncertain If It Is In Upper Valley
HAVERHILL– The northernmost town on some Upper Valley maps isn’t sure if it is, or if it even wants to be, in the Upper Valley. The county seat of Grafton county asked if it was in Coös county.

MIDDLE UPPER VALLEY

West Lebanon Secedes From Lebanon
WEST LEBANON– After decades suffering under the tyrannical yoke of Lebanon and witnessing their tax dollars allocated disproportionately to the other side of the City while their demands for equitable investment went ignored, the 1/3rd of the Lebanon population living in 03784 declared themselves an independent municipality. The West Lebanon territory includes significant critical infrastructure including the airport, dump, last remnant rail line, sewage treatment plant, and the new Target. Upon joining neighboring SAU 70 as an independent borough, residents saw their property values rise, their taxes drop, and their schools invested in for the first time since West Leb High closed.

LOWER UPPER VALLEY

Claremont Taking Significant Steps To Become Less Claremont-y
CLAREMONT– Left out of the economic growth of the Upper Valley after it was politically and geographically bypassed by the Interstate Highway system, and unfairly made the target of regional ridicule for decades, the proud former “Shoppers Town” of the Upper Valley is overcoming decades of neglect and taking proactive steps to welcome reinvestment and re-emerge as a revitalized downtown. Although some have voiced concerns about gentrification, the town spokesman stated, “thankfully, we have very little risk of becoming anything like Hanover,” before adding, “those uppity pricks.”

EDITOR’S NOTE

editor@uvobserver.com

SMART GROWTH FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UPPER VALLEY REQUIRES NOT REPEATING THE DUMB MISTAKES OF THE PAST

Humor can be a spotlight, a magnifying glass, a “rubber-tipped sword.” Satire can play an important role in holding up a mirror to society.

Perhaps it has a role in the ongoing smart growth crisis in the Upper Valley where inherent hypocrisy and procedural paralysis are compounding the problem. We’re not going to fix today’s problems by listening to the same misguided thinking that put us in the housing crisis in the first place.

All the well-intentioned studies, committees, and funding efforts will continue to fall victim to the same outspoken opposition based on knee-jerk responses and unproven arguments, and a regulatory process that is more interested in incremental reform of a failing system than facilitating smart growth and community development.

Smart growth benefits the community by creating tangible benefits, and that return on investment can be measured in tax revenue and public amenities. *Dumb growth* is continuing to pour money into ideas that are familiar but fundamentally unsound.

“This is how we’ve always done it”-ism is what gives us box stores that gut our downtowns of vibrancy and extract community value for the benefit of shareholders from afar. It expedites big apartment buildings on the outskirts of town by out of state developers, while local homeowners can’t afford the regulatory rigmarole of improving their own properties while their taxes keep going up.

Navigating the regulatory apparatus shouldn’t require the flexibility of a gymnast and the endurance of a marathoner. Where is the customer-service to the tax-payer?

Analysis has its role and planning is essential, but it’s not worth the paper it’s printed on if we don’t address the drawn-out delays caused by procedural indifference and obstruction.

That’s what lets community-

supported projects and initiatives die the death of 1,000 bureaucratic paper-cuts, and why citizens lose faith in their government regardless of their politics.

We need to change the conversation to focus on development that is good for the future. The good news is that there are plenty of experts out there we can copy. Ideas that have been proven to work elsewhere can work here, too.

But it starts with accepting the empirical evidence that restrictive and exclusionary zoning– born of racial and socio-economic biases of the 20th century– has failed to facilitate the communities we want– and often destroyed the communities we had.

It requires admitting that what we are doing isn’t working, and prioritizing collaboration and compromise to achieve executable projects that create housing and a tax-base to address growing municipal costs.

Doing so requires upsetting the status quo– and upsetting those who will never listen to reasoned arguments and evidence– to achieve that.

Until we eliminate subjective bias in favor of productive development that is net-positive to municipal finances we will continue to watch the deleterious impact on our community, and taxpayers will continue to pay more to subsidize bad decisions.

For over a decade, my family’s business Lyme Properties has tried to push a radical agenda of...what 75% of West Leb voters endorsed on the ballot. Yet, we have faced well-documented delays that drive-up costs and prevent progress.

Before we spend another dollar I’m pressing pause, calling bullshit, and using humor to apply the disinfecting power of daylight to dumbassery. To paraphrase the great Inigo Montoya: “you screwed over my father, prepare to be ridiculed.”

Whether your interest is smart growth or silly guffaws, I welcome those who wish to change the conversation to join me: www.bio.site/lyme

Chet Clem
Editor, *UV Observer*



Report: 73% Of Vermont Economy Tied To Coziness Industry



BURLINGTON– Economists clad in soft, warm flannel announced Thursday that their 2022 market analysis determined that almost 3/4ths of the State of Vermont’s economy can be tied directly or indirectly to the manufacturing, sale, and use of cozy-related goods and services.

Speaking from the porch of a hand-hewn log cabin built on a local maple syrup farm, each member of the panel of experts took turns rising from their Adirondack chair to address the audience of journalists wearing a variety of sweaters draped around their shoulders.

“This can be a tough state to do business in,” said the chair of the UVM Economics Department, tucking a hand-woven blanket from Johnson Woolen Mills across her lap. “It’s been impressive to see Darn Tough socks expand their operation to a point where they are one of the region’s largest employers and the official footwear of the State.”

Conference attendees were served fluffy scones from King Arthur Flour, topped with slow-churned butter from the Norwich Farm Creamery and

a maple cream spread from Plummer’s Sugar House.

The Vermont Deputy Secretary of Commerce, whose remarks were interrupted when he paused to carefully blow rising steam from his hand-thrown clay mug of organic hot cocoa, attributed much of the recent growth to out-of-state travellers visiting the State’s many warm and inviting inns.

“Whether curling up with a book from a local author next to a crackling fireplace in Woodstock after a day touring the fall foliage, or basking in the summer sun on a warm dock along the shore of Lake Champlain, Vermont is among the comfiest states in the Nation.”

“And don’t forget about Winter,” he added, “we are among the country’s leading exporters of Christmas trees that families gather ‘round each December to share good tidings and exchange gifts from the wide selection at Farm-Way.”

The travel restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant reduction of New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts tourists, and the



Members of the Vermont Economic Progress Council hold an off-site meeting.

associated economic downturn had some local Scandinavian-inspired ski chalet rental companies worried. But many believe it made the region even more comfortable and enjoyable for most Vermonters.

Conversely, Vermont Castings has reported an uptick in wood-stove sales as home-bound families hunkered down for the long cold months, and Farmhouse Pottery has been doing a brisk business selling bowls for enjoying hearty soups around Pompanousic Mills’ dining room tables.

The Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, still recovering from a 2018 lawsuit in which they were accused of improperly disposing of stuffing effluents, remains one

of the states largest industrial producers of snuggliness.

The Vermont Flannel Company says their five retail locations simply can’t keep up with demand for robes that hug you in a familiar warm embrace, and have continued to expand to farmer’s markets where the scent of hot mulled apple cider wafts across their 1-piece and 2-piece pajama sets.

Industry watchdogs have accused Vermont Gov. Phil Scott of being too cozy with the cozy industry, but voters have been willing to look the other way.

“Quite frankly he is the last Republican leader in America that doesn’t make us extremely uncomfortable,” said his 81% approval rating.

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