



BOTH LANES OF RAPIDLY MERGING TRAFFIC CONFIDENT THAT YIELD SIGN IS MEANT FOR OTHER LANE

Drivers on both Route 120 South and Route 4 East report that surely the driver in the other lane knows they have to give way.

> **LOCAL PAGE 7**



MIRACLE MILE NEITHER MIRACLE, NOR MILE

0.6 mile stretch provides little sense of wonder.

> **LOCAL PAGE 8**

EMAIL FINDS MAN WELL, AS HOPED

Recipient to inquire whether sender doing well, too.

> **LOCAL PAGE 6**

CITY EDITION

UNREAL COVERAGE OF THE UPPER VALLEY, PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY

CITY DETERMINES HOW TO USE *COMMON SENSE*

Some Say No Harm Using *Common Sense* Daily

Others Attest A Little *Common Sense* Can Go A Long Way

CITY HALL— Having recently re-discovered their copy of *Common Sense*, the City has convened a series of *Common Sense* discussions to determine whether to use *Common Sense*, or continue under the current model of not using *Common Sense* in the course of day-to-day municipal governance.

The copy of Thomas Paine’s seminal 1776 treatise on independence from government overreach and undue obstruction in the dealings of its citizens was recently discovered in a box that had been moved from the old library into the new library.

Some fear that not using *Common Sense* would result in the City forgetting the *Common Sense* lesson that the role of government is to support the citizens who are taxed to fund it.

Others wonder if the simplest explanation is that the City simply forgot to use *Common Sense*, mistakenly believing it to be no longer relevant in modern municipal government.

Questions have arisen as to whether it would be appropriate for the City to employ *Common Sense* in the everyday dealings of the municipal government, with some believing there’s little room for *Common Sense* in local

government these days.

“We’ve managed to make a lot of important decisions without using *Common Sense*, and I just don’t see any reason to start using *Common Sense* now,” said one City official.

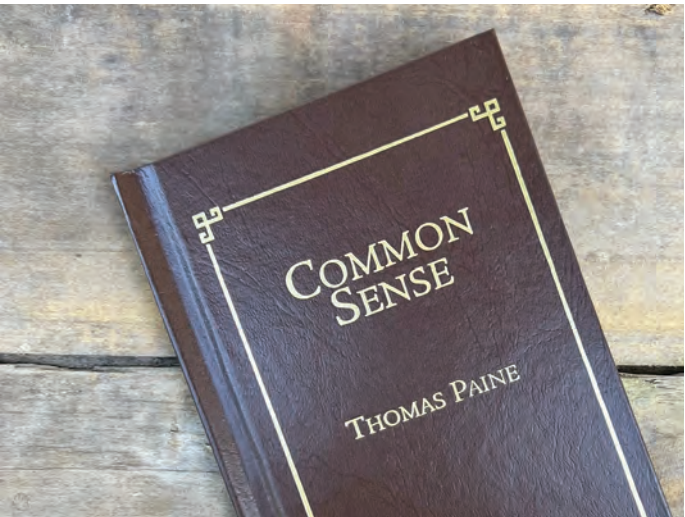
In an effort to bridge the gap, the Council voted 7-2 to form a “Task Force on the Appropriate Use of *Common Sense*,” which will report back in 18-24 months with an assessment of whether *Common Sense* should be used.

The City Council, for their part, affirmed that they “fully support the idea of using *Common Sense*,” but clarified they have no actual control over whether the City Manager and his Administration use it.

One *Common Sense* solution proposed by the City’s archivist was to “display it under glass to make sure no one attempts to use *Common Sense* on a daily basis, which could result in more questions than answers.”

It’s not clear if the same *Common Sense* goals and ideals of government hold true today, almost 250 years after Paine’s argument against a government that only pretends to offer reasonable checks and balances against governmental overreach.

Constitutional scholars have



The recently discovered copy of *Common Sense* in question.

gently reminded the Council that a government that works against its citizens is the exact thing Paine was warning about. “Governments that lose sight of *Common Sense* tend to start mistaking authority for purpose,” one expert noted. “And before you know it, people are being fined for re-paving a parking lot without permission.”

Whereas defenders of municipal authority may believe their purpose is to impart the strictest possible interpretation of status quo-maintaining laws upon the taxpaying citizenry, *Common Sense* suggests that the government is but a necessary evil whose foremost role is to serve the greater good of its populace, not to become an intolerable burden upon its own citizens.

Common Sense would suggest that a man who proactively sought and received his

neighbors’ input & support, pays his taxes, and abides by the rules, should be allowed to build what he’s experienced and capable of doing upon his own property without having to face repetitive and oft-refuted government obstruction.

Some even suggest that *Common Sense* calls for the government to assist in achieving the greater good that its citizens have voted in support of, not work against it.

Common Sense states that government inflicting any unnecessary burden upon its citizenry is a great irony, as “when we...are exposed to the same miseries by a government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer.”



MONTESSORI DRIVERS’ ED SCHOOL ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO FIND THEIR OWN RULES OF THE ROAD; FOUR DEAD

WHITE RIVER JCT— A new Drivers’ Education program is embracing the Montessori philosophy of allowing child-led learning, believing that students should explore the road of life at their own pace, with freedom and self-direction.

The Montessori Drivers’ Ed School hopes to inspire a new generation of free-spirited, open-minded drivers that won’t be restricted by society’s ideas of successful driving.

Eager to embark on a journey of self-discovery behind the wheel, many local students upon turning 16 years of age have opted out of traditional drivers educational programs due to the rigorously restrictive approach to learning the rules of the road.

The students, once accustomed to self-directed learning, began debating the necessity of stop signs and speed limits. Some argued for a more “organic” approach to traffic flow, while others advocated for a partial or complete abandonment of the

conventional rules.

Driving Traditionalists are worried about the chaos that might ensue if a generation of young drivers hit the roads without a common understanding of core traffic laws and a standardized exam.

Driver’s Exam proctors riding in the car have decried the decision as “holy shit, please slow down, you can’t just drive in any goddamn lane you want, we have rules for a reason.”

“Please don’t do this,” said the Dept. of Education and National Transportation Safety Board.

Meanwhile, supporters say it is fostering independent thinking and creativity behind the wheel.

As of press time, there had been 37 collisions, countless near-misses, and at least two students electing to drive west into the setting sun in search of something that they can’t possibly hope to learn in the pages of a Driver’s Manual.

INSIDE



IMPROVED CROSSWALK HELPS DARTMOUTH STUDENTS LEARN TO EXPECT SOCIETY TO YIELD TO THEM

> **EDUCATION PAGE 7**



UNSUSPECTING PARENTS NEVER THOUGHT THEIR CHILD WOULD GET HOOKED ON TROMBONE

> **LOCAL PAGE 6**



BLUNDSTONE RENEWS EXCLUSIVE SHOE DEAL WITH VERMONTY MOMS

> **LOCAL PAGE 6**



SCIENTISTS NO CLOSER TO DETERMINING CORRECT QUANTITY OF PIZZA TO ORDER FOR LARGE GROUP

> **SCIENCE PAGE 6**



DEMOCRATS STILL STRUGGLING TO FIGURE OUT WHY KAMALA (SHE/HER) LOST

> **NATIONAL PAGE 6**

“LIVE FREE OR DIE” STATE CAN NOT FIGURE OUT HOW TO REGULATE NON-DEADLY DRUG

In testament to individual liberty, New Hampshire has yet to determine how adult citizens will be allowed to purchase the non-lethal recreational drug now legally available in every abutting State.

CONCORD— The State of New Hampshire— whose proud, fiercely independent, and libertarian-leaning motto “Live Free or Die” adorns their state emblem, commemorative quarter, and license plates— continues to be the only state in all of New England that can’t seem to figure out how to allow their free citizens to legally purchase the non-deadly *cannabis sativa* plant.

In 2017 the State adopted Constitutional Carry, allowing anyone— with no age restriction whatsoever— to openly carry a loaded rifle or handgun in public. This did not require any government inspection, registration, licensing, fee, or permitting requirements, all of which are required in order to own and operate a motor vehicle in the State— a vehicle that you can still freely drive without a seatbelt in NH, the State that has yet to determine the rules for the sale of up to four ounces of marijuana for personal use.

The *Live Free or Die State*, which allows motorcyclists to ride without helmets once they cross the state line, and markets itself as a top



The State expects sales of cannabis related products in “Tax Free New Hampshire” to generate tens of millions of dollars of new tax revenue.

destination for snowmobile and ATV rental businesses— where one can drive in excess of 40mph with little more than a YouTube instructional video and a signed release form— retains the strictest rules and regulations regarding the sale and use of pot in the the Northeast United States.

The business-friendly state has

> **BUSINESS PAGE 6**

PAPER STRAW HELPS REDUCE RISK OF ENJOYING DRINK

> **FOOD, PAGE 5**

ANTIQUE PEOPLE ATTEND ANTIQUE SHOW

> **LOCAL, PAGE 5**

DAD STILL CALLS IT FOODSTOP

> **LOCAL, PAGE 6**

LYIN’ CHEATIN’ EX TALKS WAY BACK INTO WHITE HOUSE

> **POLITICS, PAGE 7**

LOCAL PLACE BAD

> **LOCAL, PAGE 9**

FREE

Cloudish 100%

UVOBSERVER.COM

WHATABOUTISM VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OPENS AFTER ELEVEN YEARS OF COMMUNITY INPUT, PLANNING APPROVALS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS

Named after the public approval process that took over a decade for the developer to navigate; critics of the project say the housing is not affordable enough

NEAR DOWNTOWN– Named in honor of the planning process that caused over a decade of regulatory delays to construct damn near exactly what the Builder had told them they were going to build in the first place, *Whataboutism Village* is the newest residential development to open in the Upper Valley.

What about the 16 units of new housing was seen as controversial is confusing to experts, given the well-publicized shortage of housing in the Upper Valley that has only gotten worse since the project was first proposed in 2014. “What about if there’s too much traffic?” asked one resident

of the abutting neighborhood, who said he didn’t want more traffic on the public street through his area.

“What about if there’s not enough traffic?” asked a local shopkeeper, worried that without an increase in visitors to his storefront, he may have to close-up shop.

“What about having more local shops instead of housing,” asked a local citizen who didn’t want more housing in her neighborhood.

“What about if the residents decide to have a holiday party and invite all 10 Lords a Leaping– where is everyone going to park?” asked neighbors who might be invited to the party, or not.



The finished product will look materially the same as this initial rendering that was provided at the outset, but only after incurring significant additional costs.

“What about making the rental rate cheaper,” asked one Planning Board member, ignoring that the rental rate is a result of costs of construction, capital and maintenance and not a discretionary value merely picked out of a hat independent of Economics 101.

“What about making the units affordable enough for people we want to live here, but not affordable for the type of people we don’t want to live here?” asked a neighbor, saying the quiet part out loud. “What about these new homes makes them more

expensive than the ones I rent out?” asked one Board member. “What about this is so hard to understand?” the developer remarked, “the only way anyone could build the units at that price is if you’d let me build them back in 2014 when the project was first proposed.”

PROJECT TIMELINE

- July 2018**
Review Board requires another traffic study in case traffic had increased while previous study was printing.
- March 2019**
DPW orders 3rd party study to determine if water flows downhill on this parcel.
- April 2020**
Covid-19 provides the Board with a welcome break from seeing each-other in person
- August 2021**
Neighbor asks if there is any poison ivy; Consultants spend two months drafting poison ivy mitigation plan.
- June-July 2022**
Two meetings are spent discussing the appropriateness of wind chimes on porches.
- February 2024**
The building permit is revoked by the Department because they felt like it.

TODAY IN ENVIRONMENT



PLANNING DEPARTMENT RETROACTIVELY CITES FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT’S FALLINGWATER FOR IMPROPER SETBACK FROM WETLAND

Zoning Officials determined that the “improperly sited” 1939 home listed on the *U.S. National Register of Historic Places* had been built without obtaining the necessary permits and would have to go through the Minor Site Plan Approval process to rectify the “obvious violations.” Officials hope that bringing the property back into compliance would provide the owner with the opportunity to replace the cantilevered concrete and untraditional fenestration with something “more in keeping with the character of the neighborhood.” The owners must conduct a new traffic study as the previous traffic engineer had clearly failed to appropriately account for how many vehicle trips the offending structure would generate.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION VOTES THAT YOU DON’T TOUCH THAT, LEAVE THAT ALONE

The 9-member Commission convened a special meeting last night to tell you– you specifically– that you shouldn’t even be asking if you can touch that, and they would prefer it if you would just put it back exactly the way you found it.

DEVOUT VEGAN CATCHES DEER IN HER GARDEN, SLOWLY STRANGLES IT TO DEATH BEHIND SHED

An outspoken herbivore and horticulturist, upon discovering a deer had broken into her enclosed and meticulously maintained garden, again, and destroyed her day-lilies and rhododendrons, again, quietly took one of god’s precious creatures just out of eyesight, where she whispered “good night sweet girl!” over the last gurgling breaths of the suffocating doe.

DOG LISTSERV’D FOR BEING DOG

A local dog was publicly shamed on the community listserv for being a bad dog, despite just doing what dogs do.

ELSEWHERE

DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE BIGGEST ASSHOLE ABOARD THE MAYFLOWER OPPOSED TO IMMIGRATION

CAPE COD, MA— Tucker Langmore, a 16th generation descendant of Edmund James Langmore, the most obnoxious Pilgrim aboard the *Mayflower* whom other passengers oft considered throwing overboard during their 66-day sea voyage to the New World, has taken an outspoken stance against those presently seeking to immigrate to the United States.

“What hath we done to deserve this asshole in the new world?”

Among the accounts in the ship’s logbook of hardship and camaraderie aboard the three-masted, square-rigged sailing ship, there are numerous references to the Langmores being the most contentious and troublesome among the 3crew and 102 Pilgrims aboard. “What hath we done to deserve this asshole aboard,” remarked one unidentified sailor. Tucker, the present day Day



The ship that many passengers would have been okay with sinking to the bottom of the great ocean if it meant silencing the Langmore family’s constant complaints about Spanish-speaking conquistadors.

Trader and self-proclaimed “thought leader” among the anti-immigrant community on social media, lives in the basement of his family estate– on the same plot of land overlooking the Massachusetts coastline that his 15th great grandfather stole from the Wampanoag Tribe after

crossing the border without any documentation. Langmore recently posted that he wished immigrants entering the U.S. would “go back where they came from,” a sentiment that has been shared by the Langmore family’s neighbors for over 400 years.

VERMONT

DHMC Study: Norwich Citizens Suffer Highest Rates of Arthritis Due To Excessive Hand-Wringing

British Cartographic Society Adopts “Minutes From Dan + Whit’s” As Official Measure Of Distance

Bowling Alley Somehow Got Your Email Address And You Get Their Newsletter Now

Town’s Internet Commenters Convene To Form A More Perfect Government

Hartford Citizens Successfully Reduce Number Of Housing Units In Proposed Homeless Shelter

VTrans, NH DOT Issue Joint Guidance On How To Safely Cut Off Out Of State Drivers Who Think They Own Whole Goddamn Road

Townpeople Object To Town Manager Being Paid Enough To Put Up With Them

Mom Out Of Very Specific Dairy Product Only She Likes

NEW HAMPSHIRE

DPW Fails To Dig Hole Deep Enough To Hide Evidence

Coffee Place Doesn’t Open Until 9am

Take-out Order Buckled Into Car-Seat With More Care Than Child

Man Going To Be Late Because Every Asshole In Front Of Him Insisting On Driving Speed Limit

Closure Of Thetford-Lyme Bridge Proves That Lyme Residents Can’t Actually Walk On Water

Solar Panel Approval Process Requires Four Trees Worth Of Paperwork

Regional Labor Shortage Leaves Horny Housewives Waiting Months For Pool Boy, Pizza Delivery Guy

Teacher’s Pet Appointed To School Board

Town Planners Experiment With New Way To Make Traffic Worse

Lesser Grocery Store Has Better Snacks

OBITUARIES + DEATH NOTICES

GREAT VERMONTER DONE GONE AND DIED ON US



Locals report that Jeezum Hubert Crow, an all-around great guy who everybody ‘round here loved having ‘round these parts, went and kicked the bucket. Born a long time ago and loved by locals and flatlanders alike, he was known for doing so much for everyone in town, and for those who live up in the hills.

As for the cause of death... well, it’s hard tellin’ not knowin’ say kinfolk, but sources report the even the doctor that tried to fix him was all broken up about it.

A bunch of out-of-staters made it up for the memorial service, and that big deal politician fella even came back up to say some nice words about him.

Jeezum’s half-brother from Latin America Jesús F. Cristó and his nephew sweet baby Jesús were unable to attend the service in light of the current political climate. Townspeople expect that his close friend Jiminy Christmas will take over Crow’s seasonal responsibilities.

Family and friends remarked that although his soul has departed to where you can’t get to from here, they’ll remember him fondly whenever they go upta camp.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you head downta the good fishing hole and crack a cold one in his honor.

READER’S CHOICE AWARDS

- BEST PIZZA**
C&A’s Pizza, *Hanover*
- BEST LIQUOR STORE**
The Jug Store, *Norwich*
- BEST TACOS**
Lalo’s, *Lebanon*
- BEST ICE CREAM**
Jean’s, *West Lebanon*
- BEST GIFT SHOP**
Artifactory, *West Lebanon*
- BEST BAGELS**
Bagel Basement, *Hanover*
- BEST FOR ALMOST ALL FISH**
Everything But Anchovies, *Hanover*
- BEST BOOKSTORE**
The Dartmouth Bookstore, *Hanover*
- BEST BREWERY NEAR AIRPORT**
Seven Barrel Brewery, *West Lebanon*
- BEST CHINESE FOOD**
The Panda House, *Hanover*
- BEST BOWLING ALLEY+ STRIP-CLUB**
Shenanigans, *White River Junction*
- BEST PLACE TO EAT IN A BASEMENT**
5 Olde Nugget Alley, *Hanover*
- BEST COLLEGE SUPPLIES**
College Supplies, *Hanover*
- BEST COLLEGE**
Lebanon College, *Lebanon*

IT IS CLASSIFIED

- HOME BACK ON MARKET**
Still priced like it isn’t haunted. Call (802) 526-9151
- OLD PICK-UP TRUCK**
Starts, runs, drives, hopefully stops. Call (802) 526-9151
- CHILDREN’S DRESSER**
Was in neighbor’s yard marked FREE, now in my yard marked \$25. Call (802) 526-9151
- 4 SNOW TIRES FOR TOYOTA TACOMA**
Please do not lecture me about internal combustion engines like the people on the listserv. I just want these tires out of my garage. Call (802) 526-9151
- TANDEM KAYAK**
Must sell to pay for divorce. Call (802) 526-9151
- TESLA CYBERTRUCK**
Tired of everyone making fun of me behind my back. Call (802) 526-9151
- LARGE HAVAHEART TRAP**
Used multiple times, went lethal. Call (802) 526-9151
- THING I THOUGHT I NEEDED, BUT DIDN’T**
Will consider trades for thing you really want but turns out you don’t use as much as you originally thought you would. Call (802) 526-9151

PUBLIC NOTICES

- CITY TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL \$4-MILLION FOR BRIDGE FOR NON-EXISTENT TRAINS**
The failing bridge spanning a remnant, sporadically used rail line spur is to be built to twice the width and height necessary for the single remaining rail customer to travel under on the dead-end route.
- CITY TO PAY FOR REPAIRS TO BRIDGE TO MAKE IT SAFE ENOUGH FOR DEMOLITION**
The City will allocate an unknown amount of money to make repairs to a bridge on a state-highway over a state-owned rail-line into a state-owned rail-yard. The bridge will soon be torn-down and replaced, if the City gets permission from the State.
- CITY TO PROACTIVELY SPEND \$1.5-MILLION TO NOT ATTRACT INVESTMENT UP BY AIRPORT**
An allocation of taxpayer funds toward the proactive construction of infrastructure to attract new life science research and development companies up by the Airport has so far successfully landed a rool rental company on adjacent land not owned by the City, and earned \$513 in taxes.
- CITY TO SPEND OVER \$24-MILLION ON ONE FIRE STATION INSTEAD OF CENTRAL STATION**
Instead of spending \$3.1 million for the old car dealership with big bay doors that could have been turned into a Central Fire Station, the City

- has elected to spend \$24+ million to replace one station, and leave other stations as-is. The old car dealership will become a Casino, resulting in more calls for Fire/EMS service.
- CITY TO SPEND \$1.8M ON MAIN STREET PROPERTIES WITH NO PLAN**
The City will purchase three buildings on Main Street ostensibly for a fire station, but then decide against building a fire station. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for redevelopment will receive zero responses. Local businesses and long-time residents will move out, eliminating any income from the property and adding to the carrying costs paid by the taxpayers.
- CITY TO PROPOSE CUTTING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY AND PARKS & REC DEPARTMENT TO OFFSET BAD PLANNING DECISIONS**
Significant financial cuts to two popular civic institutions will be proposed to address budget increases resulting from decades of bad decisions and bloated bureaucracy.
- CITY TO REQUEST WAIVER FROM CITY’S OWN EV CHARGING REQUIREMENTS**
A residential project being done on City property requested a full waiver from the City’s own recently adopted electric vehicle charging requirements. The conditions deemed “too burdensome” will continue being imposed upon new developments.

The UV Observer is a satirical regional newspaper serving the Upper Valley of VT/NH. Published Occasionally. More: www.uvobserver.com

EDITORIAL

Everything Is Going Great, And I’m Sure Everyone Is Trying Their Best

by our visibly concussed Editorial Columnist

When I woke up this morning to a beautiful sunrise, I had to close the shades as I’m very light-sensitive since being kicked in the head by a 17-hand thoroughbred chestnut horse.

This is the newspaper I write for, correct? It’s hard to tell, I’m not really supposed to look at screens until my left retina re-attaches.

The competent Doctors at the well-run Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital say I have a *Grade III* Concussion with a depressed skull fracture– ouchie!

But I’m not going to let that stop me from writing about goings-on in the Upper Valley that I cannot attend while on bed-rest. Feeling grateful!

As my wife drove me home on smooth, well-maintained roads with very little traffic to speak of, I was struck by what a great job our municipal services have been doing.

Once the vertigo subsides and I can walk without losing my balance I’m going to march right downtown to demand that they be acknowledged for their commitment to civil service.

Over the constant ringing in my ears I heard that the new Town Administrator was running things at Town Hall exactly the way I would have hoped he would. No notes!

While resting-up at home I’ve been very encouraged by what I’ve been able to read in the news in quick, three-minute increments between headaches.

From what I can see through this double-vision, everyone out there seems to be doing the best they can in navigating the inherent challenges of daily life.

The world appears very equitable, and I was so pleased to hear through my good ear that more new people are moving to town. Just met a couple from New York City, neat!

I wouldn’t change a thing.



MEDITATION TAKING TOO FUCKING LONG

Attempt to achieve higher state of consciousness sure taking its sweet goddamn time this morning.

A CALM, PEACEFUL, AND HAPPY PLACE– Complaining that he had shit to do today and didn’t have all friggin’ morning to sit here taking stock of his breath and allowing the rhythm of the universe to guide his path in life, a local man attempting to complete a 15-minute Morning Affirmation meditation didn’t know it was going to feel like it would take all damn day.

Seated peacefully cross-legged in a serene, outdoor location removed from the distractions and frenetic pace of every day life, and having found his center by closing his eyes, adjusting his posture into alignment with the earth, grounding himself in the physical and metaphysical present, and using long, smooth breaths in through his nose and out through his mouth to fill and release from the center of

his being, the man could swear he felt a tick crawling on him.

Approaching the brink of achieving a state of alert, focused relaxation by deliberately paying attention to thoughts and sensations without judgment, and listening to a pre-recorded guided meditation “*Ask yourself: what is important in my life today?*” by a guide named “CHAKRA,” his iPhone quietly alerted him that he was late.

Upon re-entering a state of conscious awareness and acknowledging that every day is a new day and represents an opportunity to move beyond whatever had occurred in the past, let everything that is... just be... and determine how to pursue this one true day that was his to do with what he may, he received notification that his 8:30 Zoom was starting without him.

PAST DECISIONS REMEMBERED, REPEATED

HINDSIGHT FROM PAGE 4

region’s growth,” said the city of approximately 15,000 that benefits from municipal water and sewerage that can support the residential and commercial growth necessary to meet the needs of a growing City at the crossroads of two major interstates, and which serves as the regional center of industry, commerce, and retail.

“It’s time for housing to go elsewhere,” said City leadership, which regional planners note would mean the municipality wouldn’t gain property tax value from the thousands of people who currently commute to the City for work each day, utilize city services, and then drive home without paying taxes to the City.

“We have enough traffic already” said the planning department that had developed, defended, and over-zealously enforced exclusionary zoning

policies that intentionally separated residential and commercial uses, all but requiring citizens to drive to every errand of their day.

“This city can’t take any more growth” said members of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, which had recently commissioned studies seeking to limit further development to retain the rural character of the 15,000 person municipality.

However, the results of those independent analyses empirically demonstrated that the City has sufficient land, water, and sewer capacity to support considerably more growth while still balancing the inherent impacts on the natural environment.

“We don’t want more density,” said a Board Member, seeming to

City to persist doing things the way they always have, despite all evidence to the contrary

willfully ignore the decades of studies, nationwide best practices, and examples from throughout the world that dense development downtown is a better solution than the

alternative result of sprawling single family homes and subdivisions, that which could not be supported with municipal services without contributing to more to the municipal maintenance deficit.

“Our children don’t have enough recreation spaces and outdoor opportunities” said chair of the Conservation Commission, which voted against the expansion of trails and playing fields on public land behind a strip-mall.

“We need to maintain a natural buffer between the river and the box stores,” said the Chair, in reference to the corridor

of tertiary growth, invasive species, and trash atop the man-made riverbank full of sewer and natural gas infrastructure, where a contiguous trail network along the river was required of property owners but the City has failed to enforce and denied requests to re-establish as an accessible river front trail.

“Developers have failed to build sufficient housing to meet the demands of the region,” said the Planning Director responsible for limiting housing development through outdated zoning, burdensome conditions, and egotistical enforcement.

In response to the housing crisis– and instead of addressing the policies that continue to lead to adverse results– the City plans to build affordable housing itself, but has yet to determine how much it would cost to construct the housing units, how much they would sell for, or why it is so difficult to navigate the approval process.

POLICE BLOTTER

NORWICH
The person responsible for the King Arthur Café layout was sentenced to 15 years of waiting to go to prison.

A driver who voted to fully fund the Police Department was immediately pulled over by the new officer in town.

LEBANON
Four were injured when the Zoning Enforcement SWAT

Team raided the wrong property under the cover of darkness.

LYME – E. THETFORD
A corrupt N.H. DOT worker made a goddamn killing running an illegal ferry during bridge construction.

LYME
A long-time resident was taken to court for not maintaining their own yard

to the aesthetic satisfaction of citizens who have someone who maintains their yard for them.

The cop is right there by the school again, so slow down on your way into town.

BRADFORD
A reported breaking and entering was just a man not from around here trying to shop at Farm-Way on Sunday.

HANOVER
The town passed a new by-law that prevents people who drive with small dogs in their lap from being allowed to vote in future elections.

A Pediatric ENT doctor filed a restraining order against other parents asking her to take a quick peek at their kid’s ears, nose, or throat while she was in attendance at youth sporting events.

CAR & DRIVER

NEW LAW WOULD LEGALIZE THROWING ROCKS SMALLER THAN A NICKEL AT CYBERTRUCKS

MAN DRIVING OVER LEDYARD BRIDGE WILL HAVE TO CALL YOU RIGHT BACK

NEW LAW WOULD LEGALIZE THROWING ROCKS SMALLER THAN A NICKEL AT CYBERTRUCKS

MAN DRIVING OVER LEDYARD BRIDGE WILL HAVE TO CALL YOU RIGHT BACK

Town Council should do what works for me, not the decision they’ve made following careful analysis of the issue

While giving a cursory read of a recent article about an issue I sort of understand I was shocked that our volunteer civic leaders are prepared to vote in favor of a solution that doesn’t match my partially-informed knee-jerk reaction. Shame on them!

As a life-long resident of this town, my half-baked opinion should matter more than those who have willingly invested their time analyzing this issue.

John Sanderson
Canaan

Only my house should be allowed in this town

This neighborhood is not big enough for more than one house, and since I already live in it, no one else should be allowed to build near here.

Anne Marie Bastrop
Canaan

Please vote for the candidate who talked me into writing this

I urge all citizens of this town to vote for the candidate who cornered me at a dinner party last weekend to ask me to write this Letter to the Editor on their behalf.

I already told them that they have my vote, but they’ve asked me to publicly parade my

support for them like I’m some sort of community influencer.

Adam Nelson
Canaan

I’m an uninformed nutjob, and you have to print this letter

I’m a political wackadoodle who submits batshit crazy and conspiratorial letters each week based on widely disproven theories trumpeted to me by cable news, Facebook, and my uncle Doug. And you have to read them alongside the well researched and written letters because this is America and I have found a loophole in the public discourse.

Bill Thompson
Canaan

Vladimir Putin probably reads a lot of regional newspapers and this letter is going to change his mind

The intractable international political conflict I’m writing about is very troubling, and I must voice my opinion and suggest a potential solution (that experts have likely already considered and rejected) by submitting it here: the Forum section of a regional New England newspaper with a circulation of under 20,000 readers. Surely during his review of local periodicals, this 85 word observation will finally move the needle.

Betty Sherry
Canaan

TODAY IN FOOD + BEVERAGE



YELP RANKS DAY-OLD-SUSHI FROM A GAS STATION AS 7TH BEST LUNCH OPTION IN THE UPPER VALLEY

> DINING PAGE 6



TRADITIONAL CUISINE OF NEW JERSEY DIASPORA OPENS NEXT TO VAPE SHOP

> DINING PAGE 6



MOLLY’S NAMED BEST SPOT WHEN YOU CAN’T THINK OF ANYWHERE ELSE BUT DON’T FEEL LIKE COOKING TONIGHT

> DINING PAGE 6



ENTIRE RAMUNTOS FULL OF DADS WHOSE WIVES ARE OUT OF TOWN

> DINING PAGE 6



REPORT: CAULIFLOWER BEING ASKED TO DO TOO MUCH

> DINING PAGE 6



WEATHERVANE SEAGULLS, NEW CAR WASH NEXT-DOOR, FORM SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

> DINING PAGE 6

TODAY IN HEALTH



LOCAL PHARMACIST KEEPS CONDOMS BEHIND COUNTER SO SHE CAN KEEP TABS ON WHO FUCKIN’

> HEALTH PAGE 6



DRIVE-THRU MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC OFFERS A PILLOW YOU CAN SCREAM INTO FOR \$5 ON THE WAY TO WORK

> HEALTH PAGE 6



DARTMOUTH HEALTH CEO WONDERS ALOUD IF THEY COULD SAVE MONEY BY DROPPING ANESTHESIOLOGY

> HEALTH PAGE 6

CAR & DRIVER



NEW LAW WOULD LEGALIZE THROWING ROCKS SMALLER THAN A NICKEL AT CYBERTRUCKS

> ROAD PAGE 6



MAN DRIVING OVER LEDYARD BRIDGE WILL HAVE TO CALL YOU RIGHT BACK

> ROAD PAGE 6



CAR SECRETLY LIKES IT WHEN YOU RUB WET FINGERTIP ON ITS BACKUP CAMERA

> ROAD PAGE 6



HARTFORD FINALLY PAINTS NEW BIKE LANE IN MIDDLE OF I-89

> ROAD PAGE 6



MAN WHO NEEDS TO GET STONED, GET WINDSHIELD FIXED, CAN’T BELIEVE HIS LUCK

> ROAD PAGE 6

CITY DISPROVES THEORY THAT HINDSIGHT IS ALWAYS 20/20

Little benefit to be gained from focusing on, learning from, past actions and decisions that failed say City Staff.

CITY HALL– City officials stood in front of the City Hall building that was recently renovated for the second time in seven years to announce that they were going to stubbornly persist in doing things the way they’ve always done things, despite decades of evidence suggesting that they shouldn’t.

The City faces sky-rocketing taxes due to 30 years of anti-growth policies that choked out net-positive smart growth to expand the tax base, annual increases in water and sewer fees and debt service to offset the \$70+ million in municipal debt the City incurred after rejecting Federal Funding to pay for 50% of the cost of storm-water separation in a short-sighted effort to block new development. The stagnant downtown

Lack of interest in, desire to learn from, past mistakes “troubling” say political scientists



resulting from a misguided decision to re-route traffic away from the historic center was followed by a series of planning efforts over the course of decades that cost over \$500,000 in analysis alone but never seemed to amount to anything. Despite sufficient evidence to establish that what they have

done in the past hasn’t worked, the City appears content to keep doin’ as it’s doing.” The City vows to continue ignoring the advice of land use experts that the City and State government have themselves contracted (at taxpayer expense), to study: the economic impact and tax revenue implications of smart growth, the City’s sufficient infrastructure capacity for additional growth while

maintaining more open space and conservation land than any comparable municipality in the State; and the procedural barriers to housing creation resultant from existing land-use policies, all which illustrate the often unintentional but nonetheless adverse outcomes of past policy decisions. “We are tired of taking on the

> **HINDSIGHT PAGE 3**



CITY OFFICIALS SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND CITY FROM PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

Proposal faulted for not aligning with policies that have failed to produce improvements for years.

CITY HALL– Municipal employees met with the City’s legal counsel at an unscheduled meeting Friday– the day City Hall is now closed for business– to formulate their legal strategy to prevent a proposed improvement that could help revitalize the downtown area. In what the

City Manager is calling a “near miss,” a taxpayer had suggested doing things differently than the way the City does things, resulting in the City taking emergency inaction.

The proposal called for a mixture of housing, jobs, public trails, regional transit, and open space that– if built– would

have made significant tax contributions that could help pay for other proposed City improvements. The multiple Attorneys hired by the City to defend against private investment in the improvement attended the meeting, at a combined cost of \$700/hour, which will be paid for by the taxpayers who had voted overwhelmingly in favor of the improvement. Citizens note that the City’s way “hasn’t improved anything noticeably for 30 years,” and “god forbid they get out of the way of attempted progress.”

> **DEFENDED PAGE 5**

CITY AMENDS CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR SHOOTING MESSENGER

City officials granted expanded legal authority to blame the bearer of bad news

CITY HALL– Despite statutory protections shielding citizens from retaliatory actions by government officials, the City Council has taken a bold step forward—or perhaps backward—by voting unanimously (9-0) to grant the City Manager the authority to direct his staff to dispose of any resident audacious enough to voice concerns about municipal malfeasance. “We have a way of doing things, and citizens pointing out that our way is demonstrably not working isn’t helping anything,” explained officials. Legal scholars and constitutional experts were quick to point out that this decision



not only deviates from over 260 years of democratic tradition but also blatantly disregards the basic rights of the citizenry. Under the newly adopted subsection 6.6 (C) 1.b, citizens who dare to raise concerns about bureaucratic incompetence, ineffective policies, or the city’s apparent disdain for taxpayer interests may now “have their property rights taken away or be executed by firing squad.” City representatives assured the public that the language is “intentionally vague to allow us to enforce it how we see fit.”

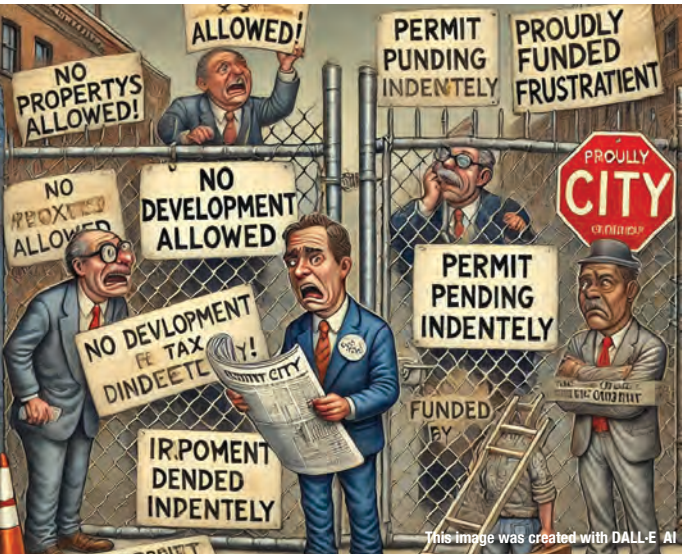
We’re a city that values diverse perspectives, as long as they’re the right perspectives.

Concerned residents have questioned whether this violates the city’s own *Welcoming City Ordinance*, which prohibits discrimination based on “political opinion or activity.” The Council voted 9-0 to clarify that the ordinance applies only to opinions they agree with. The Council closed the meeting by approving an initiative to promote civic engagement and encourage residents to be “active participants in their local government.”

> **CHARTER PAGE 6**

CITY THAT DEPENDS ALMOST ENTIRELY UPON PROPERTY TAXES TO FUND CITY BUDGET TAKES WEIRD PRIDE IN MAKING IT HARD TO GROW TAX BASE

CITY HALL– The chronically underfunded municipality that has seen an exponential rise in property taxes and infrastructure fees, which have stretched taxpayers to their limits, continues to take a weird delight in making it unnecessarily difficult for taxpaying property owners attempting to invest in the City. Known regionally for having cumbersome regulations for new development, the City continues to take a perverse pride in appearing to work against its own economic self-interests. Recently, proposed economic development projects that appear to adhere to the City’s numerous taxpayer-funded studies are subjected to recurrent bureaucratic processes that discourage investment, costing the developer and City money.



Exasperated experts note that those improvements would in turn yield additional tax revenue, to help offset the City’s debt and spending. Developers rarely opt to build a second project in town, and

many property owners accept that doing nothing is the logical alternative when faced with a City unwilling to work toward its own economic best interest.

> **TAXES PAGE 6**

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

Exhibitionist Taxpayers Like It When People Watch Them Get Screwed By City
Citizens attending a recent budget meeting expressed a perverse joy in knowing that anyone could be watching online as they were getting publicly screwed by their municipality. “The more they bend me over to take more money from my wallet, the more I want everyone in the community to see it,” said one recipient of the City’s enormous tax increase. Free videos of the City going deeper, deeper into debt can be found on the titillating website www.civicplus.com.

City To Receive New Planning Director In Trade For DPW Administrator And Assistant To Be Named Later In 3-City Deal
The intricacies of the deal, dubbed the “Tri-City Talent Exchange,” involve parting ways with a veteran DPW Staffer and an Administrative Assistant to be named later. In return, the City receives a seasoned Planning Director that Municipality fans hope isn’t a bust like the last one.

City Rules City Rules Rule City
Following an appeal that exposed how the City wasn’t following the rule book that

the City itself wrote, the City ruled that the City should follow the City’s rules. “It just doesn’t seem productive in any way whatsoever, for us to just make up new rules as we go,” said the City. “Also, if our Rules aren’t clear, or they aren’t achieving the goals of the City, we should probably figure out how make them easier on the Citizens we’re here to serve.” Staff intend to file an appeal.

City Sets Out To Solve Housing Affordability Crisis It Helped Cause
In an effort to overcome decades of housing policies that resulted in a significant underdevelopment of housing, the City has initiated an effort

to overcome the barriers to housing it has created. The City hopes to make up for the hundreds of additional housing units that were proposed over the years, but failed to navigate the overtly restrictive zoning and notoriously burdensome approval process, and by law of supply/demand.

Chagrined City Planners Admit They Installed Roundabout Upside-down
Staff admit that in their excitement to install a traffic circle like they’d seen in other cities, they had inverted the engineering plans and built the roundabout in conflict with the flow of vehicular traffic. The

planners had previously designed a drive-thru coffee shop that required drivers to get out of their car and walk around to the passenger side to get their order.

City Employee Who Gets Paid By Taxpayers No Matter What Can’t Believe You’re Frustrated By Their Repeat Actions To Prevent Your Business From Succeeding
A long-term municipal employee who faces zero repercussions for their actions and whose salary and fully-vested pension is taxpayer-funded, was surprised to hear that you’re frustrated by their subjective decisions, needless

actions, and ongoing delays that were intended to prevent your family business from succeeding.

City Attorney Patiently Explains That Planning Dept. Doesn’t Regulate 1st Amendment
After being interrupted by Staff on the second slide of the Powerpoint presentation entitled *Free Speech Protections for Satire under the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution*, the City’s outside counsel explained that just because a Staff member doesn’t personally like something or someone, it doesn’t allow them to exert authority they don’t have in an effort to stop it.

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