

**WDEV-AM**\_\_\_\_  
**WDEV-FM**\_\_\_\_

**WEXP-FM**\_\_\_\_

**WCVT-FM**\_\_\_\_  
**WLVB-FM**\_\_\_\_

## **Programs & Issues List** The Radio Vermont Group

3rd Quarter 2023

**July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Following is a list of major topic areas to be addressed in our news and public affairs coverage. Different items may be substituted depending upon current news events unforeseen at the outset of this quarter.

Examples of specific stories are given to help you identify if the topic fits the issue category.

Issue 1:       **Immediate Flood Response**

Issue 2:       **Flood Recovery Effort**

Issue 3:       **Vermont State University changes**

Issue 4:       **'Green' Programs**

Issue 5:       **EB-5 Scandal**

**WDEV-FM and AM**



## Programs and Issues – 2023

The Programs and Issues in this file are “representative” of our news and public affairs efforts – but do not fully demonstrate the breadth of our reporting and our commitment to “live” local and relevant radio. Below is a summary of some of our major regularly scheduled broadcast efforts.

### **Monday-Friday:**

Radio VT News provides extended coverage of local, state and regional news:

6:05am – 7:05am – 8:05am – 12:05pm – 4:05pm – 5:05pm

Each Newscasts is 5 to 10-minutes in length and features a variety of reports.

At 7:30AM Mon-Fri – The Morning Briefing: 10-mins of World & National News

**The Morning News Service airs from 7-9am** – two full hours of news, weather, sports, travel updates, commentary, interviews, plus studio and phone guests. WDEV employs our own forecaster Roger Hill who details the micro-climate of the region while watching major national weather stories and climate change. The MNS is produced by Radio Vermont News with additional world and national updates from CBS Radio News.

Radio Vermont News has developed reporter relations with WCAX-TV Channel 3 News. Monday-Friday reporter Alexandra Montgomery joins the Morning News Service with a “live” interactive update to explore stories in much greater depth than available from wire service reports.

In our “Conversation with the Editor” series, we discuss major stories from some of Vermont’s most respected weekly newspapers:

Monday: The News & Citizen (Morrisville) – Tommy Gardner, Reporter

Tuesday: The Chronicle of Orleans County (Newport) - John Flowers, Reporter

Wednesday: The Valley Reporter (Waitisfield) –Erica Nichols-Frazier, Reporter

Thursday: The Gazette (Hardwick) – Ray Small, Publisher & Editor

Friday: The Herald (Randolph) – Tim Calabro, Publisher

### **Vermont Viewpoint: 9-11am**

This is our newsmaker public affairs interview program that provides detailed analysis of the news plus a Vermont perspective on world events. His guests are varied and represent a wide spectrum. During the legislative session, The program originates direct from the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier (Fridays and during special event days). The program also goes mobile for events such as the Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO, the Tunbridge World’s Fair and other gatherings.



**The Midday News Service: Noon-1PM**

An hour-long update of the very latest news, business report, sports, weather and a variety of human interest features. This is the most comprehensive lunchtime news hour of any Vermont radio station. With the “Special Assignment” section, Radio VT News often delivers lengthy segments of news conferences or legislative debate. We are committed to providing our listeners with more than a “sound bite” service.

**The Afternoon News Service: 4-5:30PM**

The very latest news developments, sports and weather, perfect for the drive home. Special updated reports on the day’s breaking news stories with Calvin Cutler from WCAX-TV News around 4:05PM and at 5:05PM, VT Digger.org reports – the state’s leading on-line investigative news site.

Waterbury Roundabout (Monday) – Lisa Scagliotti, Editor

Seven Days (Tuesday) – Courtney Lamdin, Reporter

Vermont Business Magazine (Wednesday)—Tim McQuiston, Editor

Stowe Reporter (Thursday) – Tom Gardner, Reporter

Times-Argus (Friday) – Steve Pappas, Editor

**Saturday Morning:**

Similar to weekdays, WDEV is “live and local” with updated news reports including the Morning News Service from 7-8am. This hour also features “For the Birds” a program dedicated to watching and listening to birds; “The Green Mountain Club” report – with opportunities to explore VT outdoors and take advantage of guided and organized hikes around the state.

**Sunday Morning:**

At 6:00AM, WDEV airs CBS Radio Sunday Morning, and “The Takeout with Majhor Garrett”, a weekly news magazine show. National and International issues are explored in-depth with a variety of reporters and guests.

WDEV airs Red Sox Baseball, Norwich D3 Hockey, NASCAR racing, local stock car racing and high school basketball (boys & girls) regular-season and championship games. WDEV provide “Team Coverage” of every Town Meeting Day (March) plus coverage of Primary and General Election nights.

WDEV also carried live coverage of Governor Phil Scott’s Flood Response News Conferences.





New Text Document

Vermont state leaders gathered Thursday to celebrate the official kickoff of Vermont State University.

Castleton University, Northern Vermont University-Johnson and Lyndon, and Vermont Tech have all combined under one name.

Sophie Zdatny, chancellor of the Vermont State College System was among the leaders of the newly formed Vermont State University. *on hand in Montpelier*

(070723SOT Sophie Zdatny)

The state colleges have faced years of declining enrollments and financial challenges. The unification aims to give the schools an attractive new brand, while allowing consolidation of programs and also maintaining individual campuses ~~so critical to local economies.~~

Chittenden County Democrat Progressive Senator Phil Baruth blamed the decline of the state colleges on chronic underfunding from the Legislature, making the Vermont schools less competitive with similar institutions in other states.

(070723SOT Phil Baruth)

Governor Phil Scott did not sound overly confident in the plan.

(070723SOT Phil Scott 3)

In exchange for 200 million dollars in additional state support, the state colleges have agreed to cut spending by \$5 million a year for five years.

Interim President Mike Smith says he will be stepping down in November after seeing VSU through the critical opening months.





## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Friday ANS - 9/22/2023 › B5 VSU Cuts

### Versions

2. 9/22/2023 4:23:01 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:32

00:00:32 at  characters per second

Vermont State University officials are examining the university's programs to find cost savings, raising the possibility of cuts to certain degree programs in the future.

It's not yet clear how many programs will be affected by the initiative. But Vermont State University interim President Mike Smith tells V-T Digger layoffs are possible.

Vermont State University has spent the past five years in a state of near-constant transformation.

In July, state officials inaugurated Vermont State University -- an institution created through the merger of Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College.

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 5 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT      RVNN-7AM      RVNN-8AM     

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- ( ) On-Location Report(s) ( ) Weekly Reporter \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

## Untitled

Vermont State University on Friday announced the selection of its latest president, David Bergh, who is tasked with trying to bring the struggling school to financial stability.

Bergh is a 20-year veteran of the Vermont State Colleges System and was most recently the president at Cazenovia College, a former independent college in New York.

He takes over from Mike Smith, who was appointed interim president after the sudden resignation of Parwinder Grewal in February.

It also comes as Vermont State College System Chancellor Sophie Zdatny announced her departure last week.

The recently merged and rebranded university has faced a drop in enrollment and rising costs over the past decade.

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The Legislature two years ago handed out a \$70 million lifeline and raised the annual base appropriation. To get that funding, the school must find \$5 million in savings over each of the next five years.

The school is still working out of a deficit that currently sits at \$17 million. Smith last month told WCAX the path forward is to target the 45% of Vermont high school grads who don't go to college, being more available for nontraditional students, and investing in programs that each campus is known for.

The school last week announced that despite an expected 15% drop in new enrollments, they had met their enrollment targets this year.





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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Tuesday ANS - 9/25/2023 › B22 EV Charger Money Grab

00:00:34 at  characters per second

The Vermont Agency of Transportation will apply for federal money to repair and replace broken and non-operational electric vehicle chargers to try to improve the reliability of existing EV charging infrastructure throughout the state.

Under the Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator federal program, \$100 million is available nationwide for existing public and private Direct Current Fast Chargers and Level 2 chargers.

VTrans is getting an application together on behalf of Vermont and invites station owners and operators to submit letters of interest by Monday, October 9th.

There's more information at [vtrans dot vermont dot gov](http://vtrans.vermont.gov).

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RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 4 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT \_\_\_\_\_ RVNN-7AM \_\_\_\_\_ RVNN-8AM \_\_\_\_\_

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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Friday ANS - 9/29/2023 › B17 EAN meeting

### Versions

1. 9/29/2023 5:04:35 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:47 ▾

00:00:47 at 20 ▾ characters per second

State officials and members of the Energy Action Network met at the annual Network Summit to talk about how to compel Vermonters to actions that will help the state reach its climate goals.

Vermont has more work ahead to meet its climate population obligations. EAN hosted its conference to talk about why the Green Mountain State is falling behind in its clean goals.

Executive Director Jared Duval says \$2.6 billion of Vermont's money was spent on what they call fossil fuels in 2022.

But in a collaborative effort, a handful of state officials discussed different areas of Vermont's priorities: more electric vehicles, instituting new mandates, and giving money toward climate projects.

(092923SOT Jared Duval)

Attorney General Charity Clark spoke of her office's active lawsuits: "the first priority for me is holding fossil fuel companies accountable," she says.

The two day meeting concludes today. The public is not invited to attend.

▾



Untitled

Cleaning up and protecting Lake Champlain is an ongoing mission for state and nonprofit groups, and now they are hoping some fourth graders can help in that fight. Fourth graders from St. Albans City School and Fairfield Center School Friday got a hands-on lesson on protecting Lake Champlain at nearby St. Albans Bay, where an active cyanobacteria bloom clearly illustrated the ongoing water quality problems that plague the lake. Reid Koldys is a student at St. Albans City School.

093023SOT Reid Koldys

Many different watershed organizations gathered to teach the students about the history of the lake starting with the Abenaki. ~~said~~ Kent Henderson with Friends of Northern Lake Champlain told ~~WCAX~~ they discussed runoff on different soils and how different tactics like rain gardens can help mitigate impacts to the lake.

~~093023SOT Kent Henderson~~

Experts say it could still be years before we know the true impact on Lake Champlain of the extreme rainfall and flooding events this summer.





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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Friday ANS - 7/7/2023 › B7 Burlington Grant

### Versions

1. 7/7/2023 5:03:56 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:46 ▾

00:00:46 at 20 ▾ characters per second

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger announced plans for over \$22 million in funding for a project that aims to establish direct access to public transportation with the goal to reduce emissions and travel time and rebuild a vibrant residential neighborhood.

(070723SOT Miro Weinberger)

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability Grant will complete a \$50 million budget to rebuild St. Paul and Pine Streets through the site of the former mall.

The streets rebuilt in this project will be well-designed to create 'lively outdoor spaces' in all seasons with the end goal of enhancing the natural beauty of Vermont.

More than 70 street trees and 1,800 new shrubs and perennials will be planted as rain gardens to infiltrate stormwater runoff before it reaches Lake Champlain, according to the Mayor's office.

The RAISE Program Grant also includes \$1.5 million to create a new job training program and workforce development program.

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New Text Document

Vermont is among 10 states intending to sue the EPA over wood stove standards.

The states accuse the agency, in a letter last week, of failing to review and ensure emissions standards by allowing the continued sale of appliances that could worsen pollution.

The EPA's Office of Inspector General released a report in February saying their 2015 performance standards are flawed and lack clarity. Those performance standards were scheduled to receive an update earlier this year but that never happened.

Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark tells WCAX News the EPA is not taking steps to protect public health or the environment.

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(070623SOT Charity Clark)

Under current EPA rules, woodstoves are being tested and certified by third-party labs using different methods.

Ray Plagge, the owner of Stove & Flag Works in Montpelier, says wood stoves are supposed to emit less than two grams of soot per hour. He says unless that number changes, updating the standards would mostly impact manufacturers.

(070623SOT Ray Plagge)

Clark also points out that the state and many individuals have put down money to upgrade to systems meeting current EPA standards.

(070623SOT Charity Clark)

Clark says the EPA has not provided a formal response to the notice of intent to sue. If the EPA fails to do this review, Clark says they will file suit in late August.

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 4 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT \_\_\_\_\_ RVNN-7AM \_\_\_\_\_ RVNN-8AM \_\_\_\_\_

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side



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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Thursday ANS - 7/6/2023 › B12 EV Charging

### Versions

1. 7/6/2023 3:46:25 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:35 ▾

00:00:35 at 20 ▾ characters per second

Governor Phil Scott Thursday announced new funding for Vermont EV charging stations.

The Vermont Community Electric Vehicle Chargers Incentive Program is designed to help eliminate barriers to EV ownership by giving Vermonters wider access to EV charging in workplaces, multi-unit homes, and other public areas.

"This program will help us increase equity in our electrification efforts, particularly in locations where charging solutions are not as straightforward as in single-family, owner-occupied homes," Gov. Scott said in a statement.

Green Mountain Power will administer the statewide grant program and interested parties can submit pre-applications through the program's website.

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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Friday ANS - 9/1/2023 › B5 Phish Benefit

### Versions

1. 9/1/2023 4:08:25 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:26 ▾

00:00:26 at 20 ▾ characters per second

A pair of Phish benefit concerts last weekend in Saratoga Performing Arts Center raised at least \$3.5 million for flood victims.

The shows on Friday and Saturday sold 38,000 tickets, with tens of thousands also watching and donating online.

All of the proceeds reeled in go to the band's Waterwheel Foundation, which set up a special flood relief fund to help other nonprofits, flooded farmers, and small towns with big bills.

The band says they're not done with raising money for flood relief yet.

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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Thursday ANS - 8/24/2023 › B19 Green Up Day

### Versions

1. 8/24/2023 4:54:18 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:44 ▾

00:00:44 at 20 ▾ characters per second

Volunteers in several Vermont communities are participating in Green Up Vermont's special Flood Recovery Cleanup on Saturday, and there will be an after party in Montpelier.

Folks in Montpelier will be picking up roadside litter from 9 to 2 on Saturday.

Like Green Up Day the more volunteers the better.  
Visit [greenupvermont.org](http://greenupvermont.org) to find where folks will be working.

In Montpelier, you can pick up bags, gloves and assignments at the Volunteer Hub next to Shaw's on Main Street and the Vermont College of Fine Arts Green on College Street.

The drill is the same in the other communities, but Montpelier is hosting a benefit concert to support the Montpelier Strong Fund on Saturday afternoon.

They're calling it the "MontP Love Fest", with live music, food trucks, and kids activities from noon to 8 p.m. at the old shelter in Hubbard Park.  
All are welcome.

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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Thursday ANS - 8/17/2023 › B10 EV incentives

### Versions

2. 8/17/2023 4:16:50 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:51 ▾

00:00:51 at 20 ▾ characters per second

Vermonters who lost their vehicle because of the flooding could be eligible for incentives on an eco-friendly replacement.

Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont Agency of Transportation on Tuesday announced expanded incentives for some Vermonters to get electric vehicles. It's for those whose personal vehicles were damaged by flooding.

The Replace Your Ride program offers \$5,000 for people who swapped their gas or diesel vehicle for a cleaner alternative. The eligibility has been expanded to include flood-damaged vehicles.

If you purchase a new plug-in vehicle, there could be another \$1,000 in incentives.

The MileageSmart Program, the state's high-efficiency used vehicle program which provides up to 25% of a vehicle's price, will automatically provide a full \$5,000 incentive to Vermonters replacing a flood-damaged vehicle.

All of the programs can be bundled, meaning Vermonters can get up to \$11,000 off the price of a new Plug-in EV and up to \$10,000 off the price of a used plug-in EV.

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RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 3 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT      RVNN-7AM      RVNN-8AM     

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side



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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Thursday ANS - 7/13/2023 › B8 Waterbury Arts Fest

### Versions

1. 7/13/2023 4:36:26 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:17 ▾

00:00:17 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The Waterbury Arts Fest has rescheduled their mid-summer event.

Revitalizing Waterbury has moved the two day event from this coming weekend, to Friday and Saturday, the 25th and 26th of August.

Flood damage prompted the decision.

The entire event, including the Friday Night Block Party, will be part of the rescheduled dates.

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Welcome, Lee! [Log Out]

## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Monday ANS - 7/10/2023 › B21 Fuel and Flooding

00:00:46 at 20 characters per second

Leaders in Vermont's fuel industry are warning state residents that major flooding can cause damage to propane and fuel oil tanks.

To mitigate damage and danger of breaking fuel lines or broken or dislodged oil tanks, officials advise shutting off the tank service valve on any flooded heating equipment.

If pumps, filters, electronic controls or other heating equipment have been underwater, homeowners should contact a Vermont certified heating technician to perform a complete inspection.

Residents should immediately call the property's fuel provider if any oil has spilled or is leaking, or the Vermont Hazmat Hotline if more than 2 gallons may have spilled.

They should immediately call their propane dealer or 911 if a propane tank is leaking or has become dislodged. In those cases, they should also shut down the affected equipment, turn off the gas if it is safe to do so and vacate the affected area.

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*- skeldon fatal*



New Text Document

Hardwick has been hard hit by the storms.

There are still lots of washed-out roads around the town, but conditions started to improve Wednesday.

One local hotel hit by the floodwaters, however, will not be coming back.

Freda Hollyer and her husband Ron have owned the Inn by the River for six years.

When the river rose over the banks Monday night, they decided it was time for everyone to get out. When they returned to the house to retrieve their two dogs, Freda saw what had happened to the Inn.

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(071323SOT Freda Hollyer 2)

Town Manager David Upson says about a dozen other businesses are still being impacted by flood damage, though those evacuated from homes have mostly returned.

(071323SOT DAvid Upson)

The Hollyers live in an adjoining apartment that was also damaged.

(071323SOT Freda Hollyer 3)

The couple says they have no plans to rebuild.



July 12 flood

Dozens of rescues took place in the early morning hours Tuesday in Barre, where floodwaters peaked around 3 a.m.

Cleanup is underway as the area prepares for another round of storms this week.

Cynthia Duprey of Next Chapter Bookstore, and Christina Morris of Rooted Yoga, two Barre businesses downtown, spoke to WCAX News.

(071223SOT Duprey Morris)

Outside, the Rainbow Rapid Response Team handed out essentials, like water, dry socks, and feminine hygiene products, to those who need it.

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Even though dozens of people have already been rescued from their homes, Barre City Manager Nicholas Storrellicastro said they're not out of the woods with more rain expected this week.

The American Red Cross has a shelter open in the Barre Auditorium.

The Rainbow Bridge Community Center is also stocking essential goods outside of their door on North Main.



july 10 flood

i-89 one lane nb past Exit 8 Montpelier

VT 65 Closed in Brookfield (Floating Bridge)

Route 12 in Berlin between Slayton Avenue and Weston Street -- Closed

Route 12 in Berlin at Chase Road -- Closed

Route 12 in Worcester north of Mill Road near Tavern Farm -- Closed

Incident Closure - New

TRAFFIC ALERT: US-2 in Middlesex near Lower Barnett Hill Rd is closed due to flooding.

US-4 in Killington is now CLOSED from the Dream Makers Bakery to Mission Farm Rd.

Please seek an alternate route.

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VT 100 Wilmington closed between Coldbrook Rd. and Adams Dr (Stowe Hill)

VT-9 in Wilmington Village is CLOSED to all traffic due to flooding. Please seek an alternate route and expect delays in the area.

VT-12 in Berlin at Rowell Hill Rd has reports of water on the roadway. Road is still passable at this time. Drive with caution.

VT-12 in Bethel from Stafford Meadows Ln to Spring Hollow Rd is CLOSED due to flooding.

VT-14 in Randolph is CLOSED between Clay Wright Rd and S Randolph Rd due to flooding.

VT-64 In Williamstown from junction of VT-14 to I-89 is closed due to flooding.

Currier Park in Barre, listener reporting two feet of water and streets flooding

US-5 in Barton from Industrial Park to VT-58 is now open to traffic.

VT-103 is CLOSED North of Chester Village due to flooding

VT-10 is CLOSED in Chester between VT-103 and VT-106 due to flooding

State Street from Bailey Avenue to Graves Street is closed in Montpelier

US-2 in Marshfield is CLOSED between Plainfield Village and Nasmith Brook Rd due to flooding.

I89 entrance to 89 North at the Berlin entrance is stop and go with only one lane open. Waterfalls off the cliffs have caused rock slides.

I-89 NB at Exit 8 is CLOSED due to flooding.



[Aot.mediacontacts] FW: Press Release - AOT Closes State Rail Trails

AOT Media Contacts via Aot.mediacontacts <aot.mediacontacts@list.vermont.gov>

Mon 7/10/2023 6:34 PM

To: AOT - Media Contacts <AOT.MediaContacts@list.vermont.gov>

📎 1 attachments (486 bytes)

ATT00001.txt



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2023

Contact: Jackie Cassino, Agency of Transportation  
802-505-8193, [Jackie.Cassino@vermont.gov](mailto:Jackie.Cassino@vermont.gov)

### AOT Closes State Rail Trails

Barre, Vt. – The Agency of Transportation (AOT) has closed the State rail trails due to flooding and potential hazards on the trails.

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail, and Beebe Spur Rail Trail are closed until further notice.

Trail users are advised to avoid all State rail trails, which are sustaining flood damage in certain areas and have down trees and rapidly changing conditions.

For updates on trail conditions, visit the Vermont Rail Trail System website's Trail Updates page at <https://railtrails.vermont.gov/trail-updates/>.

###

Amy Tatko | Director of Communications and Public Outreach  
Policy, Planning, and Intermodal Development Division (PPAID)

Vermont Agency of Transportation

219 N. Main Street | Barre, VT 05641

(802) 498-8025 | [Amy.Tatko@vermont.gov](mailto:Amy.Tatko@vermont.gov)  
[vttrans.vermont.gov](http://vttrans.vermont.gov)



RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 2 (See Cover Sheet)

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## Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Monday ANS - 7/10/2023 › B6 Gov Tour Postponed

### Versions

1. 7/10/2023 4:20:12 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:09 ▾

00:00:09 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The heavy rains prompted the Scott Administration's to postpone their ARPA Tour in Chittenden County.

An updated itinerary will be issued once the tour has been rescheduled.

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*America's Small Town Capital*

Mayor - Jack McCullough

City Council Members:

Dona Bate  
Cary Brown  
Lauren Hierl  
Pelin Kohn  
Sal Alfano  
Tim Heney

William Fraser  
City Manager

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Monday, July 10, 2023**

**William J. Fraser, City Manager**

**Downtown Montpelier Flooding - Winooski River Expected to Rise Above Flood Stage Tonight**

MONTPELIER—The National Weather Service is predicting major flooding in downtown Montpelier tonight. The Winooski River is expected to crest to a height of 19.8 feet by midnight tonight and remain high for several hours. Flooding is expected to be similar to or worse than the flooding Vermont experienced during the storm on May 11, 2011, and Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011.

The most significant flooding will take place on State Street near the Bailey Avenue Bridge and Montpelier High School.

The river is expected to reach 15 feet, called “bankfull stage,” this afternoon at which time Bailey Avenue and parts of US Route 2 and 302 will be flooded. Water has already flooded in some of Montpelier’s lowest points near 60 State St.

Community members are strongly urged to take precautionary measures in anticipation of major flooding in low-lying areas near the Winooski River and North Branch Rivers. Consider moving your vehicle and any important possessions to higher ground away from the river and the downtown if you can do so safely. Do not drive through standing or running water if you cannot visibly see the road.

To receive important emergency updates, sign up for VT-Alert here:  
<https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert>

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Gov. Phil Scott has declared a state of emergency in Vermont as runoff from powerful storms threatens to overwhelm rivers, creeks, streams and other flood-prone locations.

State officials have activated the Emergency Operations Center in Waterbury, and swiftwater rescue teams are staged in strategic locations throughout the state to help with evacuations and rescues from floodwaters.

The emergency declaration also authorizes units from the Vermont National Guard to respond. It also allows Vermont to request resources from other states.

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The National Weather Service says areas that experienced heavy rain last week are especially vulnerable. Additional flash flooding will be possible Monday afternoon and some river flooding could continue Monday night.



## New Text Document

The state of Vermont has reached an agreement to settle all pending and potential Kingdom Con lawsuits related to the Jay Peak EB-5 projects.

In a statement, the state says 64 individual plaintiffs agreed to settle all pending and potential cases related to the eight EB-5 Jay Peak projects.

The state says the \$16.5 million settlement would be paid out over three years and will be paid into the Jay Peak receivership.

The state will also continue to support green card pursuits by investors, and if that's successful, the state would reduce the settlement payment by \$4 million.

A court still has to approve the settlement.

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In a separate agreement settled recently, the state agreed to pay eight investors \$750,000.

In a statement Wednesday, Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark said this resolution "will protect the State from additional EB-5 lawsuits, preventing further financial harm to Vermont. My team and I did not come to this decision lightly... This settlement removes the State's exposure to financial risk and gives Vermont the opportunity to move forward from this chapter."

The Kingdom Con was the largest fraud case the state has ever seen. The massive Ponzi scheme to rebuild Jay Peak, Burke Mountain and the Newport area was fueled by \$200 million in foreign investor money as part of the federal EB-5 green card program. But prosecutors say the money was misused or stolen by the developers. The lawsuits claimed the state intentionally kept quiet, allowing more investors to be defrauded so construction projects already underway could continue.



New Text Document

A day after the Vermont Attorney General's Office announced the details of a settlement with EB-5 investors in the Kingdom Con scandal, Governor Phil Scott Thursday said he has some concerns about the deal.

In a statement late Wednesday, the AG said 64 individual plaintiffs agreed to settle all pending and potential cases related to the eight EB-5 Jay Peak projects and that \$16.5 million would be paid out over three years. A court still has to approve the settlement. In a separate agreement, the state agreed to pay eight investors \$750,000.

Attorney General Charity Clark tells WCAX News the settlement takes the state off the hook for further litigation in the scandal.

(070723SOT Charity Clark)

Governor Phil Scott seemed slightly bothered by the final result.

(070723SOT Phil Scott 1)

He adds that now this chapter of the EB-5 saga has come to an end, Vermonters will have access to more records that have been under wraps.

(070523SOT Phil Scott 2)

Bill Sorrell, was the Vermont attorney general while the largest fraud case the state has ever seen came to light.

He tells WCAX news the investors didn't get much in return in the settlement, but no one has proved that anyone in the state did anything wrong.

( 070723SOT Bill Sorrell <sup>2)</sup> )

The settlement means that former Governor Peter Shumlin and other high-ranking state officials who heavily promoted and protected the EB-5 system, will not have to testify under oath.

What's not clear is if or when the state will release about 40,000 documents relating to the Kingdom Con.

~~A federal judge still has to approve the settlement.~~