

# Vermont Public Radio - VPR News

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## Quarterly Issues / Program List

### 4th Quarter - October 1, 2019 to January 31, 2019

The Community Issues listed in this section of the report aired during local VPR newscasts. This listing is illustrative of the programs aired on VPR and is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of programs responsive to issues of importance to the community. A daily programming and local newscast schedule is provided at the end of this report.

Issue	VPR News - Story Narratives	Air Date(s) & Length
Agriculture	The U.S. Department of Agriculture last week released a new set of interim rules for how hemp plants will be regulated under federal law. The rules come roughly a year after the 2018 Farm Bill allowed for commercial hemp cultivation. Vermont and other states already have a budding hemp industry. We'll hear how state regulators are making sense of — and offering feedback on — the new federal regulations. Broadcast on Vermont Edition.	11/5/19 at 12:45pm and 7:44pm, 8 mins 49 sec.
Agriculture	Two state agencies have failed to penalize an Addison County farm that allowed tens of thousands of gallons of liquid manure to reach a stream and Lake Champlain. It's not for lack of evidence. One official described it as the most egregious violation of its kind in several decades. Yet state records show the enforcement case is stalled between two agencies with overlapping jurisdiction for regulating farm pollution. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	11/22/19 at 7:44 a.m., 5 mins and 35 sec.
Agriculture	Vermont Hemp Growers, Processors Look Back On A Season Of Lessons Learned. The number of people who grew hemp in Vermont this year more than doubled, and with a steep increase like that, there have been some growing pains among farmers and processors. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	11/5/19 at 7:45 am, 4 mins 21 secs.
Arts / Culture	The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. is recognizing 15 emerging young artists with disabilities from around the country between the ages of 16 and 25. Aurora Berger of South Strafford is one of them. Broadcast during All Things Considered.	10/28/19 at 4:45pm. 4 mins and 7 secs.
Arts / Culture	An exhibition of photographs currently on display at the Bennington Museum explores the experiences people of color have in their day-to-day lives in Vermont. The "I Am Vermont Too" movement was inspired by a similar action called "I, Too, Am Harvard." In both cases, people of color were photographed holding a dry-erase board, usually with a quote of something someone had said to them — something racist, or insensitive, or that revealed the way people of color are often seen as outsiders in more traditionally or majority white spaces. Broadcast on Vermont Edition.	11/14/19 at 12:40pm and 7:40pm, 13 mins, 3 sec.

Arts / Culture	The Vermont Arts Council each year recognizes outstanding contributions to the arts with the Vermont Arts Awards. The awards are given to artists and performers, but also to educators, advocates, and volunteers who work to advance and uplift the arts in the state. Last week in Middlebury, the Arts Council celebrated the contributions of five Vermonters. VPR spoke with three of the recipients about what they see, and why they feel hopeful for the future of the arts in our state. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	10/29/19 at 12:45pm and 7:45pm. 8 mins and 9 secs.
Business / Economics	More than 100 rural hospitals have closed across the country in the past 10 years. In an effort to prevent that in Vermont, the state legislature has set up a task force, and its initial findings show hospitals here face a crushing shortage of doctors and nurses. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	11/17/19 at 7:44am, 6 mins and 15 secs.
Business / Economics	Sugarbush Resort is in the process of being sold to the Colorado-based Alterra Mountain Company, continuing the trend of consolidation in Vermont's ski industry. According to Sugarbush CEO Win Smith, climate change is among the factors that led him to sell the resort. Smith said as climate change continues, the resort will need to make more snow. Broadcast during All Things Considered.	11/13/19 at 5:44pm, 4 mins 43 sec
Business / Economics	A Vermont company that once showed promise of being a key supplier to the electric vehicle industry is no more: SB Electronics, based in Barre, shut its doors earlier this week. It manufactured capacitors, used in electric cars, solar and wind power systems, and other technologies. Back in 2010, SB Electronics received a \$9 million federal grant to build a manufacturing facility in Barre, and its products were also in the very first Tesla cars — that's according to Dan D'Ambrosio, of the Burlington Free Press, who reported earlier this week on the company's closure. He spoke with VPR's Henry Epp about his reporting. Broadcast during All Things Considered.	12/6/19 at 5:44pm, 4 mins 16 sec.
Education and Schools	When Suresh Garimella took the helm at UVM earlier this year, he became the newest college president in Vermont. But the state's flagship university is far from the only Vermont college undergoing a change of leadership. Bennington College, Champlain College and the Vermont College of Fine Arts are all operating under interim presidents, while the presidents of Saint Michael's College and Goddard College are both just in their second year. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	12/8/19 at 7:45 a.m., 4 mins, 12 sec
Education and Schools	Ever since Marlboro College announced last week that it would likely be closing its campus in Windham County, both the college community and people who live in the small town have been coming to grips with the news. The Marlboro College board said that after years of declining enrollment the school would be giving its approximately \$30 million endowment, as well as its 366-acre campus, to Emerson College. In exchange, Emerson would accept all Marlboro students and tenured faculty on its Boston campus. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	11/13/19 at 7:51 a.m., 5 mins 51 sec.
Education and Schools	Last week, kids zipped up their backpacks, got on buses and headed back to school. For many school districts around the state, it's time to start thinking again about ongoing school district mergers under Act 46. For some districts, consolidation is underway and will likely result in a school closure in the coming years. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	9/4/19 at 5:44pm, 4 mins 17 sec.

Health Care / Public Health	Vermonters who took part in the VPR-Vermont PBS Rural Life Survey said that traveling distance was one reason why they had trouble getting the health care they needed. Some health experts say telehealth services could be one way to better serve people in rural areas that need health care. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	10/22/19 at 7:44am. 5 mins 20 sec.
Health Care / Public Health	Dozens of schools and more than 80 child care centers in Vermont have tested positive for lead that exceeds the legal limits. Those are the results under new legislation requiring tests for lead at all schools and child care facilities in the state by December 2020. We hear from with state health and education officials about the testing and what happens when dangerous lead levels are detected. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	10/29 at 12:07pm and 7:06pm, 35 mins 8 sec
Health Care / Public Health	A joint investigation by VPR and Seven Days uncovered inadequate care and staffing across Vermont's eldercare facilities, deficiencies that ultimately led to indignities, injuries and at least five deaths. We're talking to the reporters behind the Worse For Care series about the challenges faced by Vermont's assisted living and residential care homes. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	12/10/19 at 12:07pm and 7:06pm, 35 mins 32 sec.
Politics and Government	The refiling of murder charges in a 2017 killing has become the center of a politicized debate: how should the state should handle people, who because of mental illness, can't be held criminally responsible for their actions? The policy is at the heart of this debate: the Vermont Mental Health Department can release people once they've been treated and due to privacy regulations, that information is not publicly shared. Broadcast during All Things Considered.	10/29/19 at 4:45pm. 6 mins 45 sec.
Politics and Government	After several rounds of witness testimony and this week's hearing with four constitutional scholars, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced Thursday her chamber is moving forward with drafting Articles of Impeachment against President Donald Trump. The full House is expected to consider and vote on these Articles in the next two weeks. On the next Vermont Edition we'll talk with Congressman Welch about why he supports at least two Articles of Impeachment: one for an abuse of power by the president, and another for obstruction of justice. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	12/6/19 at 12:07 and 7:06, 28 mins, 34 sec
Politics and Government	When Vermont's last legislative session ended, Progressive Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman said he was disappointed Democrats didn't pass a paid family leave plan or increase the minimum wage, failing to deliver what he says "voters asked for in the 2018 election." The lieutenant governor joined Vermont Edition to discuss Progressive priorities at the Statehouse in 2020. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	11/8/29 at 12:07pm and 7:06am, 33 min 17 sec