

Vermont Public Radio

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Quarterly Issues / Program List

2nd Quarter - April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016

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 Narrative	Air Date(s) & Length
Agriculture	Three years ago, lawmakers approved new slaughter regulations that gave small farmers a foothold in the local meat market. Those rules are set to expire in July, and lawmakers must now decide whether or not to extend them. And as VPR's Peter Hirschfeld reports, the question has re-ignited a long-running debate over the regulatory hurdles small farms navigate.	04/05/16 at 7:44 am (3 min)
Business & Economics	Eight years ago, two businessmen launched a private venture that was supposed to bring about an economic rebirth in the Northeast Kingdom. Now, state and federal authorities say the entire enterprise was a massive fraud.	04/14/16 at 4:04, 5:04 & 5:50 pm (2 min); 04/15/16 at 6:04, 7:04, 7:44 & 8:04am (1 min)
Business & Economics	Small business start-ups are seen as an important part of Vermont's economy. But according to government statistics, one in five fail after one year. With that in mind, VPR's Steve Zind checked on three new businesses he profiled last year to see how they're doing now.	06/29/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min)
Business and Economics	Around 400 people were at Burke Mountain this past Memorial Day Weekend celebrating the planned opening of the Burke Hotel. They were also there to show their support for the ski area, which has seen several changes in ownership in recent years. Work on the hotel was indefinitely halted in December, but a court appointed management company and local residents are coming together and saying the facility will officially open this fall. VPR's Rebecca Sananes visited this weekend and has this report.	06/01/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min)
Education and Schools	Fifteen Rutland area high school students are heading to St. Louis this week for the world series of high school robotics. 900 teams from 39 countries - including Stafford Technical Center's "Ibots" - will be taking part in the four-day "FIRST Championship" competition. VPR's Nina Keck has more.	04/27/16 at 5:50 pm (3 min)
Elections	Will Vermont's two Republican gubernatorial candidates support Donald Trump if he wins their party's presidential nomination? One candidate says there's no way he'll ever support Trump...while the other says it's too early in the political process to answer. VPR's Bob Kinzel reports.	04/07/16 at 5:50 pm (3 min)
Elections	Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign says California is KEY to any chance the senator has left of winning the Democratic presidential nomination. And a big part of the campaign's strategy involves persuading hundreds of non-elected super delegates to switch their allegiance to Sanders. VPR's Bob Kinzel reports.	05/13/16 at 5:50 pm (3 min)
Elections	Tomorrow marks the one-year anniversary of Bernie Sanders kick off of his presidential campaign in a speech on the waterfront in Burlington. His impact on the Democratic Party he chose to run under has already been substantial. And many left-leaning Vermonters say Sanders' candidacy is shifting the ideological balance of the Vermont Democratic Party. VPR's Peter Hirschfeld has more.	05/25/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	On Thursday evening, Senate lawmakers considered a proposal that could have had severe impacts on wind-energy projects in Vermont. As VPR's Peter Hirschfeld reports, the body REJECTED the measure.	04/01/16 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 04/02/16 at 9:04 am (1 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	As our reliance on solar and wind energy grows, so does the challenge of reliability. We can't turn the wind and sun 'on and off' whenever we need electricity. One part of the solution: energy storage. VPR's Kathleen Masterson visited a homeowner in southern Vermont to see a Tesla Powerwall battery being installed.	06/09/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min)

Environment	Governor Shumlin announced (today/Wednesday) that the state will test additional manufacturing sites around Vermont for PFOA, a suspected carcinogen that's been found in North Bennington and Pownal. The Department of Environmental Conservation says it's tracked down 11 other locations that might have used the chemical. VPR's Howard Weiss-Tisman has more.	04/06/16 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 04/07/16 at 6:20 & 8:04 am (1 min)
Environment	The state health commissioner says a new federal advisory level for the chemical contaminating some Vermont water supplies will force the state to look at its own safety threshold. Today, the U.S. "Environmental Protection Agency" released a long-awaited update to its health advisory for the chemical P-F-O-A. VPR's Howard Weiss-Tisman reports.	05/19/16 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 05/20/16 at 6:44 am (2 min)
Health Care / Public Health / Medicine	This week the Vermont House is scheduled to debate a bill raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. Backers of the legislation say it is one of the most important public health issues of the session. VPRs Bob Kinzel reports.	04/04/16 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 04/05/16 at 6:44 am (3 min)
Health Care / Public Health / Medicine	Doctors in Vermont will soon face new limits on the number of narcotic pain pills they can prescribe to patients. This afternoon, the House gave unanimous approval to legislation aimed at curbing the state's problem with opiate addiction. Ann Pugh [Pew] is the chairwoman of the House Human Services Committee.	05/02/16 at 5:50 pm (1 min); 05/03/16 at 7:20 & 8:04 am (1 min)
Health Care / Public Health / Medicine	Opiate addiction – and how best to treat it – continues to be a focus in Vermont. And that includes the question of where to provide medication-assisted treatment. Often, people with addictions are seen in one of Vermont's five main treatment centers, or 'hubs'. But lately, physicians are being encouraged to see such patients in their own local practices.	06/14/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min);
Law Enforcement	The advocacy group Migrant Justice is calling for the release of one of their own. The group says migrant activist Victor Diaz was detained by plainclothes immigration agents in Stowe at a Mexican cultural event. VPR's Taylor Dobbs has more.	04/22/16 at 4:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 04/23/16 at 8:04 am (1 min)
Town Issues / Town Meeting Day	Back in the 1970s, New York City launched their now iconic I LOVE New York campaign to promote tourism. Now folks in Rutland are hoping the stylized red heart next to Rutland Vermont will promote similar good feelings. VPR's Nina Keck reports.	04/03/16 at 9:04 am (2 min); 04/04/16 at 6:04 & 8:04 am (2 min)
Wildlife / Fish / Forests	For at least half a century, the Green Mountain Conservation Camp has offered middle school-aged kids the opportunity to learn about hunting, fishing, outdoor safety, camping and canoeing. The camps, on Lake Bomoseen, [Bomb-o-seen] Castleton and Woodbury are celebrating a big anniversary this summer, which includes the completion of a new dining hall at Buck Lake. VPR's Mitch Wertlieb spoke with Alison Thomas, Education Manager for the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, about what the camps offer, and how they've grown over time.	06/21/16 at 8:44 am (3 min)