# **QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

ISSUE (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News



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1. 10/18/2023 4:38:48 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:40 V	
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The Vermont Department of Health debuted a new home delivery promonday, making the overdose reversal drug available free to anyone	
Vermont's drug users have surpassed their own record for the number three years running, and are on a pace to do so again this year.	
State deputy health commissioner Kelly Dougherty says Vermonters naloxone known also as Narcan through the mail in a kit that individual with written instructions on how to use it.	
The kit also contains fentanyl test strips, with instructions, and inform	mation on V-T Helplink.
Dougherty says VT Helplink dot org is supposed to be a one-stop re on reducing the risk of a fatal opioid overdose.	esource for information
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Radio Vermont News



### Radio Vermont > Friday ANS - 11/17/2023 > B11 Hunting Regulations

#### Versions

1. 11/17/2023 4:24:30 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:41 V

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Vermont lawmakers weighed in on new proposed rules for trapping and hunting coyotes with dogs.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife crafted rules based on best practices for trapping beavers, bobcats, and other species and come in response to two laws passed last year, Act 159 and Act 165.

A key legislative committee signed off on the core part of the rules, which require GPS collars and registration for hound hunting of coyotes. Traps must also now be set at least 50 feet back from recreational trails.

Underhill Democrat Trevor Squirrell tells WCAX News lawmakers tried to strike a balance between wildlife advocates and hunting groups.

(111723SOT Trevor Squirrel)

The committee objected to a few of the rules, including setback exemptions for traps placed underwater or ice

Department staff have two weeks to make changes.

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# QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News



### Radio Vermont > Friday ANS - 11/24/2023 > B2 Code of Ethics

### Versions

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A state panel wants Vermonters' input to craft a code of ethics for local select boards and town government officials, as part of an effort, they say, to make local government more accountable.

Employees for the state of Vermont and elected state leaders must adhere to a uniform code of ethics, but Christina Sivret, the executive director of the Vermont State Ethics Commission tells WCAX News that municipal employees and members of city councils and select boards do not.

(112423SOT Christina Sivret 1)

Sivret says under a law passed two years ago, the state is now building a code of ethics for local government, whether it's the misuse of position, resources or a conflict of interest.

Ted Brady is the executive director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns which gives advice to municipalities.

He says that while select boards and town governments all want better governance, any reforms must have local government and local voters in mind.

(112423SOT Ted Brady)

One of the biggest questions about government ethics is whether a code of ethics should have teeth and who would enforce violations.

Brady says allowing more towns to conduct recall elections could be one solution, but Sivret says a uniform code of ethics would help manage risk.

(112423SOT Christina Sivret 2)

The ethics commission is gathering public comment and will draft recommendations for lawmakers this coming legislative session.

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# **QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

ISSUE (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News



### Radio Vermont > Friday ANS - 11/24/2023 > B5 Burl Carbon Fee

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Burlington's new carbon pollution impact fee goes into effect in just over a month.

Starting in January, all new buildings and buildings over 50,000 square feet will need to use renewable energy or pay a carbon pollution impact fee.

The ordinance prioritizes the use of electric, geothermal or solar heat.

Building owners who demonstrate they cannot make the switch and must utilize fossil fuels will have to pay the fee.

Officials believe the measure approved by voters back in March will help move the city further toward achieving net zero energy goals.

Ben Traverse, a Democrat on the Burlington City Council tells WCAX News this is giving residents a choice

He says "If they're unable to use electric, geothermal or solar heat pay system, they'll have the choice between either using a fossil fuel and paying the carbon fee or using one of these other renewable fuels."

The ordinance goes into effect Jan. 1.

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# **QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

ISSUE (See Cover Sheet)

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### Radio Vermont > Friday ANS - 12/1/2023 > B24 Climate Gathering

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The Agency of Natural Resources' Climate Action Office will host virtual public forums to discuss a one-time opportunity for Vermont to access federal funding through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, a component of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Vermonters are invited to learn about climate actions eligible for this funding.

Attendees will be invited to share their comments on how this funding can best help Vermonters, businesses, and communities reduce emissions and meet what the state calls 'our shared climate goals'.

The meetings are at 5:30pm Monday December 11th and 11:30 am on Tuesday December 12th.

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QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE \_\_\_\_\_ (See Cover Sheet)

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### Radio Vermont > Friday ANS - 12/29/2023 > B17 Gvo't Accountability

#### Versions

1. 12/29/2023 5:02:57 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:40 V

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There's a new push under the Golden Dome to make Vermont state government more accountable to taxpayers.

The Government Accountability Task Force this fall dug into ways to measure the success of government programs and spending.

The group's new report outlines ways to build new accountability requirements into state government, including creating a permanent government accountability committee, setting up checklists and timelines to measure progress, and new staff to audit programs.

Democrat Representative Jessica Brumsted, of Shelburne, tells WCAX News the goal is to be more transparent with taxpayers by tracking how well state dollars are spent.

(122923SOT Jessica Brumsted)

Top lawmakers have said they plan on taking up some of the recommendations this legislative session, which kicks off next week.

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# **QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

ISSUE (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News



### Radio Vermont > Friday ANS - 12/29/2023 > B7 VT Emergency Eats

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The Vermont Emergency Eats program is looking to make its food security program permanent.

The program started during the pandemic and was given a new mission in July to help feed flood victims. Five hubs across the state helped distribute food from participating restaurants.

Some officials say the program made a significant impact, distributing over 49,000 meals to Vermonters in need.

The program's Amanda Witman says the idea was never to solve Vermont's hunger crisis but to relieve some of it. She says they want the model to be used for future emergencies.

(122923SOT Amanda Witman)

Witman says they also want to make sure the program continues to benefit small businesses and farmers.

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# **QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

ISSUE \_\_\_\_ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

#### **New Text Document**

The Vermont Supreme Court Thursday gave the green light to a proposed facility for troubled teens located in the Upper Valley. Now, state and local officials are planning their next moves.

The Department for Children and Families has wanted for several years to convert a Newbury property into a six-bed treatment facility for juvenile offenders. But the community of Newbury has pushed back, eventually appealing the case to the Vermont Supreme Court. In a four-to-one decision Thursday, the high court agreed with the state and said the project can go forward.

The facility, to be run by New Hampshire-based Beckett Family Services, has been years in the works. Newbury contends the former bed and breakfast was not zoned to be a juvenile detention facility while the state argued it was a group home and the juveniles living there will be receiving therapeutic treatment.

The plan has also faced fierce pushback from residents, who voted against it on Town Meeting Day last year. DCF Commissioner Chris Winters responded to those concerns with WCAX.

#### 122323SOT Chris Winters

Newbury Selectboard Chair Alma Roystan said Thursday's court ruling is not sitting well with residents and town officials, who have opposed the project since the very beginning.

### 1232323SOT Alma Roystan

Town officials are deciding whether to file a motion to reargue the case.