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This Month's Top Stories

Special Election!



UPDATED:

At Town Meeting, Brighton voted to move to a five-person Selectboard. We will host a special election on **Tuesday, May 21, 2024** for the two open seats, which will be decided by Australian ballot. The polls will be open from **9:00am - 7:00pm**. Your participation matters - so take a few minutes to come by Town Hall and vote!

SOLAR ECLIPSE



Brighton is in the Path of Totality, giving us a rare opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse - and a not-so-rare opportunity to enjoy some great Island Pond events.

From eclipse breakfasts at the Legion and Hobo's to music at the park and Essex House & Tavern, local businesses are going all out.

We do expect visitors... and possibly a lot of them. According to state projections, as many as 160,000 - 200,000 people will flock to northern VT for the spectacle. Plan on more traffic and possible interruptions in cell service.

We want OUR community to enjoy this special event, but we all share the sun so be prepared for extra people. And be sure to wear your glasses! The first 1000 people at the Viewing Party will receive a free pair. For a full list of events and info, check out <https://www.facebook.com/VisitIslandPond>.

We are looking for TWO community members to join the Water Board. These roles are important in ensuring we continue to provide safe, clean water AND stay on top of major improvements and upgrades.

Interested? Contact Town Hall at (802) 723-4405.

**FILL A VACANCY
AND...**

- Serve your community
- Stay up-to-date on town news
- Learn new skills
- Share your ideas
- Receive a stipend

Ongoing & Upcoming Town Projects

The Town of Brighton has several important projects in the works. Each is intended to enhance the quality of life in our beautiful community, as well as safety, efficiency, reliability, and resiliency.

Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)

\$500,000 grants are available through MERP for projects related to weatherization, thermal efficiency, and supplementing or replacing fossil fuel-based heating systems with more efficient options. Brighton is working with auditors now to assess the needs of each town-owned building and will submit when applications open in Spring of 2024.

USDA-Funded Dump Truck

Through a USDA grant, the Town of Brighton will take delivery of a new truck in late spring/early summer.

Wastewater and Drinking Water Facilities: Repairs & Upgrades

The Wastewater Treatment Facility is past its useful life. We must upgrade to comply with state regulations and to maintain safe operation. One pressing issue is the removal of excess sludge, which can lead to serious safety and environmental hazards. We will go to bid this spring/summer to address this concern. We are continuing work on related projects, such as upgrades to the building and equipment.

Did you know that you can pay for municipal services - like water and sewer - online? For many, this is a faster, easier, more convenient option.

Learn more at:

<https://brightonvt.org/paying-for-municipal-services-2/>

The Drinking Water Treatment Facility also needs significant upgrades at the North and South plants, as well as at the reservoir.

Another must-do is improving our infrastructure to ensure continued water quality and to meet increases in demand. We are currently working with engineers to clarify what needs to be done - and how - and beginning the grant application process to secure funds for this essential work.

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We will be posting updates on these projects and other initiatives on our website at <https://brightonvt.org/> and community members are always encouraged to attend Selectboard meetings.

Updates from Brighton Recreation

After wrapping up a successful (and fun!) Tri-County Kids Fishing Tournament, Brighton Rec is turning up the sweat this early spring. Circuit Training and Zumba classes, held in the Town Hall Gym, provide opportunities for folks to focus on fitness and fun.

The Rec Committee depends on community volunteers to make events like this - and many more - a reality. They need YOUR help! They're currently searching for:

- A Certified Lifeguard
- Open Gym Leaders (once a month)
- People who want to join the Rec Committee and/or volunteer their time for events (It doesn't have to be ALL the time or EVERY event... Do what you can!)

Interested? Contact Brighton Rec at (802) 723-0931, via email at info@brightonrecreationvt.org or directly on Facebook Messenger. Better yet, attend the next meeting on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:30 to see what Brighton Rec is all about!

