



**Town of Brighton**  
VERMONT

.....  
*This Month's Top Stories*



*Have a Safe & Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

## MERP

Got MERP? We do!

The Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) helps municipalities throughout Vermont complete projects related to weatherization, thermal efficiency, and supplementing or replacing fossil fuel-based heating systems with more efficient (and less expensive) options. Brighton won the grant and will receive about \$500,000 within the next month. We'll nail down plans throughout the winter and get to work on some important (money-saving) projects in our town-owned buildings come spring.

## Planning Commission: Public Hearing

Earlier this fall, a petition was brought to the Planning Commission/Development Review Board, asking the question, "Shall the Town Repeal the Brighton Zoning Bylaw." On November 18, 2024, the Planning Commission held a public hearing, giving voters the chance to learn about the issue and voice their opinions. Thank you to all who attended, participated, and viewed the hearing online.

So, where are we? The Planning Board will compile a report, incorporating community feedback, and bring it to the Selectboard, along with their recommendations. After that, the Selectboard will warn another public hearing. This is a long, involved (and yes, tedious!) process, but all the i's need to be dotted and t's crossed.

How does zoning, or a lack thereof, impact our community? One example: Island Pond is a designated "village center." This gives us priority when applying for grants. A requirement of this designation is that we have zoning. No zoning, no designation, and, quite possibly, no state and federal monies to complete critical projects (e.g. repairs/updates to the wastewater treatment and water treatment facilities). This is just one consideration on one side of the issue; we encourage you to attend the next hearing to learn more. We'll keep you updated on the date and time.

*Community members are always encouraged to attend Selectboard and other Town Department meetings to stay updated on our projects. You can do so in-person or virtually. Get the [Zoom link](#) to attend on our homepage. And... Don't forget, now you catch up on our [YouTube channel](#)!*

## Winter Parking Ban



Some of us eagerly anticipate mounds of powder for picture-perfect holidays and plentiful outdoor activities. Others wish summer was a year-round resident here in Brighton. Love it or hate it, the cold season has settled in and made itself at home. Along with it, we have a **Winter Parking Ban in effect, from November 15 through April 15 between the hours of 1:00am and 6:00am.**

Off-street parking only, folks. We know it can be an inconvenience to some, but it ensures the Road Crew can do their jobs properly, efficiently, and, most importantly, safely. It'll also help you avoid a ticket and/or a tow!

## Holiday Magic

No one celebrates like Island Pond. Once again, we have a great lineup of activities and events to get you in the holiday spirit. From craft fairs and cookies to cocoa and karaoke (ugly sweater highly encouraged!), there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Follow [Visit Island Pond on Facebook](#) for times, dates, and details.



**Holiday Magic**

- Free Cookies & Hot Cocoa
- Fire Pits
- Holiday Music Sing-a-long
- Giant Stocking Giveaway Drawing
- Santa & Mrs. Clause will bring the magic to light the tree, escorted by the Brighton Volunteer Fire Department

**Island Pond VERMONT**

**Tree Lighting Event**  
**Main Street**  
**Downtown Island Pond**  
**Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 at 4:00 PM**

**Free Photos With Santa**  
**Following Tree Lighting**

[www.VisitIslandPond.com](http://www.VisitIslandPond.com)

Funding for this event was made possible in part with a Rural Business Development Grant from USDA Rural Development

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## What's New with Brighton Rec?

The snow's barely started to fly, but Brighton Recreation is already planning for another terrific Tri-County Kids' Fishing Tournament! Events like this take a LOT of planning, preparation... and people! If you have a little time to give, connect with the Rec committee.

Good news for folks wanting to fight winter blues and blahs – and work off some holiday feasts: Circuit training is back on Mondays at 6:30 in the Town Hall Gym! A fun, social workout, circuit training is completely adaptable to individual needs and goals. If you're not confident about working out in public... This is the group for you. Space is filling up fast, so sign up ASAP!

Brighton Recreation is selling raffle tickets for a beautiful Ethan Allen Side Table. Get your shot at this \$1300 piece for just \$10/ticket!. Buy online at <https://Raffle.BrightonRecreationVT.org> or in-person at Kingdom Market, Island Pond Public Library, Essex House And Tavern, or Three Branches Cafe & Bakery.

The Rec committee is also looking for:

- A yoga instructor (certification not required) to lead classes. Compensation available.
- Volunteer committee members. Your time commitment can be as little or as big as you want to fit into your lifestyle/schedule.



- Ideas! What kind of programs do you want to see around town?

Please reach out. You can message [Brighton Recreation on Facebook](#), email [info@brightonrecreationvt.org](mailto:info@brightonrecreationvt.org), or call (802) 723-0931.