

BRADFORD, VT.

Town administrator resigns post



JAMES M. PATTERSON / Valley News

Bradford Town Administrator Danielle Kingsbury, right, and Selectboard Chair Meroa Benjamin, middle, listen as Vice Chair Josh Allen, left, speaks at Town Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 28. Kingsbury submitted her resignation to the Selectboard last week and her last day will be April 6.

Selectboard will decide path forward after longtime employee departs

By LIZ SAUCHELLI
Staff Writer

BRADFORD, Vt. — Bradford's town administrator Danielle Kingsbury has resigned. Kingsbury submitted her resignation to the Selectboard on March 13 and her last day will be April 6, according to a copy of her resignation letter provided by Selectboard Chairwoman Meroa "Peep" Benjamin. "This decision has not been made lightly," Kingsbury wrote in her letter to the Selectboard. "However, following my recent experiences, I have not been

happy in my position as Town Administrator, and I believe it is in my best interest to step away from my role at this time." In her letter, Kingsbury did not elaborate on what those "recent experiences" were. Attempts to reach Kingsbury for comment were not successful. In January 2025, the Selectboard elevated the town's administrative assistant role to that of a town administrator, and Kingsbury has served in the new role since April. Prior to becoming town administrator, Kingsbury had been employed as administrative assistant at the town offices since 2011.

"After 15 years of service, I am proud of the work I have done and the commitment I have given to the department and the community," Kingsbury wrote. "I appreciate the opportunities I have had during that time and the experience gained while serving alongside others dedicated to the work." In the wake of Kingsbury's departure, the Selectboard will consider whether or not to return to an administrative assistant model or continue with a town administrator.

"As a town administrator, the Select-

SEE BRADFORD A4

ENFIELD

Police chief plans to retire

Town to name interim chief, launch search

By LIZ SAUCHELLI
Calendar Editor/Staff Writer

ENFIELD — Police Chief Roy Holland will step down next month.

Holland, who has led the Enfield Police Department since 2018, informed the Selectboard on Monday that his final day on the job will be April 10.

"Ultimately, I'm in the window I had projected to retire years ago," Holland, 48, said in a Thursday morning phone interview.

In their early 20s, he and his wife saw people they knew get close to retirement, only to get sick and not be able to fully enjoy their nonworking years.

"We said we didn't want to do that," said Holland. "We wanted to work hard when we were young, retire early, be able to travel and spend time together so that's what we're going to do."

He's also completed one of his main goals for the department: "(...) seeing the building get built; getting settled in."

Holland oversaw the police department's move from Main Street to a new public safety facility on Route 4.

Voters approved the \$7.26 million bond during Town Meeting in 2022, and the facility, which also includes the town's volunteer EMS and fire departments, opened last spring.

After retiring in Enfield, Holland will continue to buy and sell real estate, as he has done for years. He also has agreed to work until next March as a part-time officer in Grafton, which is without a permanent police chief.

"I took the opportunity to retire from Enfield and work in Grafton and help them re-establish their police department for a little while," Holland said. "It wasn't an easy decision. I do love my role here in Enfield."

Enfield Town Manager Ed Morris said that he is working on a plan for an interim chief and a search for Holland's replacement to present to the Selectboard at its next meeting, which is scheduled to take place April 6.

Currently, Holland holds three roles in town: police chief, emergency management director and public safety director. His salary is around \$115,000 a year, Morris said.

The department has seven full-time officers and four part-time officers, Holland said.

Its budget is roughly \$900,000 a year. The department has been the same size since

SEE ENFIELD A5

COMMUNITY POWER

Upper Valley rides out high energy costs

Proponents say program is built for long run

By CLARE SHANAHAN
Staff Writer

LEBANON — Upper Valley municipalities are holding steady as communities around New Hampshire question the future of their community power programs.

The Upper Valley is home to some of the earliest adopters of community power, a program

that allows municipalities to purchase energy on behalf of residents. Community power aims to provide competitive electricity rates, increase choice, including giving customers the chance to "opt up" to buy more renewable energy, and to help municipalities fund renewable energy projects.

But, for the last year, community power rates through the non-profit Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, CPCNH, have been higher than legacy utility rates. CPCNH helps municipalities implement and operate

community power systems. The shift in costs is causing some customers around the state to question the program and entire communities including Bow and Wilmot N.H., to pull out.

From Feb. 1 through July 31, one of two periods for which companies set electricity rates in New Hampshire, community power rates are between 14.5 and 14.94 cents per kilowatt hour for the "Granite Basic" program that includes the least renewable energy. Those rates are well above the 11.1 and 13.74 cents per kilo-

watt hour for private utilities.

In New Hampshire, electricity rates are proposed by private utilities and approved by the Public Utility Commission

But Kim Quirk, the current chair of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Board of Directors, is warning against municipalities making a quick decision in response to the rates.

"This is just a little perturbation in the system and we expect

SEE COMMUNITY POWER A5

IMMIGRATION

Feds renew deportation effort

Defense attorneys seek to bar government from refiling case

By MARION UMPLEBY
Staff Writer

The federal government has doubled down on its efforts to deport Mohsen Mahdawi, a pro-Palestinian activist with ties to the Upper

Valley. Last month, a federal judge based in Chelmsford, Mass., tossed out the case against Mahdawi on the grounds that government attorneys failed to properly certify an official memo they planned to use as evidence, Associated Press reported.

The Department of Homeland Security has since submitted an appeal to the

Board of Immigration Appeals to continue with deportation proceedings, according to a letter one of Mahdawi's lawyers filed with the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday.

Mahdawi's legal team has submitted a cross-appeal urging the Board of Immigration Appeals to terminate the

SEE DEPORTATION A4



AMANDA SWINHART/AP

Mohsen Mahdawi speaks outside the courthouse after a judge released the Palestinian student activist on April 30, 2025 in Burlington, Vt.

INSIDE



SPORTS

WINTER SPORTS HONORS

With the winter high school sports season wrapped up, here's a rundown of the various athletes from Upper Valley high schools who were recognized for their performances. **Page B1**

WORLD & NATION

IRAN INTENSIFIES ATTACKS ON ENERGY SITES

The strikes, in retaliation for an Israeli attack on a key Iranian gas field, sent fuel prices soaring and risked drawing Iran's Arab neighbors directly into the conflict. **Page B3**



ONLINE: For more stories, photos and video from the Valley News staff, visit www.vnews.com.