

COMMENTARY

Don't miss the 'Passing the Torch' roundtable

By GUY PAYNE

Save the date! On October 23, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., the Sustainable Energy Outreach Network (SEON) will host a crucial roundtable discussion titled "Passing the Torch: Vermont Builders Discuss Challenges Facing the Next Generation." Set in the conference room of WW Building Supply in Newfane, this event promises to be an enlightening and impactful gathering for anyone invested in the future of our building industry. This is your opportunity to engage directly

with seasoned general contractors — Jonathan Morse, Jonathan Klein, Stephen Mindel, Brian Ames, and Michael Wells — who will share their insights on the challenges currently facing the next generation of builders. As these industry veterans prepare to retire or transition, they carry invaluable knowledge about navigating an increasingly complex landscape of building codes, sustainability practices, and workforce shortages. Their experiences and advice are essential for anyone looking to thrive in today's construction environment.

But this event is more than just a discussion; it's a call to action. As the Sustainable Energy Outreach Network (SEON) strives to promote education and collaboration in high-performance building, we recognize the importance of fostering connections between seasoned professionals and emerging builders. By attending, you will not only gain critical insights but also contribute to shaping the future of building in Southern Vermont. Join us as we bridge the gap between generations, explore innovative solutions, and ensure that the expertise of retiring builders

is effectively passed down. This is a moment for all stakeholders — contractors, suppliers, students, and community members — to come together and support the next generation. Mark your calendars and be part of this vital conversation on October 23 at WW Building Supply in Newfane. Together, we can build a stronger, more sustainable future for Vermont's construction industry. Don't miss out!

Guy Payne is executive director of the Sustainable Energy Outreach Network based in Brattleboro.



A festival of food and fun

The Brattleboro Reformer's New England Street Food Festival took over the Common with food and entertainment on Saturday. Above: Luis Sanchez (right), owner of Amaru Gourmet, and Iliana Nedoklanova prepare food during the festival. Below, left: Luis Sanchez, owner of Amaru Gourmet, sprinkles fresh lime juice on a Ceviche Clasico dish. Below, right: Performers from the New England Center for Circus Arts provided some of the entertainment for the day. More photos on B3.

