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Enjoy some fun in the snow at these winter carnivals

BY TERRI J. HUCK

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

REGION - Winter carnivals offer a variety of activities for revelers of all ages - whether you want to ski and skate, cheer on your favorite broom hockey team or warm up by a bonfire with a cup of hot chocolate.

Here's information on three local events that will allow you to get outside and enjoy some fun in the snow.

Springfield Winter Carnival: Feb. 10-12 at Crown Point Country Club, 2 Weathersfield Center Road

The three-day event kicks off on Friday, Feb. 10, from 6-9 p.m. with a bonfire, skating and sledding under lights, and free hot chocolate all evening.

Saturday: 11 a.m. The country club is open for skating and sledding.

12 - 4 p.m. Kids can choose among Wunderle's Big Top Adventures and other activities, including face-painting with Mona Frye and paper

crafts with the Springfield Art Gym. In addition, Springfield High School students will host a variety of games, and youngsters can help build luminaries to line the driveway.

1 p.m. Broom hockey tournament
5 - 9 p.m. More skating and sledding with DJ Mike Brehme playing tunes

7:30 p.m. Fireworks show
5:30-9:30 p.m. Parking is limited, so free shuttle service is available from Riverside Middle School.

Sunday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Open skating and sledding

12 p.m. Cardboard sled contest at noon with a rock 'n' roll theme. Prizes are based on creativity, art and design, and how well the sled flies down the slope.

1:00 p.m. The weekend wraps up with a new event: downhill kayak racing.

Crown Point Pub will be selling burgers, hot dogs, chili, fries and drinks throughout the weekend.

Call 802-885-2727 to register for races or the broom hockey tourna-

ment. For more information, go to facebook.com/SpringfieldWinter-Carnival.

Chester Winter Carnival: Feb 17-19 at Pinnacle, Lovers Lane

The family-friendly activities start on Friday, Feb. 17, from 5-8 p.m. with dinner and a movie for kids at Chester-Andover Elementary School and Paint Night for adults at Endless Creations Pottery Studio with light snacks provided.

Saturday: 8 - 11 a.m. Breakfast will be served at the American Legion.

11 a.m. Disc golf, cross-country skiing and sledding will begin at Pinnacle at with

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sleigh rides by Smokeshire Hilltop Farms

12 - 4 p.m. Southern Pie Company will offer pie tasting, with the proceeds benefiting the Chester Recreation Department. The Chester-Andover Elementary School's Parent Teacher Group will also have food available for purchase.

1 - 4 p.m. Broom hockey tourna-

ment

5 - 8 p.m. Southern Pie Company will offer coffee, hot chocolate and pie. Also that evening, there will be a nighttime snowshoe hike with the Chester Conservation Commission and a bonfire, music and skating at Pinnacle.

Sunday: 10 a.m. The Chester and Proctorsville fire departments will face off in a hockey game at Pinnacle.

To pre-register a broom hockey team or for more information, call 802-236-2608 or email recreationinchester@yahoo.com.

Grafton Winter Carnival: Saturday, Feb. 25 at Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center, 783 Townshend Road

9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center will be open for skiing, snowshoeing, tubing and ice-skating. West Hill Shop will bring Salsa Mukluk and Salsa Beargrease bikes for test rides and offer fat-bike demonstrations all day (based on weather conditions).

11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Grafton Pizza



Enjoy some family winter fun at your local winter carnival!

PHOTO PROVIDED

Truck will serve pepperoni, cheese and veggie pies.

12 - 4 p.m. Revelers can warm up and relax by an outdoor bonfire with s'mores.

12 - 3:30 p.m. Horse-drawn sleigh rides will be available.

2 -7 p.m. Back by popular demand, the Ice Bar will serve up local libations.

Tickets are available at the gate; Ice Bar tickets are sold separately. For more information, go to GraftonInnVermont.com.



Intersection safety improvements

An information meeting is planned to discuss the proposed safety improvements at the US-5 and VT-11 intersection in Springfield across from Holiday Inn Express, including a new traffic signal to be put in place. Potential improvements for the I-91 southbound off-ramp will also be discussed. The meeting will be held at Springfield Town Offices, located at 96 Main Street, on Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m.

PHOTO PROVIDED

How schools, and students, can succeed

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

The Shopper

ALSTEAD, N.H. - "Most Likely to Succeed," a documentary film screened at the Sundance 2015 Film Festival, comes to Mole Hill Theatre in Alstead, N.H., Friday Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. LEAF Charter School hosts the engaging 89-minute film on innovative education. The show is free, with a question and answer period after.

The film provokes thought on public education. Greg Whitely, director, explains in an interview on "The Lip" TV show B.Y.O.D. (Bring your Own Doc) that documentaries on failing schools and why they fail have been done and done well.

Ted Dintersmith commissioned the movie. Dintersmith leads the Most Likely to Succeed national campaign to inspire

and empower communities across the country to revolutionize their schools for the 21st century. A premise is that the U.S. education system set up in 1893 worked for industries who wanted workers to read, write, and conform. The Most Likely to Succeed campaign promotes project-based learning to catch students' passion, fuel creativity, teach collab-

oration, and honor innovation. Dintersmith suggests innovators rather than conformists push the U.S. economy today.

Dintersmith had several models of thriving innovative schools for Whitely to film. Whitely chose to focus in on students at High Tech High in San Diego. He was embedded in the school for two and a half years to film success from the perspective of students. He says filming from the students' eyes creates an engaging story. Dintersmith comments how Whitely shows the uplifting side of school. He says other films on education pick on teachers.

The film's website, www.mltsfilm.org, has film footage and resources for teachers, parents, and the community.

Mole Hill Theatre is at 789 Gilsom Mine Road, Alstead, N.H.



Maria Luther-Houghton of Acworth is LEAF's student representative on the board of trustees.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Boards accept settlement with former municipal manager Timothy Cullenen

BY JOEL SLUTSKY

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - After an executive session at a joint board meeting held on Jan. 31, the Select Board and trustees announced the acceptance of a settlement agreement with former Municipal Manager Timothy Cullenen. Trustee Chair Myles Mickle stated that the settlement of \$65,000 is a public document and will be recorded in the town clerk's office. Select Board Chair Lamont Barnett noted that this settlement will be paid through the Town/Village insurance and the Town/Village would only be responsible for the deductible amount. Cullenen, who now lives in Ohio, was the former

town administrator of Ashland, N.H., where his contract was not renewed, and he was subsequently hired by the Town of Rockingham in April, 2011.

Cullenen's termination took place after an April 16, 2013, executive session between the Select Board and the board of trustees to discuss an evaluation of the municipal manager. During the session Mr. Cullenen received votes of no confidence and was immediately discharged of his duties.

The settlement agreement was reached Jan. 30, 2017, in the case of Cullenen v. Bellows Falls and Rockingham and was sent down by the United States District Court for the District of Vermont and dated Jan. 30, 2017. The former

municipal manager was represented by Robert J. Appel, Town of Rockingham, while Cullenen was represented by Brian P. Monaghan, Esq. The document stated that "This agreement represents a compromise to avoid litigation and the defendants shall pay \$65,000 in settlement of all claims on this matter."

According to court documents, in November 2012, Cullenen was the subject of a letter of complaint filed by a Village of Bellows Falls trustee alleging he had acted in an inappropriate manner towards citizens of the Village and the Town on Nov. 13, 2012, at a regular business meeting of the Village board of trustees. His behavior was characterized as "rude, arrogant, disre-

spectful [and] hubristic." Defendants issued a written warning to Cullenen in a Nov. 20, 2012, letter signed by the Town Select Board chair and village president, and directed Cullenen to engage in anger management counseling, which he did, and imposed a one-week suspension without pay.

On April 30, Cullenen wrote the town board chair and village president notifying them of his "intent to appeal [his] recent termination as municipal manager. Cullenen brought the suit to federal court claiming the Town and Village violated his constitutional rights related to due process, wrongful termination, breach of contract and damage to his reputation.

The settlement follows last No-

vember's separation agreement made with then Municipal Manager Chip Stearns.

In other municipal related news, the joint boards voted by majority to extend Interim Municipal Manager Shane O'Keefe's current contract through July 1, 2017, to see the town through annual meetings and the hiring of a new finance director. His contract had initially been set to end in May, 2017.



Former municipal manager Timothy Cullenen.

PHOTO PROVIDED

INDEX

Editorial 6A
Church Services/Obituaries 7A
Sports 1B
Arts & Entertainment 2B - 3B
Outdoor News 4B
Directory/Classifieds/Spotlight 5B
Legal Notices 4B - 8B
Calendar 7B - 10B

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MAILING ADDRESS:
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Audit review discussed at joint board meeting

BY JOEL SLUTSKY
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - A draft audit review of the Rockingham Select Board and the trustees took place at a joint board meeting held Jan. 31. The audit, conducted by Ron Smith of RHR Smith & Company, concluded that the town is in very good solid financial condition while the village is not. Smith first addressed the results of the town audit, reminding the board that the fund balance as of FY2015 (year ending June 30, 2015) showed a very healthy fund balance of over \$700,000. Smith reported that the fund balance as of June 30, 2016, was \$950,000 which is equal to 19 percent of the operating budget. The fund balance policy adopted on March 29, 2016, by the joint board specifies a goal of the town and village to maintain an unassigned balance equal to between 16 and 20 percent of expenditures. The village's fund balance as of June 30, 2015, was at \$220,000 and as of June 30, 2016, had dropped to \$140,000, mostly due to the police department's overtime. Smith stated that the village's fund balance should be at around \$375,000. Interim Select Board Chair Shaun O'Keefe noted that the trustees budgeted a deficit for this fiscal year of \$58,000 and with the approval of a 10th police officer and managerial turnover, the village is basically below a \$10,000 fund balance. O'Keefe also noted that the village owes the town \$76,180 due to the TransCanada assessment case that the town paid.

During the TransCanada discussion Select Board Chair Myles Mickle asked if the Select Board would, in light of the Village's financial issues, be willing to accept installment payments over a three-year period. Select Board member Ann DiBernardo asked if this amount could be forgiven by the Select Board. Select Board Chair Lamont Barnett stated that it could be but cautioned the board, noting that the payment made to TransCanada in the amount of \$346,000 has now depleted the town's fund balance. Barnett suggested that the board allow the trustees to repay the \$76,180 interest free. Select Board member Susan Hammond asked what impact this would have on the village taxes and Barnett responded that the three installments would equal 1 penny on the tax rate. A motion that the Rockingham Select Board approve the repayment from the Bellows Falls Village Corporation in the amount of \$76,180 and that the village make three annual installments due on Sept. 1 of each year beginning Sept. 1, 2017, and that this repayment be interest free, passed.

Other agenda items included: BFDDA Update. Mary Helen Hawthorne, executive director, gave her quarterly report to the board. Hawthorne thanked the board for its support and for agreeing to increase the funding for BFDDA within the town and village's budgets. Hawthorne gave a brief overview of statistics for the downtown and the Shop Local program. Hawthorne also reminded the board that there is a Downtown

Transportation Fund grant due on March 6, 2017, and the municipality is the applicant for this grant. Hawthorne continued that this grant is a 50 percent match and can be used for improvements to sidewalks, which is a major concern of both boards. Hawthorne reported that two businesses opened in the downtown district - the M&M Carriage House and H&R Block (which moved into the Merchants Bank), and two businesses closed - Vermont Pretzel and Newton Business. Additionally, Coyote Moon moved to Keene. Hawthorne added that Café 7 will be opened on Feb. 17, 2017.

Finance Office Evaluation. O'Keefe stated that the Rockingham Select Board and the Bellows Falls trustees had discussed the finance office at the previous joint board meeting in November. It was the consensus of the members to hire a finance director and they instructed O'Keefe to come back to the joint board with a recommendation. The board had also approved a contract for \$10,000 with New England Municipal Resource Center for finance assistance, \$2,700 of which has been spent. A memo from O'Keefe suggested salary amount of \$65,000 to \$74,000 plus benefits for the financial director's position. O'Keefe also suggested that the hiring for this position be put off until July 1 in light of the village's financial status. The Select Board has included this position in its FY2018 budget and this will be discussed further throughout the village's budget process. The entire joint board meeting can be seen at www.fact8.com and read by going to www.rockbf.org.

Chocolate tasting fundraiser at the VAULT

BY KAREN ENGDAHL
The Vermont Journal

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - A steady stream of eager chocolate tasters filled the aisles of the Vault Gallery for the annual chocolate tasting event recently.

"We're calling it the 'chocolate stream,'" laughed event organizer Nancy Lanoue. "People are always excited about this event." In its seventh year, the fundraiser featured tasting from among the best chocolates and sweets donated by Vermont chocolatiers, local restaurants, and bakeries, including The Inn at Weathersfield, Hartness House Inn, Heritage Bakery and Deli, Daily Chocolate, Red Kite Candy and King Arthur Flour.

As he delivered a fresh batch of chocolates, Hartness House chef Nick Matush was asked to describe the sweets.

"They're chocolate, coffee, and orange truffles with a bit of granola and iced with tempered dark chocolate," he said, carefully arranging the delicacies on a serving board.

Eager to try his creations, sev-

eral guests agreed the candies must be healthy since they contained "granola and citrus." In any case, the full tray was quickly emptied.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was background music by flautist Kathi Byam, area flute teacher and composer who has performed throughout New England, in New York City and in Norway.

In the front of the gallery was a trunk show featuring jewelry designs by Melody Reed. Reed crafts her earrings and bracelets from silver-plate, pewter, copper, and brass in a studio located in the Moon Dog Cafe in Chester.

Vault volunteer Diane Kemble explained that all proceeds from the event would be used to provide opportunities for children to experience creating art and crafts.

"If a family needs a scholarship for one of our programs, all they need



A chocolate feast!

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

to do is ask," she said. More information is available by calling 802-885-1156.

For more information about Vault programs, contact the VAULT at 802-885-7111 or galleryvault@vermontel.net or visit www.galleryvault.org.



Kathi Byam the flutist on the left, and Nancy Lanoue, event coordinator to the right.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL



Hartness House chef Nick Matush arranges handmade truffles.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

Women's Health Services are Now Available at Rockingham Medical Group



Jennifer Michalke, WHNP, of The Women's Health Center in Springfield, VT, is now available for patient appointments each Thursday, beginning February 2nd, 2017.

8 am - 4 pm 802-886-3556



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Create your own valentines

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Make your own valentines on Saturday, February 11 at the North Springfield Baptist Church located at 69 Main St., North Springfield from 1 - 3 p.m. A wide assortment of supplies and refreshments are provided for free and all ages are invited to participate.

This is a great event for everyone to create custom cards for your loved ones. Bring your kids, grandkids, mother, father, and friends and enjoy a relaxing afternoon creating valentines. For more info call 802-886-8107.



Stop by the Springfield Baptist Church and make your own Valentine's cards.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Correction:

Last weeks Feb. 1 article on the Hartness House Tavern stated the wrong opening date of July 2015. The correct opening date of the Hartness House Tavern was in July of 2016.

Urgent Red Cross blood drive scheduled

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - There will be a Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the Springfield Elks Club, 49 Park St., 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Sign up at rcblood.org/appt or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Please make an appointment, as the staffing is based on the number of appointments made!

Your blood is critically needed this year - over 135 drives have been cancelled due to extreme weather conditions and the need for blood doesn't stop!

Donors with types O, B negative or A negative blood are especially needed; Power Red donations are also needed. (All blood types are always needed, too!)

All who come in to donate are eligible to receive a \$5 Amazon Gift Card via email. Go to redcrossblood.org/winter for information.

Save time by using RapidPass to complete your reading and health history.

Remember; the need for blood is critical at this time! An hour or two of your time could save three lives!

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Discover New England's stonewalls and how they were built

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Kevin Gardner, will present "Discovering New England Stone Walls," the next OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program on Tuesday Feb. 14. It will be presented at 2 p.m. at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary's Catholic Church on Pleasant St. Programs last an hour and a half.

Kevin Gardner, author and stonemason will cover the history, technique, stylistic development, and aesthetics of New England stone walls. He'll discuss how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how

their styles emerged and changed over time, and their significance to the famous New England landscape.

He'll examine the differences in approach between historical and contemporary wall-builders. He'll present some restoration tips and techniques and information about design, acquisition of materials, preservation, and analysis. There will be plenty of time to ask questions about specific problems on your own stonewall projects.

OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is a local membership program geared towards seniors 50 years and older who want to engage in meaningful learning.

The next OLLI program will be on Feb. 28. Dr. Sandra Steingard, Chief Medical Officer at the Howard Center in Burlington will discuss "Rethinking the Role of Psychiatric Drugs." She'll examine ways of treating schizophrenia and bipolar disorder rather than using drugs.

The complete Springfield and statewide program list is available on the Internet at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli. Choose State-wide programs from the menu, and then scroll to Springfield.

There is a fee per program or memberships can be purchased. Any questions can be answered by calling 802-885-3094

Wear red in honor of American Heart Month



Wear red to the BF Woman's Club meeting in honor of American Heart Month. National Wear Red Day was Feb. 3, 2017, and marked 14 years since the initial National Wear Red Day. PHOTO PROVIDED BY AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Members of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club will meet on February 14, at the United Church, School St., beginning at 1:30 p.m. Wayne Blanchard, who will share his expertise in the field of genealogy, will present the program. Please bring non-perishable food and personal

care items to be donated to Our Place Drop-in Center, and wear red in honor of American Heart Month.

The January 10 meeting featured students from the Westminster Center School who, under the leadership of music teacher Ashley Paine, sang several selections to entertain club mem-

bers and guests.

Plans are being made to host a public high tea on May 7. Watch for details.

Area women interested in joining the club and helping with its projects may call Barbara Comtois, 802-344-0025.

Participate in a statewide read of a Brown Girl Dreaming

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The Rockingham Community is invited to participate in a statewide read of Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* for Vermont Reads 2017. This beautiful memoir of the author's childhood, written in verse, tells the story of a young person finding her voice and examines the strength of family bonds. Children and adults alike will enjoy the beauty and authenticity of this memoir of growing up. Its universal themes and multiple points of connection will resonate

with Vermonters from a variety of backgrounds.

A grant from Vermont Humanities Council has awarded Rockingham Library 60 copies of *Brown Girl Dreaming* to share with the public. Free copies of the book are available at the Library's front desk. When done, readers are encouraged to return copies to the Library so others can read them. Or, simply pass them on to friends, no strings attached.

Between February and May 2017, the Rockingham Library will pro-

vide opportunities for rich and varied community events and activities related to the themes in this book. Keep an eye out for more information at the dates get closer.

Community Book Discussion of *Brown Girl Dreaming*, by Jacqueline Woodson will be on Thursday, March 23 at 12 p.m. and at 6 p.m.

All Library programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or go to rockinghamlibrary.org.

An invitation for exhibitors at annual Family Festival

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Area Parent Child Center is pleased to announce the date for the annual Family Festival; it will be held at Riverside School on April 8 from 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. Our festival is held in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and their week of the young child celebration. The theme for this annual event is a celebration of early learning, young children, their teachers and their families.

This annual spring event has grown into a well-attended community favorite. If you are part

of an organization that provides services for young children and their families and wish to partner with us as an exhibitor, please contact Cathleen Corliss at SAPCC by February 27. You can reach Cathleen at 802-886-5242 for more information.

We are pleased to have the Springfield Police Dept attending as a return exhibitor, providing free ID cards for children. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be returning with buy one, get one free book sales. As always a variety of entertainment and activities will be offered to young children and families free of charge as well.

SAPCC has long been a community resource for children and families, providing free information and referrals, home visits, parent education and more in North Windham and South Windsor counties. Our mission statement is Strong Communities, One Family at a Time. This annual festival is just one of the many community collaborations focused on providing information, support and outreach to the youngest members of our community and their families. If you would like to learn more about SAPCC and/or this festival, please give a call at 802-886-5242 or visit our website at www.sapcc-vt.org.



Photos from last year's Family Festival.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Thanks Patriots!

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Prom wear needed to put smiles on teenagers faces

REGION - The Chester Andover Family Center is collecting prom wear for a special public service event to be held in April prior to local high school proms. Every teen deserves to attend his or her prom dressed in beautiful, affordable prom wear.

At our first prom wear event last April, teens from Chester and surrounding communities converged on the CAFC to shop for the perfect prom outfit. The shop was filled with the sounds and sights of teens trying on prom wear and finding accessories to complete their outfits. For a

very small fee, a complete new or nearly new outfit including dress or suit, shirts, shoes and accessories could be purchased.

Now we need to replenish our prom wear inventory: dresses, tuxedos, dress shirts, ties and dress shoes for girls and guys. Our goal is to be fully stocked with prom wear by March 1. Please call your friends, search your closets and help us provide a unique shopping experience for Chester area teens. Last year, students from GMUHS in Chester, Springfield HS, Bellows Falls HS, Black River HS in Ludlow and Kurn Hattin found the perfect prom outfit at the Center. Help us make our prom wear event bigger and better!

The Thrift Shop is open to receive donations Tuesday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday 12 - 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Chester Andover Family Center is located in Chester at 908 VT 103S.



Donate your old prom dress to CAFC so other students can wear them to prom! PHOTO PROVIDED



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Ludlow American Legion
FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Friday, February 10th

Chicken Parmesan
w/ Pasta, Salad, & Garlic Bread and Dessert

\$12.00
To benefit the American Legion

Seatings will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Call 802-228-9807 for reservations.

American Legion
Post #37

42 Rockingham Street
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802-463-9700

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER
5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM

February 10th
Baked Stuffed Pork Chops

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Amazon begins collecting Vermont sales tax

BY TERRI J. HUCK

The Vermont Journal / The Shopper

REGION - On Feb. 1, online retail giant Amazon began charging 6 percent sales tax on purchases made by Vermont customers.

Brick-and-mortar retailers and legislators have long sought to remedy what they see as an unfair advantage for online companies, which are not legally required to collect state sales taxes unless they have a physical presence in that

state.

Some analysts estimate that Vermont would gain \$17 million in tax revenue every year if all online retailers collected the state's sales tax.

A new law is set to go into effect on July 1 that will require online companies that don't currently collect the 6 percent sales tax to send Vermont customers a list of all their purchases each year and the amount of tax they owe to the state. Residents are asked to report that amount on their tax returns, but fewer than 10 percent do so, according to the Vermont Department of Taxes.

By collecting the state sales tax, Amazon will avoid that upcoming administrative requirement, and it could be an incentive for other companies to do the same. Amazon also began collecting sales tax for nine other states, leaving only a handful of states for which it doesn't collect sales tax.

Food, clothing and certain health items remain exempt from sales tax in Vermont even when bought from online retailers.

Gather your investment tax forms

REGION - The holidays are now a month behind us, which means it's about time for another season: Tax Season. While you may not find it particularly festive, you can get through this season with a minimum of stress - if you're organized. That means, among other things, you'll need to gather the correct forms in one place. And right about now, you should be receiving many of the forms you'll need - specifically, those tax forms related to your investments.

Here are some of the key forms to watch for:

- 1099-B - This form reports capital gains. A capital gain is an increase in the value of an investment over the initial purchase price. Short-term capital gains, on

investments you've held for one year or less, are taxed at your ordinary income tax rate, while long-term capital gains, on investments you've held for more than one year, are taxed at 0, 15 or 20 percent, depending on income. Keep in mind that these figures are for the 2016 tax year.

- 1099-DIV - This form reports the dividends you received from companies in which you invested. For most dividends, the tax rate is the same as it is for capital gains - 0, 15 and 20 percent.

- 1099-INT - A 1099-INT reports the interest you received from bonds or cash instruments. Typically, most types of interest are taxed at your ordinary tax rate.

- 1099-R - A 1099-R form reports withdrawals from retirement ac-

counts, such as your IRA and 401(k), along with payments you received from pensions and annuities.

- 1099-MISC - This form reports, among other items, payments you might have received in lieu of dividends. 1099-MISC also reports earnings you might have received as an independent contractor.

- 1099-Q - If you contributed to a 529 plan or a Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA), you may receive Form 1099-Q in each year you make withdrawals to pay school expenses of the beneficiary. However, the earnings in a 529 plan or Coverdell ESA grow tax free, and withdrawals are not taxable, as long as the money is used to pay for qualified higher education expenses.

Whether you do your taxes yourself or use a tax professional, you'll want to become familiar with these forms. Not only are they necessary for filing your taxes, but they can also tell you something about how you invest. To cite one example, if you're seeing a lot of taxes related to short-term capital gains - which are taxed at your personal tax rate, rather than the more favorable long-term rate - you may be doing too much trading. You might want to consider moving toward a strategy in which you buy quality investments and hold them for the long term.

Here's something else to look at: the taxes resulting from your traditional IRA and 401(k) withdrawals. Could you possibly withdraw less from these accounts so that your taxes will be lower? Once you're 70 and a half, you have to take at least a minimum amount, but other than that, you control the withdrawals - and you might benefit, taxwise, by taking out only what you truly need.

So, gather up those 1099 forms for your tax returns - and for your own education as an investor.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice.

Patricia "Crikett" French employee of the month

Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) has named Patricia "Crikett" French the Hospital's Employee of the Month for December, 2016. French, a Certified Medical Assistant, was cited for her positive energy and willingness to go "the extra mile" to help both patients and providers.

"Crikett has great relationships with patients and her co-workers, and often works after hours to coordinate multiple community clinics," says her supervisor, Anel Sirois, CMA Nurse Manager/Clinical Leader.

"She's constantly looking for new ways to improve morale in the hospital, and has always been willing to pitch in and help whenever she sees the need."

Others at MAHHC note "She is an enthusiastic employee who always gets the job done."

French, residing in Windsor, Vt., joined the staff of MAHHC in July 1998.



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LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, Historian at Olive Branch Lodge #64 and a lifelong antiques dealer. He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

1908 Chester estate auction gives glimpse of farm life

CHESTER, Vt. - Recently Bob Ulrich of Chester made a donation to the Chester Historical Society. The bulk of Bob's donation was for our July yard sale consisting of modern items. Included in his donation were a few Chester artifacts that we saved for the museum.

One item we kept is a March 25, 1908, auction poster of real estate and personal property. At the top it reads: "Administrator's SALE!" It then describes the real estate as being the estate of Charles F. Wilson: "Homestead and Farm of 142 Acres ... 15 Acres of Tillage, Pasture, and Woodland."

It further describes a sugar orchard of 700 trees, a never failing water supply to both the house and barn and a large quantity of timber.

Personal property included: "9 cows, 1 with calf by her side, 8 coming in this summer, 1 two year old steer, 1 Heifer with calf, 5 Yearlings, 1 Bull, 1 Calf, 1 black Horse and 1 black Mare, Both good workers."

Farm implements and tools included: "1 Traverse Sleigh, 2 Cutters, 2 Wagons, 1 buckboard, 1 two-horse express Wagon," all types of harnesses and much more.

The thing that caught my eye was the date, Wednesday, March 25, 1908. In all my years as an antiques dealer I have attended thousands of on-site antiques auctions. They are always held in summer months. It could have been a very cold and snowy auction in March of 1908.

At the bottom left I noticed the auctioneer was Henry A. Bond. Hen-

ry Bond lived in the stone house on the turnpike on what is now known as Holden Acres.

Henry Bond was in the 11th Regiment of Vermont Volunteers in the Civil War. He was wounded April 2, 1865, at the Siege of Petersburg, Virginia. He was struck in the ankle by

Bond's daughter or sister). They had one son, Henry. I'm sure many readers will remember Henry Wilson and his Model As. His son Henry Jr. was an odd duck, wasn't he?

Another thing I noticed on the poster at lower right is F. A. Leland, the administrator. This would be

Fred Leland who ran what is today Lisa's Market. Leland was also a town constable. Today this property is owned by Pete Delaney.

Another noteworthy item in Ulrich's donation is a photo of the Fletcher Law Office. The photographer was standing near the upper end of the Green when he took this photo. The house on the left is the Aspen-Fletcher house. The house on the right is the current B&B, Chester House. What's significant is the small building between these two houses.

This smaller building was the Fletcher law office. George Fletcher was a lawyer in Chester and life-long resident. Fletcher was a strong temperance man in favor of Prohibition. He was postmaster of Chester under two administrations, Circuit Court commissioner and a Democratic candidate for Congress.

It was about 1915 that the Fletcher law office was moved out back on the property and converted into a shed. It still stands today. While the Historical Society has a couple of other views of the law office, this is by far the best we have. Peter Farrar provided information for this article.

The February 19 Antiques Roundtable will feature horses, including

work horses, show horses and riding horses. We are looking for exhibitors to show saddles, spurs, bridles, photos, etc. I will show an antique 1860s McClellan Civil War saddle. A farrier would be an excellent addition. How about someone who has therapy horses? It's free to everyone from any town.

Following the Roundtable we will have three short movies on horses. The first is "A Job of a Farrier," followed by a short UVM Morgan

Horse film. Lastly, "What can a Morgan do?" The total time for all three films will be about 30 minutes.

The March 12 Roundtable will feature musicians who make, repair and play their own instruments. Don't miss these two shows. You might make some contacts.

This week's old saying I heard years ago from an old antiques dealer when I overpaid for an antique. "If you don't lose money now and then, you aren't buying very much."



Fletcher Law Office in Chester.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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Auction poster from 1908.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ensuring calls are reliably connected in rural areas

The quality of rural phone service, including what we get in the state of Vermont, could improve in the future.

That's if a bill co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) makes it to law.

It was unanimously passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, and is now in Senate Commerce committees, with a vote expected this session.

The bill, titled the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act, amends the Federal Communications Act of 1934 to "prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination" in quality of telephone service for rural citizens.

Calls in states like Vermont are often afflicted with choppy sound quality, long ringing times or even just dead air before the call goes through. Sometimes, long distance calls to rural areas will not connect at all.

The reason is actually third-party companies that handle the calls. Long distance and wireless carriers have to pay local telephone companies to complete calls, and to save money they contract with third-party firms that route calls.

The issue arises because the third-party companies may have different equipment, some of it incompatible on some level with the incoming signal.

Beginning in April 2015, all major telephone carriers were required to log phone data from calls over 1,300 rural phone networks and report back to the FCC.

Welch's legislation tells the FCC to establish basic standards for all voice call providers, to ensure that quality is consistent over all geographic areas.

If the FCC goes over the data and finds that carriers are not meeting quality standards, it could file civil charges against those companies responsible, for violating the Communications Act, the bill says.

Anyone who has ever dialed a rural Vermont number, especially from a VOIP provider like Vonage, and found that nothing happened, will appreciate the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act.

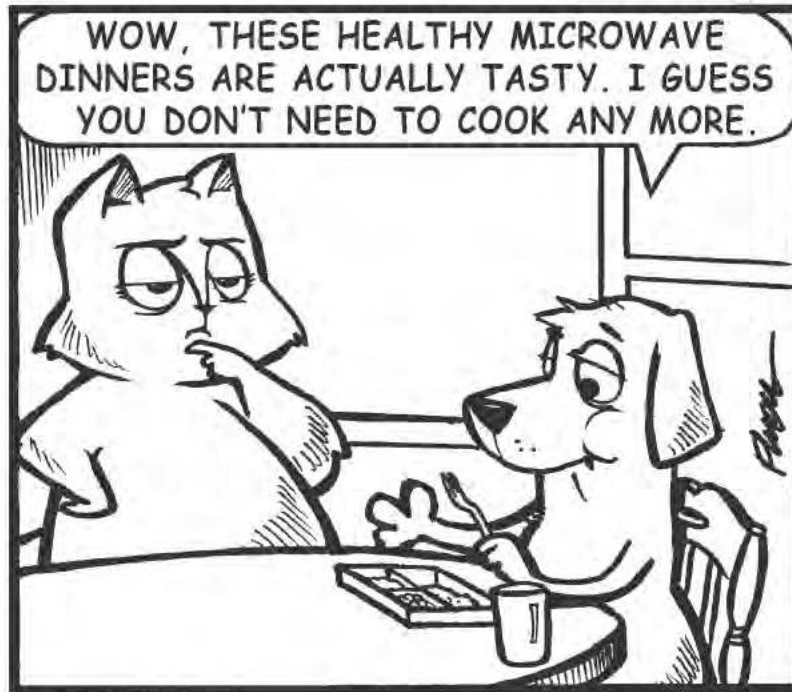
In some cases, subscribers who called Vonage to complain were given the phone number for the third-party company handling the call, who then promised to add the errant number to its routing database "whitelist" for better service. That works, believe it or not.

"This bill helps address the epidemic of dropped calls in rural America and will ensure calls to emergency responders, businesses, customers, family and friends are reliably connected," Welch said in a statement.

We're with him. We can only hope the Senate soon passes the bill and it gets signed into law.
-BM-

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We know politics are dirty. The media can get away with anything, but I would like to defend President Donald Trump. With all the opposition, how come he won?

The people that riot are Clinton people, they can't accept the fact that some win, and some lose, and

be mature enough to accept the loss.

President Trump did say what he would do, and he is doing it! He saved 700 jobs from going to Mexico before he became President. He has only been President for a couple of weeks and look at what he

has done already. These people that protest will have egg on their face when they will have jobs.

If Clinton won the election would everything be perfect?

From being a millionaire, President Trump certainly did not need the job. He did this because of his

love for our country, to want to make America great again! He is the best President this country will ever have.

Sincerely,
Bob Bruzik
Claremont, N.H.

Dear Editor,

Black River Good Neighbor Services Food Shelf is offering a School Vacation Backpack Program during the February school vacation this year, the week of February 20. We will provide a week's worth of breakfast and lunches for school-age kids packed and ready for pickup at the Food Shelf on Friday, February 16. Pickup time will be from 1 - 3 p.m. on that day.

This program is offered by registration only to school-aged children within our service area, which includes Ludlow, Cavendish, Proctorsville, Belmont, Mt. Holly and Plymouth. If you are interested in having your children participate, please stop by the Food Shelf for an

application. Registration deadline is February 9.

We look forward to helping families out with meals during the upcoming school vacation week. If you have questions please feel free to BRGNS at 802-228-3663.

Black River Good Neighbor Services is committed to ensuring that every person in Ludlow, Belmont, Cavendish, Mt. Holly, Proctorsville and Plymouth has the food they need to reach their human potential. Those with the courage to ask for help must trust that Black River Good Neighbor Services cares only about their human potential. Making that personal, trusting connection means that anyone—regardless

of national origin, race, gender, culture, age, income level, disability or any other attribute—should feel the place they access food assistance is open, diverse and welcoming.

In response to the current social and political climate, including the President's recent Executive Order on immigration, Black River Good Neighbor Services wants every individual in need of food assistance to be assured that they are welcome to access the food and services we provide without concern for their safety or privacy.

As a member of the Vermont Foodbank, the state's largest hunger relief organization, Black River Good Neighbor Services has joined

together with other Foodbank member organizations to commit to treat our neighbors with dignity and respect. Any information collected is used only to provide better service to our neighbors. Food is a basic human right, and Black River Good Neighbor Services is a sanctuary for those seeking to exercise that right.

Black River Good Neighbor Services food shelf is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. We are located at 37B Main Street, Ludlow. For more program information see our website at www.brgn.org.

Thank you,
Krey Kellington, BRGNS Food Program Administrator

Dear Editor,

Politicians and bureaucrats at every level of government along with the mainstream media regularly refer to our form of government as a democracy. The governments of United States and Vermont are not democracies. They are constitutional republics. The distinction between the two forms of government is not just semantics. The distinction is critically important.

A democracy is defined by government by the masses. The authority of a democracy is derived through majority consent. Property rights and individual rights are not protected. All rights are considered collective or communistic. These collective rights are determined and established by those in the majority. There are no rights in a democracy, except those established by the will of the

majority. Democracy, almost inevitably, results in mob rule. Laws are not created by careful deliberation but by "passion, prejudice and impulse without restraint or regard to consequences." Democracy results in "demagogism, license, agitation, discontent and anarchism" as well as despotism. The individual rights enshrined in the first ten amendments of the United States constitution would not exist in a democracy.

The founders of our nation and Vermont created republics. Constitutional republics to be exact. The existence of our republics is guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Article IV, section four, clause 1 states "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government." The following definition

of a constitutional republic comes from Training Manual No. 2000-25 published by the U.S. War Department, November 30, 1928.

"Authority is derived through the election by the people of public officials best fitted to represent them. Attitude toward law is the administration of justice in accord with fixed principles and established evidence, with a strict regard to consequences. A great number of citizens and extant be brought within its compass. Avoids the dangerous extreme of either tyranny of mobocracy. Results in statesmanship, liberty, reason, justice, contentment and progress. Is the standard form of government throughout the world."

Our constitutional republic is based upon a division of powers between the executive, judicial and

legislative branches of government. This system was devised with the intent to preserve liberty. Our three co-equal branches of government are designed to check and balance each other. The founders of our republic clearly understood that the often bad nature of the human mind and heart. They understood that the only check on power is power.

I have yet to determine why so many of our elected officials, bureaucrats and media outlets insist on calling our government a democracy. These people, held in such high regard for their advanced education and given such great authority by the electorate couldn't pass the simplest third grade civics exam.

Stu Lindberg
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Nitka's notes from the State House

The State House is the scene for many marches, demonstrations and sometimes vigils. Some are one-person events while others have hundreds of participants or thousands, as was the day of the Women's March. Apparently there were about eighteen thousand people in front of the State House and on the streets of Montpelier that day. On that day the police closed off the Berlin, Montpelier and Middlesex exits to keep more cars from coming into Montpelier, which was overloaded with people and cars.

Inside the State House, VT Right to Life was holding their preplanned annual event. The Capitol Police had made plans the day before to close off the State House after the Right to Life attendees assembled as they knew they could not accommodate or manage the larger number of Women's March attendees safely.

This week many Planned Parenthood supporters marched to the State House, came inside, and visited the House of Representatives while in session. They couldn't all fit in the balcony seats so the overflow

wound up in a conference room.

On Wednesday evening, in 26 degree weather, a very large crowd gathered on the front steps and lawn in a vigil organized by the Unitarian Church. Persons participating held candles, sang songs and listened to words from clerics, as well as the local Rabbi supporting refugees and immigration. Persons from various countries also spoke of their journeys to the US and what it has meant to them to be here. It was a unique sight with children skating or sliding on the skating rink, speakers on the steps and the glow on the faces of the candle carrying crowd. All this took place under the newly installed energy efficient spotlights that illuminated the Capitol in all its white glory.

This is the time of year when much testimony is being taken in the various committees. In Senate Judiciary, Chief Superior Judge Brian Grearson reported on the results of the work of a committee of judges who have been working on alimony reform. There presently are draft guidelines that some judges' use and others do

not. The recommendation is that the Legislature should add a new section to the statutes directing that the guidelines shall be considered along with other factors in making alimony decisions. There is no shortage of opinions when it comes to alimony. Another family matter bill is S-36, an act related to shared parental rights and responsibilities. This relates to joint custody and is a bill that has been introduced several times through the years but has never passed. An end of life issue, S-29,

an act relating to decedents' estates was also in our committee. This appears to be a rewrite of the statute and has not been reviewed as yet.

Visit the State House, have lunch in the cafeteria and listen to testimony in the committees on many of the bills. Remember, we now have the skating rink on the front lawn. Contact me at home at 802-228-8432 or anitka@leg.state.vt.us

Senator Alice Nitka
D - Windsor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY Letters may be edited for clarity, grammatical errors & libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. We reserve the right to publish at our discretion. Deadline Friday at 12 p.m. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com. Mail to Vermont Journal PO Box 228 Ludlow, VT 05149.

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Amber Waves



THE Vermont Journal & THE SHOPPER

Robert Miller, Publisher / Advertising Director
publisher@vermontjournal.com

Vince West, Ad Consultant / Website Ad Manager
vwest@vermontjournal.com

Shawntae Stillwell, Graphic Director
ads@vermontjournal.com

Brandy Todt, Editor / Graphic Designer
editor@vermontjournal.com
btodt@vermontjournal.com

Corporate & Production Office:
8 High Street • Ludlow, VT 05149
Office: 802-228-3600 • Fax: 802-228-3464

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OBITUARIES/NEWS

church services

ALSTEAD, NH

THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALSTEAD, RIVER ST.

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Maureen Lasell. Find us on Facebook (Third Congregational Church) or call 603-835-6358.

ASCUTNEY, VT

OPEN BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 168 CEMETERY RD.

Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Fellowship meal at 12 p.m. Afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sanctuary handicap accessible. Visit: obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT

CURRIER HALL, 12 CHURCH ST.

Celtic worship service at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The service may include: song, chant, instrumental music; verbal and silent prayer; readings from the Old and New Testament; stories of Celtic saints; a brief meditation; social time follows the service.

CAVENDISH, VT

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FIRST UNIVERSALIST PARISH OF CHESTER, RTE. 103. 211 NORTH ST.

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SULLIVAN ST.

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LUDLOW, VT

THE UNITED CHURCH OF LUDLOW (UCC AND METHODIST), 48 PLEASANT ST.

Sundays starting at 10:15 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments. 802-228-4211 (Sandra Russo), Email: unitedchurch@tds.net. www.unitedchurch.us. Services by The Reverend Dr. Donald E. Harpster.

LUDLOW BAPTIST CHURCH, ON THE GREEN, 99 MAIN ST.

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship at 10:30 a.m., Singing at 10:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Prayer meeting on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. www.ludlowbaptist.org or Pastor Tom Deibler at 802-228-2631

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Ludlow Baptist Church on Main Street in Ludlow, Vt.

PHOTO PROVIDED

through the back downstairs door. FB ~ Springfield Church of Christ.

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WALPOLE, NH

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Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; services begin at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. More information about Art After School program, our outreach efforts, call at 603-756-4533.

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Sunday School at 10 a.m. with coffee hour at 11 a.m. Located on east side of the Walpole Common. Wheelchair accessible with ramps and elevator. 603-756-4075. Church e-mail: walpolechurch@yahoo.com.

WALPOLE UNITARIAN CHURCH, MAIN ST.

Sunday Services: 10 a.m. in the church. "Family First" Service on the first Sunday of every month in the Hastings Memorial Parish House behind the church. Rev. Kity Winthrop & Rev. Elaine Bomford. Check website: www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org

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Sunday Worship 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments. Childcare for up available during church service. Men's and women's fellowship breakfasts, Bible studies, youth programs. ADA accessible. 802-484-5944 / bchurch@myfairpoint.net / www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org

Obituaries

Gary E. Hartnett, 1951 - 2017

NORTH WALPOLE, N.H. - Gary E. Hartnett, 65, of West Street passed away on Wednesday, February 1 2017 at his home, following a heroic battle against cancer. Gary was born in Bellows Falls, Vermont on April 10, 1951, the son of Chauncey and Velma (Westney) Hartnett.

He was a 1969 graduate of Bellows Falls High School. He was recently retired from Hubbard Farms, where he had enjoyed the camaraderie of his co-workers and the responsibilities of his job on the farm.

Gary was proud to be the primary caregiver for his mother, Velma, and spent his last years ensuring that she was comfortable and well taken care of. Gary was a good son, a good brother, a good friend, and a good neighbor. Many will miss him.

Gary is survived by his mother, Velma Hartnett of North Walpole and his brother Kirk Hartnett of Indian Land, South Carolina; one nephew, Tyson Hartnett, one grandnephew, Kaleb Hartnett, and one grandniece, Mia Hartnett, all from Fort Mill, South Carolina; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. His



Gary E. Hartnett, 1951 - 2017 PHOTO PROVIDED

father, Chauncey and his brother Mark Hartnett predeceased him.

There will be calling hours from 6 - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7 at the Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt. A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8th at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole, with the burial following at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Gerald "Jerry" Dunnells, 1942 - 2017

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - Gerald "Jerry" Dunnells, 74, of Gallatin TN passed away on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Jerry was born October 10, 1942 in Bristol CN. He grew up and attended elementary school in Plymouth, Vt. He attended and graduated from Black River High School in Ludlow, Vt. in 1960.

He was a devoted father and grandfather. He loved fishing, hunting, the Boston Red Sox, bowling, and NASCAR racing.

Jerry was predeceased by his mother, Frances and father Raymond of Plymouth, Vt., as well as his sister Jeanne of PA.

He is survived by sons Christopher Dunnells of Gallatin, TN, and Kevin Dunnells and wife Sheila of Hendersonville, TN; daughters Beth Dunnells of Henderson, TN, and Noreen Dunnells and her husband Jeff Stimler of Oregon; sister Judi Freeman of Ludlow, Vt. and Kathleen Billings of



Gerald "Jerry" Dunnells, 1942 - 2017 PHOTO PROVIDED

Plymouth, Vt.; 8 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild.

There was a memorial service held on Saturday, January 14 in Tennessee. Online condolences may be submitted at alexanderfh.info

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I-91 Rockingham bridges weekly update

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The following is the anticipated schedule of this week's construction to take place on the I-91 Rockingham Bridges 24S and 24N over the Williams River.

The northbound travel lane only (right lane) and the northbound Exit 6 on-ramp will remain closed. Traffic needing to use the Exit 6 on-ramp will be detoured to Route 5 north to I-91 Exit 7 on-ramp.

After the northbound travel lane

and Exit 6 on-ramp is open to traffic motorists can expect periodic, short-term closures in the northbound high-speed lane (left lane) to allow crews/equipment access to the median.

The Public Relations telephone number to call with any questions or concerns regarding this project is 802-862-6085. Find updates/changes at: http://countonitinc.com/rockingham-vt-bridges-91

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ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

1	4	5	3	9	7	8	6	2
3	8	9	2	5	6	4	7	1
2	7	6	1	8	4	9	3	5
6	1	4	9	2	3	5	8	7
5	3	8	7	6	1	2	9	4
9	2	7	5	4	8	6	1	3
4	6	1	8	3	2	7	5	9
7	5	2	6	1	9	3	4	8
8	9	3	4	7	5	1	2	6

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	R	O	C	A	B	M	A	V	E	N
S	A	P	O	N	O	A	L	I	K	E
A	D	E	D	O	W	N	S	I	Z	E
L	I	N	A	D	I	O	S			
M	O	S	S	E	E	N	S	E	R	A
	P	A	S	U	P	K	E	E	P	
H	A	I	R	S	T	I	L	D	E	
U	P	D	I	K	E	O	A	T		
G	R	O	G	T	A	R	S	U	C	H
	B	U	N	C	O	D	U	O		
D	O	W	N	R	I	G	H	T	D	R
A	D	O	B	E	L	I	T	E	L	L
H	E	N	C	E	E	D	O	R	Y	E

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Peaceful protest

On Saturday Feb. 4, 18 concerned citizens rallied in Ludlow in opposition to the recent immigrant travel ban. Their signs reflected concerns ranging from the travel ban to freedom of the press, and apprehension about a proposed wall between the U.S. and Mexico. The demonstration was peaceful and prompted many reactions from passing traffic.

PHOTO BY SARA STOWELL

Tax refund fraud prevention is a focus this tax season

REGION - Last week, the Vermont Department of Taxes and the IRS began accepting tax returns for the 2016 tax year and there are a few changes the department would like taxpayers to know about.

The department continues to experience a rise in attempted tax refund fraud, an alarming trend that mirrors what is happening in other states and at the federal level. State revenue departments and the IRS are implementing procedures to help protect the taxpayer's money. Vermont taxpayers will be asked to provide a Vermont driver's license or state-issued identification card number when filing. If the information is not provided and the department cannot verify your identity, this

may delay the processing of a refund.

In limited circumstances, the department will require identity confirmation before sending a refund, and will send verification letters to the physical address listed on the tax return. That letter will provide instructions on how to verify return information to complete the processing of a refund. To complete this request, taxpayers will not be asked to enter a social security number. Submitting the requested information over the phone or to www.myVTax.vermont.gov will verify the refund request and allow the department to proceed with processing the refund.

"One of the most concerning frauds we see is the filing of false tax returns in order to generate a refund. We have controls in place to identify suspicious refund requests and

in some cases the department will need to take additional steps to ensure that the refunds we issue are going to the right person. We ask that taxpayers work with us as we balance the goals of customer service, speedy refunds and fraud prevention. Providing your Vermont Driver's license number and responding to verification letters helps protect your refund and prevent fraud," said



The IRS and Vt. Department of Taxes have experienced a rise in attempted tax refund fraud, and have implemented procedures to help protect taxpayer's money.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Commissioner Kaj Samsom.

The most efficient and secure way to file Vermont tax returns continues to be electronic filing, and direct deposit to an existing bank account is the fastest way to receive a refund. Taxpayers who are eligible for free online filing will find more information about Free File, on the department's website at www.tax.vermont.gov. Taxpayers who e-file generally receive their refunds more quickly than those who file paper returns.

New online services

The department has launched myVTax, a new IT system to modernize tax processing for all Vermonters.

Taxpayers wishing to use the services below may visit www.myVTax.vermont.gov:

- File your Renter Rebate Claim on our website or through your software vendor
- File an extension for Personal Income Tax
- View your Form 1099G online
- Respond to correspondence from the department
- Check the status of your refund, including if more information is required
- Make estimated payments and verify your payments from last year

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sports



THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

Sports are often a diversion for people, who need to get away from real life. Having been either a coach or a sports reporter (or both) since the age of twelve. In all honesty I began coaching minor league baseball (thank you Eddie Kane) when I was 12. I also have experienced that sports teach incredible life long lessons, which may be needed to help with those needed diversions in the first place.

Sunday was a special day in New England sports as the Patriots won a Super Bowl for the ages and Paul Pierce, one of the greatest Celtics, said good-bye to his fans, returning for his last game in the Garden. I am told, both by my daughter and my granddaughter, as well as a veteran Boston Sports scribe, "You had to be there to get any perspective on the magnitude of the event."

For the most part, I feel bad for the Celtics and Pierce, whose moment became mostly lost in the Super Bowl craze.

So many Patriot fans say they never gave up, and for the most part, I don't believe you. No Super Bowl winner had ever come back from half those many points behind, so you thought your team was that good? Even if you really thought they could overcome the Lady Gaga difference (officially known as halftime), how could you still believe when with three minutes remaining in the third quarter you were still trailing 28-3. I don't believe most of you.

In the end, the Patriots won the game and I think most Pats fans will agree, that Atlanta did a very good job of helping them. There were a few fans that admitted to turning off their TV's and going to bed; my bet is others, who did the same, said they were with their team all the way.

Obviously most sane persons didn't see the Patriots victory coming. It is most certainly a life lesson to never give up. Usually my glass is half full, however on this occasion, I thought the result was in the books.

I wasn't alone. Some people in much higher places than we are in, were so sure of the outcome, they embarrassed themselves big time. I am aware of one such case, on each side of the ball.

Once upon a time, when I was a little over three months old, The Chicago Daily Tribune offered a headline, which immediately became a collector's item of "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN." By the time all the votes were counted for that Presidential Election it really didn't turn out that way.

This week, an early issue of Monday's Boston Globe hit the streets in some locales, which also jumped the gun. The headline featuring a Super Bowl logo read "A BITTER END." In reality it was; the bitter end was on Atlanta's side, not the Patriots.

Dick's store in Atlanta brought out their World Championship merchandise during the same third quarter to celebrate their first world championship. Fans flocked to the store to be the first to wear the clothing, even before their heroes would have their chance to tug them on, but the problem became that Atlanta didn't win.

Thus, the Patriots and the Celtics had their special day Sunday, the Red Sox equipment truck departed for Florida Monday, so there is plenty of good karma to go around New England. Proving terrible things come in threes (Globe headline and Falcon title shirts were one and two), the Bruins trumped all the stupidity, by firing their coach during the Super Bowl parade. Don Sweeney apologized for the timing, but no one should accept his offer.

Scouting- You see much less of this going on at the high school level each year, except for football and it is really too bad. During over twenty years of coaching at the high school level, it definitely played an enormous part for me, preparing a team for games. To generalize, I would say, it made probably made at least a six-point difference in three-quarters of the games we played.

The reason I am mentioning the subject this week is that, I keep running into Springfield's Girls Coach Joe Costello, scouting here and there. The Lady Cosmos stand 14 in Division II in the Vermont State standings with a 3-8 record but lost twice to Bellows Falls in exciting contests this winter. BF won the first game 45-38 in overtime. Then the Terriers prevailed the second time in double overtime 48-46. Springfield won both games a year ago in Costello's first year.

If my theory on scouting is true, both games this winter would have probably been won by the Terriers in regulation without the scouting. The Cosmos seemed to have been the better team last year when they won two close games. BF has those honors this year, yet the two teams have been fairly close in talent both years. Taking things one step further, the two teams have three common opponents. They both lost to Windsor (BF 43-63 and Springfield 31-49) basically a wash there. The Falls fell to MSJ 31-49 and the Cosmos were beaten 54-17/ a 19 point difference there) and they both beat Twin Valley BF 47-30 and Springfield 51-38 (again close but a slight BF advantage.)

On another note, Costello has company with him scouting. Each time I have seen Costello I have seen players. Nothing says players need to take that interest, but when I was in the same role, I found the athletes more committed to the cause when they were brought in this way.

I have had a couple of discussions with Costello about things he picks up scouting and I am convinced he is really helping his team by putting in the extra time. Scouting can help regardless of a team's record.

Unfortunately work didn't allow me to take in either of these Springfield-BF match-ups, but I have seen both teams play, I think the Cosmos have better players possibly one through three, however BF looks better one through eight and in the end, that depth was likely the difference.

More area contests- There are more games played between area schools than in the past. It was nice to see Springfield and Fall Mountain playing in Boys Basketball again last week. It is too bad that Green Mountain, Springfield, BF and Fall Mountain couldn't compete in Holiday Tourneys on both the boys and girls side of things. Green Mountain might have been open to hosting such an event, but the Fall Mountain Girls are already committed to hosting an eight team event, which with league affiliations knocks a good idea out.

Another final four for Fall Mountain girls basketball

BY BILL MURPHY

The Shopper

LANGDON, N.H. - If it's winter, the Fall Mountain girls basketball team must be winning games. The two things appear to always go hand in hand.

An earlier article this winter found Boomer Aumand's Lady Wildcats sitting at 7-1 with a Keene Holiday Tournament title in hand. Since the New Year began, the team has won and won some more. Presently, they are 14-2 (11-2 in the official New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association standings).

The only loss the Maroon and White have suffered in the latest eight game stretch was versus Kearsarge 43-40. Interestingly, the Cats have not faced any of the top three seeds; Monadnock (the fourth seed) defeated them

earlier this winter, Fall Mountain is fifth and that Kearsarge team is sixth. Conant is seventh and Aumand's team has defeated them three times this winter, including a holiday game, which officially does not count.

The latest victory over Conant began a three game road trip on January 27, which all ended in FM triumphs. The win over Conant was by a 53-44 margin and was led by Ella Stewart's 20-point effort. Zoe Loupa with 14 and Brooke Aumand added offensive support. Aumand tallied 9. FM has actually topped Conant three times this winter.

The other two victories currently leading to an overall win streak of five were at Stevens 45-26 and at Winnisquam 52-41. Stewart was high scorer in both those encounters with 16 and 21 respectively with the same supporting scoring cast, Loupa with 13 and 12 and Aumand

adding 8 each time. Grace Bushway is currently contributing on a regular basis but usually her efforts won't show up in the point parade. Her trademark is with her hustle and strong defensive play. Aumand also pointed out strong bench play from both Madi DiBernardo and Alli Stoddart providing needed spark for the 2016-17 Wildcats.

Dana Dearborn is another Fall Mountain scoring threat. She contributed double digit scoring games in back to back games, including being responsible for one-quarter of the teams points in the tight Kearsarge loss.

"We made a great comeback in that game," Aumand told us, adding, "but it was not quite enough in the end. The next couple of weeks will determine our play-off standing and our own fate is in our hands."

Dearborn had 10 in that Kearsarge game and then tallied the total of 13

in the next contest a 51-37 decision over Hopkinton. Aumand led the scoring in the Kearsarge loss with 11, Stewart also added 10 and Loupa tossed in 9. Aumand's 17 led the way versus Hopkinton and Stewart had another 10. Mascoma is the other victory in the five game present win streak, by the score of 52-29. Stewart had a game high 23 with Aumand's 14, a heavy contribution.

There were two other wins since the holiday tournament. The Lady Cats turned back Newport 50-35 and won at Hillsboro-Deering 50-13. Stewart led the scoring in the one sided win with 20 and added 15 in a Newport struggle that Aumand says,

"It was a tough game for us. They played us tough. We will meet them again before the season is over and have to be ready."

Aumand had 18 to lead the way in the Newport win.



#3 Grace Bushway.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



#4 Allie Stoddart.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



#5 Ella Stewart.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



#15 Dana Dearborn.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



#11 Zoey Loupa.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



#33 Brooke Aumand.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

WE ONLY HAVE ONE SPORTS WRITER!

Please note, we only have one sports writer to cover all of our local schools sports events. If you'd like to submit your own sports news or events to our paper, please do!

Photos and press releases should be sent to Brandy at editor@VermontJournal.com by Monday 12 p.m. in order to get them into that weeks Wednesday publication.

Thank you for your understanding!

Nail-biting matches show the training is paying off

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Grit. Determination. Resilience. These are all qualities that will get one through life, and they are embodied in the kids on the Springfield Wrestling Team. Boys and girls in grades K-12 have been training hard and traveling to tournaments around the tri-state area to test their mettle against the best of New England, and it's paying off.

The big home tournament last Saturday was host to over 100 Ju-

nior High and Junior Varsity wrestlers from Vt. and N.H.; lots of excellent, nail-biting matches were to be seen all day!

Coming in third place were Springfield wrestlers Skyler Congdon, Skylar Wallace, Gillian Guy, and Mo Stettner. Second place winners were Mason Olney, Matt Prosser, Brandon Bennett, and Trent Lewis-Briere. Landing first place were Tim Bapp-Cederholm and Josh Sharron the newcomer to the 'green team' from Newport N.H.

Also this past weekend, 170-pound junior Matt LaChapelle went 4-0 and brought home the title of Champion from the Jason Lowell varsity tournament at Mt Mansfield in Vt. First-year wrestler Garrett Brickey, a feisty second-grade wrestler with the team, grappled his way to the gold in the Queen City Classic tournament in Manchester N.H.

Way to go, Cosmo wrestlers! The HS team heads to Bennington on Saturday and the 3 - 6 graders trek to

Orleans Vt. on Sunday for the New England Qualifier tournament.

Many thanks to all the team's supporters this year, with a special shout-out to the following: IVEK Corporation, Outnumbered Grill on Wheels (formerly the Silver Bullet Food Cart), Springfield Parks & Recreation Dept., JH Dunning, Suburban Propane, and the Paige Graham Memorial Fund.

View photos of the Champion and First Place Winners online at www.VermontJournal.com

arts & entertainment

“Vermont and Beyond” features seven Vt. artists

WESTON, Vt. - “Vermont and Beyond” returns to the Weston Playhouse for the 17 consecutive year on Presidents’ Weekend, February 18 and 19 and will be featuring seven Vermont artists.



Peony bloom painting by Robert O'Brien PHOTO PROVIDED

“We are pleased to show the work of this accomplished group of Vermont artists, and to be hosted, again, by the great folks at the Weston Playhouse,” said Diane Bell, Weston-based watercolor painter and organizer of the exhibit.

In addition to Diane’s work, the exhibit will also feature work by Tony Conner,



Fountain painting by Rober O'Brien PHOTO PROVIDED

Don Dalton, Doris Ingram, Robert O'Brien, Lynn Van Natta and Marijke Westberg.

The exhibit will include both watercolor and oil paintings that feature the rural landscape of Vermont, New England and many other far-off locations.

Weston Playhouse is located on the Village Green, off Vermont Rt. 100. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information call 263-9394 or 824-6195.

Celtic knotwork classes at Immanuel Retreat Center

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Have you ever wondered how to create the interlacing knotwork art of the early Celtic monks in such amazing books as the Book of Kells or the Lindesfarne Gospels? Immanuel Retreat Center at 12 Church St. is offering a drawing workshop February 11 and course beginning February 15 in Celtic Knotwork drawing. The workshop is an introduction and the course will cover the introductory material but quickly move into more advanced patterns and techniques.

Celtic knotwork patterns depicting birds and animals, trees and other plants, people and even the sun and the moon, as well as abstract patterns, were developed in pre-Christian times, and incorporated into illuminated manuscripts such as the Book of Kells and the Lindesfarne Gospels by early Celtic monks. Sadelle Wiltshire has been developing her techniques for the basic knotwork drawing that will be taught in this workshop.

While knotwork may seem challenging to create, there are simpler ways to approach these beautiful detailed drawings. The steps will be broken down for you and there will be plenty of work-



Celtic Knotwork. PHOTO PROVIDED

sheets.

Once you get the swing of the basics, consider signing up for our five week, Wednesday evening knotwork course, which will delve deeper into more complex interlacing, triquetra designs, working with borders and frames, adding knotwork into different shapes, adding “zoomorphic” figures (animal images) and creating your own “carpet pages”.

Celtic knotwork is wonderfully meditative. Come join others and learn more of this compelling art

form.

For more information or to register for the Celtic Knotwork Intro on Feb. 11 or the Celtic Knotwork Course beginning Feb. 15, call 802-460-0110 or visit our website, www.immanuelretreat.org.

Celtic Knotwork Intro I: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11

Celtic Knotwork Course: 5 sessions beginning Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 pm

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“Through Cern’s Eyes,” a modern fairy tale in a magical realm

CLAREMONT, N.H. - The local theatre troupe, World Under Wonder, will perform “Through Cern’s Eyes” at the Claremont Opera House on March 3 at 7 p.m. and March 4 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The

play is a modern fairy tale about a girl named Erika who finds her way in a magical realm called “The Other Side.” She meets many beings along the way and tries to help someone named Cern against a mysterious force called “The Blackness.”

“Through Cern’s Eyes” was written by the Director Sean Roberts several years ago and this is the second time this show will see the stage. Though Sean has revised it over the years; it still holds to its original teachings of caring for the



Rehearsal for “Through Cern’s Eyes.” PHOTO PROVIDED

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environment. The show has developed to hold other purposes as well such as sexual identity and religious persecution.

Tickets are available at the door or to purchase advance tickets email worldunderwonder@gmail.com

World Under Wonder is a community theatre group using the Claremont Opera House as its main host site. Owned and directed by Sean Edward Roberts, World Under Wonder presents productions with the main goal being to “provide personal growth and windows to creative exploration through the performing arts.” Sean also directs at the Newport Middle High School as their Dramatic Society Coach. The Dramatic Society is currently underway on the production of Treasure Island. Youth between 6 and 12 grades from Newport and surrounding areas may take part in the show. Contact World Under Wonder to get involved in the show at worldunderwonder@gmail.com

Sean has many ideas in mind for World Under Wonder over the next year. Check World Under Wonder website, www.worldunderwonder.webs.com and Facebook for upcoming news.

Any donations to the program are greatly appreciated and help continue and support the organization, the Director, and its goals.

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arts & entertainment

Art camps in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. - Community Art Garden, located at 295 Main Street, is offering a series of art camps during the February school vacation week. Designed with fun and process, play based art in mind, these camps will offer open ended art stations with a focus on sensory and nature. Both age groups will have the opportunity to play with ice painting as well as create ice sculptures. The 8+ children will have a chance to work on a larger igloo-type structure outside.



Community art garden.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Camp schedule is:

Ages 3-7 class is on Wednesday, Feb. 22 and Thursday, Feb. 23 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Ages 8+ class is on Thursday, Feb. 23 and Friday, Feb. 24 from 12 - 3 p.m.

You can find more information about their current programming or register for camps online at: www.communityartgarden.com or 802-289-3071.

Americana personified solo show at Gallery North Star

GRAFTON, Vt. - Gallery North Star, 151 Townshend Road, presents a solo show of new paintings by nationally acclaimed artist Charlie Hunter.

The exhibition will run from February 17 through March 19. An opening reception for the artist will be held on Friday, February 17 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

For more information call (802) 843-2465 or visit the gallery's website at www.gns-grafton.com.

Using sepia tones inter-



"White Washer, Small Town Sidewalk," oil on canvas. PHOTO PROVIDED

persed with flashes of color, Charlie Hunter's paintings evoke a rural past intersecting with an intruding present. Both melancholy and uplifting, his work captures an Americana experience.

Gallery North Star, located in historic Grafton, Vermont, is dedicated to presenting a diverse selection of work by Vermont's and New England's finest artists in a unique setting. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chaffee group exhibit, Release & React

RUTLAND, Vt. - The Chaffee Art Center announces the opening of Release & React, Feb. 17, 2017. The exhibit will feature three artist

groups: Brush Strokes Studio, East Mountain Mentoring Artists, and the Vermont Abstract Connection, creating a rich and diverse body of

work from 16 Vermont artists.

An artists' reception will be held on Friday, Feb. 17, 5-7 p.m. at the Chaffee Art Center, 17 South Main Street, Rutland, Vt. The Chaffee is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The exhibit will be up through March 31.

Read about each group of artists with this article online at www.VermontJournal.com



Release & React runs Feb. 17 - Mar. 31. Check out the three artist groups! PHOTO PROVIDED

DIY essential oils recipes demonstration

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Would you like to learn how to make your own toxin free, all natural household and personal products?

Morriah Signor is returning to the Springfield Town Library for a DIY essential oils recipe demonstration on Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m.

All products made at the event will be raffled off to the audience! Join us for another fun and educational evening!

This event is free, accessible to people with disabilities, and open to the public. Please call the Springfield Town Library at 885-3108.

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Disc Golf Club announces Winter Carnival events

CHESTER, Vt. - On Saturday Feb. 18, the Chester Disc Golf Club (CDGC) will host two outdoor events in conjunction with the 2017 Chester Winter Carnival. Children and families are welcome at both events.

At 11:00 a.m. the CDGC will host the first annual Winter Carnival Disc Golf Outing for all players interested in playing a round of winter disc golf. Winter is a really fun time to play disc golf and all players (including those who have never played before) are encouraged to participate.

The CDGC will have extra discs on hand for those who need to borrow one.

On Saturday evening, the CDGC will host a tiki-torch and glowstick snowshoe hike around the nine-hole course, 6-8 p.m. The self-guided, one-mile loop trail starts at the course kiosk and traverses through woods and fields with moderate elevation changes. Depending upon the snow conditions, snowshoes or boots with traction cleats (Yaktrax or the like) will be appropriate to navigate the illuminated trail. A headlamp or flashlight is also recommended but not required.

The Chester Disc Golf Course is located at the Pinnacle Recreation Area, directly behind the skating rink on Lover's Lane, where all winter carnival activities will be taking place throughout the day and evening. Although both events are free and open to the public, the CDGC will be accepting donations in support of the disc golf course's ongoing improvement fund. Check out Chester Disc Golf Club's Facebook page for more information about the course and events. Come on out and join the fun.

ART presents "Marry Me a Little"

RUTLAND, Vt. - Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents Stephen Sondheim's 1980 musical revue "Marry Me a Little" in the Brick Box at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center Street, Feb. 23, 24 and 25 and March 2, 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 26 at 2:00 p.m.

"Marry Me a Little" is a musical conceived by Craig Lucas and Norman René, with lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim. The revue sets songs cut from Sondheim's better-known musicals from 1954 to 1973, and a few from later productions, into a dialogue-free plot about the relationship between two lonely New York single people who are in emotional conflict during an evening in their separate one-room apartments. Despite knowing of the other's existence, they never get up the courage to talk to each other, though they imagine what an encounter might be like.

Unlike many revues, by the end of the evening a story has been told. The man and woman have shabby studio apartments in New York City. They never meet, but they appear in each other's dreams and recollections. How they spend the evening, and how they feel about it, is told through their actions and songs.

Peter Marsh of Rutland is the director. He is one of ART's producing directors and the co-

ordinator of the Nor'Eastern Play Writing Contest and Showcase. He has recently directed "The Cocktail Hour" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" for ART.

Mary Ellen Harlow of Wallingford is the musical director. She is retired from teaching high school choral music. She has done musical direction for, among others, "Godspell," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Side by Side" by Sondheim.

The cast of two is Julia Doiron and Ben Norton. The choreographer is Tegan Waite and the stage manager is Wendy Savery. Rob Biddiscombe is technical director, David Lane is lighting designer, Nancy Ellery is

costume designer and Kelly Connaughton is prop designer. Sandy Gartner is assistant producer and Susan Gladding-Heitzman is board operator.

"Marry Me a Little," presented in the Brick Box, has limited seating for each performance. Reservations are available by calling the Paramount box office at 802-775-0903, stopping by the box office or going on-line at www.Paramountlive.org.

For more information about Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre visit the Company's website at www.actorsrepvt.org and like us on Facebook. You can also reach us at ART, P.O. Box 580, Rutland, VT 05702 or e-mail at actorsreptvt@aol.com.

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outdoor news

LEGAL NOTICES

Snowshoe with the Green Mountain Club —

PERU, Vt. - On February 11 meet at the Bromley Ski Area at the east end of the main parking lot at 6 p.m. There will be car-pooling to the Vt 11/30 Long Trail winter parking lot.

Snowshoe or ski up the Long Trail by head lamp to

the summit of Bromley Ski Area, stop in at the ski patrol building to warm up and have a snack, then ski or snowshoe by moonlight together on the designated ski trail for us. Bring extra clothing, snacks, fluids, hand warmers, and headlamp with spare batteries.

Climb 3 miles with 1460 feet of elevation gain and then the ski or snowshoe down the ski trail. Moderate to difficult trip, depending on snow depth. Bring micro spikes for the climb if icy. RSVP to Katie Brooks at 516-978-4016

Lions and tigers? No, bears!

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Sue Morse of Keeping Track led a fascinating talk at the Cavendish Town Elementary School in Proctorsville last year on cougars returning to Vermont. She will return to the elementary school in Proctorsville on Wednesday, February 22 at 7 p.m. to present a talk entitled, "Animals of The North - What Will Global Climate Change Mean for Them?" The program is co-sponsored by the Grafton Nature Museum and the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association.

Her program is designed to educate audiences about ways in which northern wildlife species are already being affected by climate change, with more seri-

ous challenges ahead. Canada lynx, moose, American marten, caribou, polar bear, arctic fox and arctic marine mammals and waterfowl are some of the species covered in this stunningly beautiful show. Sue promises not to overwhelm the audience with bad news. Instead, her program will devote equal time sharing remarkable images and stories about plants and animals in their northern habitats - all in the spirit of Jane Goodall's "reason for hope." The intent is to inspire attendees, young and old alike, to join in the vital crusade to change our fossil fuel-burning ways, conserve natural resources and share a healthy planet with all that lives.

The program will be appealing for all ages, children and



A white wolf.

PHOTO PROVIDED

adults. Suggested donation. For more information on the program, please call Claire Walker at (802) 226-7259.

Check the Snow Report at www.VermontJournal.com



ON THE SNOW SNOW REPORT MONDAY, JAN. 6, 2017

	Lifts	Snow Depth	Snowfall
Sugarbush	13 / 16	50"	4" (2/ 6)
Killington Resort	14 / 21	32"	1" (2/ 6)
Magic Mountain	2 / 4	36"	0" (2/ 6)
Okemo Mountain Resort	13 / 20	34"	0" (2/ 6)
Stratton Mountain	9 / 11	31"	0" (2/ 6)

Click on a mountain to open a more detailed report in a new tab, providing ticket prices, trail details & maps, and more!

Crossing the February threshold

REGION - This month, wildlife and the rest of us in New England will cross a threshold - arbitrary yet not insignificant: 10 hours of daylight! You can sense it when you head out in the morning and hear the Black-capped Chickadees and Northern Cardinals breaking out into song, accompanied by the Downy and Hairy woodpeckers starting to drum. Even though we've got lots more winter ahead, change is coming.

To help get your hopes up, no matter what that groundhog predicted here is a brief overview of the online field guide to February.

The groundhog, whistle pig, woodchuck, or whatever you like to call it - is a deep sleeper, a "true" hibernator. Their body temperature drops below 68F,



A Pine Grosbeak reaches for a crab apple.

PHOTO BY K. P. MCFARLAND

sometimes as low as 40 F, and their heart rate slows dramatically to just five beats per minute. But this doesn't stretch on for the entire winter. They go through bouts of torpor that last about a week, then they wake up for a few days, and

then back into torpor. They can have up to a couple dozen cycles over the entire hibernation period.

A sure sign of the spring to come is the notable birds seen around Vermont in the past weeks such as the Bohemian

and Cedar Waxwings, and Pine Grosbeaks. This month is when migratory birds begin their return, the first will be the Turkey Vultures followed by the Red-winged Blackbirds.

Around the middle of February is the breeding season for the Eastern Coyote; their howl is heard on winter nights especially during mating season. As an omnivore, they eat a varied diet of small rodents, plants, fruit, deer, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbits, insects, birds, and even a woodchuck - watch out Punxsutawney Phil!

Listen to the Outdoor Radio on vtecostudies.org for the talk on why the amazing winter crows gather in large flocks and why they are sometimes called a murder of crows.

To view the full field guide to February visit: www.vtecostudies.org/blog/a-field-guide-to-february-2017

The National Winter Sports Education Foundation supplies skis for schoolchildren —

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - The Nordic Rocks program was developed to provide elementary school students with an opportunity to experience Nordic skiing with a clear pathway to further advancement in the sport. By participating in the Nordic Rocks program, Flood Brook School is introducing a new generation to a healthy lifestyle and lifelong activity.

The National Winter Sports Education Foundation in conjunction with USSA and the local Nordic ski club, West River Nordic, has provided Flood Brook School with 30 pairs of Nordic skis that physical education teacher Mark Weikert can use during class time. They have also provided detailed, age-appropriate lesson plans, and West River Nordic will provide volunteer mentors and equipment assistance.

A big Thank You goes out to Mark Weikert, John Ogden of West River Nordic, USSA and the National Winter Sports Educational Foundation for bringing Nordic Rocks to Flood Brook!

GREEN MOUNTAIN UNION HIGH SCHOOL Chester, VT

We are looking for candidates for the following positions:

TEMPORARY CUSTODIAN - EVENINGS
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VARSITY BASEBALL COACH FOR SPRING 2017 - Start March 1st

Part time position, responsibilities include but are not limited to, team management and program development. Successful candidates must possess high quality communication skills, both oral and written; have the ability to plan and implement a practice plan with skill developing progression; be professional in their approach; demonstrate the ability to work with a variety of people; be flexible; 1 or more years of experience in a high school coaching setting is desired.

BUS DRIVERS

Work during the school year, with the opportunity for time during the summer. Requirements: CDL with school bus and passenger endorsements along with current DOT Medical Card. Pre-employment testing is required.

Criminal Background Record Check will be required for all positions.

Qualified candidates may apply through SchoolSpring.com, send resume with references or complete a Two Rivers Supervisory Union Job Application and forward to:

Todd Parah
Green Mountain Union High School
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Chester, VT 05143

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Residential Specialist(s) - Brattleboro, Bellows Falls and Springfield - Per-diem and Full time positions are currently available. Opportunity to join a dynamic team working in a therapeutic community for individuals with serious mental illness. We are looking for creative, flexible and dependable people to teach independent living skills, socialization and community integration in the area. Applicants with relevant bachelor's degree and/or residential mental health experience preferred.

Benefits & Wellness Coordinator - HCRS, an organization with 500+ employees, is seeking a dynamic, smart, energetic, quick learning and detail-oriented individual to join its HR team to oversee the organization's wide range of benefits. The job oversees all aspects of the HR Benefit field, but we'll also get you involved in help coordinating our annual employee wellness fair, employee appreciation day, holiday party and other employee gatherings. Prior HR experience is not required, only a willingness to learn benefits and be part of an HR Service Team.

In addition to offering one of the best and most affordable benefit packages in the area, HCRS offers an array of innovative benefits, including interest-free loans to purchase electronic devices (laptops, tablets, smart phones); subsidies for snow tire purchases; interest-free emergency loans; access to on-site chair massages, and a tuition reimbursement program. HCRS also values the dedication our employees bring to their work and provides a generous paid time off policy to make work-life balance possible.

The Benefits & Wellness Coordinator provides day-to-day assistance to employees related to benefits questions, offers benefit orientations for new employees, creates employee benefit communications, and coordinates medical-related leaves (FMLA, VPFL). This position serves as the chair of the Wellness Committee and coordinates the organization's wellness activities, a robust wellness incentive plan, annual wellness fairs, and flu shot clinics. We work hard, but we want you to have some fun at the same time.

HCRS is proud to offer one of the best benefits packages in the area. Our benefit package, coupled with competitive salaries, allows us to attract and retain the best staff you may ever work with. The high caliber of our staff creates an environment of excellence; making HCRS a great place to work and helping us make a positive difference in our community.

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angela.comstock@graffoninnvermont.com with resume and references. www.graffoninnvermont.com (02/14)

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GRAFTON, VT - The Grafton Inn is looking for an experienced line cook. 2 days breakfast, 3 nights line cook for busy pub and restaurant. Responsibilities include preparation of food and line cooking, stocking inventory, maintaining clean work area. Ability to work in a fast paced environment, and previous experience preferred. Weekends required. Email innkeeper Angela Comstock at

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Please submit resume with letters of interest to Richard Cloud, Chief of Police at 556 Elm Street, Chester, Vermont no later than February 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

TOWN OF CHESTER ZONING ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

The Town of Chester is advertising for the position of Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator is responsible for the issuance of building permits and must be able to work with the Planning Commission and Development Review Board on a regular basis and is required to attend all meetings of these Boards. Applicants must have a general knowledge of the community; the purpose, theory and practice of zoning; The Vermont Planning and Development Act; the municipal bylaws; Basic understanding of state statutes and regulations related to land use and land development. This position requires an individual who is courteous, tactful, objective, and fair. The ability to communicate clearly, both verbally and in writing is an essential.

If interested, please submit your resume and letter of interest to David Pisha, Town Manager, at 556 Elm Street, Chester, Vermont no later than Friday, February 17, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

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TOWN OF CHESTER
WARNING
NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be by Australian ballot on March 7, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont and citizens to serve on the Budget Committee (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$235,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing the following capital items: \$135,000.00 to repair the large culvert on Popple Dungeon Road; \$100,000.00 to make improvements to Route 35. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 3: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a new Pumper Truck for the Fire Department. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 4: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing the following capital items: \$25,000.00 to replace the pumps at the town pool for the recreation department; \$110,000.00 to purchase a tractor with a roadside mower and leaf blower for the highway department; \$50,000.00 to repair the handicap access ramp at town hall. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the office of town auditor. The town is audited annually by a certified public accountant. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the office of Lister, effective January 1, 2018. This position would be replaced by a professionally qualified assessor. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to accept gifts and trust funds for perpetual care of cemetery lots in accordance with conditions of said gifts and trusts as follows: Nelson and Sherry Smith, \$1,000.00; Georgeann and Donald Turner, \$500.00; Frederick Sale, \$500.00.
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$2,876,502.11 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2017, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to expend from the Capital Budget Reserve Fund, \$333,100.00 to be allocated as follows: \$125,000.00 for the purchase of a new dump truck for the highway department; \$49,600.00 for the Loader lease for the highway department; \$20,000.00 for the purchase of a new pickup truck for the highway department; \$55,000.00 for the excavator loan for the highway department; \$18,500.00 for the purchase of airpaks for the fire department; \$45,000.00 for the purchase of a cruiser for the police department; \$20,000.00 for the library repairs; all as indicated on the Capital Budget Program schedule and less any grant funds that may be received
- ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Chester Red & Gun Club, Inc.
- ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Green Mountain Softball League.
- ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$ 8,649.00 to the Springfield Regional Development Corporation.
- ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to Pennies for the Playground (501)(c)(3) nonprofit organization for the renewal of the Chester Community Playground at Chester Andover Elementary School in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2500 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Chester Fireworks for Labor Day weekend, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.
- ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,700 (two thousand seven hundred dollars) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot and cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Chester. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the Current operated by Connecticut River Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Partners, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc, a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 27: To act on the reports of the Town Officers for the year ending December 31, 2016.
- ARTICLE 28: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not including the expenditures of Town Funds or other business acted upon in the preceding Articles.

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 19th day of January, 2017.

John DeBenedetti /s/ John DeBenedetti, Chairman
Ben Whalen /s/ Ben Whalen
Dan Cote /s/ Dan Cote
Heather Chase /s/ Heather Chase
Arne Jonynas /s/ Arne Jonynas



GRAFTON, VERMONT
WARNING

For Town and Town School Districts

The legal voters of the Town and Town School Districts of Grafton, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Grafton Elementary School on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM EST to take action on the following articles:

- ART. 1 To choose all Town and Town School District Officers. Voting to be by Australian ballot; polls open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- ART. 2 To act on the Auditor's Report.
- ART. 3 To authorize the Selectmen, the Town School Directors and the Athens/Grafton Joint Contract School District Directors to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes.
- ART. 4 Shall the Town of Grafton vote to raise one hundred forty nine thousand dollars (\$149,000) for the Capital Budget? (\$100,000 for Equipment, \$4,000 for Guard Rail, \$20,000 for Highway Roadway Projects, \$15,000 for Fire Truck, \$5,000 for Computers for Town Offices, \$5,000 Bridge Scraping and Painting).
- ART. 5 Shall the Town of Grafton raise five hundred thirty thousand, eight hundred fifty dollars (\$530,850) for the maintenance of highways and bridges?
- ART. 6 Shall the Town of Grafton raise two hundred fifty six thousand, ninety dollars (\$256,090) for the Selectmen's Budget?
- ART. 7 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$9,000 for ambulance service?
- ART. 8 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$26,000 for the Fire-fighter's Association operating expenses?
- ART. 9 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$9,000 for Grafton Rescue Squad operating expenses?
- ART. 10 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$9,741 for Humanitarian expenses? (Bellows Falls Senior Center - \$674; Grace Cottage - \$1,500; Grafton Cares - \$1,000; HCRS - \$600; Parks Place - \$100; RSVP - \$160; Senior Solutions - \$650; SEVCA - \$650; The Current - \$250; Valley Cares - \$1,052; Visiting Nurse Association - \$2,300; VCIL - \$105; Women's Freedom Center - \$600; Youth Services - \$100).
- ART. 11 Shall the voters of the Grafton Town School District approve the Athens/Grafton Joint Contract School District budget K-6 expenses of one million, three hundred forty seven thousand, one hundred sixty three dollars and forty nine cents (\$1,347,163.49) that includes five hundred dollars (\$500.00) compensation for each School Director?
- ART. 12 Shall the voters of the Grafton Town School District approve the school board to expend eight hundred seventy eight thousand, one hundred fifty nine dollars and seventy six cents (\$878,159.76) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of thirteen thousand, six hundred dollars and eighty three cents (\$13,600.83) per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.59% higher than spending for the current year.
- ART. 13 Shall the voters of the Grafton Town School District vote to form the Windham Northeast Unified School District on the following terms:

- 1. The districts listed below (referred to herein as Member Districts) shall all be identified as "necessary" for the formation of the New Unified School District:
 - Athens School District
 - Grafton School District
 - Rockingham School District
 - Westminster School District
- The Bellows Falls Union High School District shall also be considered necessary for the formation of the new Unified School District but it shall not be referred to as a Town School District and its interests are represented by the voters of each of the Town School Districts.
- 2. The Windham Northeast Unified School District will offer education to pre-kindergarten through Grade 12.
- 3. The Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of Directors will be comprised of ten (10) board members who shall have equal votes and whose initial representation will mirror that of Union High School District #27 (Bellows Falls High School) on March 7, 2017. This ratio will be reviewed upon the issuance of each U.S. Census and may be reviewed more frequently to reformulate its membership in accordance with existing state law at that time. Formulation of the initial membership on the board of school directors as detailed below:

Number of Board Members by District	
Athens	1
Grafton	1
Rockingham	5
Westminster	3

The Windham Northeast Unified School District Board Directors will be nominated from the legal voters of each Town School District (and after formation of the Unified School District, each member town), and will be elected by Australian ballot for three-year terms, except for those initially elected at the time of the formation of the Windham Northeast School District. Candidates will be elected by an at-large vote of the electorate in the Town School Districts.

4.A. The use of the Windham Northeast Unified School District schools and related facilities and property will be determined by the Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of Directors in a manner that most effectively and efficiently attains quality and equitable education for all students. However, the Windham Northeast Unified School

District Board of Directors will continue to use all school facilities operating as elementary/middle public schools on July 1, 2018 for Windham Northeast Unified School District programs and activities unless a majority vote of the electorate of the municipality in which the school is located approves a plan to close a school facility. Decisions regarding the use of schools for pre-kindergarten programs will be determined by the Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of Directors.

4.B. No later than June 30, 2018, the Forming Entities will convey to the Windham Northeast Unified School District all of their school-related real property and personal property, including all land, buildings and contents for One Dollar subject to all encumbrances of record and the Windham Northeast Unified School District will assume all capital associated therewith.

4.C. In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the Windham Northeast Unified School District determines that any of the real property, including buildings and land, conveyed to it by the Forming Entities other than the Union High School District is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the Windham Northeast Unified School District and its educational programs, the Windham Northeast Unified School District shall convey such real property, for the sum of one dollar, and subject to all encumbrances of record, the assumption or repayment of all outstanding bonds and notes and the repayment of any school construction aid or grants as required by Vermont law, to the municipality in which it is located.

The conveyance of any of the above school properties shall be conditioned upon the town/village owning and utilizing the real property for community and public purposes for a minimum of five years. In the event a town/village elects to sell the real property prior to five years of ownership, the town shall compensate the Windham Northeast Unified School District for all capital improvements and renovations completed after the formation of the Windham Northeast Unified School District and prior to the sale to the town/village. In the event a town/village elects not to acquire ownership of such real property, the Windham Northeast Unified School District shall, pursuant to Vermont statutes, sell the property upon such terms and conditions as established by the Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of School Directors.

4.D. For at least the first year that the Windham Northeast Unified School District is fully operational and providing educational services, students will attend elementary school and middle school according to their town/district of residence.

5.A. Capital Debt: The Windham Northeast Unified School District will assume all capital debt of Forming Entities, including both principal and interest, as may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2018.

5.B. Operating Fund Deficits and Balances: The Windham Northeast Unified School District will assume any and all general operating deficits and/or surpluses and fund balances of the Forming Entities that may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2018. Those Forming Entities with surpluses, fund balances or remaining reserve funds at the close of business on June 30, 2018, will transfer all such funds to the Windham Northeast Unified School District. In addition, reserve funds identified for specific purposes will be transferred to the Windham Northeast Unified School District and will be applied for said purpose unless otherwise determined through appropriate legal process.

5.C. Specified Funds: The Forming Schools will transfer to the Windham Northeast Unified School District any pre-existing school district specific endowments or other restricted accounts that may exist on June 30, 2018. Scholarship funds or like accounts held by school districts on June 30, 2018 that have specified conditions of use will be used in accordance with said provisions.

6. The provisions of the Report and Formation Plan approved by the State Board of Education on December 20, 2016, which is on file at the offices of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union shall govern the Unified School District. (Voted By Australian Ballot)

- ART. 14 To elect the following directors to the initial Board of Directors of the Windham Northeast Unified School District:
 - Athens:
 - 1 Director for a one year term expiring in March of 2019 Grafton:
 - 1 Director for a two year term expiring in March of 2020 Rockingham: 5 Directors
 - 2 for one year terms expiring in March of 2019
 - 1 for a two year term expiring in March of 2020
 - 2 for three year terms expiring in March of 2021 Westminster: 3 Directors
 - 1 for a one year term expiring in March of 2019
 - 1 for a two year term expiring in March of 2020
 - 1 for a three year term expiring in March of 2021 (Voted By Australian Ballot)
- ART. 15 Shall the Town of Grafton pay its property taxes to the Treasurer in Quarterly installments, with the due dates being Aug. 15, Nov. 15, Feb. 15, and May 15?
- ART. 16 Shall the Town of Grafton levy an interest charge on all delinquent taxes on real and personal property of one (1) percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment for the first three months, and one and one-half (1 1/2) percent per month or fraction thereof for every month thereafter, as provided for in 32 VSA 5136.
- ART. 17 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the Town and Town School District meeting.

LEGAL NOTICES

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, FEB. 11- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Celtic Knotwork Intro I at 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. There is a class fee. Held at Currier Hall, 12 Church St., Bellows Falls 802-460-0110

FRIDAY, FEB. 17- WINHALL, Vt. - Special intro to Tai Chi class: to discover, share a soft practice and relax. Class taught by Djemila Cavanaugh. For more info or to learn about the upcoming weekly class, call Djemila at (802) 490-0225, email: djem.translator@gmail.com or check updates on Facebook: Djem's Tai Chi classes

SATURDAY, FEB. 18- BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - Past Lives, Dreams and Soul Travel from 2 - 3 p.m. Discover your true purpose, and learn how to find greater love and spiritual freedom through an understanding of the unique opportunities available to each of us today. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. More info: www.eckankar-vt.org, 800-772-9390.

CHESTER, Vt. - Have you ever wanted to learn the art of Bookmaking? Intro to Codex Binding on Saturday, February 18th. Both classes run from 12 - 3 p.m. All materials are included in the cost. These workshops are best suited for ages 8+. For more information, contact

Emily Burkland at Community Art Garden theartgardenvt@gmail.com or (802) 289-3071 or check their website to enroll in one of the classes or get more information about Chester, VT's own little community ART studio! www.communityartgarden.com

MONDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 9 - 10:30 a.m. play group at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center. Come to play and meet new friends. All parents with young children are welcomed. Contact Celeste at 886-5242 or email at celestem@vermontel.net.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY- WALPOLE, N.H. - Pam Bernard announces the beginning 8-week sessions of writing and reading memoir workshops at her home in Walpole, NH. Folks are coming together who have never before considered their lives worthy of exploration, finding new meaning in the act of harnessing memory and imagination. Please email pam@pambernard.com, or visit www.pambernard.com or call for more information. 603.756.4177. February 27, 12 - 3 p.m. Wednesdays: January 11 - March 1, 1 - 4 p.m.

TUESDAYS - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - River Voices Poetry meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Flat Iron Exchange Building on the Square. All poets welcome.

Discussion of all aspects of the poem. 802-463-22074

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Crafts, Stories and Play Time toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and activities. Rockingham Free Public Library 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Contact 463-4270

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Play Group at Saxtons River Elementary School. Come on over for crafts, activities and to play! Call Molly 802-376-6204

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EdgarMay Open Play Group 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Studio Momentum. 71 Main Street. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years! Free to member families. Call (802) 885-2568 or info@myrecenter.org

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - 2 hour art classes. BYO refreshments & appetizers. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Art & Paint Parties with Kim Ray: 2/21- Clay Whistles, 3/7- Paint Your Favorite Animal, 3/21- Graphite drawing, 4/4 - Still Life Painting, 4/18- Feng Shui painting. Contact Jane Mackugler for her Art Adventures classes 802-824-5974 / jmackugler@gmail.com. Art Adventures with Jane Mackugler: 2/14- Gelli Printing, 3/14- Needle felting, 4/11- Alcohol Inks. Contact Kim Ray for her Art & Paint Parties at 802-824-6555

/ Kim@kimraymurals.com Classes will take place at the Mountain Painters & Artisans Gallery at the Mountain Marketplace, 5700 Route 100.

WEDNESDAYS - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Play Group at First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls/Rockingham Recreation Center. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Come join the fun! Healthy snack served. Call Molly 802-376-6204.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Wednesdays beginning Feb. 15 - March 15 is the Celtic Knotwork Course. There is a class fee. Held at Currier Hall, 12 Church St., Bellows Falls. Call for more information 802-460-0110 or visit http://www.stonechurcharts.org

CAVENDISH, Vt. - From 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., there will be a Tai Chi beginners' class at DG Bodyworks, 7 Depot St. in Cavendish/Proctorsville, Vt., next to the Post Office at the corner of Rte 131 and Depot St. Tuition is per month. To learn more about the classes, please contact Djemila at (802) 490-0225, by email: djem.translator@gmail.com or check for updates on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/gemstaichi/

CHESTER, Vt. - Liza Eaton, founder of Buddhaful Yoga, will be offering A Gentle Flow Kundalini Yoga class for beginners every Wednesday 9:30 - 11 a.m. You will be encouraged to go at your own

WARNING

ANDOVER TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING 2017

To the inhabitants of the Town of Andover School District, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby warned to meet in the Andover Town Hall on Saturday March 4, 2017 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following articles:

- 1) To elect a moderator for a term beginning on July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2018. (Current Moderator-Jon Bliss)
- 2) To elect one school director for the Town School Board for a term of three (3) years ending in 2020. (Current Director-J. Fromberger)
- 3) To see if the voters of Andover will approve the proposed Town School Budget and will vote to raise a sum of money to cover the expenses of the Town School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and if so, the amount.
- 4) To act on any other business proper to come before said meeting, not including previously considered articles or the expenditure of funds.

Town School Directors:

Mark Bodin 2019
Sherry Willumitis 2018
Joseph Fromberger 2017

WARNING TOWN OF ANDOVER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING March 4, 2017

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Andover, in the County of Windsor and the State of Vermont, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby warned to meet at the Town Hall in Andover on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 10:15 A.M. in the morning to act on the following items viz:

1. To choose a Moderator for a term to end June 30, 2018.
2. To hear and act on the Auditors' Report.
3. To elect the following Town Officers for these positions:

Town Clerk	(3 yr)	Constable	(1 yr)
Treasurer	(1 yr)	Agent to Prosecute	(1 yr)
Select Board	(3 yr, 1 yr, 1 yr)	Sexton	(1 yr)
Lister	(3 yr)	Cemetery Com.	(3 yr)
Tax Collector	(1 yr)		
Auditor	(3 yr)		

4. To see if the Town will have all taxes paid into the Treasury as provided by law; and if so, to authorize the Select Board to establish a payment schedule.
5. To see when the Town will hold Town Meeting in 2018. (03/03/2018 - Saturday prior to traditional Town Meeting Day).
6. Explanation of the Town Budget.
7. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to distribute the surplus as described in Article #6.
8. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town.
9. To do any other nonbinding business proper to be done at said meeting.

Dated at Andover, Vermont this 23rd day of January, 2017

Harold Johnson, Chairman
Andover Select Board

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158
Tel. 802-722-4255 Fax 802-722-9816

SELECTBOARD WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL 3651 US Rt. 5, Westminister, Vermont Notice of Public Hearing

Supplement to the Town Plan Version 6.2

The Westminister Selectboard will hold a public hearing at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at the Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5, Westminister, VT, to take comments on the supplement to the Westminister "Town Plan Version 6.2." for approval.

With assistance from the Windham Regional Commission and general public participation, the Planning commission have determined the Westminister Town Plan Supplement, as proposed, is consistent with the goals established in Section 4385 of title 24 V.S.A.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments on the supplement and to discuss any comments provided by the public.

The full text of the Supplement to the Town Plan Version 6.2 may be examined and/or obtained at the Town Office during regular business hours or viewed on the Town's website, www.westminstervt.org.

Dated at Westminister, Vermont, this 1st of February, 2017. Westminister Planning Commission

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158
Tel. 802-722-4255 Fax 802-722-9816

PLANNING COMMISSION WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL 3651 US Rt. 5, Westminister, Vermont Notice of Public Hearing

Supplement to the Town Plan Version 6.2

The Westminister Planning Commission will hold a second public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at the Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5, Westminister, VT, to take comments on the supplement to the Westminister "Town Plan Version 6.2." for approval.

With assistance from the Windham Regional Commission and general public participation, the Planning commission have determined the Westminister Town Plan Supplement, as proposed, is consistent with the goals established in Section 4385 of title 24 V.S.A.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments on the supplement and to discuss any comments provided by the public.

The full text of the Supplement to the Town Plan Version 6.2 may be examined and/or obtained at the Town Office during regular business hours or viewed on the Town's website, www.westminstervt.org.

Dated at Westminister, Vermont, this 25th of January, 2017. Westminister Planning Commission

TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Tristle

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Please number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column and each small 3x3 square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOT BOY!

King Crossword

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ACROSS

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7 Expert
12 Potential syrup
13 Lennon's lady
14 Similar
15 Citric beverage
16 Underwent reduction
18 Jeremy of basketball
19 Tijuana tootle-oo
20 Rolling stone's lack
22 Poetic night-fall
23 Antitoxins
27 -- de deux
29 Maintenance
31 Quibblers split these
34 Senorita's wiggle?
35 "Rabbit, Run" author
37 Feedbag morsel
38 Piratic quaff
39 Paving goop
41 "- is life!"
45 Con game
47 Pair
48 Absolutely
52 Use a towel
53 Photoshop company
54 Reading matter, for short

DOWN

1 Any of 150 in the Bible
2 Deejay's domain
3 Starts
4 Last few notes
5 Battery terminals
6 Jim at the Alamo
7 Church service
8 "The Greatest"
9 Kin of "i.e."
10 -- out a living
11 Homer's neighbor
17 Bourgeois, to Brits
21 Parsley serving
23 Revue segments
24 Conger or moray
25 Roulette bet
26 Mimic
28 Request
30 Sch. org.
31 Embrace
32 Spring mo.
33 Bachelor's last words
36 Needle case
37 Corsage bloom
40 Point of view
42 Milk dispenser
43 Moe's brother
44 Rulebook compiler
45 A "Desperate Housewife"
46 Director
47 Premier
48 Doo follower
49 Praise in verse
50 Took the prize
51 Peacock network



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your ideas are finally reaching those who can appreciate them. But don't expect any immediate reactions. That will come later. Meanwhile, a personal matter needs your attention.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your energy levels are rising, and you're feeling restless and eager to get into some activity, whether it's for profit or just for fun. In either case, the aspects are highly favorable, so go for it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A relationship seems to be winding down from passionate to passive. It's up to you to decide what the next step will be. But don't wait too long to take the initiative. Delay could create more problems.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A decision looms. But be very sure that this is what you really want before you sign or say anything. Once you act, there'll be little or no wiggle room for any adjustments.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Money matters improve, but you still need to be cautious with your spending. Also, set aside that Leonine pride for a bit and apologize for contributing to that misunderstanding.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A tempting financial situation could make the usually unflappable Virgo rush in before checking things out. Be alert to possible hidden problems. Get the facts before you act.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's nice to know that you're finally getting due credit for your efforts. You also should know that new opportunities will follow. A family member brings important news.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Any uncertainty that begins to cloud an impending decision could signal a need to re-examine your reasons for wanting to take on this commitment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You benefit from taking time out of your currently hectic schedule to do more contemplation or meditation. This will help re-energize you, both in body and soul.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Nursing hurt feelings can zap the energies of even the usually self-confident Sea Goat. Best advice: Move forward. Success is the best balm for a painful ego.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A display of temperament surprises you, as well as those around you. It could be all that pressure you're under. Consider letting someone help you see it through.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Some things don't seem to be working out as you'd hoped. Don't fret. Instead, take some time out to reassess your plans and see where changes could be made.

BORN THIS WEEK: You enjoy traveling and meeting people. You are especially good with children and would make an excellent teacher.

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF WESTON NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of property in the Town of Weston, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for municipal property taxes for the 2015 and 2016 calendar years and for school district property taxes for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property located in Weston, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Dorcas Anne Clemmey Sharp by Quitclaim Deed of Highfield Venturers, LLC, dated September 11, 2009 and recorded on September 16, 2009 in Book 78 at Page 36 of the Weston Land Records. [Parcel #205108-00; E-911 address: 5452 Landgrove Road]

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5254, so much of said property will be sold at public auction at the Weston Town Office, a public place located on Lawrence Hill Road in the Town of Weston, on the 1st day of March, 2017, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Weston, Vermont this 27th day of January, 2017.
Sandra M. Goodwin, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

CLASSES CONT.

WEDNESDAYS CONT. - pace and listen to your body. Both classes are held at the Fullerton Inn, on the Chester Green. For more information visit www.buddhafulyoga.com or call (802)875-2868.

THIRD WEDNESDAYS - RUTLAND, Vt. - Figure drawing class. Come hone the your skills of observation of the human figure. Space is limited to 10 people. 6 - 8 p.m. Advanced registration required at www.chaffecenter.org. There is a fee for the class.

RUTLAND, Vt. - Write Now! Release your writer's block and give yourself the gift of written expression. Bring whatever you are working on, whether it be creative writing, spoken word, poetry, or your memoir. Space

is limited to 10 participants. Advance registration required. Facilitated by Joanna Tebbs Young. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. a fee for the classes. Register at www.chaffecenter.org

THURSDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EdgarMay Open Play Group 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Studio Momentum. 71 Main Street. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years! Free to member families. Call (802) 885-2568 or info@myrecenter.org

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Active Parenting is a great workshop for parents of kids of any age, especially tweens and teens. The workshop runs on Thursdays, thru March 9 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. (except February 23) at The Collaborative, 91 VT Route 11, Londonderry, behind Flood Brook School. This six-week workshop is free and each participant receives a workbook. Dinner and childcare provided with preregistration by calling The Collaborative at 824-4200.

WINDSOR, Vt. - Play Group 9:30 - 11 a.m. Come and enjoy an open gym, ball games and sometimes even a bounce house! Call Windsor Recreation Center (802) 674-6783.

FRIDAYS - CHESTER, Vt. - Liza Eaton, founder of Buddhaful Yoga, will be offering Kundalini Yoga Dance every Friday 9:30 - 11 a.m. Held at the Fullerton Inn, on the Chester Green. For more information visit www.buddhafulyoga.com or call (802)875-2868.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 9 - 11 a.m. creative movement activities and playgroup held in the gym of the Community Center. All parents with young children are welcomed. Contact Parks and Recreation Dept. at (802) 885-2727

SECOND FRIDAY - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Free Open Art Nights from 7 p.m., open to people of all ages. Try something new, make mistakes, learn, and try again at the Art Gym on 62 Clinton Street. Visit www.facebook.com/springfieldartgym/

SATURDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EdgarMay Open Play Group 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Studio Momentum. 71 Main Street. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years! Free to member families. Call (802) 885-2568 or info@myrecenter.org

SUNDAYS - WALLINGFORD, Vt. -

Experience the joy of restoring movement to all areas of your body at the Wallingford Elementary School from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Classes & Workshops will include experiential anatomy and a variety of yoga practices, courtesy of 5 instructors! Beginners and experienced welcome. Dress warmly. There is a fee for participation. A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit: WES General Scholarship Fund; Green Hill Cemetery; Wallingford Bike Safety Day. Call 802-446-2499 to register. 2/12, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2 Weekly updates available: <https://www.facebook.com/thrivecenterofthegreenmountains>

WEEKLY - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Youth swim lessons are offered on Saturday and Sunday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. Current classes available including our Parent and Toddler class in our warm water therapy pool as well as levels 1, 2, and 3. Our adult swim lessons are on Thursday mornings and feature three levels: Stroke Development, Stroke Improvement, and Stroke Refinement. We also offer a special class, Swimming for the Petrified by appointment call 802-885-2568 or visit www.myrecenter.org

practicing for the chorus's May 6 and 7 concerts. The weekly Tuesday rehearsals are held at the First Congregational Church, 36 Elm St., from 7 - 9 p.m. All ages may participate and there are no auditions. There is a small participation fee with scholarships available. For more information, call Ellen Satterthwaite at 802-457-3980.

MONDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Community Chorus rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church on 21 Fairground Rd. Contact Terri at springfieldcommunitychorus@gmail.com or call Barbara at 802-886-1777. www.springfieldcommunitychorus.org.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Ludlow Rotary club meets every Tuesday and is hosted by DJ's Restaurant, 146 Main Street from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Enter via side door opposite bank drive through. Visit www.ludlowrotary.com or contact club President, Tessa Buss at tessabuss@gmail.com

THURSDAYS - LUDLOW, Vt. - Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s, a totally new kind of math club where you'll build stuff, toss beach balls, make amazing mazes and more! You'll have a blast with mischief-making activities like Beach Ball Party, Funny Money and Glow-in-the-Dark City. Grades 3 - 5 Fletcher Memorial Library, 3 - 4 p.m. FEB. 9 & 16

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - The Charlestown Rotary Club meets at The Charlestown Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Summer Street. For more information email rayandrosie@concast.net

RUTLAND, Vt. - Marble Valley Duplicate Bridge Club meets from 7-10:30 p.m. at The Godnick Center in Rutland, Vt. Snacks provided. Come join for a fun evening. More info call 802-228-6276.

CLUBS

TUESDAY, FEB. 21 WOODSTOCK, Vt. - The Freelance Family Singers Community Chorus will begin

TOWN OF CHESTER INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Chester has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant from FEMA for the purpose of two home/property buyouts due to damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene and the storms of July, 2014. The Town of Chester is seeking qualified bidders to perform an Asbestos Inspection of two separate properties located in Chester, Vermont. Both properties are single family residences located across the street from each other.

Please contact Julie Hance at the Chester Town Office for further information regarding the individual properties at (802) 875-2173 or jhchester@vermontel.net.

All bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope labeled "Asbestos Inspection" with the property address. Each property should be bid separately. The bids should reflect the amount of time anticipated to issue a complete report.

Bids should be forwarded to the Town Manager's Office, 556 Elm Street (P.O. Box 370) Chester, VT 05143, on or before 12:00 noon on February 22, 2017.

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

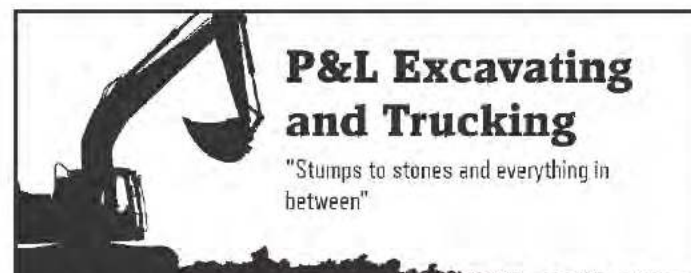
The Development Review Board will be holding a Site Visit at 5:15 pm and a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Feb 27th 2017 at the Town Hall, for a Conditional Use Application permit (#494).

PROPERTY OWNERS: Krystina Lankone
APPLICANT: Justin & Amy Anderson
LOCATION: 155 South Main St.
DISTRICT: Village Center

ACTION REQUESTED: Expand existing retail space to include a restaurant, arts & entertainment with a craft beer, spirits and wine bar.

Abutters are hereby notified that further information can be found at the Town Clerk's Office which is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participation in this hearing is a pre-requisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

For the Development Review Board
Michael Normyle
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
mnormyle@vermontel.net



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Owner/Operator
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Ryan call: 802 291 3363

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Specials of the Week

<p>2009 Chevy Traverse LTZ</p> <p>Two Sun Roofs Leather AWD V6</p> 	<p>2010 Subaru F</p> <p>Fully Loaded AWD Auto</p> 
<p>2011 Kia Sorento</p> <p>V6 AWD Sunroof CD Player Fully Loaded</p> 	<p>2007 Hyundai S</p> <p>Auto, V6, AWD Sun Roof CD Player Heated Seats</p> 

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Warning

The legal voters of the Town of Plymouth are hereby warned to meet at the Plymouth Municipal Building at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 6, 2017, to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law by ballot. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at the Plymouth Municipal Building from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM for the purpose of voting by Australian Ballot. The business to be transacted will include:

Article 1. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year(s) by Australian Ballot: Town Moderator, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Selectman, Lister, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Trustee of Public Funds, Cemetery Commissioner, Grand Juror, Town Agent, School District Clerk/Treasurer, School District Moderator, and two School Directors.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote \$10,486.50 for Human Services to be allocated as follows:

A. Visiting Nurse Alliance	\$2,150.00
B. HCRS - Mental Health Services	\$ 568.00
C. Red Cross	\$ 250.00
D. Black River Senior Center	\$2,000.00
E. VT Center for Independent Living	\$ 175.00
F. Windsor County Partners	\$ 500.00
G. Green Mountain Eco. Dev. Corp.	\$ 308.50
H. Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00
I. Black River Good Neighbors	\$ 300.00
J. Fletcher Memorial Library	\$1,200.00
K. Black River Area Community Coalition	\$ 500.00
L. VT Trails and Greenways	\$ 85.00
M. LPCTV	\$ 600.00
N. Tyson Library	\$ 500.00
O. Plymouth Historical Society	\$ 400.00
P. Plymouth Memory Tree	\$ 250.00
Q. Plymouth Press	\$ 50.00
R. VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$ 100.00
S. Qttauquechee Health Foundation	\$ 200.00
T. Women's Freedom Center	\$ 300.00

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$985,621 in taxes to pay estimated expenses in the amount of \$1,271,821.

Article 4. To transact any other necessary and legal business.

Dated at Plymouth, Vermont, this 18th day of January 2017.

Ralph Michael
Ralph Michael, Chair
Lawrence Lynas
Lawrence Lynas
Russ Tonkin
Russ Tonkin

pets of the week



Hi! My name is Elie and I'm a 7-year-old spayed female Mixed Breed. I was adopted years ago from Lucy Mackenzie and recently returned, because I wasn't getting along well with the other dogs in the house. My people really loved me and I really loved them, but we all agreed it was for the best. The good news is that I like just about every person I meet! I have no problem with people of all ages, and can live with dog-savvy children. I have lived with cats most of my life, too. I walk very

well on a leash and am an incredibly well behaved dog. I'm the type of gal that promises to bring a smile to just about anybody's face. You'll find it hard to believe that I'm 7-years-old when you meet me - not only do I look incredibly young but I also act incredibly young! I'm a playful, endearing, sweet dog that just needs to be the only dog in the house.

If you have been looking for a canine companion to bring lots of love and joy to your life, stop in and meet me today!



Hi! My name's Tikki and I am a 9-year-old neutered male. I came to Lucy Mackenzie when my owner moved in to assisted living and couldn't take me with them. I had a really difficult time adjusting at first, but I've most definitely come around! It's lots of fun here and I've made many new human friends, and even a few new cats friends, too.

managed to shed some weight since I've been here. If you've been looking for a feline companion that's as big in love as he is in size, stop in and meet me today!

There are plenty of toys to play with and lots of treats to eat. Speaking of treats, I have to be careful to not eat too many. I've even

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society is located at 4832 Route 44, West Windsor, Vt. They are open from Tuesday through Saturday, 12 - 4 p.m. Reach them daily at 802-484-LUCY. Visit them at www.lucymac.org, like them on Facebook, and follow them on Twitter.

AUTOMOTIVE

calendar

CLUBS CONT.

SATURDAYS – MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The Mount Holly Artists Group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the community center room (under library) and set up a still life. The sessions are open to all and free of charge. All that is needed is pen and paper.

SUNDAYS-SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol at 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Squadron Headquarters, 13 Airport Rd., North Springfield. Membership open at age 12. Call Commander, Maj. Fellows at 802-263-5544.

WOODSTOCK, Vt. – The Upper Valley Curling Club will play each Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. from January 29 - March 19 at the Union Arena in Woodstock. The club invites anyone with an interest in the sport of curling to join them this winter. There is a non member charge is for the evening. For those who need it, the club supplies curling equipment. Union Arena is located on the grounds of the Woodstock Union High School on Route 4 just 1 1/2 miles west of the Woodstock village. For more information on league play, drop-in games, or clinics please e-mail uppervalleycurling@gmail.com or visit www.uppervalleycurling.org.

COMMUNITY MEALS

SATURDAY, FEB. 11-SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The United Methodist Church free Saturday supper will be on at 5 p.m. at 10 Valley Street. Call at 885-3456

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY – N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ham Suppers the North Springfield Baptist Church, 69 Main Street from 4 to 7 p.m. Handicapped accessible. There is a fee for the meal. Children five and under free. Call 802-886-8107

EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEB. 10 – HARTFORD, Vt. – Join the Hartford Parks & Rec on from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. for the Valentine's Day Dance for Daughters, held in the Dothan Brook School gymnasium. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and friends are invited to bring their little girls to our Valentines Special Event. DJ music, snacks and a carnation provided along with a

commemorative photo. There is a fee to participate. Register online www.hartfordrec.com or call 802-295-5036 for details.

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – Come out for a night of family friendly fun and support the Mt. Holly PTSA at the Mt. Holly school gym from 6 – 8 p.m. Prizes will include tickets and gift certificates from local businesses including: The Downtown Grocery, The Paramount Theater, Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center, Wonderfeet, The Downtown Grocery, Darksides and more. 50/50 raffle and a concession stand.

WALPOLE, N.H. – 12,000 years in the Granite State is the topic for the Walpole Historical Society speaker series event. Held at the Walpole Town Hall at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11 – ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Potluck Sing at Singing River Farm located at 2128 Brockways Mills Rd. Theme for the songs is the power of love. Potluck begins at 5:30 p.m. and the Singing starts at 6:30 p.m. Come and go as you please. It does help us if you let us know you are going to join us - so we can set out chairs enough for all. Call 802-275-4646

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Human Rights Cafe highlights environmental action. David Deen, chair of the VT House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, will speak about environmental bills before the VT legislature this session. Peter Bergstrom of the Rockingham Conservation Commission will speak about a new statewide effort to track renewable energy and energy conservation efforts, called the VT Community Energy Dashboard. The Cafe is open every Saturday morning from 9 - 11 a.m. in the dining room at Christ's Church, 24 Main St., Saxtons River. Contact Susan Still at susan@srcommunity.org for information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11 – SUNDAY, MARCH 19- CHESTER, Vt. – Come to Expo + Artisans + Craftsmen = A

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FRIDAY, FEB. 11- LUDLOW, Vt. – Come to The Killarney located at 44 Pond St. and support two amazing causes! Lisa Marks runs for The Dana Farber Marathon Challenge, Lora Miele for

participate in the building snowman contest then enjoy treats afterwards. This event celebrates the 250 anniversary of the town of Acworth. More information call 603-863-7739.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17- LUDLOW, Vt. – Come to The Killarney located at 44 Pond St. and support two amazing causes! Lisa Marks runs for The Dana Farber Marathon Challenge, Lora Miele for

Tedy Bruschi's Marathon Team raising funds for the American Stroke Association. A portion of food sales, along with a 50/50 raffle running throughout the evening will benefit these two causes. Mark your calendar now! 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18 - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Art & Historical Society will present a program based on the book, Death

by Petticoat, Historical Myths Debunked, by Mary Miley Theobald on at 2 p.m. at the Society's facility at 65 Route 106 in North Springfield. Notions such as, skirts catching fire was the major cause of women's death in colonial days or, when being painted, gentlemen tucked their hand into their jacket to save money. The 25 or so myths to be presented will include personal, culinary, household, and the

arts. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 886-8430.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS- LUDLOW, Vt. – Pickup ice hockey is running every Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Ice House at Jackson Gore. It's just pickup, no stress, and no worry about skill level - just have fun. Please join us! Questions? Contact 802-228-1406

Start your New Year out right with a New Vehicle!

<p>2017 VOLVO S-60 AWD SEDAN FULLY LOADED, ONLY 6,000 MILES STOCK #1702</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$29,995</p>	<p>2009 VOLVO XC-70 AWD STATION WAGON SUN ROOF, HEATED SEATS, FULLY LOADED STOCK #0954</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$15,495</p>	<p>2010 VOLVO XC-60 T6 AWD SUN ROOF, NAVIGATION, EXTRA CLEAN</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>
<p>2013 CHEVY AVALANCHE LTZ PACKAGE, 4X4, SUN ROOF, LEATHER INTERIOR STOCK #1388</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$31,995</p>	<p>2005 CHEVY 2500 4-DOOR CREW CAB, DURAMAX DIESEL 4X4, 8 FOOT FISHER PLOW, ONE OWNER STOCK #7083A</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>	<p>2015 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY MINI VAN STOW & GO SEATING, FULLY LOADED STOCK #1550</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p>
<p>2014 TOYOTA CAMRY LE ONLY 16,000 MILES STOCK #1548A</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p>	<p>2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4, ONE OWNER, FULLY LOADED STOCK #1455</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$22,995</p>	<p>2012 CHEVY TRAVERSE LS PACKAGE, ALL WHEEL DRIVE, ONE OWNER, EXTRA CLEAN STOCK #7121A</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$10,995</p>

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE TITLE, REGISTRATION, OR TAXES.

<p>2016 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD, LT Package, Sun Roof, One Owner, Stock #7175A SALE PRICE \$22,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY EQUINOX LS Package, AWD, One Owner SALE PRICE \$15,995</p>	<p>2013 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED S EDITION Navigation, Sunroof, Leather Interior SALE PRICE \$9,995</p>	<p>2009 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB 4x4, 2-71 Off Road Package, One Owner, Extra Clean SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>
<p>2016 CHEVY 1500 DBL CAB 4x4, Rally Edition, 5.3 Liter V8, Only 600 Miles SALE PRICE \$33,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY CAPTIVA FWD, Auto, Fully Loaded SALE PRICE \$11,995</p>	<p>2013 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4x4, LTZ Package, Fully Loaded, One Owner, Extra Clean SALE PRICE \$39,995</p>	<p>2008 CHEVY TAHOE LT Package, Leather Interior, Sun Roof, One Owner, Only 18,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$26,995</p>
<p>2016 CHEVY EQUINOX LTZ Package, Heated Leather Seats, Only 13,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$25,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY IMPALA LTZ V6, Heated & Cooled Seats, Sunroof, Navigation, Only 15,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$20,995</p>	<p>2013 CHEVY SPARK LS Package, 5-Speed, Only 16,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$7,995</p>	<p>2008 CHEVY 3500 4x4, 2-3 Yard Dump Body, Duramax Diesel, One Owner, Extra Clean SALE PRICE \$21,995</p>
<p>2016 CHEVY TRAVERSE AWD, LS Package SALE PRICE \$24,995</p>	<p>2014 GMC 1500 CREW CAB All Terrain Package, 4x4, One Owner SALE PRICE \$30,495</p>	<p>2013 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB 4x4, 2-71 Off Road Package, Loaded, Like New Condition SALE PRICE \$27,995</p>	<p>2008 GMC 2500 HD 4x4, 6.0 Liter V8, Auto, Air, Only 96,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$10,995</p>
<p>2015 TOYOTA TACOMA DBL CAB 4x4, V6, Auto, TRD Off Road Package SALE PRICE \$28,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT Package, AWD, One Owner, Only 24,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$24,995</p>	<p>2012 CHEVY SONIC HATCHBACK 5 Door, LT Package, Only 50,000 Miles, Stock #7149A SALE PRICE \$7,995</p>	<p>2008 FORD FUSION SEL Package, Auto, Power Seats SALE PRICE \$4,995</p>
<p>2015 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY MINI VAN Stow & Go Seating, Fully Loaded, Stock #1550 SALE PRICE \$18,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB LT Package, 271 Off Road, Heated Seats, Like New SALE PRICE \$30,995</p>	<p>2012 BUICK LACROSSE Premium Package, Leather, Sun Roof, One Owner, Only 22,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$15,995</p>	<p>2007 HONDA ACCORD EXL Package, Fully Loaded SALE PRICE \$8,995</p>
<p>2015 FORD MUSTANG 2 Door Coupe, Leather, Navigation, One Owner, Only 8,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$23,495</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY CRUZE LT Package, Auto, Fully Loaded, Only 31,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$10,995</p>	<p>2011 HONDA CRV EXL Package, Leather, Sunroof, Extra Clean, All Wheel Drive SALE PRICE \$15,995</p>	<p>2006 GMC ENVOY 4x4, Cloth Interior, Extra Clean, Only 81,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$7,995</p>
<p>2015 GMC 1500 DBL CAB 4x4, 2-71 Off Road Package, Only 15,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$32,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY SPARK LS Package, Auto, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$8,995</p>	<p>2011 GMC 3500 REG CAB 4x4, SLE Package, Fully Loaded, 8 1/2 ft Fisher Plow, One Owner SALE PRICE \$24,995</p>	<p>2004 HONDA PILOT LX Package, AWD, Extra Clean, Stock #14348 SALE PRICE \$5,995</p>
<p>2015 CHEVY CRUZE LT Package, One Owner, Only 16,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$13,995</p>	<p>2014 TOYOTA PRIUS PLUG-IN Navigation, Super Economy, Only 28,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>	<p>2011 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS 4 Door, 5 Speed, Only 63,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$4,995</p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 SUPER CAB 4x4, SXT Package SALE PRICE \$2,995</p>
<p>2015 CHEVY MALIBU LT Package, Sun Roof SALE PRICE \$15,995</p>	<p>2013 CHEVY MALIBU LS Package, Only 36,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$11,995</p>	<p>2009 CHEVY IMPALA LS Package, Fully Loaded SALE PRICE \$3,995</p>	<p>1999 CHEVY CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE 6 Speed, Only 43,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$18,995</p>
<p>2014 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD, LS Package, One Owner, Only 18,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$17,995</p>	<p>2013 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB LT Package, 271 Off Road, One Owner, Only 51,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$24,995</p>		<p>1997 DODGE 2500 EXT CAB 4x4, Cummins Diesel, 5-Speed Transmission, One Owner SALE PRICE \$3,495</p>

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REAL ESTATE

EVENTS CONT.

WEDNESDAYS- WESTMINSTER, Vt. - Scottish Country Dance class, friendly, informal, and free. Meets during the school year, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Westminster Center School. Contact Jessie Haas:

(802)387-2601 or email kjh@sover.net.

THURSDAYS - LUDLOW, Vt. - Gypsy Reel plays regularly at The Killarney, in Ludlow. Music always begins at 6:30 p.m. and continues until 8:30 p.m. or later (depending upon football schedule). Fine Ale, good pub

food, and great music in the traditional Irish style.

GASSETTS, Vt. - Bingo will be held every Thursday night at the Gassetts Grange. Starts at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 5 p.m. Supper, Raffle and 50/50 tickets are on sale. Come and join in. Any info. needed call Donna at 802-591-4290 or

you can call the hall at 802-875-1051.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Rockingham Free Public Library will host a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, *The Bill of Rights and You*, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document. The *Bill of Rights and You* invites visitors to connect directly with the people, places, and events that mark this historic document's evolution. This exhibit runs through February 28, 2017.

the advent of a presidency and a presidential Cabinet hallmarked by men (and a few women) of great wealth, no political experience and unused to accountability to voters or taxpayers, the Springfield Peace and Justice Group invites the public to discuss "How to Ensure Local Democracy in Times of National Plutocracy," at 6:00 p.m. at the Springfield Town Library. The discussion will focus on ensuring continuation of government, open and fact-based at the local level through citizen participation. Hot chocolate and marshmallows will be provided. For more information, contact rrtl@sover.net.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11 - LONDONDERRY, Vt. - The South Londonderry Free Library is celebrating the coming of Valentine's Day with a special workshop for children at 10:30 a.m. There is nothing so special as a handmade valentine, and art teacher Casey Junker Bailey has collected lovely fabric, lace, calligraphy, and hand-decorated papers for making beautiful gallery style cards. Children and their grown-ups are invited to join us at the library for a morning of creativity. The program is free of charge and appropriate for children of all ages. For more information contact: 802-824-3371.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15- ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The AARP tax assistance program will be providing free tax preparation help to low and moderate-income residents. Pre-registration is required. These counselors will be available at the Library on from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Please bring your photo I.D., your social security number, any Homestead Declaration forms or Landlord Rental Certificates, any other tax forms. To register or for more information, call (802) 463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls.

LIBRARIES

THURSDAY, FEB. 9 - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - With

TUESDAY FEB. 21 - LUDLOW, Vt. - Crafternoon at the Fletcher Memorial Library from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. will be Mardi Gras themed. We'll explore the history of Mardi Gras, listen to Cajun and Zydeco music and make some jazzy Mardi Gras inspired crafts.

MEETINGS

MONDAY, FEB. 13- SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Information meeting about the proposed safety improvements at the US-5 and VT-11 intersection in Springfield, and potential improvements for the I-91 southbound off-ramp. Meeting held at Springfield Town Offices, 96 Main Street, on Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21- GRAFTON, Vt. - Select board meeting at 6 p.m. held at the Grafton Elementary School located at 58 School Street.

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Grand is a fitting word for this lovely Dutch Colonial home. Set in an area of upscale homes, this three story home offers 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, a four season porch, living room with propane fireplace, large dining room, remodeled kitchen/sitting room, walk-in closets. A pleasant, private covered deck off the back, garage spaces under for storage/parking. Lots of added features including baths with soaking tubs and ceramic tile, a new dilled well, newer roof, newer furnace, newer windows and refinished floors. A must see! \$214,000

Beautiful Sky Farm. Three bedroom, 2 bath salt box style home offers large livingroom w/fireplace, functional kitchen, laundry room, office space, enclosed porch, usable basement, walk-up attic. End of road location with 15+/- acres offers privacy with open pasture, perennial gardens, attached 2 car garage with two stalls and overhead storage, detached 4 bay pole barn. **REDUCED TO \$315,000**

An original. This solid c.1890's home has features that are just not found very often in today's construction including a mudroom/laundry, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, formal living room, den or bedroom on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor (large master bedroom), stairs to the attic for additional storage and a detached garage for more space. Close to amenities. **JUST REDUCED TO \$79,900**

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