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## 2018 End of the Year review, part 2

### JULY 1 – VERMONT GOT GREENER

**REGION** – As of Sunday, July 1, 2018, Vermont legalized the use of recreational marijuana. Gov. Phil Scott signed bill H .511, or Act 86, back in January, making Vermont the ninth state to allow personal use, possession, and cultivation of cannabis for individuals over 21. Vermont was the first state to pass the law through Legislature.

*By Shawntae Stillwell, The Vermont Journal & The Shopper*

### JULY 2 – WENDY HARRISON APPOINTED ROCKINGHAM MUNICIPAL MANAGER

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Rockingham Select Board and Bellows Falls Trustees appointed Wendy Harrison as municipal manager, serving as the chief administrative officer of the town of Rockingham and the village of Bellows Falls. Her first day in office was July 2. Harrison's background includes a bachelor's degree in economics, focusing on Environmental and Urban Economics.

*By Joe Milliken, The Shopper*

### JULY 4 – HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CALVIN COOLIDGE

**PLYMOUTH NOTCH, Vt.** – For the first time in 20 years, fireworks lit up the Plymouth Notch sky to kick off a two-day celebration of American independence and the birth of its 30th president, Calvin Coolidge. Coolidge is the only U.S. president born on Independence Day, and July 4 has been celebrated at his birthplace in Plymouth Notch for many decades. The Coolidge Foundation and the United States Citizen and Immigration Services hosted an official naturalization ceremony. The American Legion Honor Guard, Post 31, from Rutland, Vt. presented the colors, led by U.S. Marshal John Curtis.

*By Aiyana Fortin, The Vermont Journal*

### JULY 4 – SPENCER HOLLOW SCHOOLHOUSE CELEBRATED NEW LIFE

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – According to Don Whitney, local historian and lifelong resident of Springfield, the Spencer Hollow Schoolhouse opened its doors not long after the country's first Independence Day. "We don't have a deed recording the exact date," he said during an open house at the school, July 4, "but we believe the school was completed in 1781."

Over the years, members of the club sought to keep the school from falling into disrepair. Active restoration efforts started in 2007 were recently completed and were celebrated at the July 4 event.

*By Karen Engdahl, The Shopper*

### JULY 9 – KURN HATTIN STUDENTS SANG NATIONAL ANTHEM AT FENWAY PARK

**WESTMINSTER, Vt.** – Kurn Hattin Homes children's Select Choir was invited to sing the National Anthem at Fenway Park Monday, July 9. This was the second time that the children had been given this wonderful opportunity by the Boston Red Sox.

### JULY 17 – CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON COOLIDGE SOLAR PROJECT

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – By the town line between Ludlow and Cavendish, up on Barker Road, Vermont's largest solar project started to take shape in July. The Coolidge Solar Project, which is four times larger than any other Vermont solar installation, was under construction on an old farm of about 150 acres on the Ludlow-Cavendish town line. What had been accomplished by mid-July was clearing of the land and prepping the site for the 20-megawatt array that included approximately 83,000 solar panels.

*By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal*

### AUG. 4 – ROCKINGHAM OLD HOME DAYS CELEBRATED 42 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PRIDE

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Bellows Falls and the surrounding communities celebrated the 42nd annual Old Home Days Weekend, and the 112th year of the pilgrimage to the Rockingham Meeting House. The three-day celebration featured fun and activities for all ages including circus performers and clowns, the Bring It Home 5K, pizza and ice cream eating contests, live music, and the annual fireworks display.

*By Joe Milliken, The Shopper*

### AUG. 8 – YANKEE MALE CHORUS GAVE LAST TOUR

**REGION** – The Yankee Male Chorus hosted their concerts for their annual tour from Aug. 8-11. This year was the group's last season. Men from all over New England had been meeting for a weekend of concerts since 1954. The concerts were held in West Brattleboro, South Londonderry, Bellows Falls, and Chester. Michael Wright returned as primary conductor, and Judith "Eric" Robinson did some conducting as well and accompanied at the piano. Pete Harrison of Westminster acted as the group's spokesperson and site coordinator.

*By Bill Lockwood, The Vermont Journal & The Shopper*

### AUG. 10 – SPRINGFIELD TEACHER ERIN ROUNDS DEBUTED CHILDREN'S BOOK

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Union Street School fourth grade teacher, Erin Rounds, celebrated the debut of her children's book, "Charlotte's Bones: The Beluga Whale in a Farmer's Field," in Springfield before taking a mini book tour across Vermont. Rounds' nonfiction children's book is about unique whale fossils found in landlocked Vermont.

*By Karen Engdahl, The Shopper*

### AUG. 11 – QUILTS OF VALOR AWARDED IN CHESTER

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Thirty-nine quilts covered the Chester Green Saturday, Aug. 11. These quilts were handmade and part of a national effort to thank the brave men and women who have been touched by war while serving our nation. Nine quilts were awarded by Lynn Carrier, Vermont coordinator for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. The quilts were created by the ladies of the community over the past two years, with special help and organization from Sue Ashe, owner of Country Treasures in Ches-



The Coolidge Solar Project began in July of 2018.

PHOTO BY SHARON HUNTLEY

ter. Ashe hosted and taught special workshops on the first Friday of each month.

*By Aiyana Fortin, The Vermont Journal*

### AUG. 12 – HOT DOG COOK-OFF WINNERS TOOK HOME TOP DOG PRIZE

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Stone Hearth Inn's seventh annual hot dog cook-off drew in crowds for the tasting and judging of seven unique hot dogs. The Smith family won Top Dog for their all-beef dog stuffed with Gouda cheese, covered in barbecue sauce and bacon, with a mango pineapple salsa on the side. Echo Lake Inn won Best in Show for their hot dog, served in a tortilla instead of a bun. It was topped with Cuban refried beans, a pineapple relish with peppers and cilantro, cheese, Mexican crème, and a papaya and mango salsa.

*By Amanda Wedegis, The Vermont Journal*

### AUG. 14 – 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY FOR STATE GENERAL ELECTION AND U.S. MIDTERM

**MONTPELIER, Vt.** – Tuesday, Aug. 14 was Primary Election day. Four candidates ran for governor for the Democratic primary: James Ehlers, Christine Hallquist, Brenda Siegel, and Ethan Sonneborn. The two primary Republican candidates were Phil Scott and Keith Stern. Democratic candidate Christine Hallquist and Republican incumbent Phil Scott were elected to run for the office of governor for their respective parties.

*By Amanda Wedegis, The Vermont Journal & The Shopper*

### AUG. 15 – SPRINGFIELD HEALTH CENTER LAUNCHED MAMAVA LACTATION POD

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Medical Care Systems, MVP Healthcare, Mamava, and Konrad Prefab came together Wednesday, Aug. 15 for the ribbon cutting of the first Mamava lactation pod in Springfield. Springfield Health Center was the first federally qualified health center in Vermont to open a lactation pod. Its central location and unique shape and design was used to encourage discussion around breastfeeding and supporting mothers with a space designed for them in public.

*By Amanda Wedegis, The Shopper*

### AUG. 19 – SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LONDONDERRY CELEBRATED 150 YEARS

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – Second Congregational Church, United Church of Christ hosted their 150th anniversary celebration Sunday, Aug. 19, with anniversary worship service in the church and an afternoon community barbecue.

### AUG. 24 – CHESTER-ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FLOODED

**CHESTER, Vt.** – The Chester-Andover Elementary School had an unusual start to the beginning of the school year. During the early hours of Friday, Aug. 24, before the first day of school, the boiler room was flooded. Green Mountain Union High School made space for the elementary school students and the children were able to start school with only a slight delay while repairs took place at CAES.

### AUG. 25 – U.S. SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN PASSED AWAY

**NATION** – U. S. Senator John McCain passed away Saturday, Aug. 25 after a battle with glioblastoma, which was diagnosed in 2017. Sen. McCain was interred at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Sept. 2.

### SEPT. 2 – LONGTIME JOY WAH OWNERS REOPENED RESTAURANT

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – On Sept. 2, Chi Chiang Hom and his wife, Chiu Kwan Hom, the original owners of the Joy Wah restaurant located at 287 Rockingham Rd. in Bellows Falls, were excited to reopen the restaurant.

Up until last year, the Homs had previously owned the popular Chinese food restaurant for some 30 years. However, after a 14-month sabbatical and other recent business developments, the Homs had returned to the fold and now joined forces with partners Gary Tang, who has worked at the restaurant for three years, and Tang's father, who is head of the kitchen.

*By Joe Milliken, The Shopper*

### SEPT. 8 – THE 19TH ANNUAL RIVERSWEEP SPANNED TWO DAYS, FOUR TOWNS

**REGION** – On Saturday, Sept. 8, Springfield Sweepers spread across town and reeled in a handful of shopping carts, 35 bags of trash,

loads of cans and bottles, and bags full of fishing waste from the public access at Hoyt's Landing. Students from both the Cavendish area and Ludlow elementary schools ventured forth under looming clouds to work on the banks of the Black River in their communities as part of the annual BRAT RiverSweep.

### SEPT. 15 – CHESTER FALL CRAFT FESTIVAL OPENED THE AUTUMN SEASON

**CHESTER, Vt.** – For the second year in a row, the weekend of the Chester Fall Craft Festival was warm, sunny, and inviting to vendors and festivalgoers. The community of Chester gathered for their traditional craft festival. This year consisted of over 70 vendors lining the Green and surrounding areas. St. Luke's Church at 313 Main Street opened the festival Saturday, Sept. 15 with a pancake breakfast to accommodate both vendors and early-bird shoppers.

*By Amanda Wedegis, The Vermont Journal*

### SEPT. 18 – SPRINGFIELD INNOVATION INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Gov. Phil Scott and Congressman Peter Welch visited Springfield Tuesday, Sept. 18 to join the Springfield Regional Development Corporation and the Center on Rural Innovation in announcing the raising of \$1 million for the development of a new economy initiative called The Black River

educational programs, avocation for public policy, and support of survivors of suicide loss.

*By Bill Lockwood, The Shopper*

### SEPT. 27 – "HEALING: THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMAGERY OF ART" OPENED AT THE GREAT HALL

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – As part of its 105th anniversary celebration, Springfield Hospital explored the powerful effects of art on health. Featuring a dozen artists working in paint, sculpture, glass, fiber, and mixed media, "Healing: The Transformative Imagery of Art" opened with a gala reception in the Great Hall Thursday, Sept. 27. The exhibit, which runs through March 30, 2019, was co-sponsored by Springfield Regional Development Corp.

*By Karen Engdahl, The Shopper*

### SEPT. 28 – VAIL CLOSED ACQUISITION OF OKEMO, MOUNT SUNAPEE, AND CRESTED BUTTE

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Vail Resorts Inc. announced that the company has closed on its acquisition of Triple Peaks LLC, the parent company of Okemo Mountain Resort in Vermont, Mount Sunapee Resort in New Hampshire, and Crested Butte Mountain Resort in Colorado. The company purchased Triple Peaks from the Mueller family for a final purchase price of approximately \$74 million after adjustments for certain agreed-upon terms.



The Fairy House Festival was a magical event.

PHOTO BY SHARON HUNTLEY

Innovation Campus. The new facility will offer computer science training, digital job training, and an entrepreneur center to help create and cultivate new, innovative jobs for the region.

*By Joe Milliken, The Shopper*

### SEPT. 22 – OUT OF DARKNESS WALK WELL ATTENDED IN SPRINGFIELD

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Saturday, Sept. 22, between 80 and 100 walkers, many walking alone or with teams in memory of a specific person, turned out on a beautiful first day of fall to participate in the fourth annual Out of Darkness Walk against suicide on the Toonerville Trail in Springfield. The walk supported the national and state organization's fundraising efforts for new research, creation of

### SEPT. 29 – THE 10TH ANNUAL FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL

**GRAFTON, Vt.** – The 10th annual Fairy House Festival at the Nature Museum in Grafton enjoyed clear skies and record attendance during the weekend of Sept. 29 and 30. The museum's biggest fundraiser of the year, this magical event welcomed 1,229 visitors and showcased the small woodland creations of 58 exhibitors.

*By Sharon Huntley, The Shopper*

### OCT. 6 – LUDLOW ROTARY 28TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Ludlow Rotary Club's annual Chili Cook-off enjoyed a large turn out under their iconic yellow and white striped tent Satur

*See 2018 YEAR on Page 2A*

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**ATTENTION!**

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper acquired The Message of the Week in April of 2018. Due to the similar coverage areas, all of the content goes into The Vermont Journal & The Shopper. You can call us at 802-228-3600.

**DEADLINES**

The deadline for all content is Friday at 12 p.m. for the following Wednesday publication.

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## 2018 YEAR

From Page 1A

day, Oct. 6 with 22 local chili entrants and approximately 500 chili lovers.

Winner of the coveted People's Choice Award was Chris Saylor with his "Hot Dam Chili," which also won Judge's Choice for "Spiciest." People's Choice second place winner was "Chili Con Carlos." Carlos Iglesias, the chef behind Chili Con Carlos, was celebrating his 20th year at the Chili Cook-off. People's Choice third place prize went to "Mojakka," by Chris and Felicity Haselton. Judges' top prize for "Best in Show" was awarded to first-time entrant Echo Lake Inn for their "Echo Lake Inn Chili."

By Sharon Huntley, *The Vermont Journal*

### OCT. 7 – HOWARD POST 33 MONUMENT ERECTED IN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Sunday, Oct. 7, a new granite monument was erected in Veterans Memorial Park in Ludlow. The G.A.R. was an organization for veterans of the Civil War. This organization was similar to today's American Legion. This new monument honored Ludlow's Civil War soldiers who had not been fully recognized.

By Ron Patch, *The Vermont Journal*

### OCT. 15 – GREAT FALLS CHAMBER ANNOUNCED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Debra Perry Collier was selected as the new executive director of the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce. Collier, a longtime resident of Bellows Falls and graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School, graduated from Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in English with a concentration on education and business. She had worked in the local business community for many years.

By Joe Milliken, *The Shopper*

### OCT. 25 – SEVCA DEDICATED COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT WESTMINSTER, Vt. – SEVCA celebrated the first phase completion

of their new project, the Community Solar for Community Action, a ground-mounted, solar array being installed at their main office in Westminster. The project was dedicated to the memory of Harald Schmidtko, SEVCA's Weatherization Assistance program director of 25 years, who passed away in April.

By Joe Milliken, *The Shopper*

### OCT. 26 – CAVENDISH TOWN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HOSTED BUDDY WALK

CAVENDISH, Vt. – On Friday, Oct. 26, students from Cavendish Town Elementary School learned what it meant to be a buddy. The idea for the walk had originated from the second grade classroom. It started as a lesson in teaching the class about friendship and individuality, but transitioned into learning about those diagnosed with Down Syndrome. The students organized the buddy walk. On the day of, they lined up according to grade and began their journey around the village green alongside the local fire department, as well as family and community members who showed up to offer their support.

By Thomas Foster, *The Vermont Journal*

### OCT. 27 – BELLOWS FALLS CROSS COUNTRY GIRLS CAPTURED STATE TITLE

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Terrier 2018 Division III Vermont State Championship girls cross country team captured the Vermont state title. This was the first time since 1986 the Bellows Falls girls have captured top honors.

### OCT. 27 – CONNECTICUT CLUB CLEARED ROCKINGHAM WOODS OF ILLEGAL DUMPING

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Saturday, Oct. 27, the Northeast Flatlanders teamed up with the Vermont State Police to deliver truckloads of new, unwrapped toys to needy families. The Northeast Flatlanders also contacted the Vermont Game Warden's office to discuss cleaning up illegal dump spots in the surrounding woods. The group was alerted to a location in Rockingham. Collectively, they were able to haul out

over 150 discarded car tires, several TV sets, mattresses, couches, and small mountain of broken snowmobile parts.

### OCT. 28 – BOSTON RED SOX WON WORLD SERIES

BOSTON – Boston Red Sox beat LA Dodgers 5-1 in Game 5 at Dodger Stadium to win ninth World Series in franchise history.

### NOV. 3 – BELLOWS FALLS FIELD HOCKEY WON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE IN THIRD DIVISION

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls girls field hockey team captured the Vermont Division I field hockey championship with a 2-0 victory over three-time defending champion South Burlington. They were top dog in Division III in the falls of 2015 and 2016, won the prize in Division II last autumn, and now took the trophy in Division I for their fourth consecutive state championship.

### NOV. 6 – U.S. MIDTERM ELECTION DAY

NATION – Democrats take control of the House of Representatives after eight years. Republicans hold the Senate. U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Peter Welch won their races. In Vermont, Democrats took majority of the House and Senate while incumbent Gov. Phil Scott was re-elected for a second term. Vermont saw record voter registration and attendance at the polls for a midterm election.

### NOV. 11 – 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR I

NATION – Veterans and national officials across the United States and other nations commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I in addition to local events celebrating Veterans' Day.

### NOV. 17 – LOCAL AUTHOR PREMIERED BOOK ON BEN ORR AND THE CARS

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Local freelance writer and author of the online "Standing Room Only," Joe Milliken has written a book, "Let's Go! Benjamin Orr and The Cars." It is the first-ever biography of Orr who was bass player and co-lead singer with Ric Ocasec of the '70s and '80s platinum-selling rock band, The Cars. Milliken's debut book event was Saturday, Nov. 17 at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls. The event was attended by over 50 enthusiastic fans.

By Bill Lockwood, *The Shopper*

### NOV. 24 – "T'WAS THE NIGHT LIVE" KICKED OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center kicked off the holidays with performances from local talent and a visit with Santa Claus. The second annual "T'was the Night Live," created and directed by Carrie Jewell, took place at the Hartness House Inn Saturday, Nov. 24. It was a bustling day as families and friends gathered in the lobby of the inn to bid on silent auction items, took tours through Hartness House, watched performances from local talent, and visited with Santa in his workshop.

By Amanda Wedegis, *The Shopper*

### NOV. 24 – MIKAELA SHIFFRIN TOOK FIRST IN SLALOM AT KILLINGTON WORLD CUP

KILLINGTON, Vt. – Killington Resort reported record-breaking crowds at the World Cup with more than 39,000 spectators over Thanksgiving weekend, while Italy's Federica Brignone received first place in giant slalom and Mikaela Shiffrin received first place in slalom. The Killington Cup was broadcast in more than 60 countries worldwide and live on NBC in the United States. Over

2,000 children from New England ski clubs participated in the opening parades Saturday and Sunday.

### NOV. 30 – FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH PASSED AWAY

NATION – Former President George H.W. Bush died Nov. 30, 2018 at 94 years and 171 days. He had the distinction of being the longest-lived president in American history. Bush was the 41st president of the United States, serving from 1989-1993.

### DEC. 1 – STUDENTS PRESENTED THEIR SMALL BUSINESSES AT BEYOND THE UNICORN

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The annual Beyond the Unicorn Craft Festival at Riverside Middle School bustled with crowds right from the start. Shoppers browsed nearly 100 booths. New this year, RMS students occupied the fourth floor, offering child care and their own products and services. The Student Market presented a dozen student businesses, created in an elective quarter-long entrepreneurship class. Students had hands-on experience starting a small business. They came up with their names and products or services, designed their logo and brand, created business plans, managed money, and marketed themselves.

By Amanda Wedegis, *The Shopper*

### DEC. 1 – CHRISTMAS IN WESTON CAPTURED TRUE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

WESTON, Vt. – Christmas in Weston, a daylong town wide celebration, kicked off the season "celebrating traditional holiday nostalgia." Dec. 1 marked the 34th year this event has been attracting visitors from near and far to enjoy a bevy of free, Christmas themed events and activities for all ages happening in the galleries, shops, museums, and inns throughout this idyllic picture.

esque village.

By Sharon Huntley, *The Vermont Journal*

### DEC. 18 – VERMONT STATE POLICE DELIVERED TOYS TO KURN HATTIN STUDENTS

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – On Dec. 18, 2018, troopers from the Westminster State Police Barracks, along with Santa, delivered toys and books to the kindergarten through fifth grade students at the Kurn Hattin School in Westminster. The troopers thanked the Northeast Flatlanders who donated the toys during a trail maintenance day and toy drive they held in Windham County in October.

### DEC. 19 – GOV. SCOTT APPOINTED FORMER HOSPITAL CEO TO OVERSEE SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL RECOVERY

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gov. Phil Scott appointed Tom Huebner, former head of Rutland Regional Medical Center, to "evaluate, monitor and assist Springfield Hospital as it confronts serious financial challenges."

The governor's office released a statement announcing the appointment Wednesday, Dec. 19, a week after Springfield's CEO, Tim Ford resigned in the wake of reports on the financial situation at the medical group.

### DEC. 28 – CHESTER-ANDOVER ELEMENTARY PREPARED TO REOPEN IN JANUARY

CHESTER, Vt. – After several delays, Chester-Andover Elementary prepared for reopening the school in January. The children's first day back was scheduled for Jan. 3. While the students were all educated under the same roof at Green Mountain Union School, the students took advantage of being together to host big buddy and joint projects together.

## FOLA's 2018 season was very busy

LUDLOW, Vt. – 2018 has been a very active year for FOLA – especially as it represented its 10th anniversary of presenting programs to the Black River and Okemo Valley area and its visitors.

So, what did FOLA do in 2018? Well let's begin by summarizing programs we put on in the newly named Heald Auditorium in the Ludlow Town Hall.

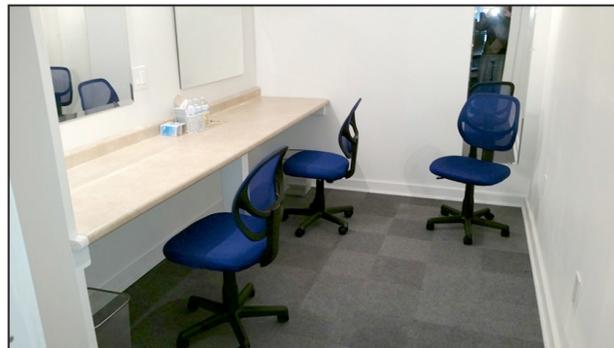
- FOLA screened a total of 19 movies. One of them was a sing-along version of "The Sound of Music" to benefit Black River Good Neighbors.
- Presented streamed Broadway productions of three great performances.

- Sponsored a very popular evening of a jazz band featuring the glory songs of the Big Band Era. This event even got folks on the dance floor.

- FOLA also sponsored a lecture on the history of "Vermont in the Movies." We cosponsored a second discussion on the "Red Scare in Vermont" about the impact of the McCarthy Era on the state.

- Since 2018 was an election year, FOLA sponsor two candidate forums, one for Primary Election candidates and the other for the general election.

- We ended the year with our annual Community Christmas Cel-



FOLA's new dressing room.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ebration.

As always, every event in 2018 was free and open to everyone; we appreciate the donations that have been made to enable FOLA to continue to bring programs of interest to the community and its visitors.

However, FOLA was involved in much more than productions in the auditorium.

Working with Wright Construction of Mount Holly and LaValley of Ludlow, FOLA arranged to have the stage floor in the auditorium sanded and painted – probably the first new coat of paint it has experienced in many decades.

Members of FOLA devoted a great deal of time building a new dressing room back stage that featured all new equipment with appropriate lighting and fixtures.

It presented a scholarship to a local graduating BRHS student in memory of Anita Alic.

FOLA also recommended to the Ludlow Select Board that the auditorium be renamed to honor retiring town manager Frank Heald. We also assisted the town in the festivities for his retirement gathering.

Perhaps one of the least known but most important achievements in 2018 was FOLA's role in preparing the auditorium for use by the Weston Playhouse in its rehearsal for the play "Fun Home."

FOLA also purchased and integrated technical systems for the auditorium including new speaker systems, consolidation of audio systems, and computer enhancements. Everything FOLA purchased was given to the town.

FOLA will begin its 2019 season Jan. 5 with the screening of the Disney nature film, "Born in China." Information about the rest of FOLA's programs for 2019 is available on its website, www.fola.us.

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# House speaker returns with familiar priorities, but bolstered majority

**MONTPELIER, Vt.** – When House Speaker Mitzi Johnson, D-South Hero, and the chamber of 150 lawmakers she leads reconvene in Montpelier next month, the Legislature, dominated by Democrats, is expected to revisit many proposals it has before.

Lawmakers will again take up legislation to raise Vermont's minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and establish a paid family leave program for workers.

There will also be a renewed effort to find a long-term source to fund federally mandated clean water efforts. And there will be a push for legislators to seriously consider expanding the state's marijuana legalization law to pave the way for a retail market system.

In January, Johnson and the Democrats will have an even bigger majority than before. In the November election, Democrats picked up 12 seats, raising the caucus count to 95.

With seven Progressives and several left-leaning independents, the Democratic caucus is comfortably above the 100 votes needed to override a veto from Gov. Phil Scott, who struck down 11 bills including paid family leave, minimum wage, and two budgets in the last legislative session.

For Johnson, there is no one legislative priority in the upcoming session that outweighs others. She noted that broadly, her goals involve improving the state's environmental protections, strengthening Vermont families by increasing access to child care and early childhood education, and improving the economy for average Vermonters.

"I feel like there are more and more Vermonters whose incomes are stagnating or who are struggling to get ahead to pay their bills to prepare for the future – so really trying to think about how to make the economy work for everybody," Johnson said in a recent interview.

She and other Democratic leaders noted that although Democrats will be buoyed by a larger caucus – what many have called a "veto-proof majority" – the numbers don't mean they will be able to unilaterally push through their agenda.

On minimum wage or paid family leave, for example, Johnson would have to rally a caucus of Democrats who fall across a wide political spectrum if Scott were to issue a veto.

"The numbers just reinforce the fact that we really have to listen to each other," Johnson said. "Because you may have noticed that the Democrats are under a very, very broad tent."

On water cleanup, Johnson said lawmakers are considering a variety

of proposals to fund the state's federal pollution-reduction order. Vermont State Treasurer Beth Pearce's office has estimated the state's share at \$2.3 billion over a 20-year span.

While some are in favor of a surcharge on the income tax or rooms and meals tax, other legislators have pitched a per parcel fee to fund the cleanup. Johnson has yet to throw her support behind any particular proposal, but said finding a course of action this session was urgent.

"We're at a point where if you are truly in favor of clean water, it is beholden upon us to actually pass a reasonable, sustainable funding plan," she said.

Last year, a clean water funding bill which included potential funding sources such as a \$2 per night tax on hotel rooms and a one-quarter percent increase to the rooms and meals, was gutted after Scott pledged to veto any bills with new taxes or fees.

The governor has said his administration has identified a clean water funding within the state's existing budget, but has yet to make details of the plan public.

Johnson said lawmakers will also be reexamining the state's school consolidation law, Act 46.

This year, the state Board of Education issued its final plan to require school districts to reorganize without local approval. Several legislators are expected to introduce legislation this session to block or delay mergers, and at least one lawsuit is already underway challenging the constitutionality of forced district consolidation.

Whether or not to amend Act 46 will be a "big question" in the upcoming session, Johnson said.

"I certainly want to be talking with the Education Committee about where are the glitches. Are there things we could do to tweak the law to allow mergers under slightly different circumstances?" she said.

In 2019, it will likely be up to the House to determine whether the Legislature passes a bill to establish a taxed and regulated market for cannabis in Vermont.

Senate President Pro Tem Tim Ashe D/P-Chittenden, has said his chamber plans on sending a tax and regulate bill to the House early next year. The Senate has already passed legislation to legalize a cannabis market on three separate occasions.

But Johnson is still undecided about whether she will be in favor of expanding the marijuana laws. She has reservations about how a regulated market could impact road safety and usage by youth.

The governor has signaled that he

would not sign a tax and regulate bill in 2019. He believes the state needs to improve its road safety and drug use prevention education measures first.

Lawmakers will also take another shot at improving broadband access. But Johnson said her approach will not be an ambitious plan to connect every home and business in the state at once.

She hopes lawmakers will instead focus on encouraging the state to more clearly map where existing fiber infrastructure lies.

Providing better information about where main fiber channels start and stop will help companies, the state and communities move forward with expansion plans, she said.

"In uncovering where these things are, we also can uncover some sort of legal and policy or permitting hurdles to say, OK, are there places where a little bit of state money or loosening up on this requirement in exchange for this level of access would help deploy that," she said.

Minimum wage and paid family leave bills – which were major priorities for Democrats last session – will be back on the table in 2019.

While the governor and critics of the legislation believe the proposals will burden small businesses, Johnson and many other Democrats view the proposals as tools to attract and retain a younger workforce.

"[Just] sending out the message that we want young people here we want children in this state we have good schools and a good quality of life to offer and here's a extra little support and incentive so that we're putting our money where our mouth is," she said.

*Written by Xander Landen, VTDigger.org.*

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# Flood Brook School students bring cheer to Mountain Valley Medical Clinic

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – Green Mountain Gardeners organized the annual decorating and carol singing at Mountain Valley Medical Clinic to bring cheer and good wishes to the MVMC staff. Flood Brook School first-grade students sang their favorite carols with gusto and placed their hand-made decorations on the Christmas tree donated by Glebe Mountain Garden & Landscaping. The students munched on delicious cookies and clementines. And as quick as St. Nick, they were back on the bus and safely delivered back to Flood Brook School.



Flood Brook students brought holiday cheer to Mountain Valley Medical Clinic. PHOTO PROVIDED

# New CBD drive-thru in Brattleboro will soon dispense medical marijuana –

**BRATTLEBORO, Vt.** – Ceres Natural Remedies, a Vermont company that makes and sells CBD products derived from the hemp plant, has opened its first drive-thru in a leased former bank building in Brattleboro.

Customers can buy CBD products at the drive-thru now, and will be able to purchase medical THC products there in January, said Bridget Conry, director of product development for Ceres and for Champlain Valley Dispensary/Southern Vermont Wellness.

"The company says the drive-thru is the first in New England. The nearby state of Massachusetts, which has legalized recreational marijuana sales, seems likely to get a drive-thru soon, but only "if Mass. regulators allow it," Conry said.

Ceres Natural Remedies has stores in Burlington, Middlebury, and Brattleboro.

"One of the reasons we did this is that access and convenience is really important to us," Conry said of the drive-thru. "We really want to normalize the shopping experience for THC and CBD products and give people the experience they have in other retail environments."

She added that some of the medical cannabis customers have health conditions that limit their mobility. With the drive-thru, "they can stay

in their car to pick up their products," she said.

Consumers must be 18 or older to purchase CBD products, and those purchasing medical marijuana must have a registry card.

The drive-thru, on Putney Road in Brattleboro, has two bays; the other is still a TD bank ATM.

*Written By Anne Wallace Allen, VTDigger.org.*

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<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Marinated Round Steaks</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$3.69/LB</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Marinated Beef Cutlets</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$3.89/LB</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Our Own Marinated Steak Tips</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$7.39/LB</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Marinated Chicken Thighs</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$2.19/LB</p>

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Cheers to a New Year!

From all the Staff at Lisai's

# SEON presents two green building training opportunities

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – The Sustainable Energy Outreach Network will deliver two training opportunities for those interested in advancing their skills in green, high performance construction as well as those interested in entering the field of carpentry.

On Jan. 10 and 17, from 3:30 -7:30 p.m., at the Windham Regional Career Center's Building Trades Classroom, Peter Yost will deliver his highly acclaimed "Basics of High Performance Building" to those carpenters already working in construction. Efficiency Vermont has agreed to provide a stipend to assist with the fee. To register for the course or learn of the content, go to [www.seon.info/bhpb](http://www.seon.info/bhpb).

This course has been endorsed by the National Association of Home



Learn the basics of high performance building. STOCK PHOTO

Builders Vermont Chapter, the Vermont Passive House Association, and carries eight credit hours of learning

awarded by Efficiency Vermont's Efficiency Excellence Network. This course is also a required course for the Certified Level I High Performance Builder Program, [www.seon.info/hpb-overview](http://www.seon.info/hpb-overview). For the incumbent workforce, this is an opportunity to achieve a professional designation recognized throughout the state.

Beginning Feb. 4, from 4-6:30 p.m., at the Windham Regional Career Center's Building Trades Classroom, those adults interested in entering the field of carpentry should register for "Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Trades." This course will meet

two days a week and one weekend a month to complete the 72-hour national credential. This is the foundation course for the Certified Level I High Performance Builder Program and will assist those who would like to start a career early in their life. Additional course material and financing options can be found at [www.seon.info/hpb-overview](http://www.seon.info/hpb-overview).

After reviewing the program, please contact Guy Payne, SEON executive director, at [guy@seon.info](mailto:guy@seon.info) or call 802-376-9262 to learn the next steps in applying as well as financing options.

Both of these initiatives are part of statewide initiative to increase the level of post-secondary college degrees or credentials of value for working age Vermonters.

# Painting the winter landscape in watercolor

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Renowned watercolor artist Robert O'Brien will teach you how to paint the magnificent New England countryside in winter at Gallery at the VAULT Saturday, Jan. 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Light, shadow, value, and composition will be emphasized. Rob will begin with a demonstration, explaining each step of the process. Students will then paint with the instructor providing hands on assistance. There will be a critique given at the end of the class. Students are encouraged to provide their own reference photos though Rob will have many on hand.

If there are more than six students, the workshop will be moved to the Springfield Art Gym. Therefore, registration and payment are due by Jan. 5 so that we can make arrangements. It is OK to call for a reservation as late as Jan. 10 in case there is extra room.

A materials list will be provided at registration. All levels welcome.

For more information, please call or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street, Springfield, Vt. We are open Monday 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 802-885-7111, email [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net), or visit our website [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org).

# Handling market volatility

REGION – Conventional wisdom says that what goes up must come down. But even if you view market volatility as a normal occurrence, it can be tough to handle when your money is at stake. Though there's no foolproof way to handle the ups and downs of the stock market, the following common sense tips can help.

**Don't put your eggs all in one basket**

Diversifying your investment portfolio is one of the key tools for trying to manage market volatility. Because asset classes often perform differently under different market conditions, spreading your assets across a variety of investments such as stocks, bonds, and cash alternatives has the potential to help reduce your overall risk. Ideally, a decline in one type of asset will be balanced out by a gain in another, though diversification can't eliminate the possibility of market loss.

One way to diversify your portfolio is through asset allocation. Asset allocation involves identifying the asset classes that are appropriate for you and allocating a certain percentage of your investment dollars to each class. A worksheet or an interactive tool may suggest a model or sample allocation based on your investment objectives, risk tolerance level, and investment time horizon, but that shouldn't be a substitute for expert advice.

**Focus on the forest, not on the trees**

As the market goes up and down, it's easy to become too focused on day-to-day returns. Instead, keep your eyes on your long-term investing goals and your overall portfolio. Although only you can decide how much investment risk you can handle, if you still have years to invest, don't overestimate the effect of short-term price fluctuations on your portfolio.

**Look before you leap**

When the market goes down and investment losses pile up, you may be tempted to pull out of the stock market altogether and look for less volatile investments. The modest returns that typically accompany low-risk investments may seem attractive when more risky investments are posting negative returns. But before you leap into a different investment strategy, make sure you're doing it for the right reasons. How you choose to invest your money should be consistent with your goals and time horizon.

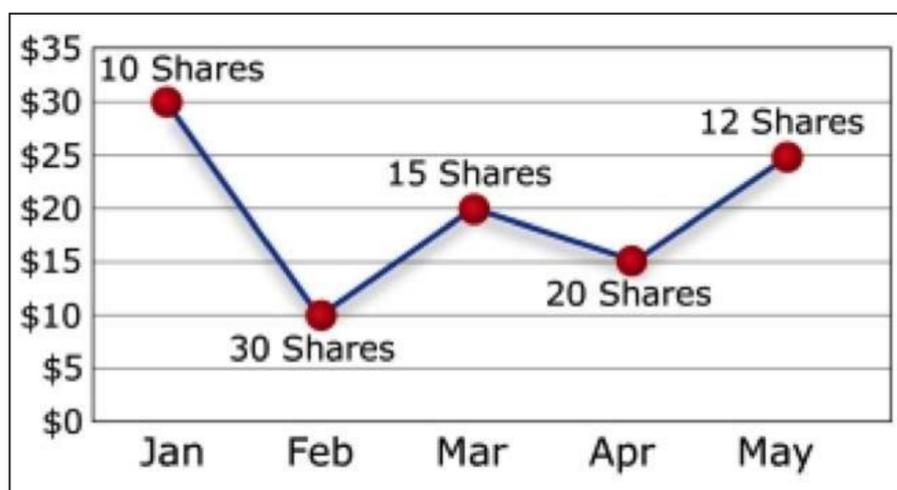
For instance, putting a larger percentage of your investment dollars into vehicles that offer asset preservation and liquidity – the opportunity to easily access your funds – may be the right strategy for you if your investment goals are short term and you'll need the money soon, or if you're growing close to reaching a long-term

goal such as retirement. But if you still have years to invest, keep in mind that stocks have historically outperformed stable-value investments over time, although past performance is no guarantee of future results. If you move most or all of your investment dollars into conservative investments, you've not only locked in any losses you might have, but you've also sacrificed the potential for higher returns. Investments seeking to achieve higher rates of return also involve a higher degree of risk.

**Look for the silver lining**

A down market, like every cloud, has a silver lining. The silver lining of a down market is the opportunity to buy shares of stock at lower prices.

One of the ways you can do this is by using dollar-cost averaging. With dollar-cost averaging, you don't try to "time the market" by buying shares at the moment when the price is lowest. In fact, you don't worry about price at all. Instead, you invest a specific amount of money at regular intervals over time. When the price is higher, your investment dollars buy fewer shares of an investment, but when the price is lower, the same dollar amount will buy you more shares. A workplace savings plan, such as a 401(k) plan in which the same amount is deducted from each paycheck and invested through the



This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and does not represent the performance of any particular investment. Actual results will vary.

PHOTO PROVIDED

plan, is one of the most well known examples of dollar cost averaging in action.

For example, let's say that you decided to invest \$300 each month. As the illustration shows, your regular monthly investment of \$300 bought more shares when the price was low and fewer shares when the price was high.

Although dollar-cost averaging can't guarantee you a profit or avoid

a loss, a regular fixed dollar investment may result in a lower average price per share over time, assuming you continue to invest through all types of market conditions.

**Making dollar-cost averaging work for you**

Get started as soon as possible. The longer you have to ride out the ups and downs of the market, the more opportunity you have to build a sizable investment account over

time. Stick with it. Dollar-cost averaging is a long-term investment strategy. Make sure you have the financial resources and the discipline to invest continuously through all types of market conditions, regardless of price fluctuations.

Take advantage of automatic deductions. Having your investment contributions deducted and invested automatically makes the process easy and convenient.

**Don't stick your head in the sand**

While focusing too much on short-term gains or losses is unwise, so is ignoring your investments. You should check your portfolio at least once a year – more frequently if the market is particularly volatile or when there have been significant changes in your life. You may need to rebalance your portfolio to bring it back in line with your investment goals and risk tolerance. Rebalancing involves selling some investments in order to buy others. Investors should keep in mind that selling investments could result in a tax liability. Don't hesitate to get expert help if you need it to decide which investment options are right for you.

**Don't count your chickens before they hatch**

As the market recovers from a down cycle, elation quickly sets in. If the upswing lasts long enough, it's easy to believe that investing in the stock market is a sure thing. But, of course, it never is. As many investors have learned the hard way, becoming overly optimistic about investing during the good times can be as detrimental as worrying too much during the bad times. The right approach during all kinds of markets is to be realistic. Have a plan, stick with it, and strike a comfortable balance between risk and return.

Written by Huntley Financial Services. For more information, call Mark Huntley at 888-922-1035.



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27 It's Sunday ALREADY!?	28 Open Mic Night Mondays at 9:30pm	29 VT TRIVIA 20oz Draft Beers \$7!	30 Join our Mug Club	31 GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM \$7 VT Drafts	CHICKEN WING CHAMPIONS!	HOPS IN THE HILLS

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# LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

## National Bank of Chester

When I was without power a while back, I used the daylight hours to sort and catalogue letters and documents in my collection. Doing so, I discovered a large number of cancelled checks. All are from two individuals.

One group of checks is signed by J. F. Alexander of Saxtons River and date to 1899. The other checks are signed by C. B. Sprague of Weston and date to 1906. Below is information from the 1899 Vermont Tribune supplement.

**National Bank of Chester**  
"This bank was organized in July, 1890, with a capital stock of \$50,000. F.P. Mather was elected president and B.A. Park cashier, and still hold those positions.

"In August, 1891, one year after organization, the deposits amounted to \$43,000; the deposits have now increased to \$75,000 and there has been a steady increase in the business transacted. The bank has accumulated a surplus and profits amounting to 13 per cent of the capital stock, and has a large of cash on hand awaiting investment. Mr. F.P. Mather, the president, is a dentist by profession, and a conservative and public spirited citizen.

"He was a veteran of the Civil War, is a trustee of the public library and has been a member of both houses of the legislature.

"Mr. B.A. Park is an old time merchant, a retired capitalist and prominent member of the Baptist church.

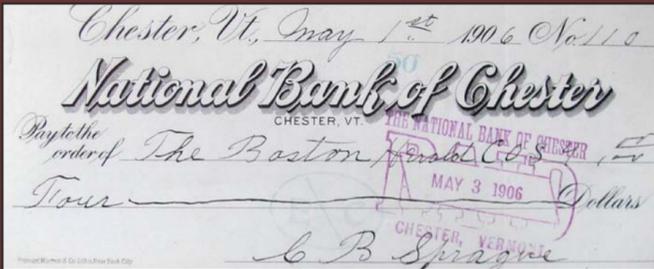
"The other directors are E.X. Pierce, a retired farmer and capitalist; Sam Adams, a cattle dealer; E.L. Walker, insurance agent, Bellows Falls; Geo Sheldon, a retired businessman of Rutland; G.H. Perry, a retired farmer, and F.W. Pierce.

"It has been the policy of the bank to accommodate its patrons by extending to them every reasonable courtesy in the way of financial assistance, and it has given to the country the benefit of banking facilities."

**John F. Alexander**  
Alexander's checks begin with check #2 and end with #31 and date from May 19, 1889 to July 6.

John F. Alexander was born in Chesterfield, N.H. His parents moved to Brattleboro and then to Bellows Falls. In 1860, Alexander moved to Saxtons River.

In 1866 J. F. Alexander bought out Mr. Holt's share of Farnsworth & Holt, a woolen company in Saxtons River. The company became Farnsworth &



National Bank of Chester check signed by C.B. Sprague of Weston. PHOTO PROVIDED

Alexander. Alexander was a very prosperous and influential man in the area.

**E.B. Mather**  
E. B. Mather (Frederick) enlisted in the Civil War from Windsor, his residence at the time. He mustered into Company A of the 12th Regiment of Vermont Volunteers on Aug. 4, 1862. He saw action at Fairfax Court House, Virginia on Dec. 28, 1862. Companies B & G saw action at Gettysburg in July of 1863. Mather's Company A did not take part in Gettysburg. He was a respected dentist in Chester.

**Sam Adams**  
Sam Adams was a cattle dealer in Chester and lived at the former "Park Light B&B."

**F.W. Pierce**  
F.W. Pierce was born in Londonderry in 1856 and educated in local schools. For 25 years he ran the Chester Drug Store and became rather prosperous. Not only was he a director of the National Bank of Chester, but he was instrumental in establishing the Chester Savings Bank in 1892.

**National Banks**  
National Banks were first established in 1863. National Banks such as the National Bank of Chester were granted a 20-year charter. It was under this charter that banks could print their own paper cur-

rency. Actually they overprinted their bank name over paper notes they received from the treasury. There was a large capital letter such as, 'D', which denotes the region of the country. Another item printed on National Note currency is a four-digit number. As a rule, at least as far as collectors are concerned, the lower the number, the more desirable the note.

All National Bank notes will have the name of the bank across the front of the note. An example would be, "National Bank of Chester." I have a \$10 "National Bank of Bellows Falls" note in my collection. I have never seen a Chester Bank note. These notes are hard to come by.

The National Bank of Chester was located in the old Fullerton Inn that would become the Chester Inn. The photo of the \$10 National Bank of Chester note I found online. The checks pictured with this article are in my collection.

One question I have is did Chester have a bank prior to 1890? If so, where and when?

This week's old saying is from Henny Youngman. "If at first you don't succeed... so much for sky-diving."



National Bank of Chester \$10 note. Signed by F.B. Mather and B.A. Park, both mentioned in this article. PHOTO PROVIDED



\$1,000 National Bank of Chester check signed, J.F. Alexander. PHOTO PROVIDED

## Previous Remember When...

Richard Gasset, a reader from Newport, N.H., sent Ron Patch this note regarding a Remember When photo we had in the Dec. 19 issue of The Vermont Journal, page 5A.

"The Gassetts Depot Rutland RR about 1920s auto in the picture. I have a similar picture taken about 1900 8"x12" with a four seat open stagecoach, pictured to the left. The Gassetts stop on the Rutland Railroad was named after my great grandfather. That info was given to me by Norm Gasset about 25 years ago. He has since passed away. Thank you for that information, Richard!"



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RICHARD GASSETT

## Valentines for veterans



Valentines for veterans.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's call to service, Green Mountain RSVP is sponsoring Valentines for Veterans 2019! Opportunities to make or drop off a valentine will take place Tuesday, Jan. 15, Dr. King's Birthday, from noon-3 p.m. and again Friday, Jan. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the RSVP Office in Ascutney.

This event brings together thoughtful Vermonters to craft valentines for those who have served our country. Please join us. It's easy. Make or bring a valentine saying why you appreciate their service. Sign it with your first name only and put it in the box. Valentines will be delivered to the VA Hospital in White River Junction for distribution to patients and area veterans. For more information, call GMRSVP at 802-674-4547.



## Remember When...

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Do you remember the old Gay Brothers Co. Mill in Cavendish? It looks to be the same location as where Mack Molding is located today. Email your comments or information to us at ads@vermontjournal.com.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARGO CAULFIELD OF THE CAVENDISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish &amp; Chips - \$8<sup>00</sup></li> <li>• Chicago Prime Rib - \$13<sup>00</sup></li> <li>• Baked Shrimp, Haddock, Scallops - \$13<sup>00</sup></li> <li>• Teriyaki Steak Tips - \$10<sup>00</sup></li> <li>• Maple Glazed Salmon - \$9<sup>00</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Daily Black Board Specials Available</b></p> <p>All Specials Include your Choice of: Baked Potato, Sweet Potato Fries, OR Regular Fries; AND a Choice of Vegetable of the Day OR Coleslaw.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Excludes Holidays</i></p>
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# opinion

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Springfield On the Move would like to thank all our sponsors very much for their generous support of our sticker map activity during the annual Downtown Holiday Program. They helped to bring much joy to children who participated in the sticker map activity while awaiting Santa's arrival.

Much volunteer time and effort are involved in creating an evening that makes our downtown come alive with festive activity. This effort has been increasing in popularity over the years, with over 150 excited children and their families taking advantage of the fun. Twenty-seven downtown businesses and organizations actively participated in the

sticker map adventure this year.

We appreciate the financial and additional support of this merry seasonal endeavor: Alpha Delta Kappa, Biben's Ace Hardware, Boccaccio's, Renee Capen, Claremont Savings Bank, Haircuts Just Around the Corner, Knit Wits at Springfield Senior Center, Mascoma Bank, Mr. G's, People's United Bank, Springfield Area Adult Day Program, Springfield Garden Club, Springfield Health & Rehab, Springfield Housing Authority, and U.S. Cellular.

Sincerely,  
Sandy MacGillivray  
Springfield On the Move

Dear Editor,

All of the residents, staff, and Board Members of the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow would like to thank the members of the Thrifty Attic for our 2018 grant we've just received.

They were kind enough to grant us all of our requests – a portable sink, a commercial toaster, and \$239. These items will help the residents with activities and mealtime.

The Thrifty Attic has been kind to us for many years. They are a marvelous organization. We are very grateful for them and their generosity.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Southworth  
Gill Odd Fellows Home  
Ludlow, Vt.

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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## LAFF - A - DAY



"I'll be ready in a minute, dear. Go rotate the tires on the car, or something."

## Op-Ed: Education Fund needs new management

Unlike last year, nobody seems to be panicking over education funding as legislators prepare to return to Montpelier. But that doesn't mean we should forget about the Education Fund. In fact, now, when the Legislature's hair is not on fire, is a perfect time to reform management of the \$1.7 billion fund.

Why do we need reforms?

Because the Education Fund, which funds pre-K to 12 public education and accounts for almost 30 percent of all state spending, has become more susceptible to political manipulation.

The Education Fund, which funds pre-K to 12 public education and accounts for almost 30 percent of all state spending, has become more susceptible to political manipulation.

In recent years, there have been attempts to shift inappropriate costs to the Education Fund, which really means shifting costs onto the property tax. In his first year, Gov. Phil Scott proposed to move costs for higher education, teachers' retirement, and early education into the Education Fund, which would have increased spending by \$50 million – most of which would have come from property taxes or forced cuts to pre-K to 12 public education.

And both the Legislature and the administration have succumbed to the temptation to use one-time

money to artificially lower school tax rates when they were fearful that voters would complain about property taxes. The problem with using one-time funds or dipping into reserves like this to lower tax rates is that it typically creates a rate spike the following year when the extra funds are no longer available.

When added to the Legislature's penchant for changing the funding system every year, Town Meeting voters face increasing confusion and chaos.

There are signs that more manipulations may be ahead related to 2019-20 school tax rates.

In early December, in his annual forecast of education tax rates, the tax commissioner reiterated an idea floated by Gov. Phil Scott to divert some unexpectedly robust sales tax revenue from the Ed Fund to early care and learning. Vermont clearly needs to invest more in early care and learning, but this is not an expense the Ed Fund was set up to cover. Skimming money from the Ed Fund in a good revenue year is not only unsustainable. It also cheats the public education system of needed – and legally allocated – resources and puts upward pressure on property taxes.

In December, the Legislature's Joint Fiscal Office also released the consensus outlook for the Educa-

tion Fund for next year. The outlook is based on preliminary estimates of local school budgets and forecasts of the revenue expected to cover those budgets. The outlook assumes the use of \$20 million in one-time surplus money to pay for regular, continuing education spending. That would mean a tax cut next year that taxpayers would have to make up the following year.

Revenues to the Education Fund do fluctuate. But those changes don't have to create wild swings in school tax rates if the fund is managed with an eye toward long-term stability – rather than the next election.

The Legislature has faced this type of problem in other areas and wisely made reforms in the interest of sound fiscal management. Debt and revenue forecasting used to be subject to political manipulation, but Vermont has largely eliminated those risks by having an outside board evaluate the state's borrowing capacity and outside economists agree on how much revenue the state is likely to collect in any given year.

It's time to do the same with the Ed Fund by creating a quasi-independent commission or committee to manage the fund with a focus on long-term stability.

An Education Fund Stability Advisory Committee could function like the Capital Debt Affordability

Advisory Committee, which helps to manage Vermont's long-term borrowing, or the Emergency Board, which sets the consensus revenue forecast that both the administration and the Legislature use in fiscal planning.

Such an advisory panel also could make impartial recommendations about the use of Ed Fund money. There could be legitimate one-time uses for one-time surpluses – for example, to help with school construction costs or to make up for past underfunding of teachers' retirement payments. But a panel committed to the long-term health of the Ed Fund probably would frown on siphoning money off to other areas of state government. Such a panel, in addition to recommending tax rates each year, could produce a short, user-friendly annual report to help Vermonters understand the school financing system.

Even without last year's sense of urgency, changes to Vermont's education funding system are sure to be proposed this session. But whatever happens with funding, the Ed Fund itself will benefit from better management, and so will Vermont taxpayers.

Written by Jack Hoffman, Public Assets Institute, [www.publicassets.org](http://www.publicassets.org).

# THE Vermont Journal & THE SHOPPER

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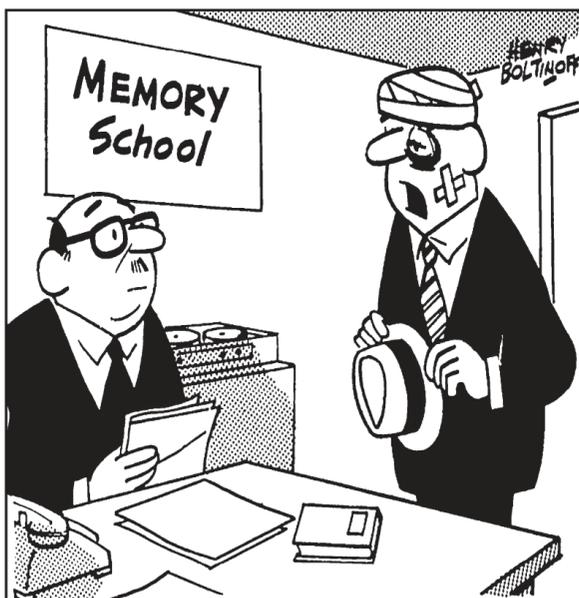
## Amber Waves



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by Dave T. Phipps

## LAFF - A - DAY



"I just want to be able to remember my wedding anniversary."

## 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.

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The viewpoints expressed in the editorial section do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

# CHURCH SERVICES

## ASCUTNEY, VT.

### Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Rt. 5

Sunday school at 10 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. Prayer meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Call 802-546-4902 or [www.bowbaptist.com](http://www.bowbaptist.com).

### Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.

Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Afternoon service at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study and Prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, please call or text Pastor Daniel Anderson at 802-230-5307 or at the church 802-674-2266. Visit [www.obbcvt.org](http://www.obbcvt.org).

## BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

### Immanuel Retreat Center, Currier Hall, 12 Church St.

Celtic worship service at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

### Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

Holy Eucharist Services are offered at 8 a.m. (quiet service) and 10 a.m. (with music) every Sunday. Immanuel Church is handicap accessible.

### Faith Christian Church, 582 Rockingham Rd.

Pastor Matt and Brenda Farkas welcome all to come and enjoy their services. Sunday worship and praise starts at 10 a.m. with the Message at 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (3-7 years) at 10:30 a.m. Holy Spirit service is on the first and third Sundays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Bible Study takes place on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. at the Flat Iron Exchange in Bellows Falls. For more information, call 802-591-1350. See us on TV: [www.Sapatv.org](http://www.Sapatv.org) - "Doing Life." [www.fact8.com](http://www.fact8.com) - "Say What!"

## CAVENDISH-PROCTORSVILLE, VT.

### Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sundays at 10 a.m. More at [CavendishBaptist.com](http://CavendishBaptist.com) or call 802-226-7131.

### St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.

Worship service is at 8:30 a.m. with Pastor Earl Dionne. Sunday school and nursery available. For more information, call 802-674-3443.

## CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

### North Charlestown United Methodist Church, Rt. 12A River Rd.

Sunday worship begins at 9 a.m. Church is handicap accessible. Contact 603-826-0381.

## CHESTER, VT.

### Chester Congregational Church, 469 Main St., Rt. 11 West

Sunday Service at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-875-3382 or go to [www.chestercongregational.org](http://www.chestercongregational.org).

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.

Sunday service is at 8 a.m. Service with music, Sunday School, and nursery care available at 10 a.m. Wednesday morning prayer at 9:40 a.m. Website [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org) or call 802-875-6000.

### Visiting Isaiah, A Chosen Prophet of Judah, Chester Apartments Community Room

Tuesdays 9:30 through lunch. Please bring your own lunch. Evening sessions are 7 to 9 p.m. Evening sessions include deep, personal discussion and self-assessment. Discussion includes discussion of the Book of Isaiah and comparing it to the 21st century. There is hope. Parking is available. Call 802-875-6960 for more information.

## LONDONDERRY, VT.

### First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry, Vt.

Worship services are at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. For more information, visit [www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org](http://www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org) or call 802-856-7266.

## LUDLOW, VT.

### Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Mass on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Sundays at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Call 802-228-3451.

### Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd.

Regular worship begins at 10:30 on Sundays. 802-522-8249.

## Peewee Richard Rockwell, 1937-2018

PERU, Vt. - Peewee "Volney" Richard Rockwell of Peru, Vt. died Dec. 19, 2018, at the Springfield Health and Rehab in Springfield, Vt. surrounded by his family. Peewee was born in Springfield, Vt., Jan. 5, 1937.

He served in the National Guard in 1963 where he received a sharp shooter award. He married Shirley Tarbell of Springfield in 1954, and they had four children. Peewee worked at Chickering Farm in Westminster then moved to Peru, Vt. where he worked for Earl Batchelder Lumber. He also worked on town roads for Peru and Londonderry. Peewee worked at Bromley and Stratton Mountains making snow. He also worked for other companies in the area as a truck driver. Peewee also owned his own rubbish removal business.

In his younger days, he liked taking his family fishing, on picnics, and teaching them to care for their animals. Peewee always had horses, pigs, and chickens. He also enjoyed tipping back a cold one with his many friends.

Peewee had a passion for his horses. He had horses when he was young and always had ponies and horses for his family. Peewee and his children raced ponies in Mendon, Vt. He then moved up to driving, owning, training, and racing his standard breeds. He raced at the Hindsdale, N.H. race-track as well as in Saratoga, N.Y. and other area tracks. Peewee was also a judge at many race tracks at the fairgrounds around the area.



Peewee Richard Rockwell, 1937-2018.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Peewee was predeceased by his son Richard Volney Rockwell of Peru, his sister Shirley, and their parents. Peewee leaves behind his wife Shirley of Harold H. and Marjorie (Adams) Ward. She attended schools in Brattleboro and Randolph, Vt., graduating from Randolph High School, class of 1944. She moved to Springfield, Vt. in 1945, where she has made her home since.

On Oct. 7, 1972, she married Richard J. Ripchick in Caroline, N.Y. She was employed as a clerk at W.T. Grant in Springfield, Britts Department Store, and Paul's Economy. She raised foster children for many years. She enjoyed reading, traveling, and spending time outdoors. She was an honorary member of the Springfield Alumni Association and served as

## SPRINGFIELD, VT.

### Lighthouse Baptist Church, 142 Wall St.

Saturday service at 10 a.m. Bible Study at 11 a.m. Worship Tuesday night is at 7 p.m. with bible study and prayer. For more information, call 802-885-5763.

### North Springfield Baptist Church, 69 Main St.

Sunday Praise and Worship at 10 a.m. with Bible Study at 9 a.m. before the worship service. All are welcome to join us. Call 802-886-1050, email [nssbc@vermontel.net](mailto:nssbc@vermontel.net) or go to [www.nsbvct.org](http://www.nsbvct.org) for additional information and directions.

### Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106

Adult Bible Study on Sundays from 9-9:45 a.m. Services start at 10 a.m. Located right next to Cota & Cota.

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I is at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays. Holy Eucharist, Rite II is at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-885-2723.

## Paul H. Ferguson, 1943-2018

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Paul H. Ferguson, 75, passed away unexpectedly Monday morning, Dec. 24, 2018 at the Springfield Hospital in Springfield, Vt. He was born March 17, 1943 in Springfield, Vt., the son of Henry Lawrence and Viola Lillian (Bingham) Ferguson. He attended Springfield schools and received his GED in 2001 at the age of 58.

He served in the United States Navy.

On Feb. 4, 1967, he married Susan A. Norris at St. Mary's Church in Springfield. This Feb. 4 would have been their 52nd wedding anniversary.

He was employed as a parts inspector with the Bryant Grinder Co. in Springfield for over 20 years. He also worked as a carpenter and diesel mechanic over the years.

He enjoyed maple sugaring, making root beer, hard cider, and wine. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, woodworking, camping, and restoring old tractors and cars.

He is survived by his wife Susan of Springfield; daughter Nora Carnevale and her husband Bob of Duaneburg, N.Y.; son Mark Ferguson and wife Lisa of Springfield; daughter Heidi McFadden and her husband Mike of Charlestown, N.H.; brother Keith Ferguson of Springfield; sister Carol Fitch of Weathersfield; seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Paul H. Ferguson, 1943-2018.

PHOTO PROVIDED

A funeral service was held Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018 at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield. Reverend Jerry Kilyk officiated. Burial with military honors will be in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Springfield, Vt. in the spring.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the Make-a-Wish Foundation at Make-A-Wish America, Gift Processing, 1702 East Highland Ave., Suite 400, Phoenix, AZ 85016 or online at [www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org).

Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield.

## Olive E. Kingsbury, 1926-2018

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Olive Esther Kingsbury was born Aug. 19, 1926 to Alfred and Ellen Kingsbury in Cavendish, Vt., and passed away at the age of 92, Dec. 11, 2018.

After attending schools in Cavendish and Chester, Vt., Olive graduated from Nyack College and earned her nursing degree from Laconia Hospital School of Nursing in 1950.

From 1952 to 1975, Olive served with the Christian and Missionary Alliance as a nurse in Vietnam, caring for leprosy patients in Ban Ma Thuot. After leaving Vietnam, Olive was assigned to the Philippines where she taught at a bible school in Davao City until 1990, when she retired from mission work.

Olive returned to the home farm in Cavendish, Vt. where she lived until two months before her death. Olive was very active in her local church, Ludlow Baptist, and in the surrounding community. She kept in close touch with many missionary friends, family members, and neighbors, and was able to live alone at her home because of the kindness and caring of church family and neighborhood friends.

Olive was preceded in death by



Olive E. Kingsbury, 1926-2018.

PHOTO PROVIDED

her brothers Paul and Ansel and her sister Miriam. She is survived by her nieces Ellen (Rob) Stearns, Grace (Mike) Muzzo, Esther (Peter) Sexton, and Alice Kingsbury.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 12, at 11 a.m. at Ludlow Baptist Church in Ludlow, Vt. Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to Compassion & Mercy Associates, 8595 Explorer Dr., Colorado Springs, CO, 80920, or [www.CAMA.org](http://www.CAMA.org).

## Elnora M. Ripchick, 1924-2018

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Elnora M. "Nonie" Ripchick, 94, passed away Tuesday evening, Dec. 18, 2018 at the Springfield Health & Rehab. in Springfield, Vt. She was born Dec. 1, 1924 in Brattleboro, Vt., the daughter of Harold H. and Marjorie (Adams) Ward. She attended schools in Brattleboro and Randolph, Vt., graduating from Randolph High School, class of 1944. She moved to Springfield, Vt. in 1945, where she has made her home since.

On Oct. 7, 1972, she married Richard J. Ripchick in Caroline, N.Y. She was employed as a clerk at W.T. Grant in Springfield, Britts Department Store, and Paul's Economy. She raised foster children for many years. She enjoyed reading, traveling, and spending time outdoors. She was an honorary member of the Springfield Alumni Association and served as

parade chairman for many years.

She is survived by her husband Richard "Rip" Ripchick of Springfield, son Stanley "Buster" Harvey Jr. of Englewood, Fla., daughters Elizabeth A. Fagans of North Springfield and Barbara "Bo" Brill of Unity, N.H.; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her brothers John and William and sisters Doris and Myrtle.

A graveside service will be held May 11, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt. Contributions may be made in her memory to the Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewa Trail, Springfield, VT 05156.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

## WALPOLE, N.H.

### St. John's Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.

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

## WESTMINSTER, VT.

### Christian Family Circle Chapel, 1512 Back Westminster Rd.

Sunday song service begins at 10 a.m., Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. Fellowship lunch on first Sunday of each month. Non-denominational. Visit [www.christianfamilycirclechurch.com](http://www.christianfamilycirclechurch.com) and like us on Facebook.

## WESTON, VT.

### The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.

A diverse, informal, & welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. Coffee and social time follows. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email [easthillfarm@vermontel.net](mailto:easthillfarm@vermontel.net).

All church services are listed online at [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com).

## Jean F. Ashcroft, 1923-2018

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Jean F. Ashcroft, 95, passed away Dec. 20, 2018 at Springfield Health & Rehab Center. Jean was born in Bellows Falls Nov. 17, 1923, the daughter of Henry and Catherine (Gallagher) Lucier. She was raised and educated in North Walpole, N.H. through the first two years of high school. After graduating class of 1941 in Bellows Falls, she worked as a book keeper and cashier for Gay's Express in Gageville, Vt. Jean was a member of the St. Charles Rosary Society for over 50 years and served as both secretary and treasurer for 25 years. She was also a volunteer at Well Child Clinics for 20 years when held in Bellows Falls.

On Aug. 25, 1946, she married Robert Ashcroft Jr. who predeceased

her. Surviving are her sons Robert and James Ashcroft; her daughters Mary Ashcroft, Meg Ashcroft and husband Donald Conklin, and Ann Ashcroft; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by siblings Betty Richmond and Edward and Gerard Lucier.

Funeral Mass was held Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018 at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls. Burial followed in the St. Charles Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire, P.O. Box 881, Brattleboro, VT 05302 or the Bellows Falls Senior Center, 18 Tuttle St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

## Richard H. Lillie

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - Richard H. "Dick" Lillie, 96, passed away at his home Monday, Dec. 24, 2018, surrounded by his family. He was born in Springfield, Vt., the son of Richard and Rowena (Hutchinson) Lillie. He attended Bellows Falls High School and served in the United States Army during WWII, from 1942 to 1946.

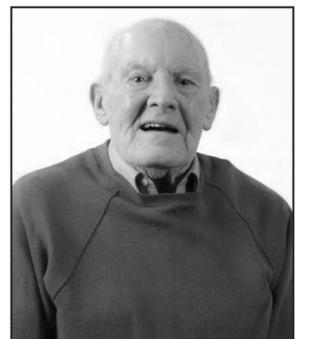
On Aug. 16, 1947, he married Beverly Perkins at Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, Vt. Beverly predeceased him Sept. 22, 2015.

Richard was employed as a foreman in shipping and receiving with Bryant Grinder Co. in Springfield for 35 years and retired in 1983. He also worked as a carpenter in the area for many years. Richard was a talented builder who worked on many area homes and proudly and generously helped his children with the construction of their homes. He was a stonemason as well. In addition to building the chimneys on two of his sons' homes, he crafted stone patios for co-workers at Bryant and some of the stonework on the retaining walls along Bridge Street and at the intersection of Bridge and Summer streets in Springfield, Vt.

In 1960, Richard and Bev purchased a home on Wilmuth Drive in Springfield, which they lovingly refurbished and made their family home until 1986 when they moved to Charlestown, N.H. After retirement, Richard and Bev wintered in Florida for 11 years.

Richard was an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, serving as deacon, trustee, and Scout Master for the church-sponsored Scout Troop. He was also a charter member of the Bryant Credit Union - One Credit Union.

Richard enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and country music. He was an avid Red Sox and Patriots fan, and he enjoyed tinkering around the house. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family. He will be



Richard H. Lillie.

PHOTO PROVIDED

remembered as a kind and generous father who shared his wit, wisdom, and knowledge and, with Beverly, taught his family timeless values.

Richard is survived by his daughter Sharon (Michael) Corbett of Lantana, Fla.; four sons David (Patricia) of West Lebanon, N.H., Kevin (Gerri) of E. Hartland, Conn., Neil (Claire) of Grantham, N.H., and Arnold (Alison) of Springfield, Vt.; a sister Linda Rothlisberg of Prescott, Ariz.; sisters-in-law Betty Perkins of N. Springfield, Vt. and Shirley Waldo of Chester, Vt.; 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Richard was predeceased by his parents, brother Roger Lillie, and sister June Tarbox.

Contributions may be made in Richard's memory to the Visiting Nurse & Hospice Association, P.O. Box 881, Brattleboro, VT 05302, or to the Sullivan County Meals on Wheels Program, 67 Maple Ave., Claremont, NH 03743.

A memorial service will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, Vt., Saturday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt. is assisting with arrangements.

## ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

### King Crossword

#### Answers

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

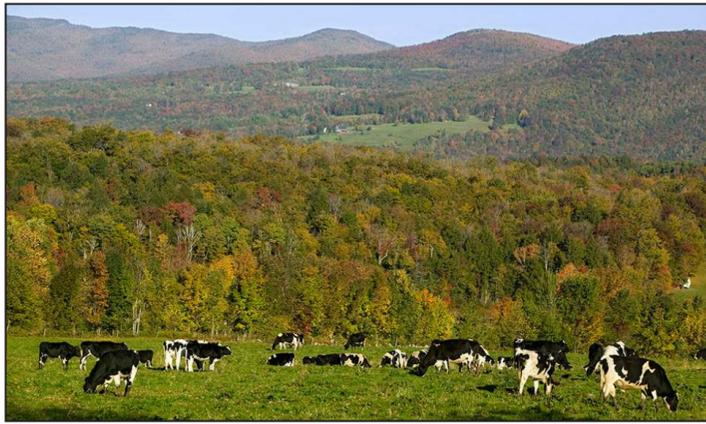
# New farm bill is good news for dairy farmers

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont dairy farmers could see much needed relief in the 2018 Farm Bill which was signed into law in December in Washington. The 2018 Margin Protection Program provided valuable dollars to our state's dairy farmers and began to increase the confidence of our farmers in this type of insurance program. With the signing of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, more improvements have been made to the renamed Margin Protection Program, now called the Dairy Margin Coverage program.

"Farmers should look at this new program closely. The early signs indicate it could provide help to small and medium size dairy farmers in

Vermont and the nation," said Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Secretary Anson Tebbetts. "There has been significant dairy farm attrition and ongoing economic stress in our respective states and this has an impact on our rural economies. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is extremely important for our dairy farmers and our rural economies."

Secretary Tebbetts thanked Vermont's congressional delegation and USDA's leadership for their efforts getting this dairy provision into law. Tebbetts wrote USDA Secretary Purdue this week thanking him and asking him to implement the new program as soon as possible.



The Dairy Margin Coverage program will help provide to Vermont dairy farmers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Tebbetts wrote: "We would ask that you work as quickly as possible to write the rules required to implement the Dairy Margin Coverage program since beginning January 1, 2019, there is no risk protection program. We are hopeful that our dairy framers would be able to sign up for the Dairy Margin Coverage program by April of 2019. As with the rewrite of the rules for the changes to the Margin Protection Program in 2018, we would ask that the

new Dairy Margin Coverage program be retroactive to January 2019 for those dairy farmers that choose to enroll in the program."

Vermont continues to work with other states and partners on a long-term solution that gives farmers a fair and predictable price for their milk. The Vermont Milk Commission is working on a plan for this outcome to submit to policy makers in Washington. VAAFM is also organizing and hosting an in-depth conference called the 2019 Northern Tier Dairy Summit to develop ideas about the future of the dairy industry in Vermont. More details can be found on the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets website.

If farmers have questions about the new Dairy Margin Coverage program, please contact the Vermont Farm Services Agency (FSA) with USDA. FSA will administer the program. Their office is located in Colchester at 356 Mountain View Dr. #104, Colchester, Vt., and their phone is 802-658-2803.

## CHAVES EXCAVATING

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Londonderry, VT

## pet of the week



My name is Squirt. I am a 6-year-old gentleman looking for my loving, forever home. I came in with my sister, Lilly, when our owner was moving and could not take us along. Me and Lilly are not super bonded but would not mind finding a home together either. I am good with other cats and have been around dogs in my previous home.

Children are fun, and I would be fine living in a home with children who are cat savvy. I have been indoor and outdoor in my last home, but I could easily be trained to be indoor-only if my new home would prefer that. I enjoy comfy beds, wand toys, and treats. Do you think that we are the PURRfect match? Come visit me soon! Stop by Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:30 p.m.

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# sports & ski news



## THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

Happy New Year to all of you. May 2019 be a bright light in your life.

I am looking forward to so many sporting events in the New Year, locally, regionally, and nationally. I don't drink wine, but I have heard over and over again, that it gets better with age. I'm telling you right now, my sports world gets better with age. It is so good I can't keep up sometimes. I told you a story a little while back about a friend of mine being so excited in October because four professional sports had games on the same day and the high school fall play-offs were full speed ahead, and he let me know it was his favorite time of year. Wall to wall, sports every day.

My reply then, and it's even more so today, was basically, "Stop the Merry Go Round; I want to get off." My head hurts and I can't keep up with it all.

I wonder how many people feel the way I do. Don't get me wrong. I

don't love sports any less, but I miss what I don't see and you can't see it all.

When I was a teenager and a young adult, I had the presence to be able to follow as many as three games at one time and really know everything about all three encounters. I would station myself with a chair and a coffee table in the hallway between two bedrooms – just outside the bathroom making it difficult for anyone to enter – in a position in which I could view both the television in the living room and one of the bedrooms and then beside me would be a transistor radio. One game would be on each television and a third would be on the radio. This was routine and considered an enjoyable day.

What's wrong with me? Today, I don't even enjoy keeping track of two games at once. I still keep track of all those games, but it has to be one after another. I tape two of them and hope nobody spoils things and tells me the scores before I actually watch the games.

I guess sports probably do get better with age as I said, but chances are what we enjoy and how fast those events come at us has taken to peace with a much slower approach. Regardless of your age, feel free of giving us feedback on how you enjoy your sports and any unique ways you have found to follow your favorite sporting action.

### Looking ahead

I hope to take in at least a couple of sporting events at Black River High School because I never know for sure when the school's last varsity sporting event will be held. I am confident there will be teams representing the school this year, but beyond that, I am not sure. I already attended the Josh Cole Tournament in the fall and it was not just exciting action on the field but it was moving to hear the tourney may live beyond the days of the school's existence. Leland & Gray stood up and said they would do

what they could to help the town of Ludlow keep the event going.

Speaking of Ludlow, I wonder how many people realize how important it was when Joe Gurdak came forward again to take the school's athletic director's job. No one I know understands the ins and outs of Presidents' athletics. Every athletic director job is difficult, but when the numbers are really waning and clear direction for rallying the troops is needed, having the experience of Gurdak around makes a huge difference.

While on the subject of athletic directors, very few readers know how difficult those jobs are. The intangibles drive each and every AD crazy. The schools that have a number of sports each season and don't give their AD enough hours make it more difficult too.

Say thanks to your AD when you see him to give him a boost.

Both Black River basketball teams have shown some spark in the early going. They both have losing records – the girls 1-3 and the boys 1-2 – but the girls nipped Leland & Gray in a close one 29-27. That game said a lot about the Lady Presidents' character. They lost some one-sided games, but given the opportunity to smell victory, they found a way to win.

I am really wondering how far Don Richard can propel the President boys. They have some talent and defeated Mid-Vermont Christian on the road 62-54. Neither of their losses diminish their chances for success. They lost on the road versus rival Green Mountain 45-36 and fell to a strong Proctor team that could contend for the Vermont State Title 51-31.

If you have comments about the sports in this paper, feel free to drop a line to Sports Editor Bill Murphy at [bmurphy@vermontjournal.com](mailto:bmurphy@vermontjournal.com).

## Stratton announces new format for 24 Hours of Stratton event

STRATTON, Vt. – The Stratton Mountain Resort and Stratton Foundation are getting ready for the most magical weekend of the winter season! It's the 7th annual 24 Hours of Stratton, March 16-17, 2019, and this year it's got a new, fresh format for all to enjoy.

The 24 Hours event is the only night to ski Stratton under lit trails, fireworks, starry skies, and into first tracks at sunrise. According to Tammy Mosher, the foundation's executive director, "the event combines the emotional goodness of charity, camaraderie, and doing what skiers and snowboarders love most for an epic amount of time."

This year will be less about rigorous endurance and more about enjoying the mountain with all that Stratton has to offer. Participants of all ages and abilities can join as a team of up to 1-12 members made up of children, parents, colleagues, and friends. Wearing a 24-Hour bib grants access to Saturday and Sunday lift passes, cross country skiing and snowshoe trails, and tube park. Everyone gets a tracking chip to earn points for the team by riding the Amex, Gondola, Urso, and Snow Bowl lifts to all levels of trails. Gondola hours will be extended, with giveaways, food, music, swag, and more.

At night, catch the Amex lift to ride Yodeler, Suntanner, Lower Standard, and Betwixt trails. Skin or snowshoe uphill, enter Saturday's alpine race or play off-slope games to rack up additional team points. Fun prizes and contests include best team name and best costumes. It's a Saturday 9 a.m. Parade of Champions start through to Sunday's



Join Stratton Mountain and Stratton Foundation for 24 Hours of Stratton, the ski event to benefit local children.

PHOTO BY DAVID BARNUM PHOTOGRAPHY

Athlete Appreciation Breakfast and Awards Ceremony.

At the heart of the event is the fundraising. It costs nothing to sign up with a commitment to raise a minimum of amount of fundraising per person by March 16 by asking friends, family, and corporate matching to support the experience and the cause.

Steve Kerstein, Foundation president, states "the 24 Hours is a powerful partnership between the Stratton Foundation and Stratton Mountain Resort to raise funds for Vermont children and to support our local communities." It is the foundation's largest fundraiser with proceeds benefiting children's weekend food programs, in-school dental hygiene services, mental health, basic necessities, targeted education, and other human service initiatives.

The Stratton Foundation's mission is to address the challenges of poverty that stand between a child and the opportunity to be safe, warm, healthy, and fed for the chance to not only thrive but to succeed.

"Vermont can be a difficult place to raise a family. Schools across the region witness a staggering 40-80 percent of children who qualify for free and reduced lunch at school, meaning that families are making less than \$30k-\$40k per year," Mosher stated, "forcing parents to choose between food and heating the home, or their child's health and paying for gas."

The 24 Hours of Stratton is making a major impact by changing the lives of thousands of children and breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

24 Hours of Stratton sponsors include the Stratton Mountain Resort, Farrell Distributing and Bud Light, Long Trail, Harpoon, vonTrapp, ProCalc, DLA Piper, UBS Park View Partners, Casella, Alex Brown, and Stratton Magazine.

To register or donate, visit [www.stratton.com/24](http://www.stratton.com/24). To learn more, visit [www.strattonfoundation.org](http://www.strattonfoundation.org), or call 802-297-2096. To give, text "Stratton" to 414-11.

## Five tips for a great season of winter sports

**StatePoint** - It's time to enjoy all your favorite winter sports. Whether you are traveling afar to hit the slopes or enjoying a close-to-home day of sledding and snow ball fights, it's important to keep in mind that outdoor adventure in cooler weather requires preparation.

Here are five tips to help you best enjoy the season:

1. **Dress for warmth.** Going on a ski weekend? Ice skating? To avoid exposure, ensure your clothes and accessories will stand up to the elements. They should be waterproof, windproof and durable, for maximize comfort, warmth and safety.

2. **Use tech tools.** Stay informed with wearable technology, such as the WSD-F30 Pro Trek Smart Outdoor Watch from Casio, which includes a compass, barometer and altimeter for outdoor adventures.

The smart outdoor watch offers wearers the pertinent information needed for a safe and happy day of outdoor sports and adventure, including sunrise and sunset times. Apps such as Ski Tracks (which records your day on the slopes) are designed specifically for winter sports.

3. **Stay healthy.** Just because the temperature is colder doesn't mean you should skip on the important things you do to stay healthy at other times of the year. For example, drinking water and staying hydrated is important whenever you are physically active. And while the days may be shorter, the sun can still be quite powerful, so keep using SPF on any exposed skin, and wear eye protection such as sunglasses designed for sports or goggles.

4. **Consider renting.** Before investing in expensive, space-consuming equipment upfront, consider whether it's more worthwhile to rent or buy these items. Factor in such details as how much use you will get out of the equipment each winter, the location of your upcoming trips, how you are getting there and how much storage space you have at home.

5. **Prioritize safety.** Winter sports can be a lot fun, particularly when everyone stays safe and injury-free. Ensure that everyone in your family is properly fitted for safety equipment. For children, sizing may change year to year. Listen to the advice of any instructors you work with and always follow the directions and safety rules at the facility.

## Grommet Throwdown at Okemo Mountain

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Jan. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., it's time for the little jibbers to show off and be safe! This event is for kids 13 and under. Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at AB Quad Lifeline. The little jibbers will spend the morning training and learning proper park etiquette in the rail garden with the guidance of some of our Okemo park instructors and park rangers. After lunch, they'll be able to show off. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. at AB Quad Lifeline and contest at 1 p.m. Admission is free.

PHOTO PROVIDED



## This week's high school basketball schedule

**REGION** – Basketball games may change due to weather or other circumstances. For more information about an individual game or team, go to the schools' athletic department websites. If you have any sports news or photos from a recent game, submit them to [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com), and we may include them in the next paper!

### THURSDAY, JAN. 3 –

- Boys Varsity Long Trail @ Green Mountain 7 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Springfield @ Ox-bow 7 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Leland & Gray @ Arlington 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 4 –

- Boys Varsity Arlington @ Leland & Gray 7 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Hopkinton @ Fall Mountain 7 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Bellows Falls @ Poultney 7 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Black River @ Mount St. Joseph 7 p.m.

- Girls Varsity Fall Mountain @ Hopkinton 7 p.m.
- Girls Varsity West Rutland @ Green Mountain 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 5 –

- Boys Varsity Bellows Falls @ Poultney 2:30 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Fall Mountain @ Springfield 1:30 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Rivendell @ Leland & Gray 7 p.m.
- Boys Varsity West Rutland @ Green Mountain 1 p.m.

### MONDAY, JAN. 7 –

- Girls Varsity Springfield @ Leland & Gray 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 8 –

- Boys Varsity Fall Mountain @ Monadnock 6:30 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Mount St. Joseph @ Bellows Falls 7 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Monadnock @ Fall Mountain 7 p.m.
- Girls Varsity West Rutland @ Black River 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9 –

- Boys Varsity Black River @ West Rutland 7 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Bellows Falls @ Green Mountain 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 10 –

- Boys Varsity Bellows Falls @ Wind-sor 7 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Green Mountain @ Arlington 7 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Leland & Gray @ Springfield 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 11 –

- Boys Varsity Campbell @ Fall Mountain 7 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Proctor @ Black River 6 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Fall Mountain @ Campbell 6 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Windsor @ Green Mountain 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 12 –

- Girls Varsity Leland & Gray @ Bellows Falls 1:30 p.m.

## Great tips for an outdoor winter adventure

**StatePoint** - There's no need to resign yourself to the gym all winter long. Outdoor adventures are the perfect way to stay fit and have fun, even during the chilliest months of the year.

All it takes to stay comfortable is the right gear and a bit of preparation. With that in mind, check out these tips for a great season:

• **Get an early start:** Remember that winter means early sunsets. So, get your journey started early in the morning to take advantage of the limited sunlight. Plan your hike or other outdoor adventure carefully, knowing how long you expect it to take and be sure your pack includes a flashlight or headlamp. In the event you are still on the trail as the sun sets, you'll be happy you did.

• **Stretch:** Before getting started, be sure to give your muscles time to warm up. To avoid injury, it is always important to do a dynamic



Enjoy the great outdoors!

PHOTO PROVIDED

stretch workout before embarking on a workout, but it becomes especially important in cold weather.

• **Stay informed:** High-quality wearable tech is crucial for today's outdoor enthusiast. Seek out a durable watch specifically designed to help you make the most of outdoor sports. The WSD-F20AGN from Casio, boasts a variety of popular

outdoors and sports apps, including ViewRanger, Hole19, Ski Tracks, and more. Additional features include water resistance up to 50 meters, a digital compass, altimeter, barometer and an activity tracker. And with Wear OS by Google technology, you can use your timepiece to learn about your surroundings and support you in the things you want to do, for a safer, more connected journey.

• **Cover up:** You may be working up heat but you'll still want to keep your head, fingers and toes well-protected in cold weather temperatures. These are the areas of the body most vulnerable to frost bite. Select socks, gloves and a hat specifically designed for sports that offers moisture wicking, comfort and warmth. Be aware of the signs of frostbite and take care to get indoors at the earliest sign.

This winter, don't shy away from the great outdoors. A little preparation can help you make the most of an outdoor adventure.

# art & entertainment

## First Friday film, "PHI, The Evolution of Consciousness"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First Friday Film at the UU Meetinghouse, Friday, Jan. 4, will be "PHI, The Evolution of Consciousness" at 7 p.m.

According to the movie website, "Phi [the symbol] is the name for the golden ratio, a mathematical key which the ancients considered to be the 'signature of God.' The reason for that is because everything in the natural world, from plants, animals, sea-shells, and even the spirals of galaxies are generated using the phi ratio in some way or another. What it teaches

us is that things are self-similar; the same patterns we see at the microscopic level repeat themselves on larger and larger scales. We wanted to ask the question: does the golden ratio, the principle of self-similarity, apply to consciousness itself? So we decided to make a movie about it."

The Springfield UU Meetinghouse is located at 21 Fairground Rd. in Springfield. Free admission and popcorn provided. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.; the film begins at 7 p.m. All are welcome.



The First Friday Film, Jan. 4, will be "PHI, The Evolution of Consciousness." STOCK PHOTO

## Women's Freedom Center documentary film "Lane 1974," fifth in a series of six

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Thursday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. the Women's Freedom Center presents the documentary film "Lane 1974" at the Rockingham Library. Based on Clane Hayward's memoir "The Hypocrisy of Disco," "Lane 1974" tells a true coming of age survival story. It's 1974. Thirteen-year-old Lane lives on a beautiful Northern California commune until her mother alienates their family from the security and safety of the community. They begin moving from one unlikely situation to another. After a series of dangerous events, Lane must decide how to survive.

"Lane 1974" is the fifth in a series of six films by and about women, sponsored by the Women's Freedom Center running the second Thursday of each month, September 2018 through February 2019 at Rockingham Library.

If you were not able to make it to Brattleboro to the Women's Film Festival, the Women's Freedom Center is bringing the festival films to you. The Women's Freedom Center is the local non-

profit organization working to end domestic and sexual violence in Windham and southern Windsor counties. They are a feminist organization committed to offering support and advocacy to all survivors of violence, as well as prevention and educational activities to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated. The center's 24/7 Hotline number is 1-802-885-2050.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, go to [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org), email [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org), call 802-463-4270 or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Walpole Players announce auditions for "Lost in Yonkers"

WALPOLE, N.H. – The Walpole Players will hold auditions for their coming spring production of "Lost in Yonkers" at the Helen Miller Theater in the Walpole Town Hall, Sunday, Jan. 13, 4:30-6 p.m., and Tuesday, Jan. 15, 6:30-8 p.m. The play will be presented on two weekends in April. Mike Wright will be directing. Auditions will be readings from the script.

The Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Lost in Yonkers," is a heartfelt and hilarious coming-of-age story about a very eccentric family by America's great comic playwright, Neil Simon. Like many of Simon's plays, "Lost in Yonkers" is drawn from his experiences growing up in New York City.

Set during World War II, two young brothers, Arty and Jay, are

sent to live with their formidable German Jewish immigrant grandmother, the sweet but mentally challenged Aunt Bella, and Uncle Louie, a small-time hoodlum running away from gangsters. "Lost in Yonkers" tells the story of a family coping with the challenges of keeping together during World War II and the struggles to balance love, duty, devotion, and trust with tough times.

There are seven parts that span three generations from the brothers age about 15 and 13 to their father, aunts, and uncle all in the 30s age range, and Grandma who is about 70.

Rehearsals will be at the theater in the Walpole Town Hall in February, March, and April. If you have questions or are not available on the audition dates, please contact Mike Wright at [mikey2573@comcast.net](mailto:mikey2573@comcast.net).

## Tips to keep kids' minds and bodies active during playtime

**StatePoint** – If you're like many parents, you want to ensure that your little ones' playtime gives them a chance to exercise both body and mind. Here are some fun ways to incorporate both into the equation.

**Outdoor fun**  
Outdoor fun can be had nearly any time of year. Carve out time each week for trips to the local playground or park and for short walks and scooter rides. The change of scenery will activate young minds naturally to explore the world around them.

**Movement through discovery**  
Seek out toys that inspire move-

ment through the act of discovery. For example, Chase Me Casey, a monkey that skates, spins and wobbles across the floor, encourages children to dance and crawl after him. When your child gets close, Casey reacts with playful sounds and encouraging phrases. Five colorful shape buttons on the monkey's shirt introduce letters, num-



Choose toys and activities to help your children stay active.

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## What's Happening at Okemo

### Grommet Throwdown

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5**

It's time for the little groms to show off! Okemo will design a unique rail park for kids under 13. They will spend the morning learning proper park etiquette with the guidance of the Okemo Park + Pipe instructors.

### Let It Glow Laser Light Show & Fireworks Spectacular

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19**

Okemo will host a mind-bending landscape of light set to music with its Let It Glow Laser Light Show sponsored by American Express. Guests will feel immersed in a laser canopy of light and sound as bright beams bounce off the snow. This dazzling laser light show is one you won't want to miss.

### Epic Day

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**Music class**  
For young children, music class is a great way to connect mind and body, as kids are introduced to simple rhythms, dancing, singing, and percussion instruments. If music class doesn't fit into your family's schedule, you can always get the jams going at home, introducing your child to an array of musical styles.

**Toys to grow with**  
From floor play to first steps, look for toys that will assist your child with this crucial transition. For example, the VTech Stroll & Discover Activity Walker, which grows with your child, is nicely suited for floor play as its removable activity panel is packed with features like light-up piano keys, spinning gears and shape sorter pieces to help develop fine motor skills. When kids are ready, you can attach the panel to an adjustable two-speed walker, so they can learn and discover while on the move.

**Imaginative play**  
Let kids create their own adventures using their imagination as a guide. Toys such as Starshine the Bright Lights Unicorn can add whimsy and adventure to active playtime. Place the seven charms on any of the three magic hearts to see the horn light up and hear colors, objects and phrases in English or Spanish. Use the charms to answer quiz questions or add sound effects to create your own special song. Squeeze the unicorn's tail to see her wings flap and hear phrases and sound effects. Starshine's majestic hooves feature wheels so kids can push her as they head off on their next adventure.

**Simon Says**  
"Simon Says" is a fun game to get kids moving while reinforcing vocabulary, from learning the names of different body parts to distinguishing sounds, such as "Simon Says cluck like a chicken." This is a game that can progress with your child's development. Start with the basics like, "Simon Says touch your nose." As kids get more coordinated, try stuff like "Simon Says hop on one leg."

Keeping kids active and engaged adds meaning to playtime and makes things more fun. With toys and activities, you can foster discovery and imagination while introducing movement to children.

# arts & entertainment

## Take a journey into the wilds of China

LUDLOW, Vt. – “Born in China” will be the next FOLA movie, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Heald Auditorium in the Ludlow Town Hall.

“Born in China,” a Disney documentary, focuses on a female snow leopard named Dawa and her cubs, a young golden snub-nosed monkey named Tao Tao, a female giant panda named Ya Ya along with her daughter Mei Mei, and a herd of chiru. The film is narrated by John Krasinski.

Disney Nature’s team of filmmakers takes an epic journey into the wilds of China where few people have ever ventured. Following the stories of three animal families, the film transports audiences to some of the most extreme environments

on Earth to witness some of the most intimate moments ever captured in a nature film.

A doting panda mother guides her growing baby as she begins to explore and seek independence. A 2-year-old golden snub-nosed monkey who feels displaced by his new baby sister joins up with a group of free-spirited outcasts. And a mother snow leopard – an elusive animal rarely caught on camera – faces the very real drama of raising her two cubs in one of the harshest and most unforgiving environments on the planet.



“Born in China.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

As with all FOLA movies, the film is free and open to everyone; donations are appreciated. Popcorn will be supplied by Berkshire Bank

with FOLA providing water. For more information, call 802-228-7239 or visit the FOLA website at [www.fola.us](http://www.fola.us).

## World Under Wonder holding auditions for “The Vagina Monologues”

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – World Under Wonder will be hosting auditions for an upcoming production of Eve Ensler’s master work of empowerment, “The Vagina Monologues,” to be presented as a V-Day benefit event in February. The auditions will be held at the World Under Wonder Playhouse in the old Weathersfield Grange Hall that the group is renovating at 5755 Route 5 in Weathersfield. Auditions take place Saturday, Jan. 12, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Auditions are open to all who identify as women including cis-gender, transgender, and those who hold fluid identities that are subject to gender-based violence. No acting experience is required. At the audition, you’ll be asked to do a cold reading of a monologue. Anyone who is interested but unable to attend the audition is encouraged to contact the theater. The production will be directed by Sam Maskell who directed “The Vagina Monologues” in 2006 for a V-Day event in Bellows

Falls, Vt. The performance is scheduled for Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at the World Under Wonder Playhouse. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Women’s Freedom Center and Planned Parenthood.

World Under Wonder is also seeking submissions for three new, local monologues. Every year, a special edition of “The Vagina Monologues” script is released for V-Day events. Typically, the scripts feature a spotlight monologue. This year, instead of a spotlight monologue, we are invited to amplify the often unheard and excluded voices of survivors, activists, and groups in our communities by creating three community-written testimonies to be performed at the end of the play.

Each monologue should be about 3 minutes in length and meet one of the three guidelines specified by V-Day. One of the new monologues must showcase a formerly incarcerated or detained woman; an invitation to speak to an audience about

their experiences and how they connect to the issue of violence against women and girls. Additionally, this year, all V-Day productions will be donating 10 percent of their proceeds to Spotlight on Women in Prison, Detention Centers, and Formerly Incarcerated Women.

The other two monologues are from the point of view of local leaders or activists who are doing the crucial, daily work of ending violence in our community to present a “What and Why My Vagina is Rising” monologue. This is an opportunity to share with the audience what they are working to change and how the local community can support them.

Twenty years ago, Eve Ensler’s play “The Vagina Monologues” gave birth to V-Day, a global activist movement to end violence against all women and girls. Since 1998, “The Vagina Monologues” and other works have been performed across the world by local V-Day activists,

raising over \$100 million dollars for grassroots anti-violence groups, rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and safe houses in places like Kenya and Afghanistan.

In 2013, V-Day founded One Billion Rising, the largest mass action to demand an end to violence against women in history. V-Day and One Billion Rising are a crucial part of the global fight to stop gender-based violence through attacking the silence – public and private – that allows violence against women to continue.

Maskell says, “When women take the stage, incredible things happen, as their issues are voiced and confronted for all to see and hear.”

For more information, email the theater at [worldunderwonder@gmail.com](mailto:worldunderwonder@gmail.com) or go online to [www.worldunderwonder.webs.com](http://www.worldunderwonder.webs.com).

## A classical kick off to 2019 at Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm



Chamber musicians at Kinhaven Music School.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY KINHAVEN MUSIC SCHOOL

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Playhouse Theatre and Kinhaven Music School, two of southern Vermont’s premier cultural institutions, will come together for a musical night Saturday, Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Join faculty artists from Kinhaven Music School at Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm for an evening of chamber music. Musicians Ari Isaacman-Beck, Nicholas DiEugenio, Adam Grabois, Aundrey Mitchell, Peter Schultz, Mimi Solomon, and Mary Watt

will treat audience members to pieces by Brahms, Mozart, Telemann, and more. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at [www.westonplayhouse.org](http://www.westonplayhouse.org).

Share your A+E News!

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## Wine and wings? Getting creative for the big game

StatePoint – Everyone enjoys a hearty spread of comfort food for the big game. The range of flavors and textures in these dishes tend to run the gamut from salty, spicy, and meaty, to creamy, crunchy, and cheesy, making beer the natural pairing. However, if your drink of choice is wine, finding the right selection can be tricky.

Sauvignon Blanc is very food-friendly, particularly when paired with many game day favorites like nachos, guacamole, salsas, and chicken with some heat. Those from the Marlborough region of New Zealand, such as Infamous Goose Sauvignon Blanc 2017, are crisp, with bright citrus and cool herbal flavors, and would pair well with the majority of dishes on your table. The reason this wine is such a refreshing selection is that the Sauvignon Blanc

grape is grown in relatively cool climates for a slow ripening period, which intensifies the flavors in the fruit.

If you enjoy wings, finding a wine pairing for your feast will be your biggest challenge due to the range of toppings – from bold-flavored spices to thick, mouth-coating sauces.

Try serving lemon pepper wings alongside a glass of Sauvignon Blanc. With its vibrant aromas of fresh lemons, limes, green apple, Thai basil and a touch of floral honey, it is a delicious pairing with this bright dish. When served chilled, the cooling herbal notes in the wine will also help to temper the seasoning.

**Ingredients:** 2 cups oil, one-fourth cup butter melted, one-half tablespoon lemon pepper, tablespoon lemon juice, 12 chicken wings.

**Directions:** Heat oil in a deep fryer or large saucepan to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Stir lemon pepper and lemon juice into one-fourth cup melted butter, set aside. Fry the chicken wings in hot oil until no longer pink at the bone and the juices run clear, about 8 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted near the bone should read 165 de-

grees Fahrenheit. After cooking, toss hot wings in lemon butter mixture, coating all sides. Serve immediately.

From high-end cuisine to your Sunday football spread, a carefully selected Sauvignon Blanc can be served at any occasion. This season, surprise your guests with a delicious pairing of wine and wings.

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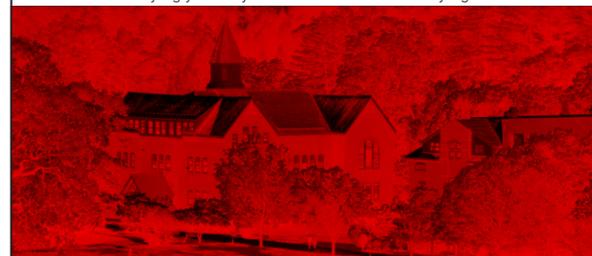
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# outdoor news

## Learn about ice fishing at free introductory seminars –

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is holding a series of introductory seminars this winter on a variety of ice fishing techniques. These clinics are open to people of all ages and levels of experience, including those who are completely new to fishing. Participants will learn about fishing regulations and techniques, fish identification, ice safety, and more.

“Winter in Vermont can be a joyful time to be outdoors and there’s no better way to experience the outdoors than on a frozen lake catching your dinner,” said Corey Hart, who coordinates the department’s Let’s Go Fishing program.

“Introduction to Walleye Fishing,” Saturday, Jan. 19, 9 a.m. – noon, Chittenden Reservoir, Chittenden, Vt. Walleye are the largest member of the perch family, and are found in Vermont in Chittenden Reservoir, Lake Carmi, the Connecticut River, Island Pond, Salem Lake, and Lake Champlain. Come learn how to fish



The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will hold a series of clinics this winter to teach people ice fishing techniques.

PHOTO BY TOM ROGERS

for these large and exciting fish.

“Introduction to Ice Fishing,” Saturday, Feb. 2, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Dewey’s Pond, Quechee, Vt. Come learn how to experience all that a Vermont winter has to offer by getting started at ice fishing. We’ll learn the basics from checking the ice for safety to selecting sites and drilling holes to setting tip-ups and jigging. This clinic is sponsored by the Hartford Parks & Rec Department and will run in conjunction with their Youth Ice Fishing Derby.

“Ice Fishing for Panfish,” Sunday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Shelburne Pond, Shelburne, Vt. Panfish are the smaller fish species that fit in a pan, including pumpkinseed and bluegill sunfish, perch, rock bass, and crappie. They’re easy to catch and tasty to eat!

“Introduction to Ice Fishing,” Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2–5 p.m., Lake Boscawen, Castleton Vt. Come learn how to experience all that a Vermont winter has to offer by getting started at ice fishing. We’ll learn the basics from checking the ice for safety to selecting sites and drilling holes to

setting tip-ups and jigging.

“Introduction to Smelting,” Thursday, Feb. 21, 5–8 p.m., Waterbury Reservoir, Waterbury, Vt. Smelt are a small, slender schooling fish found in Vermont’s deeper and colder lakes. Ice fishing is the only way to consistently catch rainbow smelt in Vermont. During the winter, smelt often concentrate in large schools, which can be spotted by the cluster of ice fishing shanties on the lake.

Equipment will be provided, but participants should dress for the weather as the programs will take place outside. All seminars are free, and participants are encouraged to bring their own snacks or meal. Programs last 2.5 to 3 hours.

Space is limited to the first 30 sign ups, and seminars fill up quickly, so sign up as early as possible. Registration is required for all programs and can be completed by calling 802-265-2279 or emailing [letsstofishing@vermont.gov](mailto:letsstofishing@vermont.gov). Directions to the meeting spot will be given upon registering.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information. Please send an email to Catherine. [Gjessing@vermont.gov](mailto:Gjessing@vermont.gov) or call the office staff at 802-828-1000 (voice), 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

## 2018 a successful year for Vermont Habitat Stamp Program

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is encouraging nature enthusiasts to include the 2019 Vermont Habitat Stamp among their year-end donations. The stamp is available on the Fish & Wildlife Department’s website and is also available as a voluntary add-on to 2019 hunting or fishing licenses when purchased online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

“The first few years of the Vermont Habitat Stamp program have been a success and 2018 continues that trend,” said Louis Porter, commissioner of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. “Since 2015, and thanks to the many donors to the program, the Vermont Habitat Stamp has contributed to the direct conservation of more than 3,200 acres of land, restoration efforts on numerous streams and rivers, and the removal of dysfunctional dams for fish passage.”

The Habitat Stamp raised more than \$110,000 in 2018 and used that money to leverage more than \$142,000 in federal funds for habitat conservation in Vermont. The funds supported several important projects, including helping a biologist work with local watershed groups to bring out hundreds of students to plant trees along stream banks. The funds also helped provide assistance to landowners to improve wildlife habitat on thousands of acres.

“From bringing Shelburne middle-schoolers into the field to learn about invasive plants, to finalizing



The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps planted disease-resistant elm trees at Windsor Grasslands WMA with support from the Vermont Habitat Stamp.

PHOTO BY TOM ROGERS

significant wildlife habitat designations with county foresters, 2018 has been a productive year,” said Andrea Shortleeve, a habitat biologist whose work is funded through the Habitat Stamp program.

With support from the Habitat Stamp, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps worked directly with state wildlife biologists to improve habitat on the state’s newest wildlife management area, Windsor Grasslands WMA. The young people working for the VYCC spent a full week battling invasive plants and working to establish a mix of native, wildlife-friendly trees and shrubs in their place.

“The Fish & Wildlife Department is uniquely positioned to conserve habi-

ty in Vermont because we can leverage every dollar donated for several additional dollars in federal funds,” said Porter. “Even a small donation makes a big difference for habitat conservation. As forests and fields in Vermont yield to development, the Habitat Stamp will allow us to continue to protect the critical open spaces that Vermonters enjoy.”

The “2018 Habitat Stamp Annual Report” highlighting the conservation work done through the program is available online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Matching funds for habitat projects sponsored by the stamp have come from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

## Drivers urged to be alert for birds of prey along the highway

REGION – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is urging drivers to be alert for birds of prey that are seeking food along the highway this time of year due to snow-covered ground.

Many species of hawks and owls are hit by motor vehicles on highways when they swoop down to catch small rodents crossing the open road. The birds usually do not survive these collisions.

Sometimes Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff is fortunate to save one of these majestic creatures. State Game Warden Kelly Price captured a barred owl recently in Brookline that had a broken wing most likely caused by a vehicle collision and took it to the Vermont-New Hampshire Vet-



Vermont State Game Warden Kelly Price helped this barred owl get medical attention after it may have been hit along a highway in southern Vermont.

PHOTO BY KELLY PRICE

erinary Clinic in Dummerston.

“There are not enough accolades to express my gratitude for Dr. Ron Svec and his amazing staff for what they do for these animals,” said Price. “For over 17 years, they have provided free medical care and rehabilitation for birds of prey. This clinic is the only one in the area federally licensed to care for and handle birds of prey. I could not successfully do my part in protecting these beautiful birds without the help of Dr. Svec.”

Many of these raptors are successfully returned to the wild after rehabilitation but a few are never able to survive in the wild again. These disabled birds are usually taken to educational facilities for lifelong care and public observation.

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# classifieds

## business spotlight



**PrimeLending**  
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Victoria Blodgett is the production manager and home loan professional of PrimeLending in Ludlow, and she is here to help guide you through the process of buying, renovating, or refinancing your home. Blodgett has been in the field for 16 years. "I went right from college into the origination business in 2002," she explained. She's been with PrimeLending for five years, and she opened her office in Ludlow in June of 2016.

PrimeLending offers over 400 lending programs, but typically they use a select handful of programs that cater to customers' specific needs. These programs may include first-time homebuyers, second-homeowners, investment properties, renovation loans, or refinancing options. "Typically someone will call about a preapproval," Blodgett explained, "and I listen to what their needs are, and pair it with a program that we offer." It's about finding out with the clients' goals are, and matching a loan program to them.

The PrimeLending home buying process starts with you. When you start your mortgage application, you will determine a price range, compare loan options, decide on an amount for a down payment, and get prequalified for your loan. Blodgett and her team will guide you through your loan application and approval, locking in a rate, obtaining title insurance, scheduling a closing, and answer any questions that you may have along the way. "You'll always know where you stand and what comes next."

Blodgett will assist you in appraising the property to ensure it is valued correctly, performing a legal search on the property title, and pulling your credit. "One of the most important factors in getting that favorable rate on your mortgage is your credit score," Blodgett can help you determine what that number is, and what a comfortable budget would be for you. Her team will help you calculate an affordable monthly payment, and a down payment, which "is based on a percentage of the home's selling price, and is due at closing."

Closing costs vary by the lender, and typically range from 2-7 percent of the purchase price. These costs include: prepaid expenses, such as homeowner's insurance or mortgage insurance; discount points, which helps reduce the loan's interest rate; and out-of-pocket expenses, such as fees for appraisals, attorneys, credit reports, home inspections, and other miscellaneous expenses.

When it's time to close on your loan, PrimeLending will be by your side when you sign your papers, pay closing costs, and take ownership of your new home.

Blodgett is available by appointment Monday through Friday. Her flexible hours allow her to go in later at night, or whenever her clients are available. She can be reached at 802-975-0350 or by email at vblodgett@primelending.com.



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# calendar

## AUTOMOTIVE

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**SATURDAY, JAN. 5** – CLAREMONT, N.H. – Join the “Sew a Simple Jacket” workshop Saturday, Jan. 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., where you’ll make your own simple, stylish, and ultra-versatile jacket! This is a great sewing project for someone who wants to get into making or designing clothing. Goal is to complete the jacket by the end of the class. Ability to thread a sewing machine, sew a straight seam, and sew a seam allowance needed. Skills that will be covered in the class include laying out a pattern on fabric and cutting out pattern, as well as reading and implementing directions from a pattern. Materials needed are fabric and matching thread. Pattern will be provided. Please bring a lunch. 46 Main Street, Claremont, N.H. Call 603-504-3419 for more information.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9** – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us at the UU Meetinghouse Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 5:30

p.m. for Seva yoga with Aimee Parnell. The yogic principal of “Seva” refers to service. We’re offering this class at no cost but request that attendees bring a package of diapers for the diaper bank at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center. This will be a gentle yoga class and all are welcome. This class is held at 21 Fairground Rd., Springfield, Vt. For more information, email [uuspringfieldvt@gmail.com](mailto:uuspringfieldvt@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY, JAN. 19** – CHITTENDEN, Vt. – “Introduction to Walleye Fishing,” Saturday, Jan. 19, 9 a.m. - noon, at the Chittenden Reservoir, Chittenden, Vt. Walleye are the largest member of the perch family, and are found in Chittenden Reservoir, Lake Carmi, the Connecticut River, Island Pond, Salem Lake, and Lake Champlain. The clinic is open to people of all ages and levels of experience, including those who are completely new to fishing. Participants will learn about fishing regulations and techniques, fish identification, ice safety, and more. Equipment will be provided,

but participants should dress for the weather. Space is limited to the first 30 sign ups. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 802-265-2279 or emailing [letsgetfishing@vermont.gov](mailto:letsgetfishing@vermont.gov). Directions to the meeting spot will be given upon registration.

**WEEKLY** – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Are you experiencing pain, stress, insomnia, emotional unease, or any other healing needs? While Lauren is fulfilling her certification requirements for polarity therapy, she is offering special discounted energy and bodywork sessions at Studio Time & Space, 59 Main Street, Springfield. Schedule an appointment at 802-591-0507, [laurenpottervt@gmail.com](mailto:laurenpottervt@gmail.com), or [www.laurenpotterreikhealing.com](http://www.laurenpotterreikhealing.com).

### CLUBS

**SATURDAY, JAN. 12** – STRATTON, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 12, meet at 8 a.m. at the Stratton Base Lodge outside the southwest corner – allow at least 15-20 minutes to walk in or bus from the parking

lot. We will ride to the summit of Stratton ski area on the gondola, courtesy of Stratton Resort. No dogs allowed on the gondola. We will snowshoe to the south peak where we will meet the Long Trail, hike north on the Long Trail to Stratton Pond, return on the Catamount Trail to a Stratton ski trail and down the ski trail back to the base lodge. Please bring extra clothing, lunch and snacks, fluids, and a headlamp just in case. This is a moderate hike. RSVP required to Dave Ratti at 802-366-0698 or [dbrspruce@gmail.com](mailto:dbrspruce@gmail.com).

**SUNDAY, JAN. 13** – WESTON, Vt. – On Sunday, Jan. 13, meet in front of the Weston Playhouse at 1 p.m. Snowshoe into the site of the former West River CCC Camp and also explore extensive beaver ponds there, 5 miles north of Weston village off Route 155. This is an easy hike – half a mile each way – but the headwaters of the West River must be crossed. Bring extra clothes and especially extra socks, snacks, fluids. RSVP required to Andrew Harper at 802-430-3859 or [ap\\_harper@hotmail.com](mailto:ap_harper@hotmail.com).

**TUESDAY, JAN. 15** – MANCHESTER, Vt. – The newly formed Green Mountain Photography Club invites you to their first meeting Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Equinox Village, 49 Maple St., Manchester, Vt. – behind Shaw’s grocery store. We are a group of novices, professional,

and interested photographers. Anyone wanting to learn, share, or develop their photographic skills are welcome. You can find us on Facebook as the group: Green Mountain Photography Club.

### COMMUNITY MEALS

**SATURDAY, JAN. 5** – ANDOVER, Vt. – The Andover Mountaineer Snow Riders are hosting their sixth annual Pasta Dinner and Blind Auction, Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Andover Town Hall. Pasta dinner starts at 5 p.m. Door prize drawings and auctions start at 6:15 p.m. Kids 12 and under eat free. Dinner includes pasta, salad, drinks, and desserts. Gluten-free pasta will be available. Auction items are donations from local businesses and club supporters. If you would like to donate a dessert or auction item, please contact us by Friday, Jan. 4, [andoversnowridersvt@gmail.com](mailto:andoversnowridersvt@gmail.com).

**SATURDAYS** – CHESTER, Vt. – Gassetts Grange holds a buffet breakfast every month on the first Saturday at 8-9:30 a.m. It consists of eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, blueberry or plain pancakes, real maple syrup, juice, coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. All are welcome! Admission at the door. Hope to see you there. We are located on Route 103N, just above junction of 103 and Route 10. Any questions, call Dave at 802-875-2637.

### EVENTS

**FRIDAY, JAN. 4** – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First Friday Film at the UU Meetinghouse Jan. 4 will be “Phi: The Evolution of Consciousness” at 7 p.m. According to the website, “Phi

(the symbol) is the name for the golden ratio, a mathematical key which the ancients considered to be the ‘signature of God.’ We wanted to ask the question: does the golden ratio, the principle of self-similarity, apply to consciousness itself? So we decided to make a movie about it.” Free admission and popcorn. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.; film begins at 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 6** – CHESTER, Vt. – Join us for the Dream Barn Hollow 2019 New Year’s Day Open House, Sunday, Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be mini classes so you can get a taste of the workshops available. Enjoy delicious soup and cider, raffles, and assorted activities to inspire you this coming year. Various items and services will also be available for purchase – from aura photos to handcrafted garden products. For more information, call 802-875-1717 or email [dreambarnhollow@gmail.com](mailto:dreambarnhollow@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY, JAN. 12** – CLAREMONT, N.H. – An evening of improv will be coming to the Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square, Saturday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. And in the spirit of COH’s own Cafe 58, there will be seating provided on the stage itself for a more intimate feel with food and drink available for purchase as well. Admission is first come, first serve. Don’t miss out on the chance to witness young and intuitive minds be tested and educated on the quick thinking and gut busting humor that improv is all about. Tickets will be available at the door night of show. For more information, go to [www.claremontoperahouse.org](http://www.claremontoperahouse.org) or call 603-542-4433.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Open House at Return to Wellness Natural Medicine, at 11A Hospital Ct. Suite 6 in Bellows Falls, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come meet Dr. Johanna Ryan and Amy Davis, energy healer. Abbreviated energy healing sessions are available

with Amy but are limited to six individuals. People are encouraged to call the clinic to secure their time slot. Products will be available for purchase from the clinic’s growing apothecary. Please call 802-732-8428 for more information.

**TUESDAYS** – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Join us for bingo at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster St., in Bellows Falls every Tuesday. Doors open at 5 p.m. and first game starts at 6 p.m. Food is available. Call 802-463-4054 for details.

**WEDNESDAYS** – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Weekly bingo at the Charlestown Memorial VFW Post 8497, 365 Lovers Lane Rd. Early birds at 5 p.m. Regular games at 6:30 p.m.

**THURSDAYS** – 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. Raffle and 50/50 tickets are on sale. Come and join in. Call Donna at 802-591-4290 or you can call the hall at 802-875-1051.

**SATURDAYS** – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Internet and jazz jam Saturday at the Flat Iron Exchange, from 5 - 7 p.m., located in the Square. No cover charge, just a tip jar to listen to some great jazz music. Enjoy a coffee and relax.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Join us for karaoke at the Bellows Falls Family Center, 59 Westminster St. on Saturdays, from 7 to 11 p.m.

### KIDS’ CORNER

**TUESDAYS** – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Story time for toddlers and Pre-K at the Silsby Free Library from 10:30 a.m. Children and parents are invited for stories, songs, and finger plays. Session includes playtime, an activity, and a story time. Free and open to all.



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 <b>2014 Kia Forte EX GVI</b> 4 Cylinder 5 Speed Fully Loaded	 <b>2010 Nissan Pathfinder LE</b> Sun Roof V6 Auto Third Row Seat All Leather
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TAKE A BREAK!

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆**

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Winter woe

4 Movie fragment

8 Restaurant employee

12 Deteriorate

13 Stash

14 Head light?

15 Formed rust

17 Too

18 Felon's flight

19 Tasted

21 Miss Muffet's bugaboo

24 Prune

25 Candy in a dispenser

26 Deli buy

28 Rid of frost

32 Sandwich cookie

34 Yuletide quaff

36 Crucial time

37 Re ebb and flow

39 Existed

41 Individual

42 In medias —

44 Libra symbol

46 Sweet girl in an old song

50 Yale student

51 Poi base

52 Worried greatly

56 Ear-related

57 Links warning

58 Detergent brand

**DOWN**

1 To and —

2 Bagel topping

3 Worked with

4 Doorbells, often

5 Claiborne of fashion

6 Mid-month date

7 Accelerator, e.g.

8 In need of balm, maybe

9 Corridor

10 Differently

11 Comestibles

16 Father

20 Chic, in the '60s

21 Location

22 Actress Gilpin

23 Take off

27 Violinist's need

29 Put on a pedestal

30 Chaplin prop

31 Spud's buds

33 U-shaped part of a row-boat

35 Petrol

38 Hawaiian souvenir

40 Parts of an act

43 Big glitch

45 — Baba

46 Teeny bit

47 Piece of info on an invitation

48 Great Lake lds' counterparts

49 Raw rock

54 Before

55 Beavers' construct

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## Salome's Stars

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A relationship you'd hoped would keep going seems to be going nowhere. Close it out and move on to a brighter romantic aspect just beginning to manifest itself.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Things don't go completely as planned this week. But enjoy the surprises, even if you have to adjust your schedule. Some of them could be quite delightful.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Making choices is usually easy for straight-shooting Archers. But a new development could deflect your aim. Try to put off decisions until you know more.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While part of you might prefer taking a more familiar path, let your more daring and — admit it — super-curious self see what the unexplored has to offer.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Those nasty types have slithered back under the rocks and present no more problems. Now's the time to move ahead on that promising new relationship.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new offer could clear up that lingering money problem. Also, a more confident attitude on your part might well help get that personal situation back on track.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of turning chaos into order. You're also generous with your help for those who seek it.

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# REAL ESTATE

# calendar

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Town Library story time, 43 Main Street, 10 a.m. Free and open to the public with stories, songs, and activities for the youngest readers. For more information, call the library at 802-885-3108.

**ROCKINGHAM, Vt.** – Crafts, stories, and play time for toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and activities. Rockingham Free Public Library 10:30-11:30 a.m. Contact 802-463-4270.

**WESTON, Vt.** – Come and enjoy a story hour with friends at the Wilder Memorial Library, Lawrence Hill Road in Weston, from 11 a.m. to noon. Call ahead to check at 802-824-4307.

**WINDSOR, Vt.** – Preschool and toddler story time every Wednesday, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Windsor Public Library, 43 State St. Each week features a theme, music, stories, and a craft. For more information, go to [www.windsorlibrary.org](http://www.windsorlibrary.org) or call 802-674-2556.

**WEDNESDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt.** – Story time for ages 5 and under on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow. Children and their caregivers are invited to join us each week for early literacy activities, STEM explorations, music, and more! Call Sacha at 802-228-3517 or email [skrawczykvt@gmail.com](mailto:skrawczykvt@gmail.com) for details.

**THURSDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Edgar May 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](mailto:info@myrecenter.org).

**WINDSOR, Vt.** – Play group is from 9:30-11 a.m. Come and enjoy an open gym, ball games, and sometimes even a bounce house! Call Windsor Recreation Center at 802-674-6783.

**FRIDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Creative movement activities and play group are held in the gym of the Community Center, Fridays, from 9-11 a.m. All parents with young children are welcome. Contact Parks and Rec. Dept. at 802-885-2727.

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Story time at Whiting Library from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Come and listen to a story every Friday with your children. Call 802-875-2277.

**GRAFTON, Vt.** – Preschool nature programs at The Nature Museum in Grafton on Fridays through May from 10-11:30 a.m. Mighty Acorns Club invites young adventurers to explore the natural world through interactive games, puzzles, and activities. Most sessions involve exploring our backyard and the nearby woods, fields and pond. Our environmental educators Jay DeGregorio and Jill Bruning lead the group. We hope you and your little ones can join us!

**SATURDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Edgar May Open Play Group is 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](mailto:info@myrecenter.org).

**LIBRARIES MONDAYS – CHESTER, Vt.** – Children of all ages are invited to join the LEGO Club at the Whiting Library in Chester. We will provide the LEGOs and DUPLOs, and you supply the imagination. The program is on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30

p.m. For further information, call 802-875-2277, visit [www.whitinglibrary.org](http://www.whitinglibrary.org), or check our Facebook.

**THURSDAYS – ROCKINGHAM, Vt.** – Join genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard on a quest to discover your family roots on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Rockingham Library. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. With the many free databases available at the library, it's hard to tell what you might find. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org), or go to [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org).

**FRIDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Minecraft Club at the Rockingham Free Public Library every Friday, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. A limited number of library computers are available. Registration is recommended if you will need to use a library computer. If you are joining the club with your own laptop and Minecraft account, you do not need to sign up.

**SATURDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Springfield Town Library has a tech help desk available on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Having trouble with your first smartphone? Want to reset your Facebook privacy? Need to take a course in Word or Excel? Call 802-885-3108 to make an appointment. The Springfield Town Library is located at 43 Main Street, Springfield.

## MEETINGS

**MONDAYS – ANDOVER, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are every second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. For information, call 802-875-2765.

**CAVENDISH, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Office. For more information, go to [www.cavendishvt.org](http://www.cavendishvt.org).

com or call 802-226-7291. Recordings of the meetings can be found at [www.okemovalley.vt](http://www.okemovalley.vt).

**GRAFTON, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are the first and third Monday at the Grafton Elementary School or the Town Garage at 6 p.m. For more information, call 802-843-2552 or go to [www.graftonvt.org](http://www.graftonvt.org). Recordings are found at [www.fact8.com](http://www.fact8.com).

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Town Office. For more information, call 802-824-3356 or go to [www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org). Recordings are found at [www.gnat-tv.org](http://www.gnat-tv.org).

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are the first Monday of every month at the Town Hall. For more information, call 802-228-2841 or go to [www.ludlow.vt.us](http://www.ludlow.vt.us). Recordings found at [www.okemovalley.vt](http://www.okemovalley.vt).

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are on the second and fourth Monday of the month starting at 7 p.m. in the Selectman's Hall on 96 Main Street. For more information, go to [www.springfieldvt.govoffice2.com](http://www.springfieldvt.govoffice2.com).

**TUESDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Rockingham Select Board meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. and Bellows Falls Village Trustee meetings are the second Tuesday during the summer. Both meetings take place in the Lower Theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House. Call 802-463-4336 for more information or go to [www.rockbf.org](http://www.rockbf.org). Recordings can be found at [www.fact8.com](http://www.fact8.com).

**MOUNT HOLLY, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are on the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. of each month at the Town Office. For more information, call 802-259-2391.

**WESTON, Vt.** – Select Board meetings are on the second and forth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Call 802-824-6988 or go to [www.westonvt.org](http://www.westonvt.org) for more information. Recordings can be found at [www.gnat-tv.org](http://www.gnat-tv.org).

**WESTMINSTER, Vt.** – Westminster Fire & Rescue Department monthly meeting on the first Tuesday at 7 p.m. Rescue training is on the second Tuesday and combined drill on the third Tuesday. More information can be found at [www.westminsterfireandrescue.org](http://www.westminsterfireandrescue.org).

**WEDNESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt.** – Chester Select Board meetings are on the first and third Wednesday of every month. For more information, call 802-875-2173 or go to [www.chestervt.org](http://www.chestervt.org). Recordings can be found at [www.sapatv.org](http://www.sapatv.org).

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Black River Area Community Coalition meets third Wednesdays in the community room of the Fletcher Memorial Library, Main Street, in Ludlow, starting at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.braccvt.org](http://www.braccvt.org).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**MONDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – NAMI Vermont Connection Recovery Support Group is a mental illness support group. It provides a forum to share experiences and learn about opportunities and challenges regardless of diagnostics. HCRS, CRT Room, 390 River St. Meets every Monday from 1-2 p.m. For more information, call 800-639-6480 or visit [www.namivt.org](http://www.namivt.org).

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Overeaters Anonymous Meeting, from 7-8 p.m., 44 School St., Bellows Falls. Please call 802-376-3507.

**TUESDAYS – WALPOLE, N.H.** – Hope and Help for Families is held every Tuesday night, from 6:45-8 p.m. at the Congregational Church on the common in Walpole, N.H. It is open to all family members and loved ones – over the age of 16 – of people who are suffering from addiction. It is free and confidential. For information, call Becky Pearson at 603-860-0221.

**TOWNSHEND, Vt.** – Weight Loss Support Group meets every Tuesday, from 10:30

a.m. – noon at Grace Cottage Community Wellness Center, Heins Building, 133 Grafton Rd., in Townshend. Instructor is Grace Cottage Health coach Liz Harrison. Call 802-365-3766.

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – TOPS Chapter Vermont #12 meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Social Center, 39 Green St. in Bellows Falls. Come to TOPS, a nonprofit, noncommercial, weight loss support group that really works. Every week there are interesting programs that touch on topics that help us in our quest for weight loss. We share healthy recipes for main meals and snacks. Your first meeting is free. Bring a friend; you won't be disappointed. Visit our website [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org) for more information.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Wellness/Lifestyle Change Support Group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 5:45-7 p.m. at the Springfield Health Center, 100 River St. Free. Register by calling 802-886-8946 or email [ch@springfieldmed.org](mailto:ch@springfieldmed.org).

**TOWNSHEND, Vt.** – Mental Illness Family Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. at Grace Cottage Community Wellness Center, Heins Building, 133 Grafton Rd., in Townshend. Facilitated by trained members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Free. Call 713-591-2857.

**WEDNESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt.** – Co-Dependents Anonymous meets on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Whiting Library in Chester. Find out more about CoDA at [www.coda.org](http://www.coda.org). For more information regarding this meeting, contact Sarah E. at [sarahcoda2016@gmail.com](mailto:sarahcoda2016@gmail.com).

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – Weekly clean and sober 12-Step Meeting. Support group meets at Neighborhood Connections next to the Londonderry Post Office at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

**KEENE, N.H.** – All Recovery is held at the Keene Center Serenity, 40 Carpenter St.

in Keene every Wednesday, from 6:30-8 p.m. It is open to all people in recovery and to the families and loved ones of people who are suffering. It is free and confidential. People with questions can call the center at 603-283-5015.

**THURSDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Mental health peer support group meets 2-3:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 77 Main Street. The group's goal will be to provide a safe and healthy environment for people to give and receive support around mental health issues. The group is free and open to the public. Call Diana Slade at 802-289-1982.

**TOWNSHEND, Vt.** – Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group meets on the first Thursday of every month, from 11 a.m. – noon at Grace Cottage Community Wellness Center, Heins Building, 133 Grafton Rd., in Townshend. Led by Grace Cottage Community Health team member Claire Bemis and Alicia Moyer of

SASH. Free. Call 802-365-3763.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – TOPS at Huber Building, 80 Main Street. Weigh-in starts at 8 a.m. and the meeting begins at 9 a.m.

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Eating behavior support group meets every other Thursday, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Mountain at Fox Run, 262 Fox Lane. This free group is intended to help you understand your eating and/or weight-related struggles. Trained therapists who specialize in eating behavior lead the group. To join, call 802-228-8885 or email [shiri@fitwoman.com](mailto:shiri@fitwoman.com).

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**Ludlow, VT**



**Ludlow, VT**




Stunning Bensonwood home in gated community on cul de sac with privacy and beautiful views on 11 acres. 4 bedroom 6 baths. This custom Timberframe home boasts an open floor plan on the first floor with gorgeous natural birch floors and staircases. The custom kitchen offers cherry cabinets, granite countertops, center island. The living area features a floor to ceiling wood burning stone fireplace. There are 2 master en-suites, theater room & wine cellar. **PRICE: \$800,000**

It's all about the view, and there is a magnificent one! Picture perfect views of Okemo mountain and the Green Mountains on 10 private acres. The open concept living/dining room has a beautiful stone fireplace and vaulted ceiling with 3/4 bedrooms, full walk out basement. New to the market! **PRICE: \$365,000**

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Large Village Lot & Great Neighborhood! 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 0.3+/- Acres Springfield \$159,000



Double Wide Home On Level 1.00 +/- Acre Lot 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Weathersfield, \$120,000



Chalet Camp, Private & Quiet Close To Okemo 4 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 5.60+/- Acres Reading, \$95,000



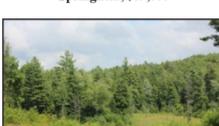
1939 Cape on Double Lot! Perfect Starter Home 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 0.27+/- Acres Springfield, \$89,000



Easy Drive To Magic Mountain Ski Area 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1.00+/- Acres Windham, \$79,000



Cute As A Button Camp! Hunt, Ski, or Snowmobile 1 Bedroom, 0.25+/- Acres Chester, \$39,900



523+ Acres! Peace and Privacy Hike, Bike, Hunt, and Unwind Athens, \$525,000



81 Varied Acres! High, Low, Brook Mostly Wooded, Easy Access Grafton, \$129,000



84.7 Acre +/- Woodland Substantial Timber Value Sweet Southern Exposure Grafton \$119,000



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Lori Muse,  
Broker/Owner



Carol Cole,  
REALTOR

**This 1+/- acre parcel** is located just off route 10 in Chester on a country road. Includes power on site, septic and dug well access. Affordably priced. **REDUCED AGAIN TO \$30,000**

**On The Quiet Side Of Town.** This 34.4+/- acre parcel offers a great opportunity to build with Septic Permit in place, power at the road. Sloping topography offers views of the Connecticut River and the hillsides of New Hampshire. Mostly wooded for selective clearing. **JUST REDUCED TO \$69,900**



**Yankee Barn construction** offers an open concept living space with the bonus of additional living space in the walkout basement. Lots of desirable features including two story brick fireplace with wood stove insert in the open/bright living room, formal dining area next to the very functional kitchen, loft/living area, 3-4 bedrooms, family room, three baths (one with a claw foot soaking tub), mudroom/entry, three season porch, deck... All situated on 10 acres in the country with open and wooded space, ideal for private living. Easy access to 191, too. A must see! **REDUCED AGAIN TO 229,900**

**This 10+ acre piece of land** is located on an accessible country road in Weathersfield, Vermont. Includes a driveway in and a clearing for the house. Also includes permits for septic, conduit from road to clearing for utilities. Situated on the VAST trail for snowmobile access. Views into New Hampshire with clearing. A nice neighborhood and priced right. **\$69,900**

**Location, Location.** This 4.76+/- acre parcel is located on the back side of a well regarded neighborhood offering sunny exposure, partially cleared land, proximity to VAST trail system and designed septic system. Well worth looking into for those looking to be a step above. **JUST REDUCED TO \$44,900**

**Is Water Important?** This property has approximately 2600 feet of river frontage on both the Connecticut River and the Black River. A portion of the land is not in the flood zone, which makes for a lovely building spot with views of the river. Includes a 20X24 foundation/shell, power on site and a septic design. This is truly a rare opportunity! **\$129,900**

**Springfield Parcel located at the end of a cul-de-sac/development** consisting of 3.26+/- acres with access to town water, town sewer and power. Nicely terraced lot with seasonal brook off to the side. Some site improvements with garage and septic line. Priced to sell. **\$29,500**

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- I4 16V MPFI DOHC
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- KEYLESS ENTRY
- FRONT WHEEL DRIVE
- GREAT GAS MILEAGE

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**Ram Promaster Van**



- 4 CYLINDER
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- 178 HP HORSEPOWER
- KEYLESS ENTRY
- OVERHEAD CONSOLE

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**Jeep Patriot**



- 4 CYLINDER
- AUTOMATIC 6 SPEED
- BLUETOOTH
- HEATED SEATS
- FULLY LOADED

# NCP1072

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**SALE PRICE \$16,995**

**Pre-Owned** 2015 Model Year  
**Chevrolet Camaro**



- V6 • AUTOMATIC
- 323 HP HORSEPOWER
- BLUETOOTH
- 7" TOUCH SCREEN
- FULLY LOADED

# NGT16222AB

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**Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD**



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- ALL-WEATHER MATS
- FULL POWER
- HUGE SAVINGS!

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**SALE PRICE \$23,227**

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**Brand New!** 2019 Model Year  
**Chevrolet Spark LS Hatchback**



- 4 CYL. • AUTOMATIC
- ALL-WEATHER MATS
- WELL EQUIPPED
- ONSTAR
- GREAT MPG'S!

#NCC19002 • MSRP \$15,410

**YOU SAVE \$2,051**

**The Best Price, Period.**

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**Brand New!** 2019 Model Year  
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