

Trustees hear from Bellows Falls Police Department

BY BETSY THURSTON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Tuesday, Jan. 12, the Bellows Falls Trustees discussed the Bellows Falls Police Department. Chief David Bemis explained there were recent burglaries in town that “matched the MO with Walpole,” and they were working together with the Walpole Police Department on the investigation. They are requesting that anyone who has information to call BFPD or WPD.

Bemis also announced the kickoff for the outreach program with the Springfield Turning Point Recovery Center. The project helps provide assistance

and support to someone in crisis, and both the BFPD and Turning Point would respond to calls. Bemis said, “Hopefully, we can assist people with their addiction.”

Municipal Manager Scott Pickup said the BFPD needed updated computer systems to install the Dominion security and software for the Axon cameras. Security vulnerabilities were a concern.

Bemis said the department was diligently working to recruit new officers, and Pickup noted that many regions were working short-staffed. He mentioned when Bemis was hired they offered recruitment bonuses and said they could “look

into doing that.”

James McAuliffe asked Bemis if state agencies offered initiatives for officer recruitment. Bemis said they were offering upgrades for certifications, enabling departments to hire officers with less academy training requirements, but bonuses were offered by communities.

Wade Masure asked about 21 police department assists “outside the village” made in December. Bemis explained that many were agency assists inside the village and said, “Officers would not go out of the village without a request to assist.”

Masure asked if that information could be broken down in the report so Trustees would

know what agencies called and in what towns assists were made.

Moving on to snow removal and plowing in the village, Pickup mentioned that he found a Winter Operations Plan, last revised in 2000, that discussed village towing policies. The parking permit application states that lots are posted 24 hours prior to snow removal and car owners are contacted prior to towing. Bemis responded that the BFPD makes every effort to contact car owners before towing their vehicles, but in December seven cars were towed from the Hetty Green Lot. “The last thing we want to do is to tow

vehicles,” but even one car in the lot “makes a mess” for snow removal.

Village President Deborah Wright said she received a complaint from a resident that had in the past received emails and had missed the call that night. Pickup said, “We don’t tow immediately. It’s unfortunate – frustrating for us. We much prefer you move your car.”

Stefan Golec said it’s common sense. “Take some responsibility as the vehicle owner to get it off the street or out of the lot.”

Bemis explained that when vehicles are towed, the owner is charged \$75 payable to the BFPD, but that pays the towing company.

Golec suggested they revamp parking permit applications to require phone number, physical address, and email.

During the Trustee meeting, Pickup also announced that Feb. 1 was the first meeting for the working group for self-driving vehicle testing. He suggested the group stay reasonably small but wanted to see a member from each of the boards. Wright said, “I’m very happy to be on it.”

The Trustees meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. in the Lower Theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House. Meetings are recorded and available on www.fact8.com.

BFUHS Board narrowly approves new school budget

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – After initial projections for the new 2021-22 Bellows Falls Union High School budget had been anticipated to be \$8.8 million, a potential 11% increase, officials from the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union continued to work towards a better solution. The current school budget is \$7.1 million.

After convening and reconfiguring the budget last month – and not through cutbacks, but

rather reinserting the numbers without using the state’s education finance template – Superintendent Christopher Pratt and business manager Flora Pagan, along with other district officials, determined that after plugging the numbers into an alternative financial template a much more reasonable result occurred.

The largest increases originally outlined revolved around the areas of special education, wages and benefits, as well as programs provided by the supervisory union including food

services and transportation. However, the estimated projections originally proposed were just that – an estimate – and did not include such factors as special education funding that is provided by the state, a figure that officials are still waiting to obtain.

Additionally, not all of the budget changes showed increases, as it was also noted the superintendent’s office spending was down just over 10%, a substantial decrease from last year’s fiscal budget.

When the increased overall

budget figures were initially presented, it was a concern simply because the supervisory union’s portion of the budget already showed a substantial decrease from the previous year. Therefore, the largely increased overall numbers seemingly did not add up.

Pagan, who is in her first year as business manager, is credited with showing the creativity to utilize a more flexible financial template as to create the more palpable budget figures and doing so under time restraints.

“I give her credit for getting

useful information and building a parallel system on the fly, and in the middle of the budget cycle,” chairman of the budget committee Jack Bryar stated in a recent WNESU budget meeting held via Zoom.

Last week, the final 2020-21 figures were presented to Bellows Falls Union High School Board, which approved the proposed budget. With a narrow 4-to-3 vote, the board approved a budget figure of \$7,502,808, which is a 2% decrease from the current budget.

The voters who opposed the

budget indicated that it was largely because the Vermont Agency of Education had not yet provided needed budget information, which still creates a question about how local taxes will be affected.

There is also a concern that teachers and staff are currently working without a contract, and the new budget also needs to include funds to reimburse those salary increases. An official decision on the budget has to be made before the last day of finalizing a Town Meeting, which is Jan. 21.

Selectboard discuss highway, recreation departments budgets

BY BETSY THURSTON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Monday, Jan. 11, the Rockingham Selectboard discussed Highway and Recreation Department budgets.

To begin the meeting, Municipal Manager Scott Pickup updated the board on Windham and Windsor Housing Trust’s proposed changes to the Bellows Falls Garage project. WWHT’s original proposal was modified due to substantially higher construction bids than previously budgeted. There would be further

updates related to Community Development Block Grant funding, but Pickup said the project was “not stalled and basically moving forward.”

Highway Department Director Andy Howarth presented the highway paving budget and explained that he needed to inform the Saxtons River Trustees because most of it was in Saxtons River.

Pickup explained they were in the third year of a five-year resurfacing program and the additional request of \$100,000 to the budget would keep the town on track for paving and sidewalks. Pickup said this

summer the Highway Department would like to dedicate a crew for ditches and culverts but needed to either hire flaggers or fill an empty position.

Howarth said normally Brockway Mills to Bartonsville was plowed by the grader, but that position had been eliminated. This winter they were using the two-ton pickup, a 2002 International, usually only used in the summer for chloriding dirt roads.

Finance Director Shannon Burbela proposed the board levelfund the highway department and said, “Staff will reduce expenses where neces-

sary.” She explained that there were still substantial funds at the end of fiscal year 2020 in both highway and general funds with \$725,000 in the highway fund balance. Burbela anticipated an increase to that fund balance as fiscal year 2021 was under budget.

Chair Gaetano Putignano asked if the proposal to levelfund the budget included a full-time development director. He said he was in favor of a full-time position for Gary Fox. Burbela responded that levelfunding the general fund would bring Fox to full-time.

Parks & Recreation Director

Ryan Stoodley said there were savings this past year; however, if this summer looked like last, the recreation department “won’t be able to run our day camp.” He hoped to be open this spring, explaining the day camp was a huge loss of income and staffing hours but “in essence we’ll be able to do what we did [last] summer.”

Stoodley anticipated replacing the last third of the pool’s water lines and said the pool was losing water and had to be filled every three to four days. He reported that the vandalism to the ice rink was repaired

but suggested a replacement for next year. The cost eight years ago was \$2,000. He also reported that the ski tow was running “pretty good.”

Pickup explained that due to the pandemic no one knew what to expect for the summer but they would report monthly after March.

Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1 and election Tuesday, March 2. The Selectboard meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. in the Lower Theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House and are recorded on www.fact8.com.

Farm to School Café, Food Connects feed families throughout the holidays

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Families in the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union received three free food boxes over the holiday break thanks to the tireless efforts of the Farm to School Cafe staff and farmers throughout the region. The food boxes contained a week’s worth of bulk meal ingredients for breakfast and lunch to help stretch families’ grocery budgets and keep students nourished over the long break. The Farm to School Cafe reached out to Food Connects to fill those boxes as much as possible with high-quality foods from local producers, including fresh New Hampshire-made bread, Vermont cheese and produce, and fresh fruit.

Thanks to numerous USDA waivers in response to Covid-19, universal free meals have been in effect nationwide since last March and schools

have been operating under the Summer Food Service Program, which provides higher reimbursement rates per meal for schools. These two changes combined translate to easy to access meals for all students and a reliable revenue stream for school nutrition programs. The holiday food boxes extended that support through the break, all students qualified for this program – each family simply filled out a form for each student so the Farm to School Cafe team knew how much food to order.

“Many students rely on school meal programs for both nutritious breakfasts and lunches each day during school,” says Conor Floyd, Food Connects Farm to School program manager. “When school is not in session, however, a gap in access to nutritious and filling food appears. Programs like

the holiday food boxes allow all students in the supervisory union to have the same access to meals throughout school breaks, no matter their family’s income level.”

With increased meal flexibility as a result of the USDA waivers, school nutrition programs have piloted new programs, including sending bulk ingredients home with students over extended breaks. These pilots often involve quick turnaround times and last-minute requests. Food Connects’ short supply chain and strong relationships with its producers helped the Farm to School Cafe access source-identified products from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts on short notice.

“We’re just thrilled that these universal meals programs allowed us to give kids and families in our community a little

boost, especially this time of year,” says Harley Sterling, school nutrition director for the WNESU. “Making sure every kid has access to the great food grown and made in our area has always been our goal, and Food Connects makes it easy by letting us know what products are available and bringing them right to our kitchens.”

With less than two weeks between the initial phone call from Sterling and the first delivery, the newly expanded Food Hub team sprang into action. The Food Connects Sales and Procurement Teams worked with Harley to brainstorm and source a variety of food products that families would eat but also inspire fun and new cooking ideas, fell within the required price range, were kid-friendly and easy for parents to cook, and were hyper-local – the farthest items traveled only

87 miles while 7 of the 10 farms that provided food are located within 25 miles of Bellows Falls Union High School.

Once the orders were placed, the Food Connects Operations Team activated their network of dedicated drivers and expanded delivery fleet to pick up and deliver these orders. Although the Food Hub was closed for regular sales during the week of Christmas, the Food Hub staff generously volunteered to pick up extra shifts to ensure the orders made it to Bellows Falls Union High School in time for the Holiday Meal box distribution.

As the Farm to Cafe team kept families fed throughout the holiday season, they also bolstered the local food economy – buying food from 10 Food Connects farms and food producers. Over \$19,000 was spent at these local food businesses.

“This is money that is going straight back into the community,” says McKenna Hayes, Food Connects Food Hub co-director, “being paid out to area producers and distribution staff, who in turn use those funds at other local businesses.”

Every box contained food as well as ideas for how to use it – providing students and families with educational tools to make easy, wholesome meals.

“This is a great example of how our organization can collaboratively problem-solve to help our community,” says Hayes. “Harley relied on his partnership with our Farm to School and Food Hub teams and we leveraged our community-based networks and short supply chains to respond to the request quickly. It truly shows the successful ability to pivot school lunch services in the Covid-19 era.”

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Everyone Eats program returns locally

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Rockingham Help & Helpers is pleased to announce that the innovative Vermont Everyone Eats program, which provided free restaurant to-go meals, is returning. Picking up where the program paused in December, community members can collect meals for their household and up to three other households at Parks Place Community Resource Center, 44 School St. in Bellows Falls, Wednesday evenings from 5-6 p.m. and Friday mornings from 10-11 a.m. Meals are also distributed through Our Place, the Bellows Falls Senior Center, Westminster Cares, and the Grafton Community Church. Meals are available on a first-

come, first served basis. If your ability to get food has in any way been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, you qualify to participate in the program. Taking part in this project supports our local economy by providing a source of income for restaurants who have been negatively impacted by Covid-19 and providing Vermont farmers and food producers an opportunity to increase sales – 10% of the ingredients are purchased from Vermont producers. Restaurants currently participating in the program include Jamaican Jewelz, MKT: Grafton, Moon Dog, Wunderbar, Allen Brothers, and the Fullerton Inn in Chester.

As we continue to live with this health pandemic and economic crisis, the need in Vermont is significant. Teagan Kosut of the Bellows Falls Senior Center says, “Being a part of the Everyone Eats program has been truly exceptional for our senior clients. With food insecurities on the rise coupled with the inability to shop for groceries or eat out, this program has made a huge impact at just the right time. Through our Meals on Wheels program, we were able to deliver 80-100 meals to our clients on a weekly basis. Not only does this program provide meals; but it allows our seniors to stay home and stay safe, especially during such a challenging time.”

This creative program was made possible in 2021 with federal funds allocated by the Vermont Legislature. The Springfield Family Center and Chester Helping Hands have partnered to provide VEE for Rockingham, Grafton, and Athens, and Westminster as well as Springfield and Chester. For more information, contact Sam at the Rockingham Free Public Library at 802-463-4270, sam@rockinghamlibrary.org, or go online to www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

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Chamber thanks community for Light-A-Pole program

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every year it is our honor to bring twinkle and cheer to downtown during the holidays. The outpouring of enthusiasm and financial support has been overwhelming. A special thank you goes out to HB Energy Solutions. They provided us with an enormous amount of assistance with this project. We'd like to give a huge shout out to Brian Hernon and his team for setting up Santa's house and doing the legwork for the tree lighting ceremony. We'd also like to express our gratitude to Jeff Graham of Graham & Veroff, P.C. for donating such a beautiful tree. Thanks to Bibens Home Center and Old Mill Road Media for their contribution. Much appreciation goes to our partners, Springfield on the Move and the Springfield Garden Club, for the lovely wreathes, and thanks to the businesses that decorated their storefronts. Thank you to town of Springfield for approving some necessary repairs to the electrical system.

The Chamber wants to express utmost appreciation to the following organizations and individuals: HB Energy Solutions, Bibens Home Center, Old Mill Road Media,

Great Northern Liquidation – Rick and Lisa Young, Jim and Cathy Weeder, the Rubel Sisters, in memory of Marie LeBlanc, John and Sandy Sackevich, Springfield Town Library, Char and Steve Osterlund, Mascoma Bank, the Kischko Family, Herb and Nina Jamison, Dale and Marie Nemkovich, Joanne Baltz and Colin Hadley, P&L Kelley Enterprises, Carol and William Eramo, Frances Stevens, Walter Martone, Springfield Supported Housing Program, Comfort Inn – White River Junction, DuBois & King Inc., Gabriella Holl, Springfield Community Players, Mike and Judi Martin, Carol Cole, Bruce and Cheryl Cox, Frank and Jocelyn Zezza, Bryce and Cathryn Honeywell, Armand Soucy and Barbara Rodgers, Anonymous, the Springfield Barber, Gurney Brothers Construction Inc., Diane Kemble for Gallery at the VAULT, Mary Perry, Linley and Wendy Messer, Briar Patch Farm, Springfield Farmers' Market, the Fog Family, Springfield Senior Center, Amcomm Wireless – Verizon Wireless Retailer, Rewind 106.5 WCFR, Newstalk 99.7 WNTK, Newstalk 98.9 WUVR, Country 1010/94.7 WCNL, Peter and Sandy MacGillivray, King's Corner LLC, SHS Class of 1968, Linda Brown, Theodore and Rosa-Lee Gould, Kent and Nan-

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Written by Caitlin Christiana, Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Bellows Falls Union High School December Student of the Month –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Bayley Sbardellati has been named the December Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Bayley, a senior, is the son of Ian Sbardellati and Andrea Carlson of Westminster.

An exceptionally bright student, academics and a

strong work ethic are among his greatest strengths. Bayley always puts full effort into his classes. He fully participates in class discussions, does all of his work without question, and goes above and beyond as needed. He sets high academic expectations for himself and works hard to achieve those goals.

Being sensitive to others and



Bayley Sbardellati.
PHOTO PROVIDED

exhibiting a fine sense of humor are some of Bayley's finer qualities. He is a patient young man who is always willing to help others in need. Bayley is a trustworthy student who can be relied on to produce original and creative work. Perhaps one of his greatest personal qualities is his unusual sense of humility. He accepts praise for his accomplishments with utmost modesty. He is kind and respectful to staff and students alike, and he leads by example.

Bayley is also a leader in the true essence of the word. He is an active and valued member of the school's Student Council where he brings creativity, a plethora of unique ideas, and the willingness to participate in all fundraisers and community-based activities. This year Bayley was elected as vice-president of the Student Council where, in addition to running fundraising activities, he also is one of the key leaders and decision-makers of the group. He was also a key member of the boys' soccer team, stepping up to play goalie when one was needed. He has fully committed to basketball for four years and was instrumental in bringing Ultimate Frisbee to BFUHS and remains committed to playing.

Clearly deserving of this award, BFUHS and the Elks are honored to have Bayley represent us this month.

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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

Yo-Semite history

Here is a 1956 article written by Ed Kendall for the Springfield Reporter. It will be included in our "History of Chester's Fire Departments."

"Old Yosemite pumper fought many a fire. In 1911, in the corner of Hazen's barn at Chester Depot in some forgotten corner resting on its laurels after many a hard fought battle in which it participated at scores of fires sometimes winning often losing is 'Old Yosemite', for many years the only fire fighting apparatus that Chester possessed.

I am not going to degrade it by calling it an old tub as has often been done. It is better to use its right name. A hand fire engine. When you think of the thousands of dollars it has earned in saving many a building in Chester you must be convinced that it deserves a better resting place where it can be viewed by the public at any and all times.

"It has certainly earned it. My people moved to Chester when I was nine or ten years of age. I have never forgotten the interest 'Old Yosemite' aroused in me as a little boy the first time I saw it being operated. It was at the fire that destroyed Gowing's Grist Mill located on the site of Waterman's Mill. It held my interest up to the day I moved to North Springfield 54 years ago. It took 3 or 4 men to operate it properly. It was back breaking work to be one of the pumpers. When I was 15 or 16 years of age the Yosemite Engine Co being very short of men took in all the boys available as members of the Fire Company.

"I was one of them. In a short time we young fellows began to fill different offices in the company. In due time I was elected captain of the company. Later for several years I was steward of the company. In this office it was my duty to keep the engine in working order and janitor work. In this week's column it is my purpose to describe some of the experiences of the company. For many years 'Old Yosemite' was the only firefighting apparatus Chester possessed. The alarm was always sounded by the whistle at the Steam Mill. The short blasts of that steam mill whistle certainly made a



The earliest known Yo-Semite badge in existence, circa 1870s.

PHOTO PROVIDED

doleful noise when the alarm was sounded in the middle of the night.

"About midnight on a certain night the alarm was given for what seemed to be a fire up in the vicinity of Bailey's Mills. Albert Richardson the night watchman at the mill happened to be outside the mill looking in the sky up in the vicinity of Gassetts there was a bright glare in the sky.

"That was enough for him, he went and blew an alarm. Twenty-five or 30 members of the Fire Company and I among them rushed to the engine house got 'Old Yosemite' out and started on the run for Bailey's Mills. It was back breaking work hauling the engine to a fire. Manpower was always used. When we arrived at a point nearly halfway to Gassetts we stopped for a brief rest.

"Looking at the glare in the sky we suddenly discovered it was no fire at all. The supposed fire was merely a reflection of the moon. Of course we about faced and hauled the engine back to the engine house. Then we all went down to the steam mill. I am very certain Editor McLaughlin would not allow the language we used in talking to that night watchman to appear in the Reporter.

"Up to the purchase of Steamer Aid No 1 brought about by a Ladies' Aid Society South Street depended wholly upon the Yosemite Fire Company for its protection against fires. They always responded when called upon. One fire stands out in my mind very clearly. It was the burning of the Hutchinson buildings. These buildings were located just above the Congregational Church on South Street. The fire occurred in the early evening. Fifty years

ago all merchandise was sold to merchants by traveling salesmen commonly called 'Drummers.' Nearly every night there would be several of these men registered at the local hotels.

"We were short of men at this fire. Three or four of these 'Drummers' had come up to watch operations. They were very free with advice as to how we firemen should pump. If my memory serves me right South Street had not been incorporated as a fire district hence we had no one to direct our work.

"Some of my older readers will remember Ira Adams who served in Chester as a selectman for many years. Ira was a typical Vermont Yankee well-liked by everyone. As a selectman the law gave him all the authority needed to take charge at a fire. Adams and the officer stood by and saw to it that they did as he directed.

"When the fire was under control he let them go back to their hotel completely exhausted. They did not have a word to say as to how a hand fire engine should be operated. As I said at the beginning of this article 'Old Yosemite' paid for itself many times."

Ludlow Rotary hears about the History of Hemingway's

LUDDLLOW, Vt. – At its recent Zoom meeting, members of the Ludlow Rotary Club were entertained by Ted and Linda Fondulas, previous owners of Hemingway's Restaurant in Killington as they described the history of that famous restaurant.

Linda Fondulas offered a detailed outline of how the duo created Hemingway's. In particular, she noted the development of usage of locally produced foods and their interest in creating a diverse menu that made the restaurant one of the 25 greatest in the nation.

In detailing his approach to cooking and creating unique menus, Ted Fondulas indicated that food preparation was the second most active career in the country.

He also took this occasion to comment on the role that the late Bob Gilmore of Ludlow played in bringing new and innovative concepts of restauranting to Vermont, noting, "He was a leader in promoting



Linda and Ted Fondulas with Julia Child. Child would go to Hemingway's on her birthday during the period when she visited relatives in Woodstock.

PHOTO PROVIDED

food service in Vermont."

In response to the impact of Covid-19 on the restaurant business, Fondulas raised the question of "Will people continue to eat out as often after Covid?" He added that with so many people now preparing their meals at home instead of eating out, there may be a drop

in restaurant business as a direct result of the virus.

During the business meeting, Kevin Barnes, LRC president, indicated that the club had received 1,000 facemasks. Of this total, 300 would be used in Mount Holly while another 400 would be presented to Ludlow.

A Zoom discussion about the United Nations


LONDONDERRY, Vt. – In 1945, the United States was the most important creator of the United Nations and continues to be the major contributor to many of its activities and operations. Yet, as the years have passed, most Americans know less and less about the organization. Derek Boothy, who worked over 20 years for the United Nations, will address the following questions: What does the United Nations do? How does it work? How does the United States benefit from it? Why should the United States continue to belong to the U.N.?

During his 20-year service in the U.N., Boothy was deputy director of operations for weapons inspections in Iraq immediately after the first Gulf War; served on the personal staff of Cyrus Vance

in his efforts to stop the war in Bosnia; and was second in command of a 7,000 strong peace operation in Croatia. He was also director of the Europe Division in the Department of Political Affairs and chairman of the U.N. Iraq

Operational Group.

This free hour-long Zoom presentation is being hosted by Neighborhood Connections Thursday, Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. Call 802-824-4343 to register or visit www.neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org.



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EOE

opinion

Dear Editor,

I don't know about you, but I'm sick of my own attitude of thinking that people who hold a political opinion opposite to mine are misguided at best and stupid or evil at worst. I'd like to do something to become more open-minded.

I propose forming a small group of local folks, both conservatives and liberals, to meet together – on Zoom for now – to get to know one another better and hopefully create friendships and respect for each other's opinions.

This is not about trying to change others from liberal to conservative or vice versa. It's simply an attempt to reduce the destructive division that exists between sides in this nation and replace it with tolerance and understanding.

I envision a small group of perhaps a dozen people, more or less evenly represented between conservative and liberal opinion. We'll start off getting to know one another before we reveal our political leanings.

If you would like to be part

of this group, or simply want more information, please contact me, Steve Crofter, at 802-275-4646 or steve.crofter@gmail.com. When you get in touch, please don't reveal whether you consider yourself liberal or conservative, as we'll use a "registrar" who will not be in the group to make sure we're divided evenly.

Here's to eventual unity!

Sincerely,
Steve Crofter
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Governor's Institutes of Vermont welcomes new executive director

REGION – The Governor's Institutes of Vermont is excited to announce that this month the nonprofit organization will welcome Elizabeth Frascoia as its new executive director. This is the first time that an alumnus of the Institutes has taken this leadership role, and she is only the fifth executive director in GIV's 38 years.

Frascoia participated as a student in the Arts and Math Institutes during high school, and later spent many summers on staff. Most recently, she led the Governor's Institute on the Arts for nine years. She brings a passion for building community and leading complex teams, which she did for several technology startups in New York City after earning a degree from Harvard University.

Frascoia also brings some unusual qualifications. As a professional trombonist and vocalist, she has performed with artists such as Adele, Michael Bolton,

and Ice Cube, and appeared on national TV shows such as Saturday Night Live, American Idol, and The Tonight Show.

"I know GIV changes lives: receiving a scholarship to the Arts Institute allowed me to expand my horizons, and gave me the confidence to embark on a music career which has taken me from a small town to performing all over the world. I am excited to help more Vermont high school students be able to access these world-class programs!"

Board Chair Jane Campbell notes that the board's selection was "the culmination of a nationwide search that brought in an exceptional candidate pool. She stood out for her deep understanding of GIV, unique and diverse skill set, and passion and commitment to bringing the outsized impact of this powerful organization to future generations of young people."

Frascoia takes over from

Kaomi Taylor Mitchell MPA, GIV's executive director for the last 11 years, during which GIV greatly expanded its offerings and doubled down on its educational equity mission. Kaomi reports, "Elizabeth and I started in leadership positions at GIV at exactly the same time, so she's been a huge part of guiding and executing GIV's recent successes and I've seen firsthand the intelligence, energy, resourcefulness, and deep commitment she brings. I foresee great things to come!"

GIV held summer online immersions in 2020 due to the pandemic, and programming for summer 2021 will be announced soon. All Vermont 9th, 10th, and 11th graders are eligible to apply, and tuition is designed to be affordable for every family. To learn more, please visit www.giv.org.

Everyone Eats relaunches with continued partnerships

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – In the dwindling days of 2020 with CARES Act funding coming to an end, scores of inquiries were placed to community organizers: Is Everyone Eats ending? When will it come back online? The partners of Vermont Everyone Eats are thrilled to announce that this valuable program resumed as of Monday, Jan. 18 thanks to recent fundraising.

This week, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development allocated \$1.6 million to Southeastern Vermont Community Action, the Everyone Eats Program administrator, to relaunch programming. Though this allocation only funds three weeks of programming, partners across the state including the Scott administration and Legislature are working together to identify additional funding opportunities. Partners agree on the goal of funding the program through the state of emergency.

Additional support has come from the Vermont

Community Foundation from its Covid-19 Response Fund and independent donors have contributed nearly \$20,000.

Everyone Eats purchases to-go meals from local restaurants to feed Vermont communities. Vermonters across the state have celebrated how the program creatively provides economic support to restaurants and their employees, new revenue opportunities for Vermont farmers and food producers, and nourishing meals served with dignity and care to those seeking assistance. In 2020, Everyone Eats funded over 530,000 meals, injecting \$5.3 million into local restaurants and nearly \$500,000 to Vermont farms and food producers.

According to Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary of ACCD, "Everyone Eats is a perfect example of what makes Vermont special. This creative public-private partnership has allowed communities all around the state to rise up and support their local economies while caring for neighbors in need of help. Volunteers, restaurant workers, farmers, orga-

nizers, and lawmakers can be proud of how we have all united to help one another. And we're going to keep at it."

Food insecurity has skyrocketed during the Covid-19 crisis with 1 in 3 Vermonters now reporting they have trouble getting enough nourishing food. While Everyone Eats does not solve food insecurity, it has become an important part of the relief offered. VEE statewide coordinator Jean Hamilton observes, "This program has provided clear evidence of the power of strong communities. No one can do it alone; together we are more resilient. I hope participation in this program makes it easier for folks to seek help from other important resources like 3SquaresVT and School Meals. All of these programs can help you get through a tough time and support the local economy."

Everyone Eats is operated in all 14 counties by local community organizations. Program relaunch plans vary. For more information about Vermont Everyone Eats, visit www.vteveryoneeats.org.

The Vermont Women's Fund 2021 funding opportunities

REGION – The Vermont Women's Fund announced that it is now accepting applications for its 2021 grant round from nonprofit organizations in Vermont that advance economic opportunities for women and girls.

The 2021 competitive grant program will award grants of up to \$10,000 for both specific programs and general operating support that:

- Make pathways to economic wellbeing more accessible and affordable for all women and girls.
- Invest in women's economic security and career prospects.
- Dismantle systemic barriers to women's economic wellbeing and thriving in Vermont.
- Prioritize equity to support women who face the greatest barriers.

The Women's Fund's grantmaking is informed by the research findings of Change The Story, a statewide initiative that has produced five major reports on women's economic status in Vermont. That data, coupled with the significant

gaps in women's economic security caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, underscore the importance of this grant round.

Established in 1994 as an enduring legacy for Vermont women and girls, the fund remains the largest philanthropic resource in the state dedicated exclusively to this mission. A volunteer council of people from around Vermont advises the fund and participates in its grantmaking, fundraising, and leadership work. The Vermont Women's Fund is a component fund of the Vermont Community Foundation.

Details on the guidelines and funding parameters are found online at www.vermontwomensfund.org/grantseekers/our-grantmaking. Applications will be accepted through March 19, 2021 at 5 p.m.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Wordsworth work
5 Spasm
8 Billie — King
12 Against
13 Granada gold
14 Sea eagle
15 500 sheets
16 Chess piece
17 Right on the map?
18 On an angle
20 Dines
22 Donald Duck's outfit
26 Birth-related
29 "Exodus" hero
30 Vitamin stat
31 Prior nights
32 Pvt.'s superior
33 Grant basis, at times
34 Seminary subj.
35 Take to court
36 Smartens (up)
37 Produce aisle display
40 Pan handler?
41 Rookie
45 Boyfriend
47 Business mag
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51 French vineyard

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4 Brunch cocktails
5 "Only Love" actress Marisa

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6 Lyricist
7 Gershwin
8 Monarch's spouse
9 Army vehicles
10 Test-paper smudges
11 Reply (Abbr.)
12 Court divider
13 Chum
14 Swiss canton
15 Beer type
16 Nantes notion
17 Tiny amounts
18 Soft ball?
19 Say it's so
20 Put on the air

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32 Be enough
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35 That lady
36 Golfer Michelle
38 Closes
39 Full-length
42 Party cheese
43 Greek vowel
44 Seth's son
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48 Big D.C. lobby

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

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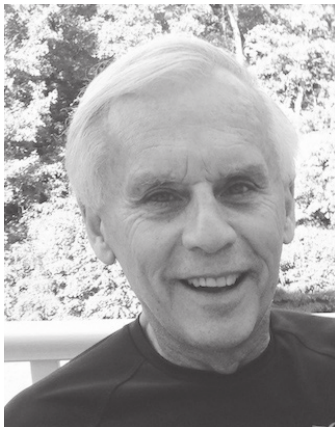
obituaries

Alfred Ducharme, 1950-2020

BARRE, Vt. – Alfred “Pete” Ducharme, a longtime shoreline resident, passed away suddenly Dec. 26, 2020. Pete was born in Barre, Vt., June 29, 1950. He leaves behind his daughter Nicole Ducharme, her partner Shane Bartlett, and their children Conner and Makenna Bartlett; his son Andrew Ducharme and his daughter Emma Ducharme; his significant other Justine Lyons; his ex-wife and friend Cheryl Livingston; and his beloved dog Sammy. He will be greatly missed.

Pete was self-employed and owned a local community business, AP Ducharme, where he crafted monuments and headstones. He enjoyed hunting and being outdoors, and he always loved his home state of Vermont. In his kids’ younger years, he coached soccer and was very involved in the Soccer Club of Guilford.

Pete also spent many winters on the Okemo Ski Patrol. He was well respected as a talented leader on the mountain – his friends described him as the heart and soul of the ski patrol – and a source of wise, thoughtful advice and mentorship for many friends and fellow patrollers. He was also known for his witty and sarcastic sense of humor, which kept a smile on the face of anyone



Alfred Ducharme, 1950-2020. PHOTO PROVIDED

around him.

Pete was a hardworking man and a loving father, PaPup, and friend. He will be missed by many extended family and friends in both Vermont and Connecticut.

Due to the current state of Connecticut guidelines, services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the National Ski Patrol, 133 S Van Gordon St., Ste. 100, Lakewood, CO 80228, www.nspserver.org/donate, or any other charitable organization that reminds you of Pete.

For more information or to send online condolence for the family, please visit www.GuilfordFuneralHome.com.

Walter E. Sharon, 1930-2020

WINDHAM, Vt. – Walter E. Sharon, 90, of Route 121, died Nov. 19, 2020 at the Jack Byrnes Center in Lebanon, N.H. He was born Jan. 26, 1930 in East Wallingford, Vt., the son of Edgar and Thelma (Colby) Sharon.

Walter served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and worked in a marble quarry in Danby, Vt., White Mountain Paper in Bellows Falls, the Fellows Gear Shaper in Springfield, and for the state of New Hampshire Highway Department. Walter was a member of the Industrial

Grange in Andover, Vt. and also the Vermont State and National Grange. He enjoyed fishing and was a Red Sox fan.

On July 10, 1955 in Ludlow, Vt., he married Elsie Wade who survives. Walter is also survived by his son Garry, two daughters Darlene Kimball and Lisa Martell, two brothers Richard and Robert Sharon, one sister Ethel Holden, and eight grandchildren.

There will be a service at the convenience of the family. Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt. is assisting with arrangements.

CHURCH SERVICES

CAVENDISH, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. If you attend in-person, please wear a mask and practice physical distancing. Extra masks are available. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

Sermons are available live Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on the streaming page at www.chesterbaptist.org.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Church has reopened for Sunday and weekday masses: Saturday at 4:30 p.m., Sundays at 8 a.m., and 10 a.m. For more information, go to www.okemovalleycatholicparishes.com or call 802-228-3451.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.

Sunday services are available online at 10 a.m. For more information, go to Facebook @SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.

Sunday Liturgy has resumed at 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. Please note, the church is limited to 50 participants. For more information, call 802-885-2615.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday services have resumed at 10 a.m. with Rev. Mellen Kennedy via Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

The First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Rt. 5

Sunday services are online. For more information, call 802-772-4148, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

William J. Brown, 2021

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – William J. Brown, “Boh” or “Grumpy,” 69, of Old Claremont Road, passed away in his home surrounded by his family Jan. 9, 2021. He bravely fought a tough battle with lung cancer.

He leaves behind his loving wife Debra Hastings and their combined family plus 10 grandchildren. He was preceded by his 19-year-old son Christopher Brown in 1997.

He shared three children with his first wife Janis Richard Carroll of Belmont, N.H., the late Christopher Brown, Cheryl Brown and her partner Bradley Tenney and their son Troy, his youngest daughter Stephanie Brown and her daughters Jada and Remy Nieters of Charlestown. Four stepsons from his marriage to Debra: Buddy Morel and son Brayden; Barry and wife Nicole Morel and their daughters Ava, Madison, and Lillian; Billy Morel and daughters Paige, Emily, and Victoria all of Charlestown, N.H., and Jake Vienne and his fiancée Erin McClammer of Wilmington, N.C.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17 and served a three-year term of service including time in Vietnam. He acquired many levels of skill in his job history but was most proficient in driving big tractor-trailers. His employment in this area included



William J. Brown, 2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

Idlenot Dairy, Black River Produce, Smokeshire, BDR, Recycle services, Blanc and Bailey, and ADS of North Springfield.

His hobbies were woodworking, bowling, family, and riding his Harley. Most recent enjoyment was riding scooters with his family and dog Mia.

Boh will be greatly missed by many coworkers, friends, and family. He had a great sense of humor and loved joking around with the young and old. He laughed often, he never held back on his advice or direction, and he had an endless supply of stories that could make you laugh and cry. But most of all he was a loving, loyal husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

A graveside service will happen at a later date.

Anthony W. Nunes, 1951-2021

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Anthony W. Nunes, 69, passed away unexpectedly at his home Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. He was born Nov. 8, 1951 in Springfield, Vt., the son of Anthony J. and Josephine (Rachiski) Nunes. He attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School Class of 1969 as well as completing the co-op course.

He was employed as a machinist with Bryant Grinder, Jones & Lamson, and Chamberlin Machine Tool. He enjoyed nature and being outdoors, fishing, walking, and photography. He was a very creative person and enjoyed DIY projects.

He is survived by his daughter Jessica Blake and her husband Westley of North Springfield; one brother Stan Nunes and his wife Robin of Springfield; three sisters Jane Hoisington and her husband Don of Lynchburg, Va., Rose Thow of Springfield, and Sandy Thompson and her husband Randy of Perkinsville; four



Anthony W. Nunes, 1951-2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

grandchildren Aiden, Colin, Brianna, and Zoey; Godson Leighton Alexander of Woodstock; aunt Sophie Aumand and her husband Turk of North Walpole, N.H.; and also by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Services will be held at a later date. Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt. is assisting with arrangements.

Stanley J. Walasewicz, 1930-2021

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Stanley J. Walasewicz, 90, passed away Thursday evening, Jan. 14, 2021 at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, N.H. after a brief illness. He was born June 20, 1930 in Cavendish, Vt., the son of Anthony P. and Alexandra (Stankiewicz) Walasewicz. He attended primary school in Cavendish and graduated from Springfield High School Class of 1948. Stanley served in the United States Army during the Korean War stationed in Europe.

On June 20, 1959, he married Carol Lord at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Proctorsville, Vt. They enjoyed 62 years together. Stanley was employed at the Bryant Grinder Co. in Springfield, Vt., retiring after 43 years of service as senior project engineer.

He loved the outdoors, enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, walking, biking, and gardening. In his younger years, he enjoyed softball and was the pitcher for

his team.

He is survived by his wife Carol of Cavendish, son Stephen Walasewicz of Weathersfield, one sister Mary Krasofski of Ashburnham, Mass., two grandchildren Matthew and Laura Walasewicz, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by one brother and four sisters.

A funeral mass will be celebrated Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Annunciation Church in Ludlow, Vt. Reverend Thomas Mosher will officiate.

Burial will be in the Cavendish Village Cemetery in Cavendish, Vt. in the spring. Memorial contributions may be made to the Jack Byrne Center at D-H/Geisel Office of Development, Attn: Gift Recording, One Medical Center Drive, HB 7070 Lebanon, NH 03756-0001 or online at www.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/donate.

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

Robert C. Adams, 1928-2021

CHESTER, Vt. – Robert C. Adams, 92, passed away unexpectedly at his home Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. He was born Aug. 18, 1928 in Boston, Mass., the son of Arthur Adams and Ruth Davis.

He served in the United States Army during World War II. Robert was married to Hazel E. Fuller. She predeceased him in 2004. He was employed in construction for many years and later employed with General Castings in Charlestown, N.H. for many years until his retirement. He was a longtime mem-

ber of the Teamsters Union. Robert enjoyed dancing.

He is survived by one son Michael R. Adams of Ludlow, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one sister Mary Jane Maranda and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Arthur, mother Ruth, and stepfather Joseph Robinson.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family. Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

Gerald P. Kalanges, 1928-2021

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Gerald P. Kalanges, 92, passed away Monday, Jan. 11, 2021 at the VA Medical Center in White River Jct., Vt., after a brief illness. He was born July 16, 1928 in Springfield, Vt., the son of Charles and Mary (Paquin) Kalanges. He attended Perkinsville schools.

Prior to entering the service, he worked at the Perkinsville and Springfield Telephone and Electric Companies as an electrical lineman. He then served in the United States Army during the Korean War Era from 1950-1952 as an electrical lineman. He served in the Army Reserves from 1952-1957 and was honorably discharged with the rank of master sergeant. Gerald was employed for 37 years in assembly at the Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Company in Springfield from 1956-1993.

He was married in 1956-1987 to Marilyn E. (Martin) Kalanges (divorced), where he lived in Woodstock, Vt., and then moved back to Perkinsville until his death.

He is survived by Deborah L. Kalanges, daughter, Woodstock, Vt.; Dawna L. (Kalanges) Renshaw, daughter; Sean Renshaw, son-in-law; Gabrielle Renshaw, granddaughter, all of Naperville, Ill. Also, Andrew Curtis Cook, nephew, Perkinsville; Andrea (Cook) Bushaw, niece, Amsden; and April (Cook) Todt, niece, North Springfield.

Previously deceased are Mary (Paquin) Colston, mother; Ralph F. Colston, stepfather; Charles Costas Kalanges, biological father; Marjorie (Kalanges) Cook, sister; and Andrew Clarence Cook, brother-in-law.



Gerald P. Kalanges, 1928-2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

He enjoyed reading books on anything having to do with the Civil War, restoring old John Deere tractors, coin collecting, always kept all of his small engine mowers serviced and took excellent care of his tools. He loved to mow his own lawn and did that through the summer of 2020. He really enjoyed the bi-annual J&L get-togethers with all of the surviving retired employees of his tenure at J&L. He loved his neighbors who lived on his street and always tried to help out in any way that he could if needed. His neighbors were like family to him as he lived alone in the house that his mother and stepfather had previously owned on Maple Street.

A graveside committal with military honors will be held at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph Center, Vt. in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, we would prefer that people make donations to the Disabled American Veterans and/or the Wounded Warrior Project.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

CHURCH SERVICES: We are currently running Social Distancing Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

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SPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT

How to enjoy yourself and stay safe on the ice this winter –

RUTLAND, Vt. – As winter sets in, many Vermonters are preparing for one of the most popular cold weather pastimes in the state – ice fishing. Many anglers spend each winter ice fishing in Vermont, and the state’s Fish & Wildlife Department is encouraging more people to give it a try.

Department fisheries biologist Shawn Good says ice fishing is a fun, social, family-oriented activity, and that there are many great reasons for Vermonters new to the sport to try it this year.

“Ice fishing is generally more accessible than open water fishing,” says Good. “Almost anyone can walk out on a frozen lake or pond and fish through the ice. And once you’re out there, there’s lots of room to spread out.”

Ice fishing can be more sociable than open water fishing, with friends and family gathering on the ice for cookouts and winter fun, along with the fishing.

“For many, it’s not just about the fish. Kids love ice fishing because they can run around and slide on the ice or play in the snow. I’ve seen families with grills, food, and hot drinks having a great time. They set their tip-ups, build snowmen, play football, and even skate in between bouts of fishing.”

It’s inexpensive and simple to get started. “An auger used for cutting holes in the ice is the most expensive piece of equipment you’ll need. But you can get a 4-inch or 6-inch hand auger for under \$50 and share it with others, so not everyone needs one. Add a scoop for cleaning out the holes and an ice fishing rod and reel combo or a couple tip-ups with hooks, weights, and bait and you’re set for a fun day on the ice.”

When you’ve had a successful outing, bringing home a meal of healthy, locally caught fresh fish is a delicious benefit.

“I think fish taste better in the winter,” says Good. “There’s something different about pulling

a tasty perch, bluegill, or bass from ice cold water. They tend to be firmer and have a milder taste than in the summer.”

Good says it is normal for new anglers to worry about venturing out on frozen water, but with a few basic precautions and common sense, ice fishing is safe.

“A minimum of three to four inches of clear black ice is safe to walk on. If you’re unsure about ice thickness in your area, call your local bait and tackle shop. They’re always up on current conditions and can help you get started with gear and advice, too. You can also look for other people out fishing. Experienced anglers know how to read the ice, so if you’re unsure, go where others are or have been,” advised Good.

Good says that with the mild winter so far this year, most anglers are finding that ice fishing opportunities have been restricted primarily to Vermont’s smaller ponds or higher elevation areas that have formed good ice.

“Many large lakes still have not developed thick, solid black ice. Some haven’t frozen over at all yet. Anglers looking to get out should focus on smaller



Enjoy ice fishing this winter. PHOTO PROVIDED BY VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE

waters and make the effort to check ice thickness frequently as you venture across the ice.”

It is important to know that ice isn’t always uniform in thickness. Areas around pressure cracks or near stream or river inlets can be thinner and weaker than surrounding ice. Good advises anglers to carry a set of ice picks, head out with a partner, and let someone know where you will be fishing, your access point, and when you plan on returning home.

Good says dressing properly is key. “On a calm sunny day, you’ll be surprised how comfortable you feel. Even with the thermometer showing single digits, the sun will warm you right up. Make sure you dress in layers and keep your head, hands, and feet covered and dry, and you’ll be quite toasty,” said Good.

No matter where you are in Vermont, an ice fishing opportunity is close by. Ice fishing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in winter, offering a fun, unique winter experience.

To learn more about ice fishing for beginners, visit Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s “Ice Fishing Basics” webpage: www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/vermonts-ice-fishing-opportunities/ice-fishing-basics.

Gov. Scott allows practice expansion, no games yet

REGION – Gov. Scott announced at his press conference Friday, Jan. 15 that schools’ sports programs could expand their practices to allow limited contact and team scrimmages. Masks are mandatory. However, scrimmages and games between schools are still prohibited.

Bear hunters had a record 2020 season

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reports that bear hunters in Vermont had another safe and successful hunting season in 2020.

Preliminary numbers show that hunters took a record 914 black bears during the two-part early and late bear seasons. The previous highest harvest ever recorded in Vermont was 750 in 2019. Fish & Wildlife also says there were no hunting-related shooting incidents.

The average number of bears taken over the previous 10 years was 608. The hunting season results are consistent with the goal of maintaining the bear population to within 3,500 to 5,500 bears, according to Forrest Hammond, Fish & Wildlife’s bear biologist.

In 2020, hunters took a majority of the bears, 823, in the early season and only 91 in the late bear season, which overlaps with the November deer season. Most bears were taken with modern firearms, while 16% were taken by archery and 17% with the use of bear hounds.

Hammond noted that participation in the early bear season increased substantially with 13,866 hunters choosing to purchase an early season bear tag.

“In addition to an abundant

population and the potential of harvesting delicious and nutritious bear meat, larger numbers of bears were harvested due to several factors,” said Hammond. “It was a poor year for natural bear foods, and we saw a surge in hunter numbers brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and perhaps a corresponding increase in the number of hunters spending more time in the outdoors hunting than in past years.”

Hammond says 2020 was challenging for bear management in Vermont with game wardens and bear project staff responding to more than double the number of reports of bear-human conflicts than any year in the past. Despite the large number of bear problems and the high number of bears harvested by hunters, Hammond points out that these numbers tend to vary each year and that the bear population remains within the 2020-2030 Big Game Plan bear population objective.

Bear hunters continue to provide information that is valuable for managing the species including bringing their bear into one of 150 game check stations and by completing hunter effort surveys.

Each hunter is required to submit a pre-molar tooth from their bear, which will provide information on the age of the animal. Bear ages will be posted on Fish & Wildlife’s website in early May.

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A hearing before the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Plymouth will be held on Tuesday, February2, 2021 at 7:00 P.M., in the Town Hall Auditorium at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, to consider an Application for a Conditional Use Permit.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, please call the Clerk's Office at 802-672-3655 if you wish to attend this meeting in person.


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calendar

REAL ESTATE/LEGAL NOTICES

JAN. 24 – REGION – The Vermont Holocaust Memorial, Beth Jacob Synagogue of Montpelier, Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, and Beth El Synagogue of St. Johnsbury invite you to join us as we commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a free virtual talk by Jack Fairweather, Vermont author of “The Volunteer: the true story of the resistance hero who infiltrated Auschwitz” Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required at www.bethjacobvt.org/event/author-talk-with-jack-fairweather-the-volunteer1.html.

JAN. 26 – REGION – AARP Vermont is offering a series of free virtual presentations on consumer fraud. On Jan. 26 is “The Weapons of Fraud: Anatomy of the Crime,” an overview of the leading scams, techniques of con artists, and discussion of the steps to take to avoid victimization. While addressing a wide range of issues, it does not cover computer and cyber scams in detail. Presentations are offered

at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elliott Greenblott, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, at egreenblott@aarp.org.

JAN. 27 – CAVENDISH, Vt. – Okemo Valley TV and the Cavendish Historical Society are sponsoring a Zoom talk, Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m., which will cover the origins of pandemics and epidemics, their impact on history including Vermont’s, common characteristics, and the lasting changes that have occurred with past events. For more information and to access the Zoom link, email manager@okemovalley.tv. The talk will also be streamed on Okemo Valley TV’s YouTube channel.

JAN. 28 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Thursday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m., join Springfield Town Library for an online presentation, “A Celebration of Animation: The 100 Greatest Cartoon Characters in Television History.” Pop culture historian Martin Gitlin will show funny cartoon snippets, play trivia, and speak about their impact on pop culture. Sign up is required at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-celebration-of-animation-the-100-greatest-cartoon-characters-tickets-126853001743. For more information, contact Tracey Craft at 802-885-3108.

JAN. 30 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 30 at 11 a.m., join Michelle and Tracey as we create a Far Out Face Mask online via Zoom. We will be decorating a mask using food coloring and rubber bands, which the library will supply. This is a free, fun family event sponsored by Friends of Springfield Town Library. Masks on Vermont and the town of Springfield provided the masks. You will need to provide your own gloves, plastic bottles to mix your food coloring, and a plastic tablecloth for this event. Space and supplies are limited. Sign up at www.eventbrite.com/e/fit-to-be-tie-dyed-far-out-face-masks-tickets-129748967655. For more information, contact Michelle or Tracey

at 802-885-3108.

FEB. 10 – REGION – AARP Vermont is offering a series of free virtual presentations on consumer fraud. On Feb. 10 is “Fraud, Scams, and Con-Artists: Coming to a Computer Near You,” the why, how, and basic defense regarding scams perpetrated over the internet. This presentation is continuously revised to address the latest cyber threats and addresses how to recognize malicious emails and pop-ups as well as Wi-Fi issues arising from the increased use of tablets and smart phones. Two presentations are offered at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elliott Greenblott, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, at egreenblott@aarp.org.

MARCH 10 – REGION – AARP Vermont is offering a series of free virtual presentations on consumer fraud. On March 10 is “Medicare Fraud: It’s Enough to Make You Sick.” Annually, \$65 billion is lost to Medicare Fraud that could be applied to extended benefits and reduced taxpayer liability. This presentation explains how the crime is committed, how to protect yourself, and how to report it. Two presentations are offered at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elliott Greenblott, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, at egreenblott@aarp.org.

FEB. 12 – REGION – The Children’s Literacy Foundation is offering a monthly Book Club for Grown-ups series featuring Vermont and New Hampshire authors who write for both kids and adults. On Friday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m., bestselling author Dan Brown will discuss his latest novel in the popular Robert Langdon series, “Origin,” as well as his new children’s book, “Wild Symphony.” This Zoom event is free, but donations to the Children’s Literacy Foundation are encouraged. Learn more and sign up for the event at www.clifonline.org.

FEB. 13 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Please join OMS for our first-ever virtual Winter Festival. Purchase a household ticket to join OMS on Zoom for a festive evening at home with live music by Sammy Blanchette and special guest appearances. We will have an online silent auction that is going live Jan. 30 and staying open until the end of the virtual event Feb. 13. Tickets can be purchased online. Visit www.okemomountainschool.org for details. Prior to the event, you will receive a Zoom link to join. All proceeds will go towards our scholarship fund.

FEB. 24 – REGION – AARP Vermont is offering a series of free virtual presentations on consumer fraud. On Feb. 24 is “Identity Theft: Steal Your Name, Steal Your Life,” an explanation of identity theft that explains how and why it occurs, provides instruction on protective steps, and explains what to do if it happens. This presentation includes techniques used by identity thieves who commit fraud using stolen information. Two presentations are offered at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elliott Greenblott, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, at egreenblott@aarp.org.

WEDNESDAYS – BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Advanced directives: Where do I find the forms? Who should be named as my healthcare agent? Who do I give the completed form to? How do I talk with my family about my healthcare wishes if I’m unable to speak for myself? Every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Taking Steps Brattleboro is offering Advanced Care Planning informational meetings via Zoom. To receive the Zoom invitation, call Dan Freeman at 802-257-0775 ext. 101 or email don.freeman@brattleborohospice.org.

DAILY – REGION – If you want to drink that’s your business, but if you want to stop, that’s ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-885-8281 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

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January 13, 2020

**TOWN OF CHESTER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
BOARD (VIA ZOOM)**

The Development Review Board will be holding a Public Hearing at 6:00 PM on February 8, 2021 via Zoom from the Town Hall for a Final Hearing on an Application for a Minor Sub division #562.

PROPERTY OWNERS: Jeffrey C. Holden
Real Estate Trust
APPLICANT: Jeffrey Holden
LOCATION: 3055 Green Mountain Turnpike
DISTRICT: Residential 40

ACTION REQUESTED: Subdivision of parcels 58-50-19.5 and 58-50-19.8 into 3 lots with the following dimensions: Lot 3 – 7.95 acres, Lot 4 – 17.88 acres and Lot 5 – 5.27 acres.

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

Link to the Zoom meeting will be on the Town of Chester home page: www.chestervt.gov.

For the Development Review Board
Jill S. Barger
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

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January 13, 2020

**TOWN OF CHESTER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
BOARD (VIA ZOOM)**

The Development Review Board will be holding a Public Hearing at 6:00 PM on February 8, 2021 via Zoom from the Town Hall for a Final Hearing on an Application for a Minor Subdivision #561.

PROPERTY OWNERS: Hannah and Russ Monier
APPLICANT: Hannah and Russ Monier
LOCATION: 791 Trebo Road
DISTRICT: Residential 120 (R120)

ACTION REQUESTED: Subdivision of parcel 29-20-11.100 into Lot 2 - 72.61 acres, Lot 3 - 3.28 acres, Lot 4 - 3.35 acres.

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

Link to the Zoom meeting will be on the Town of Chester home page: www.chestervt.gov.

For the Development Review Board
Jill S. Barger
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

January 13, 2020

**TOWN OF CHESTER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
BOARD (VIA ZOOM)**

The Development Review Board will be holding a Public Hearing at 6:00 PM on February 8, 2021 via Zoom from the Town Hall for a Final Hearing on an Application for a Minor Subdivision #523.

PROPERTY OWNERS: Salvatore R. Matano,
Trustee of Saint Joseph Parish Charitable Trust
APPLICANT: RJ Dourney
LOCATION: 96 Main Street
DISTRICT: Village Center

ACTION REQUESTED: Subdivision of parcels 60-51-53.5 into two Lots, Lot 1 – 4.56 acres and Lot 2 - 0.53 acres.

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

Link to the Zoom meeting will be on the Town of Chester home page: www.chestervt.gov.

For the Development Review Board
Jill S. Barger
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

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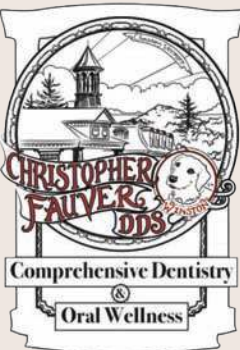
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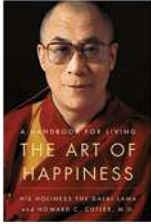





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arts & entertainment

Open Wall submissions open
for “Resilience” exhibit

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A unique feature at Gallery at the VAULT is the opportunity for community members of any age or experience to show their work. The next Open Wall theme will be “Resilience,” on exhibit from March 12 through May 5. So now is a great time to create how you might express the idea of resilience, perhaps

with a photo, painting, sculpture, or other creation. Artists may bring their work March 3 or 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or March 5, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages. For full details, see www.galleryvault.org. We invite you to view the new show, “Curvature” by Ja-

mie Townsend. Browse the creations of 125 artists and craftspeople. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street in Springfield, is open Wednesday and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Shop online at www.galleryvault.org, and curbside pickup is available.

PoemTown Randolph 2021 call
for submissions

RANDOLPH, Vt. – April is National Poetry Month. Poem-Town organizers are currently soliciting original poetry submissions from poets of all ages residing anywhere in Vermont. No more than three poems should be submitted, each of them 24 lines or less. The deadline for submission is Feb. 15. Poets should send 1-3 original poems as MS Word or RTF attachments to musbird@gmail.com. No PDFs please! Each entry must have the poet's name and town of residence at the bottom of each submitted poem. Poets should be assured that this information will not be shared with the judges of the poems, but will be helpful when the chosen poems are submitted to the designer who prepares the broadsides for display in town.

In the text of an email, please include the poet's contact information – name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number. Each poem should be attached separately in the email with the title of the poem as each document's name. Poets are asked not to submit any work that has been previously displayed in any PoemTown or PoemCity celebrations, and also to not submit any poems that have previously appeared in print anywhere else. For poets without access to email, please contact Janet Waton at 802-728-9402 to clarify an alternate submission process. By sending work to Poem-Town 2021, poets agree that PoemTown may use any poem



Submit a poem. STOCK PHOTO

in display, in promotional materials, and in associated online, print, and other media. Poets will be credited for their work in all places their poems appear. This eighth annual Poem-Town will be scaled back due to Covid-19, but poems in the windows, the annual anthology, and outdoor readings this summer will be a welcome celebration of poetry and community.

Rockingham Library to
present dramatic reading
of short story

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m., Rockingham Free Public library will present a virtual dramatic reading on Zoom of local author Bill Lockwood's short story “The Kids Won't Leave,” recently published in the 2020 fall edition of Two Hawks Quarterly Literary Journal. Lockwood's story involves a humorous look at an all-too-common phenomenon, especially in our current difficult times. He says, “Short stories were popular in mostly magazines from the time of Edgar Allen Poe through the '50s. Now they are more likely found in the more academic world of literary journals, anthologies, and other collections. It was fun to have one accepted and ‘printed’ in one of today's online literary journals.” He also adds, “Though I say in the story it is in ‘New England,’ the story is actually set and inspired by an event some years ago in Bellows Falls.” As he always does with readings of his work, Lockwood has invited some of community theater friends to do the actual readings. He says, “It might

turn out to be like an old-time radio drama.” Currently, Lockwood writes regularly in The Vermont Journal & The Shopper, and he covers community theater for The Eagle Times. Since retirement from social work in 2015, he has published four historical fiction novels with The Wild Rose Press. The most recent is “The Monsignor's Agents,” a spy adventure set in the early '80s between Malta and Rome. His next, “Gare de Lyon,” set in World War II France, is currently under contract with an expected spring release. For more information or to sign up for a Zoom invitation, contact programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or call the library at 802-463-4270. For those who do not have a computer, there is an alternative method of joining Zoom

through a phone call. Please note that there might be a phone charge for this. Bill Lockwood's short story “The Kids Won't Leave” published in Two Hawks Literary Journal can be accessed at www.twohawksquarterly.com.



Local author Bill Lockwood's short story “The Kids Won't Leave” will be presented on Zoom. PHOTO PROVIDED

community

AUTOMOTIVE

Girl Scout Cookie Season kicks off

REGION – Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains and Girl Scouts of the USA have kicked off the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie season nationally, during a challenging time when many Girl Scouts are selling in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe. Even in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, girls are adapting their sales methods to share the joy of Girl Scout Cookies through the largest girl-led entrepreneur-

ship program – including taking contact-free pickup and delivery orders through a new national collaboration with Grub-Hub in select areas starting in February.

GSUSA is also making online cookie ordering available nationwide Feb. 1 so consumers who don't know a Girl Scout can still purchase cookies from a local troop for direct shipment to their homes or donation to local organizations. Girl Scouts will host some in-person cookie booths across New Hampshire and Vermont Feb. 12, running through March 22. In-person sales will be conducted with all pandemic safety restrictions possible.

Innovative girl-led sales methods

The Girl Scout Cookie Program has long taught girls how to run a business via in-person booths, door-to-door activity, and the Digital Cookie platform online, which GSUSA launched in 2014. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit in the middle of the 2020 season and girls were faced with the same challenges as other small businesses, girls in New Hampshire and Vermont quickly pivoted their sales methods, running virtual cookie booths on social media. More than 81,000 packages of Girl Scout Cookies were donated to the military and hometown heroes last year. Girls as young as 5 years old are continuing to embrace their entrepreneurial spirits, stay connected to their communities, and have fun by participating in the cookie program. And, the proceeds from each and every purchase stay local with the troop and its council to power Girl Scouts' essential leadership programming.

"We are looking forward to this year's Girl Scout

Cookie season," said Patricia K. Mellor, CEO of Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. "We are keeping our Girl Scouts safe while they learn essential life skills in our cookie program, like people skills, business ethics, goal-setting, money management, and more. Our girls look forward to the cookie program each year, as it provides them a fun and interactive way to fund the things they do."

This year, Girl Scouts is also providing new materials as part of the cookie badge program to support girls as they run their cookie business online and via social media, helping them be best equipped to sell during these times.

Order online through the Girl Scout Cookie Finder

GSUSA is making it possible for all consumers nationwide who don't already know a Girl Scout to purchase Girl Scout Cookies online for shipment to their door. Beginning Feb. 1, customers can enter their ZIP code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder to find a local troop to purchase from through the Digital Cookie platform for direct shipment or donation to local organizations. This additional contact-free method supports local girls while keeping their safety and skill-building top of mind.

And though social distancing measures may keep families and friends apart, cookie customers can share joy and stay connected this season through



Support Girl Scouts safely. PHOTO PROVIDED

a gift-box option that ships directly to others via the Digital Cookie platform.

How to safely purchase Girl Scout Cookies this season

Girl Scout Cookie season is recognized in New Hampshire and Vermont from now through March 22. Consumers can support Girl Scouts by purchasing Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas, Trefoils, and more in a few different ways:

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies in ways that meet local and state safety protocols.
- If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org, text COOKIES to 59618, or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app for free on iOS or Android devices to find socially distant or contact-free cookie booths if they are available in your area.
- Beginning Feb. 1, enter your ZIP code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.girlscoutcookies.org to purchase from a local Girl Scout troop online for shipment to your door or to donate cookies to first responders and local causes.

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