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Planning Commission rift sparks controversy at Chester Selectboard meeting

BY SHARON HUNTLEY

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – During their Feb. 17 meeting, the Chester Selectboard were made aware of a rift within the Chester Planning Commission as Commission Chair Peter Hudkins, in lieu of giving the expected presentation of ongoing planning efforts, instead largely criticized many revisions being considered as they overhaul Chester's planning bylaws.

Hudkins denounced several features of the revised bylaws including forest lots needing 36 acres before being able to subdivide; increasing minimum zoning from three to six acres; buildings restricted to a maximum of 6,000 square feet; limitations on changes to a homestead without Development Review Board approval; paving projects now re-

quiring landscaping and other aesthetic measures; as well as a reference to other "nasty details."

Hudkins summarized his concerns saying that the new changes bring all the businesses it harder to develop in rural districts and making rural districts harder to subdivide. "When you put a dot on what could be divided, and couldn't be divided, it's pretty surprising how much land is no longer available for development out there because of these changes," he said.

He distanced himself from the rest of the commission, saying that these measures were the majority opinion on the Planning Commission, but that he had different opinions about it and that the "conductivity of our existing zoning" is lost with these changes and that the proposed changes lack clarity and

transparency with too many details outlined in over 240 pages. He also said they were not getting the public opinion they need to have.

Current Planning Commission members also include Tim Roper, Cheryl Joy Lipton, Barre Pinske, and Naomi Johnson.

Selectboard Chairman Arne Jonynas said that he was taken aback and wondered exactly what was going on with the board. "As a board I would think that you would all agree...and that as a board it seemed like you should be dealing with this issue," he said. He then asked other planning board members to comment.

Planning Commission member Tim Roper was quick to respond, saying that the presentation by Hudkins "mischaracterized their work" and that he was upset about his

comments. He outlined the Planning Commission process, which included working with a consultant that used state guidelines for municipal planning and development and aligned changes with Chester's town plan.

He also defended compromises made during the process, saying that everything they've done as a commission has been an attempt to find common ground from their diverse board. "Everything we've put into the document has been discussed, in some cases hotly debated, and compromise was reached...and that's what's in the document to date," he said. He also said they have invited public input multiple times and that that process will continue.

Jonynas encouraged the board to continue to work through their differences and that there

SEE INSIDE FOR THE 11TH ANNUAL



A vintage photo of twins. Do you know who these twins are or where the photo was taken? Let us know!

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

are mechanisms in place to deal with their conflict. He acknowledged the years of work that had gone into their efforts to date.

Board member Lee Gustafson encouraged the board to read the information the Planning Commission had provided as well as the state statute, 24 V.S.A. 4302, that was guiding their efforts.

Board member Jeff Holden

confirmed that the state guidance was aspirational and not mandatory.

The Planning Commission, in response to this meeting, scheduled a special meeting Monday, Feb. 22 to refute Hudkins allegations. The next regular Chester Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Chester Planning Commission ousts Hudkins as chairman

BY SHARON HUNTLEY

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Planning Commission unanimously voted to remove Peter Hudkins as their Board Chairman during their special meeting Feb. 22, a meeting scheduled specifically to refute statements made by Hudkins at the Chester Selectboard meeting Wednesday, Feb. 17.

All five current commission board members were in attendance via Zoom including Tim Roper, outgoing member Naomi Campbell, Barre Pinske, Cheryl Joy Lipton, and Hudkins.

Hudkins, who was appointed as chairman last March, started the meeting by admitting he

acted like "a crazy uncle" at the Selectboard meeting but defended himself saying that after two years on the board, he still had questions.

Campbell called out Hudkins for using the Selectboard meeting to air his grievances when the purpose of their participation at the meeting was to report progress of the commission. Campbell outlined that the Planning Commission had prepared two different reports for the Selectboard but that Hudkins prepared his own report, even though he had told the board he did not have time to prepare anything. His report, which essentially blindsided the rest of the board, was against their rules of procedures, according to Campbell.

She further admonished Hudkins for never voicing the "vast majority" of concerns to the Planning Commission, either through statements or in writing, prior to airing them to the Selectboard, which she said was "a grave concern to all of us."

Roper characterized Hudkins actions saying he "degraded the professionalism of this commission" by representing only his views, not those of the Planning Commission and that he had lost Roper's respect.

After Hudkins countered that he had a right to his opinion, Lipton countered that they want his opinion in the mix but, "We give our arguments, we vote, and compromise," and worked together to work things

out. "You were supposed to represent the board."

Pinske called Hudkins a "rogue character" saying, "You're not understanding that you are part of a board. You have proven to us, over and over and over that you are on your own island and you're not a team player."

In response to the statements made by Hudkins at the Selectboard meeting, Campbell and Roper prepared a letter for the Selectboard to clarify issues raised by his opinions. The letter contained three different sections to counter, point-by-point, Hudkins comments. Categories of "false statements," "misleading statements," and "statements needing further review, research, discussion, and

explanation" in all refuted 14 separate statements.

Roper further clarified that the Planning Commission's document to date is a draft with some issues not having been discussed yet. He said that Hudkins talking about it as if it were final was doing "an egregious disservice to Chester."

Chester resident Steve Mancuso participated in the meeting and said that Chester residents don't have clarity about the specifics and details of their plan. He also accused members of being agenda driven and said they need more of the public involved.

Lipton said it was hard to get the public to attend meetings, but she wants them to come.

Selectboard member Lee

Gustafson also attended the meeting via Zoom and said that conversations he's had recently with residents show there is a lack of understanding of how the governing boards work. He suggested to Town Manager Julie Hance to help clarify board processes.

At the end of the meeting, although Hudkins accepted responsibility for his actions and acknowledged that he lost the trust of the board, Roper called for his removal as chairman. The board unanimously approved his removal as the chairman, although he will remain on the board.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled Monday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Covid-19 vaccinations on stage at Walker Farm

WESTON, Vt. – On Feb. 17 and 20, nurses from the Springfield Hospital's Covid-19 vaccination team debuted at the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company's Walker Farm and played to rave reviews. One might ask, "How did this production land at the theater in Weston?"

When the state announced that vaccinations would be offered to Vermont residents, Regina Downer, Community Nurse Advocate with My Community Nurse Project, began advocating for a local vaccination site for folks in the mountain towns. She engaged in conversations with state officials, hospital administrators, and the theater company's executive director to discuss the exciting possibility of collaboration and permission

to host a vaccine site in Weston.

With hospitals located more than 25 miles away and medical specialists as far as 45 to 60 miles away, Downer hoped that the Vermont Department of Health would understand the benefits of granting a vaccine site in the heart of the mountain towns. What could be more fitting than the Walker Farm stage of the Weston Playhouse? The Walker Farm stage offers easy access from Route 100 in Weston, handicapped accessibility, large open space for the nurses to set up vaccination stations, plenty of room for appropriate social distancing, and a spacious parking area.

Susanna Gellert, executive director of the WPTC, gave permission for use of the space. In a joint effort between My Com-



The vaccinating team of SMCS nurses had a tremendously enthused stage presence at Walker Farm.

PHOTO PROVIDED

munity Nurse Project, Weston Playhouse Theatre Company, and Springfield Medical Care Systems, the Health Department recognized the benefits of community collaboration and grant-

ed final permission for two vaccination days at Walker. When registration for vaccination was opened to age-appropriate Vermont residents, the two days became fully booked almost im-

mediately.

Vaccinations were administered with great skill and care by the nurses from the Springfield Hospital vaccination team, coordinated by Sue Pollard, R.N. Upon entering the Walker Farm, residents who preregistered signed in and patiently waited less than 10 minutes for their Covid-19 vaccination. Volunteers Bill Hoyt, Kieran McKenna, and Heidi Root, board members of My Community Nurse Project, provided assistance when needed for sign-in and completion of registration forms, in order to facilitate timely vaccinations. Each resident was well cared for from the moment they entered the building to their exiting.

Pollard stated that over 200 vaccinations were administered

Feb. 17 and an equal number were scheduled for Feb. 20. Residents received the Moderna vaccine and were scheduled to return for their booster vaccination March 17 or 20 at Walker Farm.

This was certainly a well-directed production and a fabulous joint effort on behalf of our community. Tremendous applause for the nurses' professional management of the event, for the playhouse operations manager Nathaniel Vilandre's hard work in setting the stage for the team of vaccinators, for Michael Savage and Jason Harrington, who ensured a safely cleared, well-sanded parking area, and for My Community Nurse Project for keeping a finger on the pulse of healthcare needs in our mountain towns.

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DEADLINES

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

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Refuse to Use program offers virtual evening of recovery

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Collaborative’s Refuse to Use program is thrilled to offer a virtual evening of recovery and music Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Our guest artist for the evening is composer, writer, radio host, and recovery advocate Benjamin Lerner. Benjamin will share his personal experience and struggles with addiction – as well as his inspiring story of resilience and hope – in both words and music.

This virtual event will take place via Zoom and is open to the public. Registration is available at www.thecollaborative.us/refuse-to-use.

Benjamin Lerner, the great-grandson of Irving Berlin, started his musical career as a classical piano prodigy, but by his early 20s, he was a full-blown addict. Now sober since June 13, 2016, he journals his journey in addiction and sobriety in his all-new piano-

rap, which combine classical piano and rap. His debut album, “CLEAN,” was released in February 2020 and his weekly column, also entitled CLEAN, appears in The Vermont News Guide. He is the host of CLEAN Jams on WEQX, which celebrates rap, hip-hop, and recovery every Thursday night at 11 p.m. Benjamin credits his continued success in recovery to his ability to express his emotions relating to his struggle through word and song.

“When I first went to rehab,” Benjamin admits, “I was afraid I wasn’t going to be able to make music anymore, because I made music about doing drugs for so long, I didn’t know if I’d be able to do it without getting high. It took getting clean for me to realize that expression and creativity are the drugs I’ve been searching for all along.”

During the last unprecedented year, the Refuse to

Use program has focused on building resilience and community through events which educate our youth on the harmful effects of substance misuse, while also cultivating the skills-based assets necessary to help make healthy decisions. Refuse to Use program manager Natalie Philpot states, “We are so grateful to our community partners, caring adults, and youth for their investment in the program this year. It has been amazing to see such investment in the health and wellbeing of our community.”

This final series of Refuse to Use programming will focus on the skill of resilience. We ask the wider community to enjoy this virtual live event featuring Benjamin Lerner and to use it as an opportunity to connect with others in their lives. This event is being presented with partnership from Old Mill Road Media. To register, please visit www.thecollaborative.us/refuse-to-use. Email questions to Natalie@thecollaborative.us. For more about Benjamin Lerner, go to www.BenjaminLerner.com.

Weston’s Pop Up University returns in March

WESTON, Vt. – It’s a “pop up” because it emerges in the month of March and goes away in April. And it’s called a “university,” but it’s really a way to offer entertainment and learning opportunities to the people of our community through four weeks of classes, events, and workshops led by local folks.

After last year’s success, the organizers are back at it, but with a difference. The pandemic rules out in-person

events, so the university has gone virtual. This year the pop-up schedule includes nine online classes and workshops offering a wide variety of topics, from Italian cooking lessons, to dance instruction and wine tasting. The classes are led by people who have experience and expertise in an amazing array of areas – from tips on effective business leadership to an introduction to a fascinating and rare mammal, the Pangolin.

Everyone is invited to partici-

pate and classes are free. Registration is required and some of the classes are limited in size. You can see the whole array of Pop Up University classes and register at www.westonpopuniversity.org.

Deb Granquist, one of the organizers, said, “This is our version of March Madness. We’re virtual this year, but hope to be back in person next year. In the meantime, this is a great chance to go online, learn new things, and have some fun!”

ESBR kicks off Business Pledge Campaign

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Expeditionary School at Black River, formerly the Black River Independent School, is excited to announce the kick-off of its Business Pledge Campaign for the 2021-2022 school year. This year’s pledge campaign is titled, “Pathways to Possibilities: Support ESBR Year 2.”

“Pathways to Possibilities” embodies the vision and mission of the school;

working collaboratively with business leaders, community organizations, and educators, students will graduate with a profound appreciation for the world they live in, how they can positively impact their communities, and an informed understanding of 21st century career opportunities.

Kendra Rickerby, Head of School, shared this observation: “When we collaborate with an instructor from Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences, we go for a hike. Watching students unplug, take out their clipboard, and write with a pencil about the natural light coming through the trees, and then hearing them discuss their concerns regarding pollution, is a reminder of why these connections with real-world issues will always be at the core of what we do.”

The Expeditionary School at Black River plans to expand enrollment from 16 to 30 students next year. The school intends to raise funds to cover all its costs of operation through a combi-

nation of grants, community pledges, donations, fundraising events, and tuition.

To kick off the campaign, our first pledge comes from local real estate agency, Mary W. Davis Realtors. They have pledged \$5,500 and become our first Groundbreaker contributor.

Pat Pullinen, chairman of the Board of ESBR, further added, “We know that building a quality 21st-century educational experience that prepares area students for their future is a journey. We are excited to continue on our journey into a second year and beyond. We are grateful to Mary W. Davis for their support and hopeful many other area businesses will participate in the campaign.”

The goal of the Business Pledge Campaign is to raise \$150,000, which will provide full scholarships for 10 students based on merit and need.

ESBR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible. Please visit www.blackriveris.org/fund2021 to make your pledge.

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- Ensure we are applying for all applicable grants, increased board transparency
- Collaboration between town and school district

SUMMARY: Improvements to the infrastructure and working with the schools as a community will assist in development resulting in an increased grand list, aid in tax stabilization and long term economic vitality of Springfield, VT.

Grief support group via Zoom

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Brattleboro Area Hospice announces a new Grief Support Group for anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one. Limited to eight people and will take place on Zoom on Mondays, from 10-11 a.m., starting March 1, 2021. To register for the group, please contact Lars Hunter at 802-257-0775 ext. 104 or lars.hunter@brattleborohospice.org.

CCV announces Fall 2020 honors lists

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The following student at the Community College of Vermont were named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List: Casey Richardson, Chester. This honor recognizes full-time students with a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.99.

The following students at the Community College of Vermont were named to the Fall 2020 Student Honors List: Susan Labarge, Chester; Kamryn Ravlin, Chester. This honor recognizes part-time students with a 4.0 grade point average.

CCV is Vermont’s second-largest college, serving over 10,000 students each year. With 12 locations and extensive online learning options, our students don’t have to travel far from their communities to access our degree and certificate programs, workforce, secondary and continuing education opportunities, and academic and veterans support services.

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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

Town Meetin'

Here are select minutes from 1870s Chester Town Meetings. For our upcoming book, "History of Chester's Fire Departments" we will include these and other relevant minutes. This article existed in one form or another for several years. I think readers will find it interesting. Fire District #2 is Yo-Semite Engine Hall.

Town Meeting March 23, 1873

Article 4: "To see if the town will vote to authorize and instruct the selectmen to draw on the Town Treasury for the amount not to exceed \$1500. As the town may vote payable to the treasurer of Fire District #2 for the purpose defraying a portion of the expense said district has incurred in the purchase of a Fire Engine and other apparatus for the extinguishment of fires. Voted to dismiss the article."

Town Meeting March 5, 1878

Article 10: "To see if the town will vote to raise \$800. Or any other sum of money for the purpose of Assisting Fire District #2 in said Chester in building an Engine House. Voted to dismiss."

Town Meeting March 25, 1878

"To see if the town will vote to pay Fire District #2 any part of the expense of erecting their Engine House. Or be paid when engine house is completed. Voted to dismiss the article."

The following article I found in Mary Harris's scrapbook. This tragic story, while not a structure fire, will be included in our upcoming book. This occurred near Bailey's Mills, north of Kim Kendall.

Mary Harris' scrapbook May 1, 1908

"The town was horrified over the terrible accident which caused the death of Mrs. Davis Burke the past week. Mrs. Burke who was living for some time with her sister, Miss Marcia Bailey on the Bailey farm two miles north of the town, was raking leaves Friday noon out in the yard behind the barn and un-

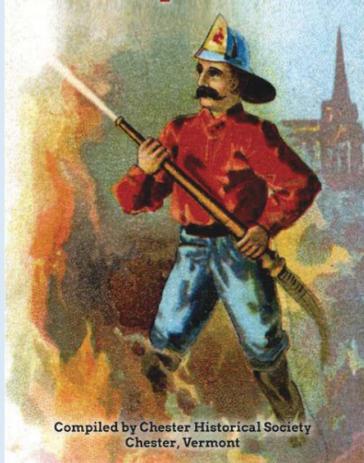
known to her, her sister decided to burn them. The fire ran along the dry grass towards the barn and fearing the building would catch, Mrs. Burke turned to the house for water to stop the fire.

"When near the shed which opens into the kitchen, she discovered that the back of clothing was ablaze. Running into the shed she sat down in the tub, which was used to catch the running water, but this only served to drive the flames toward the front. She then ran into kitchen and took the dipper and returning to the tub tried to throw water upon herself. Her sister who was visiting a neighbor Mrs. Bernice Earle in the front of the house heard the dipper rattle in sink and at the same time Mrs. Earle thought she heard Mrs. Burke call 'Marcia.'

"They hurried into the kitchen to find it full of smoke and Mrs. Burke at the door with her clothing all burned off except for her shoes and part of her corsets. The flesh was burned that it fell away from her. In spite of the intense suffering her first thought was for the fire which was creeping toward the barn and Mrs. Earle hurried out to call help for that which Miss Bailey was telephoning for the Doctor, Mrs. Burke walked up the stairs and removed what was left of her corsets and put on a wrapper.

"Dr. Havens dressed her burns as well as he could but the back and lower part of her body was literally cooked and not until the next day when he assisted by Dr. Ray made a more thorough examination did they realize how terrible she was burned.

History of Chester's Fire Departments



Compiled by Chester Historical Society, Chester, Vermont

"History of Chester's Fire Departments." PHOTO PROVIDED

"Her suffering for the first twenty-four hours was beyond description as she was conscious all the time and realizing everything. Her death which occurred at midnight Saturday was merciful. Mrs. Burke was fifty-eight years old a daughter of Mrs. Willard, Bailey's Mills who [died] last winter. She was a widow of the late Theron Davis and leaves one daughter Allie Davis now Mrs. Waldo Stevens. She later married Mr. Sidney Burke who had one daughter Abbie Burke a schoolgirl who Mrs. Burke has been a devoted stepmother and three sons, Aden, Sidney, and Fred Burke. Mr. Burke died several years ago. Much sympathy is expressed for the relatives, for the shock of the terrible death will be long felt. The funeral was held in the Congregational church Tuesday at two o'clock, the pastor Rev. H. I. Ballou officiated assisted by Rev. I. P. Booth of the Universalist church."

This week's old saying is from Don Webster: "I never have had an original thought."

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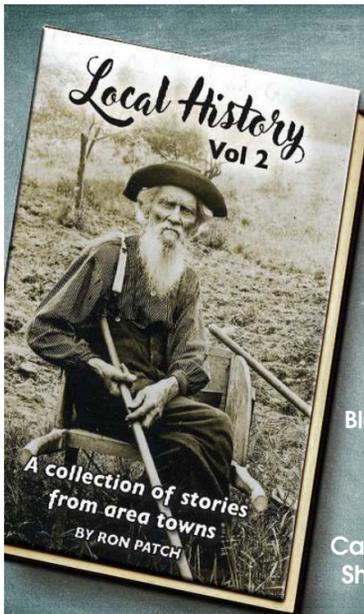
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Planet Axis' film featured on Vermont PBS

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Planet Axis is proud to announce that VT PBS will be airing their film about Vermont's community resiliency through the initial wave of Covid-19. "Community Through Crisis: a Vermont story" is the first documentary about Vermont's unified response to the pandemic, as told through the eyes of 10 small businesses. The film will premiere on VT PBS' Made Here series Feb. 25, 2021 at 8 p.m.

"Watching Vermonters shift and put people before profit, we knew we could adapt too, while doing what we do best," said Stefan Beaumont, Planet Axis' Head of Production and

Director of Photography at Red Vault Productions. "We kept our cameras rolling when the world stopped and knew there would be an uplifting story in the end."

"Safety was our main concern. Could we do this? How do we do this?" Wendy E. Reynolds, president of Planet Axis, questioned. "We enacted new protocol so we could provide this empowering story of unity that was happening in our backyard. We were helping the way we could. Vermont has been a leader through this pandemic and its story needs to be told."

Featuring businesses from across the state such as Magic

Mountain, Vermont Glove, Shift Meals, and Salvation Farms, the film premiered through three separate "virtual events" in late October and early November, boasting over 8,500 organic views.

VT PBS will air the film both on local channels and online via the Made Here series. The film has also won two awards in national film festivals and has been accepted for review in several others. This short documentary is presented in part by Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development.

View teasers on Planet Axis's YouTube channel or www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEI1zhmZgx8.

Open Wall Show at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Artists are invited to show their work at Gallery at the VAULT in our non-juried Open Wall Show. There is no fee. The theme for our next show is "Resilience." This is a great opportunity for artists who would like to get their work out there for the first time, as well as for seasoned artists.

Please bring work that is

framed and wired for hanging and acceptable for viewing by all ages. Artists can bring in two works if they are 18-by-20 inches or smaller, or one if it is larger. Sculpture, jewelry, pottery, and fiber art are welcome along with paintings and photography. Please bring in the artwork Wednesday, March 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.,

or Saturday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show will run from March 10 to May 5.

Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street in Springfield, is open Wednesday and Saturday, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Friday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org. We are handicap accessible.

Springfield Family Eyecare announces ownership

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – We are pleased to announce new ownership of the optometry practice at 2 Summer St. in downtown Springfield. Dr. Mercedes Smith is honored to be taking over for the retiring Dr. John C. Duff. Dr. Smith is committed to providing outstanding eye care to the Springfield community.

Dr. Smith is a graduate of Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia and has been recognized for clinical excellence in primary care during her rotations at the Eye Institute and its affiliated patient care sites. Dr. Smith will be

joined by her husband, Shawn Smith, in his role as business manager. Shawn received his Master of Business Administration with a concentration in healthcare from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Completing the team is their patient care associate, Stephanie Crosby, who has been with Dr. Duff's practice for five years and will continue to pro-

vide excellent customer service to their patients as well as their new patient care associate, Nancy Anderson.

With the change in ownership, the practice will have a new name, Springfield Family Eyecare. On behalf of all of us at Springfield Family Eyecare, we are honored to continue to serve the residents of Springfield and Windsor County.

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OBITUARIES

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank you, Ludlow friends and neighbors, for your thoughtfulness in voting for our property taxes to have been abated these three years. This is not a year of us "asking you." It is a year of us "Thanking You." We are a small 501(c)(3) nonprofit skilled nursing home and have been caring for members of Ludlow and the surrounding communities now for 125 years, beginning in 1896.

I want to tell you that during this trying year of the pandemic we

have remained Covid-19 free. We are very proud of that. With that accomplishment though comes the burden of separation of our residents from their loved ones. Both the residents and their families have been more than patient this year with our very strict visiting rules, which take place six feet apart and while wearing masks. We also have visits that take place with a door between, the advantage being a mask isn't needed. This allows the resident to see the smiling

faces of their loved ones. Neither is ideal but makes visiting possible.

We have recently made our own version of the "Hugging Wall" that you may have seen online or television. It is a plastic sheet on a tall frame, with holes through it. The visitor wears gloves sealed in the holes, allowing them to reach to the resident and hold their hand or hug them. The resident also has the same ability to reach to their loved one. An embrace goes a long way.

The staff, residents, and Board

Members want to say, "Thank you to our community," and also to our many donors who have helped us be at the forefront of providing great care to our seniors. We appreciate all of your help!

Yours in friendship, love, and truth,
Theresa Southworth, administrator
Gill Odd Fellows Home
Ludlow, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The Alstead, N.H. Fire Department has recognized a unique opportunity to acquire a fully equipped side-by-side fire and rescue unit. By using bulk pricing, sales, and last year models, a package worth over \$33,000 has been made available to the town for \$28,000. The Alstead Volunteer Firefighters Association has raised just over \$18,500 through pledged gifts, a raffle, and solicited donations. We are asking the town to provide the final \$9,500 from its capital reserve fund to procure this

package while it is still available and without the need for any new tax dollars.

These units are becoming the norm for fire departments to own and operate. Much like the JAWS of life 30 years ago, departments are realizing the many benefits of having these units in town ready to go in order to save valuable time when it comes to stopping the spread of fire or performing a rescue in areas that ambulances cannot access. This unit will be fully equipped to perform both fire and all-season

rescue unlike any other in the area at the cost pennies on the dollar to the town. Like all of Alstead's fire apparatus, this unit will also be made available to the surrounding communities through the mutual aid system.

This unit will also help to lower liability, as it will take the place in many cases of relying on volunteer firefighters to carry 40 pounds of water or 250-pound victims over rugged terrain. Anyone familiar with volunteer departments will understand that not all their mem-

bers meet the requirements of being on a traditional firefighters' calendar. The Alstead volunteers have done an amazing job raising over two-thirds the funds needed for this and are asking for the town's support March 9 to complete this purchase.

Additional information can be found on the Alstead Fire and Rescue Facebook page.

Sincerely,
Alstead Fire and Rescue
Alstead, N.H.

Dear Editor,

Anyone watching the network news lately or following the mainstream media would think that Adolph Hitler, the entire Nazi army, and a legion of Civil War Reconstruction Klansmen had risen from the dead and invaded the United States. I have never seen so much outlandish hysteria perpetrated by the media in my entire life.

In trying to gain some semblance of perspective in all this madness, I was compelled to do some research on the subject of hate groups in the United States. This is what I found.

There may be 200-1,200 neo-Nazi

members in 32 different states. The largest neo-Nazi group in the U.S. is the National Socialist Movement, which is estimated to have 400 members. Regarding the Ku Klux Klan, the Wikipedia entry states the KKK has "between 5,000 and 8,000 members nationwide." In the 1920s, the KKK included about 15% of the nation's population, or about 4-5 million men.

Today the U.S. is a nation of 323.1 million people. In our republic, if the experts are to be trusted, there exists an estimated 9,200 philosophically committed militant rac-

ists. This is 0.000028% of our population.

In the last century the hearts and minds of an overwhelming majority of Americans have undergone a massive, positive paradigm shift in how we view one another. This is the good news. The bad news is how sad it is to see so many good citizens buying into the media narrative that anyone who has an opposing view on political or economic issues is somehow a Nazi, a bigot, a racist, or a white supremacist.

I have my own solution to put out the raging fire that the media con-

tinues to pour gas on. I am shutting off my television and turning off the computer. I am going to call my black friends, my white friends, my Indian friends, my conservative friends, and my liberal friends, and tell them how much I love them - not because of their color or political views, but for simply being good friends. It is a small act. One has to start somewhere.

Sincerely,
Stuart Lindberg
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

My first meeting with constituents was Saturday, Feb. 6. I must say it was one of the most fun hours I have spent in my first four weeks as a legislator! Fourteen people were in the Zoom room and our conversation was moderated by my legislative aide Alexis Drown.

People attended from Athens, Brookline, Grafton, and Rockingham. The advantage of Zoom, of course, was that no one had to drive on a Saturday morning - although, we did take a brief moment to imagine that we were at Moon Dog Cafe, MKT, or one of our libraries. I am really looking forward to a time, likely in the summer, when we all have had our immunizations and can start reconnecting in person. It will be interesting to see how we can combine the best of Zoom with the best of being together.

We reviewed the status of legislation introduced this session. Of

the over 200 bills introduced so far, only a small percentage will actually be acted upon. We discussed the bills that I have signed onto, including H.94, the Transportation Modernization Act aimed at reducing CO2 emissions from the Vermont transportation sector - 44% of greenhouse gas emissions come from this sector, the worst in New England. I am also supporting H.171, an act that expands eligibility and funding for our early education childcare system. Covid-19 has shown us how important early childhood education is to our children, our families, and our economy.

We reviewed bills that are being evaluated in Health Care, the committee I serve on. The major one is reimbursing clinicians for telephone visits at the same rate as in-person visits once the pandemic has passed. This is a complicated

question, which takes into account broadband access, transportation in rural areas, and health equity. For those who want to learn more, the Legislative website is an excellent resource for any and all bills moving through the 14 committees of the House.

We discussed how I can help constituents gain access to state government and to my colleagues in the House who are experts in their specific committee's subject matter. If you or someone you know has an issue or a question, please contact me at goldman@leg.state.vt.us or call 802-869-2989.

The major part of our hour was spent discussing questions from constituents, which ranged from affordable housing to weatherization to problems with teacher pensions. The conversation was interesting, lively, and really helpful to me in understanding people's

concerns. One topic that came up was "crossover" which is an important time for legislation moving between the House and Senate. We will discuss this topic at our next meeting as well as address questions submitted on my website. Also, we will continue our conversation about issues and will explore questions that arise at the meeting.

Thanks to those who could make it on Saturday! Our next constituent meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10 to 11 a.m., via Zoom. Please go to my website, www.LeslieGoldmanVT.com, to register for our next Zoom conversation, and to sign up to receive my newsletter.

Sincerely,
Leslie Goldman
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Ryan J. Smith, 1981-2021

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Ryan J. Smith passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021. Ryan was born April 1, 1981 in Springfield, Vt., to Patricia and Gary Smith. He attended Chester, Vt. schools and graduated from Green Mountain High School in 1999.

Ryan was an artistically gifted person with extreme passions who pushed all life's limits. He was loved by all who knew him for his kind heart and true generous nature. Ryan loved the great outdoors and was an avid fisherman. He was an active person who was very skilled athletically with baseball and snowboarding being his true passions. Ryan was successful at many things in life, but his greatest and most proud accomplishments were the birth of his three children, all of whom he held near and dear to his heart. He always boasted about them to anyone who would listen.

Ryan is survived by his chil-



Ryan J. Smith, 1981-2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

dren Ryley, Ayden, and Jocelynn Smith; his father and mother Gary and Patricia Smith; two sisters Kristie Woods and Erin Fontaine; his brother Roger Paradis; and eight nieces and nephews Tristin, Whitney, Madeline, Briana, Shayla, Tanner, Josh, and Samuel.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Nancy M. Stone Shepard, 1926-2021

WALPOLE, N.H. - Nancy Morgan Stone Shepard, 94, passed away peacefully at her home in Walpole Feb. 7, 2021. Nancy was a world traveler who ended up calling Walpole home after moving to Smoke Rise Farm, the family farm, in 1994.

Nancy was born Aug. 28, 1926, in New Haven, Conn., the daughter of Laurence and Aletha (Knapp) Stone. Most of her childhood was spent in Madison, Conn., along the Connecticut Sound while spending time at the farm in Walpole. After graduating from Prospect Hill School in New Haven, she set out for fame and fortune in the bright lights of New York City where she graduated from the Tobe Coburn School of Design. She proudly remembered living in Greenwich Village during the '50s and '60s when a fourth floor, cold water, walk-up flat could be rented for less than \$100 per month.

It was while working for Webb and Knapp, a real estate development firm in Manhattan, that she met the love of her life, Robert Shepard, a Swiss-born developer and fellow global traveler. Together, they spent time traveling around the U.S. and Europe. Avid sailors, they cruised up and down the East Coast on their sailboat, En Rapport, including when Bob participated in a trans-Atlantic race that ended at the Isle of Wright off the coast of England where they spent a summer enjoying the tropical paradise.

In 1960, they bought an orange grove on the outskirts of Miami where they spent several years raising oranges and battling the bugs and the humidity. They spent a year abroad in Bangkok, Thailand, as part of a business exchange program where Nancy taught English and learned to eat spicy Thai food. After traveling around the globe, they finally settled on an overgrown

farm on Maryland's eastern shore, which they restored into a gracious home overlooking the Little Choptank River. Bob's unexpected death in 1979 shook her world and Nancy eventually sold the farm and moved into a wonderfully formal house called "The Glenburn" in Cambridge, Md. She worked as a parole officer for the state of Maryland until she got fed up with the bugs and humidity, moving to Walpole in 1994.

On her arrival at Smoke Rise Farm, she attacked the property with her usual exuberance, transforming the old farmhouse into an elegant residence and restoring the woodshed and barn. Her gardens prospered in the rich farm soil; she grew beautiful peonies, daffodils, and tulips. She was active in the Old Homestead and Monadnock Garden Clubs, was an award-winning floral designer and Judge Emeritus for the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont. She was also a regular exhibitor at the Boston Flower Show and Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. In Walpole, she was active with the Friends of the Library and Women of Walpole.

Nancy is survived by her two sisters, Aletha C. Spang of New Jersey and Betsy S. Johnson of Ohio; as well as a multitude of beloved nieces and nephews and their families as well as many cherished friends around the Monadnock region and beyond.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, service arrangements are still being planned. Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt., will be assisting with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please consider giving a donation to the Walpole Town Library, a beloved institution that fed her voracious reading habit.

Nancy's style, grace, and wit will be sorely missed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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 June honoree
- 4 Say it's so
- 8 Pretzel topper
- 12 Past
- 13 Travel permit
- 14 Done with
- 15 Brock of baseball
- 16 Alaskan city
- 18 Heron's kin
- 20 Army address
- 21 Dalai -
- 24 Slow, in music
- 28 Right to vote
- 32 Cash advance
- 33 201, in old Rome
- 34 Heat to near boiling
- 36 GOP org.
- 37 Priestly vestments
- 39 Cheap ride section
- 41 "Yum!"
- 43 Novelist Hunter
- 44 Steal from
- 46 Cowboy's workplace
- 50 Spur on
- 55 Tic-tac-toe win
- 56 Nerd's kin
- 57 Hostels
- 58 Hooting bird
- 59 Big wind

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DOWN

- 1 Valley
- 2 Awestruck
- 3 Gloomy
- 4 Online images
- 5 Sportscaster
- 6 Computer key
- 7 Stadium
- 8 Reddish-brown horse
- 9 "Selma"
- 10 Table support
- 11 Three, in Rome
- 17 Texas tea
- 19 Sprite
- 22 PC alternatives
- 23 Marble type
- 25 Asta's feeder
- 26 Tart flavor
- 27 As soon as
- 28 "Shoo!"
- 29 Bruins' sch.
- 30 Little lies
- 31 Mountain ht.
- 35 Most loved
- 38 Painter's motion
- 40 Genetic letters
- 42 Thee
- 45 Telly watcher
- 47 Cranny
- 48 Batman's hood
- 49 Actress
- 50 Celeste
- 50 Early bird?
- 51 PBS funder
- 52 Cartoon frame
- 53 Yucatan year
- 54 Wildebeest

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obituaries

Margaret E. Cheshire, 1943-2021

WINHALL, Vt. – Margaret Elizabeth Cheshire, 78, passed away at home in Vermont Feb. 17, 2021 after a long and courageous battle with colon cancer. She was born June 10, 1943 in Huntington, N.Y., to Charles and Charlotte Quinn. Peggie was the third of five children: Joe (Liz), Helen (predeceased 2008), Jamie (Louise), and Paul (Joan).

After her mother Charlotte passed away, Peggie and her siblings went to live with and were raised by their loving grandparents Dexter and Carrie Seymour. She shared many fond memories of her childhood at Seymour's Boatyard in Northport, N.Y.

In 1959, Peggie married Charles Cheshire II and they started a family. Peggie was a loving mother to Polly Adikes, Cheri Corazzini, Laura and Dean Gianotti, and Chuck Cheshire (predeceased 2015). She loved her grandchildren Dean, Hannah, Cole, Ruthie, Anthony (Julie), Melissa (Ed), Danielle (Tim), Gina (Justin), Jessica (Mike), Quinn, Evan, and great-grandchildren Timmy, Charlee, Kaylin, Aubrey, Ella, Everett, Jaxson, Matthew, and Brayden. She had many nieces and nephews and held a special place in her heart for Dawn Jackson and Robin Correia-Crisci.

Peggie lived life with a fierce-



Margaret E. Cheshire, 1943-2021.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ness and strength that lifted those around her. She found humor and light through the most trying of times and was a natural caregiver to many friends and family members throughout the years. She has left her mark on all she touched and will be missed dearly.

In lieu of flowers, Margaret's family ask that you consider donating to one of the following charities that were close to her heart: Winhall Stratton Community Food Shelf or Guatemala Service Projects, www.guatasp.org. To send the family personal condolences, please visit www.sheafuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted arrangements to the care of Brewster-Shea Funeral Home, 34 Park Place, Manchester Center, Vt.

Harland P. Rounds Jr., 1944-2021

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Harland P. Rounds Jr., 76, of Birch View Heights, died Feb. 6, 2021, at his home. He was born Sept. 15, 1944 in Bellows Falls, Vt., the son of Harland and Mildred (Hartwell) Rounds Sr.

Harland attended schools in Bellows Falls. He graduated high school in 1962. Harland worked as a truck driver in the local area for many years. He served in the Army National Guard and was a lifetime member of the NRA. He enjoyed traveling on motorcycles with friends, snowmobiling, and hunting.

On May 22, 1965, at the First

Congregational Church in Westminster, Vt., he married Cheryl Miller who survives. He is also survived by his daughter Orpha Reis; sons Orland and Owen Rounds; ten grandchildren Ryan, Corey, Cooper, Chapin, Katie, Caleb, Sawyer, Owen Jr., Rebekah, and Olivia; eight great-grandchildren Kendall, Isabella, Corey Jr., Joseph, Ryker, Abby, Liam, and Hudson; and one sister Janet Conley.

Services will be at the convenience of the family. Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt., will be assisting with the arrangements.

Louise Schiffmacher, 1931-2021

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Louise Schiffmacher passed away Feb. 9, 2021 at Elmwood Center in Claremont, N.H., after a period of declining health. She was born July 9, 1931, in Monsey, N.Y., to Clarence and Florence (Vanderleek) Blauvelt. Louise was married to the late Robert "Bob" Pelton for 25 years. They were parents of three children Susan Goding (Chris), Donald Pelton (Donna), and Ellen Pelton. She later married Richard T. Schiffmacher, who passed away Aug. 20, 2006, and was buried in the Pinecrest Cemetery in Charlestown, N.H., where Louise will be buried also.

They had 23 years together.

She is survived by her three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Louise was employed by Springfield Hospital for 14 years, then Sunapee Real Estate, and her last employment was with Sullivan County Developmental now named Living Hope Fellowship in Rockingham, Vt., Charlestown, N.H. Senior Citizens, and the Red Hats. Her hobbies were oil painting, sewing, and adult coloring.

Arrangements are private. Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt., will be assisting.

Elsie L. Sharon, 1931-2021

WINDHAM, Vt. – Elsie L. Sharon, 88, of Route 121, died Feb. 12, 2021 at Springfield Rivers Health and Rehab in Springfield, Vt. She was born July 16, 1931, in Plymouth, Vt., to Allen and Elsie (Kitchen) Wade. She graduated from Chester High School, Class of 1950.

She worked at the National Survey, was a cook at Charlestown Schools, White Mountain Converting, and Hubbard Farms. She was a member of

Industrial Grange in Andover, Vt., as well as the Vermont State and National Grange.

She is survived by a son Gary, and two daughters Darlene Kimball and Lisa Martell, eight grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews.

There will be a service at the convenience of the family. Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt., will be assisting with arrangements.

Charles P. Blais, 1936-2021

BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Charles P. Blais, 84, formerly of Rutland, died Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, after a brief illness. Charlie was married to his loving wife Jeannette Witalec for over 55 years. Charlie graduated in 1955 from Chester High School. After graduation, Charlie was an active member of the Army Reserves for over 15 years. He had strong roots in Ludlow serving as a special officer for the Ludlow Police Department, serving on the Ludlow Board of Trustees, and working for the Ludlow Ambulance Service. Charlie was employed by the Gear Shaper Company in Springfield for over 20 years prior to transitioning to General Electric where he retired in 2006 after 35 years of service.

After retirement, Charlie filled his free time with his vast array of hobbies. Charlie was passionate about his vegetable and flower gardens. He was most well known for sharing his plentiful bounty of prize-winning squash, eggplant, and tomatoes to every passerby. He loved cooking and eating, especially his favorite traditional Polish food, Pierogi. Jeannette always kept Charlie on his toes with a long honey-do list; but when asked, he would say he filled his time putting around the house looking for any project to keep him busy.

Charlie was predeceased by his parents, sisters Anne and Martha, and brother Arthur



Charles P. Blais, 1936-2021.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Blais.

Survivors include his wife Jeannette; brother Philip Blais of California; sister Eva Blais of Connecticut; brother-in-law John Witalec and wife Sylvia Witalec of Ludlow; son Michael Blais and his wife Maria Blais of Mount Holly, son Ronald Blais of Bridgewater, N.J.; six grandchildren Michele Burrington (Joseph Burrington), Melanie Blais McAtee (Michael McAtee), Megan Blais, Michael Blais, Garrett Blais, Brandon Blais; and three great-grandchildren Teegan, Mackenzie, and Martin.

No celebration of life will be held at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Rutland County Humane Society, which provided Jeannette with her second best friend. Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Rd., Pittsford, VT 05763.

Frederick M. Coonradt, 1943-2021

LUDLOW, Vt. – Frederick M. "Fritz" Coonradt, 86, passed away peacefully at his home in Ludlow Thursday morning, Feb. 18, 2021. He was born June 11, 1934 in Utica, N.Y., the son of Al and Barbara (Munger) Coonradt. He graduated from Andover Academy and later received a bachelor's degree from Princeton University.

On Dec. 20, 1979, he married Ila Mary Dillon in Ludlow, Vt. He owned and operated Sunshine Real Estate in Ludlow for many years. From 1976 to 1990, Fritz owned and operated the Vermont Outdoors Cross-Country Ski Shop in Ludlow and also Cross-Country Ski Trails in Plymouth, Vt. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoyed cross-country skiing, hiking, walking, and touring in the Ad-

irondacks.

He is survived by his wife Ila Mary Coonradt of Ludlow, stepdaughter Kelly Tarbell, step-grandchildren Cole and Eliza Tarbell, nephews Al Coonradt and Tim Coonradt, and niece Virginia Barthel. He was predeceased by his parents and a brother David Coonradt.

A private burial will be held in the Crown Hill Cemetery in New Hartford, N.Y. at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions may be made to Black River Senior Center Meals on Wheels Program, 10 High St., Ludlow, VT 05149 or to Bayada Hospice of Vermont, P.O. Box 8081, 1222 Putney Rd., Brattleboro, VT 05301.

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

Cyndi Frederick, 1954-2021

BROOKLINE, Vt. – Cyndi Frederick, 66, passed away unexpectedly at her home Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021. She was born July 26, 1954, the daughter of Carl and Nancy Warner.

Cyndi had a heart of gold, a love of many things, especially nature and family. She had many hobbies and talents. Cyndi is survived by her mother Nancy Warner of Bradenton, Fla.; brothers Carl Warner Jr. of Idaho, Bob Warner and wife Sue of Bradenton, Fla.; a sister to her heart Nancy Rodgers of Vermont; her children Trina Kinney and husband Mark of Tennessee, Shannon Unwin and husband Kenneth of Brookline, Vt.; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; several



Cyndi Frederick, 1954-2021.
PHOTO PROVIDED

nieces and nephews and many cousins. She was predeceased by her father Carl Warner and brother Joseph Warner.

Russell C. Benware, 1969-2021

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Russell C. Benware, 51, of 160 Parker Rd., died peacefully while taking a nap, Feb. 15, 2021, between noon and 6 p.m. He was born March 29, 1969, in Bellows Falls, Vt., the son of Theodore and Muriel (Gragen) Benware.

Russell attended schools in Bellows Falls, Vt. He worked at Burdick's, Vermont Apple, Fulflex, the Book Press, Whitney Blake, Brattleboro Reformer, and Joey Holton. Russell also worked as a logger most of his life in the local area. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, playing horseshoes, and racing. He loves animals and playing with all the kids on both side of family. He liked to help anyone in need and would give them

the shirt off of his back.

On March 30, 2006, in Westminster West, Vt., at his parents' home, he married Dawn Colberg, who has two boys Adam and Alex, and grandchildren Kaylee, Lilly, Kylee, Colton, who survive. Russell is also survived by his mother Muriel Benware; two brothers Tracy and Randy Benware; his sister Brenda Benware Sudarsky; his daughter Mikahla Sudarsky; his nephews Colt Benware, Luke, Jake; niece Kate Sudarsky; and his best friend and cousin Allisha Drury. He was predeceased by his father Theodore Benware; his father-in-law Ronald and JoAnn Colberg; and two best friends Eric Streeter and Wayne McKeown.

Maude Gabert, 1935-2021

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Maude (Rawson) Gabert, 85, passed away Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 at Springfield Rivers. She was born March 27, 1935 in South Londonderry, Vt., the daughter of Ethelbert and Cecil Mae (Capen) Rawson. She was a graduate of Green Mountain Union High School. On Nov. 12, 1955, she married Edmond R. Gabert Jr., in South Londonderry, and they were married nearly 51 years before his passing in 2006.

Maude was the storekeeper at the Vermont Country Store in Weston for 34 years, where she was well known for commanding the cheese wheel. She loved baking, entertaining, and having dinner parties. Maude was also very well known for her baked beans. She enjoyed playing Bingo and Pokeno. Maude was the sweetest lady and was loved by all who knew her.

Maude lived most of her adult life in Weston. She was one of original founders of the Weston Rec Club. She was a Justice of the Peace, a Cub Scout leader, plus she was on many local committees. In 2012, she sold her home in Weston and moved to Springfield to be closer to her sons. Maude's favorite thing about Springfield was she now had pizza delivery available to her.

She is survived by her sons,



Maude Gabert, 1935-2021.
PHOTO PROVIDED

John Gabert and Joel Gabert, both of Springfield; her four siblings Ralph Rawson and his wife Shannon of The Villages, Fla., Hugh Rawson of Merimack, N.H., Ruth LaFogg of Turners Falls, Mass., and Robert Rawson of Windham, Vt.; her grandson Logan Gabert of Andover, Vt.; two step-granddaughters Ivy Barboza of Concord, N.H. and Lily Hughes of Fairbanks, Alaska; three step-great-grandchildren Willow, Hendre, and Cassius; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Londonderry Rescue Squad or a charity of one's choice in Maude's name. Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

From the family of Colleen Fitzgerald

Colleen Fitzgerald's family thanks everyone who visited, called, or sent lovely messages of sympathy at the time of her death. It was very comforting to have such great memories shared. She will be remembered and missed by so many here, in England and Ireland.

Sincerely,
Howard and Jane Pixley and family



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sports news

AUTO/REAL ESTATE

THURSDAY, FEB. 25 –

Boys basketball –
Bellows Falls at Woodstock, 7 p.m.
Green Mountain at White River Valley, 7 p.m.
Leland & Gray at Rivendell, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Windsor, 7 p.m.

Leland & Gray at Rivendell, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Windsor, 7 p.m.
Stevens at Fall Mountain, 5 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 1 –

Girls basketball –
Green Mountain at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.
Leland & Gray at Springfield, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26 –

Boys basketball –
Stevens at Fall Mountain, 3:30 p.m.

Girls basketball –
Bellows Falls at Woodstock, 7 p.m.
Green Mountain at White River Valley, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2 –

Boys basketball –
Green Mountain at Long Trail, 5 p.m.
Mount St. Joseph at Springfield, 6 p.m.
Twin Valley at Bellows

Falls, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4 –

Girls basketball –
Bellows Falls at Poultney, 7 p.m.
Long Trail at Green Mountain, 5:30 p.m.
Springfield at Fair Haven, 7 p.m.

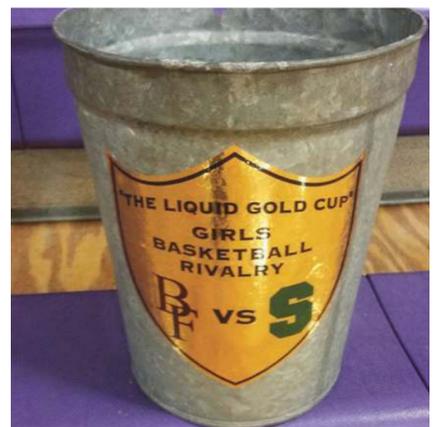
FRIDAY, MARCH 5 –

Boys basketball –
Bellows Falls at Mount Anthony, 7 p.m.
Fair Haven at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Leland & Gray at Poultney, 7 p.m.
West Rutland at Green Mountain, 7 p.m.

Bellows Falls brings home Liquid Gold Cup in 31-22 win in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Friday, Feb. 19, Bellows Falls Union High School's girls' basketball team traveled to rival Springfield Cosmos and returned home with The Liquid Gold Cup after a 31-22 win on the road. Sydney Bazin scored 16 points with Bre Stockman and Julia Nystrom contributing six points each.

According to Coach Todd Wells, even the pandemic couldn't keep down the Bellows Falls and Springfield rivalry. "It's been a great rivalry between the two towns ever since I can remember growing up, and every year we bring a little extra energy to playing Springfield." He adds, "I thought our defense was pretty good, and we did a good job at holding Springfield to no second chance shots."



The Liquid Gold Cup in the Bellows Falls and Springfield girls' basketball rivalry. PHOTO PROVIDED

Coaches selected for 2021 Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl

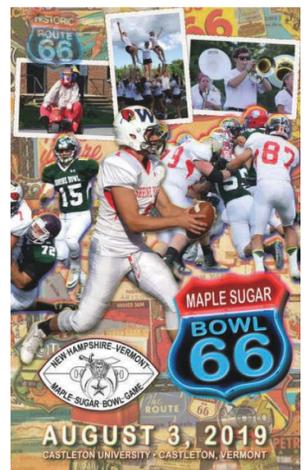
REGION – We are well into the first quarter of 2021, and we are anxiously awaiting positive news from the Vermont Department of Health to let us know if our classic football game will be allowed to take place in August. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 was devastating for everyone. Our 67th game was canceled for only the second time in the history of the

game. With the help of our alumni, advertising patrons, and players, we were still able to make a small donation to each of our three Shriner Hospitals for Children. We were able to recognize the selected 2020 players and presented them with their game jerseys, commemorative t-shirts, and jackets along with our game program that contained bios for each of them.

The Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl Board of Governors continues to plan for the 68th game with the expectations that we will be allowed to play. The Covid-19 vaccines have recently been released to the most vulnerable with plans for the general population by this spring and into the summer. As the number of new cases levels off and more vac-

inations are distributed, we remain optimistic that our football game can be played this summer. With this anticipation in mind, we are pleased to announce the two coaches for the 2021 game. Paul Landry of Kingswood Union High School will be the coach of the New Hampshire team and Chad Pacheco of Brattleboro Union High School will coach the Vermont team.

Coach Landry completed his second season at Kingswood this past year and has previous experience as an assistant coach under William Ball of Exeter dating back to 1997. Coach Landry played in the 1986 Shrine game, and his father, Ralph Landry, played in the 1958 game. Coach Landry states, "It certainly would be an honor to represent New Hampshire both as a coach and a player." Further, he says his experience as a player "was nothing short of inspirational." In remembering his trip to the Shriner Hospital for Children in Springfield, Mass., he was



Coaches selected for the Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl. PHOTO PROVIDED

touching by seeing the children and uplifted by the medical staff. He adds that the hard work put in by the team's preparation for the game seemed trivial to the hard work of the Shrine organization. Of his experience, he goes on to say, "It truly was a humbling and inspirational experience."

Coach Pacheco has been the head coach at Brattleboro since 2015 where he also was an assistant coach from 2005-2014. During this time, he coached every position group at least one time. In 2019, he led Brattleboro to its first state championship in 46 years. He has been the assistant coach multiple times in the Vermont North/South All-Star Game and was the head coach in 2019.

Coach Pacheco says the opportunity to help raise money to give to children in need during difficult times is a true honor. This game has had a huge impact on the children and their families, and he looks forward to continuing that tradition. He states, "I feel honored for the opportunity to coach this team and be a part of the long-standing tradition of the Maple Sugar Bowl."

Player nominations from this past fall have been received, and the two coaching staffs will be working to select players over the next few weeks. The Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl Board of Governors continues to monitor the health and safety guidelines from both New Hampshire and Vermont and is communicating with Castleton University where the training camp and the game will be held. More information will be released as we learn the status of Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on this summer's game. To learn more or make a donation, go to www.shrinemaplesugarbowl.com.

Written by Kristi C. Morris, General Chairman.

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Muse & Associates REAL ESTATE

Lori Muse, Broker/Owner
Carol Cole, REALTOR

Cottage with acreage! This property has much to offer. The cottage offers a rustic interior with open concept living space, 2 bedrooms plus a loft area and a front porch. The 26+/- acres is mostly wooded and could potentially be subdivided. Located in Weathersfield a short distance to paved roads, close to trails and recreation. **\$220,000**

Configure this property to your liking. This property can easily be a three unit with Three one bedroom units or as two units with a one bedroom first floor a two bedroom townhouse. Located near the Chester Depot with the Williams River to the rear, this property is within walking distance to all the local amenities. Easy care with metal roof, vinyl siding, laminate and low pile carpet. Newer propane heating system services the entire property, electric is split out between the units, town water/sewer, shed for storage. **\$167,000**

A perfect retreat. This 70+/- acre property has much to offer with a mix of open and wooded land, pond, local hillside views and privacy. Backed up to Hawks Mountain for hiking. The home offers open concept living space with vaulted ceilings and lots of woodwork, two bedrooms (each with doors to the back deck, a beautiful bright/sunny bath, three bays of parking under for storage with laundry room and mudroom/entry. **JUST REDUCED AGAIN TO \$299,900**

Rural Living with all the extras. This three bedroom contemporary offers two floors of living space with walk-in first floor entry with 2+ car garage, mudroom, family room with woodstove, den and 3/4 bath. The upgraded main floor offers a bright, functional kitchen with island and wine fridge, open concept to the dining/living area, master bedroom with walk in closet and bath, office, two more bedrooms and a laundry/bath. Outside offers a new deck, patio, screened porch with hot tub, 4+/- acres with woods, garden space, mini apple grove and a shed for storage. **\$329,000**

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2015 Ford Fusion SE 4 Cylinder Auto Leather	2013 Volkswagen Routan SE Auto Leather 7 Passenger
2013 Dodge Dart 4 Cylinder Auto	2016 Jeep Compass Sport AWD Auto 4 Cylinder

\$20 Offer Expires 02/28/21
Oil Change up to 5-quarts
Doesn't Include Synthetic Oil

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Chester, \$1,499,000

Stately Village Gem Near Skiing!
Single Family Home or Rent 2nd Floor, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
Townshend, \$299,000

Picturesque Lot w/Stunning View!
Perfect For Dream Home
5+/- Acres, Open Fields & Forest
Chester, \$149,000

1800's Brick Cape
Breathtaking Views of The Falls
3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath
Weatherfield, \$125,000

Single Level Living
Large Two Bay Garage
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath
Chester, \$125,000

Chalet Camp On 5.6+/- Acres
Open Concept Living w/Balcony
4 Bedroom, 1 Bath
Reading, \$89,000

3.78 +/- Acres w/ Mobile Home
Ideal Sites To Build Your Dream Home!
Chester, \$85,000

Beautiful, Wooded 5.23+/- Acres
Partially Cleared & Potential For Multiple Lots
Springfield, \$30,000

Open 1.25+/- Acres
Ready For A New Home
Springfield, \$28,000

GRAFTON 802-843-2390
CHESTER 802-875-2323
SPRINGFIELD 802-885-8282
NEWFANE 802-365-4311

HELP WANTED

classifieds

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper Money, Vintage Sports-Postcards, Comics. See our displays at Chester Stone House Antiques. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available. (03/30)

GUNS WANTED

REGION – Guns wanted. Hand-guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213. (03/23)

HELP WANTED

Mason/Tenders wanted. Pay based on experience. Contact Moore Masonry at 802-824-5710 or email mooremasonry802@gmail.com. (03/23)

LUDLOW, Vt. – Full time, year round Thrift Store Clerk. Some Saturdays required. Paid vacation, paid holidays, dental available. To apply, stop by 37B, Main St., Ludlow or visit our website at www.brngn.org. (03/09)

FOR RENT

LUDLOW, Vt. – Great office space in the village of Ludlow, 2 blocks from town, was an engineering office. 2,500 sq. ft. 2 baths, 2 stories, lots of off street parking, utilities included, plowed and sanded by landlord. \$1500/month. 802-226-7494. (03/16)

FOR SALE

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – 2 snowmobiles on trailers. Arctic Cat F7 & Sabercat 500, older with reverse, studs, mirrors, low mileage, loadrite trailer, all registered and serviced regularly. All for \$10,000. Call 802-226-7494. (03/16)

blowers. Local pick up available. Call for more information 802-228-8768. (03/02)

rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313. (03/09)

system and installation. Contact New England Outdoor Furnaces at 603-863-8818. (TFN)

SNOW PLOWING

LUDLOW, Vt. – Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable

WOOD BOILERS

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TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Town of Rockingham, Vermont is advertising positions for the Planning Commission and Development Review Board. The Planning Commission is rewriting the Town Plan and updating the town's land use regulations. The Development Review Board reviews and permits development and land subdivision. Rockingham residents interested in serving must forward a letter of interest to the Town Planner, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or planning@rockbf.org, no later than March 12, 2021. Please indicate if you wish to serve on the Planning Commission or the Development Review Board. New volunteers will start March or April 2021.

Posted February 10, 2021

River Valley Technical Center Immediate Opening Health Sciences Instructor

The Health Careers Program offers a Level I and Level II curriculum that teaches high school junior and senior students entry-level skills and practices required in several health related career areas, and/or entry into post-secondary programs. The successful candidate will be responsible for designing and teaching a curriculum that is heavily centered in science and meets the needs of multiple learning styles. This program includes LNA training and dual enrollment with the River Valley Community College. Current Vermont RN license required with a minimum of two years experience in long term care. Experience working with adolescents is preferred but not required.

Contact Scott D. Farr, Superintendent/Director at (802) 885-8301 or sfarr@rvtc.org or apply on SchoolSpring.com Job ID#3436008.

Job Openings:

LNA - FULLTIME
1st and 2nd shift
RN - FULLTIME
jreichert@gofhvt.net
DIETARY COOK/AIDE - PT or FT
cbowen@gofhvt.net

Gill Odd Fellows Home
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Ludlow, Vermont
EOE

Select Board Administrative Assistant Needed

Part time position assisting the Town of Mount Holly Select Board with day-to-day operations to include: reviewing and responding to mail, email, phone calls; reviewing and preparing invoices and staff time sheets for payment; preparing and posting meeting agendas and minutes; posting notices; researching issues and grant opportunities; maintaining files and documents. Flexible weekdays and hours, 10-15 hours per week. Proficiency with computers and Microsoft Word, Excel and email required. Compensation dependent upon experience. Additional information at: mounthollyvt.org/announcements-bulletin-board/appointments-openings/

Please send resume to Town of Mount Holly Select Board, PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758 or email to mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com
Resumes will be accepted until position is filled.
The Town of Mount Holly is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

featured pet



Connor is a 6-7-year-old kitty that is very shy but is making strides daily. He loves treats, bum scratches, and chin scratches. Connor is FIV-positive and will need to be an indoor-only cat. His ideal environment would be quiet and calm, and one that will give him all the love and time to settle.

Connor's adoption fee has been covered by a kind donor. Do you think that you can give Connor the home that he deserves? For more information on Connor or his FIV condition, please call

802-885-3997. If you would like to adopt Connor, go to www.spfldhumane.org and fill out an application. Vermont residents only.

Springfield Humane Society
401 Skitchewaung Trail, Springfield, Vt.
802-885-3997
www.spfldhumane.org

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ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

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

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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art crafts gifts

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Vermont State Craft Center, Open Wed. & Sat. 11-5, Fri. 11-7
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New Exhibit - Heart Beat. A Walk in the Forest, a show of works by Charles Norris-Brown

Facebook live talk about the artworks on Friday, Feb. 26 at 3:00 pm

Curvature Exhibit by Jamie Townsend

Keep in touch with beautiful artist cards & postcards - 10% off. Free Card Craft Kits for all ages to take, make, and send.

Journey Collage Class with Angie Follensbee-Hall, Feb. 21 1-3 Live streamed via ZOOM \$20. Create a simple collage and mixed media picture that tells a story about someone or something that has meaning in your life. Ages 7 to adult. Materials list will be provided.

Shop online www.galleryvault.org
Curbside available 802-885-7111 galleryvault@vermontel.net
(05/11/21 - TFN - 13)

bakery

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builders/contractors

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(03/16/21 - 13)

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Looking for more meaning in your life? Learn the basics of Christianity by checking-out our beginner series, A Change of Mind. Interested in the correct teaching of End Times prophecy? Then check-out our comprehensive The Last Days series. Go to the Ebooks section at www.teaching-faith.com for those and many more e-books to help you stretch your mind, body, and soul. Everything at the site is freely available for your use! (05/25/21 - 13)

forest management

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY CONSULTANTS, INC.

We offer a full range of forestry services from UVA management plans & timber sale administration to trail building & wildlife habitat improvement. Contact Ryan C. Gumbart at rgumbart@cforesters.com. (05/18/21 - 13)

home improvement

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We are **fully insured, reliable, and priced right**. Like us on Facebook and Reach Out Today to secure your spot! Phone, text, or email: 802-289-1968, greenbeelawns@gmail.com. (07/13/21 - 26)

property management

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

NOTICE OF SALE

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Ludlow, in the County of Windsor are hereby notified that the taxes and/or water and sewer taxes assessed by such Town for the years indicated are, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

- **132 Ranta Road, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Being a portion of the same lands and premises deeded by the Final Decree of Distribution in Re: The Estate of Gwendolyn J. Debish, Ronald J. Theissen, Administrator to John Debick by deed dated January 5, 2012 and recorded in Book 357 at Page 310 of the Ludlow Town Land Records, consisting of a building and 8.9 acres, more or less, of land located at 132 Ranta Road, Ludlow, Vermont.
- **321 Route 103 South, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2019-2020. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Mervin L. Wilkinson and Kathryn A. Wilkinson to Kiran Patel, a/k/a Kiran Kumarn Patel by deed dated August 1, 2005 and recorded in Book 290 at Page 223 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.
- **13 Lovejoy Brook Road, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Dayle M. Brown to Baja M. Ray and Theodore L. Brown, III by deed dated October 15, 2009 and recorded in Book 336 at Page 257 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.
- **61 Rimrock Road, Unit 11A, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2019-2020. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Christine S. Shaw to Andrew R. Shaw by deed dated August 3, 2005 and recorded in Book 292 at Page 147 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.
- **62 Andover Street, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2019-2020. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Joseph E. Sutowski by deed dated December 27, 1982 and recorded in Book 80 at Page 598 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at Ludlow Town Office, second floor, a public place in such Town, on the 18th day of March, 2021 at Ten O'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

You have the right to request in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the tax sale date set forth above, that only a portion of the property be sold to satisfy the delinquent tax bill. Should you wish to proceed with this request, you must follow the procedure set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 5254; clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold, and include a certification from the Act 250 district coordinator and the town zoning administrator that the portion identified may be legally subdivided.

If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. § 1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of the property taxes, interest and collection fees you owe to the town. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply for an abatement, you must write to Ulla Cook, Town Clerk, P. O. Box 307, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Dated at Ludlow, County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 9th day of February, 2021.

/s/ Scott Murphy
Scott Murphy, Collector of Town and Town School District Taxes, Town Water and Sewer Taxes

FEB. 25 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tune in Feb. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m., as Black River Action Team Director Kelly Stettner shares her experiences with “benthic macroinvertebrates,” the very small critters living on the bottom of our streams and rivers. Students of all ages are very welcome. Registration is free at www.bit.ly/2MzWrtQ. For more information or questions, contact Kelly Stettner at blackrivercleanup@gmail.com or www.mewe.com/join/blackriveractionteam.

MARCH 4 –
WHITE RIVER JCT., Vt. – On March 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., there will be a four-session virtual workshop on “Local Investment 101: How to Reboot the Region’s Economy after Covid-19” with Michael Shuman, community economist and author of “Put Your Money Where Your Life Is.” Scholarships are available upon request. Contact nancy@vitalcommunities.org. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/local-investment-101-workshop-series-tickets-136718688277.

MONDAYS –
REGION – “Nurturing Skills for Families in Recovery” is an online mutual self-help support group for parents aided by a trained facilitator. The group will meet Mondays from 1-2:30 p.m. For more information and to join the free group, contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or call 802-498-0603.

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 dan.freeman@brattleborohospice.org.

THURSDAYS –
REGION – “Circle of

Parents in Recovery” is an online mutual self-help support group for parents aided by a trained facilitator. The group will meet Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. Whoever said parenting is easy? It’s probably the toughest job you will ever have, and sometimes it can be pretty overwhelming. You are not alone! Come and join us. For more information and to join the free group, contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or call 802-498-0603.

REGION – “Circle of Parents for Grandparents” is an online mutual self-help support group aided by a trained facilitator. The group will meet Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. Come and join us. For more information and to join the free group, contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or call 802-498-0603.

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.

NOTICE

Residents of the North Walpole Village District are hereby notified of a hearing on the year 2021 Budget to be held at 7:00 PM, TUESDAY, March 2, 2021 at the Village Commissioners’ Office at 70 Church Street in North Walpole, NH.

NW Village Commissioners

In Search Of

The Town of Charlestown, NH is scheduling auctions of the following properties and is in search of Executor/Executrix of Estate, Heirs, or other related parties regarding the following properties:

- 33 Morways St – former owner Robert W. Bryant (of Athens, VT)
- 150 Wetherby Road – former owner Frederick L. Poisson, Sr
- 4 Connecticut River Park – former owner Maryann Lacroix-Thornton
- 564 Morningside Lane – former owner Gail G. Crawford
- 77 Cobb Road – former owner Timothy R. Hicks

If you are related to the above individuals or know someone who may have rights to these properties, please contact the; Office of the Selectboard, Town of Charlestown, 233 Main Street, PO Box 385, Charlestown, NH 03603. Please contact the Selectboard Office as soon as possible, property auctions are scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Springfield School District Annual Report Notice of Availability

NOTICE is hereby given that the Springfield School District Annual Report for 2020-2021 is now available. Copies may be picked up at the Springfield School District Offices at 60 Park Street, M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or at the Springfield Town Clerk’s Office at 96 Main Street, M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This report is also available on the School District website at www.ssdvt.org where you can click on Central Office, then Budget Information.

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by ballot for Town and Town School District Officers, for all appropriations to be voted by ballot, and all other items of business to be voted by ballot.

In accordance with Act 162 (2020) all voting will be done by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, therefore, there will not be in-person floor voting on Monday, March 1, 2021.

A public informational hearing will be held on Zoom video conferencing on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. to hear reports of the Town Officers, Town School District Officers and Committees, to discuss all Australian Ballot articles on the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting Warning and to do any other business that can legally be done under this Warning.

HOW TO JOIN AND ACCESS THE REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING: MEETING ID: 863 3633 2110

- **By computer:** Join meeting by clicking here <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86326222110> You may be prompted to enter the Meeting ID. You may need to download software here <https://zoom.us/>
- **By smartphone, tablet, or other device:** Download and open the <https://zoom.us/> app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the Meeting ID. One-tap mobile device click here: +13017158592
- **By telephone:** Dial 1 (301)715-8592 and when prompted enter the Meeting ID. Note that long distance rates may apply.
- **Meeting link** can also be accessed on the home page of the Town of Springfield website
- **Watch live** on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

If you have difficulty accessing the meeting or do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please call 802-885-2104.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Town Officers and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:
Cemetery Commissioner Selectmen
First Constable Town Moderator
Library Trustees Town School District Moderator
Lister Trustee of Public Funds
School Directors

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town Moderator for the ensuing year? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to pay each Selectperson the sum of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving the Town in that office? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWELVE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,845,413.00) for the budget of the Town for salaries, incidental and necessary Town expenses, including highways, and for the purposes for which the law requires appropriations, and for which a Town may legally vote? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$700,000.00) for repaving, road construction, gravel road improvements, and ancillary professional services for the projects specified in the Road Surface Management System Report dated March 2015 or other duly warranted sidewalk improvements? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) for sidewalk reconstruction in various locations throughout the Town? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the school board to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year by issuing bonds or notes? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town School District Moderator for the ensuing year, the funds for which are included in the school budget? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the payment to each School Board member of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving in that office, the funds for which are included in the school budget? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend THIRTY TWO MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$32,431,509.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,324 per pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.87% lower than spending for the current year. (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District create an operating expense reserve fund, with an initial transfer of \$400,000.00 from the district’s FY20 surplus, to be under the control of the board of school directors, for the purpose of paying operational expenses that were not anticipated at the time of the budget preparation by the board? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to the Springfield Community Band for eight (8) concerts? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Springfield in responding to the emergency needs of the community and to provide all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$63,500.00) to help support the high-quality home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients’ homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH? Care is provided regardless of ability to pay. (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$8,500.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to help support the Valley Health Connections (formerly Precision Valley Free Clinic) to help the uninsured access health care? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) for the support of the MOOver f/n/a the Current operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Springfield? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Springfield through volunteer service? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot & cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) to Windsor County Partners d/b/a Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to the children of Windsor County? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Supported Housing to assist families and individuals find permanent housing and provide in home case management services for 6 months to two years after placement? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$55,000.00) to the Springfield Family Center to assist with the cost of providing a free meal daily, a free food shelf, and other services related to hunger, homelessness and related social-service needs in the community? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to the Women’s Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,500.00) to the Springfield Art and Historical Society to assist in preserving, maintaining, and displaying, for the public, the history and art of the Town of Springfield, Vermont? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Turning Point Recovery Center Drop-In Center and Transition House to help with the everyday cost of providing recovery services and housing for men and that are in recovery from alcohol, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

Dated this 25th day of January, 2021 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Walter E. Martone, Chair
John A. Bond
Michael E. Martin
George T. McNaughton
Kristi C. Morris

Board of Selectmen
Town of Springfield

Dated this 25th day of January, 2021 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer, Chair
Jeanice Garfield
Michael Griffin, Jr.
Stephen Karaffa
Patti Kemp

Board of School Directors
Springfield School District