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editor@vermontjournal.com



# Springfield PTA partners with community sponsors for month-long raffle

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Schools PTA is excited to announce their inaugural Calendar Raffle fundraiser. Through the generosity of our community sponsors, the PTA will be awarding a prize every day throughout the month of May.

A calendar raffle is unique in that it gives the ticket holder a chance to win a prize every day in a calendar month. All tickets will be entered every day, regardless of previous winning. Prizes include gift certificates for local goods and services, artisanal gift baskets and products, dance and fitness classes, museum passes, and cash prizes. The grand prize, to be awarded May 31, is an electric guitar valued at over \$500. To increase the chance of winning, the PTA will be selling a maximum of 500 tickets.

Proceeds raised through this event will go toward funding the PTA's many initiatives at Elm Hill and Union Street

Schools. Foremost is their keystone Snack Tote program, which provides healthy snacks throughout the year to the many students facing food insecurities at home. Funds are also directed towards classroom supplies for teachers, annual yearbooks which are distributed at no cost to all graduating second and fifth grade students, the Howard Dean college scholarship, and more.

Tickets may be purchased in several ways. The PTA will host a sales event Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in front of Shaw's in the Springfield Plaza. Ticket order forms were provided to all Elm Hill and Union Street students. Additionally, tickets may be purchased directly from the PTA by emailing [PTA@ssdvt.org](mailto:PTA@ssdvt.org) or messaging through their official Facebook page.

The PTA would like to thank the following sponsors for so generously supporting our

initiative: Amanda George Law Office, Andrew Pearce Wooden Bowls, Austin Farm, Bibens Ace Hardware, Black River Kwik Stop, Buf-fam Realty, Cabot Cheese, Courtyard Lebanon/Hanover, Crown Point Country Club, The Dance Factory, Domino's, Edgar May Rec Center, Flying Crow Coffee Co., Gallery at the VAULT, Giovanni's Family Salon, Gibson Brands, Hadwen Acres Greenhouse, Halladay's Flowers and Gifts, Halladay's Harvest Barn, HB Energy, King Arthur Flour, Montshire Museum, Muse & Associates, Oriental Trading, Shaw's, Sidney Services, Simon Pearce, Simply Asian, Snap Fitness, Springfield Community Players, Springfield Co-op, The Sub-way, Vermont Teddy Bear, Villager's Ice Cream, VINS, Walpole Valley Farms, Winter View Farms, Woodbury Florist, and Young's Furniture.

# Springfield Farmers' indoor market returns

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – As spring draws nearer, and Covid-19 restrictions ease, the Springfield Farmers' Market is pleased to announce the restoration of its popular indoor spring markets at the United

Methodist Church in downtown Springfield. The first market will be held April 17, 2021, and the second May 15, 2021, both from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Locally-produced honey, natural beef, artisan breads, fresh

eggs, maple and beeswax products, poultry, delicious baked goods, quality crafts, and traditional jams, jellies, pickles, and relishes will be available.

The market will be set up in compliance with state Covid-19 social distancing guidelines, and masks are required.

The market is always seeking new vendors, and set-up rates are very reasonable. If interested, please contact the Springfield Farmers' Market management team at 802-885-2729, 802-738-5272, or [sfog@vermontel.net](mailto:sfog@vermontel.net).

# Bellows Falls March Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Isabel "Izzy" Stack has been named the March Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School. Izzy, a senior, is the daughter of Keith and Diane Stack of Saxtons River.

A hardworking student, Izzy comes to school eager to learn. She is a great writer who can be relied on to produce original and thought provoking assignments. Izzy is exceptionally compassionate when writing about particularly controversial topics. Hardworking, thoughtful, and conscientious, she is a pleasure to have in class. Always willing to participate in and lead discussions, Izzy is not afraid to contribute in class and often offers alternative perspectives. She possesses an unusual sense of humility; she accepts praise for her accomplishments



Isabel Stack. PHOTO PROVIDED

with an utmost sense of modesty.

Izzy is a positive role model and a leader in the true essence of the word.

She is a valued member of the school's student council where she brings to the group creativity, a plethora of unique ideas, and the willingness participate

in all fundraisers and community-based activities. Izzy is also a very dedicated student athlete where she demonstrates a positive drive, a willingness to help and represents the school and community confidently and with pride. She is a four-year varsity player for our school's soccer team, and was named captain this past season. In addition to this, she has also served as captain for her ice hockey team through which she was voted most valuable player. Not only a dedicated student athlete and positive role model, Izzy has proven herself to be someone on whom people can count on. She goes out of her way to help others and is well liked by the students and staff at BFUHS.

Congratulations go to Izzy. Truly deserving of this award, BFUHS and the Elks are honored to have her represent us as the March Student of the Month.

# Hang handprints to show appreciation for educators

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) started the Thanking Hands campaign last month as a way to expand their annual Week of the Young Child (WOYC) celebration to reach educators and students at all levels. The concept is simple – hang handprints in windows and on doors to honor those who've worked so hard during the past year to continue teaching and learning through a pandemic. Businesses, schools, and community members have been catching on and the site of all the handprints sends a boost of positivity throughout the entire region. Everyone is invited to paint their community with hands regardless of where you live.



Crafted handprints spotted in area communities are a symbol of appreciation for all that educators, staff, and students have endured over the past year. PHOTO PROVIDED

bum to spread the encouragement even further. You can also email photos to [sapcc@sapccvt.org](mailto:sapcc@sapccvt.org).

If you need more information, materials, or some sug-

gestions to engage your child with this project, please join the Facebook event: Springfield Area's WOYC & Thanking Hands Campaign or call SAPCC at 802-886-5242.

# Kurn Hattin students celebrate reading

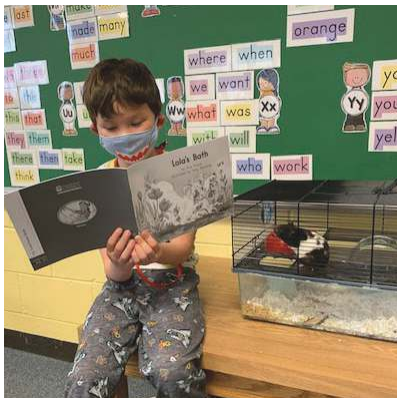
WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kurn Hattin's kindergarten and first graders had a special day at the end of March to celebrate reading. They enjoyed a pajama day, making monster bookmarks, and holding a read-a-thon in which they read books many different ways such as reading with sunglasses, reading outside, and reading



to the class pet guinea pig! They even had the School Principal, Mr. Simunovic, as their last classroom mystery reader of the month.

The class read a total of 65 books in March and each student earned a certificate for being a "Super Reader" as well as a bag of "bookworm" gummy worms.

For more information, go to [www.kurnhattin.org](http://www.kurnhattin.org).



Students had a special reading day. PHOTOS PROVIDED

## Springfield Lions Club food drive

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Lions Club is hosting their annual "Food from the Heart" food drive to benefit the Springfield Family Center Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in front of Shaw's at the Springfield Shopping Plaza.

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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

## A day in my life

Well, we’ve had some warm weather lately. I’ve always had a simple rule for spring. That is, yard work can wait during the first warm spell. Instead, I go do what I want.

I didn’t get much exercise this winter so now that the ground is bare, I ventured out in the woods. Well, I took a tumble and realized while I need to get in shape doing so in the woods isn’t the way. I better stick to level ground until I tighten up some muscles. I’ll get there.

This past Friday morning, April 9, Lee Decatur and I met at the historical society. Peter Farrar came along up the sidewalk. The three of us visited a few minutes and then went our separate way. Lee and I walked up North Main Street to the Lovers Lane Road. Here we went up Lovers Lane.

I told Lee about the Rod & Gun Club fishing derby at the Lovers Lane Brook when I was a kid and Mrs. Kelly and her million-dollar horse farm. Lee is 10 years older than me and grew up in Kingston, N.H. Lee’s memories of growing up and mine are not that different. Lee’s father was a country doctor.

When we got to the new gazebo near the swimming pool, we sat down at one of the picnic tables. Kathy Estep was there with her 6-year-old granddaughter. Kathy asked if we had any photos of Ware’s gristmill. We have one.

On our way back, several people on North Main were working in their yards. We stopped to say hello, commenting on the day or their flower gardens. One guy was watering his flowers when I noticed an unusual sculpture. Lee and I couldn’t figure it out so I asked the homeowner what it was. He didn’t



Butterfly harmonica Alton played. Notice the dime for scale.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ous life, I hung out in North Springfield so I knew many of Alton’s friends. We have a lot in common.

After we struck a deal, we sat and visited. I was looking through a drawer of stuff when I found a tiny keychain harmonica. I showed it to Alton and said, “Look at this.” Alton replied, “I can play that” so I handed it to him. Sure enough he began to play. It might seem corny to

some readers, but it made my day.

A little later, Reggie Munson stopped by for a few minutes. We talked about cows, maple syrup, and work. Reggie plows driveways during the winter and does property management and lawn mowing in the summer. Reggie is a hardworking Vermonter.

On my way to Springfield the other day I noticed Reggie’s truck parked on Route 11. I slowed down to see Reggie entering the woods. I had wondered what he was doing so I asked him this Friday evening. Reggie keeps a few beef cows so he has about 30 acres of pasture fenced in. Reggie told me some of his cedar fence posts needed replacement and that was what he was doing when I saw him. I asked how the maple syrup business was this year. Reggie said some producers did only about half of what they did last year. This was one day in my life.

*This week’s old saying: “It’s a rare farm that has no bad ground.”*

know either.

We met a few people out walking that I didn’t recognize. These had to be new people who came here in the last year or so. When Lee and I greeted them or commented on what a beautiful morning it was, they avoided replying. Two looked away as if we were lepers. One just nodded. Boy do they have a lot to learn if they ever hope to fit in.

Next Jerry Stewart was busy in his yard so we stopped to visit. I’ve known Jerry all of my life. We got to reminiscing about days gone by. Jerry told us about the day Wiggins burned. Jerry was in the movie theater when someone burst in and announced Wiggins was on fire and were there any firemen here? Jerry said he was 10 or 11 at the time and too young to help, but he did watch Wiggins burn.

*Later that day*

Now I’m home. About supertime, Alton Folsom stopped to see me. Alton stops to sell me antiques he picks up. I was looking over his offerings when we got to talking. Alton is a few years older than me and grew up in North Springfield. In a previ-

## Apple Blossom Cotillion to have limited in-person seating

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Rehearsing for the 65th Apple Blossom Cotillion continues under strict guidelines regarding Covid-19. Springfield Hospital and the Cotillion co-directors are pleased to announce that we are now planning to have limited in-person seating at this year’s cotillion. Anyone who wishes to attend the event in person must purchase a chance ticket, which will be drawn and announced prior to the event. Tickets will not be

sold at the door. There will be two performances Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 at the Springfield Community Players Theater. The Community Players have been very generous in donating their space for all the rehearsals and the performances.

The Apple Blossom Cotillion is a fundraiser for Springfield Hospital. The proceeds from this year’s event provide support for the Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career Award and

the annual giving campaign for Springfield Hospital. The annual campaign funds are designated to help us bring the latest defibrillator technology to the hospital.

To support this year’s cotillion by being a sponsor or to purchase a chance for in-person seating, visit [www.springfield-hospitalgiving.org/cotillion](http://www.springfield-hospitalgiving.org/cotillion). For more information, contact Sandy Peplau at 802-885-7686 or [speplau@springfieldmed.org](mailto:speplau@springfieldmed.org).

## Little Yellow House Studio virtually presents “Tea & Twain”

ANDOVER, Vt. – Little Yellow House Studio presents “Tea & Twain,” starring Broadway, film, and television actor Ron Crawford as the renowned American author and satirist Mark Twain. Viewers are invited to enjoy a favorite cup of tea as Ron performs his one-man show, “Travels with Mark Twain,” based on Twain’s famous traveling lecture series, featuring readings from some of his most beloved works, including “Tom Sawyer,” “Huck Finn,” and “Adam and Eve.” The performance recreates Twain’s lectures from a hundred years ago, his adventures as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi, his mining days out West, the Hawaiian Islands, and his first tour of Europe along with his caustic, humorous observations – and a few tall stories.

Actor and creator Ron Crawford appeared in the original Tony Award-winning Stephenwolf production of “The Grapes of Wrath” as it progressed from Chicago to London to Broadway and became a television special on PBS.

Susan Haefner, Little Yellow House Studio founder, says, “I’m so excited to be collaborating with Ron again, having previously presented ‘Travels with Mark Twain’ in both Vermont and in NYC. Ron as Twain is simply a delight – audiences are in for quite a treat, in the comfort of their own living rooms.”

Little Yellow House Studio team member and composer musician Lisa Brigantino will be supplying original music in the style of early 20th century music, as well as some Public Domain arrangements for pre- and post-show. “It’s been wonderful collaborating with Little Yellow House Studio this past year. The studio has provided me a number of opportunities to supply music for virtual productions and it’s been a great way to keep the creative juices flowing during this challenging time.”


“Tea & Twain” performance dates and times are Saturday, April 24 and Saturday, May 1 at 7 p.m. EST; and Sunday, April 25 and Sunday, May 2 at 4 p.m. EST. Viewers are invited to a virtual tea party starting 30 minutes before each perfor-

mance.

The performance is “pay what you can” with a recommended price per viewer. Tickets can be purchased at [www.littleyellowhousestudio.com/events](http://www.littleyellowhousestudio.com/events).

“Tea & Twain” is the inaugural theater production presented by Little Yellow House Studio, launched in 2020 with a mission to educate and inspire students of the arts and grow community through performing arts. Little Yellow House Studio also offers voice, acting, musical theater and communications coaching, educational residencies, virtual and live music concerts as well as video production services.

For more information about Little Yellow House Studio, visit [www.littleyellowhousestudio.com](http://www.littleyellowhousestudio.com).



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## Chester residents named to honors lists

CHESTER, Vt. – Caitlin Miller of Chester, a student at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2020 semester. Students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average are placed on the Dean’s List.

Samantha Pike of Chester, a student at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, was named to the President’s List for the fall 2020 semester. Students who achieve a 4.00 semester average are placed on the President’s List.

Northern Vermont University is a two-campus institution of higher education with campuses in Johnson and Lyndonville, Vt., as well as an online division that combines the best of our campuses’ nationally recognized liberal arts and professional programs. Learn more at [www.NorthernVermont.edu](http://www.NorthernVermont.edu).



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opinion

Dear Editor,

It has been very troubling to see the story unfold ever since the Chester Selectboard voted for the local electronic media source, The Chester Telegraph, to replace the designated local newspaper, The Vermont Journal, as their paper of record. There seems to be a great deal of confusion on what the definition of a newspaper is, so I decided to consult the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

“Newspaper, noun: A paper that is printed and distributed usually daily or weekly and that contains news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising.” (Source: [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/newspaper](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/newspaper))

Now, if one were to review 1 V.S.A. & 174 Notice by Publication, “When a notice is required to be given by publication in a newspaper, it shall mean a newspaper published in the county where the subject matter is situated, pending or to be heard, or a newspaper published within the State which has a general circulation. In any case, in its discretion, the court may cause such notice to be further published in a newspaper which circulates in the neighborhood of the persons interested. Whenever a notice of any kind is required to be given by publication in a newspaper prior to a certain date for

a certain number of weeks successively, it may be given by an insertion prior to such date once a week, for the number of successive weeks required, either in a daily, semiweekly, or weekly newspaper. If such publication is in a daily or semiweekly newspaper, such notice shall be inserted on the same day of each successive week.” (Source: [www.legislature.vermont.gov/stat.../section/01/003/00174](http://www.legislature.vermont.gov/stat.../section/01/003/00174))

Comparing these two passages, it is perfectly reasonable and implied that a newspaper is, by default, a printed publication. By this very definition, The Chester Telegraph is not a newspaper, but rather an online electronic media source. This hardly seems to fall under the statute on what can be a designated paper of record. The language and definitions are easy to comprehend, and it is even implied that the paper of record should be, in fact, a printed paper of record.

The Vermont Journal has always been a news source that has been a part of this community and it saddens me to see the very community they strive to serve turn against them.

I used to write for The Vermont Journal and it was the most rewarding experience I ever had. Unfortunately, I had

written an article that was accidentally biased towards a singular viewpoint. It is a common error, and my inexperience is what created it. We redacted my article and issued an apology because that is what entails professional journalism.

Several months down the line, I was contacted by The Chester Telegraph to write for them. They assured me that my article was not biased and I was treated poorly. It has been quite some time, but I am confident in the mistake I had made. I haven’t returned to journalism because I am attending college for professional writing and creative writing so that I don’t make the mistake again. It is troubling though that The Chester Telegraph did not see the error that I had made. I think this reflects their journalism. I hope one day I can more confidently return to the news world, but until then, I hope the Chester Selectboard makes the right decision, and follow common sense, that a newspaper is a printed publication, and The Chester Telegraph cannot even begin to serve their community without becoming a printed media source.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Foster IV  
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

To vaccinate or not to vaccinate: that is not the question. The unasked question is this: how am I caring for my immune system?

We all stew in this pandemic brew together – vaccinated folks in the research group, those without the

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee commends Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos for his unflinching efforts to ensure we have safe, fair elections and to make it easy for people to vote. The strength of a democracy can be measured by the number of participants that are engaged in voting. Our voice is our vote.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee condemns the actions of the Georgia legislature for their voter suppression law. This law makes it more difficult to vote, thus impacting the number of voices that will be heard. Provisions of the law disproportionately impact

vaccine in the control group. So when someone reveals their vaccine status, rest assured it is what’s best for that person. When there is risk related to your body, choice is an essential aspect of the democratic process – as long as it’s your choice.

people of color. To survive, a democracy must be representative of all its people.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee is appalled by the intentional cruelty of this law that makes it illegal for anyone but election officials to give water or food to people standing in line.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee fears that the most insidious provision of Georgia’s voter suppression law that gives Republican state officials the power to take control of local elections and decline to certify local election results will ultimately override democracy. That the constitutional words, “We, the people...” will no longer apply.

Fear of “the other” generates stress, which promotes disease. How are you caring for your body to promote wellbeing?

Sincerely,  
Betsy Thomason  
W. Townshend, Vt.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee urges our fellow Vermonters to raise your voice in protest. Democracy must not be undermined by voter suppression laws across the country. We call you to action. When you see an injustice, please speak up, kindly but strongly.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee strongly supports passage of the “For the People Act” that will protect voting rights for all people and make the United States stronger as a democracy.

On behalf of the Springfield Town Democratic Committee,  
Char Osterlund, chair  
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

To all who shared my 95th birthday celebration on March 7, 2021: the motorcade, onlookers, friends and family members were an absolute surprise to me, thanks to my daughter Julie, Mrs. Alex Racicot, Jennifer Harper, and all who arranged the many details with amazing secrecy.

Thanks to the firefighters from Cavendish, Proctorsville,

and Ludlow, the teachers and students with all the handmade greetings – I received hundreds of cards. I’m humbled by the sentimental comments and I laughed at the amusing ones.

Chief Mark Fountain of the Springfield Police Department, his wife, and daughter honored me with their presence. I had a telephone call from a man that served with me in Vietnam 60

years ago. He saw the parade on Facebook in Germany! A friend’s daughter wrote from southern France.

My prayer is that all your birthdays will be as enjoyable and as full of love and laughs. Be well. Be happy. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jim Hasson  
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The Vermont Constitution is a living document and, as such, is allowed to be amended. However, the authors of our Constitution in 1777 did not make it an easy document to amend. It is a multi-year process, requiring review and approval in two consecutive legislative biennia – in this case 2019-20 and 2021-22 – and a vote by Vermonters at the end – in this case November 2022. Vermont’s original Constitution was written in Windsor at the Old Constitution House, which was the capital of the early Vermont Republic. It was first amended in 1786. Our current constitution was adopted in 1793 after Vermont was admitted to the Union in 1791. In 1870 it was amended to allow for proposed changes to be ratified by the Vermont voters. Since then Vermonters have ratified 28 of the 30 amendments presented to them. Before 1974, constitutional amendments could only be proposed every 10 years. Now the Legislature is able to consider amendments every four years. Our constitution was most recently amended in 2010 to allow 17-year-olds, who would be 18 by the time of the general election in November, to vote in the primary.

On Friday, April 9, the Vermont Senate voted to send two proposals of amendment

to the voters for the General Election in 2022. I believe these proposals clarify the intent of the Constitution and affirm Vermont’s history and values.

Proposition 2 clarifies the state’s prohibition on slavery found in Article 1 of Chapter 1. Despite the historic pride we feel in Vermont being the first state in the Union to prohibit slavery, many have felt Article 1 wordy and equivocal about whether or not it allowed for slavery of persons under 21. If this amendment passes, the article will now clarify that “slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.” Some Vermonters might say that because the nation outlawed slavery in 1865 with the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, this is not important to clarify. But for many, the old, qualified language is long overdue for replacement with a clear, ringing prohibition. Sadly, we still face aspects of these issues in sex trafficking, migrant labor, and work in prisons.

Proposal 5 amends Chapter 1 by creating Article 22. It reads: “That an individual’s right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one’s own life course (as protected by this Constitution) and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.”

This change would give affirmative constitutional protection to what is current practice in Vermont. It is the same standard of review the U.S. Supreme Court used in the Roe v. Wade decision. It will protect our civil rights at a most personal level. It will affirm the right to abortion as it currently exists in our state – and will ensure reproductive liberty for family planning, contraception, and deeply personal decisions women and men make about their lives.

With changes in the membership of the U.S. Supreme Court, there is concern that it may move to weaken or overturn Roe v. Wade. This uncertainty has prompted the Legislature to move not only to affirm 50 years of protection Vermonters rely on, but also to recognize how much Vermonters value the liberty to make our own personal health decisions.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email at [aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us) or by phone at 802-457-4627. To watch Legislative Committee’s in action, and to get more information on the Vermont Legislature, the bills which are being debated now, and those which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: [www.legislature.vermont.gov](http://www.legislature.vermont.gov).

Sincerely,  
Sen. Alison Clarkson  
Windsor County

Dear Editor,

My name is Jesse Webber. I am the New England Assistant Team Leader for The Fallen Outdoors. The Fallen Outdoors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the sole focus of getting veterans and service members into the great outdoors. We do this through coordinating and facilitating hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and camping trips with local guides, charters, outdoorsmen, volunteers, and our organization’s own prostaff members.

The goal is to provide these veterans with an outlet to step away from their life stressors. On these trips, veterans are able to build upon their existing support network to better equip themselves for what lies ahead of them. Our staff consists of active and former military service members who are all volunteers. Since our inception in July of 2019, Team New England has facilitated over 200 veteran and service member participation

in trips and events across the Northeast.

Team New England has specific goals that we would like to accomplish over the next year. First, we would like to facilitate 15-20 major fishing trips ranging from lake, river, and ocean fishing excursions. Second, we anticipate hosting 12-18 hunting trips targeting rabbits, turkey, deer, bear, and waterfowl. Lastly, we aim to provide three snowshoe hikes, five overnight hikes, eight canoe trips and three family-oriented barbecues. The focus is not necessarily what these veterans are doing but rather that they are doing it together and creating memories that they can lean on during tough times.

How to support The Fallen Outdoors mission to prevent veteran suicide; join our ranks as a prostaff member; donate your time or host a trip for a veteran; allow access to your land for one of our prostaff members to bring a veteran hunting or fishing;

donate used or new equipment; or donate money so that we can continue our mission.

Donations can be made through PayPal to NewEngland. [Lead@TheFallenOutdoors.com](mailto:Lead@TheFallenOutdoors.com); checks payable to The Fallen Outdoors, 320 Lake Drive, North Bennington, VT 05257; Venmo “TFO New England”; and items and equipment can be picked up by any one of our prostaffer members located in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Current news on our activity can be found by viewing The Fallen Outdoors on Facebook at “The Fallen Outdoors East Coast All Veteran” community page or on our website at [www.TheFallenOutdoors.com](http://www.TheFallenOutdoors.com).

Sincerely,  
Jesse Webber  
Assistant Team Lead - New England  
The Fallen Outdoors

GAMES ARE SLIGHTLY SMALLER THIS WEEK. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		3			1	8			
	8			4			9		
7			3				2	6	
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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 Repast

5 "Ben- —"

8 Lawman Wyatt

12 "Frozen" snow queen

13 "Right you —!"

14 Computer brand

15 Slightly

16 Actress Long

17 Hindu royal

18 Tidy up

20 Toto, to Dorothy

22 Peyton's brother

23 Commonest English word

24 Easter entrees

27 Vinegar variety

32 X-ray's cousin

33 Chopper

34 Hostel

35 "Becoming" author

38 Read quickly

39 Knock

40 Wildebeest

42 "Yippeee!"

45 Held up

49 "Mamma Mia" group

50 Gardner of Hollywood

52 Actress Kate

DOWN

1 Intend

2 North Sea feeder

3 Largest continent

4 Coffee bar orders

5 Carthaginian general

6 Swiss canton

7 Harvest

8 Sultry singer

9 Campus figure

10 Gambling mecca

11 Bluenose

12 Chicago transport

21 UFO crew

24 "Let me think ..."

25 "Exodus" hero

26 Germs

28 Rocker Rose

29 "Shampoo" Oscar winner

30 — pickle

31 Blitzler's channel

36 Badger

37 Clean-air org.

38 Hand in

41 "Forget it!"

42 Corridor

43 Theater award

44 Tug

46 Innocent one

47 Ms.

48 Brockovich

48 June honorees

51 Half of XIV

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CHURCH SERVICES

ASCUTNEY, VT.

**Brownsville Community United Methodist Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.**  
Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at [www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch](http://www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch) and [www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org](http://www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org).

**Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor**  
The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

CAVENDISH, VT.

**St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.**  
Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. Masks and social distancing are required. For more information, call 802-674-3443.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

**North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.**  
Go to [www.facebook.com/UMCofNorthCharlestown](http://www.facebook.com/UMCofNorthCharlestown) for daily prayers and more information.

**Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St., Claremont, N.H.**  
Weekday services are available online Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. If you plan on attending Sunday's 9:30 a.m. service, please email the church ahead of time as there is limited attendance. For more information, go to [www.hroc.org](http://www.hroc.org).

CHESTER, VT.

**St. Joseph's Church, 96 S. Main St.**  
Services at St. Joseph's include Saturday at 4 p.m. and Wednesday at 9 a.m. There are no live streams for these masses. For more information, go to [www.stmaryjoseph.com](http://www.stmaryjoseph.com).

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.**  
Zoom services are Sundays at 10 a.m. Our service will be an enhanced Rite One Morning Prayer Service with music. For information, visit [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org).

LONDONDERRY, VT.

**First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry, Vt.**  
Worship services are now online-only and can be live streamed at [www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html](http://www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html). For more information, visit [www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org](http://www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org) or call 802-856-7266.

LUDLOW, VT.

**United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.**  
Sunday services are held in person and streamed online. Please be safe and care for each other. Email [unitedchurch@tds.net](mailto:unitedchurch@tds.net) for more information. Visit [www.unitedchurch.us](http://www.unitedchurch.us) to receive Covid-19 updates on services and meetings.

**Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.**  
Sunday school and service at 11 a.m. are in person. Mid-week prayer will continue over Zoom. For more information about social distancing guidelines, go to [www.LudlowBaptist.org](http://www.LudlowBaptist.org) or call Pastor Jerry Scheumann at 802-228-7600.


SPRINGFIELD, VT.

**Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.**  
Live streaming of Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. will continue at [www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt](http://www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt). For more information, go to [www.calvarylovesspringfield.com](http://www.calvarylovesspringfield.com).

**Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.**  
Sunday morning services are in-person and live streamed starting at 10 a.m. Masks are available and social distancing is encouraged. The sanctuary seating is arranged to promote distancing. Go to [www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910](http://www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910) for links and more information.

WALPOLE, N.H.

**Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.**  
Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. via Zoom. For links and updates, go to [www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org](http://www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org).

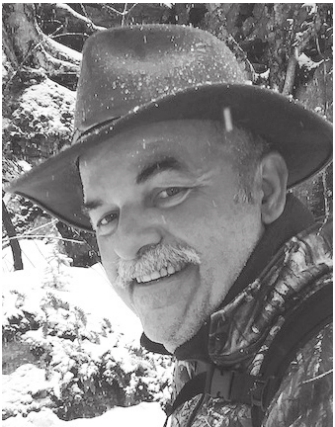


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**Robert A. Pelletier, 1960-2021**




**Robert A. Pelletier, 1960-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

RUTLAND, Vt. – A cowboy from birth, Robert Allen Pelletier (known to most as Bob) was born in Shelby, Mont., May 24, 1960. The leader of the pack of the Pelletier family, one of five siblings, was the son of Ovide and Jacqueline Pelletier. Nicknamed “Bonhomme,” meaning good man, he lived true to his nickname his entire life. Growing up he spent time in Montana, Rhode Island, Maine, Canada, and eventually settled in Vermont where he spent his entire adult life.

Moving to Vermont at 18 years old, knowing few people, he quickly established a reputation as a hardworking carpenter. Bob, first and foremost, was a family man, always lending a helping hand and leading by example. There was no such thing as a stranger to Bob. He made friends wherever he went, was a true storyteller, and always made a positive impact. Married for over 30 years to Lorraine Pelletier, they had three children, Anna, Bobby, and Andrew, all raised in Chester, Vt. His love for his children extended to his four grandchildren, Bryce, Ella, Erica, and Evita. Aside from being a hard-working man, he always had a love for the outdoors.

Bob was a hunter safety instructor for over 20 years, the President of the Chester Rod and Gun Club, and an avid motorcyclist – always seen with a smile on his face riding around town on one of his many Harley Davidsons. Bob was not only a hunter, but a long-range marksman able to shoot targets over 1,000 yards away with his very own custom-made bullets. Still holding the camp record at the Yo Buck Deer Camp in Pennsylvania, meeting his target at 1,350 yards. His love for the wilderness continued to blossom with his partner of the past four years, Gail Gorruso, as they spent almost every weekend outdoors hiking, hunting, fishing, or camping. Bob's family extended as he spent time

**Lory D. Molesky, 1959-2021**



**Lory D. Molesky, 1959-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

ALSTEAD, N.H. – Lory Dean Molesky passed away at his home in Lexington, Mass., April 8, 2021 after a 4.5-year battle with cancer.

Lory was born June 3, 1959, as the first child of Bernard and Margery (Lindgren) Molesky, and was raised in the mining district of Alstead, N.H. His childhood was spent building tree forts and treasure hunting at abandoned mines and old dumpsites. Early success with metal detecting led him to a lifelong hobby of coin collecting. After graduating from Fall Mountain High School, Lory received degrees from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and SUNY Stony Brook, where he met Chia Shen. They were married in 1987 and both went on to receive Ph.Ds. in computer science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He enjoyed chasing challenges and pushing the boundaries. As a 148-pound teenage powerlifter, he deadlifted 550 pounds – a state record at the time. His passion for skiing took him across alpine terrain throughout New England and the Rockies. He excelled at computer software architecture and development, and received numerous patents in data visualization and web UI design while working at Oracle Corporation.

Lory loved playing soccer, coaching youth soccer and basketball in Lexington, making musical YouTube parodies, playing board games, and spending time with his family. He was a musician and an artist. Like his father, Lory was a favorite uncle and made children laugh. During his last two years of life, he enjoyed crafting unique wood-



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**Alberta G. Rogenski, 1930-2021**

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Alberta G. Rogenski, 90, died March 26, 2021. She was born Aug. 17, 1930 in Underhill, Vt., the daughter of Ralph and Glena (Grenier) King. Mrs. Rogenski worked in Bellows Falls, Vt. as a store clerk.

On July 6, 1948, she married Richard Rogenski in Fairfax, Vt. who predeceased her in 2009.

Alberta was also predeceased by her son Richard. She is survived by two sons Albert and Dennis.

A graveside committal service was held Monday, April 12, 2021 in the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Westminster, Vt. Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt. will be assisting with the arrangements.

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A basic 200-word obituary is \$50, and \$0.20 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com) by Monday at 12 p.m.

**CHURCH SERVICES:**  
We are currently running Social Distancing Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com).

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sports

Green Mountain’s odds before winning boys Div. III basketball title, part 2

BY BILL MURPHY  
The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

CHESTER, Vt. – Green Mountain finished their regular season as the number one seed in Division III. I spoke to many media members and fellow coaches and no one mentioned the Chieftains as a serious title threat. I received a couple of “can’t count them outs,” but no close to ringing endorsements. After all, when was the last time the Green and Gold had ever won a meaningful game?

How good was this team from Chester? My quick answer is, “Very good.”

In many ways, they lost their single game at the perfect time. The Chieftains may not agree with this, but losing to Bellows Falls 52-42 in the last game of the regular season was jarring and kept them from being undefeated.

But ask Gonzaga today if they would trade a regular season loss for their title game loss. We all know the answer would have been yes. And to spite, who knows how that game would have turned out if the Chieftains had not lost the services of their most likely best player Jack Boyle before halftime to injury? Who believes in fate one way or another? Just asking.

On to the postseason where the first place seed really didn’t do the Chieftains any favors except line them up with three tough match-ups. Over the years, very few teams have faced this kind of artillery to claim a championship. Here’s thinking the gritty victories they pulled out during the regular season, and especially the loss to Bellows Falls, created a mindset to somehow conquer the route

they had to take.

After defeating Oxbow easily 62-34, next was a Vergennes team, which competes most seasons in Division II and has had their share of success there. The pandemic held their season down to eight games, only one of which was against Division III competition. Seven of their eight games were played against Division I and II schools and many expected them to compete for the title. Eighty-five of the 90 tournament games Vergennes has played in their previous tournament journeys have been at the Division II level. Prior to tournament play, when I looked at the pairings, I considered this one more unfortunate road bump to Green Mountain head coach Brian Rapanotti establishing his program.

“We had talked following the BF game and I thought this group would refocus and respond the right way when they needed to. Most of them played soccer and they had had successful tournament experiences. So despite the fact they hadn’t played in big basketball games, I thought they would be okay,” Rapanotti offered.

There were a number of ups and downs throughout the Vergennes game. Green Mountain had numerous chances to make the right game play choices, and they were ripe enough to make that work out in a thrilling 58-57 overtime victory. There were likely very few supporters and casual observers who realized this was a big time game versus an eight seed that was definitely one of the top teams in this year’s tournament. Now, what was next?

Defending champion Thet-

ford was on deck, and they had already upset a strong Windsor team on the road to set up this match-up. A year ago, the Panthers had disposed of Green Mountain on the way to their most recent title and possibly this stirred the pot a little to energize the Chieftains. No less an authority than veteran Windsor coach Harry Ladue told me, “That will be a really tough one for Green Mountain. Thetford is coming together and peaking at the right time.” Little did anyone outside of Chester know how much the Chieftains were peaking and the Panthers were tamed in Chester’s Nason Gym 75-51.

Then came the title game where Green Mountain was matched with the best of the best, the champion of champions, Williamstown, who had six titles in the last 20 years. The morning of the title game Rapanotti told me, “Although they have been to eight of the last nine title games, none of these kids have actually played in those games so I don’t think that will be a factor.”

I sat silent for a moment and decided not to say a thing. That’s quite an imposing history to cast away so easily, but he was certainly right in the end.

They competed in another of those nail-biting thrillers that went into overtime and needed a last minute comeback in regulation, which was dependent on a late season full-time call up from the junior varsity, to make a steal and pass to one of their unprimed scorers to sink a big hoop. The score came at the most convenient time in the school’s first championship game ever. Such a tale could only be believed in pandemic

times, and even then it’s still tough to believe there would be a group of kids gritty enough to pull such a thing off.

Rapanotti provided me with a short capsule on each of his players who were part of this historic team:

**Austin Kubisek**, the lone freshman on the team. “He played four quarters of JV but was physically ready enough to be a competitor who grew by practicing with us regularly.”

**Evan Mosher** This sophomore usually played five or six minutes a game and “is a ferocious competitor who brought rebounding and defensive skills to us. He had a huge putback versus White River Valley.”

**Reid Hryckiewicz**, a junior who “had 14 first half-points against Leland & Gray and you need this kind of player to step up when needed on a championship team.”

**Brandon Rose** developed much of the season as a swing player with the JVs. But the junior came up with probably the biggest steal in GM history in the final game. “He can really score the ball as he at times had 25 points in a half of a JV game. He has become more comfortable with the ball in his hands and as everyone saw in the Williamstown game he is a very good decision maker.”

**Kagen Hance**, a junior who was the Chieftains first man off the bench much of the season. He averaged about four points a game and “started the season strong but then missed some



Coach Brian Rapanotti with his team during the state title game. PHOTO BY MARK OUIMET, LIFETOUGH

time, but [he] came back to give us some solid defense and rebounding we needed.”

**Everett Mosher** This junior “who helped lead the way to everyone understanding their roles [and] hit three big threes that were at important times this season.” He averaged about 11 points a game.

**Skyler Klezos** One of four remaining seniors, he “was a coach’s dream because he did a little bit of everything. He has a relentless motor who was a big contributor to our rebounding and defense.” He averaged about 6 points a game and converted the big hoop off from Rose’s steal, which set up the overtime title win.

**Sawyer Pippin** “He embraced our defensive stopper role, taking it to another level.” He is a strong ball handler who averaged about 9 points a game.

**Ty Merrill** “His role became more defined as the year went on. He became a leader who can be depended upon to score the ball. This role became more comfortable to him this season.” He was the team’s leading scorer

at about 15 points a game.

**Jack Boyle** “He was the unquestioned leader and heart and soul of the team. He didn’t come to us as a natural flow basketball player, but everything about him improved during his two years with us concerning his skills and hoop decision-making. He became the inside presence we needed as down the stretch as he played more inside as he realized if you give me the ball inside nobody can stop me. This was the key to beating Vergennes.” Boyle averaged 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Head coach Brian Rapanotti’s lasting memory: “To me it was all about the pig pile at the end of the game. That was really something. That was my favorite part. I made a conscious effort to watch how they reacted and that was really something to watch.”

*This article is the second part of a story published in the April 7, 2021 edition. To read Part 1, go to [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com).*

Spring sports schedule, April 17-24

REGION – Game schedules are subject to change. For more information about an individual game or team, go to the schools’ athletic department websites. If you would like to submit sports news or photos from a recent game, please email [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com).

SATURDAY, APRIL 17 –

**Baseball –**  
Mount Anthony at Bellows Falls, 12 p.m.  
Springfield at Fair Haven, 11 a.m.

**Girls Tennis –**  
Rutland at Bellows Falls, 11 a.m.  
White River Valley at Leland & Gray, 11 a.m.

**Softball –**  
Springfield at Fair Haven, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 19 –

**Baseball –**  
Sunapee at Fall Mountain, 4 p.m.

**Softball –**  
Bellows Falls at Mount St. Jo-

seph, 4:30 p.m.  
Green Mountain at Woodstock, 4:30 p.m.  
Sunapee at Fall Mountain, 4 p.m.

**Track & Field –**  
Fall Mountain at Stevens, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20 –

**Baseball –**

Green Mountain at Burr & Burton, 4:30 p.m.  
Hartford at Bellows Falls, 4:30 p.m.  
Springfield at Mill River, 4:30 p.m.

**Girls Tennis –**  
Bellows Falls at Hartford, 4:30 p.m.

**Softball –**  
Mount Anthony at Springfield, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 –

**Baseball –**  
Fall Mountain at Sunapee, 4 p.m.

**Softball –**  
Bellows Falls at Hartford, 7 p.m.  
Fall Mountain at Sunapee, 4 p.m.  
Mill River at Green Mountain, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 –

**Baseball –**  
Fair Haven at Green Mountain, 4:30 p.m.  
Leland & Gray at Bellows Falls, 4:30 p.m.

**Girls Tennis –**  
Woodstock at Bellows Falls,

4:30 p.m.

**Softball –**  
Burr & Burton at Leland & Gray, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 –

**Softball –**  
Springfield at Hartford, 7 p.m.

**Ultimate Frisbee –**  
Sharon at Bellows Falls, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 –

**Baseball –**  
Bellows Falls at Burr & Burton, 11 a.m.  
Hartford at Green Mountain, 11 a.m.  
Leland & Gray at Proctor, 11 a.m.

**Girls Tennis –**  
Brattleboro at Bellows Falls, 11 a.m.

**Softball –**  
Green Mountain at Bellows Falls, 12 p.m.  
Leland & Gray at West Rutland, 11 a.m.

**Ultimate Frisbee –**  
Mill River at Bellows Falls, 11 a.m.



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LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Lasser Ceramics in Londonderry is looking for full time production studio help. We will train the right candidate in wet clay, sales, and marketing. Call 802-824-6183. (05/04)

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Our friendly professional dental practice is searching for a dental assistant / front desk person. Experience is a plus, but willing to train the right person. 401K, vacations, and dental. Please send resume to Dr. David Heydenreich, 192 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or email [jennagaraffa@hotmail.com](mailto:jennagaraffa@hotmail.com). (04/27)

Mason/Tenders wanted. Pay based on experience. Contact Moore Masonry at 802-824-5710 or email [mooremasonry802@gmail.com](mailto:mooremasonry802@gmail.com). (04/20)

ASCUTNEY, Vt. – Full-time help wanted. Local contractor seeking experienced carpenter, must have own tools and transportation. \$30+ depending on experience. Call 802-674-5892.

Full-time help wanted. Local contractor seeking siding/roofing installer. \$26+ depending on experience. Call 802-674-5892. (05/04)

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# featured pet

Weasley is a 5-month-old Manx kitten that is looking for a loving family. After making the trip to Vermont from Georgia, Weasley is enjoying his time in the community cat room with his new kitty friends. It is unknown at this moment if Weasley is good with dogs, but he is young, so adjusting to one should be easier. This handsome gentleman definitely has spunk and is fast as lightning. He would do best in a home with another confident cat, so that he has a playmate and another kitty to show him the ropes. Catching Weasley is sometimes hard, but once you do, he will melt into your arms and enjoys being held like a baby! He would be best suited for a home without young kids, but older, cat savvy kids would be fine. Do you think you can welcome this southern



gentleman into your heart and home?

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— Weekly SUDOKU —  
Answer

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

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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5/15 - **Braiding with Roving** workshop with Sue Carey - register by 5/12

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(06/01/21 - 26)







AUTO/REAL ESTATE

outdoor news

Edgar May adds rock climbing and outdoor fitness

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – This summer the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center will add rock climbing and outdoor fitness to its wide array of programs and services. The climbing tower will provide area residents with opportunities to access open climbing times, clinics, and camps. It will also be available for birthday parties, groups, and corporate rentals. The outdoor area will also feature a 1,200-square-foot section of turf for outdoor fitness classes, group team building activities, team training, and more. The entire perimeter of the outdoor fitness space and climbing tower will be fenced in.



Edgar May rock climbing wall.

PHOTO PROVIDED

household income. Program registration for the three individual weeks of climbing and swimming

Construction. Foundations that have supported the project through grants have included the Cherry Family Foundation, Mascoma Bank Foundation, RiseVT, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Claremont Savings Bank Foundation, and the Charles Wood Foundation.

For those looking to be involved in this exciting project, donations are still being accepted to finish the build out and purchase of amenities for the space, including benches, storage, and

other equipment or to support scholarships for climbing programs for youth. The Edgar May is also seeking volunteers to help belay, instruct, and support the operations of the tower.

For more information about the climbing tower and outdoor fitness area, you may call the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center at 802-885-2568 or email info@edgarmay.org. Information about this project will be updated at www.edgarmay.org.

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camps will open April 15. Drivers on Clinton Street will see climbing begin April 14 as Edgar May staff begin three days of intensive technical training. The training is provided by High 5 Adventure Center of Brattleboro who also designed and constructed the tower. A grand opening event will be held in late May and will be announced as the build out of the entire area proceeds. The climbing tower was funded by donations from more than 90 individuals, businesses, and foundations. Craig stated, "We have been so fortunate to have the support of donors who believed in this project and have helped make it a reality." Local business support has come from Lawrence and Wheeler Insurance, Bibens Ace Hardware, Springfield Printing Corporation, Springfield Housing Authority, HB Energy, and All Seasons

The 40-foot rock climbing tower and its six belay stations will provide opportunities for all levels of climbing. One side is specifically geared towards new or young climbers. Protrusions or features on the other sides will give more experienced climbers, or those looking for a challenge, a great go. The fourth side of the tower will feature a ropes course element called the "Dangle Duo" that teaches climbers teamwork and communication in order to ascend to the top. The outdoor fitness options will include group exercise classes and small group activities as well as individualized and team training. Edgar May Wellness Director Corrina Johnson stated, "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were forced to try outdoor classes last summer, and they were a huge hit. This new area will allow us to expand on those classes and offer more conducive exercise environment." Climbing and outdoor fitness will not be the only additions, Executive Director Christian Craig stated. "We are excited to also offer half-day swim and climbing camps, clinics, team building, and leadership development programs with this new area." The half-day camps will include climbing time, a swimming lesson, free swimming opportunities, and other activities. The rock climbing clinics will be set up similar to Edgar May swimming lessons where students ages 6-12 can sign up for a weekly session. Craig also stated there will be programming for families including those with children as young as 4 years old to begin exploring rock climbing. Day passes will be available for 90-minute climbing sessions for youth, teens, and adults. The most affordable way to access the tower is to join the Edgar May where climbing tower access will be included in the family, senior, adult, and young adult membership categories. Youth or teen-only members can add on monthly rock climbing tower access. Scholarships are available for memberships and programs at the Edgar May based on

Grace Cottage Spring Into Health 5K

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Registration is now open for Grace Cottage's 12th annual Spring into Health 5K. Your registration fee helps Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital to continue providing excellent patient care in our community. This year's event will be held both in person and virtually. There are a limited number of in-person timeslots

Saturday, May 8. Pre-registration is required. Participants are welcome to run, walk, stroll, or roll. There will be no 5K t-shirts this year, but all registrants will be given a numbered race bib. Or you may do your 5K virtually, whenever and wherever you choose. If you pre-register by April 30, we'll mail you a bib. Email a photo of yourself doing your virtual 5K while wearing your run-

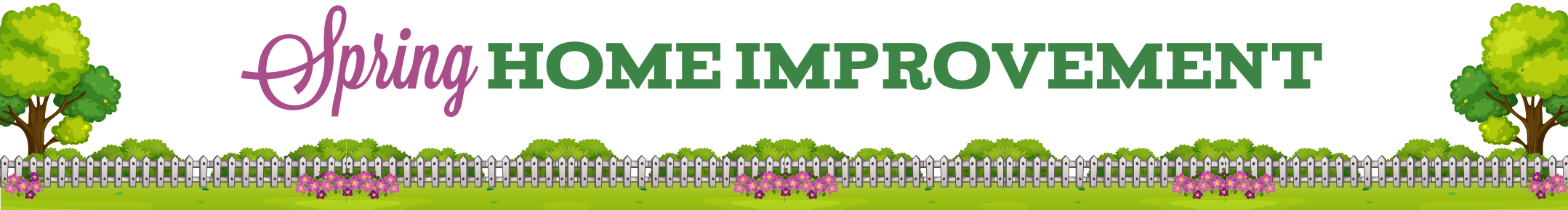
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This nice home offers multiple options and is within walking distance to town amenities. Use as a single family three to four bedroom home just by opening doorways. The first floor includes a remodeled eat-in kitchen and bath, formal dining room, large front living room (or bedroom) and den/bedroom. Upstairs makes a perfect in-law/guest suite with 2 or more bedrooms, newer kitchen and a full bathroom. Renovate the barn for extra storage or garage space, lot of paved parking (up to 6 vehicles) and a back yard. \$149,900  
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# Pollinators and Native versus Nativars and Non-native Plants

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – On Wednesday, April 21 at 6 p.m., join the Springfield Town Library for an online presentation of Pollinators and Native versus Nativars and Non-native Plants. Cheryl Joy will give a presentation on native pollinators and talk about why we must embrace these “no-frills” but effective plants that support bees and other pollinators.

Cheryl Joy Lipton is an ecologist, landscape designer, and sustainable living consultant in Chester. She specializes in native plants and invasive non-natives, serves on the Chester Planning Commission, and is a founding leader of Mountain Valley Climate Action 350VT.

the new nonprofit organization Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens, and of Victory Gardening in the 21st Century, an online support group. She is also a homeschooling mother working on restoring a solar-powered, 1850 Gothic Revival farmhouse and its five acres in the village of Chester.

Sign-up required at [www.eventbrite.com/e/pollinators-and-native-vs-nativars-and-non-native-plants-tickets-138286293025](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/pollinators-and-native-vs-nativars-and-non-native-plants-tickets-138286293025).



Learn about native pollinators and more. STOCK PHOTO

# Amp up your spring cleaning routine with these hacks

**StatePoint** – Spring is a great time to refresh your home. Whether you’re planning a major clean sweep or just giving problem areas a little extra TLC, experts say that a few simple strategies will make the job easier and the fruits of your labor last longer.

“When tackling your spring cleaning, checklists are key. The best thing you can do is to plan ahead and make sure you have everything you need to get the job done, which will save loads of time. Second, work room by room until each area is clean. Jumping place to place makes accom-



Try some new cleaning hacks.

STOCK PHOTO

plishments take longer and it’s harder to see big results,” says Erin Chase, founder of 5DollarDinners.com, mom of four and “Cleanfluencer” for ALEn USA.

To make larger spring cleaning tasks easier and keep your house smelling fresh every day, Chase is sharing her top hacks to get the best results from those larger cleaning tasks:

1. Create cleaning caddies for every bathroom, the kitchen, and garage. Having all of your supplies ready for quick touch-ups and cleaning saves tons of time.
2. “Clean” your cleaning supplies. Deodorize your mop by adding 3/4 cups Pinalen Original to a gallon of water, soak your mop for an hour, scrub and rinse.
3. To really disinfect and deep clean non-porous floors, add 1/3 cup of disinfectant bleach to 1.5 gallons of water and mop or scrub and let dry. You’ll be surprised what comes off and how much they’ll sparkle.
4. To sanitize countertops, kitchen sinks, and the outside of appliances, mix 1 tablespoon of bleach with 1 gallon of water and apply. Let stand for at least two minutes and dry.
5. To clean baseboards without bending and crawling, rubber band a microfiber cloth over the bristles of a broom. Spray the cloth with your favorite cleaner and scrub. No aching back!
6. To make an easy shower door scum remover: mix four parts water to one part fabric softener, spray onto scum, wipe off with a sponge and rinse with warm water.

With a plan of attack and the right tools and strategies, your spring clean can be fast, efficient, and painless.

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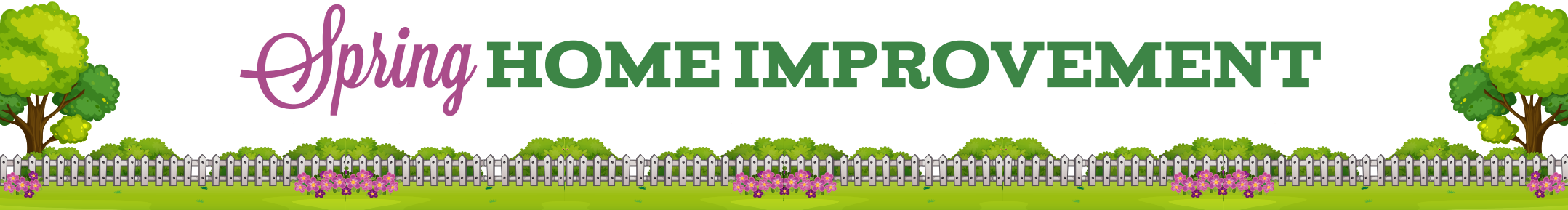
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# Renovating your home? How to protect your investment —

**StatePoint** – The increased time spent at home during the pandemic has resulted in many people deciding to tackle home renovation projects. From creating a new office space or virtual learning area, to larger projects like bathroom renovations, many homeowners are rolling up their sleeves to do the improvements themselves.

And the trend doesn't seem to be slowing down. In fact, the Leading Indicator of Remodeling Activity projects the remodeling industry will be even stronger in 2021, up 3.8% compared to 2020. During the pandemic, homeowners have fixed up or added on decks, updated landscaping and installed new roofs, among other projects. According to HomeAdvisor's latest annual State of Home Spending report, the number one completed project was interior painting – 35% of households painted in 2020, making a visual impact with a low investment.

What's on your to-do list? If you're considering an upgrade but not sure where to start, check out the results of a



Protect your home renovation investments. STOCK PHOTO

national survey by Erie Insurance, conducted prior to the pandemic, which revealed what homeowners don't have, but wish they did. Here are the top five:

1. Walk-in pantry: This topped the list with just under a third of respondents (30%) saying they wish they had one. Kitchen renovations are typically on wish lists, and Houzz reported that demand for kitchen remodelers was up 40% in June 2020 compared to the year prior.
2. Granite countertops: 17.8%
3. Kitchen island: 16.8%
4. Tankless water heater: 16.4%
5. Finished basement: 16.2%

Regardless of the new features or upgrades you choose,

it's important to let your insurance agent know so you can make sure you have enough homeowners insurance coverage. Consider expanding your coverage beyond the standard homeowners policy with endorsements – like equipment breakdown to cover that new tankless water heater. Some can also cover stolen or misplaced jewelry, sewer or drain backups, cyber-crimes, identity theft, and underground service lines. Adding these extra coverages to your home policy can provide you with the comfort knowing all the extra work you put into sprucing up your home will be protected.

Making home updates can be as big or small an endeavor as you like. If you do take the plunge, be sure you protect your investment.

# Learn how to prune fruit trees, shrubs, and vines —

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Windham and Windsor County chapters of University of Vermont Extension Master Gardeners will host a free Zoom presentation Saturday, April 24, from 9-10:30 a.m., on pruning fruiting plants.

Lee Reich, a horticultural consultant and writer, will describe correct and timely pruning methods for apples, peaches, grapes, blueberries, and other fruiting plants to keep them healthy, productive, and bearing the tastiest fruits. He also will demonstrate how to restore a neglected plant through proper pruning.

The session is being offered in collaboration with the Rockingham Free Public Library. It is open to all interested gardeners or homeowners in Vermont and neighboring states. To register, go to [www.go.uvm.edu/fruit-plant-pruning](http://www.go.uvm.edu/fruit-plant-pruning).

Reich, who calls himself as an avid “farmdener” – more than a gardener, less than a farmer – is the author of several books, includ-



Prune your trees and shrubs. STOCK PHOTO

and “Landscaping with Fruit,” among others. He writes a biweekly syndicated gardening column for the Associated Press and for a number of national gardening magazines.

His “farmden” in New Paltz, N.Y., has been featured in Martha Stewart Living and other national publications and has been included in The Garden Conservancy tours. It also has earned awards from both National Gardening Magazine and Organic Gardening.

For more information or to request a disability-related accommodation, contact Cindy Heath at 603-543-1307 or [cindy.heath@uvm.edu](mailto:cindy.heath@uvm.edu).

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# Vermont Forward Plan outlines phased reopening travel, gatherings

MONTPELIER, Vt. – At the Tuesday, April 6 press briefing, Gov. Phil Scott and other officials outlined the state's stepped plan to methodically and safely ease mitigation measures as more Vermonters are vaccinated.

"We're in the last laps of this race and this plan shows how we can finish strong if we all do our part," said Gov. Scott. "We need Vermonters to look at this roadmap and recommit to following the guidance so we can finish this pandemic with the fewest lives lost; with our kids back in school before the school year ends; and take every one of the steps forward on the timeline. I'm personally asking all of you to do your part. Please, we need your help today as much as we did last year at this time."

The Vermont Forward Plan uses vaccination rates as the key milestones for transitioning Vermont businesses to more general, universal guidance to prevent the spread of Covid-19; modifying travel guidance; and when gathering size can increase between now and July 4.

Universal guidance also transitions away from sector-specific measures, and towards general mitigation measures across most sectors. Some sectors, like healthcare and education, will retain individual guidance. Sectors have been

placed into two groups:

- Group A: Low contact, short duration, outdoor and controlled environment
- Group B: Long duration or close contact environments

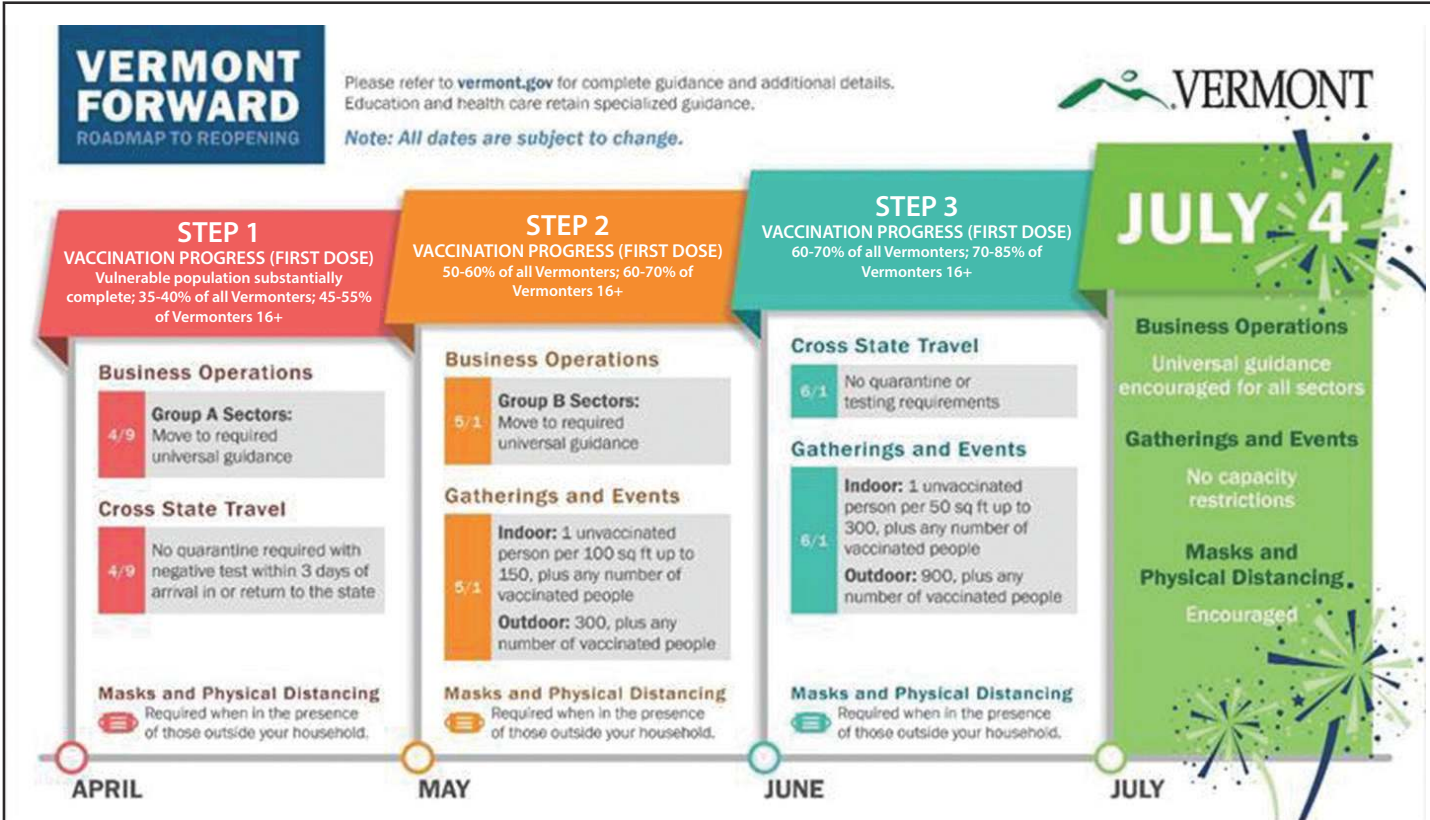
**Vermont Forward Plan steps**

**Step 1** begins when approximately 45-55% of Vermonters 16 and older have received at least their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. As of April 9, Group A sectors moved to universal guidance. No quarantine is required for unvaccinated visitors to Vermont with a negative test within three days prior to arrival. Unvaccinated Vermonters who have traveled across state lines must be tested within three days upon return to the state.

Masks and physical distancing is required when in the presence of those outside your household.

**Step 2** starts when approximately 60-70% of Vermonters 16 and older have received their first dose of the vaccine. As of May 1, Group B sectors will move to required universal guidance.

Gatherings and events may be held indoors with one unvaccinated person per 100 square feet for up to 150 people as well as any number of vaccinated people. Outdoor events may host 300 unvaccinated people plus any number of vaccinated people. Masking and physical distancing is still required.



Phased reopening plan.

**Step 3** begins when 70-85% of Vermonters 16 and older have received at least their first dose of the vaccine. As of June 1, no quarantine or testing will be required for cross state travel.

Gatherings and events held

indoors may have one vaccinated person per 50 square feet for up to 300 people, plus any number of vaccinated people. Outdoor events may host up to 900 unvaccinated people plus any number of vaccinated people. Masking and physical

distancing is still required.

By July 4, the state projects that universal guidance will be encouraged for all sectors and there will be no capacity restrictions for gatherings and events. Masking and physical distancing will be encouraged.

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development will lay out full guidance as each step forward is taken. All guidance updates will now be made available in a central location at [www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward](https://www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward).

PHOTO PROVIDED

## Agency of Transportation announces restart of Amtrak and inter-city transit service

BARRE, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation announced that Amtrak passenger rail service and inter-city bus service in Vermont will resume effective July 19, 2021.

"We are very pleased to announce the restart of these vital transportation services for Vermonters and those who wish to travel to and from Vermont by train or bus," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. "With the governor's announcement this week of the Vermont Forward Plan to reopen Vermont fully during the next few months, we now have a target date for when we will be able to safely resume Amtrak and transit services in July."

Amtrak service in Vermont was suspended March 26, 2020,

due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency. Gov. Phil Scott's phased reopening plan is based on the state's projected vaccination rate. Current projections indicate that 60%-70% of all Vermonters will be vaccinated by early June, making a full reopening possible by July 4 if the vaccination rate continues as expected.

Amtrak requires at least 90-day notice from the state to resume its passenger rail service. Amtrak personnel must complete route certification to prepare for the resumption of service.

Two Amtrak lines serve Vermont. The Vermonter originates in Washington, D.C., travels through Connecticut and Massachusetts, and has

Vermont stops in Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Windsor, White River Junction, Randolph, Montpelier, Waterbury, Essex Junction, and St. Albans. The Ethan Allen Express originates in New York City and makes stops in Castleton and Rutland. The agency is working to extend the service to Burlington beginning in 2022 and including stops in Middlebury and Vergennes.

Agency-supported intercity transit is provided by two bus

lines. VT Translines serves areas from Colchester, Vt., to Albany, N.Y., including U.S. Route 7 communities in between, and also provides the Amtrak Vermont Shires Connector bus service from Manchester through Bennington to Albany, N.Y. Greyhound normally runs from Montreal to Springfield, Mass. As long as the Canadian border remains closed, Greyhound's northerly service termination destination will be Burlington.

## Know Your Rights! Fair Housing, Tenant webinar

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Monday, April 26 at 11 a.m., join the Springfield Town Library for an online webinar "Know Your Rights! Fair Housing & Tenant Skills."

Join Wendy Rowe and Corrine Yonce of Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity's Housing Advocacy Programs for an engaging workshop on fair housing and renting in Vermont. This workshop covers the fundamentals of tenant rights and responsibilities, leases, security deposits, repairs, health code, terminations, and evictions, and also the history of the Fair Housing Act and resulting protections under federal and Vermont law,

how and when fair housing law applies, reasonable accommodations and modifications for people with disabilities, and what to do if you experience discrimination. This session is held via Zoom with lots of time for Q&A.

This event is sponsored by Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity and Springfield Town Library. Sign up is required at [www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-rights-fair-housing-tenant-skills-webinar-tickets-148236175391](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-rights-fair-housing-tenant-skills-webinar-tickets-148236175391).

This event is free and open to the public. Contact Tracey at [stlvtprograms@gmail.com](mailto:stlvtprograms@gmail.com) or 802-885-3108 with any questions.



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