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## Rockingham Selectboard discusses train station ownership

BY BETSY THURSTON

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Tuesday, Nov. 17, the Rockingham Selectboard discussed updates on the train station and grants with Development Director Gary Fox.

Fox explained that Windham Regional Commission had facilitated the application for phase one of the environmental and hazardous materials feasibility studies. Fox reminded the board at the 2020 Town Meeting taxpayers had approved an article \$12,500 for the feasibility study at the Train Station. Fox said staff had helped procure match funds for a total of \$25,000.

Three architectural firms – Banwell Architects from Lebanon, N.H., Austin Design of

Brattleboro, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin of South Burlington – offered pre-bid on their site visits. The award was expected to be announced by Dec. 15 so that the environmental hazardous materials analysis and feasibility study would commence in the spring of 2022.

Part of the study would identify funding sources for town ownership and assist in finding private operators for the building use. Fox explained that would “ensure the waiting area portion of the station stays in public transit in perpetuity.”

The town would also be eligible for funding sources from USDA Community Facilities Grant and the Vermont Community Development Program Implementation Grant. Fox explained, “The state has indicat-

ed that they would include our station in their [Federal Transit Administration] application” as part of the \$1.3 trillion infrastructure program.

Bonnie North asked how much the station would cost to purchase. Fox said \$250,000, but that grants could contribute so the town would not be paying that amount. The lot included the passenger station, the freight station, and gravel parking area.

Chair Peter Golec wondered about the local match. Fox said that number would become clear in the next couple of months.

Municipal Manager Scott Pickup said they could add an article to Town Meeting for a local share consideration.

Golec said as a historical fact

15 years ago, it failed. He said, “The feeling was the town did not need to own the train station.”

Fox replied that was why the station was deteriorating and “Why we weren’t able to apply a couple of million dollars in earmarks that were designated to the project.” He pointed out that “We’re at that place... if we don’t do something with it now it’s going to end up going the way of [Robertson Paper Mill and the YMCA] buildings.”

Fox explained, “We have the opportunity [with the train station] to do it now.” He said for federal infrastructure funding, they need to know that the station is municipality owned. He said this was part of Windham County’s regional economic strategy.



## NOTICE

We apologize for not getting last week’s Nov. 17 paper to you, as our press had a catastrophic breakdown. This was unfortunately beyond our control. We appreciate your patience as we worked through this difficult issue. See inside this week’s Nov. 24 paper for what you missed last week.

Golec said, “Going forward... if we lose the train station, we lose access to trains and transportation.”

North said it is important for people to understand the steps necessary in saving the station. She said, “We’ve known for years [about 66 Atkinson Street deteriorating], we don’t want to

repeat that with the Train Station.”

Hammond agreed, “Especially since there’s money in this transportation bill and for Amtrak.”

The next Selectboard meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m., with extra time allowed for budget proposals.

## ESBR students create promotional video with BRIC

LUDLOW, Vt. – Through a partnership with Black River Innovation Campus located in Springfield, the students at the Expeditionary School at Black River utilized their public speaking, video, and editing skills to create a new video whose intent is to promote the school’s unique learning environment.

BRIC is focused on helping to develop the next generation of skilled digital workers so “It’s an ideal match for us,” stated Kendra Rickerby, the Head of ESBR.

This partnership enables the school to serve the region’s youth through giving them access to the latest in coding, media, and gaming technology. Rickerby continued, “BRIC’s Youth Coding League, their willingness to help us

produce the ‘Through the Eyes of Students’ video, is broadening students’ horizons. It is because of BRIC that we are able to use top-notch technology. Our students enjoy this software and are eager to learn more.”

Junior Wyatt Benoit was able to hone his editing skills during the process and is credited with creating the storyboard and editing the footage with assistance from BRIC staff. The video focuses on some of the ESBR students who want others to know about the Expeditionary style of education.

Damian Foley, an eighth grade student, believes that ESBR has given him the opportunity to show his intelligence that was overlooked in other schools when teachers focused on his ADHD. Fel-



Mackenzie Kennedy receives instruction in audio recording from a BRIC staff member.

PHOTO PROVIDED

low eighth grader Azaiah Allen enjoys coming to ESBR because he is allowed a more

personalized approach to his education by being able to choose subjects that interest

him.

Mackenzie Kennedy, a seventh grader, believes that project-based learning expeditions, where students engage in interdisciplinary, in-depth study of compelling topics in groups and in their community, is a welcome change from the traditional education system. Her sister, ninth grader Kailin, could not agree more. She is a kinesthetic learner so ESBR guides her learning through projects instead of lectures. She has become more self-disciplined and the welcoming community makes her want to achieve academic excellence. It was an incredible experience being at BRIC.

Trevor Barlow, executive director, is equally as excited about the partnership. “We look forward to continuing

to support the ESBR with our programming, digital labs, and media studio that are powered by the speed of VTel’s best in class internet.”

Incidentally, Barlow grew up in Springfield and attended the Park Street School where BRIC is now located.

If you don’t know about Black River Innovation Campus, you should. It is a relatively new nonprofit designed to support entry-level digital and technology entrepreneurs and web-enabled businesses. BRIC provides access to 10-gig internet, classes and events, conference space, and a community of engaged digital and tech professionals. To learn more about BRIC, contact Trevor Barlow at 802-546-1940, innovate@bricvt.org, or visit www.bricvt.org.

## Main Street Arts features workshop Feldenkrais with Paris Kern

BY BILL LOCKWOOD

The Shopper

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Paris Kern has been a Feldenkrais practitioner since 1992, and she is now a nationally known teacher trainer as well. She has brought her workshops to Main Street Arts in Saxtons River. The most recent was Nov. 20, and the next will be Dec. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kern is originally from Baltimore, Md., and she has taught in Colorado. However, she frequently came to Chester over the years, settling permanently last July in a house in Saxtons River.

Her website describes the Feldenkrais Method as, “[It] focuses on utilizing the potential of the brain and the nervous system to learn new patterns of movement while at the same time releasing old patterns that may be causing dysfunction, pain, or discomfort.”

It is named after Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais (1904-1984) who developed the method after being told his knees were so damaged by repeated injury that he



Main Streets Arts building in Saxtons River.

PHOTO PROVIDED

would never walk again. It is designed to create new pathways in the brain to allow the body to become more flexible and pain-free.

Kern says she was a vocal performance major and a professional folk singer for years. After experiencing pain from playing the guitar, she says she found Feldenkrais and then found that it is, “the only thing in life that excites me more than

music because it is a creative process.”

The Nov. 20 workshop had a half-dozen enthused participants. Mary Ormrod from Cavendish said she has known Kern for 15 years or so and, “I think she is just brilliant. She has a way of getting to the heart of the issue more than other practitioners.”

Another participant, Leslie, said, “The teacher is a pro.



Paris Kern presenting her Feldenkrais workshop at Main Street Arts.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Feldenkrais helps the body educate the brain for the best use of the body.”

Kern said, “If I only teach you to better take care of yourself, I’ve done my job.”

Josh, who came all the way from Northampton, Mass., said, “Main Street Arts is a beautiful space. It feels like a nice fit for Feldenkrais classes.”

Main Street Arts is continuing in its recovery from the Covid

shut down now over a year and a half ago. Bellows Falls noted artist and children’s book author and illustrator Charles Norris-Brown has recently joined the organization’s board. He has taught their popular and ongoing figure drawing class there since 2017. Following a successful series of outdoor concerts this summer, Kern’s and his programs along with some poetry writing workshops are the only

programs currently happening.

Norris-Brown says they have gotten some Vermont Arts Council grants and other funding. He has now taken charge of renovating the building’s art room that was damaged by burst pipes even before the issues the organization suffered from Covid. He is also doing outreach “to get people to use the space.”

He sees their theater part of the building, that dates from the 1800s, as a “beautiful antique,” and he hopes to help get more performers, both musical and theatrical, to use the space. Norris-Brown sees the organization definitely moving away from its recent notoriety for doing big stage musicals to “community arts.” Whether it’s writing or theatrical on a smaller scale, they’re looking at the space as in “incubator” of creativity.

Anyone interested in using Main Street Arts, collaborating in their programs, or attending Kern’s Feldenkrais workshops, or other programs and classes, can contact Main Street Arts at 802-869-2960 or email info@mainstreetarts.org.

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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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EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS  
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# Westminster Center School celebrates Farm and Field Day

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Stuffing scarecrows, painting pumpkins, cooking lunch over hot coals, and playing musical chairs... these are not

your everyday school activities. But this is how the students at Westminster Center School spent the morning of Oct. 29, when they celebrated their first Farm and Field Day.



Westminster Center School celebrates Farm and Field Day.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Students from grades K-6 took part in six different activities crafted to link students to the outdoors and celebrate the harvest season. In addition to the excitement of scarecrows, pumpkins, and musical chairs – renamed “Beautiful Music!” in honor of the holiday – students went on a story walk, harvested kale from the garden for lunch, watched working farm equipment in

action, and watched as the chicken for their kale salad cooked over coals in the outdoor cinder block kitchen, the “Cinder Cafe,” built especially for this event.

Despite the frigid temperatures, students were excited to be outside. “The best part is you get to have fresh air!” remarked Scarlett, a second grader.

“I’m having fun! It’s very fun!” exclaimed first grader Anthony Lakeside.

And fourth grader Jenny said her favorite activity of the day was harvesting kale. “You get to peel all the leaves off.”

The librarian and garden coordinator, Mandy Walsh, said she was inspired by a similar event at Newbrook

Elementary several years ago. Mandy has been growing the Farm to School program at Westminster for years and was excited to host her first Farm and Field Day. “We are so lucky to have the resources of gardens, animals, woods, and fields, and we live in a historically agricultural community. The day was about celebrating what’s around us, coming together as a school community, and being joyful.”

In reflecting on the success of the event, Mandy remarked, “I think that in the big picture, the best student learning happens when students get to be outside, working together, trying new things. These are the days our students remember with fondness when they

think back on their elementary school days.”

The Farm to School team at Westminster is already planning future events and is flush with ideas of building on the tradition they’ve started. One thought was that perhaps next year, the sixth graders could lead the stations rather than the teachers.

Food Connects is an entrepreneurial nonprofit that delivers locally produced food as well as educational and consulting services aimed at transforming local food systems. The Food Hub aggregates and delivers from over 115 regional farms and food producers to over 225 buyers in southeast Vermont, southwest New Hampshire, and

western Massachusetts.

Their educational services focus on Farm to School programming. Acknowledged as a statewide leader, the program supports over 30 schools to increase local food purchasing, school meal participation, and food, farm, and nutrition education. Together these core programs contribute to a vibrant local economy by increasing local food purchases by schools and improving students’ nutrition and academic performance. Food Connects is frequently hired to provide leadership and consulting services for efforts to support food systems initiatives throughout New England and act as a catalyst for change.

## Springfield’s 4th Annual Local Loyalty Program

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Shop local this season and win! This coming Friday, Nov. 26 marks the official kickoff of the 4th Annual Springfield Holiday Local Loyalty Program. The Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to bring this fun collaborative program to the community again this year. With so many wonderful area merchants participating in the rewards stamp program this

year, you’re sure to find plenty of opportunities to fulfill your holiday shopping needs in the neighborhood.

Simply get your Local Loyalty Card at any participating Springfield area merchant and earn stamps with purchases. Each participating business will feature a unique raffle prize. Once you fill your card, you can enter it in the raffle of your choice.

The month-long Shop Local campaign runs from Plaid Friday, Nov. 26 through New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31. Raffle winners will be drawn in January.

A heartfelt thank you to this year’s “Friends of the Program” sponsors for supporting this fun and festive collaborative effort: Cota & Cota, HB Energy Solutions, and WCFR 106.5FM/1480AM.

Official start of the program

featuring all the businesses starts Nov. 26. Join us in the collective endeavor to spread cheer and strengthen support for small businesses in the Springfield region this holiday season.

Questions? Call 802-885-2779 or email [alice@springfieldvt.com](mailto:alice@springfieldvt.com). Follow the official Springfield Holiday Local Loyalty Program Event via the Chamber’s Facebook page or [www.springfieldvt.com](http://www.springfieldvt.com).

## Vermont Adult Learning student organizes personal walkathon

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Laurentia Batchelder of Springfield, Vt., is on a mission. She is a student at Vermont Adult Learning and is taking it upon herself to organize a personal Thanksgiving Day Walkathon to raise awareness and funds for the nonprofit.

“I am so excited to be able to walk for Vermont Adult Learning. They have done so much for me these last three years.

I would like to give back a bit to them. It is because of their physical education that I started walking, and 17 months later I have lost 102 pounds and am now walking six to nine miles a day. The most I have walked in a 14-hour period is 15 miles,” said Laurentia Batchelder. “Vermont Adult Learning cares about the body, mind, and soul. I hope to graduate in June 2022 in the will

of the Lord. Help me give back to Vermont Adult Learning whose teachers tease out your gifts and interests and make them potential assets.”

Donations may be made online at [www.vtadullearning.org](http://www.vtadullearning.org) or by sending checks to Vermont Adult Learning, P.O. Box 539, Waitsfield, VT 05672. Please note “walkathon” in the memo sections.

VAL serves adults, aged 16 and over, providing basic education and literacy, high school completion, GED tutoring and testing, courses for English Language Learners, workforce readiness and development, and transition to post-secondary education. Services are free. For more information, visit [www.vtadullearning.org](http://www.vtadullearning.org) or text VAL to 833-900-0907.

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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

## Thanksgiving memories

Well here we are again, Thanksgiving my favorite holiday.

When I was growing up, there were five of us kids and Ma and Dad. Our dining room table could easily seat six people, but at Thanksgiving there were always guests increasing that number to a dozen or more.

Our dining room table was an antique square oak extension table that took five leaves to extend its length. Twelve or more people could now sit around the table.

Then, as today, deer season and Thanksgiving weekend coincide. Ma was on budget to run our household. How she could pinch a penny?

Dad, Brian, and I deer hunted. I don't remember a year when one of us didn't get a deer. This was important to Ma. She could stretch a dollar further with a little venison. One year all three of us got our deer.

We had a vegetable garden but didn't grow potatoes. There was a place south of Bellows Falls on Route 5 that sold potatoes in 50-pound sacks. I remember going with my parents to buy a hundred pounds of potatoes that we stored in our root cellar. I think they cost \$2.99 for 50 pounds.

Some years one of us got our deer before Thanksgiving. When this happened, a venison roast was always on our Thanksgiving table with venison gravy. Not all gravy is created equal.

### The banquet

Ma would roast a huge turkey with stuffing. She always bought day-old bread to make stuffing. The turkey, venison roast, with mountains of mashed potato, winter squash, turnip, white pearl onions in a cream sauce, fresh bread, johnnycake, cranberry sauce, and gravy completed the fare.

### Deer hunting

We hunted mostly on weekends, although I would rush home from school, grab my rifle, and head out for an hour before dark. Cassista's orchard was a favorite place to hunt.

On weekends, Dad, Brian, and I hunted in Mount Holly or Shrewsbury. Ma would always ask if we got one when we returned home. Remember, she depended on venison to supplement her budget. She ran the house.

"No. Saw several deer but no horns."

That's when she would say, "The only thing the horns are good for is stir-



1908 Tuck's Thanksgiving postcard.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ring the gravy."

In other words, shoot a doe, which Dad was opposed to although it probably happened.

In the 1960s, we always had friends of my grandfather Donald stay with us for the weekend. They were Arnie Payne and his wife. I forget her name now, but Marion comes to mind.

They lived in Connecticut. They had a son - I think his name was Edward. Edward would park his camper on our lawn near the apple tree and camp for the weekend.

Edward had a .30 caliber M1 carbine with a banana clip. If I remember correctly, it held 10 rounds. Dad referred to it as a peashooter. It wasn't a hi-power rifle.

Edward was different. Brian always called him Deadwood.

### The women

Ma, my sisters Cheryl and Norma, and Mrs. Payne prepared supper, baking pies and bread. It was a tremendous amount of work for them. Ma took a nip now and then. By supertime, she was getting right.

When supper was ready, everyone dug in. Conversation was about deer hunting and how we'd get him tomorrow. Each morning, Brian would say, "This is it."

The women talked about their preparations for the day, recipes,

or how Aunt Ida was doing.

### This Thanksgiving

This year, it's just me and Henry for Thanksgiving. I have a dead chicken in the freezer begging to be warmed up. I'll make stuffing as Ma did. Stale bread, onion, a raw egg, and lots of Bell's seasoning. I always chop the liver and gizzard, sauté it, and add it to the stuffing. Mix with a little water or chicken stock and stuff Dumb Cluck.

We'll have winter squash, mashed potato, chicken, gravy, and stuffing. I make excellent gravy. Henry likes to pour gravy on everything. How he can devour stuffing with gravy! He has no couth at all.

Some people add apple, nuts, or raisins to their stuffing. Danny Clemons told me his father Bill added chopped oysters to his stuffing. It's all good, but I prefer traditional stuffing.

For dessert I'll make Henry's favorite: chocolate pie in a graham cracker crust with real whipped cream, not the stuff that comes in the pressurized can. Ma always called that stuff "Soap suds."

*This week's old saying: "Those above you won't hurt you. Those below you can't."*

## FOLA donates \$7,000 to Ludlow for auditorium upgrade

LUDLOW, Vt. - FOLA has donated \$7,000 to the town of Ludlow to help underwrite the costs of a major video and audio upgrades in the Heald Auditorium and Barton Conference Room.

The upgrades will provide the town with a user-friendly control facility to manage audio levels in the auditorium, add up-to-date video equipment for streaming and enhanced camera management, and provide the town with the full capability of remote access to town meetings for both residents and video recorders.

This project will be implemented by Boston Soundworks after extensive study by the



From left to right: Ralph Pace, FOLA; David Almond, FOLA Treasurer; and Scott Murphy, Ludlow Municipal Manager, as the check is handed over to the town.

PHOTO PROVIDED

town, FOLA, and Okemo Valley TV.

## "The Counterculture's Impact on Vermont" with Springfield Town Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m., Yvonne Daley will be speaking about "The Counterculture's Impact on Vermont and Vermont's Influence on the Counterculture Generation" at the Selectman's Hall, Third Floor, 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vt.

In the late 1960s and '70s, thousands of young migrants, largely from the cities and suburbs of New York and Massachusetts, turned their backs on the establishment of the 1950s and moved to the backwoods, small towns, and cities of rural Vermont, spawning a revolution that impacted the state's politics, agriculture, education, business practices, and culture.

While the movement brought hippies, organic farmers, political radicals, and freethinkers to what was then one of the nation's most conservative states, longtime residents and their practical lessons in rural living in turn influenced the newcomers.

The result is a most interest-

ing state, one that blends progressive and conservative values and ideas. Author Yvonne Daley discusses this interesting time in Vermont's history and its impact today.

This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact Tracey Craft at 802-885-3108 or stlvt-programs@gmail.com.

"The Counterculture's Impact on Vermont" is a Vermont Humanities program hosted by Springfield Town Library and supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or Vermont Humanities.

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# opinion

## SERVICES

Dear Editor,

On Nov. 2, 2021, the town of Ludlow held a vote as to whether the retail sale of Marijuana (cannabis) should be allowed in the town. By a narrow margin, the majority of those who voted was “no.” At the meeting the previous evening, residents were given the chance to speak and voice their opinions yea or nay on this issue. According to The Vermont Journal, the meeting was “well attended,” though I fail to see a 5% turnout of eligible residents to be a good turnout. Only 11 of those in attendance spoke, and seven were in favor and four opposed. Those speaking in favor received what I would call a favorable response from the attendees while those opposed were quieter.

As I stated that evening, “I’m saddened that it’s all about the money.” Many of those who spoke in favor that evening have a financial interest in bringing cannabis sales to downtown Ludlow. While I disagree with Vermont’s legalization of cannabis sales, that point is moot and not at issue here.

What is at issue is the location of such businesses – and

why Ludlow? If I were to believe what was brought forth that evening, the retail sale of cannabis would go a long way to fund the town of Ludlow’s budget as well as the unemployment issues we face: 30 full-time, living wage jobs and upward of \$100,000 in revenues for Ludlow. That’s amazing! As a former business owner and devout capitalist, I have no problem with someone pursuing an entrepreneurial endeavor. However, the main focus of these efforts is to make money, and their efforts will be toward their own personal gain, not the wellbeing of Ludlow and its citizens.

The positives and negatives of cannabis use and the statistics related to such use can be twisted and turned to show what either side wants it to show. We certainly saw that during the town meeting on the subject. My issue is “Why Ludlow?”

Ludlow is not a destination retail center. It is a tourist town. It’s a place to come and enjoy what makes Vermont special, the great outdoors and all it offers us the year round. That’s what brought me to Ludlow.

A few years back, when cannabis sales were first legalized in Colorado, my wife and I took a ski trip to Brekinridge. We were curious about the impact of such activities had on a destination resort such as that. While we do not use cannabis, we found out that the location of the retail store was right across the street from our condo, so we took a mosey over to see what it was all about.

Well, we couldn’t find it. Turns out that after some time in operation, the village trustees were not happy with the way things turned out. The atmosphere around the area was indeed a bit seedier than anticipated and not what they felt positive for

the downtown area. There were, in fact, loitering issues as well as parking issues due to the increased foot and auto traffic in the area. As a result, the retail sale of cannabis was disallowed in the downtown area. Hmm. Ludlow is not the place for this business. On busy evenings, parking is at a premium there without it!

To date, I believe 31 towns in Vermont have approved the retail sale of cannabis, and there will be more. Before the retail sale of marijuana is a reality in 2024 (?), there will be ample access for those who wish or need to avoid themselves of legal pot. I don’t think Ludlow needs to be one of those places.

Even though the issue of retail sales of cannabis was turned down in a legal vote, those who have a financial interest in the establishment of retail pot sales in Ludlow are working hard to see this come to fruition. There is a petition to bring this issue up again to the residents of Ludlow with another vote at a special meeting, at the cost of Ludlow taxpayers. Their motto is “Gotta Love Ludlow.” They will be diligent in their efforts to influence those in favor to get out and vote when and if another vote happens.

I am asking that those of you who do not see this issue as a positive for Ludlow to be just as vocal and encourage your friends and neighbors who think as we do, to be so as well. Let it be known that “We Really Love Ludlow!” Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dean Alexander  
Ludlow, Vt.

**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.



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### ALSTEAD

**Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.**  
Sunday worship begins at 10:30 a.m., led by Pastor Maureen Adams. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. For more information, email alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com, call 603-835-6358, or go to www.facebook.com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916.

### ASCUTNEY

**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.

### CHARLESTOWN

**North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.**  
Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m. Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. Please wear a mask, observe social distancing, and keep your hands clean. Go to www.facebook.com/UMCONorthCharlestown for more information.

**Holy Resurrection Orthodox**  
Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m.,

### Church, 99 Sullivan St., Claremont, N.H.

Worship is Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m. in person. Masks are optional. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

### CHESTER

**First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North**  
Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person or on Zoom. To request a Zoom link, email chesstervtuu@gmail.com. Sunday services run from September to early June.

### LUDLOW

**Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd.**  
Sunday service is 10 a.m. in person. For more information, go to Facebook @TysonCommunityChurch, call 802-522-8249, or email cindysummer55@gmail.com.

### SPRINGFIELD

**Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.**  
Sunday services are streamed online at 10 a.m. For more information, go to Facebook @SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist.

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.

Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m.,

Wednesday evening vespers at 6 p.m., and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. The church is now at full capacity with state restrictions lifted. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

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

In-person Sunday services start at 10 a.m. Please wear a mask and observe social distancing. Live streaming is also available. For more information, check out Facebook @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

### Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

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

### WALPOLE

### First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary – masks required – or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Change of ownership for local SERVPRO franchise

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – SERVPRO of Cheshire County, N.H., and SERVPRO of Windham and Windsor counties in Vermont are pleased to announce Ryan Paul and Derek Paul as their new owners. The Paul brothers recently took over majority ownership of the two franchises, which operate in the two New England states, previously owned by their parents, Richard and Susan Paul.

Ryan and Derek began their career at SERVPRO working during school breaks and eventually started their full-time roles with the company in 2002 and 2003, respectfully. In addition to their ownership roles, Ryan manages and oversees company production and project management, while Derek focuses on marketing, as well as community involvement with local chambers of commerce and various nonprofit organizations. Both Ryan and Derek

earned degrees from Keene State College and live locally in Cheshire County. The Paul brothers are looking forward to providing the same industry-leading service the local community has come to know and expect for years to come.

SERVPRO of Cheshire County and Windham & Windsor Counties, which was originally known as SERVPRO of Keene, originally opened in 1978. The business was purchased in 1988 by Richard and Susan Paul, at which point it was decided to pivot from primarily providing cleaning and janitorial services to placing more emphasis on disaster cleanup and restoration to both commercial and residential customers.

“Having the opportunity to lead this business alongside my brother is equal parts exciting and immense,” explains new co-owner Derek Paul. “It is important for our business to keep progressing while also honoring the sturdy foundation my parents, Richard and Susan, built in our community.”

Fellow incoming new co-owner, Ryan Paul adds, “I look back on my 20 years with SERVPRO and several factors have led to our success and growth – a solid foundation, development of relationships,

and a dedicated team created by Richard and Susan in the beginning, which Derek and I continued when we came on board. I want to thank Richard, Susan, Derek, and all our team members for their dedication to our growth and continued success. I would also like to thank my wife, Melissa, who came on board with SERVPRO in 2011; she has been an incredible asset to our team.”

SERVPRO of Cheshire County and Windham & Windsor Counties is a proud member of the community, providing cleanup and restoration services following a fire, water, or mold-related damage. SERVPRO is trusted by national insurance clients nationwide that seek superior and timely restoration services. The SERVPRO system’s 50-plus-years of experience, CDC-recommended techniques, and industry-leading professional, proprietary cleaning products have made SERVPRO a leader in the restoration industry. SERVPRO is also proud to be the official cleanup and restoration provider of the PGA Tour.

For more information, visit www.servprocheshirecounty.com and www.servprowindhamwindsorcounties.com.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Paid (up)
- 6 Tennis star Graf
- 12 False
- 13 Sounded content
- 14 Warm, as left-overs
- 15 Not certain
- 16 Cruise stop
- 17 Farm unit
- 19 Garten of Food Network
- 20 Austen novel
- 22 Perched
- 24 Recede
- 27 Force
- 29 Pleasing
- 32 Symbolic first step toward getting hired
- 35 Cab
- 36 British noble
- 37 Eggy quaff
- 38 Existed
- 40 Squabble
- 42 Past
- 44 Furnace fuel
- 46 Volcanic flow
- 50 Cheered (for)
- 52 Ogled
- 54 Topical anti-septic
- 55 Builds
- 56 Strong points
- 57 "Midnight Cowboy" role

### DOWN

- 1 Grieg's " — Death"
- 2 Actress Patricia
- 3 Private pupil
- 4 Sch. URL ender
- 5 "Feel-good" brain chemical
- 6 Incite
- 7 Jukebox picks
- 8 Hosp. areas
- 9 Fulfillment
- 10 Office plant
- 11 Notion
- 12 Greek consonant
- 18 Bach's "Coffee —"
- 21 1501, in Roman numerals
- 23 Moreover
- 24 Newt
- 25 Large snake
- 26 Ornamental garden trees
- 28 Best-selling Michael album
- 30 Bill's partner
- 31 Work unit
- 33 Spanish aunt
- 34 Sprite
- 39 Potpourri output
- 41 Swift
- 42 Met melody
- 43 Sticky substances
- 45 Praiseful pieces
- 47 Curved lines
- 48 Presidential power
- 49 TV spots
- 51 Dead heat
- 53 Epoch

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# obituaries

## Louise D. Foster, 1932-2021

WESTON, Vt. – Louise D. Foster of Weston passed away Nov. 9, 2021 following a brief illness.

Louise was born Sept. 19, 1932 to Robert and Lena (Orkins) Davenport. She attended Weston schools, Chester High School, and Castleton State College.

Member of the Old Parish Church, she served as a Sunday school teacher, recording steward, and communion steward. She served as assistant town clerk and was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years. She belonged to the Women's Society of Christian Service, the Women's Club, and the Weston Grange. She's been a waitress, a caregiver, and a clerk at the Londonderry Pharmacy. She also delivered the Rutland Herald newspaper.

She was a farmer's wife, mother, and homemaker. She loved getting together with family and friends, baking and preparing meals, and crossword puzzles – to only name a few things she loved.

Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the light of her life.

She was predeceased by the love of her life husband Wayne.

She leaves behind a daughter Patricia, her husband Brian; grandson Jesse, his wife Margret,



Louise D. Foster, 1932-2021.  
PHOTO PROVIDED

and great-granddaughter Erin; and grandson Derrick; a son David, his wife Angelia; grandsons Michael and Travis; granddaughter Rachel and great-grandson Anthony.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Weston Rod and Gun Club.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Old Parish Church in Weston Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. A gathering will be held afterwards at the Weston Rod and Gun Club building.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

Masks are required in the church and, due to parking restrictions, carpooling is appreciated.

## Evelyn M. Kingsbury, 1924-2021

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Evelyn May (Vadney) Kingsbury, 97, of Rockingham Road, passed away at Elm Wood Center Nov. 16, 2021. Evelyn was the daughter of Floyd and Virginia (Vadney) Powers, born July 28, 1924 in Claremont, N.H.

Evelyn spent 20 years as a jacket machine operator at Book Press, eight years at the Westminster Motel, and then spent the holiday times at the Nursey in Putney, Vt., making wreaths. Evelyn did all of this while also being a loving mother and wife to seven children and husband Fred Kingsbury. Fred and Evelyn married in 1942 in the town they would call home for many years, Westminster, Vt.

Evelyn is survived by her son Fred Kingsbury Jr., daughters Betty Lou DeMond, Shirley Rose DeMond, Linda May Jones, Susan Andre, and sons-in-law, along with many, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-



Evelyn M. Kingsbury, 1924-2021.  
PHOTO PROVIDED

grandchildren. She is predeceased by husband Fred, sons James and Timothy Kingsbury, and parents Floyd and Virginia Powers.

There will be calling hours Dec. 4, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by a service at the Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt. There will be a burial to follow at the Westminster Cemetery.

## Kevin J. Mack, 1955-2021

ATHENS, Vt. – Kevin Joseph Mack passed away Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021 from a cardiac arrest he suffered Oct. 19, 2021. His wife and sons were by his side.

Kevin was born Feb. 28, 1955 in Townshend, Vt., to Merina (LaMarche) and Floyd K. Mack. He graduated from Bellows Falls Union High School in 1974. After high school, he attended UVM and Castleton State College, graduating from Keene State College with a degree in English.

On May 2, 1981, he married Debbie Waryas. They enjoyed 40 years of marriage together and raised two wonderful sons. He worked at various machine shops throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. Although he was laid off periodically due to the instability of the machining business, he provided for his family by performing other various jobs. He was on the Planning Commission and a volunteer firefighter for the town of Athens, Vt.

Kevin loved fishing, hunting, and camping. He would reminisce often about how much he enjoyed going camping with his family, aunts, uncles, and cousins when he was younger. He also liked snowmobiling and visiting his Aunt Doris and Uncle Dwight Hitchcock in Athens, Vt. He enjoyed fishing on Athens Pond in the canoe with his oldest son Christopher as well as hunting in Athens with his youngest son Kyle.

Kevin was a big Patriots football fan and loved watching football with his father, mother, and sons every week until his father passed in 2013, whom he has missed immensely. Kevin was always very close to both of his parents.

For over 25 years, he looked forward to going on his annual fishing trip to Lake Champlain in May with his cousin Jeff and

friends Tim and Mike in the earlier years and in the later years with his cousin Jeff and friends Chris, Louie, Jay, and Danny, along with his sons. He was fortunate enough to go to Old Saybrook with the guys to do some ocean fishing.

Halloween was Kevin's favorite time of year. His mother made popcorn balls every Halloween, which he loved. Halloween was so special to him, he proposed to his wife on All Hallow's Eve. He was interested in genealogy, history, supernatural phenomena, and the afterlife. Kevin was great with people and would often strike up conversations with strangers. He had a thirst for knowledge and was an avid reader. He loved to travel and always wanted to go to Scotland where his ancestors were from.

Kevin loved his grandchildren who made him proud and brought smiles to his face. He also loved his dog Buttons; he would always call her "Daddy's little girl."

He is survived by his wife Debbie and two sons Christopher and his wife Katie and grandchildren Connor, Natalie, Jacob, and son Kyle and his wife Miranda and grandchildren Cason, Kensley, and Aubree; sisters Michele (Coombs) Powlison, Merrilee Harlow-Ficken; nephew Jason Coombs; niece Jennifer Coombs; aunt Jane (Mack) Coles; uncle Harold "Mitch" Mitchell; and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, aunts, uncles, and some cousins. He will now join Spicket, Sadie, Ranger, and Mya, his favorite dogs along with his most favorite cats Bogie, Monty, Pippin, and Possum.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to one's choice. There will be a burial of his ashes in the spring of 2022. Per Kevin's wishes, there will not be a service.

## Patricia A. LaFayette, 2021

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Patricia Anne LaFayette, 82, of North Springfield, died peacefully, Nov. 12, 2021, surrounded by her devoted family. She graduated from Chester High School and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Besides keeping a warm household, she was a 5C Headstart teacher, bank teller, managed offices, and helped run her husband's business. She also volunteered at numerous organizations and events. Pat will be remembered for her quick laugh, family tales, a feisty, no-nonsense personality, and concern for others. She so enjoyed her time with her family especially camping.

She is survived by her husband Rick LaFayette, sons Stephen Denofrio, Scott Denofrio, and Troy Densmore, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-



Patricia A. LaFayette, 2021.  
PHOTO PROVIDED

grandchildren. There will be no calling hours. A private gathering of close family will happen in the spring of 2022. Contributions may be made to the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots.

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

## Daniel Murray, 1992-2021

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Kid-brother and part-time philosopher, Daniel "Danny" Murray, 29, passed away Nov. 17, 2021 after struggling with an especially pernicious schizophrenic episode that ended with the loss of his life due to a fatal self-inflicted injury. His family and friends are deeply saddened by his passing and will miss him dearly.

Danny was born in New Haven, Conn., Feb. 15, 1992 and lived most of his childhood in West Haven, Conn. After moving to Weathersfield, Vt., with his mother in 2006, he attended Springfield High School followed by Vermont Technical College where he studied to be a contractor like his stepfather. Danny was a kind, thoughtful soul who was always willing to help out when needed and enjoyed striking up a conversation with anyone who had an ear to lend.

When not working, he could be found up at Shadow Lake in Concord, Vt., fishing or playing his guitar on the dock. Danny loved the peacefulness and nostalgia of his grandfather's property where he spent many summer vacations as a child. Like his father, Danny was musically inclined and enjoyed sharing his guitar riffs and cover songs of Blink 182 on his Facebook page. He also loved to philosophize about life, existence, love, and family, often finding positive meanings and signs where others wouldn't think to look.

Above all else, Danny loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them and doing things for them, whether it was bringing his mom flowers every Mother's Day without fail, helping Doni around the house or camp, putting together Kieran's presents the night before Christmas, guiding Brianna as



Daniel Murray, 1992-2021.  
PHOTO PROVIDED

she put a worm on her fishhook, showing off some dance skills at his cousin's wedding, or just roasting marshmallows around a campfire with everyone.

Danny was predeceased by his brother Brian Murray, father Dean Murray, and both maternal and paternal grandparents. He is survived by his mother and stepfather Kathy and Donald Brochu; sister Deanna (Ryan) Martin, nephew Kieran Martin, sister Eileen Murray, future sister-in-law Kristin Gayda, niece Brianna Murray, stepsister Jodi (Tony) Bushway, stepbrother Jennis Brochu, and a number of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to the Vermont chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Danny's name: [www.namivt.org](http://www.namivt.org). For more information about schizophrenia, please visit [www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Mental-Health-Conditions/Schizophrenia](http://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Mental-Health-Conditions/Schizophrenia).

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021 at the Davis Memorial Chapel. Reverend Gerry Piper officiated. Burial followed in the Weathersfield Bow Cemetery.

## Paul W. Smith, 1941-2021

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Paul "Pud" Wendell Smith, 80, Charlestown, N.H., passed away peacefully Nov. 15, 2021, at Valley Regional Hospital, with his wife Sylvia Smith and his loving family by his side. Paul was born June 26, 1941, in Proctor, Vt., to Wendell and Elizabeth "Betty" Smith. He was the oldest of three sons.

Paul had three children with his first wife Joan Smith, who predeceased him in 1996. He is survived by his wife Sylvia M. Smith of Charlestown, N.H.; a younger brother Roger Smith and his wife Barb of Proctor, Vt.; sister-in-law Shelley Lawrence of Chittenden, Vt.; daughter Elaine Tobias and her husband Chris of Charlestown, N.H.; daughter Paula Miller and her husband Terry of Unity, N.H.; son Timothy Smith and his wife Patty of Paso Robles, Calif.; stepdaughter Linda Simpson of Claremont, N.H.; stepson Donald Simpson of Bradenton, Fla.; six grandchildren Anthony, Kimmy, Curtis, Meagan, Jessy, and Casey; six step-grandchildren Michelle, Dotty, Bruce, Brian, Megan, and Danielle. He also is survived by 18 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Paul was predeceased by his father and mother and a younger brother, Wendell "Stub" Smith.

Paul was a mechanic early on in life and quickly transitioned to driving truck. He owned P&J Trucking along with his wife Sylvia and was in the trucking



Paul W. Smith, 1941-2021.  
PHOTO PROVIDED


industry for over 50 years. He received the Golden Achievement Award from American Truck Historical Society. Paul retired from his life behind the wheel when he was 76 years old. Paul enjoyed spending time with his family, riding his Harley-Davidson, and watching NASCAR. Paul will be missed.

A memorial service for Paul will be held Dec. 4, 2021, with calling hours between 12-1 p.m. with the service starting at 1 p.m. at Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad St., Claremont, N.H. A reception will be immediately following the service at Charlestown Memorial VFW, 365 Lovers Lane Rd., Charlestown, N.H.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., in loving memory of Paul W. Smith.

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# Deciding when to retire, when timing becomes critical —

**REGION** – Deciding when to retire may not be one decision but a series of decisions and calculations. For example, you'll need to estimate not only your anticipated expenses, but also what sources of retirement income you'll have and how long you'll need your retirement savings to last. You'll need to take into account your life expectancy and health as well as when you want to start receiving Social Security or pension benefits, and when you'll start to tap your retirement savings. Each of these factors may affect the others as part of an overall retirement income plan.

## Thinking about early retirement?

Retiring early means fewer earning years and less accumulated savings. Also, the earlier you retire, the more years you'll need your retirement savings to produce income. And your retirement could last quite a while. According to a National Vital Statistics Report, people today can expect to live more than 30 years longer than they did a century ago.

Not only will you need your retirement savings to last lon-

ger, but inflation will have more time to eat away at your purchasing power. If inflation is 3% a year – its historical average since 1914 – it will cut the purchasing power of a fixed annual income in half in roughly 23 years. Factoring inflation into the retirement equation, you'll probably need your retirement income to increase each year just to cover the same expenses. Be sure to take this into account when considering how long you expect – or can afford – to be in retirement.

There are other considerations as well. For example, if you expect to receive pension payments, early retirement may adversely affect them. Why? Because the greatest accrual of benefits generally occurs during your final years of employment, when your earning power is presumably highest. Early retirement could reduce your monthly benefits. It will affect your Social Security benefits too.

Also, don't forget that if you hope to retire before you turn 59.5 and plan to start using your 401(k) or IRA savings right away, you'll generally pay

a 10% early withdrawal penalty plus any regular income tax due.

Finally, you're not eligible for Medicare until you turn 65. Unless you'll be eligible for retiree health benefits through your employer or take a job that offers health insurance, you'll need to calculate the cost of paying for insurance or health care out-of-pocket, at least until you can receive Medicare coverage.

## Delaying retirement

Postponing retirement lets you continue to add to your retirement savings. That's especially advantageous if you're saving in tax-deferred accounts, and if you're receiving employer contributions. For example, if you retire at age 65 instead of age 55, and manage to save an additional \$20,000 per year at an 8% rate of return during that time, you can add an extra \$312,909 to your retirement fund. Note: This is a hypothetical example and is not intended to reflect the actual performance of any specific investment.

Even if you're no longer adding to your retirement savings, delaying retirement postpones

the date that you'll need to start withdrawing from them. That could enhance your nest egg's ability to last throughout your lifetime.

Postponing full retirement also gives you more transition time. If you hope to trade a full-time job for running your own small business or launching a new career after you "retire," you might be able to lay the groundwork for a new life by taking classes at night or trying out your new role part-time. Testing your plans while you're still employed can help you anticipate the challenges of your post-retirement role. Doing a reality check before relying on a new endeavor for retirement income can help you see how much income you can realistically expect from it. Also, you'll learn whether it's something you really want to do before you spend what might be a significant portion of your retirement savings on it.

## Phased retirement: the best of both worlds

Some employers have begun to offer phased retirement programs, which allow you to receive all or part of your

pension benefit once you've reached retirement age, while you continue to work part-time for the same employer.

Phased retirement programs are getting more attention as the baby boomer generation ages. In the past, pension law for private sector employers encouraged workers to retire early. Traditional pension plans generally weren't allowed to pay benefits until an employee either stopped working completely or reached the plan's normal retirement age. This frequently encouraged employees who wanted a reduced workload but hadn't yet reached normal retirement age to take early retirement and go to work elsewhere – often for a competitor – allowing them to collect both a pension from the prior employer and a salary from the new employer.

However, pension plans now are allowed to pay benefits when an employee reaches age 62, even if the employee is still working and hasn't yet reached the plan's normal retirement age. Phased retirement can benefit both prospective retirees, who can enjoy a more flexible work schedule and

a smoother transition into full retirement; and employers, who are able to retain an experienced worker. Employers aren't required to offer a phased retirement program, but if yours does, it's worth at least a review to see how it might affect your plans.

## Check your assumptions

The sooner you start to plan the timing of your retirement, the more time you'll have to make adjustments that can help ensure those years are everything you hope for. If you've already made some tentative assumptions or choices, you may need to revisit them, especially if you're considering taking retirement in stages. And as you move into retirement, you'll want to monitor your retirement income plan to ensure that your initial assumptions are still valid, that new laws and regulations haven't affected your situation, and that your savings and investments are performing as you need them to.

*Article written by Huntley Financial Services. For more information, contact Mark Huntley at 802-228-5774.*

## SEVCA offers assistance for heat and utilities this winter —

**WESTMINSTER, Vt.** – Southeastern Vermont Community Action offers a variety of services and supports for eligible Windham and Windsor County residents concerned about affording their heat and

utilities this winter.

Do you need some help heating your home? The first step for receiving seasonal fuel assistance is to fill out an application, available at [www.dcf.vermont.gov/mybenefits](http://www.dcf.vermont.gov/mybenefits). It's best to do

this now as benefits are already being issued.

Need some additional assistance to stretch your budget? Those eligible for seasonal fuel assistance are also eligible for 3SquaresVT, which can help you put healthy food on the table. Give us a call, and we can provide more information about the programs, answer your questions, and help you apply.

Are you behind on your electric bill and concerned about disconnection? Do you pay for water or wastewater services, and are you looking for help? Are you struggling to meet other utility needs? We may be able to help. For heat, utility, and other assistance, give us a call at 800-464-9951, and listen to the auto-prompt for your local family services office – Brattleboro, Springfield, Westminster, or White River Junction.

Additional information on SEVCA and the no-cost services and programs we provide to Windham and Windsor County residents is available on our website at [www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org).



When it's time for an insurance update... call us.

**Lawrence & Wheeler** HOME AUTO BUSINESS INSURANCE

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Please send a cover letter and resume to [info@drchristopherfauver.com](mailto:info@drchristopherfauver.com), attention: office manager, or call 802-885-3191 for a confidential interview.

Edgar may Health and Recreation CENTER

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## AARP Fraud Watch Network: The hills are alive with scammers

**REGION** – Seasons Cheatings! The hills are alive with the sound of scammers. Recently, the Federal Trade Commission issued a scam warning for National Pet Adoption Week. This season is a time of the year when many consider pets as great holiday gifts, but scammers see opportunity.

Well-designed websites or social media posts advertise pet adoptions as perfect family gifts. Stock photos display fake details including mention of pedigree credentials and appropriateness for "loving" families. Knowing that pets with credentials can run in the thousands of dollars, criminals guarantee expedited delivery but require payment by Venmo, gift card, wire service, or even crypto currency. Once payment occurs, the "breeder" is gone and the untraceable payment vanishes. Avoiding this type of scam requires both diligence and persistence but is worth the time and effort to ensure that you end up with the desired friend.

Begin checking local rescue or animal shelters online or preferably in person. Adoptions carry a small fee and in most cases the pet

will be vaccinated and spayed or neutered. Research the adoption service or breeder. Check the Better Business Bureau, [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org), for any ratings.

You can also use an online search engine adding the word "complaint" or "scam" or "rating" to the name of the agency. According to the FTC, your third step is a bit more complex. Check to see if a picture is a "stock photo" or a photo from somewhere else. Enter "reverse image search" on your web browser for how-to instructions.

Ask to do a live or virtual visit so you can see your new friend, which is strongly encouraged by legitimate adoption groups.

Finally, use a credit card for payment as it provides the most protection to you as a buyer. Side note: you may also want to purchase pet insurance.

As seasonal holidays arrive, vulnerability to scams increases. Anxiety, maybe panic, replaces common sense and reason. Scammers call this being "under the ether" and count on it as one way to score big results for their efforts.

New on the scene is the fake data breach: a phone call, text message, or email notification

of a data breach occurring at a bank, business, or service provider. Reports of breaches are frequent news items so the imposter message is not taken lightly. You as the intended victim are told to call this number or click on this link to verify your identity or secure your account.

The message is convincing and may use language expressing concern, alarm, or even a desire to help you stay safe. The criminal hopes that the nature of the message triggers panic and you react by responding as instructed.

If that happens, you are halfway into becoming a real victim. That seemingly innocent action acknowledges your existence and provides data including your location and the kind of device you use. By continuing to respond, the criminal has the opportunity to convince you to provide essential personal information such as a Social Security, Medicare, or driver's license number.

Protection requires personal discipline. The first step is not to respond by calling or clicking. Notification of data breaches do not come on the phone or by text message and should not be treated as a matter of dire urgency. After all, your information has already been compromised by the breach – did you order credit freezes? The criminal already accessed your data and possibly data from millions of others.

In most cases, notice of a real data breach will not include callback numbers or website links. They will simply ask you to contact them. Notification of a breach frequently comes by mail. Regardless, never respond by using the callback number or clicking the link. Respond using contact information from a statement, credit card, or self-initiated web search.

In any case, don't act with a feeling that your education makes you too smart to be scammed. Scammers are professional criminals who know how to rattle you. People with higher education make juicier targets given higher income levels.

*Questions or concerns? Contact me at [egreenblott@aarp.org](mailto:egreenblott@aarp.org). Elliott Greenblott is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. He hosts a CATV program, Mr. Scammer, distributed by GNAT-TV in Sunderland, Vt.*

Deliver care and assistance to people where they are most comfortable - at home

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A SERVICE OF VNH

Help At Home employees have access to comprehensive onboarding, continuing education and dementia training, and competitive pay - \$17/hr starting.

As a home caregiver, you'll work one-on-one with patients. Develop lasting relationships. And work in the community you live in. If you're seeking a more fulfilling career, you'll find what you're looking for in our home health care jobs in Vermont and New Hampshire.

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Have questions about a position at VNH?  
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# LEGAL NOTICES

# classifieds

## Londonderry Technical Rescue seeks new members

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Londonderry Technical Rescue is a part of the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad but with a slightly different mission. We do “technical rescue,” not caring directly for patients so no medical training is needed. Many of our members are also LVRS members but it is not required.

The main areas we focus on are backcountry rescue and vehicle extrication. Backcountry rescue involves going to remove an injured or sick person from the woods. We train in GPS navigation skills to locate people in the woods, as well as lifting and carrying techniques to move them. We respond for hikers, skiers, snowmobilers, and anyone else injured in the woods.

Vehicle extrication involves using tools like the “Jaws of Life” to remove people who are trapped in or under vehicles – or anything else they might be trapped in.

We also do occasional training in other technical rescue areas such as rope rescue and ice rescue.

We are ramping up to offer a lot of training over the next year specifically targeting new members, so no previous training is necessary. You can be helpful right away. We generally meet or train around once a month, and probably respond to calls around once a month, the majority of which are quickly canceled. We probably average 4-6 more serious calls per year.

What are the requirements? You need to be willing to learn, have a

desire to help others, and to be ready to occasionally respond in less-than-ideal conditions. You need a basic level of physical fitness. We especially need people who can walk a few miles in rough terrain in the woods and can occasionally move and manipulate some heavy tools – but anyone can help.

If you are interested, we are having an informational meeting Monday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad building on Route 100 in Londonderry. It is an opportunity to ask questions, see our truck and equipment, and to pick up an application. If you have questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Jon Mowry at [mowry@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mowry@myfairpoint.net).

### 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.

### FOR SALE

LUDLOW, Vt. – Tires for sale. Four 205/70R15 studded winter Forse. Four 195/65R15 worn some, mounted on Honda CRV wheels. Call 802-228-8768.

### GUNS WANTED

REGION – Guns wanted. Handguns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

### HELP WANTED

Food Shelf Manager – Black River Good Neighbor Services part-time position overseeing daily operations of the food shelf program. For a complete job description and to apply, please contact [kkellingtonbrngs@gmail.com](mailto:kkellingtonbrngs@gmail.com).

Aumand's Furniture HELP WANTED Delivery & Laborer. Drivers License required, 40+ hours a week, 8:30am to 5pm. Stop in or call the store for details, 603-445-5321, 2 Church St, North Walpole, N.H.

### SNOW REMOVAL

LUDLOW, Vt. – Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313.

### TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM Development Review Board

The Rockingham Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Brian McAllister, owner of Miss Bellows Falls Diner, has applied to redevelop the front entrance of the Miss Bellows Falls Diner. The DRB will meet at the Rockingham Town Hall 3rd floor conference room and on Zoom using the meeting ID: 814 6075 8306 with the passcode ‘DRB’

### Answers to Take a Break

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

## featured pet



Spike and Onchou are 2-year-old bonded guinea pigs looking for a loving home together. These silly boys squeal with delight as soon as they hear us, hoping for some yummy veggies to snack on. They are a bit shy but are good about being held. They have been with us since Aug. 20 and would love a home for the holidays. If you would like to adopt them, please fill out

a rabbit application on our website or call us. We are open by appointment only.

Springfield Humane Society  
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.  
802-885-3997  
[www.spfldhumane.org](http://www.spfldhumane.org)

# yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

\$150 for 13 Weeks • \$250 for 26 Weeks • \$400 for 52 Weeks  
Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

### Art Crafts Gifts

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Vermont State Craft Center  
Arts Crafts Gifts Workshops  
Open Wed. & Sat. 11-5, Fri. 11-7

Jewelry, scarves, glass, pottery, woodenware, ornaments, art kits, paintings, and photos

Upcoming Classes- Sign up online or in the Gallery

12/4 - Joyful Calligraphy with Jorika Stockwell. Register by Dec. 1  
12/11 - Make Your Own Winter Holiday Crafts, Decorations, and Gifts workshop with Christine Mix via ZOOM. Register by Dec. 8

[www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org) | 802-324-9465  
(02/08/22 - TFN - 13)

#### SAGE JEWELRY AND GIFTS

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Handcrafted jewelry made on site, full jewelry repair service. Locally crafted gifts, cards, and much more!  
(12/01/21 - 13)

### Bakery

#### CROWS BAKERY & OPERA HOUSE CAFE

Celebrating 22 years in business with yummy Pastries, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Cookies. Full Breakfast & Lunch. 73 Depot St. Proctorsville 802-226-7007. [crowsbakeryandcafe.com](http://crowsbakeryandcafe.com). Like us on Facebook.  
(11/30/21 - TFN - 26)

### Builders/Contractors

#### HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

802-376-3275 ~ "Not just for bangin' nails."

We offer a variety of services, ranging from handyman projects, through small restorations to full blown renovations. Our clients expect a great experience from start to finish. Our professionalism matched with proficiency, customer care, and quality hit that mark. We are fully insured and ready for your next project, big or small.

Like us on FACEBOOK: Hammer for Hire LLC @nedmortensen2008  
(06/14/22 - 52)

#### PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, roofing and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.  
(12/01/21 - 13)

#### ROSE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

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(01/04/22 - 26)

#### STEBBINS SPECTACULAR PAINTING

##### CALL 87-STEBBINS

Interior specialists. Trusted by Stratton mountain resort, McDonald's, and Dartmouth college. Winner, best of Monadnock. Mention "Shopper" for 10% off winter interior work. Restrictions apply. 877-832-2467.  
(01/18/22 - 13)

### Campground

#### CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND

2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT  
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2022! REASONABLE RATES!  
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[Catonplacecamp@aol.com](mailto:Catonplacecamp@aol.com)

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!  
(12/14/21 - 13)

### Chiropractor

#### FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977  
Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm.  
(08/16/22 - TFN - 52)

### Cleanouts

#### A BARE CLEANING

Basements, attics, houses, barns. Household items and junk removed. Free estimates, insured. Call Reg at 802-376-4159.  
(12/01/21 - 13)

### Masonry

#### DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or [stoneart49@gmail.com](mailto:stoneart49@gmail.com) or visit [drcstonedesign.com](http://drcstonedesign.com).  
(12/01/21 - 13)

#### MOORE MASONRY

Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 [mooremasonry802@gmail.com](mailto:mooremasonry802@gmail.com).  
(09/20/22 - 52)

### Okemo Valley TV

Watch on TV: Community Channel: Comcast 1076 & VTel 166

Education / Gov't Channel: Comcast 1086 / VTel 167

(TV Schedules available at [okemovalley.tv/schedules](http://okemovalley.tv/schedules) & on cable TV program guide)

Watch Online: [okemovalley.tv](http://okemovalley.tv) & [youtube.com/okemovalleytv](https://www.youtube.com/okemovalleytv)

"Gavel-to-Gavel" coverage of local meetings (playing daily on Ed. / Gov. channel)

(Meeting Playback Guide available at bottom of [okemovalley.tv/schedule](http://okemovalley.tv/schedule))  
(02/15/22 - TFN - 13)

### Payroll Service

#### ABACUS PAYROLL SERVICE

Abacus provides payroll service for small to medium sized companies. We are fast, accurate, reliable, and reasonably priced. We also offer bookkeeping and accounting services. Please call 802-546-2732.  
(11/30/21 - 13)

### Scrap Metal Wanted

Call Chet for free removal of scrap metal. Also buying scrap cars. Call 802-875-3788.  
(03/22/22 - 13)

### School Bus Driver

Green Mountain Unified School District has a position open for a Full Time Bus Driver starting immediately. Driving will be approximately 4 - 6 hours a day split between the morning and afternoon. This is a School Year Position. Requirements: CDL Class B with school bus and passenger endorsement, as well as current DOT Medical Card. Background Checks and a pre-employment drug test are required as well as being in a pool for random drug testing. EOE.

Job Type: Full-time

Pay: \$22.87 per hour

Send Resumes to: Michael Ripley at [michael.ripley@trsu.org](mailto:michael.ripley@trsu.org)

### ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION #2S1375 10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 – 6093

On October 28, 2021, Parker Hill Farm, LLC, Peter A. Fuller and Patricia J. Fuller, 481 Parker Hill Rd, Springfield, VT 05156 filed application 2S1375 for a project generally described as the addition of amenities to existing five-unit “glamping” campground including outdoor kitchen, camp store, trout fishing, outdoor seating area, and similar to serve campground guests only. The project is located 481 Parker Hill rd in Springfield, Vermont. No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before Tuesday, December 14, 2021, a party notifies the District 2 Commission in writing at the address below of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing to the address below, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. The application and proposed permit may also be viewed on the Natural Resources Board's web site (<http://nrb.vermont.gov>) by clicking “Act 250 Database” and entering project number 2S1375. If you have a disability for which you need accommodation in order to participate in this process (including participating in a public hearing, if one is held), please notify us as soon as possible, in order to allow us as much time as possible to accommodate your needs. For more information contact Stephanie Gile at the address or telephone number below.

Dated this 18th day of November 2021.

BY *Stephanie Gile*

Stephanie Gile, District Coordinator

100 Mineral Street, Suite 305

Springfield, VT 05156-3168

802-289-0597, [stephanie.gile@vermont.gov](mailto:stephanie.gile@vermont.gov)

# sports & outdoor

## The Edgar May Thanksgiving Day 5k

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – After a virtual 5k last year due to Covid-19, the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center is excited to host its 9th Annual Thanksgiving Day 5k in person along the Toonerville Trail, Thursday, Nov. 25. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome and children under the age of 12 are free.

Edgar May Executive Director Christian Craig stated, “This event is a great way to start what is typically known as the largest calorie consumption day of the year. Come out and burn off some calories, and you won’t feel as guilty about that second piece of pie.”

The 5k fun run or walk will

start at the Toonerville trailhead on Clinton Street, and the 3.1-mile course will be an out and back race alongside the Black River. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., with the race starting at 8:30 a.m.

Springfield High School’s cross country program is once again timing the race. Prizes will be given away to the top male and female finishers, the youngest participant, the most experienced participant, the largest family group, the farthest traveler, the best costume, and more!

Parking is available at the south end of the Jones Center near the trailhead of the Toonerville Trail. Please consider

bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Springfield Family Center.

The race is generously sponsored by Mascoma Bank, Ivek, Lawrence and Wheeler Insurance, and Bibens Ace Hardware. The race is also seeking volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please email [info@edgarmay.org](mailto:info@edgarmay.org).

For more information regarding the Thanksgiving Day 5k or to learn about other Edgar May Health and Recreation Center programs, visit [www.edgarmay.org](http://www.edgarmay.org) or call 802-885-2568.

## We can be thankful for Vermont’s wild turkeys

REGION – One of our native wildlife species historically played an important role on Thanksgiving Day. North America’s native wild turkeys were the ancestors of the Thanksgiving turkey on our dinner table.

Originally found only in the wild, turkeys now exist as meat-producing domesticated derivatives – the broad breasted white, broad breasted bronze, white Holland, bourbon red, and a host of other breeds – all of them descended from our

native wild turkey.

More than 140,000 servings of Vermont wild turkeys are harvested each year – that’s 140,000 servings of free-ranging, wild, and sustainably harvested protein.

Wild turkeys exist throughout Vermont today, but that was not always the case. Wild turkeys disappeared from Vermont in the mid-to-late 1800s due to habitat destruction when land



Native wild turkeys. VTF&W PHOTO BY JOHN HALL

was cleared for farming, and only 25% of the state was covered by forest.

The wild turkeys we see in Vermont today originated from just 31 wild turkeys stocked in Rutland County by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department in 1969 and 1970. Vermont’s forest habitat was once again capable of supporting turkeys. State wildlife biologists moved groups of these birds northward, and today Vermont’s population of turkeys is estimated at close to 50,000.

This is just one of many wildlife restoration success stories we can be thankful for in 2021. Funding for Vermont’s wild turkey restoration was derived from the sale of hunting licenses and a federal tax on hunting equipment.

## Bellows Falls football team receives Jim Howard Sportsmanship Award

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Wednesday, Nov. 17, at their Fall Vermont Interscholastic Football League meeting in Harford, the officials presented the 2021 Jim Howard Sportsmanship Award to the Bellows Falls Union High School football team. Pictured is head Coach Bob Lockerby accepting the award from Jim Corbo of the Vermont Football Officials Association.



PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

## Susan G. Komen Vermont Snowshoe registration open

GRAFTON, Vt. – The 2022 Susan G. Komen Vermont Snowshoe registration is now open, with early bird rates available through Nov. 30. Fees will increase Dec. 1. Registration rate information is available online at [www.komen.org/vermontsnowshoe](http://www.komen.org/vermontsnowshoe).

The 2022 Komen Vermont Snowshoe will be held in-person, Sunday, Jan. 16 at the Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center in Grafton, Vt. The Outdoor Center will open at 8:30 a.m. for new registrations and pre-registration snowshoe activities. Participants may snowshoe as a team or individually. Snowshoeing is expected to begin at 9:30 a.m.

A virtual registration option is available for those who prefer to #snowshoewhereyouare.

All registrants indicating at the time of registration that they wish to be recognized as a breast cancer survivor or someone living with metastatic disease will receive an event tee shirt. A group photo for survivors and those living with metastatic disease



The 2022 Susan G. Komen Vermont Snowshoe will be held Sunday, Jan. 16 at the Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUSAN G. KOMEN NORTHEAST

is planned for Snowshoe morning at 9 a.m.

The Komen Vermont Snowshoe is a family-friendly event with fun for everyone. Snowshoe demos will be available courtesy of our official snowshoe partner, Dion Snowshoes.

Tee shirt pick up will be held outside at the Grafton Inn, Sat-

urday, Jan. 15 between 4-6 p.m. This will be a great time to drop off snowshoe donations.

While fundraising is not required, it is strongly encouraged. Vermont Snowshoe proceeds will support the Komen Helpline, Treatment Assistance Program, national breast cancer research, and advocacy in pursuit of health equity for all. All donations handed in and made online by 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 15 will qualify snowshoers for Top Fundraising recognition.

There are volunteer opportunities for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and there

are sponsorship opportunities. All information may be found online at [www.komen.org/vermontsnowshoe](http://www.komen.org/vermontsnowshoe).

Questions may be addressed to Susan G. Komen Development Manager for Vermont, Linda Maness, at [LManess@komen.org](mailto:LManess@komen.org) or by calling 802-548-4691.

## Gear up for the holidays with Vermont State Parks

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont State Parks popu-

lar online merchandise sales are back after a pause due to Covid-19. Vermont State Parks make giving the gift of outdoor adventure easier than ever before with online ordering at [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com). Whether you’re looking to gift a romantic getaway for that special someone, a lifetime of fun memories, or stylish tokens to remember your favorite trips, the Vermont State Parks online shop has everything you need to give the perfect gift.

The Vermont State Parks shop has gifts for every price point and is endlessly customizable for every interest. Mix and match Vermont State Parks gear with gift certificates and gift cards to build an adventure pack.

Pick and choose from stylish apparel, dry bags, picnic blankets, and more to build the perfect gift set. Need a little inspiration for how to put it all together?

Life’s a picnic when you get a 10-punch pass card, picnic blanket, and insulated picnic basket.

Give a weekend getaway by choosing a Vermont State Parks gift card for the balance of a weekend’s stay, a camp lantern, and insulated Vermont State Parks goblets to keep your beverages at the perfect temperature.

Want to pass on your love of the outdoors to the next generation? Pair a 2022 vehicle pass – good for one vehicle with up to eight passengers – with a gift certificate good for boat rentals, concessions, or anything else sold in the parks.

Did you start holiday shopping early and just have a couple of gaps to fill in? We have stocking stuffers galore: hats, flashlights, patches, and more.

Whether you give the gift of adventure this holiday season, or simply want to give the gift of unforgettable experiences in Vermont State Parks, incredible outdoor explorations await at Vermont’s 55 state parks. Order gifts online and find a park near you at the Vermont State Parks online shop at [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com).

**Purchase a new Titanium Stainless Central Boiler Wood Furnace and get a**

**26% TAX CREDIT** on your 2020 Tax Return

**Example:**  
\$12,000 Furnace  
\$3120 TAX CREDIT\*  
With this example you will deduct \$3120 from your 2020 tax bill

**\*Starting January 1, 2021 take the new 25(D) Tax Credit for your purchase**  
*Total bill includes Furnace, Installation, Materials, and Labor*  
For qualifying purchases and installations, complete on or before 12/31/2021

**Business is Great! All 4 Models Available**

**New England Outdoor Furnace**  
877 John Stark Highway • Newport, NH 03773  
**603-863-8818**  
[neofnh.com](http://neofnh.com)



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# AUTOMOTIVE

# calendar

## HOLIDAY MARKETS

**NOV. 26-27** – **SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Garden Club is holding a Garden Club Christmas Shop at 39 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., Friday, Nov. 26 and Saturday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fresh green plain or trimmed wreaths, several sizes of boxwood trees, fresh centerpieces, and more while supplies last.

**WESTON, Vt.** – The very popular Weston Christmas Bazaar is returning Nov. 26 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Weston Playhouse, just off Route 100 in the center of Weston Village. There is no admission charge. The Playhouse will be filled with local vendors offering crafts, other Christmas gift items and decorations, as well as packaged artisan foods and more. Masks required.

**NOV. 26-29** – **BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance hosts an Open House Weekend for Friday, Nov. 26 through Monday, Nov. 29. Plaid Friday, Small Business Saturday, Open House – Artist Sunday, and Cider Monday are all of the special days of this annual local shopping weekend. This holiday season small businesses depend on the support of their communities more than ever. Our BFDDA Shop Local Cards are distributed at over 30 locations in Bellows Falls, Grafton, Rockingham, Saxtons River, and Westminster, Vt. Check out [www.bellowsfallsvt.org](http://www.bellowsfallsvt.org) for details.

**DEC. 2-4** – **SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Garden Club is holding a Garden Club Christmas Shop at 39 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., from Thursday, Dec. 2 through Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fresh green plain or trimmed wreaths, several sizes of boxwood trees, fresh centerpieces, and more while supplies last. On Friday, Dec. 3, the Christmas Shop will stay open until 6 p.m. for the Springfield on the Move holiday children's program. Raffle tickets for the Money Tree will be available at the shop. The drawing will take place Friday.

**DEC. 4** – **LEMPSTER, N.H.** – On Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., join the Christmas Treats & Trimmings Sale to be held at History Hall, corner of Route 10 and 2nd NH Turnpike in Lempster, N.H. The sale features homemade cookies, hot cocoa to sip while shopping, and gently used decorations to love again. The event benefits the Friends of the Miner Memorial Library. For more information, call 603-863-5023.

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – The Annual Christmas Bazaar at Second Congregational Church will once again be held Dec. 4, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Church Friendship Room. There will be handmade wreaths, a delicious lunch served, lots of yummy baked goods, gift items, and Christmas decorations galore. A special highlight is the chance to fill various sized tins with homemade Christmas

cookies. Come join us for a wonderful day to get into the Christmas spirit. Wreaths will be available for sale during the week prior to the bazaar. For more information, please call the church office at 802-824-6453.

**DEC. 18** – **CHESTER, Vt.** – The Chester Farmers' Market will have an indoor farmers market, Saturday, Dec. 18, from 12-4 p.m., at 92 Route 11 in Chester. This will be a great opportunity to stock up on some items and check out some new vendors who will have local foods and goods for your holiday needs.

## EVENTS & CLASSES

**NOV. 27** – **LUDLOW, Vt.** – Join us for Stop the Stigma fundraiser, Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, from 5-8 p.m., at Mangiamo's Restaurant in Ludlow. This event is free and open to all ages. Stop the Stigma is a nonprofit breaking the silence regarding mental health and addiction. The event includes entertainment by Shakey Pines, silent auction, door prizes, food, and cash bar. For more information, contact Dave VanGuilder at 802-376-9322 or Paula VanGuilder at 802-738-9227.

**DEC. 4** – **BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Truman Capote's quirky tale, "A Christmas Memory," a Wild Goose Players staged reading, at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited. There is a suggested donation. Advance donations double as a chair reservation in the studio audience and can be made online at [www.stage33live.com](http://www.stage33live.com). Masks are required.

**DEC. 11** – **CHESTER, Vt.** – The annual senior Christmas Dinner is back and will be delivered Dec. 11, 2021. Please sign up by Dec 4. Leave a message with any of the following: Chester Community Cares at 802-875-6341; Motel in the Meadow at 802-376-6643; or Chester Town Hall at 802-875-2171. Please leave your name, address and phone number, number of dinners, and preference of turkey or ham. Volunteer drivers are needed. If interested, please call Chris Meyers at 875-342-3139.

**DEC. 12** – **BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Rupert Wates brings his thoroughly American acoustic folk steeped in deep wells of cabaret and jazz to Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Local favorite Josh Maiocco opens. Tickets in advance or at the door. Limited seating. Masks are required. For tickets or more information, go to [www.stage33live.com](http://www.stage33live.com).

**SUNDAYS** – **CHESTER, Vt.** – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol has resumed meeting Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

**MONDAYS** – **BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Ext., Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email [sdoyle@springfieldmed.org](mailto:sdoyle@springfieldmed.org).

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays from 7-8 p.m. at the old St. Charles Catholic School building, 25 Cherry Street in Bellows Falls. The program is free. Call Celeste with any questions at 802-376-3507.

**WESTON, Vt.** – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

**TUESDAYS** – **BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Come check out TOPS – Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. We are taking Covid-19 precautions so a mask is required while attending the meeting. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5:45 p.m.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Senior Solutions is sponsoring two Fall Prevention Tai Chi classes in the Great Hall, 100 River St., Tuesdays through Dec. 14. The beginner class will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The class for intermediate and advanced practitioners will meet from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Tai Chi helps lower the risk of falling, improves concentration, leg strength, balance and coordination, and reduces joint pain and stress. Come join us – it's fun and free!



**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Meals on Wheels serves a senior community lunch every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the meal site, which is located on the corner of Union and Southridge streets in Springfield. All-you-can-eat buffet includes milk, coffee or tea, and dessert. Suggested donation. For more information, call 802-885-5879.

**WEDNESDAYS** – **BRATTLEBORO, Vt.** – Every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Taking Steps Brattleboro is offering Advanced Care Planning informational meetings via Zoom and in person. For more information, call Dan Freeman at 802-257-0775 ext. 101 or email [don.freeman@brattleborohospice.org](mailto:don.freeman@brattleborohospice.org).

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at [bwquilter1778@gmail.com](mailto:bwquilter1778@gmail.com).

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

**REGION** – On Wednesdays at 5 p.m., join Lori Wright for Yoga Flow with Meditation, live or watch the video during your perfect time. A 45-minute gentle flow class with meditation to strengthen, improve flexibility, bring balance, relieve stress, and improve the immune system. Calm the "monkey mind" and help bring peace to your life, whether it is on or off your yoga mat. Contact Lori Wright

at 603-401-8123 or email at [loriwright163@gmail.com](mailto:loriwright163@gmail.com) to register.

**THURSDAYS** – **CHARLESTOWN, N.H.** – Every Thursday afternoon, Upper Valley Land Trust holds community garden workdays at our Up on the Hill Conservation Area off of Richardson Road in Charlestown. The garden is run by the UVLT and all of the produce is donated to the Claremont Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. No experience needed and all tools provided. Children welcome. An adult must accompany those under 15. Sign up to receive more information about scheduling and tasks at [www.uvlt.org/food-pantry-garden](http://www.uvlt.org/food-pantry-garden).

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m. and via Zoom from 7-8 p.m.

**N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month from 6-7 p.m. at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email [dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org](mailto:dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org) or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Meals on Wheels serves a senior community lunch every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the meal site, which is located on the corner of Union and Southridge streets in Springfield. All-you-can-eat buffet includes milk, coffee or tea, and dessert. Suggested donation. For more information, call 802-885-5879.

**WALPOLE, N.H.** – Women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting,

a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

**FRIDAYS** – **CHESTER, Vt.** – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Friday from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at [bwquilter1778@gmail.com](mailto:bwquilter1778@gmail.com).

**WALPOLE, N.H.** – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous Fridays from 7-8 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

**SATURDAYS** – **GASSETTS, Vt.** – The Gassetts Grange and Green Mountain Express are excited to be holding their Round and Square Dances the first Saturday of every month from 7-10 p.m. at the Grange Hall. There are snacks and drinks on sale in the kitchen and a 50/50 raffle drawing. We do ask for donations per person to be paid at the door. For more information, please call 802-591-4290 or 802-875-1051.

**GASSETTS, Vt.** – Gassetts Grange hosts breakfast the second Saturday of every month, serving from 8-9:30 a.m. There is a fee per person. Menu includes bacon, sausage, eggs, sausage gravy, plain and blueberry pancakes, home fries, toast, juices, coffee, and tea. Eat in or take out. Hope to see you all there. For more information, call 802-591-4290 or 802-875-1051.



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# arts & entertainment

## “Color in Motion” fine art show at DaVallia

CHESTER, Vt. – DaVallia invites you to a new fine art exhibition. “Color in Motion” will feature a new collection of non-representational fine art paintings by Cameron Schmitz, Nov. 18 through Dec. 19.

DaVallia Gallery is pleased to feature artist Cameron Schmitz. Cameron Schmitz’s art is a response to the tender and emotional relationships within her life, rooted in notions of touch, love, and wonder that she experiences. Being

a parent has heightened her senses and clarified her desire to express an inner joy, wonder, and a contented unknowing about life.

Dashes of paint, gestural strokes, and rhythmic marks that appear become metaphors for human touch, personal exchange, our energy, and the shifting of time. Schmitz’s paintings are a metaphor for her per-



“Color in Motion” features the artwork of Cameron Schmitz. PHOTO PROVIDED

ception of life. Within the making of every painting there are moments of complete delight, utter despair, disorientation, and renewed elation. Within each work, the illusions that appear feel both familiar and mysterious, and beautiful but raw, are what are the most compelling to Schmitz.

Established in 2009, DaVallia has been a five-star destination for the arts. Located on Route 103 in the historic Stone Village of Chester, their gallery and sculpture gardens provide an inspiring atmosphere to experience a diverse array of art. DaVallia welcomes you to enjoy the third show of the 2021 season.

To preview the show, purchase works, or to learn more about our art collection, visit us online at [www.ArtfulVT.com](http://www.ArtfulVT.com). Masks are required at this time inside the gallery. To schedule an appointment for a private viewing, call Michael Alon at 802-875-8900.

## Mark Breen presents “A Mighty Wind: The Hows and Whys of Hurricanes”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Mark Breen will present the next Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program, “A Mighty Wind: The Hows and Whys of Hurricanes,” Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary’s Church on Pleasant Street.

As senior meteorologist of the Fairbanks Museum, Breen is a familiar voice for his “Eye on the Sky” weather forecasts on VPR radio. OLLI members enjoy Breen’s engaging, informative style of program and will be celebrating his 10th annual presentation to the group.

Hurricanes have always maintained a reputation of fury and destruction and in recent years have been viewed through the lens of climate change. These tropi-



Meteorologist Mark Breen. PHOTO PROVIDED

cal denizens are amazingly powerful, yet uncharacteristically fragile. He will share a look into a hurricane’s formation, development, and life-cycle. He’ll also examine their history in New England as well as what the future may hold.

OLLI Springfield is pleased to be able to again host in-person programs. Due to the changing

current situation of Covid-19, the University of Vermont is now requiring all attendees wear masks regardless of their vaccination status.

The events are very safely run. We welcome new participants. Please come and try out our programming to see if these types of programs are of interest to you. There is a membership fee. Non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee. Pre-registration is highly recommended. To register, please go to [www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield](http://www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield). For registration help, please call 802-656-5817.

We already have an exciting lineup of history, nature, and music programs planned for the spring 2022 semester. In January, check the website for the listings and to register.

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## Stop the Stigma fundraiser at Mangiamo Ristorante

LUDLOW, Vt. – Join us Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, from 5-8 p.m., at Mangiamo Ristorante in Ludlow for our first fundraiser for Stop the Stigma. Shakey Pines will provide the entertainment for the evening, and there will also be a silent auction, door prizes, guest speakers, and more. This event is free and open to all ages.

This fundraiser will help to launch a new program that will provide ongoing assistance to many in need, including co-pays, gas cards, food cards, Happy Bags, support groups, and scholarships.

Stop the Stigma is a non-profit organization breaking the silence in regard to mental health and addiction. Dave and Paula VanGuilder

are huge advocates for those in need, and especially since the pandemic, have been active bringing awareness and aid around mental health and addiction.

For more information, check out their event on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/events/254977889915690](http://www.facebook.com/events/254977889915690), or contact Dave at 802-376-9322 or Paula at 802-738-9227.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021

# CHRISTMAS IN WESTON

Be filled with holiday spirit as the Town of Weston invites you to experience the magic of Christmas!



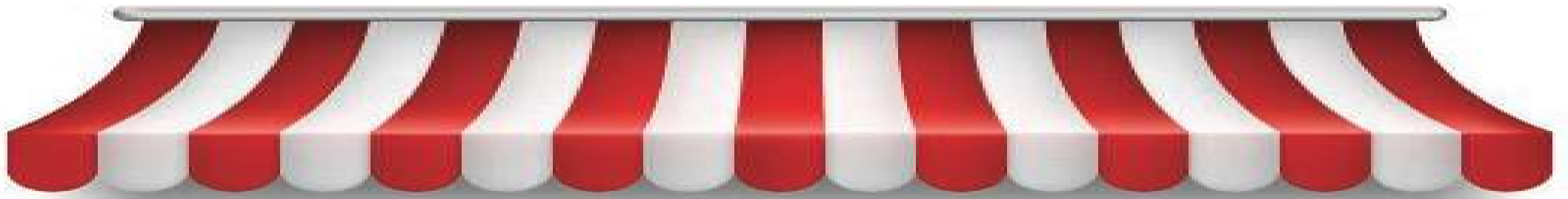
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Enjoy food and snacks on the green 11:30 - 4:30, lunch to go at Mildred’s Grill 11 - 4, or gather inside at The Hub, Weston’s new dining destination, lunch and dinner.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 12:00 -3:30 Horse Drawn Wagon Rides Starting from The Vermont Country Store
- 3:00 Christmas Carols Led by the BBA Carolers on the Village Green
- 4:00 Santa Arrives at the Town Green
- 4:15 Christmas Tree Lighting & Holiday Light Display
- 4:30 Fireworks Display
- 7:00 Weston Playhouse Theatre Company Holiday Revue at Walker Farm





# small business saturday

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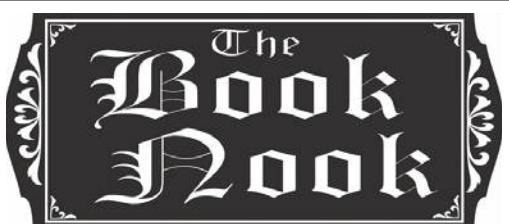
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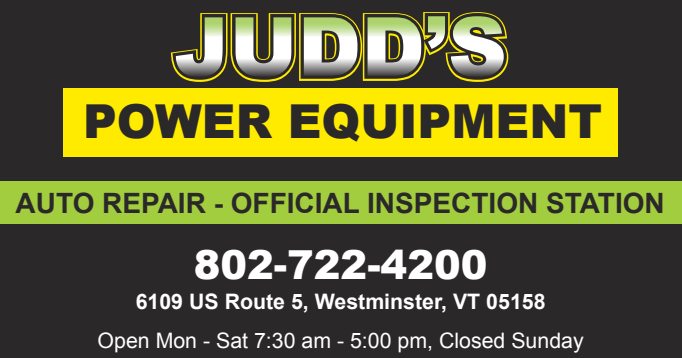
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# holiday happenings REAL ESTATE

## Brownsville holiday happenings in December

**BROWNSVILLE, Vt.** – Kick off your holiday season in Brownsville at one or all of the happen-

ings taking place Dec. 4 and 19. This December various committees of the Brownsville Community



**Brownsville Christmas Trees.**

PHOTO PROVIDED

Church will host festive and traditional Christmas events.

For decades folks have started their Christmas shopping at the Brownsville Christmas Bazaar, which runs from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the West Windsor Town Hall. In the morning, shoppers at the bazaar will enjoy coffee, donuts, and Christmas music by West Windsor's famous fiddler, Adam Boyce.

Busy shoppers can also recharge with a fine lunch starting at 11 a.m. with homemade soups, stews, salads, and sandwiches as well as freshly baked desserts. Contact Gail Britton at 802-674-6805 for more information on the vendors. Contact Molly Holeran at 802-289-0351 for information on the luncheon.

Come back at 4 p.m. because the Beautification Committee will be hosting the 7th Annual West

Windsor Tree Lighting including caroling, a fire pit, and a visit by some very special guests across from Town Hall.

This will be followed by the Christmas Music and Carols at Brownsville Community Church at 5:30 p.m. Rev. Christian Huebner has arranged this concert featuring talented musicians of all ages.

On Sunday, Dec. 19, from 4:30-6 p.m., the community will have three opportunities to enjoy a narration of the Christmas Story in and around the manger at Tribute Park adjacent to the church. The story will be interspersed with Christmas songs. Contact the Brownsville Community Church at bcchurchvt@gmail.com for more information on the concert of Christmas Music and Carols and the Live Nativity.

Admission is free for all the events. A free-will offering will be accepted at the church to help offset costs. Covid guidelines in place at the time will be adhered to.

The Brownsville Community Church is located on the Brownsville-Hartland Road, between Albert Bridge School and the West Windsor Town Hall. For more information, call 802-484-5944, email bcchurchvt@gmail.com, or go to www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

## Springfield Humane Society returns to Christmas Trees of Vermont

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Humane Society bakers and volunteers are excited to see our friends in the community again at Christmas Trees of Vermont after a necessary year hiatus. The humane society will be at Christmas Trees of Vermont, 987 Connecticut River Rd., in Springfield, each Saturday from Nov. 27 through Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year, to allow social distancing, volunteers will pass baked goods, fresh popcorn, and hot cocoa through a window to patrons. We will have limited edition handmade and painted ornaments available from a local artist. All items are available for a suggested donation.

Also at Christmas Trees of Vermont, cut your own tree, choose from a wonderful selection of pre-cut trees, and see Santa the first three weekends of the season,



**Springfield Humane Society is back at Christmas Trees of Vermont.**

PHOTO PROVIDED

starting the weekend after Thanksgiving. Santa will be inside his house and you can visit with him from a distance. If you're good, he'll send you a treat down his special Candy Cane Slide!

The Springfield Humane Society is dedicated to improving the quality of life for animals by providing protection, compassionate care, and adoption services for homeless animals in the Andover, Baltimore,

Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Londonderry, Ludlow, Springfield, Weathersfield, Weston, and Windsor regions of Vermont. Through public education, we advocate for a humane community by promoting responsible pet ownership and prevention of cruelty to animals.

The Springfield Humane Society is a 501(c)(3) organization that relies on the generosity of donors to further its mission.

## Fun, unusual staging of Truman Capote's quirky tale, "A Christmas Memory"

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – "A Christmas Memory" is a story by Truman Capote set in his early childhood, when he was forced to live with distant cousins, none of whom paid any attention to him, with one exception – a much older cousin, also an outsider in the family and a bit strange. The two of them became fast friends.

The story takes place at Christmastime when they made little fruitcakes for people they liked, including one for the President. The story climaxes when they go

with great trepidation to visit Mr. Haha Jones, the only person who can supply them with the whiskey they need for the fruitcakes, because it's Prohibition.

This version is performed by a chorus that supplies narration, sounds, musical interludes, tableaux, and character voices. A wild time is expected for all, along with a plentiful dose of Christmas spirit.



**"A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote.**

PHOTO PROVIDED

John Hadden directs his adaptation of this tale along with David Stern and the Wild Goose Players. The cast includes John and David, as well as Libby McCawley, Jan and Mike Scheehy, Riley Goodemote, Ibby Hopkins, Susan Still, and Morganna Ekkens. Lighting design by Ira Wilner.

This in-the-round hybrid of a staged reading, radio play, and casual theater will be recorded and filmed at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt., in front of a live studio audience for one performance only, Saturday evening, Dec. 4. Door opens at 7 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Seating is limited. There is a suggested per-person donation for the cast and crew. Advance donations double as a chair reservation in the studio audience and can be made online at www.stage33live.com.

Masks are required – note that the cast will not be masked in case this factors into your decision-making.

Stage 33 Live is an industrial-rustic listening room in a former factory, hosting local, regional, and national performers in a casual, intimate setting. No bar or kitchen; the stage is the mission; snacks by donation. For more information, visit www.stage33live.com.

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See Pet of the Week on Page 7A

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Homes like these are a rare find with big, spacious rooms, high ceilings and lots of details. The first floor of this home offers formal dining room, formal and informal living room (with woodstove) newer kitchen with walk-in pantry, laundry room, master suite with full bathroom, a large front/center hall. Upstairs offers a second master bedroom with bath, sitting room, additional bedrooms, bath and in-law kitchen for configuration as one please. Outside offers wrap around porches, attached garage, deck area and a large Barn. The grounds consisting of 1+- acres is a delightful walk including gardens, fire pit, former water feature. Well cared for and worth a look! \$399,000

Grafton home with acreage. This is a rare opportunity to find such a lovely property just on the outskirts of the village with close to 50 (potentially subdividable) acres. The gently used c.1993 home offers great amenities with a large mudroom/entry/laundry, large eat-in kitchen/keeping room, formal dining room, large living room with fireplace, 3/4 bath on the first floor. Upstairs is expansive with three bedrooms (master bedroom with nursery/office/exercise room) full bath and walk-in attic room. Notable features include wide stair cases, hardwood floors, sunny back deck, four season porch, lots of closet/storage space. The full basement offers abundant storage room. The land is mostly wooded giving the home a very private setting with abundant wildlife. \$500,000

Picture perfect. Major renovations from top to bottom, everything new in the living space including an open concept living/dining/kitchen (kitchen with new appliances, butcher block counter top, farmers sink, sliders to the deck) and laundry/half bath on the first floor; three bedrooms (master bedroom with 3/4 bath and walk-in closet) and two baths on the second floor to a new furnace, well pump and hot water heater in the walk-out basement. Attached one car garage has oversized headroom. 3.4+- acres with expansive side yard with long river frontage. Access to snowmobile trails across the street and close proximity to Grafton & Saxtons River. A must see. \$299,900

# holiday happenings

## Santa is coming to Springfield Dec. 3

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us for Springfield's Annual Downtown Holiday Program, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Once again, the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce and Springfield on the Move are teaming up to bring an evening of family fun and cheer to the community.

Festivities will kick off with Springfield on the Move's Sticker Map, starting at 4 p.m. at 41 Main Street. At the end of the treasure hunt, kids can turn their completed maps in for a goodie bag and the opportunity to select from an assortment of handmade mittens and hats donated by Knit Wits.

Clafin Family Food will be set up across from the tree lighting at the entrance to Comtu Cascade Park, 5 Main Street, selling their yummy food. Springfield Community Band will bring holiday cheer from 5:30-6 p.m.

And as always, the Chamber has invited Santa to come to town for our community tree lighting ceremony. Santa will make his grand entrance at 6 p.m., and he will be on site outside his special house at 6 Main Street until 9 p.m. to visit with all the children.

We look forward to the gathering Dec. 3, and we hope you can join us for this merry holiday celebration.

Unable to attend? Drop off a letter to Santa in the mail slot in Santa's House.

Special thanks and a warm shout out to HB Energy Solutions for all their help with making spirits bright. Thank you also to all the many volunteers who give their time and energy to help make the whole thing possible.

For more information about Springfield's Downtown Holiday Program, contact the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce office at 802-885-2779 or Springfield on the Move at 802-885-1527.

## Elf Encounter event sponsored by Mascoma Bank

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The winter holidays are upon us and the Springfield Area Parent Child Center has something exciting in the works thanks to a sponsorship from Mascoma Bank.

With ongoing physical distancing recommendations this year, SAPCC will not be offering their regular holiday production of "Twas the Night. Instead, they will be creating a new, contact-free event called Elf Encounter where anyone can register to "elf" their children, family, friends, or co-workers.

At least two of Santa's elves will show up at the requested address within our local region during a specified



Springfield Area Parent Child Center's Elf Encounter will deliver holiday gift bags around the local region. PHOTO PROVIDED

time to drop off fun holiday gift bags and letters from Santa. Participants can watch in won-

der from the window or come outside, say hello, and take a distanced photo!

Like last year, you can purchase a holiday gift bag and pick up your items at SAPCC. Holiday gift bags include a 4-ounce mug, cocoa packet, sweet treat, activity book, craft project, children's book, small stuffed animal, and a personalized letter from Santa.

Registration is now open online. There is also still a need for elf volunteers; costumes are provided. Visit [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org), join the Facebook event, or call 802-886-5242 for more information.

## "Joyful Calligraphy" workshop at Gallery at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is delighted to have Jorika Stockwell back with a new calligraphy workshop, "Joyful Calligraphy," Saturday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jorika is a pleasure to work with and oh so knowledgeable.

Learn several different styles and scripts of calligraphy through writing the word "joy." You will cover basic pen skills, or if you already know calligraphy, you will learn some interesting twists. At the end, you will create a simple greeting card from your most joyful work.

Pilot parallel 2.4mm pens will be available for purchase in class or bring your own 2-3mm flat pen/nib. Ink is provided. There is a material fee as well as registration. Register by Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street in Springfield, is open Wednesdays and Satur-

days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net), or go to Face-



Make greeting cards at the Joyful Calligraphy workshop with Jorika Stockwell. PHOTO PROVIDED

book or [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org). Handicap accessible.

### Springfield Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale

Springfield Plaza  
Friday, Dec. 3, from 4-8:30 pm  
Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 am - 5 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 5, from 9-11 am

**\$35**

Cash or Check. Local Delivery Available.



## Christmas in Weston is back in 2021

WESTON, Vt. – Be filled with holiday spirit as the town of Weston invites you to experience the magic of Christmas with us Saturday, Dec. 4.

Enjoy food and snacks on the green from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; lunch to-go will be served at Mildred's Grill, 657 Main Street, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or gather inside at The Hub, 719 Main Street, Weston's new dining destination for lunch and dinner.

The day's events include horse drawn wagon rides from 12-3:30 p.m. at the Vermont Country Store, 657 Main Street; Christmas Carols led by the BBA Carolers

at 3 p.m. on the Village Green; Santa's arrival at the town green at 4 p.m. with the Christmas tree lighting and holiday light display at 4:15 p.m.; enjoy fireworks starting at 4:30 p.m.; and to end the day join the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company for a Holiday Revue at Walker Farm, 705 Main Street, starting at 7 p.m.



Don't miss Christmas in Weston this year. PHOTO PROVIDED

All activities are simplified with your health and safety in mind.

## Ludlow Village Festival of Lights

LUDLOW, Vt. – Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates is proud to sponsor the first-ever Ludlow Village Festival of Lights – a Vermont tradition in the making. Businesses and residents are encouraged to make an extra effort to decorate their storefront or home to help celebrate the holiday season and create the best festival of lights in the town of Ludlow.

Participants will have the opportunity to enter a contest for Best in Town! Pick up an entry form at the Mary Davis office in Shaw's Plaza, at the Chamber office, or email [marketing@davisandcompany.com](mailto:marketing@davisandcompany.com), and we'll email you a registration form.

Participants are encouraged to share photos of their decorations with social media using the hashtag #ludlowvillagefestivaloflights on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Join others in the community by bringing out your best creative talents to provide a festive holiday atmosphere for Ludlow residents and guests.

The Festival of Lights will begin Thanksgiving Weekend and continue through New Years. There will be commercial and residential entries for the contests.

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sociates has a long history of community support through fundraising and community service projects. We are proud to continue the history and traditions established by Mary Davis in 1958.



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