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ARPA talk in Bellows Falls

BY BETSY THURSTON

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Tuesday, Jan. 24, the Bellows Falls Village Trustees discussed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Municipal Manager Scott Pickup gave the board a list of department suggestions and those that scored the highest at the public meetings held in May 2022.

ARPA funds were distributed nationwide and Bellows Falls received roughly \$880,000. The Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) offered guidelines for municipality spending to include; prioritizing short-term investment with lasting benefits, long-term investment in urgent health and economic needs, collaboration with community partners and organizations, leveraging other funding, and avoiding budget defi-

cits.

Trustee James McAuliffe identified two he supported; the sally port – a secured controlled entry at the public safety building, and a biosolid storage building.

Village President Deborah Wright said the sally port cost was too high; it would take half the allotment of ARPA funding. Pickup said they had based the pricing on Chester's new facility and their sally port design.

Trustee Jeff Dunbar asked if the sally port was filling a new need or a current deficiency. Pickup said it was an accepted practice for both the safety of officers and prisoners.

Trustee Stefan Golec said it would also offer a secure location for impounded vehicles.

Dunbar clarified, "do we have a greater need than we had in the past" for the addition. Pickup said the depart-

ment reports more items seized and more uncooperative criminals than when the building was built in the 1980s.

Trustee Wade Masure said this would also provide a warm place to leave vehicles instead of leaving them idling all night. He said Jim Smith of J&S Auto mentioned the life of vehicles wasn't determined by mileage but by idle time.

Dunbar suggested spending prioritization and said he understood that the response should be a condition caused by Covid.

Pickup said they had expanded the scope of acceptable uses.

Dunbar said, "we have a huge responsibility to vote on the use of this one-time fund." He suggested looking at long-term impact and said it would be helpful to rate each item on the list for the impact on the com-

munity.

Pickup explained other items on the list; the boiler at the Greater Rockingham Area Services (GRAS) which scored highly at the May meetings and a proposed pickleball court addressing the lack of senior recreational opportunities.

Wright said the only item that fell into Covid recovery funding, and was a project she supported giving ARPA funding to was the biosolid storage tank. She said Saxtons River had allocated their funding to include a new vehicle chassis and software upgrades, and had heard the GRAS project had already received their funding.

Pickup said the project cost for the GRAS boiler was \$1.887 million and there were committed funds of \$1.070 million. They had received grants from Northern Borders for \$817,000, Ver-

mont capital improvements for \$17,000, Wood Waste heating for \$60,000 and Efficiency Vt. for \$50,000. That left \$887,000 still pending, and applications had been filed for a grant through the Community Block Development and a loan from USDA for \$200,000.

Wright's concern was that as a private nonprofit that benefits the entire community, "the entire community is not contributing funds."

She recommended the village provide seed capital to help many of the individual projects submitted and suggested the village move away from fossil fuels.

McAuliffe urged the board if they had other ideas, they should be on the list. He said they needed to make a decision, but agreed the GRAS building was a critical service.

McAuliffe said, the Bellows Falls population would

be hard pressed if the facility closed, "certainly that project is very important to the village." He said the sally port had been discussed for more than two years and said the safety of officers and issue with running vehicles was an important factor to consider.

Dunbar agreed and wanted more information; looking at maintenance costs that would add to future budgets, versus something that provides revenue or lowers costs to taxpayers.

Pickup agreed the sally port would extend the life of police department vehicles, saving taxpayer money. The village will continue budget discussions on Feb. 14 and March 14.

The village trustees meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m in the lower theatre of the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Town of Jamaica has new town administrator

BY JOE MILLIKEN,

The Shopper

JAMAICA, Vt. – The Town of Jamaica has appointed Mike Tuller as its new town administrator. Originally hired last year to serve as the town's flood administrator, Tuller's new position was announced at a recent selectboard meeting.

"I was originally hired by the Town of Jamaica in 2021 to serve as part-time flood administrator, as I was also serving a similar role for the Town of Wilmington as their zoning administrator, where the work involved reviewing flood maps and de-

termining what permitting would be required," Tuller said in a recent interview.

"Prior to the pandemic, I attended a training session where I met Jamaica Selectboard Chair, Greg Meulemans. He had recently been selected as the chair and I offered to help the community if needs dictated in the future, based on my background as a planning consultant."

A year later, Tuller would be approached by Jamaica to serve as their flood administrator, and because the duties were minimal, the position would not affect his work demands in

Wilmington. Then, when Jamaica offered the town administrator position in 2022, it coincided with Tuller's appointment date in Wilmington being renewed.

"I took the opportunity to shift my occupational duties a little closer to Manchester Center, where I live with my family," Tuller said. "It has been an honor to serve as Jamaica's first town administrator, and my work is focused on improving operations in the town departments and evaluating repurposing town buildings in the community."

Having spent much of his career in planning and help-

ing communities plan and develop their town-supported projects, this is the path he also plans to pursue with Jamaica. Initial areas of interest include helping to improve the operations of the road department and transfer station, as well as assisting with town administration.

As with many Vermont towns, Jamaica has multiple historic buildings. However, these buildings are in serious need of upgrades such as structural improvements and public accessibility. Tuller believes that these structures can be rehabilitated to once again, be im-

proved assets to the community.

"Jamaica is currently evaluating potential improvements to the old town hall building and the historic bank building across the Route 30/100 roadway. The improvements conceptualized include potential energy source conservations, ADA accessibility, and customary maintenance opportunities. Also, the Jamaica Memorial Library Trustees are developing plans for the library on Depot Street and potential uses for the Rawsonville School House building at the commercial node of VT Routes

30/100.

Ultimately, the decision in moving forward with these improvement projects rests on the Jamaica community and the selectboard in budgeting these projects for implementation activity. In my role with the town, I will be providing the selectboard with the necessary background research, improvement scenarios, and cost estimates in assisting their decisions regarding development priorities posed. Jamaica has also made monumental efforts in the last 10 years in addressing the need to improve water and sewer infrastructure."

Laura Cody McNaughton Memorial Fund Scholarship Award, 2022

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Laura Cody McNaughton Memorial Fund is proud to award this year's \$8,000 Public Health and Community Service Scholarship to Stephanie Ager of Bellows Falls, now studying at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn.

Throughout her high school career Stephanie has been actively involved in academics, sports, and community service. She graduated second in her class and was inducted into the National Honor Society. At Bellows Falls Union High School, she served in student government and participated in band, chorus, and sports, as well as other extracurricular activities. Even with the constraints of Covid, Stephanie was able to volunteer in her community. Her many activities included serving the Girl Scouts, the Junior Auxiliary of the American Legion, and as a planning commissioner for the Town of Rockingham. Stephanie



Stephanie Ager.

PHOTO PROVIDED

is described as a natural leader, always making her peers feel supported and offering a sense of belonging to all.

The Laura Cody McNaughton Memorial Fund Public Health and Community Service Scholarship is given to an applicant from Springfield or a surrounding Vermont high school

who best exemplifies Laura's scholarship, leadership, and commitment to the community. Students with a demonstrated interest in public health are given particular consideration. There were 13 outstanding applicants last year with truly amazing academic and community service credentials.

The fund is the result of generous contributions from local individuals and businesses, as well as proceeds from the Lace-Up for Laura 5K race, which occurs in Weathersfield annually on the last weekend in June. Students accepted to college are encouraged to apply for the 2023 scholarship through their high school guidance counselors.

Record breaking year for Good Friends campaign

WALPOLE, N.H. – Douglas Cuddle Toys, the Monadnock Broadcasting Group/KNE-FM, and Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) helped raise over \$36,000 during the 2022 Good Friends campaign, which benefitted local nonprofit Feeding Tiny Tummies. The Good Friends campaign is an annual tradition that takes place during the holiday season.

The "ambassadors" of the 2022 Good Friends campaign were Elijah the Spotted Dragon, Thunder T-Rex, and Ivy the Sloth (and other fill-in animals throughout), which were donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys. Over 3,500 stuffed animals were sold for \$10 each at all SBW branches, with proceeds from each sale going to benefit Feeding Tiny Tummies, a nonprofit organization that provides food for children at schools, Head Start programs, preschools, and day care facilities across Cheshire and Sullivan County. In addition to providing nourishment



Representatives from SBW, the Monadnock Broadcasting Group/KNE-FM, and Feeding Tiny Tummies.

PHOTO PROVIDED

for tummies, the organization also feeds the minds of children by always including an academic item—from activity pages and crayons to a book.

"We're grateful to Douglas Cuddle Toys and WKNE-FM for their continued commitment in creating and implementing the Good Friends campaign, which will help us in our efforts toward feeding the tummies and the minds of the next generation, and ensure the needs of children with food insecurities in our community are met," says Jennifer Dassau, Director of Feeding

Tiny Tummies.

The Good Friends Campaign is the largest fundraising effort in the Keene area that's facilitated by outside organizations.

"Supporting our community is an important part of our mission at SBW," says Danielle Ruffo, AVP Community Engagement for Savings Bank of Walpole. "The Good Friends campaign is an event we are grateful for and look forward to each year. We couldn't do it without the extreme generosity of our friends at Douglas Cuddle Toys and, of course, our caring community."

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Biofuels discussion at Rockingham Library

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Energy Committee will present a biofuel discussion over Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Learn all about the emerging renewable liquid heating fuels from Sean Cota, President and CEO of the National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI) from Washington, D.C. This presentation will review why these fuels

reduce CO2 equivalents (CO2e) and why immediate cumulative uses of renewable fuels impact total cumulative emissions. Cota will also explain the scientific basis of measuring CO2e, and why you need to measure them.

Cota has more than 35 years of experience in the heating fuels industry. He has testified before Congress and the CFTC 10

times as a subject matter expert on energy trading market functions, and in the areas of swaps, futures, options, and other non-regulated, structured financial products.

To receive an invitation to join this live presentation over Zoom, contact programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or call the Rockingham Library at 802-463-4270.

SEON receives grants from VT Community Foundation

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – The Sustainable Energy Outreach Network (SEON) has received three grants from the Vermont Community Foundation over the past few months.

A \$5,000 grant from Modesty is my Best Quality Fund was awarded to provide subsidies for participants in SEON's training program. Last fall, SEON's four courses were delivered at the Windham Regional Career Center, the Patricia Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, and the Wadsworth Companies in Jamaica. The importance of this grant is to incentivize carpenters to register for courses and begin a path for certification.

Another was a \$5,000

grant from the Vermont Community Foundation for a Capacity Building. Building from our core missions of expanding the essential knowledge base of high performance building professionals in southeastern Vermont and encouraging community engagement in a clean economy, SEON plans to take our fundamental working principles and establish concrete action plans for state-wide growth and organizational sustainability. The outcome of the grant is the creation of a 15 year business plan in five year increments. Heurista Company of Asheville, N.C., and Saxtons River, Vt. was chosen as the consultant group.

Finally, SEON's wonder-

ful partner, Modesty is my Best Quality Fund, granted \$35,000 to support SEON's staffing needs to grow from part-time work to full-time. The outcome of this donation is evident with a revisioning of our website, logo, and domain name (www.buildingscience.org). These design changes are substantial and reflects SEON's brand to highlight building science as core construction principles and skills around which we advance the qualifications of our residential workforce. Toward this end, 10 building science courses are planned for delivery throughout Vermont this winter/spring.

Huge success of Springfield Boxing Club

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Boxing Club has achieved great success on Jan. 21 in Somersworth, N.H.

Benjamin Gray and Angelo Plausteiner participated in the prestigious Northern New England Golden Gloves tournament, both Springfield Boxing Club boxers under the direction of coaches Bob Obdrzalek and John Hall.

Benjamin, a law school student, Special Novice 165 pound class, led an even match that ended by a split decision in favor of his opponent.

The biggest surprise of the evening, however, was the match between our Angelo Plausteiner and Hunter Johnson from Maine. The entire arena went silent when they came to their match. In the red corner, Angelo 200 pounds, stepped up for his first ever match in his life. In the blue corner Hunter, 280 pounds, the 176-plus New England



Pictured from left to right: Coach Bob Obdrzalek, Angelo Plausteiner, Ben Gray, and Coach John Hall.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Silver Gloves 2022 Champion. At first glance, Angelo seemed to have no chance.

Angelo put on an outstanding performance, using his intelligence and speed to take a well-deserved victory over his opponent, who weighed 80 pounds more. Angelo did so well that he was named the best boxer of the entire tournament. This is a unique case of a boxer making history on his debut as the best boxer of the tournament. He received a special plaque to

commemorate this performance. This plaque for the best boxer of the tournament is an award for the whole Springfield Boxing Club, which has received such an honor for the fifth time.

Both Angelo and Ben are proof that perseverance and great diligence are the keys to success. Coaches Bob Obdrzalek and John Hall are very proud of their boxers and invite other young people to join them and come to the gym.

Critical Media Literacy at Rockingham Library

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library is pleased to present media educator and contributor to "The Media and Me: A Guide to Critical Media Literacy for Young People," Ben Boyington on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 1p.m.

During the recent presidential election, "media literacy" became a phrase that signified the threat media manipulation posed to democratic processes. Meanwhile, statistical research has shown that 8 to 18-year-olds pack more than eleven hours with some form of media into each day by "media multitasking."

By covering topics like storytelling, building arguments and recognizing fallacies, surveillance and digital gatekeeping, advertising and consumerism, and global social problems through a critical media literacy lens, Boyington will explain

how to grow from passive consumers of media to engaged critics and creators.

Boyington says, "We live much of our lives immersed in media, and rather than simply complaining about it, we need to understand it. We need critical media literacy. How are we being used? Who is behind the screens? Who benefits from our attention? What messages are being burned into our brains? Critical media literacy is essential to exploring these questions and approaching the world, from news and politics to entertainment and social media."

The Media and Me is a joint production of The Censored Press and Triangle Square Books for Young Readers.

Ben Boyington is an advocate for integrating critical media literacy into K-12 schools, a veteran high school teacher, and the father of two teenagers who are immersed in the worlds of video games, Discord,

and Twitch, as well as anime and other visual storytelling. A member of the Media Freedom Foundation board, Ben designs and conducts teacher trainings with his partners at the nonprofit organization Mass Media Literacy. In his daily life, he works with high school students on self-driven learning and builds student-centered programming at a rural high school in Vermont. An avid media consumer with a particular interest in film and television, he also enjoys audiobooks, music, and podcasts, but eschews video games because they have too many buttons now.

This program is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase through the Village Square Booksellers. For more information, contact the library at 802-463-4270, youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org, or go online to www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

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Sugaring in the old days

Well here we are in February. When I was a boy, an optimist's sign of spring was when sap buckets appeared in February. Of course winters were much colder then, with mountains of snow.

Danny Clemons did some sugaring when he was young at Don Farrar's on Crow Hill. Danny said Herman Briggs and Danny's father, Bill, helped Don sugaring. Danny's memory fades with time but there may have been others. Below is what Danny remembers about those days.

Danny lived on First Avenue. After school, he came home, changed his clothes, and walked up to Crow Hill Farm to gather sap. The snowbanks were very high and climbing over them to get to a maple tree was a workout.

First, of course, was to tap the tree. Then tap a sap spout into the hole he bored. Next hang a bucket with metal cover. Larger maple trees could have four or more buckets thereon.

They would begin down by Walter Turco's, and hang buckets along the road all the way up to Don's. Danny

described gathering sap. Climb up over the snowbank, through crotch deep snow, to empty the sap buckets. Danny carried a metal gathering pail. The gathering pail maybe held four gallons. It was round and tapered smaller at the top. The gathering pail had a metal flange around the top. This tapered pail with flange around the top helped prevent spilling sap, as it sloshed around.

Don had a tractor with a trailer. On the trailer was a large gathering tank. Trip after trip was made, over the snowbanks, with the gathering pail to collect sap. The sap was then poured into the gathering tank on the trailer.

Several would gather sap. As the tractor moved forward, those who emptied their gathering pails would walk ahead to the next tree.

Don, Bill, and Herman worked in Don's sugar house boiling. Huge amounts of wood were consumed. Danny recalls the evaporator as being large. The front pan was maybe four feet square. The rear pan was maybe 4 feet x 10 feet.

If the sap ran well the men would boil till midnight. Some days, the sap ran so

fast, that they gathered sap twice. Everyone took turns watching the evaporator and feeding wood into the arch.

Don sold the maple syrup. Proceeds were divided amongst Don, Bill, and Herman, based on how much time they had invested. Danny might have been paid a few dollars. They were also given syrup to take home.

Clean up was another laborious job. Sap buckets had to be taken down. Each man wore a nail apron tied around his waist. Using the claws of a hammer the spout was extracted from the tree and dropped into the nail bag.

The sap buckets needed to be scrubbed clean before they were put away for next year. They were stacked, upside down, in piles one on top of the other. Next, the evaporator pans were cleaned and placed upside down on top of the arch to prevent dust and dirt collecting in the pans.

Harry Chapman
The photo with this article was taken by Harry Chapman of Windham. Notice the team of horses drawing a heavy work sled. On the sled is a large gathering tank. You can see a

man pouring sap into the gathering tank. In the background you can see two other men next to another sled with gathering tank. The man in the foreground empties a sap bucket into his gathering pail. His dog poses for the camera. It's an excellent photograph.

Harry Chapman lived in Windham and was a prolific photographer. Chapman produced over a thousand different postcard views during his life. Danny and I seek out his postcards.

He died in 1967 at 91 years old and rests in Windham Cemetery next to town hall. From Chapman's obituary:



Vermont Sugar Makers Gathering Sap. PHOTO BY HARRY CHAPMAN, PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

"Mr. Chapman, born in Hanover, Maine, Aug. 5, 1875, was about three years of age when his family moved to Windham. Besides carrying on a poultry business for many years he became well known as a commercial photographer.

He served two terms in the House as representative from Windham and was a member of that town's Board of Listers for a num-

ber of years. He was a member of the Windham Congregational Church..."

I remember old Vermonters having apple pie with a slice of sharp cheese for breakfast.

This week's old saying is from Lee Kendall: "Apple pie without the cheese is like a hug without the squeeze."



LOCAL HISTORY
BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, past President of Chester Historical Society, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email ronpatch27@gmail.com

Vermont Everyone Eats program will end March 31

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE) program is a federally funded, short-term pandemic recovery initiative created to help restaurants, farmers, and eaters through the acute economic challenges of the Covid pandemic. The program, which began on Aug. 1, 2020, will end on March 31, 2023. VEE Hubs have distributed approximately 3.5 million meals throughout all 14 counties, generating more than \$34 million in revenue for participating restaurants.

"This extraordinary program has shown us first-

hand how well the multiplier effect can work to stretch federal dollars to benefit many more people when a program spans multiple sectors. Addressing food security, economic development, and agricultural resilience with a single federal dollar is unprecedented. We need to see more programs like this," said SEVCA Interim Executive Director Kathleen Devlin.

With collaborative support from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Agency of Human Services, Agency of Agriculture Food and Mar-

kets, Vermont Emergency Management, and over \$42 million in federal FEMA funding supplemented with a \$1.3 million allocation from the state legislature, this program has provided free restaurant-prepared meals to Vermonters in need of food assistance across the state while also providing a stabilizing source of income for Vermont restaurants negatively impacted by the pandemic, and conveying economic support to Vermont farmers and food producers.

"This emergency program played a key role in

providing meals to households while providing stable income for Vermont restaurants, farmers, and food producers during the uncertain times of the Covid pandemic," said Department of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Josh Hanford.

VEE has raised awareness of gaps in the existing systems addressing food insecurity in the state as well as the ongoing business challenges faced by Vermont restaurants and farmers in our seasonally driven state economy. Using this program as a model, partners

will continue to work together to identify sustainable long-term solutions to address ongoing food security and economic needs.

"Hunger, a solvable problem, still exists. While VEE is coming to a close, collaborative action will continue across Vermont to ensure the dignity of enough nourishing food for all," said Vermont Foodbank CEO and VEE Statewide Task Force member John Sayles

An average of 35% of meal ingredients, far exceeding the program's 10% local ingredient minimum, have been purchased from Ver-

mont farmers and food producers, providing over \$3.5 million in revenue. This program has benefited over 700 restaurants, farms, food producers, hubs, and distribution partners throughout the state's 14 counties since its inception and will continue to distribute an average of 25,000 meals per week to food insecure individuals across Vermont until the program ends on March 31, 2023.

For more information on the program or how to receive a meal, visit the Vermont Everyone Eats website at www.vteveryoneeats.org.

Weatherization Training starting Feb. 27

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Energy Works invites you to join the green economy with a free weatherization training Feb. 27 through March 10.

In partnership with SEVCA, Energy Works is offering a no-cost weatherization technical training that can help you start a career and earn \$20/hour, or more, with great benefits. There will be an introduction to weatherization science, and the tools and materials needed. You will be trained for industry credentials such as OSHA-10, CPR, First Aid and AED certifications. There will be opportunities to speak with employers and shadow potential jobs.

There are travel and child-

care stipends available while training.

For more information contact Jeff Nerney at jnerney@vtadultlearning.org or call 802-779-0057.

"Love Your Library" Auction

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library's "Love Your Library" Auction begins Feb. 2 at 12 a.m. and ends Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. We have over 75 items for you to peruse, and more added daily up until 11 p.m. Feb. 1. If you would like to come into the library, any staff member is

happy to assist you to view what is up for bid online.

Please join us Feb. 16 from 4-6 p.m. for any last minute bidding frenzy in house, to see the items and enjoy your community. Again, staff will be available to assist you with online bidding until 6 p.m. We will have light refreshments featuring Pop's Biscotti &

Chocolates.

So many items too many to list – please check them out at www.32auctions.com/FML23.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 30, we will have most items on display in the library. There is still something nice about seeing the items in person. We are thrilled with the donations received. All

are posted and available for the online auction preview running now.

Many, many thanks to all that have donated to our library fundraiser. Without your support we would not be able to offer all the enhanced services presently available. Hope to see you Feb. 16. Remember, bid high and bid often.

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opinion

Dear Editor,

Our 2023 legislative session is off to a fast start. Only two and a half weeks into the session and we've already passed our first bill (H.42 which extends remote options for town meetings and the open meeting law). Committees are meeting and being brought up to speed on the reports they have requested and the issues in their jurisdictions. New legislators are settling in and beginning to feel at home. All the committees are meeting with our executive branch partners, those running Vermont's agencies and departments and who are responsible for turning our work into reality. And, after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus, our first Farmer's Night performance took place on Wednesday Jan. 18. The Statehouse is humming with productive energy.

It is always surprising to realize how short our legislative session is, and always impressive to see how much we get accomplished in a relatively short time. We only meet for about four and a half months, January through mid-May. As a result, there is a huge amount of pressure to make the most of every moment. We go into each session with a fairly clear notion of our priorities. This year the Senate Democrats identified climate change, housing, workforce, family care (childcare, paid family leave, and further protection of reproduc-

tive rights), and health care (mental health and substance abuse) as our top priorities for new action. These priorities help guide us through our work and keep us on track. Inevitably, other priorities surface as committees address the challenges we face. House and Senate leadership work together to identify which chamber is taking the lead on an issue, as time is short and duplicating effort is unproductive. One of my jobs as majority leader is to help deliver on the priorities identified by our constituents and by our Senate Democratic Caucus.

The first year of this biennium holds policy opportunities that the second year doesn't. Any changes to election law must be made this year, as they can't be enacted in an election year. As a result, we'll probably see several bills on election subjects ranging from rank choice voting to campaign finance to party related issues. Also, while a constitutional amendment can be introduced any time during this biennium, it is wise to get most of the work on it done in the first year. Once the Senate has passed an amendment, it's wording cannot be changed in the House. So, it is important that anything the Senate passes has House support and that each chamber has time to consider something so consequential.

This session, the Senate will be taking the lead on housing. As a result, in one of my committees, Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Af-

airs, we are already at work on a housing bill. Having allocated about \$400 million in the last biennium on a wide range of housing needs, this year we hope to continue our work reducing barriers to housing development in our downtowns and village centers. We want to continue to invest significant sums to incentivize bringing more housing units back into use through the VHIP/VT Housing Improvement Program. This program, along with the incentive to develop accessory dwelling units and to expand our home share options, is considered the 'low hanging fruit' of housing. These are opportunities that are already getting more housing on the market faster and more easily than major new housing projects.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tuesday-Friday) 802-828-2228 or at home (Saturday-Monday) 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills that have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website www.legislature.vermont.gov.

Sincerely,
Alison Clarkson
Vermont State Senator,
Majority Leader
Windsor County District

Dear Editor,

Legislative Update for Windsor-Windham District.

The energy in the statehouse on Jan. 4 was palpable. Children, grandchildren, friends, and family joined legislators in the house chamber as we were sworn in. One of my daughters joined me for the big day. I felt honored to be representing the communities of Athens, Chester, Grafton, and Windham.

Within days committee assignments were made. I was pleased to be assigned to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) where I feel my experience running a

small business and serving on VEPC will be put to good use.

The second and third weeks have been spent becoming familiar with the landscape of the statehouse and learning about various aspects of state government. Representatives from the judiciary to corrections to non-profit organizations have appeared before the CEDC to introduce themselves and talk about their work. As the session progresses, we will hear testimony from these agencies and others about legislation as it is introduced. Also in the coming weeks, the CEDC and the House as a whole will be reviewing the Governor's proposed budget

adjustments. Already, several bills have been introduced affecting child care, parental leave, and shield laws, which, if passed, will have a big impact on the day to day lives of Vermonters. As these bills and others progress through committees and the house I will keep you apprised.

This promises to be a busy (and interesting) legislative session.

I look forward to hearing from you with any thoughts on proposed legislation and to address any concerns you may have.

Thank you and please keep in touch.

Sincerely,
Heather Chase
Chester, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Today I read an article about a woman's body that was found in a dumpster. It turns out it looks as if the woman died of natural causes, what wasn't natural, or perhaps it was, she was sleeping in the dumpster when she died. I was outraged that "we" allow this to happen.

This incident brought back memories of a woman I knew years ago. This woman had some cognitive thinking issues. She owned a house before the state condemned it, she owned a car, held a job, and had an adult son. She had been offered suggestions from many on ways to save her house from

condemnation; she was not capable of understanding or acting upon these suggestions. She was eventually found dead in her car; she was relatively young. I was outraged for the same reason when I learned of her death and its circumstances.

So today, armed with my renewed outrage over these two incidents, I decided that I must do something about the lack of humanity our society shows to the homeless. Then I realized I needed to order a hand held showerhead for my second bathroom, then I realized what the problem was with our society, too many showerheads to buy.

Like the large part of the American population, I

do not have an unlimited amount of money at my disposal, and if I did, I don't know how much I could do for the good people caught up in homelessness.

I do not believe BIG government is the answer to all the problems of the people, but I do think municipalities, counties, and district representatives should take a larger and more active role in finding answers, along with all who are outraged. Remember, some of these same homeless people once paid taxes that helped pay for community services, why shouldn't we now give them a hand back up

Sincerely,
Ken Cooper
Ludlow, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Recently, I noticed that long, heavy logs were being hauled down Davis Road from the top of Dry Hill. Larry Lynds opined that "no permits are required in Plymouth for logging." The Vermont Agency for Natural Resources published a 52-page book that explains the rules and regulations. With the understanding that Cappellini and Wasilauskus are pulling logs legally, I'd like to know how, exactly, do they get

these logs down to Dublin Road over the 1,200-plus feet that belongs to the Town of Plymouth? Who will rebuild the town's road when the Davis Road culvert collapses or the road slides away during mud season?

And let's get the "hiring" problem cleared up. The two positions that the Plymouth voters approved as appointments by the selectboard come with legal responsibilities, which are described in the Annotated

Vermont Statutes. These professionals should be hired based on their ability to do their jobs. Their qualifications are more important than their personalities. How these professionals will interact with the town's elected and appointed officials matters little if they don't understand that they have mandatory duties.

Kind regards,
Nancy Kessler
Plymouth, Vt.



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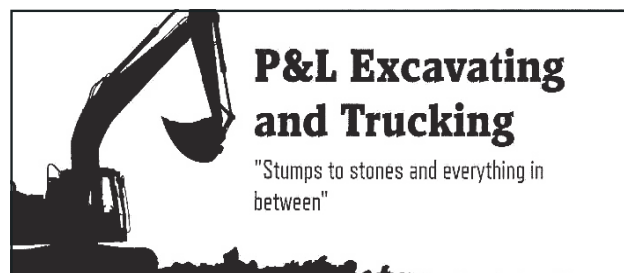
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Happy Birthday Dad

My dad, Burt McAllister, will be 84 on Feb. 5. If you know him or where he is, wish him a happy

birthday.

Love always,
Babe



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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Appear
5 Commotion
8 Online auction site
12 Actress Fisher
13 Part of DJIA
14 Dell
15 Youthful countenance
17 Laundry appliance
18 Soft leather
19 Columns of light
21 Pro votes
24 Numerical prefix
25 July's stone
28 It ain't worth a nickel
30 Prattle
33 "Life — cabaret ..." Slangy suffix
34 Stuns, as a perp
35 "Ball —"
36 Chum
37 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
38 Wild guess
39 Run after K
41 For fear that
43 "No cheating!"
46 Eucalyptus eater
50 Thames town
51 Temporary mental fatigue
54 Dazzle

DOWN

1 Bloodline
2 Jacob's twin
3 North Sea feeder
4 "Help!"
5 Oklahoma city
6 Elmer, the Bugs
7 Has bills

8 Perrier rival
9 Brawl that's broken up by a bouncer
10 Oodles
11 Desires
16 Tina of "30 Rock"
20 Colorations
22 Wax-coated cheese
23 Twine fiber
25 Wardrobe malfunction
26 "Suits" network
27 Jim Bouton book
29 Simple

31 Small battery
32 Clothing protector
34 Writer Morrison
38 Gems
40 Food from heaven
42 Enjoy Aspen
43 Optimum
44 Jazzy James
45 Baseball stats
47 Roundish 'do
48 Lake bird
49 Awestruck
52 Nipper's co.
53 Goal

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Erna P. Abrahamovich, 1932-2023

WINDSOR, Vt. – Erna P. Abrahamovich, 90, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023 at the Cedar Hill Health Care Center in Windsor, Vt.

She was born on Feb. 23, 1932 in Mannheim, Germany to the late Peter and Elsa Braun.

She endured life in Germany during WWII, at times fleeing her home in the middle of the night to seek shelter in bunkers during air raids.

On June 6, 1952 she married Walter Frank Abrahamovich, he predeceased her in 2008.

Erna worked at the Jones & Lamson Company for many years, and other small machine tool companies before retiring from Imtec in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Erna was a great cook and very family oriented, she was known for her German tortes and cakes during the holidays.

She is survived by her son Paul Abrahamovich of Burlington, Vt and his wife Karen; son-in-law Jeff Brehme; grandchildren Tracey Austin, Michael Brehme, and Jeffrey Abrahamovich; great grandchildren Paige Austin, Payton Austin, Jackson Abrahamovich, and Lainey Christiansen; sister-in-law Sophie Townsend; nieces Sabine Ettl, Anna Cobb, Janina Grubor, and Anika Braun; nephew Ray Baker,



Erna Abrahamovich, 1932-2023.

PHOTO PROVIDED

as well as many other nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband Walter, daughter Lisa Brehme, sister Irma Baker, and brothers Helmut Braun, Irwin Braun, and Walter Braun.

A graveside service will take place in the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt. in the spring.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at Cedar Hill Health Care Center and Bayada Home Healthcare for the wonderful care given to Erna.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Cedar Hill Entertainment Fund or Cedar Hill for Staff Appreciation: Cedar Hill Healthcare Center, 49 Cedar Hill Drive, Windsor, VT 05089.

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

ASCUTNEY, VT.

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.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow

Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.

Worship is held on Sundays at 10 a.m. Bible Study is Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd,

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.

Saturday Services include Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:15 a.m. and a healthy lunch for all after the service. Masks are optional. All are welcome, call 603-276-2383 for more information.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.

Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. Masks are requested if unvaccinated and suggested for all singing and response. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Please wear a mask, socially distance, and stay home if you're unwell. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

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

Sunday Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email jckurpiel@yahoo.com. If no answer, call 802-886-2670. Because state restrictions have been lifted, masks are not obligatory.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.

Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

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

Evelyn J. Benware, 1936-2023

CHESTER, Vt. – On Jan. 2, 2023 Evelyn J. (Eastman) Benware, 86, lost her battle with cancer at home surrounded by her family. She was born Nov. 28, 1936 in North Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Chester and Ruth (Hoisington) Eastman.

In 1956 Evelyn married the love of her life Henry E. Benware and they spent 66 happy years together.

She worked most of her life as a machinist, retiring from General Electric in Rutland, Vt.

Evelyn enjoyed spending time at Lake Willoughby in Westmore, Vt., where she had been going since she was a little girl. She was a quiet person, enjoyed watching the birds in her yard, and enjoyed going for rides on nice summer days.

Her greatest joy was her grandchildren Nichole Benware Bourdeu, Eric Benware, Ashly (Goss) Marden, Shaylah Reynolds Goss, Cailynn Goss, Trevor Olney,



Evelyn Benware, 1936-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

and her 14 great grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Henry; son and first-born Michael A. Benware; daughters Tina R. (Benware) Goss and last child Lisa M. (Benware) Olney; seven grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her siblings Raymond, Gloria, Dolly, Janice, and Joyce.

A graveside service will be in the Oakland Cemetery in the spring.

Eben C. Jewet, 1938-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Eben C. Jewett died peacefully at his home on Jan. 20, 2023. He was born in Salem, Mass. on August 4, 1938. The son of Ruth (Kimball) and Eben Jewett, he graduated from high school then served in the US Army for four years. Eben then lived in Middleton, Mass. until his retirement from Bostik in 1993. He moved to Vermont where he lived with his brother Richard in Springfield.

Eben was predeceased

by his parents, his sister Elizabeth Oakes of Danvers, Mass., and brother Richard Kimball Jewett of Springfield, Vt. He is survived by his sister Ellen Contois, nephews David Oakes of Maryland and Zachary Jewett of Vermont, nieces Stephanie Oakes of Massachusetts and Jennifer Jewett-Vankayalapati of Mississippi, and a number of great-nieces and great-nephews.

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

William Watkins, 1948-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – William "Bill" Watkins, 74, passed away on Jan. 25, 2023 at Springfield Hospital after a brief illness. Bill was born on Oct. 8, 1948 in Springfield, Vt. to the late George and Emma (Fuller) Watkins.

He attended Springfield High School and started working at 14 years old helping his mom Emma with her rubbish removal route. This inspired him to open Watkins Rubbish Removal, which he owned and operated for almost 50 years. He worked in the rubbish removal business for 60 years, where he met so many people who he thoroughly enjoyed talking to throughout the years. Sometimes his route would take him four hours and sometimes the same route would take him eight hours because he had a true passion of sharing stories with his loyal customers.

Bill's generosity showed in his willingness to always lend a helping hand to friends and family. He was a modest man, but what mattered most in life were his family, friends, and his pets.



William Watkins, 1948-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Bill is survived by his loving brother John Watkins and several nieces and nephews. He was also survived by his special friend Bill Kemp. He was predeceased by siblings David, Roger, John, Arthur, Jessie, George, Isabelle, Dorothy, Horace, and Kenneth.

A graveside service will take place at the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt. on Saturday May 13, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Springfield Humane Society.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

Homer G. Fletcher, 1927-2023

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Homer G. Fletcher, 95, of Durham Ave. died peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023 with family by his side at The Pines Nursing and Rehab Center in Rutland, Vt., from complications suffered in a fall at home in Dec. 2022.

A native and lifelong Claremont resident, he was born Aug. 9, 1927, son of Walter B. and Josephine (Barber) Fletcher.

Homer graduated from Stevens H.S. in 1946 where he was a founding member of the ski team and a clarinetist in the band and orchestra. His love of music led to becoming an American Band member where he met his future wife, Alice Schriber, marrying June 16, 1951.

Following high school graduation, he served in the US Army, traveling the country as an Army Band member. Upon military discharge, he attended Northampton (Mass.) Business College, graduating in 1949.

After working several years for his family's construction company, he then utilized his business education and great affection for people when becoming an agent for John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, working for over 30 years.

Combining his passion for building construction and entrepreneurship, in 1968, along with his wife, he founded and developed a vacation home community on Crescent Lake that he continued to operate for 50 years.

Homer was known for his quick wit and positive atti-



Homer Fletcher, 1927-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

tude. While devotion to his family was his first priority, he was an avid skier from childhood through his mid 80's. Happiest in nature, he also enjoyed golfing, waterskiing, boating, hunting, and fishing. He was a life-long member of the First United Methodist Church.

He was predeceased by his wife Alice of 58 years in 2009 and six siblings. Surviving family includes his daughter, Sandra, and son, Gary, as well as several nephews.

The family would like to thank the Visiting Angels caregivers, Rutland Regional Medical Center, and The Pines staff.

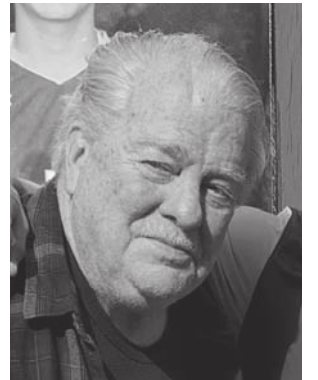
A private graveside service at Mountain View Cemetery will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may be made in his memory to Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society (www.lucymac.org) or a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are with Stringer Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 146 Broad St., Claremont, NH 03743. To view an online memorial or send a private message of condolence, visit www.stringerfh.com.

Forrest Williams, 2023

LUDLOW, Vt. – Forrest E. Williams, "Dr. Joe," was called home to his Lord and Savior on Jan. 28, 2023. He was home with his family by his side under the excellent care of hospice services. Joe touched the lives and hearts of so many throughout his life. He was born and raised in Wellington, Ohio, the son of Wilbur and Evelyn Williams, and was the second of six children. After high school, Joe pursued his medical career in the U. S. Air Force, where he met his wife, Marlene Benham. Following 20 years of service, the family moved to Bingham, Maine where they lived for six years until they moved back to Ludlow, Vt., where he worked as a physician's assistant at both Chester and Ludlow Family Medicine. Joe was known for his genuine compassion for all of his patients as well as his dedication to his faith, family, and friends. His passion for the outdoors was prominent and was passed on to all of his grandchildren. If you didn't see him in the office, you could find him fishing on a lake or sitting on a stump in the woods.

Joe is survived by the love of his life of 56 years, Marlene Williams; his two



Forrest Williams, 2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

daughters, Jolana Washburn and Julie Hance; two sons in laws Scott Washburn and Jeffrey Hance; four grandchildren Jacob Washburn, Rebekah Washburn, Meekah Hance, and Kagan Hance; five brothers and sisters; several nieces and nephews; and his brothers and sisters in Christ from the Ludlow Baptist Church.

All services will be at Ludlow Baptist Church. Calling hours on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023 from 6-9 p.m. Funeral will be on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send any donations to the VNH Dartmouth Hitchcock Health, 88 Prospect St., White River Junction, VT 05001.

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STATE OF VERMONT
WINDHAM COUNTY, SS.**NOTICE OF SALE**

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

- 16 1/2 Hyde Street, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Henry Boucher and Bonnie W. Boucher to Clarence Ainsworth, Elizabeth Ainsworth and Clarence Ainsworth, Jr. by deed dated March 30, 1977 and recorded in Book 177, Page 532 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 961 Pleasant Valley Road, Town of Rockingham
Property conveyed by Warranty Deed of H.M. Savage & Sons, Inc. to Roy Batchelder and Carol Batchelder by deed dated June 14, 2011, and recorded in Book 330, Page 67 of the Rockingham Town Land Records being Parcel Number 060020961. Also including a Mobile Home, Make: Marlett, Year: 1966, Serial Number 1230029, Size: 12 x 65
- 450 Saxtons River Road, Rockingham, Vermont
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Robert C. Bemis to Robert C. Bemis and Eleanor Bemis (deceased), husband and wife, by deed dated September 21, 1992 and recorded in Book 218, Page 449 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 510 Hitchcock Road, Rockingham, Vermont
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Quitclaim Deed of David C. Chevrier and Eloise E. Chevrier to James P. Dore and Suzanne K. Chevrier dated March 25, 2005 and recorded in Book 292, Page 560 of the Rockingham Town Land Records. Reference is made to a Quitclaim Deed from James P. Dore to Suzanne K. Chevrier by deed dated October 26, 2017 and recorded in Book 379, Page 107 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 212 Rockingham Street, Rockingham, Vermont
Being a 1963 Detroit Mobile Home, 10 x 50 located at 212 Rockingham Street, Parcel Number 205010212.001.
- 37 Old Terrace, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Michael W. Dawson to Ashley A. Dawson by deed dated April 25, 2017 and recorded in Book 371, Page 268 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 90 Rockingham Street, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Wayne Stone, LLC to Father's Ink Corporation by deed dated August 27, 2012 and recorded in Book 336, Page 59 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 299 O'Brien Road, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by James E. Mullen, Trustee of the James E. Mullen Trust Under Agreement dated March 14, 1980 to Christian Griffin and Jennifer B. Griffin by deed dated August 3, 1999 and recorded in Book 252, Page 522 of the Rockingham Town Land Records. Reference is made to the Final Divorce Order transferring property exclusively to Christian Griffin filed July 5, 2002, recorded in Book 310, Page 42 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 15 Corey Hill, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Nancy Bazin, Executor of the Estate of Paul V. Bristol, Sr. to Deborah L. Halberg by deed dated November 1, 2013 and recorded in Book 343, Page 88 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 734 Missing Link Road, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Claude W. Burkett and Donna J. Burkett to Rodney R. Harper and Kellie R. Harper by deed dated August 30, 1985 and recorded in Book 198, Page 246 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 26 Green Street, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Laverne Horne to Eric J. Horne by deed dated September 21, 2000 and recorded in Book 258, Page 256 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 995 Saxtons River Road, Rockingham, Vermont
Property conveyed by Russell H. Streeter and Irene M. Streeter to Richard R. Kennett, Sr., and Joyce M. Kennett (now deceased) by deed dated February 24, 1966, and recorded in Book 160, Page 174 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 55 Village Square, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being those premises conveyed by Phillip Donovan, Jr. and Mary Ann Donovan to Alexander Lawrence by Bill of Sale dated December 5, 2013, and recorded in Book 343, Page 411 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 36 Old Terrace, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Justin Leveillee by the Warranty Deed of Kim K. Dupuis recorded on April 16, 2015 in Book 353 at Page 71 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 27 Front Street, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Sherry Lee McAllister to Sherry Lee McAllister and Elizabeth J. McAllister by deed dated May 20, 2016 and recorded in Book 362, Page 170 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 203 Paper Mill Road, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Dorothy A. Compton to Stephen P. McAllister by deed dated March 23, 2010 and recorded in Book 323, Page 527 of the Rockingham Town Land Records and also the premises conveyed Chemco Corp. a/k/a Chemco, Inc. to Stephen P. McAllister and Dorothy A. Compton by deed dated August 8, 2007 and recorded in Book 308, Page 136 of the Rockingham Town Records.
- 25 Hapgood Place, Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Eliot G. Morse and Lori A. Morse to John Noe by deed dated March 12, 2007 and recorded in Book 305, Page 309 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 990 Saxtons River Road, Town of Rockingham
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Bruce R. Bennett a/k/a Bruce N. Bennett to Bruce Simonds by deed dated July 22, 1999 and recorded in Book 252, Page 441 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- 128 Parker Hill Road, Town of Rockingham
Being the remainder of the property as conveyed by John J. O'Brien, Sr. to Annette Spaulding by deed dated February 16, 2001 and recorded in Book 258, Page 453 of the Rockingham Town Land Records

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at Rockingham Town Office, a public place in such Town, on the 23rd day of February, 2023 at Ten O'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

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

If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. § 1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of the property taxes, interest and collection fees you owe to the town. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply for an abatement, you must contact Kathleen Neathawk, Town Clerk, by phone at (802) 463-4336, ext. 1102, via email at clerk@rockbf.org, or via mail at 7 Square, 2nd Floor, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

If this property is your primary residence, you may be able to get help with delinquent property tax and utility payments through the Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (VHAP). VHAP can help you avoid tax sale and transfer of your property by paying delinquent property taxes, water and sewer charges, interest and penalties. You can apply for VHAP online at vermonthap.vhfa.org. For advice about the program and help completing the application, call Vermont Legal Aid at 1-800-889-2047. If you apply for VHAP, you must notify your town in writing, and your property will not be sold or transferred while your application is pending.

Dated at Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham, County of Windham and State of Vermont, this 12th day of January, 2023.

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

calendar **LEGAL**

FEB. 3 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There is a First Friday Supper at the First Baptist Church on Friday, Feb. 3, serving from 5-6:30 p.m., takeout from 3:30-5 p.m. Menu: Pasta buffet, meat, meatless, vegan and gluten free choices, green salad, dessert, and beverages. Call 803-463-3220 for more information or for takeout. A donation is suggested. Proceeds to benefit Parks Place. The First Baptist Church is located at 9 Church St., Bellows Falls.

FEB. 6 – LUDLOW, Vt. – There will be a Valentine's Party on Monday, Feb. 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Black River Valley Senior Center at 10 High St. in Ludlow. Rust and Ruin will be returning with retro 70s music. There will be refreshments, entertainment, and door prizes. Event is free and open to the public.

FEB. 8 – CHESTER, Vt. – The Whiting Library book club is reading "Wintering" by Katherine May this month. Please join in the discussion and pick up March's pick of "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. Wednesday Feb. 8 at 5 p.m. at the Whiting Library in Chester.

FEB. 10 – CHESTER, Vt. – Join the Whiting Library for Penny University, a social coffee hour, on Friday, Feb. 10

and 24 from 4:30 p.m. until close. Much like salons and café societies in history, enjoy a cup of coffee, decaf, tea, or hot cocoa. Strike up a conversation with your neighbors and find out what resources are in this community which makes it a wonderful place to live, grow, and thrive.

FEB. 11 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sound Investment will be playing in Springfield, Vt. Saturday Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at VFW Post 711, 191 River St. They will perform classic rock and country music. The general public is welcomed. For more information, call 802-885-6008

SUNDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield.

MONDAYS – 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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:30 p.m. there will be Pub Trivia Night at Vermont Beer Makers on River Street in Springfield. Up to five people per team. Free entry.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Library hosts a chess club each Monday from 3-5:30 p.m. led by

Mike Sola. Drop-ins and all levels of player are welcome. This program is free and open to the public.

TUESDAYS – 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. Suggested donation. For more information, call 802-885-5879.

WEDNESDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Frances Barsky leads a weekly creative writing workshop at the Rockingham Library from 1-2:30 p.m. Bring a laptop or a pen and paper.

THURSDAYS – TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

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.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. All are welcome.

FRIDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach Tai Chi and Qi Gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SATURDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Yoga, Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

Chester Andover Family Center Renovation Project Calling All Contractors

The Chester Andover Family Center is soliciting contractors to bid on a renovation/expansion project at our building located at 908VT RT 103 in Chester. The project is to replace a storage area with an enclosed storage shed, approximately 12 x 27 feet, adjacent to the rear of our building. Detailed specs are available in our bidding package.

The Chester Andover Family Center is a 501c3 charitable organization providing a Food Shelf, Thrift Shop and Financial Assistance to our most vulnerable citizens experiencing food and financial insecurity.

The bidding package will be distributed through the end of February 2023. Please call the center at 802-875-3236 and leave a message or email us at cafc302@gmail.com att. Nena Nanfeldt, with inquiries regarding this project, to request a bidding package, and schedule an on-site visit.

PLYMOUTH TOWN CLERK POSITION

The Plymouth Select Board is accepting resumes for the position of Town Clerk.

The responsibilities include providing citizens with accurate and vital information, assisting the treasurer and tax collector, registration renewals of motor vehicles, vital records administration, including processing marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, dog licensing, maintaining town records and documents, managing voter registration and other election related business, such as presiding over election day in coordination with the BCA.

The Clerk is also responsible for recording and posting the minutes of Select Board meetings, and other publicly warned meetings and hearings, including the Board of Civil Authority. An understanding of applicable state laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the governing of town business is required.

It is the intention of the Select Board to ask the voters to allow them to appoint the Town Clerk position and Treasurer position at the March 2023 town meeting.

The town office is open Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

This position requires the applicant to be able to work confidently and independently. A high school diploma or equivalent and being a Plymouth town resident are the minimum qualifications. Training and start up orientation will be available. This is a full – time position with a full benefit package. Hourly wage is dependent on experience and qualifications. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and three references to the Plymouth Town Clerk @ clerk@plymouthvt.org or in person.



OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD
P.O. BOX 385
CHARLESTOWN, NH 03603

Tel: (603) 826-4400
Fax: (603) 826-3709

www.charlestown-nh.gov

The Town of Charlestown seeks an energetic Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard.

The Town of Charlestown has an annual operating budget of approximately \$5 million and 27 full-time employees. The Administrative Assistant acts as the primary liaison between the five member Selectboard and all personnel, including contracted services. The Administrative Assistant is the primary liaison with legal counsel and coordinates in all matters to ensure the Town is properly represented, maintains an effective working relationship with all Town boards, commissions, committees, departments and the general public; and performs all other duties as assigned by the Selectboard. For a full job description please contact the Selectboard's Office at 603-826-4400 or visit the Town's website at www.charlestown-nh.gov.

Candidates should have a thorough knowledge of local government in New Hampshire and the ability to plan, organize, assign, supervise, inspect and coordinate a broad range of municipal functions. Municipal management experience is highly desirable.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume & completed application to:

Charlestown Town Office
Human Resources Department
PO Box 385
Charlestown NH 03603
Or email to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov.

An application may be found at www.charlestown-nh.gov or at the Town Office 233 Main St.

Position open until filled

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper Money, Vintage Sports-Postcards, Comics. See our displays at ANTIQUE CENTERS in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

CLEANING

LUDLOW, Vt. - Hate Cleaning Your Home or Doing Errands? I will Clean Your Home Like I Clean my Own Home. Contact me anytime at 802-280-5589 or adorecleanliving@gmail.com.

FIREWOOD

Dried: two cords for \$600, one cord for \$325. Green wood: two cords \$475, one cord \$250. Free delivery within 10 miles from Perkinsville, or pickup on weekends for discounted price. Call and leave a message 802-376-3041.

FREE

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Free mature male cat looking for good home. Would do well with an adult, no children or other pets. Call 802-289-5101. (02/07)



GUNS WANTED

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

HAY

Mulch hay for sale - \$3.00 per bale picked up, \$4.00 per bale delivered Within 20 miles radius of Bellows Falls. Call 802-463-9410.

HELP WANTED

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - Harry's is seeking experienced waitpersons. F/T, P/T. Openings available now. Hours are from 4-9:30 p.m. Please call 802-259-2555 to arrange interview.

HOUSE SITTER/DOG SITTER for our 2 gentle Golden Retrievers in Cavendish, for an occasional day, weekend, or vacation. Looking for a retired person/couple or someone who works from home. Please call 203-645-6405.

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - Countryside Alarms full time office positions. 40 hours per week. \$20 - \$22 to start. We are looking for reliable and motivated individuals. Responsibilities will include receiving emergency and non-emergency signals and requests that need to be dispatched and recorded. Call 802-259-2213 to apply.

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - Countryside Alarms Licensed Fire Alarm Technician or Licensed Journeyman-Full time, overtime available. Starting wage \$30 - \$33 per hour. Must be reliable and motivated. Responsibilities to include installation, maintenance, and testing of commercial and

residential alarms, CCTV, and access control. Call 802-259-2213 to apply.

SNOW

PLOWING

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

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

**WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING
FOR CUSTODIAL POSITIONS**

APPLY ON SCHOOLS OR CONTACT
MARTHA TARBELL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
802-885-5120 mtarbell@ssdvt.org

GOTRVT seeks Volunteer Coaches

REGION - Girls on the Run Vermont needs coaches. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based positive youth development program that inspires students in 3rd through 8th grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident. The 10-week program incorporates movement to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons. The spring season begins the week of March 27. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes and the program culminates with all teams participating in one of two noncompetitive, celebratory 5K events in Essex and Manchester, Vt.

Coaches do not need to be runners. Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT) provides training so volunteers have all of the tools needed to facilitate the season and to have a positive coaching experience. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check. GOTRVT welcomes high school students to volunteer as junior coaches. Please visit www.gotrvt.org/coach for full details or email info@girlsontherun-vermont.org.

Participant registration opens on Wednesday, Feb. 22 for northern teams, and Wednesday, March 1 for southern teams.

About Girls on the Run Vermont

Girls on the Run Vermont is an independent and 501 (c)(3) recognized council of Girls on the Run International (GOTRI), which has

a network of over 200 councils across the United States. Since 1999, Girls on the Run Vermont has empowered over 36,000 Vermont girls grades three through eight to develop physical, emotional, and social well-being through an after-school program delivered in communities through-

out the state. Its mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident, using a research-based curriculum that addresses developmentally appropriate life skills and creatively integrates running, stretching, and strengthening exercises. Find out more at www.gotrvt.org.

MAINTENANCE PERSON IMMEDIATE OPENING!

Maintenance Technician needed for several apartment complexes located in Newport, NH and Windsor, VT. Looking for a responsible, experienced hands-on person for general upkeep, repairs, painting and coordination with contractors when needed. There is an on-call requirement for emergency maintenance and winter snow removal. Salary between 19-21 per hour and is commensurate with experience and skills. Must have a valid driver's license, reliable vehicle, tools, and knowledge of carpentry, light plumbing, and electrical. Rotating on call schedule required. **This is a Full Time Position 40 hours.**

Email resume to: bdesmarais@stewartproperty.net with subject line: Maintenance Person-Newport NH/Windsor VT



Stewart Property Management is a full-service affordable housing management company based in Bedford, NH.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

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

WARNING

RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING THURSDAY, March 2, 2023

(Member districts: Bellows Falls Union High School District #27, Expeditionary School at Black River, Green Mountain Unified School District #35, and Springfield School District)

ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are hereby warned to meet in the RVT Center Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, Springfield, Vermont, on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 7:00 PM, to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot.

The business to be transacted to include:

- ARTICLE 1: To see what compensation the School District will pay to the officers of the River Valley Technical Center School District.
- ARTICLE 2: To hear and act on the reports of the School District officers.
- ARTICLE 3: To see if the School District will authorize the Board of Directors to receive and expend funds received through grants, donations, or other outside sources during the ensuing year, so long as such funds do not change the technical-education tuition assessment derived from the operating budget approved by the School District voters.
- ARTICLE 4: To authorize the Board of Directors to borrow funds through a bridge loan to cover expenses while waiting for state funding to arrive.
- ARTICLE 5: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this School District Annual Meeting.

The meeting will then be recessed to Tuesday, March 7, 2023, on which date the voters of each member district are further warned to vote on the following article by Australian ballot at their respective polling places:

VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT MARCH 7, 2023

ARTICLE 1

Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of three million, three hundred thirty-nine thousand five hundred seventy dollars (\$3,339,570) to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations?

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are further warned that a Public Informational Meeting will be held concerning the aforementioned Australian ballot article on Thursday, March 2, 2023 in the RVT Center Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, immediately following the business portion of the School District's Annual Meeting.

For more information about the proposed 2023-2024 budget, please contact the office of the RVT Superintendent/Director at (802) 885-8301. Copies of the RVT Annual Report are available at town clerk offices and high schools of the member districts, on our website at rvtc.org, or upon request by contacting the RVT office.

Robert Flint, Chair	Lois Perlah
David Clark, Vice Chair	Paul Orzechowski
Andrew Pennell, Board Secretary/Clerk	Patti Kemp
Sarah Vogel	Lyza Gardner
James Rumrill	Brenda Blodgett, Clerk, RVT School District

Voting Locations and Hours

Bellows Falls Union High School District #27		
Athens	Athens Town Office	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Grafton	Grafton Elementary School	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Rockingham	Masonic Temple	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Westminster	Westminster Fire Station	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Two Rivers Supervisory Union		
Andover	Andover Town Hall	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Baltimore	Baltimore Town Office	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Cavendish	Proctorsville Volunteer Fire Station	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Chester	Chester Town Hall	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Ludlow	Ludlow Town Hall	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mount Holly	Mount Holly Town Office	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Springfield School District		
Springfield	Riverside Middle School	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Vermont State Craft Center
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
Open Wed. 11-5, Fri. 11-7, Sat. 11-5

(Free) Up-cycled Seed Jar Class w/ Gloria Dufield
Feb. 3 Noon-1 (Register by 2/1)

Next Steps in Bookmaking w/ Deborah Stuart
Feb. 4 Workshop from 1 to 3 (Register by 2/1) \$30.

(Note, you do not have to take the class before this. Open to all.)

Feb. 11 12-4 Chocolate Tasting & Student Art Show

Make Valentines & Learn Calligraphy w/ Jorika Stockwell

galleryvault.org
(04/26/23 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

APEX VENTURES, LLC - HOUSE PAINTING

Booking interior painting for the winter. Also booking exterior painting for the spring and summer of 2023. Houses, decks, porches, garages and barns. Email adam@apexventures.one for a free quote.
(02/08/23 - 13)

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

"Not just for banging" nails."

We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer
(11/22/23 - 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, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.
(03/15/23 - 13)

NEW ENGLAND HOME BUILDING AND REMODEL

802-779-3414 - Located in Weston, VT

Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.

Like us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM!
www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com
(11/22/23 - 52)

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.
(08/11/23 - TFN - 52)

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 or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(02/22/23 - 13)

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 & on cable TV program guide)

Watch Online: okemovalley.tv & 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)
(04/05/23 - TFN - 13)

arts & events

LEGAL NOTICES

Springfield OLLI spring '23 programs

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield OLLI, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, is pleased to announce its Spring '23 programs. There will be exciting programs on history and nature.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and over who enjoy learning for the fun of it. Anyone who would be interested in this type of program, regardless of their age, is welcome.

The programs are held Tuesday afternoons at 2 p.m., and last about an hour and a half, at the Nolin Murray Center on Pleasant Street, next to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Springfield, Vt.

The listing of programs for the Spring 2023 semester and instructions for registering can be found online at www.vermontjournal.com/school-news/springfield-olli-announces-spring-23-programs.

Feb. 28, Vermont vs Hollywood: 100 Years of Vermont in film - Amanda Gustin, Vermont Historical Society. Vermont has been a featured location in Hollywood mov-

ies for nearly a century. It has represented many different ideals during that time, and its portrayal reflects both Vermont's own history as well as American history. Examining those films provides interesting and fun insights into the hold Vermont has had on imagination in the media age.

March 14, Jennie B. Powers: The Woman Who Dares - Jennifer Carroll, Education Director, Cheshire County Historical Society, Keene, N.H. Jennie Powers took a stand against social vices in New Hampshire and Vermont in the early twentieth century. She was a humane society agent in the region from 1898-1936 and arguably the first female deputy sheriff in New Hampshire. As a photographic activist, she used her camera to document animal cruelty, family violence, and widespread poverty in New Hampshire's Monadnock region and beyond. This illustrated presentation introduces us to Jennie's life story, the work of humane societies at the turn of the twentieth century, and the politics of the Progressive Era (1890s-1920s) from a local perspective.

March 28, It's Ghana Be Good - Hank Kaestner, retired spice buyer and international birder, co-sponsored by the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society. We'll take a trip to the West African nation of Ghana, where we'll learn of Ghana's history, which is mainly about slavery, its culture, agriculture, tourism, geopolitical issues, and of course its many birds and wildlife.

April 11, Supporting Native Plants Supports Bird Populations - Desiree Narango, Conservation Biologist, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Co-Sponsored by the Springfield Garden Club. Birds depend on insects from native plants to feed their young. We'll consider the disappearance of many bird species in our area if the plants aren't here to provide their usual food source. By planting and encouraging more native plants we will support the native fruits, berries, and insects that feed upon them, thus providing the food source that our local birds are accustomed to for raising their young.

April 25, "Government of the People, by the People, for the People" - The Making

and Meaning of an American Proverb of Democracy - Wolfgang Mieder, University of Vermont German and Proverb Professor Emeritus. We'll investigate the origin, history, and significance of the triad "Government of, by, for the people," and how it became an American proverb defining the concept of democracy in a most succinct manner. The survival of the "people" proverb in the modern age will also be discussed. Even though Lincoln's name is often attached to it, the proverb is also cited as an anonymous piece of wisdom that encompasses the fundamental principles of a democratic government.

May 9, 80-Plus Years of Changes in the Connecticut River Valley - Steve Taylor, Newspaperman, Farmer, Public Servant. We'll enjoy the recollections of the "good

ole days" as witnessed by Steve Taylor, of Plainfield, N.H. Our memories will resonate with his experiences as he relates changes during his lifetime in many aspects of our lifestyles, including such topics as the use of farm land and the disappearance of dairy farms, transportation and road conditions (think mud season), how the interstate highways have affected shopping and employment opportunities, the changing scene of industrial employment with the disappearance of the machine tool industry in Springfield and Windsor.

OLLI online Distinguished Speakers Series is also available by Zoom. Information is at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli.

Thanks go out to our local benefactor, Barbara Sander-

son. There is a membership series fee for the complete

semester. Non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee.

Pre-registration is highly recommended. We can no longer take any payments onsite. Registration can easily be done online at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield or by calling 802-656-5817.

If you prefer to register by mail, send your contact information (name, address, phone number, and email address) indicating full series membership or which specific program(s) you wish to attend. Mail this information and your check (made out to University of Vermont-OLLI) to: OLLI at UVM, 460 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05405. Allow 10-14 days from date of mailing check to receipt and processing.

Preserving and honoring trees

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – In Vermont, trees are the background wherever we look. Like the flowers and vegetables we tend in our gardens, trees need care and nurturing. Trees serve many purposes: they produce fresh oxygen, help us produce fuel, and even supply us with food. Trees are critical to keeping our climate cool while offering shade, shelter, and habitats for forest-dwelling animals and insects.

Green Mountain Gardeners (GMG) invites you to join your neighbors and local gardeners for "Preserving and Caring for Our Trees" with Jeromy Gardner, Arborist and Conservationist,

on Monday, Feb. 6, at 11 a.m. Learn about the importance of tree health and how to properly plant a tree for long-term plant success. The presentation is open to the public and will take place at the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad Building, 6068 Vermont Rte. 100, Londonderry, Vt.

Mr. Gardner, Arborist Representative at Bartlett Tree Experts in Manchester, Vt., earned his bachelor's degree in Forestry at Paul Smith College. He is a Certified Arborist with deep community roots. He volunteers for the Manchester Arbor Day Celebration, serves as a board member for the American Chestnut Foundation and is a trustee at Merck Forest and Farm-

land Center. Mr. Gardner takes great pride in preserving some of Vermont's oldest and most historically significant trees.

In addition to light refreshments, there will be ample time for your questions and discussions with Mr. Gardner. What a terrific opportunity to learn and share information about one of Vermont's most important resources.

The GMG is pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to everyone in our community. If you would like to attend, please R.S.V.P. by Feb. 3 to Jessica Clapp: winterspellplates@gmail.com.

Information about Green Mountain Gardeners can be found at www.greenmountaingardeners.net.

Springfield Art Gym

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Art Gym (AG) is a community art room where we want you to exercise your creativity. The AG is filled with art supplies and ideas. Volunteers are present and happy to help. Presently we are open Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. We have planned events on Sundays in Feb-

ruary from 1:30-3:30 p.m. On Feb. 5 we invite people to bring their projects from home and spend time with other creatives. On Sunday, Feb. 12, there will be a valentine zentangle class with Wendi Germain. On Feb. 19 there will be bright happy mini acrylic paintings with Jessica Hagland. Make a dream catcher with Heidi

Schroeder on Feb. 26. We also feature a children's art club live on our Facebook page with Debra Piletz every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Looking for a unique place for a gathering or a party? We can design and facilitate an art project for your next gathering.

The Springfield Art Gym is located at 335 River St., Springfield Vt., Suite 2, behind Joe's Discount Beverage.

For more information, visit our Facebook, email Springfieldartgym@gmail.com, call 802-289-1069, or visit www.Artgymvt.com.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 14, 2023, to review a proposed two-lot subdivision located at 1930 Massey Road. Persons wishing to appear at the public hearing may do so in person, via zoom video conferencing, or by submitting written comments. Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Please contact the Town Planner (802-376-6102 / toszoning@vermontel.net) for copies of the meeting agenda and subdivision application.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD Annual Report Notice of Availability

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 will be available February 25, 2023 and may be picked up at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office at 96 Main Street, M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at the Springfield Town Library at 43 Main Street, M-F 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report will be available on the Town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov>. Upon request, the Auditor's Report shall be mailed. After March 31, 2023, the Town School District Report will be available on the School District website <https://www.ssdvt.org>.

Barbara A. Courchesne Town Clerk, CVC
(802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting to be held Tuesday, March 7, 2023, will be available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. **If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, a request for this local election must be made, please contact the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible in person, in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballot and return it before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. Please allow extra time for postal delivery. Use two Forever stamps to mail back.** An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov> or you may request your ballots online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is Monday, March 6, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. Absentee ballots may be returned through regular mail, mail slots located in town hall entrances and at the polls. All voted absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk by the close of polls, 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the polls. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on March 7, 2023.

Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC
96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104
tosclerk@vermontel.net

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CHESTER PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT BYLAWS

The Chester Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Town of Chester Unified Development Bylaws on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vermont. This public notice is given pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444.

The principal purpose of the proposed development bylaws amendment is to encourage workforce housing in the village districts, clarify uses that are exempt from zoning, define primitive camps and short-term rentals, require new private roads to conform to Chester's Road and Bridge Standards, streamline the subdivision review process, and allow more non-resident employees in home occupations and home businesses. The proposed amendment will affect every geographical area of Chester. The amended Sections of the Bylaws include 2.14, 3.1, 3.11, 3.12, 3.14, 3.19, 3.20, 3.30, 4.3, 4.9, 4.10, 4.12, 5.2, 7.16, and 8.2.

The full text of the proposed amendment to the Town of Chester Unified Development Bylaws may be viewed at the Town Clerk's office and on the home page of the Town's website at www.chestertvt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 25th day of January 2023.
Hugh Quinn, Planning Commission Chair

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Public Hearing notice meeting that was published for Robert Wofchuck to amend a Planned Unit Development Permit to enclose part of the deck on January 25, 2023 will be held on February 13, 2023 @ 6:00P.M., The meeting will be Hybrid (Physical & Remote) Meeting

The meeting Agenda will be available on the Ludlow's Web page, www.ludlow.vt.us

If you have any questions, please contact the Planning & Zoning Office at 802.228.2845

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arts & entertainment

Balla Kouyaté and Mike Block at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents a concert with Malian balafon player and singer Balla Kouyaté and American cellist, singer, and composer Mike Block, on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. Composer, kora player, percussionist, and vocalist John Hughes will open.

Balla Kouyaté and Mike Block have been collaborating for over a decade, bonding over their shared interest in music from across the world, and their commitment to innovating on their instruments. Balla Kouyaté, a balafon player and singer coming out of the Djeli tradition of Mali was awarded a National Heritage Fellow-

ship from the NEA. Mike Block is a Grammy Award-winning musician with the Silk Road Ensemble, originally trained in Western Classical music.

“Two world-class masters from different continents unite to bring together different musical traditions with Mike and Balla,” says Keith Marks, Executive Director of Next Stage Arts. “Balla was named a World Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts and is the heritage keeper of his region’s heritage instrument, the balafon. Mike Block, a member of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble, is known in nu-

merous musical circles as a master at the cello. Next Stage is over the moon about presenting these two virtuosic musicians.”

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance or can be bought at the door. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit www.nextstagearts.org. Please visit our Health & Safety page for our current Covid protocols.

River Artisans Coopertive spotlight

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – River Artisans Cooperative is spotlighting artisan member Stephanie Sullivan.

Deep in the woods of Vermont Stephanie creates art that celebrates nature. She makes mixed media art and handmade cards that reflect the colors and textures of the plants in those woods. By sharing her art, and her love for nature, she hopes to inspire more people to actively and thoughtfully protect the natural world.

Run by artisans and staffed by artisans, River Artisans Cooperative’s shop contains the work of local potters, quilters, print makers, woodworkers, silversmiths, fiber artisans, basket makers, and many more.

The River Artisans Cooperative has been a welcoming space for artisans of all ages and mediums since 1975, making it one of the oldest craft cooperatives in the state of Vermont.

River Artisans Cooperative is located at 28 Square, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. Call 802-591-2085 or visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com. They are open Thursday–Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and closed Monday–Wednesday.



Stephanie Sullivan display.

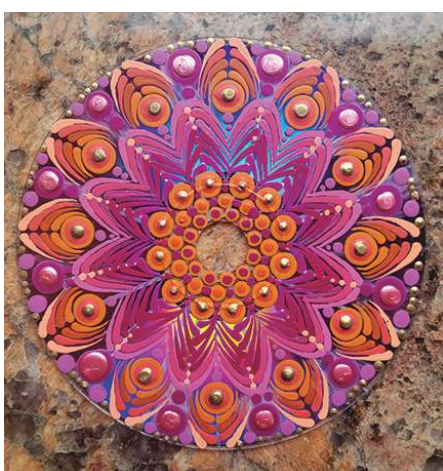
PHOTO PROVIDED

Valentine Dot Mandala

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Thursday, Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. join Wendi Germain at the Springfield Town Library for a fun-filled three hours of mandala dot painting.

A mandala dot art is a pattern that is created with many small colorful dots. It’s a very simple technique. Aboriginal people used dots frequently in their art as a way to fill spaces.

Wendi was born in Springfield and now lives among the dirt roads of Chester. She is a self-taught artist who found the joy of art when she realized that art is not something that needs to be



Mandala Dot Art.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Wendi is thrilled to share some of her creativity with you. Art changed her life, and she hopes that she can help others find the same joy!

Contact the library at 802-885-3108 if you have any questions.

This event is free and open to the public, registration is required at www.bit.ly/3vVCt8M.

planned. For her, the beauty is in the unexpected result; she starts each piece with no expectations.

The Rough & Tumble with High Tea and Decatur Creek

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A decade of relentless touring has earned “thriftstore-Americana” duo The Rough & Tumble, Mallory Graham and Scott Tyler, the right to trot out the haggard road-worn trope, but they defy that stereotype, and pretty much every other with their upbeat, commanding stage presence, and razor-sharp banter, earworm melodies, and heartstring lyrics. These songwriters and storytellers have audiences in stitches one minute and falling apart at the seams the next.

Mallory and Scott have been writing and performing together for years in other projects by the time The Rough & Tumble was born in 2011. Since then, they’ve been crowned The Listening Room Network’s Artist of the Year; have been an Official Showcase Artist for the Southeast Regional Folk Alliance; and were awarded Americana Song of the Year by the Independent Music Awards. They’ve released half a dozen acclaimed albums and EPs.

Rising indie-folk duo High Tea from Boston will celebrate their new CD, delivering a blend of old blues and new pop with soulful harmonies and smoldering guitar riffs, songs ripe with Americana heartbreak and heat, punctuated with tales of growing up, going wild, and always coming back to the ones you love. They will also appear at Signature Sounds’ The Parlor Room in Northampton and Rockwood Music Hall in NYC.

Decatur Creek will open. Beth Eldridge, Doug Farrell, and Jack Henry are each accomplished New Hampshire musicians, singer/songwriters, and performers who together write and play some of the most tasteful original music in the region, with focus on songcraft and vocals.

This is a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Feb. 12, at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls. Tickets are discounted in advance through www.stage33live.com.

com or can be bought at the door. Limited seating is available, the event will be recorded and filmed. The Covid protocol will be the guidelines in effect. Please do not attend if you are experiencing any Covid symptoms.

Stage 33 Live acknowledges the help of so many individuals; volunteers run the thing from stem to stern.

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arts & entertainment

Springfield Winter Carnival

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Our schedule for Feb. 4 at Crown Point Country Club and Riverside Skating Rink is pretty well set. Remember all activities, contests, and events are free, thanks to the generosity of our local business sponsors. Springfield Parks and Recreation, Springfield Town Library, The All-4-One and SPACE programs, and Crown Point Country Club are working together to bring you this free family friendly event. Here's the lineup:

Friday evening, Feb. 3

- Open sliding under the lights on the big hill from 6-9 p.m., and local music legend John Sullivan playing inside. Crown Point Pub is open 4-9 p.m. for excellent food and beverages, and free hot chocolate.

Saturday, Feb. 4

- Broomball Tournament at Riverside Middle School skating rink from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. There will be several divisions if there is enough interest. Contact Spring-

field Parks and Rec. for details.

- Open sliding at Crown Point all day, except when contests are happening. Bring your own sleds. The Pub will be open for great food and beverage from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday.
- Face painting with our own talented artist Mona Frye, and a variety of big games with the All-4-One program staff, 12-4 p.m. at Crown Point in the banquet room.
- The popular cardboard sled contest is back, and the theme is "critters." We'll gather at the top of the hill beyond the parking lot at 1 p.m. Prizes include the bling, spirit, and speed awards, more info on that very soon.
- Marko the Magician will perform a 45 minute magic show in the banquet room at 2 p.m., followed by a teaching session for interested young magicians.
- The winners of the ongoing snowman contest will

be announced and prizes will be awarded at 2 p.m. Springfield Parks and Rec. has already received some great photo entries, and you have until Feb. 3 to submit your snow creation.

- Downhill kayak races are back at 3 p.m. We'll have a couple boats on hand, or you can bring your own. Whether you participate or spectate, this is fun stuff. Prizes awarded to the top two finishers.
- The banquet room will close at 4 p.m. so veteran local band Rusted Bones, co-sponsored by Arc Mechanical and Ultimate Auto Body, can set up to play from 7-10 p.m. The large bonfire will be torched off by the Springfield Fire Department as darkness falls, the sliding hill will be lit up until 10 p.m., and free hot chocolate will be available to all.

Reinbow Riding Center volunteer Q&A

BELMONT, Vt. – Do you like kids, or horses, not sure, but you're looking for something interesting or different to do with a little of your spare time? Why not think about spending some of that time with kids and horses at Reinbow Riding Center, where we give everyone the chance for an equine experience they will never forget. On Saturday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m. we are holding a Q&A get together at the Mt. Holly Town Library in Belmont. Refreshments will be served.

We're hoping you will bring the questions and we will have the answers as we show you what Reinbow Riding is all about. Our program is designed to improve the wellbeing of individuals with unique physical,



Learn more about the Reinbow Riding Center. PHOTO PROVIDED

emotional, and/or cognitive challenges through a therapeutic equine experience. To do this we need volunteers to help us in many different capacities. It's not necessary to have horse experience, or kid experience for that matter, you can learn on the job. And we always need people that might like to help with other aspects of our program, like photography, videotap-

ing, writing, handy work and grounds work, public relations, and yes just general office help, better known as paper jockeys. Not sure if this is for you? Come to our Q&A and see what we're all about. Our riding program season runs from May 1 to Oct. 30

and the rest of the year we get ready for summer. For questions or directions to the library, 26 Maple Hill Rd., email janetupton@reinbowridingcenter.org or call 802-236-2483. If you are unable to attend but would like more information, please contact us, look for us on Facebook and Instagram @reinbow_riding_center, or visit www.reinbowridingcenter.org.

MSA free monthly teen arts nights

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Outburst Arts, a free monthly teen arts night at Main Street Arts, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 7-9 p.m. Area teens are invited to make art, do crafts, listen to music, eat snacks, and spend time with friends.

"I'm thrilled to be part-

nering with Main Street Arts on this project," said Sam Howard of the Rockingham Free Public Library (RFPL). "As the youth services librarian at RFPL, one of my goals is to create welcoming spaces where youth can express themselves and make connections. Main Street Arts approached me

with the same goal, so we're working together. Outburst Arts is designed to be a youth-led place where teens can make art, launch creative projects, or just hang out."

Outburst Arts will take place from 7-9 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month through the end of

the school year. In addition to Feb. 11, the program will meet on March 11, April 8, May 13, and June 10.

Main Street Arts is located at 35 Main Street in Saxtons River, Vt. Main Street Arts has a ramp, elevator, and accessible bathrooms. Face masks are strongly encouraged at this event.

Cecilia Zabala, Eugene Friesen at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project presents an evening of global music with Cecilia Zabala and Eugene Friesen at Next Stage on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

"It's an honor to host a virtuosic presence like Cecilia, coming from South America on her US tour," says Keith Marks, Executive Director of Next Stage Arts. "The fact

that we get to host her and Grammy Award-winning Eugene Friesen makes the evening a one-of-a-kind performance. We're excited to be presenting this in our region."

Cecilia Zabala of Buenos Aires, Argentina is a rising star on the global music scene. With 10 CDs and close to 20 years interna-

tional touring experience to her credit, Zabala's music embodies the deep soul of the acoustic guitar, from its Iberian and North African roots, to its versatility as a worldwide voice of modern musical expression.

Vermont resident Eugene Friesen is active internationally as a cellist, composer, recording artist, and teacher.

He has performed on six continents as a soloist and with the Grammy Award-winning Paul Winter Consort. Eugene is an artist-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, and on faculty at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. More information on Eugene can be found online at www.celloman.com.

Southern Vermont Astronomy presents

CHESTER, Vt. – The Southern Vermont Astronomy Group would love for you to join us on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. for a special event with expert speaker Dr. Michael Richmond, who will be presenting his talk "The Long Journey from a

Raw Image to a Calibrated Light Curve." This will be a virtual meeting at www.zoom.us/j/94691230307.

Astronomers of all sorts, amateur and professional, use their telescopes to take images of objects in the night sky. But before we can use those images for scientific purposes, we need to clean them up, correct-

ing for defects in the optical system and the camera. We must also account for extinction by the passing clouds and the Earth's atmosphere in general, and then calibrate the results so that we can compare them properly to measurements made with other telescopes. Dr. Richmond will explain these procedures and show

examples of pictures and measurements.

Michael Richmond is an astronomer at the Rochester Institute of Technology, specializing in software and the study of transient objects. He enjoys frequent trips to the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona and to the Institute of Astronomy in Tokyo.



Ludlow American Legion
FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Celebration of the 4 Chaplins

Friday, February 3

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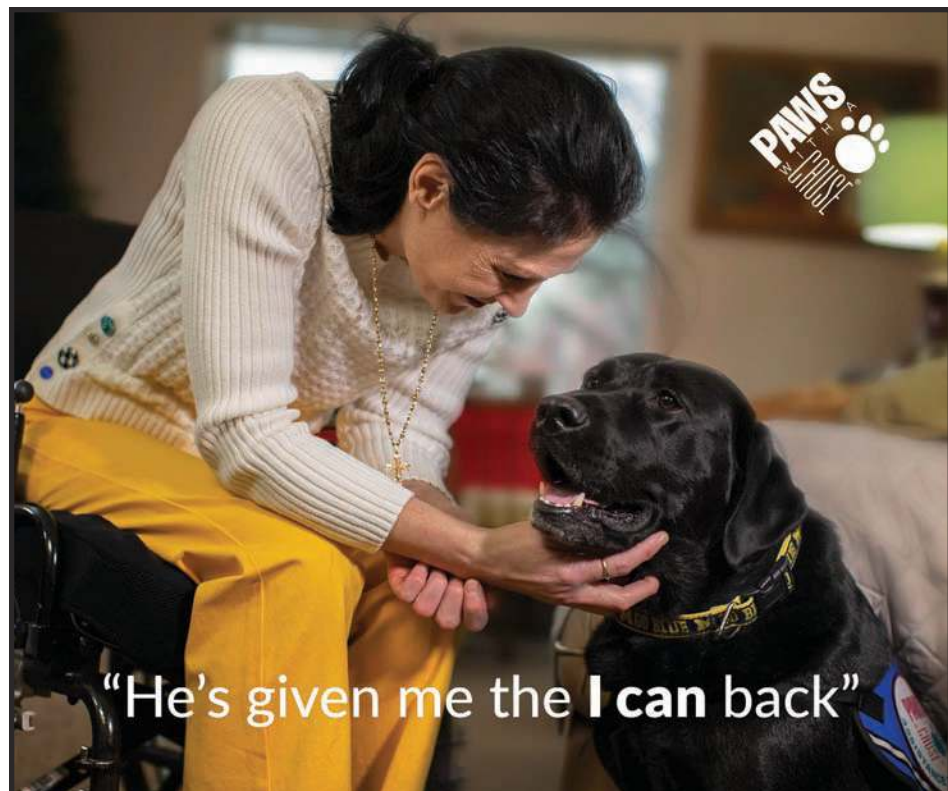
Seatings will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Call 802-228-9807 for reservations.
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COMMUNITY LUNCH LASAGNA & BINGO!

Thursday, February 2nd
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Meal & Event sponsored by:
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