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Sheriff-Elect Ryan Palmer presents his plans

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

CAVENDISH, Vt. – At the Jan. 9 Cavendish Selectboard meeting, Town Manager Brendan McNamara invited Windsor County Sheriff-Elect Ryan Palmer to present an overview of the expanding role of sheriff department services in town.

Confirming his term will begin Feb. 1, Palmer outlined how the department will be evolving under his leadership.

"I'm looking to make the sheriff's department a more county-wide police department, to give better service to our rural communities," Palmer said they would be providing a more consistent amount of patrol, up to 16-17 hours per day, by sharing resources across the counties.

Palmer's proposed changes will increase the allocation in the town budget for the sheriff's department, from about \$37,000 to between \$70-90,000 annually. "But, the amount of service would be exponentially greater, and we'll be making sure that we're being strategic," Palmer stated. As a police officer in Ludlow for the last five years, Palmer is familiar with the Okemo Valley and wants to apply what he's learned and be a "community problem solver."

Selectboard member George Timko asked if there were options for different levels of coverage or if it was "a yes or no deal." Palmer said he would prefer to agree to an annual contract, and get away from the cur-

rent, hourly business mode. Palmer noted, "I'm not going to leave you hanging, and I'm willing to have some discussions, but the idea that you're paying for just a 4 hour block here and there is not how we want to push forward."

Palmer said the department was "no longer in the business of writing tickets to generate revenue to write more tickets." Providing a more holistic approach to community policing is very much Palmer's focus, for instance working with social agencies and at-risk youth.

Timko asked if emergency calls requiring social services would be handled by sheriff's deputies, and if so, were they trained to deal with that type of situation. Palmer said he plans to increase departmental training, but deputies will work closely with social services. A large part of his intended focus over the next year will be to hire someone on staff or contracted through HCRS, with a mental health/social service background.

Palmer told the board his department will have enough staff to cover the proposed expansion of services, with some new officers joining over the next month or so. He also mentioned that although the department's homebase is Woodstock, the deputies take their cars home, so responses to 911 calls won't necessarily originate from Woodstock. Palmer said they will also handle civil complaints, with Thomas Battista heading that program. A 20-year veteran of the Windsor County sheriff's

department, Battista ran against Palmer in the race for sheriff.

State Representative John Arrison asked Palmer if the proposed expansion would impact the county budget. Palmer said that the county budget was already set for the upcoming year, and he wouldn't expect much increase in future years. Arrison expressed concern that towns with their own police departments wouldn't agree to share the additional costs. Palmer broke down the allocation of funds, saying the county budget covers his office staff and insurance, the state pays his salary and that of two staff members to transport prisoners, and the remaining budget is paid by the towns who contract police services.

After thanking Palmer and Battista for coming, McNamara and the board revisited the proposal to add an enhanced energy chapter to the town plan. At the most recent planning commission meeting, the discussion about whether or not adopting the chapter would benefit the town had continued, but a conclusion was not reached. Members of the planning commission were in attendance, and Etienne Ting presented a request for a written directive from the selectboard on how to proceed.

The board, members of the planning commission,

See **SHERIFF** on Page 2

Cavendish reviews annual town budget —

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Cavendish Town Manager Brendan McNamara, having reviewed last year's (FY22) town budget, announced at the Jan. 11 budget meeting that the audit was still ongoing, but it looked as if the town could expect a \$40,000 deficit. In part due to "a horrendous mud season," the cost for gravel was higher than estimated, and most large expenses went to the highway department for equipment repairs. McNamara relayed that the trucks are getting older, and they've been considering leasing rather than buying several new vehicles at once, as other towns in the area have done. McNamara suggested adding the cost to the upcoming, FY24 budget. He said there could be a long waiting period to purchase new vehicles, so he'd like to start looking at options.

The town's legal fees went over budget as well, coming in at \$15,000 against an estimated \$7,200.

Regarding the proposed increases to the sheriff's

department budget, as presented by Sheriff-Elect Ryan Palmer at Monday night's selectboard meeting, McNamara said he thought those costs would hit the FY24 or FY25 budget since the FY23 budget will need to be finalized before the Feb. 1 start of the sheriff's term, and the current contract is in effect through June 30, 2023.

McNamara touched on several points Palmer made at Monday's meeting, questioning how the town would track the number of hours deputies spent in Cavendish, without setting that number in advance. He also wasn't sure how the town would be charged, and whether the cost would increase if the department were to receive more calls than expected. The board agreed more discussion and details were needed before deciding to expand the sheriff's services, and thought it would be helpful to contact other towns to ask what they've committed to.

Finally, McNamara raised an issue regarding the local Meals on Wheels program, and asked the board to consider increasing the appro-

priation of funds to Senior Solutions to provide Meals on Wheels, or asking the Black River Senior Center to provide Meals on Wheels to Cavendish residents again, and increasing their appropriation.

Senior Solutions is currently responsible for Meals on Wheels as well as the Everyone Eats program, distributed from the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, which is coming to an end in March 2023. McNamara said volunteers from Black River Good Neighbors do the meal delivery for Senior Solutions, delivering once per week, while Black River Senior Center delivers twice per week. McNamara pointed out that in addition to delivering meals, the volunteer drivers also provide social contact and a welfare check for the recipients.

The next budget meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 18, and McNamara said he would email updated figures to board members for review.

Ludlow reviews skate park bids

BY IAN BARD

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – During the Jan. 9 meeting the Ludlow Selectboard reviewed the three bids received in response to the request for proposal (RFP) for a new skatepark to be built in Dorsey Park. The already formed skatepark committee informed the meeting, led by board member Justin Hyjek. The town has raised about \$235,000 for this cause over the years, with \$15,000 having already been spent on demolition of the pre-existing park and \$190,000 coming soon in a grant the board anticipates receiving. The previous park was about 7,000 square feet. The board is hoping to rebuild the park in two phases, with a larger more complete first phase, and a less extensive second phase later.

The lowest bid came in about \$75,000 lower than the other two, which were much closer. Standard Construction put a bid in for \$160,000 and Parker Construction and Grindline Skateparks put bids of \$235,000 and \$235,700, respectively. Municipal manager Scott Murphy and other members of the board mentioned that all three companies are highly recommended.

Discussion centered around the large difference in price of the bids. It was explained that due to the creative nature of the project there was no exact square footage or budget

listed on the RFP. The bids put in all featured different designs of the park at different sizes. This made the bids more difficult to compare than the usual apples to apples proposals sent in, there is usually not as many differences in the bids other than price. Standard construction and Parker construction each had representatives talk to the board over Zoom during the meeting.

Standard Construction explained that their \$160,000 bid was for a 3,000 square foot design, but that with the towns \$220,000 budget for the skate park, standard could build around a 4,800 square foot design.

The board agreed in general that the goal is to get the best park they can for what is

paid.

Bruce Schmidt brought up the idea of deferring the decision to the skatepark committee and recreation department so the best choice can be made.

Murphy confirmed the board could do so if they deemed it in the town's best interest, but he was worried it could affect the \$190,000 grant they are expecting to receive for the park.

The board agreed to wait on any decisions until February's meeting when Murphy can find out how deferring the decision would affect the grant.

An RHR Smith Auditor was supposed to be at the meeting to review the FY2022 audit.

This was moved to February's agenda.

The \$219,000 bank note

that the town had requested

for two highway trucks has

not been delivered. Murphy

asked the board to accept

the note now and when it does come in he will alert the board and they can all come and sign. Bruce Schmidt mentioned it was not usually done this way. A motion was made to accept on the condition all members later sign the note, it was accepted.

The board discussed the FY2024 budget review and moved to approve it with an increase in 3.9% in taxes to be raised. The board expressed that they could not get the budget any lower due to increased costs and inflation. The budget was accepted.

Murphy mentioned the rearranging of some articles for the town meeting. There was a discussion on article 11 allowing town meeting reports to be delivered online. Some members were in favor, others were not. It was decided it would be brought up to the public at the meeting.

The town had received another opioid settlement check, this one for \$9,868.98.

Murphy mentioned that the towns 2022 Property Valuation and Review Equalization Results showed that the PVR is down to .87%, and at .85% the town has to do a full reappraisal. Two thirds of the state have already been required to do a full appraisal. Ryan Silvestri of the Listers Department said the largest problem was the town's inability to track the value that interior improvements add to a property. Logan Nicoll of the State Legislature said the state is well aware of the problem currently.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The next meeting will be on Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.

Plymouth hears from the Fire Chief, discusses Articles

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – On Monday, Jan. 16, the Plymouth Selectboard held a special meeting to discuss three articles the town will vote on Tuesday, Jan. 17: one for the \$800,000 bond re-vote, one for the appointment of the town clerk, and one for the appointment of the town treasurer.

Selectboard member Rick Kaminski recapped the bond issue and how the additional funding will allow the town to fully repair the town hall roof, upgrade some of the mechanical systems, and complete other improvements, including addressing safety updates.

Kaminski mentioned the opinion letters the three selectboard members had published in the Vermont Journal regarding the bond vote. Kaminski said he didn't agree with Keith Cappellini's suggestion to tear down the building and rebuild it from the ground up, and didn't feel the approach

was viable. Kaminski said he'd spoken with the fire and rescue departments, town listers, town staff, the historical society; everyone who would be affected, and, "not one person was in favor of the project." He asked Cappellini, who was attending via Zoom, if he had anything to add.

"I look at it from a wide context of the interest of the town," Cappellini offered, saying what he opposes is taking on the debt.

Jay Kullman, Board Chair, reiterated that the tax burden on a home valued at \$300,000 would be \$85.74 per year or \$7.17 per month.

The board gave an update on the roof repair thus far, saying the project was progressing slowly. Kullman acknowledged the repairs have been needed for more than ten years.

The two articles that address the appointment of a town clerk and town treasurer were brought up for discussion. Kullman said that the board is allowed to appoint someone to each of these positions, if the job is vacated. Kullman and the board agreed that this would

offer a more stable employment picture, and allow the board to interview candidates with the required skills for each role.

Michelle Pingree, one of three town listers, felt that being able to hire someone for the long term, rather than be subjected to an election every two years would be extremely helpful. "It's hard to get someone to run for the position when they could get voted out in two years," Pingree said. "Rather than, if they're doing a good job, they keep working."

The board agreed, and Kullman said, "But we have to ask the voters for their approval on that, we can't just make the change."

Kullman mentioned they have been really lucky with staff and others chipping in to help Elaine Pauley, Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer, but said it's been tough and the town office is short-staffed.

The board addressed the stipulation that the jobs must be filled by a town resident. Resident Elliot Rubin, attending via Zoom, asked if

See **FIRE** on Page 2

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ognize malicious emails and pop-ups as well as Wi-Fi issues arising from the increased use of tablets and smart phones. Two sessions are offered, the first is on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. and the second is on Friday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. This program is free and open to the public. Register by emailing egreenblott@aarp.org, please specify the program of interest.

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Play Every Town stops in Ludlow

BY IAN BARD

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. — Community filled the air on Sunday Jan. 15 as the United Church of Ludlow filled with citizens waiting to hear composer-pianist David Feurzeig begin playing.

Feurzeig, a professor of music at UVM, embarked on an ambitious tour last May, deciding to perform a community concert in every one

of Vermont's 252 towns to raise awareness for climate change. Ludlow had the honor of being the 22nd town to be performed in.

The viewers were delighted by Feurzeig's selection, blending upbeat ragtime tunes with beautiful classical elements. The music made you want to hop up and dance a jig one minute and moved you deeply and emotionally the next. Making the concert even more local, Feurzeig was joined by two Ludlow singers. Li-

sha Klaiber joined in with her lovely soprano voice, performing “Summertime” from Porgy and Bess beautifully. Feurzeig was also joined by tenor and local George Thomson, Thomson and his wife Linda are two of the people responsible for helping set up this Ludlow concert.

Feurzeig touched on the history of many of the pieces played, weaving interesting stories of musicians past. He also touched many times on the topic

of the concert, climate change, telling anecdotes and ways we can all support the earth and each other.

The people of Ludlow were lucky to enjoy such a wonderful concert. A huge thanks is necessary to David Feurzeig for envisioning this wonderful event and bringing it here and around the state, as well as the Thomsons and the United Church of Ludlow for helping to make this happen in our community.

SHERIFF

From Page 1

and Representative Arrison further discussed the pros and cons of the proposal, with the board ultimately passing a motion for McNamara to write a letter advocating for the adoption of the energy chapter into the town plan.

Regarding the new ARPA Committee, McNamara stated that the selectboard had to appoint committee members

George Timko (Chairman), Wendy Regier (Vice-Chair), Jen Leak, Betty McEnaney, Julia Gignoux, Peter LaBelle, Stephen Plunkard, and Brendan McNamara (non-voting member). McNamara said the ARPA committee will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. at the town office. The next meeting will be Jan. 17, and the public is welcome to attend.

McNamara brought up the Vermont Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) which for Cavendish is 82% and said

state statute requires any town below 85% to reappraise.

Arrison said the state legislature is currently reviewing this topic, prioritizing, and reevaluating which towns most need to reappraise. Arrison advised the board not to make any decisions yet, promising to keep the board informed.

The results of soil testing at the old town garage site are ready. McNamara reported, “I saw the initial, 100-page document...and it didn't look that bad.” McNamara said he

hopes to start work at the site this spring.

During the past week or so, the town has received widespread reporting of discolored water, McNamara noted, but said all water tests have come back normal and potable.

McNamara announced that there would be an informational town meeting held both in person and online, on Monday, March 6, to discuss the articles on the Australian ballot to be voted on Tuesday, March 7.

FIRE

From Page 1

there was any way to circumvent the rule. Could they find a way around that? Rubin suggested there might be a way for towns to share a town manager, which would involve changing a town charter.

The special meeting was adjourned, and Kullman

called the regular selectboard meeting to order. He asked Fire Chief Kirk Turner and the fire department members who were in attendance to present their request to purchase a new pumper truck.

“This is our second or third meeting with you [regarding the truck acquisition],” Chief Turner said. “Our present fire truck has now turned 32 years old. If it breaks down,

we would have no truck to respond to fires in this town. Our other truck is a tanker which just carries water. This truck is our only means of protecting our town, in terms of fire safety. We've been talking about this for a couple of years, so what's the solution?

[Without a pumper truck], either the fire department, or the selectboard would need to make some agreement with surrounding towns, like

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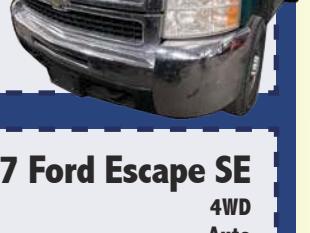
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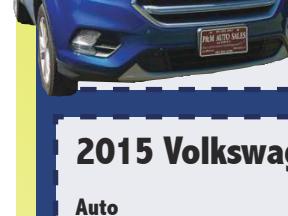
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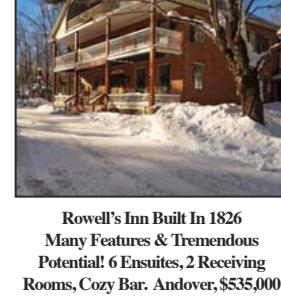
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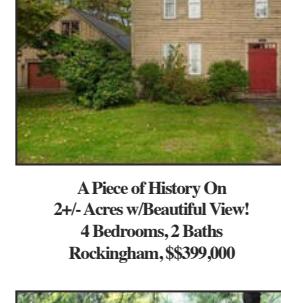
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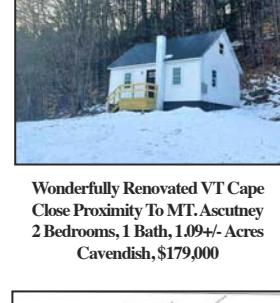
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Turner continued, “We are a volunteer fire department, and we'd love to have more people volunteer, but even if we had 30 volunteers that still doesn't change the age of the truck. Five years on, we've formed a Truck Committee, who began talking to the selectboard starting about two years ago. We know the fire truck costs a lot of money, and we've been looking for a used truck for six or so months, but a four-wheel drive pumper is very hard to come by. The one we found was 15 years old, in good condition, and was about \$380,000 but it didn't meet the height requirements because it was too tall.

“We looked into getting a grant from FEMA, and we had to hire someone that knew the grant process, because it's a lot of paperwork. We hired someone, paid him, and got turned down for the grant. If we ordered a brand-new truck today it would be a minimum of two years down the road before we received it.

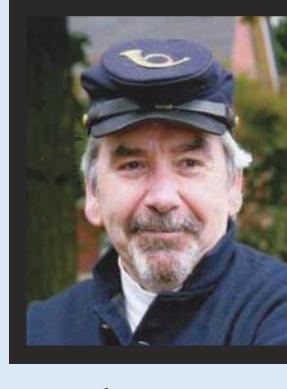
“The price of a new pumper truck would be about \$429,000,” Turner said. “The fire department has about \$100,000 in funds mostly from donations, so we need about \$390,000 from the town.”

Kullman suggested establishing a reserve fund, saying, “There's a discussion to be had about new versus used, that we don't decide here tonight. But we can make a motion, establish the fund, let the voters vote on it. Have an article ready for March to set an amount for year one at least, and to figure out the impact on the tax rate.” Kullman said it was a great topic to discuss at the March town meeting.

Chief Turner mentioned the department would have other expenses in the future, including purchasing new “turnout gear,” (firefighters' PPE). “\$30,000 per year plus that much in donations and fundraisers is what funds the fire department. The turnout gear has a ten-year limit and costs between \$3-4,000 per one person's fire clothing.”

Turner thanked the board for their time, saying, “Whatever you can do, we would be more than happy to help. We've kind of reached the end of our rope.”

Plymouth voters will decide on the three articles Tuesday, Jan. 17. The next selectboard meeting will be Monday, Feb. 6.



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

Chester's progress —

ing man.

May 20, 1851. Let John Green the job to take down the old marble mill and put up a building 100 ft. by 36 ft. wide, for our tannery.

It is to be 2 stories high and he to put up the frame and cover the outside with boards, shingles and clapboards, also lay the floor to the second story. He is to find everything excepting what he can save from the old building and we are to pay him \$387.50 at any rate and \$400, if he says so, when he finishes the job.

May 26, 1851. Took Charley and the two yr. old colt down to Winslow Sawyer's pasture. 10¢ per week for keeping the 2 yr. old, 12 1/2¢ for Charley.

May 30, 1851. Paid Elder

Sergeant \$5 for 5 days work.

June 8 1851. The Freewill Baptists held a quarterly meeting. We all attended.

Feb. 29, 1852. John Solger has chopped up my wood pile, 29 1/4 cords at 20¢ a cord, and I paid him for four days chopping in woods 50¢ per day.

Mar. 10, 1852. A. Adams came into store as clerk. Pay him \$220 for one year.

Aug. 17, 1852. Constable Slack seized a bbl. of liquor of Benj. A.—in under the Maine law. May it all be seized and poured out on to the ground, a more proper receptacle for it than the human stomach.

Aug. 9, 1855. Size of bear skin caught by M. Muldoon, length 6 ft. 4 in., width 4 ft. 7 in., wt. of bear

400 lbs.

Jan. 31, 1867. A large panther was killed near Downers in Weathersfield today. [See photo with this article.]

Jan. 1, 1880. Have not had over an inch of snow yet. Thermometer has not been below 6 degrees above zero. Very smooth fine wheeling. Ground slightly frozen. [Very fine wheeling requires explanation. Riding in a buggy or wagon on snow covered roads was nearly impossible, so sleighs with runners were used. Travelling on wheels this time of year was notable.]

June 7, 1880. J.E. Pollard went to work in N.O. Johnson's clothing store.

Jan. 13, 1887. Sleighride from Bellows Falls, 42 couples.

June 5, 1888. Big fire this morning; burned Hotel, Pollard's Store, Drug Store, Lee's Store, Livery Stable, etc. (Lee's store was a large two-story building where the Masonic Hall is today.)

May 2, 1890. National Bank directors met and chose B.A. Park, Cashier; F.P. Mather, Pres.; J.E. Pollard, V-Pres.

Oct. 27, 1890. Commenced work on new Hotel.



Downers panther killed in 1867 as mentioned in the journal.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

Feb. 24, 1892. I married Will A. Hart and Mrs. Janett Tarble. The first couple I ever married.

Apr. 11, 1892. Fred Rowell took charge of the Hotel.

Jan. 13, 1898. Thunder shower last night. The ice went out of the river. [The ice going out was welcome news. As winter progressed river ice got thicker, sometimes flooding when it broke loose. An ice jam just above Cobleigh Street would let go, releasing a torrent of ice and water down behind the Hotel, over School Street and flood as far as Grafton Street. The ice going out Jan. 13 was a good sign that we might avoid a flood this spring.]

May 11, 1899. Work started on new wrapper factory.

Apr. 11, 1899. Ed. Jenkins, the milk man, came in on wheels for the first time since Thanksgiving; 138 days in succession on runners.

Apr. 12, 1899. Towns Hotel at Bellows Falls burned.

May 16, 1899. W.S. Pollard commenced digging cellar for his house. [This is the Charthouse on Main Street.]

This week's old saying was a plumber's ad: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Springfield Now and Then program by SAHS

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — The Springfield Art & Historical Society will present "Springfield, Now and Then" on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 2 p.m. at the Society, located at 65 Route 106 (Cota & Cota Building),

North Springfield, Vt. This is an historical photograph program illustrating how Springfield has changed, in some cases, as far back as the 1860s. Starting with what is there now, it will trace the "progress" of several sites over the years. Society programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-886-7935 or email sahs@vermontel.net.

Private showing of a "Man Called Otto"

LONDONDERRY, Vt. — Join your neighbors aboard the Mountain Town Connector, Neighborhood Connections' transportation van, on Saturday, Jan. 21, to enjoy Tom Hanks in "A Man Called Otto" at the Springfield Theater. This is a private movie showing, followed by lunch. There is no charge for this service.

As the second film ad-

aptation of the 2021 movie "A Man Called Ove," Tom Hanks, in the title role, is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

The Mountain Town Con-

nector will leave Neighborhood Connections at 9:15 a.m. for a 10:15 private showing. Space is limited, so please reserve your seat today by calling 802-824-4343.

Neighborhood Connections is a nonprofit social services agency located in Londonderry at The Mountain Marketplace,

next to the post office.

Handmade Books workshops at Gallery at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Are you interested in creating your own handmade journals and unique books? Gallery at the VAULT is very delighted to offer two workshops with Deborah Stuart, "Introduction to Handmade Books" on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. and "Next Steps in Handmade Books" on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Introduction to Handmade Books: Participants will work with various tools and papers to make two to three small unique books suitable for pocket jotters and notebooks. Basic bookmaking techniques will include working with a selection of papers folded in interesting and varied ways.

There will be a rich variety of art materials with which to decorate pages and covers. All will go home with several small books they have created and knowledge of how to continue making these on their own. Register by Wednesday, Jan. 25. There is a registration and material fee.

Next Steps in Handmade Books: Participants will create two to three small multi-page notebooks and journals. Techniques for sewn and adhesive bindings will be taught, and examples of many ways of making and using stitched

books will be shared. A wide selection of ways of decorating with a variety of art materials will be available for finishing books with unique decorations. Register by Wednesday, Feb. 1. There is a registration and material fee.

No prior bookmaking experience is needed for either workshop. Both beginners to bookmaking and more advanced participants are welcome and will benefit! The second workshop may be taken on its own.

For more information please call Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street, Springfield. We are open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Contact 802-885-7111, galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org. Accessible. Masks may be worn according to group decision.

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Heroes & Villains Art Show opens

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Canal Street Art

Gallery presents: Heroes & Villains, open Jan. 20

and on view through March 4. Join the Gallery

on Third Friday Gallery

Night in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls Jan.

20, from 5-7p.m., to cel-

brate and meet the artis-

ts. All Gallery events

are free and open to the

public.

The Heroes & Villains exhibit shows artwork by Clare Adams, Thomasin Alyxander, Debi A Barton, Jean Cannon, Len Emery, Mindy Fisher, Corinne Greenhalgh,

Gregory Damien Grinnell, Su Lin Mangan, Charles Norris-Brown, Gretchen Seifert, and Linda Udd.

The story of the hero and vil-

lain is told in many ways.

Through art, music, perfor-

mance, writing, and every-

day life, the hero and villain

come alive. The quest of the

hero often includes the vil-

lain, and the villain's story

may even be told as well

as or even instead. Villains

reveal many of the hardest

decisions a hero must make.

The internal struggle of the

hero becomes clear only

after encountering, then

revealing the true nature of

and finally conquering the

part of the villain, which re-

sides in the hero himself.

In the promotional piece

for the Heroes & Villains

show, "The Power of One,"

2018, by the late Charles

Norris-Brown, the same

girl at different ages sup-

ports herself to reach for

the sky. This represented to

the artist the sentiment of

'Never give up.' Perhaps in

as many ways as there are

people, heroes may include

all those who accept the call

to the heroic quest.

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opinion

Dear Editor,

A friend of opposite political beliefs commented that these twenty representatives holding out voting for Speaker of the House are doing it for the money. That may be true for all members of the House. My belief is not so cynical. The debate for Speaker of the House gets right to the heart of our Republic. We are seeing a small group of the whole insist their will into the whole. This is instead of a majority just choosing what to do and doing it as the whole. Very similar to the states fighting for power within the federal constitution during the debates and its

writing. The small states insisted on representation by population and by state. Hence the house representing population and the Senate equal power to each state. This is also why we the United States of America are not a democracy but a republic. The majority cannot flog its will onto the people as a whole. We are individuals and we all add to our entirety as a nation. From one person, to two, to a family, to a neighborhood, to a town, a city, a state, and finally our federal government. We are witnessing the genius of our founding fathers and our founding documents.

Dear Editor,

Throughout the past year an ongoing and underlying theme for Black River Good Neighbor Services has been one of gratitude and giving back. Little did we know, and to our delightful surprise, is that so many within the communities we serve, Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and

Plymouth have embraced the very same theme on our behalf.

Support in many amazing ways from individuals, businesses, clubs, and organizations has been received, all of which we offer a most heartfelt, grateful thank you. These gifts of support really do equal action by helping to fill our food shelf,

The emotional slogan one vote per person being a pure democracy always falls to tyranny of the majority. This is why we have a republic. The mob does not rule. Even the individual has a say. The twenty members that held strong in voting for the Speaker of the House were able to get concessions that their minority constituents wanted. Yes this is a great day for our country.

Sincerely,
Gerry Mittica
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The legislative season has begun. The Springfield Democratic Town Committee greets this new year with great hope and expectations for our Democratic leadership at the national, state, and local levels.

There has been a lot of shuffling and replacing of familiar faces and names. Our Congressman, Peter Welch, is now Senator Welch. Our Vt. Senate Pro Tem, Becca Balint, is now our Congresswoman. Almost all of our statewide offices are now led by new people. These familiar Vermonters have moved up to more responsibility and challenges. This is a good thing.

The committee is thrilled that Rep. Hakeem Jeffries is now the Democratic Party's top leader in the U.S. House of Representatives. Right before he was elected to this leadership position, Jeffries declared, "House Democrats fight for the people.

Montpelier may be the smallest state capitol in the U.S., but our legislators work diligently on our behalf. This year there will be many new faces in

Montpelier, but the incumbents will be there to show them the ropes. Vermonters will have a combination of fresh perspectives and institutional wisdom at work for them in the legislature. This is also a good thing. Our legislators have a set of priorities to pursue for Vermonters, with childcare, housing, and the environment high on their list. You can be sure our town representatives, Alice Emmons and Kristi Morris, along with our three Windsor County Senators, Alison Clarkson, Dick McCormack, and newly elected Senator, Becca White, will use their experience to fight for us.

The Springfield Democratic Town Committee is confident our elected representatives and leaders will lead with dignity, stay focused on the issues, and make this world a better place.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Char Osterlund
Chair, Springfield Democratic Town Committee

Dear Editor,

Having worked in town government for more than 24 years and being knowledgeable in many of the detailed jobs that municipal staff are responsible for, it is my opinion that, as with any job, it is prudent NOT to assume what that job entails, because true knowledge of a job can only come from performing that job.

That being said, as times and ways of doing things change and change comes through experience, I feel that it is a wise move for the Plymouth Selectboard to put before the voters the question of whether to appoint or elect certain positions in the town government.

I feel that some potential candidates might be concerned with the elected aspects due to the fact that they have to get re-elected in certain increments of time. That in itself can be daunting.

Also, look at the scenario of a person who is elected but cannot or does not do

the job to its requirements. Do we have to wait another year or two to vote them out of the position, or if no one runs against them and they are re-elected to the position, do we have them on the payroll doing substandard work for another period of years? If a position is an appointed position and the work is not up to standard, they don't have to waste the town's money for an extended period of time.

I feel one of the reasons a person is reluctant to enter into an elected position is, they risk losing their job and their benefits, if they are not re-elected at the town meeting. The training for that elected position would have to start over again with a new person, whereas, with an appointed position, the employee would feel secure in their job and if they are doing a good job, the training doesn't have to start again. Thus, saving the town money.

The state statutes are the rules which MUST be followed in the daily workings of all town governments. Towns are NOT run on the whims of anyone. These rules are mandatory and there

are many departments within the state government that are available to help any town staff if they seek clarification about a process.

Mail-in Ballots are one aspect of town government that strictly follows state guidelines. These guidelines require that mail-in ballots have the voter's name on the envelope, otherwise the ballot cannot be counted. As we all know, when we come to vote in person, each name is checked off on a checklist so the names of who voted can be sent back to the state. If the name wasn't on the absentee ballot, no name could be sent to the state, therefore the vote is not counted. The state is very strict about this and all of the rules that towns are required to follow.

I feel anyone can have an opinion about anything, however, it is helpful if that person is knowledgeable about the topic before sharing comments that might not be true.

Sincerely,
Margot Martell
Ludlow, Vt.

Dear Editor,

A proven way for Vermont to reduce our climate change-causing greenhouse gas emissions is to direct our utilities to stop purchasing electricity generated by burning fossil fuels and switch to electricity from local and regional wind, solar, and hydropower.

As part of this renewable energy future, Vermont must do its part and commit to generating more of its own electricity from in-state renewables. The interconnected nature of New England's energy grid means every kilowatt hour of energy from a new solar panel built in Vermont replaces electricity generated by natural gas, coal, or oil somewhere else in New England.

But there are other compelling reasons besides fighting climate change for why we should generate more of our own power here in Vermont.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

When Vermont's renewable energy deployment peaked in 2016, 6,965 Vermonters were working directly in the renewable field around the state (by comparison, Vermont's largest private employer, UVM Medical Center, employs about 8,700 people). Importantly, the renewable sector employs people from a wide range of educational backgrounds - laborers, electricians, and engineers, and these jobs are geographically dispersed throughout Vermont.

Ending Environmental Injustice

In 2020, Vermont ranked 49th in the country in terms of the share of the electricity that it used that was generated within its own borders. Vermont does not have a single coal, oil, or natural gas fired power plant that contributes significantly to our energy needs and none are planned to be built. So when Vermonters don't rely on in-state renewables, we are asking our neighbors in Quebec, New York, and throughout New England to bear the environmental consequences of our need for electricity - land flooded for hydropower, the danger of living next to a nuclear power plant, air pollution from coal, oil, and natural gas fired power plants, etc.

More Energy Independence

Rising fossil fuel prices since the war in Ukraine began have caused electric rates to go up 8% nationally and some ratepayers in New Hampshire to see their bills go up \$70 a month. On the other hand, when a new solar project is built in Vermont, the rates are locked in for 10 to 20 years which means we

know what we are going to pay for this power unlike the price of electricity from fossil fuels which are impacted by foreign politics, supply chain disruptions, freakishly cold winters, transportation costs, and more.

Sincerely,
Peter Sterling,
Executive Director of Renewable Energy Vermont

Shawntae Webb, publisher@vermontjournal.com

Padraic Scanlon, sales@vermontjournal.com

Ian Bard, editor@vermontjournal.com

Paula Benson, billing@vermontjournal.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication.

Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

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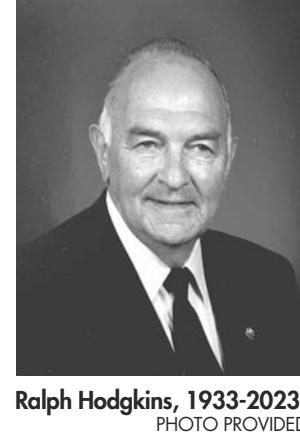
obituaries

Ralph Alwyn Hodgkins, 1933-2023

WALPOLE, N.H. – Ralph A. Hodgkins of Walpole, N.H. died at his home in Walpole on Jan. 12, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was born in Walpole, N.H. on August 26, 1933. The son of Alwyn and Doris (Boudrieau) Hodgkins. Ralph graduated from Bellows Falls High School class of 1951. He then joined the navy, serving two years on the USS Kula Gulf Aircraft Carrier and then two years on the USS Valcour as a First-Class Radioman. On his discharge in 1956, he joined his father in forming A. R. Hodgkins & Son, which became Hodgkins & Sons Inc. In October of 1955, he met Gloria H. LaRoche on a blind date set up by his brother and her sister. Love at first meeting. They were married on June 2, 1956 and enjoyed 66 wonderful years together. He is survived by his wife Gloria and their four sons Dana and his wife Kathryn, Roger and his wife Beth, Kevin and his wife Carol, and John and his wife Suzanne, 10 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.

Ralph was predeceased by his parents, his sister Shirley Richardson, and his brother and wife, Reginald and Theresa Hodgkins.

In his younger days, Ralph was an avid candle pin bowler. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. When



Ralph Hodgkins, 1933-2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

his sons were young, he was involved in Cub Scouts and coaching little league. He was a member of the Elks and the American Legion. He was a member and officer of the Walpole Fire Department for 20 years.

Calling hours will take place on Tuesday Jan. 17, from 5-7 p.m. at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls. A Mass of Christian burial will take place on Wednesday Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. at St. Peter Church in North Walpole. Burial will follow at St. Peter Cemetery in Drewsville, N.H.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Walpole Fire Department.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls. www.fentonandhennessey.com.

Louis E. Roby, 1950-2022

LUDLOW, Vt. – Louis E. Roby, 72, passed away on Dec. 31, 2022 at the Springfield Hospital in Springfield, Vt. He was born Nov. 18, 1950 in West Stewartstown, N.H. He attended schools in Ludlow, Vt.

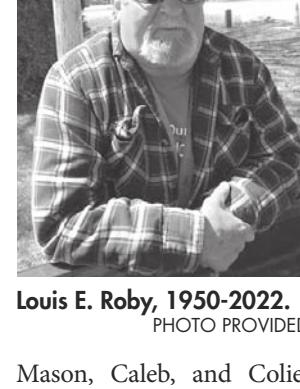
He served in the United States Navy during Vietnam.

Louis worked with Long's Roofing for many years, and owned and operated Roby & Roby Roofing Company with his brother for several years.

He was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 36 in Ludlow, Vt., and a member of the Post 36 Color Guard. He was also a lifetime member of the VFW Post 771 in Springfield, Vt.

Louis was a loving father and grandfather whom enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by one daughter Heidi Olney, two sons Louis Roby and Lance Roby, and their mother and his ex-wife Jean, five grandchildren Cheyenne, Calvin,



Louis E. Roby, 1950-2022.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Mason, Caleb, and Colie, one great grandson Max, and two sisters Yvonne Kunz and Louise Phelps, and one brother Ronald Roby.

He was predeceased by his parents, sisters Priscilla Roby, Alma Blackmer, and Rita Skipper, and brother Francis Roby.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023 at the American Legion Post 67 in Chester, Vt.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

Joyce M. Waite, 1930-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Joyce M. Waite, 92, passed away on Wednesday Jan. 11, 2023 at the Springfield Hospital in Springfield, Vt. surrounded by her family. She was born Jan. 17, 1930 in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Ernest and Florence (Holt) McCormack. She attended Springfield Schools and graduated from Springfield High School class of 1947.

On July 22, 1950 she married Gerald A. Waite Jr. in Springfield, Vt. He predeceased her on March 25, 2002.

Joyce was employed as a Bookkeeper with Young's Furniture in Springfield, Vt. for over 25 years.

She enjoyed sewing, playing piano, bowling, and gardening. She loved her dogs and loved her family.

She is survived by two daughters Sandie Warwick and her husband Buster, Barbara Kenyon and her husband Steve, eight grandchildren Kristin Aubin (Brad), Corey Lobdell (Holly), David Hinkley, Angela Cartee (Danny), Tucker Parker-Warwick, Joshua



Joyce Waite, 1930-2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Edwards, Joel Kenyon, and Adam Kenyon (Hannah), seven great grandchildren Owen, Emily, Jesse Cartee, Theo Lobdell, Tyler Jarvis, Zackery, and Nadya Kenyon. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by three brothers Russell McCormack, Kendall McCormack, and David McCormack.

A graveside service will be held in the spring of 2023 at the Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, Vt.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

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

Harriet and Bill Holtz

SAXTONS RIVER, VT. – Harriet and Bill Holtz were sweethearts at age 15 and remained loving partners into their 90s.

When he turned 18, Bill joined the Navy during WW2. He attended radio school, learned Morse code, and was stationed in Greenland as a radio operator, sending and intercepting transmissions during the war. Bill continued the close bond he had with the men he served with for the rest of his life.

When he returned from service, Bill and Harriet were married. They moved to Bennington, Vt. on a whim, opened a tourist home, and started a family. Harriet was a gifted homemaker. She loved to cook, was a talented seamstress, an avid quilter, and you were never at a loss for a hand knit sweater or braided rug. Bill worked as a glazer while attending night school in the evenings for eight years, earning a teaching certificate. He proudly graduated and became a dedicated science teacher for many years. Upon his retirement, he fulfilled his



Harriet and Bill Holtz.
PHOTO PROVIDED

dream of building their own home closer to family and settled in Saxtons River, Vt. They had much love for this new property, creating a beautiful organic vegetable garden, a small one man maple sugar house, a well stocked "hidden pond" and skating rink in winter, and were blessed with wonderful neighbors. With a smile on his face Bill would often say, "I feel like I died and went to heaven, this is all I need."

Bill reached his 90s and passed away in April 2019. Harriet reached her 90s and passed away in Jan. 2022. They are sorely missed by their family.

Amber Gail Monty, 1980-2023

BELLOWS FALLS, VT. – Amber Gail Monty, 42, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Jan. 8, 2023.

Amber was born in Bellows Falls, Vt. on April 12, 1980, the daughter of Raymond and Jean Monty. Born the first of seven children to Ray and Jean, Amber embraced her role as the leader of the pack, a fierce protector who always stood up for those she loved. Amber lived in and attended school in Bellows Falls, before relocating to Burlington, Vt.

Amber loved country music, her favorite song being "Beautiful Crazy" by Luke Combs. She loved rides on dirt back roads, spending time with her children, sunflowers, Fireball Whiskey, buying new stationery supplies, and being surrounded by friends. Amber had so many friends and had found her calling being a mentor to younger women in need. Amber was involved actively with Mercy Connections in Burlington, Vt. She helped organize community events such as coat drives and harvest dinners.

Amber's personality was one you will never be able to forget, she was loud, outspoken, some would even say... a bit feisty. Amber loved with all she had and that love will live on with those who survived her.

Amber is survived by her children Lucy Burns of Keene, N.H. and Joel Chickering Jr of Walpole, N.H. Her parents Raymond Monty of Alstead, N.H. and Jean Vancor of Cambridgeport, Vt. Her siblings Heidi Monty of Bellows Falls, Vt., Jessica Monty (Jay) of Langdon, N.H., Raymond Monty (Krista)



Amber Monty, 1980-2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

III, Jed Monty and Alicia Monty all of Bellows Falls, Vt. and Cody Monty of Charlestown, N.H. Uncles and aunts Mark and Laurie Monty of Milton, Vt., Shawn and Mary Monty of New Boston, N.H., Kelly and Peter Fisher of Essex, Vt., Edward Vancor, Kevin & Gloria Vancor of Bellows Falls, Vt. and Gary Furgat of Saxtons River, Vt. Nieces and nephews Owen and Kerrigan Woodard, Griffin Brown, Aaryanna, Natallye, and Jazmyne Lescord.

Amber was predeceased by her grandparents Raymond and Kathryn Monty, Norman and Barbara Vancor, and her aunts Cathy Furgat and Lisa Vancor.

Calling hours will be held Saturday Jan. 21, 2023, from 1-3 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, Vt. A celebration will follow at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge.

Donations in Amber's memory may be sent to Mercy Connections, 255 South Champlain St. #8, Burlington, VT 05401.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home. www.fentonandhennessey.com.

OBITUARIES: A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

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Patricia Kiniry LaRoche, 1932-2023

SPRINGFIELD, VT. – Patricia was born in Springfield, Vt. to Bernard and Gladys Ward on Nov. 9, 1932. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1951 and attended the University of Vermont for a short time. She met our Dad, George Kiniry, in 1953 and they were married in 1955.

After raising their seven children, she went to work at Jones and Lamson for many years as a key punch operator. She also worked at Bryant Grinder when Jones and Lamson closed. Pat (as she liked to be called) enjoyed painting and word search puzzles. Each one of her children was blessed with a painting she painted several years ago. She will always be remembered for her gingerbread cookies, the recipe was handed down to her by her mother, Grammy Ward, and will always be known as "Grammy cookies."

Pat was predeceased by her first husband of 42 years, George Kiniry, in 1997. She was blessed to have met George LaRoche in 2001, who survives her, and they have been married since 2004.

She is survived by her seven children, Teresa Lupien (Cliff), of Winchendon, Mass., Patrick Kiniry (Janet), of North Walpole, N.H., Christine Cook (Ken), of Westminster, Vt., George Kiniry Jr. (Sloan), of Derry, N.H., Mary Jo Clark (Kevin), of Bellows Falls, Vt., Kevin Kiniry (April), of Vancouver, Wash., and Kelly



Patricia LaRoche, 1932-2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Patch (Gary), of Alstead, N.H. She was also survived by 19 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. Pat also leaves three siblings, Sylvia Dubanevich, of Panama City, Fla., Richard Ward, of Scottsdale, Ariz., and James Ward, of Winooski, Vt. She is also survived by George's children, Michael LaRoche, Edward LaRoche, and Thomas LaRoche.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday Jan. 18, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls, Vt. on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. followed by a burial at the St. Peter's Cemetery in Drewsville, N.H. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in our mother's name to "The American Red Cross."

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls. www.fentonandhennessey.com.

Virginia Hendrickson Putnam, 1926-2023



Virginia Putnam, 1926-2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

WALPOLE, N.H. – Virginia Hendrickson (Ginny) Putnam, 95, passed away peacefully at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, N.H. on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023.

Ginny was born June 5,

1926, in Glen Cove, Long Island,

daughter of Maynard and Elise (Yook) Hendrickson.

She attended local schools,

and graduated from Mineola High School in 1944.

After graduation she worked at Grumman Aircraft on Long Island until the end of WW2.

Shortly thereafter, she moved with her family to Perkinsville, Vt.

Ginny was working at a local auto parts supply store

where she met the love of

her life, Marshall Putnam of Walpole, N.H.

Ginny and Marshall were married on June 17, 1950, and soon after moved to Walpole, where they would remain and raise

their three sons.

Ginny was an active mem-

ber of the community. She

was a den mother for the

Walpole Cub Scouts, and

volunteered at the Walpole

Middle School Library.

She was a founding mem-

ber of the Walpole Volun-

teer Ambu-

lance Corps, and served

as the Walpole Town Libra-

rian for 19 years. After Ginny

retired from her job as town

librarian, she went to work

volunteering at the Walpole

Historical Society, helping to

identify and catalog the con-

tents of the museum. As a

result of Ginny's work there,

a room was dedicated to her.

Ginny was an avid garde-

ner, and was extremely proud

of her flower gardens and nu-

merous house plants. She en-

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES/HELP WANTED

JAN. 21 –
WALPOLE, N.H. – The First Congregational Church of Walpole will be doing a drive by drop off collection of peanut butter and jelly. Stop by on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Your donations will go to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

JAN. 22 –
PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present New England's acclaimed folk/roots quartet Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem at Next Stage on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 4 p.m.

JAN. 23 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The

Black River Valley Senior Center will be hosting a Community Lunch on Monday Jan. 23, at the senior center 10 High Street, Ludlow. Pam's Famous Chicken Casserole and Hot Veggie and Brown Sugar Pound Cake will be served. Reservation required, suggested donation.

JAN. 29 –
PUTNEY, Vt. – Gordon Hayward gives a talk based on his 2008 book "Art and the Gardener" on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. at Next Stage Arts at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Admission is by donation and all proceeds will directly benefit Next Stage Arts and Sandglass Theater.

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. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS –
WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

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.

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast

Springfield. All-you-can-eat buffet includes milk, coffee or tea, and dessert. Suggested donation. For more information, call 802-885-5879.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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 –
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.

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

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. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists 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 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center offers Springfield residents the opportunity to come for a free swim every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. Participants may need to show proof of Springfield residency. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

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

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Saturdays at 9 a.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodystyle.com for more information. Private classes are available.

Vision Board Workshop

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Wholistic Wellness Center at 160 Wall St., Springfield will be hosting another fun event! On Sunday, Jan. 22

at 1 p.m. we will be hosting "Create Your Vision for the New Year with a Vision Board Workshop!" Join us for a fun and inspiring

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LEGAL NOTICES

ATTORNEY WANTED

WANTED: VERNON ATTORNEY. Petitioner in pre-trial stage of mandamus case is looking for legal advice from attorney with experience in land conveyance and municipal administration. Please call 512-810-9958 and leave a message.

AUCTION

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Auction held Feb. 4, 2023 at 11 a.m. at 96 Route 106 N. Springfield 05150. 802-683-7104. To be auctioned: Robert Gokey- #127.

Senior Solutions

news

Springfield Senior Meals Expand to five Days Each Week.

Beginning Jan. 9, The Senior Community Meal is now open five days each week, Monday – Friday. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. and lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy a hot meal with dessert and coffee all for a voluntary, suggested donation. All diners who are 60 or over are welcome. What a great way to see your friends, make new friends, and have a great meal. The meal site, operated by Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, is located on the corner of Union Street and Southridge Rd. in Springfield. Join them by using the side entrance on Southridge Rd.

Is Shared Housing Right for You?

So many of us are finding that renting a new apartment or buying a new home is quite a challenge. As we age, the problem gets even more overwhelming. Today, with 29% of our Vermont seniors living alone - and according to a 2019 study by UMass, "Living Below the Line," nearly half of those do not have enough income to

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.

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

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.

Program Geneticist. Support poultry research and product development initiatives by conducting advanced analysis on key genetic and other poultry-related data. Employer: Avigen, Inc. Job

location: Walpole, NH, with some travel to scientific conferences and meetings required. Mail CV to Angela Wilson, Avigen, Inc., 920 Explorer Blvd NW, Huntsville, AL 35806.

PLOWING

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

Town of Springfield- Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing and Selectboard Meeting

January 23, 2023

The Town of Springfield will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00PM on Monday, January 23, 2023 for the purpose of receiving public input concerning the July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024 Springfield Town Budget. This will be a hybrid meeting. The Public Hearing will be held at 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont. It will also be possible to attend via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81317143328>

Kristi C. Morris, Chair
Springfield Selectboard

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO BROWNFIELDS REUSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY LIMITATION ACT PROGRAM

Please take notice that Hitchcock's Firewood whose mailing address is 43 Taylor Hill, Athens, VT 05143, is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (BRELLA) (10 V.S.A. §6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as "Unified Data/CIC" in the Town of Grafton and Village of Cambridgeport. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at the Grafton Town Clerk's Office and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier. Comments concerning the application and/or the above referenced documents may be directed to Scott Hitchcock at 802-869-9663, or at hitchcocksfirewood@gmail.com. Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620, atten: Shawn Donovan.

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT



WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR A CUSTODIAL POSITION

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

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW, VT PLANNING COMMISSION RECORDING SECRETARY

The Town of Ludlow Planning Commission has an opening for the position of Recording Secretary for their meetings. This is a part-time position working 1-2 hours per month under the general direction of the Municipal Manager.

Principal duties include attending monthly Planning Commission meetings, taking notes, recording the meeting, preparing meeting minutes and forwarding minutes to Municipal Office for posting. Candidate will be able to work independently. The successful candidate will have typing skills, some computer knowledge, and the ability to work well with others in a meeting environment. This position pays a stipend of \$126.00 per attended meeting

Interested candidates should submit a Town employment application available at the Ludlow Town Office, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149 or online at www.ludlow.vt.us and send to tmanager@tds.net. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. The Town & Village of Ludlow is an equal opportunity employer.

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

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Art Crafts Gifts

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Exhibit Local Faces and Local Places Portraits in Watercolor by Robert J. O'Brien.

Introduction to Handmade Books w/ Deborah Stuart Jan. 28 Workshop (Register by 1/25) \$30.

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

Feb. 11, 12-4, Chocolate Tasting & Student Art Show Make Valentines & Calligraphy w/ Jorika Stockwell.

galleryvault.org
(01/18/23 - 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)

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(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)

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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)

Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Camp Scholarship

WALPOLE, N.H. – Does your child have interest in farms or gardening? The Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Scholarship endeavors to connect young people with agriculture and the natural world around them.

Through this scholarship, the Monadnock Localvores hope to inspire the next generation of local farmers and local food supporters by giving regional children an opportunity, through summer camp, after school

programs, or membership to NOFA NH, to experience sustainable farming practices first-hand and watch their efforts bear fruit.

The Monadnock Localvores are now accept-

ing applications for 2023 as well as donations to the scholarship fund. Applications are due by March 31, and donations are accepted throughout the year. For more information, to request application materials,

or to donate to the scholarship fund, please contact the Cheshire County Conservation District at 603-756-2988 ext. 4 or info@cheshireconservation.org.

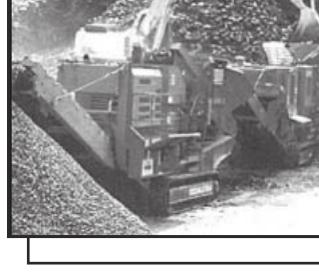
Each year the Monadnock Localvores aim to provide

scholarships to at least 25 youth and hope to accommodate as many children as funding can allow in 2023. More information is also available online at www.cheshireconservation.org/monadnock-localvores.

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Lane Cayman Loveseat \$899.99 \$450	ASHLEY Lucina Sofa \$899.99 \$450	ASHLEY Dramatic Loveseat \$1199.99 \$600	LA-Z-BOY Amy Sofa \$1399.99 \$700	LA-Z-BOY Collins Loveseat \$1599.99 \$800	LA-Z-BOY Miles Leather Sofa \$2199.99 \$1250	
Best Leya Reclining Sofa \$1499.99 \$750	ASHLEY Gaucho Reclining Sofa \$1499.99 \$750	Best Arial Power Sofa \$2299.99 \$1149	LA-Z-BOY Pinnacle Power Sofa \$2399.99 \$1200	ASHLEY Hartsdale Reclining Sofa Chaise \$1999.99 \$1600	ASHLEY Sophie Sectional \$3299.99 \$1650	
Kensington Server Amesbury Chair \$599.99 \$300	ASHLEY Janismore Lift Top Coffee Table \$599.99 \$300	ASHLEY Huey Vineyard Dresser and Mirror \$599.99 \$300	ASHLEY Kambria Swivel Chair \$899.99 \$450	ASHLEY Bradney Swivel Chair \$799.99 \$400	ASHLEY Markenburg Queen Bed \$1299.99 \$650	

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