

# THE SHOPPER Newspaper

APRIL 26, 2023 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 17

## Bellows Falls Garage building project nears completion

BY JOE MILLIKEN  
*The Shopper*

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The ongoing Bellows Falls Garage building project, a new apartment complex built by the Brattleboro-based Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT), is near completion, with a ribbon-cutting and open house celebration to come. WWHT has built several other affordable housing projects throughout the area, including the Howard and Exner Blocks in Bellows Falls.

Originally, some three years ago, the plan had been to rehabilitate the 100-plus-year-old art deco cement structure, located near The Square in downtown Bellows Falls. However, the plans were ultimately changed when it was realized that the cost of renovating the existing building was too great, and it was decided to tear down the old structure and start from scratch.

The revised approach for the rebuild allowed for a much lighter building to sit on the existing foundation. Although the original façade of the building could not be saved, the architects of the building project, Gossens Bachman Architects based in Montpelier, did recreate the words “Bellows Falls Garage” above the front door on the new



The Bellows Falls Garage building project is almost complete. PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

façade, just as it appeared on the original building.

The new \$10 million, 27-apartment housing complex stands on a small piece of land in front of Canal Street, and next to the China Garden restaurant and PK’s Irish Pub. The apartment units offer a wonderful view of the Green Mountain Railway yard and historic Bellows Falls Canal, as well as the Connecticut River and Fall Mountain in New Hampshire.

Tenants are expected to be able to start moving into the apartments in June, as workers continue to put the finishing touches on units that range from compact studio apartments to two-bedroom, family apartments.

“Construction on the Garage Building will be complete by the end of May, and

applicants are currently being accepted and processed,” Elizabeth Bridgewater said in a recent interview. Bridgewater is the WWHT Executive Director. “The top two floors are now complete, and the bottom ones are being finished over the next two weeks.

“Additionally, the elevator is now being finalized and commissioned, site work such as paving will start the first week of May, and finally, the front windows are now partially in and being completed.”

There was a ribbon-cutting and open house scheduled for early in the week of April 24, with the local Bellows Falls public access TV station, FACT-TV, covering the event.

would perform appraisals, and agreed that local listers know their towns and people.

Board member Bonnie North asked what the rationale was for the change. Noble said 165 towns triggered a townwide reappraisal, which overwhelmed the appraisal business, and the state wanted to get involved. Other reasons included concern that over half of all Vermont towns have not had a reappraisal in over ten years, while others do not have a listers’ department.

Noble acknowledged, many towns have older, part-time listers. Noble’s concern is that the state has “underestimated what they’ll have to spend.”

North asked why commercial apartment buildings were not assessed at a higher tax rate than single-family homes. Noble said properties can’t be assessed upon the income they make, but what the owners can sell them for. Board member Rick Cowan asked if “the rental income a property produces is part of its value.” Noble said it was.

Chair Peter Golec asked Noble what direction the listers would like from the selectboard. Noble re-

quested the board write a letter in support of keeping Rockingham’s reappraisal in the Town of Rockingham. He suggested residents write their senators to express how they feel and why they feel that way. The bill has already passed in the House.

Cowan agreed that most towns “do not have the expertise that Rockingham has.”

The State of Vermont has budgeted \$50,000 in fiscal year 2024 for the statewide appraisal process.

Noble said the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association (VALA) also opposes the state takeover of reappraisals. He said he had spoken to Senator Wendy Harrison on the matter. She had agreed to take his letter to committee members, but recommended the town use email as best method of contact. The selectboard agreed to draft a letter.

The Rockingham Selectboard meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. in the Lower Theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House.

## Springfield plans events, IT update

BY PAULA BENSON  
*The Shopper*

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – May 19 will be officially designated as “Belonging Day” in Springfield, Vt., per the approval of the selectboard at Monday night’s meeting. Town Manager Jeff Mobus read a proclamation presented to the board by the Springfield School District Board of Directors and Springfield on the Move (SOM). Commemorated by a community-wide inclusion event, “I Know I Belong In Springfield When...” The statement celebrates the Town of Springfield as “an inclusive community where everyone experiences the feeling of belonging.” The event will take place at Comtu Cascade Park from 5-7 p.m.

Library Director Sue Dowdell commented, “This ties in with the summer reading program, ‘All Together Now,’ so I’m really in support of this event.” Dowdell mentioned that the library will be the back-up location in case of rain.

Char Osterlund was appointed to one of two vacancies on the Library Trustee Board, after submitting her application. The appointment will extend through March 2024, at which time the position will be presented on the ballot for reelection.

Avant Dance Vermont received a permit for four brief, outdoor, seasonal dance performances, the first scheduled for June 17 at Comty Cascade Park. Mobus stated he had dis-

cussed the request with Police Chief Jeff Burnham and recommended the board approve. To be held in the Woodbury Courtyard, the performances will be free to the public, and have a tie-in with local businesses, to showcase Springfield’s downtown area.

The board considered a second event permit request from SOM, to hold a “Springfield Streetfest” on July 15 in downtown Springfield. Mobus stated their hope is that this will become an annual event, and asked the board to approve, pending further discussion between Mobus, Chief Burnham, and Jessica Martin from SOM, regarding alcohol being served at the event.

The festival will include music, school group performances, art, and other installations from the students. Mobus stated that this year they are not applying to close down Main Street, but hope to change that in the future. The application was approved without alcohol for the time being.

A Simpsons tie-in event called the Zero K/Donut Dash is part of the festival. Participants will check in at the Woodbury Memorial Courtyard, where there will be Simpsons cut-outs on display, grab a donut, and walk to Comty Cascade Park to receive a t-shirt. The Simpsons Movie will be playing free of charge at the cinema. In 2007, Springfield, Vt. was chosen as the official Springfield of the Simpsons, after entering a video and competing against 13 other Springfields.

Reporting on the effort to bring Springfield’s IT systems up to minimum

supportable levels, a project ongoing for the past six months, Mobus shared that he had reviewed bids from several service providers, and CCI and Tech Group had emerged as the two most viable consultants. Each company had conducted half-day assessment tours of town buildings, and Mobus felt either one would be competent to manage the IT systems.

Safety and security was at the forefront of the ensuing discussion, as well as standardizing town email addresses, and performing “critical” upgrades to software and hardware, before the board awarded the three-year contract to Tech Group.

Chief Burnham presented a public safety update, reporting on several promotions within the department, and the dissolution of the Detective Division “for the time being.” He announced the anticipated graduation date for current police academy officers as May 28, and that new firearms for patrol had arrived. Burnham said that once the correct holsters arrive, training and qualifications will occur.

Dowdell added that Burnham will be at the town library on May 1, to address the community and answer questions.

The update on three unsafe properties to be demolished stated that two property owners have been notified, but the town has been unable to deliver the order to the third property owner. As a result, the town will have to print the order in their local paper of record, then wait 30 days before proceeding with any enforcement.

## Rockingham talks H.480

BY BETSY THURSTON  
*The Shopper*

**ROCKINGHAM, Vt.** – On Tuesday, April 18, the Rockingham Selectboard discussed the impact of House Bill 480 with the listers department.

The Rockingham Listers – Paul Noble, Tad Dedrick, and Michael Stack – decided to postpone Rockingham’s townwide appraisal until 2024-2025. Noble said they agreed the market was unstable, and with an appraisal now, he said, “the numbers would not be right.” Noble said by waiting the department would save both time and taxpayer money.

The Rockingham Listers’ Office does not support H.480, a bill that proposes removing municipalities from the property appraisal process, requiring instead a state level appraisal within the department of taxes.

Noble said, “the only way to keep track [of the reappraisal] is to live here.” He recommended appraisers continue to report to, be voted on, and be represented by, residents of the town. Representatives from other municipalities questioned the language and motive of the bill, such as who

## Springfield student wins 2023 Growing Works of Art

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – If the number of entries in the 2023 Growing Works of Art contest is any indication, Vermont students have a deep appreciation for trees, both in their own backyard and local woodlands.

A total of 228 Grade K-8 students submitted a work of art using any medium, and a written story relating to the theme “Branching Out.” For their entry, students were asked to describe a meaningful experience where they have grown, changed, connected, or learned something new because of a tree or trees in their lives.

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program sponsored the annual contest in partnership with University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Entries were judged half on creativity



GWA 2023 Grade 8 Carly Stone. PHOTO PROVIDED

and originality, and half on how well the student conveyed their story through writing and art. Many of the entries were from schools where the teachers incorporated the contest into their English, art, or science curriculum.

The top entries are posted online at [www.go.uvm.edu/growingart](http://www.go.uvm.edu/growingart). Locally, Springfield homeschool student Carly Stone was named the winner for eighth graders across the state. Carly’s story is as follows:

**“MAPLE SYRUP**  
My great-grandparents had a sugar house and made maple syrup every year. I love maple syrup. I put it on lots of different foods, like pancakes and waffles or maple sugar on muffins that my grandmother makes. But I’m not as much of a fan of maple syrup as my mom and sister. Making maple syrup can be a difficult process and takes a long time. You must boil all the water out of the sap, then it thickens, and then it is ready to be jarred. It can take days to complete this process.

As you probably know, maple syrup comes from maple trees. In Vermont, maple syrup is a huge industry, so it affects many people here because it makes so many different products. You can make maple candy, syrup, cotton candy, ice cream, and barbecue sauce. In short, I created a maple tree to represent Vermont, the place I have grown up in and love.”

**INDEX**  
Opinion/Take a Break..... 4  
Obituaries/Services ..... 5  
Calendar..... 6  
Legal Notices ..... 6-7  
Classifieds/Business Directory .... 7  
Arts & Entertainment ..... 8  
Sports & Outdoor..... 9

**CONTACT US**  
**OFFICE ADDRESS:**  
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT  
**BILLING ADDRESS:**  
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702  
**PHONE NUMBER:**  
802-228-3600  
**WEBSITE:**  
[www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com)



**DEADLINES**  
The deadline for all content is **Friday at 12 p.m.** for the following Wednesday publication.  
**EMAIL YOUR SHORT, 2-3 SENTENCE CALENDAR EVENTS**  
[calendar@vermontjournal.com](mailto:calendar@vermontjournal.com)  
**EMAIL YOUR DISPLAY ADS AND CLASSIFIED LISTINGS**  
[ads@vermontjournal.com](mailto:ads@vermontjournal.com)  
**EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS**  
[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)

# Leland and Gray's "Journey Away" to NYC and New Orleans

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – A group of Leland and Gray High School students worked diligently this fall to plan, fundraise, and ultimately co-lead an educational journey down to New York City and New Orleans. The planning of this trip was in tandem with Leland and Gray's Project Based Learning program, a once a week class where students take the reins on teaching, learning, and creating a project. For their trip, Journey Away, students focused on climate disasters in both cities, and gathered oral histories of how floods, hurricanes, and more changed peoples' lives.

Students began the journey in New York City, where they met with local business owners to learn about their entrepreneurship and how their business was affected by natural disasters. The group visited the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken to speak with former students and climate engineers, and visited

the United Nations, before hopping on the train down to New Orleans. Their time in New Orleans was filled with new experiences and new connections while experiencing an unknown culture. The group visited the Borgne Surge Barrier, Cafe du Monde, the Mississippi River, the Katrina National Memorial Foundation, and more. In addition to all the valuable learning from each site, the bonds between the students were really what stuck. Student Ely White mentioned that his favorite times were cooking dinner and listening to music with his peers in their floating cabin in Bayou Segnette State Park.

When asked about their time in New Orleans, students appreciated the opportunity to connect with new people and learn about a new lifestyle. Adriana Fairbrother explained that bonding with other students and with the people they met was her favorite part.

She said she was especially interested in the stories they heard about how natural disasters had affected people's lives in Louisiana. When asked how the trip impacted her life, she explained, "I haven't realized the impact on my life yet, but I bet when I look back in ten years it will be clear." The impact on Ely White was more immediate; he feels more fortunate in life to have a safe place to live, a roof over his head, and a school to attend. Going forward, he is inspired to try to help others who are not as fortunate.

Jessa Harger, one of the three group leaders, was very proud of the commitment and growth exhibited. She feels that their trip to New York and New Orleans was a spark within the school community, noting that "the larger community followed along on Facebook and cheered us on." There was a sense of disbelief at first, about how well everything turned out. This trip was the culmination of all their hard work through their Project Based Learning class. It is also an example for the rest of the school of how anything is possible with hard work and thoughtful planning.

# Springfield Library hosts community conversations

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library listened to the overwhelming voices from the recent strategic planning survey. 70% of respondents said they wanted the library to hold "community conversations." The library has therefore scheduled four community conversations in the next few months. The first forum is "Ask Our Police Chief."

The town welcomed law enforcement veteran Jeff Burnham, who has

over 30 years of experience, as the police chief in September. Those attending will have the opportunity to meet and chat with him.

Chief Burnham will be at the Springfield Town Library on Monday, May 1, at 6 p.m., to meet you, talk about public safety, and answer your questions. Participants are asked to R.S.V.P., to ensure there is enough room for all. It is very helpful to share specific questions or topics you would like addresses as well. To reserve a spot, please

call the library or register online at [www.eventbrite.com/e/588536246757](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/588536246757).

Other scheduled community forums will feature the town manager, the fire chief, and the superintendent of schools. Let library staff know the people or organizations you want us to host, and the topics you want discussed. We are open to all suggestions. Contact [springfield-library@hotmail.com](mailto:springfield-library@hotmail.com) or call 802-885-3108 if you have any questions or comments.

# Pancake Flip N' Earth Friendly Fun

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Community Hope & Action will be hosting a free and all-ages Pancake Flip N' Earth Friendly Fun event on Saturday, April 29, at the Townshend Church, 46 Common Road, from 9-11 a.m., with earth-friendly games and

activities on the Townshend Common from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. This event celebrates Earth Day and the Month of the Young Child.

We are in need of volunteers to help with the event and activities. If interested, please contact Elisha Underwood at [wrvthrives@gmail.com](mailto:wrvthrives@gmail.com)

or 802-365-4700.

The mission of Community Hope & Actions is to instill hope by creating opportunities to support and connect everyone within our community. This event is substance free and is open to people of all ages, from all towns.

# "Welcome to the Community" meet and greet

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Incremental Development Working Group (RIDWG), along with the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP), is hosting a meet and greet at the Rockingham Free Public Library on Saturday, April 29, from 10:30

a.m. – 12 p.m., to welcome people who have recently moved to the community.

We are thrilled that you have relocated to our community, and want you to feel welcome. The meeting will be informal, with a chance for participants to introduce themselves and learn more about the broad range of resources that the

community offers.

RIDWG is made up of local residents and stakeholders looking at small-scale development and investment in the Village of Bellows Falls and Town of Rockingham. RIDWG can be found online at [www.rockinghamvt.org/inc-dev-working-group-resources](http://www.rockinghamvt.org/inc-dev-working-group-resources).

For more information, please contact Sarah Lang at [RockinghamRIDWG@gmail.com](mailto:RockinghamRIDWG@gmail.com). R.S.V.P.s are appreciated.

The Rockingham Free Public Library is wheelchair accessible. Please call in advance with any questions or special arrangements at 802-463-4270.

RIDWG gratefully acknowledges the Town of Rockingham for its support, and the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project for underwriting this meet and greet.

**Wilson & Lawrence Inc.**  
in Grafton, Vt. is hiring for our  
summer crews working on tennis  
courts paying \$20 per hour

Please call 802-732-8494 Mon-Fri

## ASK US ABOUT OUR SUPER BONUS PROGRAM!



**CLASSIC EDGE**  
TITANIUM HDX  
Mfr's Rated Heat Output  
Capacity –  
150,000-400,000 BTU/hr  
Includes 25 Year Warranty



New England Outdoor Furnace  
877 John Stark Highway • Newport, NH 03773

**603-863-8818**  
[neofnh.com](http://neofnh.com)

**\$2000**  
TAX CREDIT

Install a Classic Edge HDX or M255 PE model to claim up to a \$2,000 tax credit on your federal income taxes the year of installation  
Is 20 minutes of your time worth \$2,000?

Please contact Wes Smith for details

## NEW PAY RATES

\$15.00 Housekeeping & Dietary Aides; \$17.00 Cooks RPT and SLP parttime/per diem  
\$20.00 LNA, higher with experience  
**MUCH HIGHER FOR NURSES**  
Second Shift and Weekend Differentials.

## CALL TO HEAR OUR OPENINGS.

Gill Odd Fellows Home, 8 Gill Terrace, Ludlow, VT.  
802-228-6857 Jessie HR; 802-228-6860 January, DON  
EOE

## 33 FLAVORS OF HARD ICE CREAM 16 FLAVORS FRESH SOFT SERVE

Non-Fat Yogurt • Sherbet • Sugar-Free Ice Cream • Dairy-Free

**LARGE FAST FOOD MENU INCLUDING:**  
Hamburgers • Hotdogs • Fries • Chicken Fingers • Onion Rings & More!

Fresh Hand-Battered Haddock    Fresh Hand-Battered Scallops    Fresh Hand-Battered Shrimp

Fisherman's Platter: Haddock, Scallops, Shrimp

Available every Friday, Saturday, Sunday while supplies last!

*Dari Joy*

Friday and Saturday: 11am - 10pm  
Sunday - Thursday: 11am - 9pm

71 YEARS ON THE CORNER

140 Rockingham St. | 463-9816 | Bellows Falls, VT



## A Better Value!

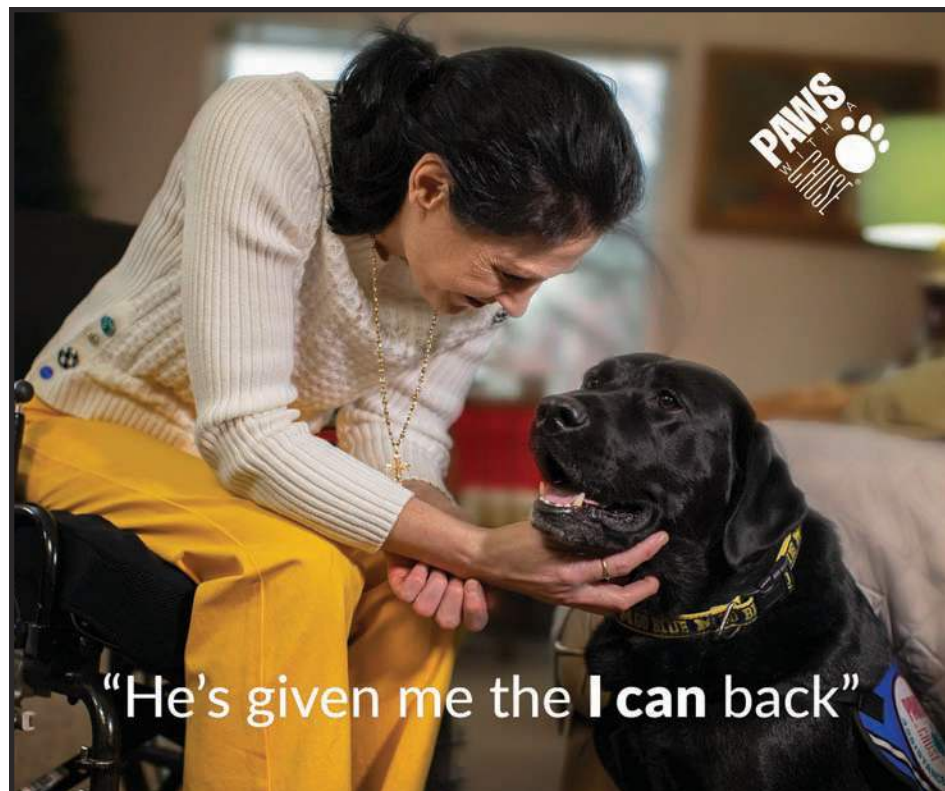
**4.25%** APY ✓

19 Month CD Term Certificate



**CREDIT UNION OF VERMONT**

2 South Main Street • Rutland, Vermont 05701  
[www.CUvermont.coop](http://www.CUvermont.coop) • 802-773-0027



"He's given me the I can back"

To learn more about *Paws With A Cause* and to find out how you can help, just download this simple app and watch this story come to life:



**GET ZAPPAR**  
ZAP THE CODE  
TO DONATE

Download on the App Store    GET IT ON Google play

Provided as a community service by this civic minded publication and the Association of Community Publishers

**Vermont Journal**  
&  
**SHOPPER**

**THE VERMONT JOURNAL & THE SHOPPER**  
802-228-3600 | [ads@vermontjournal.com](mailto:ads@vermontjournal.com)  
[www.vermontjournal.com](http://www.vermontjournal.com)

**Whitney®  
Blake  
Company**

Whitney Blake is continually growing and looking for associates to join our team. Check us out! We have currently have the following opportunities:

**Machine Operator, 2nd shift  
Warehouse Clerk  
Supervisor**

To apply, send resume to [humanresources@wblake.com](mailto:humanresources@wblake.com)  
9 Lovell Drive, Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
<https://wblake.com/company/careers/>

# Second graders make animation

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Second graders at Springfield's Elm Hill School all drew faces to animate part of Richard Blanco's inaugural poem, "One Today." They made and decorated all the paper cut-outs to illustrate the varied scenes, then worked with Melissa Post two or three at a time to film the animation. One child moved the figures a small amount, then the "cameraperson" took three photos, and the process was repeated with the cameraperson and animator switching roles. It takes 18 shots for one second of film. Next, the powerful words of the poem – slightly abridged – were recorded with the movie.

See the "One Today" animation at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUTMjI5o5SE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUTMjI5o5SE).

Melissa and production assistant Diane Kemble are volunteers and board members of Gallery at the VAULT. They're also retired Springfield teachers. Thank you to the wonderful staff and students of Elm Hill School, and to Claremont Savings Bank for funding expenses for materials. This was a real community effort.

Melissa uses Stop Motion Studio Pro, which can be used on an iPhone, iPad, or Android devices. Melissa and Diane are enthusiastic about teaching stop motion animation workshops. For further information, contact Melissa at [goodwood@vermontel.net](mailto:goodwood@vermontel.net), or Diane at [dkemble@vermontel.net](mailto:dkemble@vermontel.net).



# 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

## A “novel” idea

I have an idea for a new book. As I go around visiting friends, I hear countless stories of days gone by. Whether it's Bob Turco, Bill Burton, the Kendall family, or Ted and Danny, everyone has stories. I couldn't live long enough to record them all. I've often said, "I wish someone had done a hundred years ago what I do today." Think of what has been lost.

Some of these stories explain how things were done in the past, what really matters, or who Vermonters are as a culture. Some stories make me chuckle. So I asked several friends if they would

write their stories for this book.

Everyone likes the idea. Some say they can't write. I get that, but all you have to do is tell a story as if you were talking with me. Editing can clean it up and make you look good. Although I believe misspellings, improper grammar, sometimes make a story more authentic.

Ever hear of a car race from Chester to Springfield on the old road? That wasn't unusual, but this race was done in reverse gear.

You'll learn about some of our quirky ways. Our language, our way of life that sometimes puzzles newcomers. If nothing else,

we are independent.

I have a number of stories to write. Some are too long for the paper or maybe a little too risqué. I want to write about Vermonters I have known. These stories are fun and revealing.

Some stories can't be shortened to fit my column, because they would lose their value. Some stories will have "naughty words," as Lee Kendall calls them. These are not appropriate for the paper, but will be fine in the book.

One old Vermonter I was buying antiques off said, "let's go up attic." I commented that I hadn't heard that before. He said, "you go down cellar, don't you?"



Gaymont woolen mill in Ludlow.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

I will ask Kevin Gould and Frank Kendall to submit more of their poetry. Maybe you write poetry. If so I'd like to hear from you.

Over the years I've met a number of Vermonters who create objects of art from out of nothing. For me, folk art is the truest art form. Maybe you create lawn art from found objects. Perhaps you paint or carve. I know we have a number of creative people living amongst us.

I'm not interested in those who already have a voice or platform. I'm looking for the person who creates for their own enjoyment or amusement. Is this you? If so, I would like to talk with you. It would be fun.

I think a good story for someone to write would be the carnival held every summer at the Catholic church. I remember Al Cross, Elmer Butler, and I think Jim Lovett running the muffin tins. The Ferris wheel, other rides, cotton candy, and games of chance or skill are distant memories.

I asked Donna Mitchell Leclair if she would write a few stories. She is on-board with the project and will submit several stories. Donna grew up where Mitch's Maples is today.

Donna sent me a story over the weekend. It's about the time her parents hosted a black boy from New York City through the

Fresh Air Kids program. It is well written, and easy to read.

I will compile the stories, organize, and pre-edit. Amanda will finish editing. Shawntae lays out the pages in the book making it print ready. I love Vermont and its people. If you feel the same way, help me make this happen.

Based on previous books I've written, March is the best time of year to release a book. Cabin fever wanes. A new book will sell well this time of year, so I want to publish next March. So we have time.

This is your chance to record your stories for posterity. Oral history is fine, but lost with passing generations. Leave you kids and grandkids something more permanent.

The photo with this article is the Gaymont woolen mill in Ludlow. Notice the old cars.

*This week's old saying is a bumper sticker I once saw: "Pedestrians, New York's number one bumper crop."*

## Alcohol Awareness Month

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Have you wondered whether alcohol is beginning to negatively impact your life, or that of a loved one? Are you concerned about the number of drinks you are consuming each week, or perhaps you're binge drinking on the weekends? Are you worried about the impact of alcohol on your relationships, your work, your involvement in the criminal justice system, or your overall health?

Vermonters consume more alcohol than the national average, according to the Vermont Department of Health's website. Alcohol is the most abused substance in Vermont, and Vermont deaths due to the overuse of alcohol doubled from 2017 to 2021. These statistics can be found at [www.wcax.com/2023/02/08/vermont-alcohol-report-shows-increase-deaths](http://www.wcax.com/2023/02/08/vermont-alcohol-report-shows-increase-deaths).

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mental health agency, provides substance use services and is available to help residents of Windham and Windsor counties who want to reduce their alcohol use.

According to HCRS CEO George Karabakakis, Ph.D., "We have seen an increase in people seeking services since the Covid pandemic. Community members have experienced increased stress due to anxiety, isolation, and other impacts of the pandemic, resulting in their turning to alcohol."

HCRS works with clients to look at how they think, make decisions, engage in relationships, address self-care, and set boundaries with others, opening people up to possibilities for change.

Experienced and licensed HCRS counselors are available to help people examine how alcohol use affects

their life. In a respectful, confidential, and non-threatening manner, staff help clients to set their own goals, create strategies to achieve them, and help them to understand and change their relationship with alcohol.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Organized by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in 1987, this awareness event was designed to educate people on the dangers of alcohol, as well as reduce the stigma which often prevents people from seeking help.

To receive alcohol services in southeastern Vermont, reach out to HCRS at 855-220-9429 for the Springfield area. You can also view their website, [www.hcrs.org](http://www.hcrs.org), for more information.

## BRAM third floor BRHS exhibit

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Alumni Association and the Black River Academy Museum are collaborating to celebrate the grand opening, on June 10, of the special third-floor room commemorating the history of Black River High School, which educated Ludlow students from 1939 through 2020.

All areas of the museum will be open to the public from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., and the Black River Senior Center next door will be open for indoor

seating.

Many glass cases in the museum hold new exhibits, including athletic trophies and plaques, and mementos from the Black River High School Band and the Glee Club. Also on display are mannequins of cheerleaders and majorettes, binders of scripts and photos of the school's theatrical productions, and material produced by students who competed in many years of the National History Project. A book signed by every graduating senior since Calvin Coolidge graduated from Black River Academy in 1890 lies in a glass case.

When hunger strikes, step outdoors between the

museum and the senior center for hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream sodas. A complete set of yearbooks will be displayed there, with some duplicates for sale. Se-

lected antique trophies and duplicate photos will also be on sale.

A small buy-in will admit you to a corn hole tournament, winner take all.

**FOOD SHELF**

**BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES**

37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149  
**Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM**  
 Phone: 802-228-3663  
[www.brgn.org](http://www.brgn.org)

*"We are here to help"*  
 Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth

**BAR MANAGER**  
**Bellows Falls American Legion Post #37**

IMMEDIATE opening for an experienced VT Licensed Bar Manager. Includes, but not limited to, supervision and evaluation of employees (bartenders, janitor) shift, and events. Compliance of all federal and state laws. POS system and daily deposits. Hall rentals and activities. Inventory of liquor, snacks, rip tickets, paper supplies, and returns. Cleanup and closing of shift, maintenance of building and grounds, able to lift 30 +/- pounds (ask for help when needed), flush draft system and covers, clean all 3 coolers, beer pump, sinks, ice machine and A/C, and as needed.

Drop off application, sealed envelope at Post.

**WANTED: Experienced or Newly Graduating DENTAL HYGIENISTS!**

Your superior oral health and people skills are needed in our patient-centered, family-focused community dental clinics in beautiful Chester and Ludlow VT!

Contact Barb Hodgkins, Director of Dental Services, at **802-875-2878**  
 Or send Letter & Resume to [bhodgkins@northstarfqc.org](mailto:bhodgkins@northstarfqc.org)

**Dr. Fauver offers Dental Implants!**

Dental implants are artificial tooth roots that provide a permanent base for fixed, replacement teeth. They fit, feel, and function like natural teeth.

CROWN  
DENTAL IMPLANT  
ABUTMENT  
SCREW

HEALTHY TOOTH

**Make an appointment today to see if dental implants are right for you!**

**802-885-3191**  
 48 Main Street  
 Chester, VT

Like us on Facebook  
[www.drchristopherfauver.com](http://www.drchristopherfauver.com)

**HUNTLEY FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- Have you evaluated all expenses & fees from your investments?
- Are your assets protected from risk?
- How is your portfolio performance compared to indexes in 2022?
- Will your financial plan lead you toward a comfortable retirement?

**Call today for a Second Opinion, it's easy!**

**802-228-5774**

116 Main Street, Ludlow, VT

Member FINRA/SIPC  
 Securities offered exclusively through American Portfolio Financial Services Inc.

**At Brattleboro Hearing Center your hearing healthcare is our top priority.**

Our Doctors of Audiology keep up with the latest technology and our research-driven practices provide the **best possible outcomes** in the treatment of hearing loss. We're proud to offer personalized, **patient-centered care.**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

Brattleboro, VT • 802-254-3922  
 Swanzey, NH • 603-354-3325  
 Greenfield, MA • 413-773-5119

[www.BrattleboroHearing.com](http://www.BrattleboroHearing.com)

# opinion

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the folks who attended the childcare discussion on April 22 at the Springfield Library. The Springfield Democratic Town Committee is committed to making our legislators more accessible to the public, and facilitating conversations about issues that concern all of us.

Childcare is not a partisan issue. It is a complex issue that impacts communities, families, and the work force. There are equity issues around accessing quality childcare, especially in the more rural areas of Vermont. The Vermont legislature has been listening to testimony, and based on what they have learned the proposed legislation will focus on five key things: equity, accessibility, affordability, work force issues, and raising the status of childcare in the government.

I would also like to thank our presenters not only for giving up part of their Saturday morning, but for the

passion and advocacy they bring to the table. So thanks to Rep. Theresa Wood, the chair of the House Committee on Human Services; Rachel Hunter, coordinator for the Springfield School District's PreK program; Ariel Rose, Play Works Director at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center; and Sarah Kenney from "Let's Grow Kids."

If you missed the discussion Saturday, it will be available soon on SAPA T.V. You can also keep track of the bill, S.56, by going to the legislative website, www.legislature.vermont.gov. The Let's Grow Kids website, www.letsgrowkids.org, has ongoing information on the legislation as it works its way through the legislative process, and ways you can advocate for affordable and accessible childcare.

Sincerely,  
Char Osterlund  
Chair, Springfield Democratic Town Committee

Dear Editor,

According to a recent story in VT Digger (4/14/23), 40 Readsboro residents signed a petition requesting that the town close its elementary school. The same thing is happening in Windham this year. Both petitions reflect a trend to undervalue small community schools, and accept the opinion that closing the local school and sending children to larger consolidated schools is better. There is no evidence that supports this opinion, and the effect - and perhaps the purpose - of these petitions is to divide and confuse the community.

A year ago, a group of concerned citizens who appreciate the value of the Windham school founded a non-profit group to show the advantages of town and school cooperation. Thanks to generous donations from residents, bake sales, and raffles, they raised the money to replace the worn-out linoleum floor in the school's multipurpose room with a new maple floor that community volunteers worked weekends and vacations to install.

This group of small school supporters also built a row of raised bed gardens with planks donated by a local mill. Students planted the vegetables and flowers they had started in their classrooms, and over the summer, community volunteers

and students took turns keeping the beds watered. In September there was a well-attended harvest festival, "Potato Day," with a bonfire, music, and games. Other projects included a new sandbox, also built with donated planks from the local sawmill, and work on the school nature trail.

Between now and May 20, Windham's Town Meeting Day this year, there will be a vote on the petition to close the school. The petitioner's argument is that parents will have a choice about where their children attend elementary school. This is misleading. The Windham children will not have the choice to attend their local town school, because it will be gone. And unless parents have the time to transport their children to and from an out-of-town school, the only "choice" for young Windham children is to ride the early bus down the mountain to Townshend with the high school students.

I believe that the people in Windham should reject the petition to close their school, and work together so that the students receive a well-rounded, community-supported, public education in their own village school.

Sincerely,  
John Beagan  
West Windham, Vt.

## "Time for a Change" Diaper Bank at Parks Place Community Center

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** - The Edward Jones branch office in Bellows Falls, located at 16 The Square, will be accepting donations for Parks Place Community Center's "Time for a Change" diaper bank, from May 1-31. The branch is open Monday-Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. -

4 p.m. The items needed for the diaper drive include diapers size 4, 5, and 6, pull ups of all sizes, and baby wipes. Diapers of any size will be accepted. Please note that monetary donations cannot be accepted.

Proceeds from the drive will benefit the "Time for a Change" Diaper Bank.

Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in

the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's nearly 19,000 financial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.6 trillion in client assets under care at the end of 2022. Edward Jones' purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and soci-

ety. Through the dedication of the firm's approximately 52,000 associates and our branch presence in 68% of U.S. counties, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at [www.edward-jones.com](http://www.edward-jones.com), and its recruiting website is [www.careers.edwardjones.com](http://www.careers.edwardjones.com).

## Grace Cottage wins Best Place to Work

**TOWNSHEND, Vt.** - Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has been named one of Vermont's Best Places to Work in this year's contest.

The award, given each year by Vermont Business Magazine, in partnership with the Vermont Council of the Society for Human Resource Management, the Vermont Department of Commerce and Community Development, and the Workforce Research Group, is designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Ver-

mont, benefiting the state's economy, workforce, and businesses.

Grace Cottage was the only hospital to win an award this year.

The Best Places to Work contest includes three categories, small businesses (15-99 employees), medium businesses (100-249 employees), and large businesses (250 or more employees). Grace Cottage was one of 12 companies in the medium-size category. A total of 57 awards were presented this year. The awards ceremony was held on March 29 in Burlington.

Companies from across the state entered the con-

test's two-part process to determine the best places to work in Vermont. First,

each nominated company was evaluated for its workplace policies, practices, and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 20% of the total evaluation. The second part consisted of an employee survey, to measure the employee experience, with this score worth approximately 80% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking. Workforce Research Group managed the registration and survey process, analyzed the data,

and used their expertise to determine the final rankings.

Located in Townshend, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital includes a 19-bed critical access hospital, with round-the-clock emergency care, inpatient acute care, skilled rehabilitation, lab, and diagnostic imaging; an outpatient rehabilitation department, consisting of physical and occupational therapy; a rural health clinic, providing primary care and mental health services; a retail pharmacy; and a community wellness center. For more information, visit [www.graccottage.org](http://www.graccottage.org).

## HCRS named Best Place to Work, Vermont

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** - Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's nonprofit community mental health agency, was named one of Vermont's Best Places to Work in 2023, for the third year in a row.

Winners are chosen based on an in-depth, confidential survey of staff covering all aspects of the employee experience. Staff feedback contributes to approximately 80% of the agency's evaluation. A comprehensive

questionnaire was also completed by HCRS, providing the agency's policies, practices, and workforce demographics, for the remainder of the assessment.

"We feel honored to receive this important recognition for the third year in a row," said George Karabakakis, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at HCRS. "One of our key strategic priorities is to foster a culture of care across our workforce. This award celebrates the emphasis we have placed on employee relations, engagement, and benefits."

HCRS offers a generous benefits package, including unique options such as stipends for snow tires and CSAs, interest-free loans for personal computers, and a free meditation app, just to name a few. The agency's flexible work schedules and work from home options are two other benefits that contribute to employee satisfaction.

HCRS is based out of Springfield, Vt. and provides mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services for more than 4000 individuals across Windham

and Windsor counties annually. Their staff of more than 500 work out of 16 locations across southeastern Vermont and provide services in local schools and homes, as well as in the community.

Vermont's Best Places to Work program is presented by Vermont Business Magazine, the Vermont Department of Economic Development, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Vermont State Council. For more information on the Best Places to Work in Vermont program, visit [www.bestplacetoworkvt.com](http://www.bestplacetoworkvt.com).

## New board members at Parks Place

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** - How does Parks Place Community Resource Center in Bellows Falls stay in touch with a changing world? The staff at Parks Place sees changes every day, and the board of this 25-year nonprofit seeks out differing perspectives. The two new board members are Krista Gay, a young lawyer from Athens, and

Kathleen Govotski, activist with the Rotary Club of Bellows Falls and the Chamber of Commerce.

Krista Gay is a first-generation college graduate, who has returned to her roots in Vermont. Coming from a low-income background, Gay focuses on the difference free resumé help and Department of Labor counseling make to teenage parents, providing the resources

they need to change their lives. Changing lives with the right resources is the Parks Place mission. Gay is the youngest member of the Parks Place board at 29, and she wishes more millennials and gen Z youth would seek board positions. Vermont institutions need young voices to keep their services in tune with young seekers.

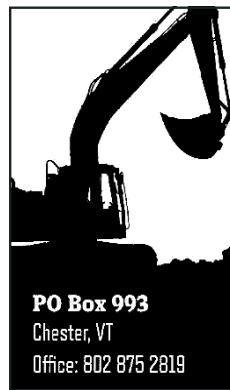
Kathleen Govotski comes to the board with years of small business experience and family Italian and Irish traditions. As a founder of Halladays herb business and florist shop, and the Harvest Inn, she knows the Bellows Falls community well. Govotski's connections have been forged over many years living in Vermont, and her husband and children offer additional Rockingham perspectives.

drugs. You can pick them up from Turning Point during business hours, no questions asked. Parks Place is here to help connect you.

April is the month of the young child, and Parks Place has some exciting resources for parents. While the diaper bank is not new to Parks Place, the increase in need is. Living in the post-Covid era has stretched people's budgets, challenging our ability to access basic needs. The diaper bank is here to help support families. Again, no questions asked. While you're picking up diapers, ask about the playgroups in the area for mothers and fathers.

For more information about Parks Place Community Resource Center, or to donate, walk in the door at 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls, or call 802-463-2297. You can also visit our website at [www.parkspalacevermont.org](http://www.parkspalacevermont.org). Parks Place serves a wide community, both town and rural, without questions. Director Jennifer Heidbrink welcomes invitations to spread the word about the programs Parks Place supports.

Two important services that Parks Place is focusing on are harm reduction bags, and the diaper bank. Turning Point, which is housed in the carriage barn, has harm reduction bags available. These bags include test strips for drugs, and Narcan - critical, life-saving supplies if someone you love is using



**P&L Excavating and Trucking**  
 "Stumps to stones and everything in between"

PO Box 993  
 Chester, VT  
 Office: 802 875 2819

Owner/Operator  
 Palmer cell: 802 291 3417  
 Ryan cell: 802 291 3363

**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. **EFFECTIVE MARCH, 2023, we will be charging for POLITICAL LETTERS.** Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

### King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18				19		20				
21			22		23					
24	25	26				27		28	29	30
31			32			33		34		
35			36		37			38		
39		39		40		41				
42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49				50				51		
52				53				54		
55				56				57		

**ACROSS**

- 1 Chantreuse Edith
- 5 Links org.
- 8 Too
- 12 Kott of "Today"
- 13 Filch
- 14 500 sheets
- 15 Rat -
- 16 Eternally
- 18 Large gong
- 20 Try to hear better, maybe
- 21 Author Bagnold Nabokov novel
- 24 Symbol of stability
- 28 La Scala solo
- 31 - tai (cock-tail)
- 32 Van Gogh venue
- 34 Mafia boss
- 35 Hostels
- 37 Vespers
- 39 Secret agent
- 41 Ms. Brockovich
- 42 Ceremony
- 45 Slanted type
- 49 The whole crowd
- 51 Actress Fisher
- 52 Lure
- 53 Some coll. degrees
- 8 Fleet
- 9 "Mona Lisa" painter
- 10 Rani's wrap
- 11 Portent
- 17 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 19 "Puppy Love" singer
- 22 Look (into)
- 24 Brit. record label
- 25 Moving vehicle
- 5 Opening night
- 6 State VIP
- 7 Genesis shepherd
- 29 Charged bit
- 30 "Life of Pi" director Lee
- 33 Tizzy
- 36 Gushes forth
- 38 Slowpokes
- 40 "Rah!"
- 42 Ms. McEntire
- 43 Infamous tsar
- 44 High tennis shots
- 46 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 47 "Would - to you?"
- 48 Shopper's aid
- 50 Scot's refusal

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

**Shawntae Webb**  
 Publisher, Ad Designer  
[publisher@vermontjournal.com](mailto:publisher@vermontjournal.com)  
[ads@vermontjournal.com](mailto:ads@vermontjournal.com)

**Padraic Scanlon**  
 Sales Representative  
[sales@vermontjournal.com](mailto:sales@vermontjournal.com)

**Nick Giberti**  
 Editor, Calendar of Events  
[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)  
[calendar@vermontjournal.com](mailto:calendar@vermontjournal.com)

**Paula Benson**  
 Billing Manager, Staff Writer  
[billing@vermontjournal.com](mailto:billing@vermontjournal.com)

802-228-3600







# arts & entertainment

## Sara Juli brings new work to Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is excited to welcome Sara Juli, a celebrated solo-performance artist, for a three-day artist-in-residence program. During her residency, Juli will develop her latest work, “Sara Juli’s Naughty Bits,” a piece commissioned by the Strand Theatre in Rockland, Maine.

“Juli has been a meaningful voice out of New York for so many years,” says Keith Marks, Executive Director of Next Stage Arts. “Her work is at the intersection of dance, text, and humor. As she applies those tools to explore sexual trauma, mental health, and victimhood, our

audience will have the opportunity to have input on her new show. The beauty of this is that we will be able to present the show in the fall or winter to our audiences.”

The residency will culminate in two free demonstration showings on April 29, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This showing of the piece in development will include an audience discussion with the artist on process, feedback, and dialogue.

“Sara Juli’s Naughty Bits” is a performance piece that explores the impacts of trauma on the brain stemming from sexual assault as a child. Interweaving regressed thinking with a

conflicted inner voice, coupled with finding the humor in the tragic, the work breaks down victimhood to ultimately reclaim the mind.

The performance will ultimately feature an 80s-inspired visual design by Brooklyn-based Dirty Bandits and Justin Moriarty, dramaturgy by Michelle Mola, and costumes by Carol Farrell. Created, written, and performed by Sara Juli, “Sara Juli’s Naughty Bits” will premiere in Maine in October 2023, with a performance scheduled for Next Stage Arts in February 2024.

## Carise Blanton and Brittany Ann Tranbaugh

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present singer/songwriters Carise Blanton and her quartet, plus Brittany Ann Tranbaugh, at Next Stage on Sunday, April 30, at 7 p.m.

Carise Blanton writes anthems for a world worth saving. Inspired by artists including Nina Simone and Randy Newman, her songs encompass a wide range of genres, from sultry pop to punk-tinged Americana. Whether alone with her electric guitar, or fronting her “handsome band,” Blanton delivers every song with an equal dose of moxie and mischief, bringing her audience together in joyful celebration of everything worth fighting for.

Since releasing her first album in 2002, Blanton has recorded seven more albums, appeared on NPR’s Mountain Stage, and shared

the stage with the likes of Paul Simon, The Weepies, and Shawn Colvin. In February 2011, she toured with Anais Mitchell’s “Hallelujah,” playing the role of Head Fate. Fragile and strong, with lush and cheerful arrangements infused with jazz elements, Blanton’s latest album, “Love and Rage,” is a reminder that the fight for racial and gender equity can – and should – have joyous moments.

Filled with songs bouncing between witty sarcasm and heartbreaking vulnerability, Brittany Ann Tranbaugh’s first EP, “Quarter Life Crisis Haircut,” features her 2022 John Lennon Songwriting Contest Song of the Year winner “Kiss You.” In the last year, Tranbaugh has finally quit her office job to pursue a full-time music career, establishing herself as local

favorite in the Philadelphia music scene, and recording a second EP, “Comets,” to be released this fall.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. For information, call 802-387-0102.

## Springfield Community Players present “9 to 5”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Players are proud to present “9 to 5 the Musical,” by Dolly Parton, to open the 2023 season. This hilarious musical comedy is set in 1979, and covers themes such as sexism, stereotypes, love, and feminism.

“On the surface the show is about a group of secretaries fighting to gain the respect they deserve from their chauvinist boss, but there’s so much more underneath,” said director and Players President Sara Vitale. “The show deals with how we relate to each other as people, and the stereotypes we carry, but in a really funny, light hearted way.” This is Sara’s third time directing a musical for the Players, her first being “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” in 2021, followed by “Gypsy” last year.

“Given my personality in real life, this has definitely been a difficult role to jump into. It’s not easy playing a ‘sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot,’” said

Louis Vitale, who plays the boss, Hart, referencing a line from the show, “but it’s been so much fun.”

Samuel Mathewes Clark, who plays mild-mannered Joe, says, “I love the collaboration and sense of community for the show. Everyone is bringing their best self to their characters and the show as a whole. We’re all helping each other to succeed.”

“Even though there has been a lot of progress in the work place with women’s equality, the playing field isn’t level yet. This is a really funny show that deals with some very serious issues that are still relevant today. I’m really enjoying the role of Violet, and digging into what motivates her,” said Ashlee White. “The music and dancing is a wonderful bonus! It’s been so much fun working with this talented cast. I hope our audience enjoys it as much as I do.”

Sara is joined again by musical director Carol Crouce and choreographer Suzanne Stern, along with stage manager Patty Greene-Pawelczyk, and costume designer Ellen Pillsbury, all of whom

worked with her on “Gypsy.” Sara is also mentoring Samantha Wood in assistant directing. The cast includes many faces which have graced the SCP stage in the past, as well as a group of actors who are new to the Players.

“I deeply believe that community theater should be inclusive, and so I’m thrilled that I was able to cast everyone who auditioned. It’s awesome to have first-time actors in my cast, anchored by experienced leads. I couldn’t be more proud of them all,” Sara said.

Shows are May 13 and 20 at 7:30 p.m., and May 14 and 21 at 2 p.m. Doors open half an hour before the show. All seating is general admission. If you require special seating, please reach out to the players at 802-885-4098. Masks are required for May 13 and 14, and are optional for May 20 and 21. Tickets are available by calling the Players at the number above, at the door, or at the website at [www.springfieldcommunityplayers.org](http://www.springfieldcommunityplayers.org). It is an intimate, 80-seat theater, so reserving or purchasing tickets in advance is encouraged.

## The VAULT calls for submissions

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Local artists are invited to show their work at Gallery at the VAULT in their Open Wall Show. This is a chance to display work in a non-juried show. There is no fee. It is a great opportunity for artists who would like to get their work out there for the first time, as well as for seasoned artists. The next show’s theme is “On The Wild Side.” Artists may bring in two works if they are

18 inches by 20 inches or smaller, or one work if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, etc. are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages.



Open Wall Show submissions welcome. PHOTO PROVIDED

Artists may bring their creations in on Wednesday,

May 10, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Friday, May 12, 11 a.m. –

6:30 p.m.; or Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The show will be on display from May 17 to July 12.

For more information please call Gallery at the VAULT at 802-885-7111. The gallery is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., and is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Gallery at the VAULT is online at [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org), or on Facebook.

**FLETCHER FARM SCHOOL**  
*for the Arts & Crafts*

[www.FletcherFarm.org](http://www.FletcherFarm.org)

**Create Unique Art in just a Weekend**  
beginners always welcome

- **May 20-21 Create Sterling Silver Fabricated Jewelry**  
with Hal Bosco **sign up by 5/10**
- **May 21 Create an Ash Bark Basket**  
with Jennifer Lee **sign up by 5/10**
- **May 27 Design and Create Wool Felted Tapestry**  
with Neysa Russo **sign up 5/17**

TO LEARN MORE  
SCAN ME

## Kalos and Fern Maddie at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present an evening of traditional Celtic and folk music by Kalos – consisting of Eric McDonald, Ryan McKasson, and Jeremiah McLane – and Fern Maddie on Friday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Next Stage.

Three innovative interpreters and composers of Celtic roots music - McDonald on the guitar, mandolin, and vocals; McKasson, on the fiddle, viola, and vocals;

and McLane on the accordion, piano, and vocals - draw on years of experience performing with the likes of Cantrip, Nightingale, The Clayfoot Strutters, and Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, to forge a new musical path as Kalos. They are masters of tradition, who purposefully explore the dark corners floating on its edges, delivering an alluring musical complexity full of spontaneity and joyful exuberance. Their individual artistry

springs from these strong traditional roots, and as a trio they move beyond this foundation, creating music that is compelling enough to transcend boundaries and appeal to music lovers of all stripes. Kalos’ music asks to be shared live, and performance is the band’s heart and forte.

Fern Maddie is a balladeer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, playing clawhammer banjo, guitar, and fiddle, and based

in Central Vermont. Her songs exploring themes of trauma, grief, and renewal, and modern interpretations of traditional ballads, have earned national and international acclaim. Her debut album “Ghost Story” was named #2 on The Guardian’s Best Folk Album of 2022, and was listed on NPR’s Best Roots Music of the year.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

## GIGANTIC SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

CLOTHING • BOUTIQUE • FURNITURE • HOUSEWARES  
COLLECTIBLES • GAMES • BOOKS • SPORTING GOODS  
BAKE SALE • AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**May 12 & 13**  
**Friday and Saturday**  
**10AM-4PM**

**Fletcher Farm, 611 Route 103 South in Ludlow**

All proceeds are used to provide food, rent, heat, utility and other assistance to our neighbors in need.  
Please call (802) 228-3663 to donate or to volunteer!

**THRIFT SHOP**  
37B Main Street  
Ludlow, VT  
Phone: 802-228-3663

**FOOD SHELF**  
37B Main Street  
Ludlow, VT  
Phone: 802-228-3663  
[www.brgn.org](http://www.brgn.org)

**BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES, INC.**  
WE WELCOME DONATIONS OF CLOTHES & ACCESSORIES, FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, MONEY AND TIME

## LUDLOW ROTARY CLUB 65th Annual Penny Sale

**Saturday, April 29, 2023**  
**\*\* 6:00 p.m. \*\***  
**Ludlow Elementary Gymnasium**

**“The Mud Season Event”**

**FREE Admission**  
**Cash prizes, local gift certificates, bikes, ski passes, . . .too many to list!**  
**Doors open at 5:30 p.m.**  
**\* Cash Raffle \***

**Benefits Local Scholarship Program and Community Projects**

[www.ludlowrotary.com](http://www.ludlowrotary.com)

**Refreshments Available**



# sports & outdoor

## Grace Cottage's family-friendly 5K

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Come out to the Townshend Town Common for the Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital 5K, Saturday, May 13, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

You can run, walk, roll, stroll, or push your baby carriage for this fun, family-friendly event.

Children younger than 18 can register for free with

signed parent or guardian permission; there is a registration fee for adults. Registration is open at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events). A virtual option is also available. Register at the same link.

Second Wind will provide official timing. Last year's winners were Al Claussen of Townshend, with a time of 18:49, and Kelsey Tad-

dei of Townshend, at 24:44 – while pushing two children in a stroller, and while supervising another child next to her on a bicycle.

For more information, email [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org) or call 802-365-9109. All proceeds from this event will benefit health-care services at Grace Cottage.

## Springfield Unified Basketball wins against Hartford, Middlebury

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Monday, April 17, after Springfield returned from their spring break, the Cosmos hosted their second home game to the Hartford Hurricanes.

The Cosmos took a 16-10 lead in the first quarter, with buckets from Lexy Bills, Emily Toner, Isaiah Short, Alana Blum and Sebastian Salls.

Coming off strong in the second quarter was senior Tim Jackson with eight points, along with four from Toner, two from Bills, and two from freshman Salls. These buckets gave the Cosmos a 32-26 lead at the half.

In the third quarter, Springfield was able to hold the Hurricanes to scoring seven points to Springfield's 10, which allowed them to keep the lead at 42-33. First time scorer Brianna Salo chipped in two points along with Patrick Toner's two.

In the 4th quarter, buckets from Bills, Jackson, Blum and Salls allowed Springfield to clinch the win. Total points for the night were: Tim Jackson with 14, Emily Toner with 10, Lexy Bills and Sebastian Salls each had eight, Alana Blum brought in four for the night, and Brianna Salo and Isaiah Short each chipped in two points.

The Cosmos then trekked



The Cosmos beat the Hurricanes on April 17. PHOTO PROVIDED

four points in the third quarter, with buckets also from Salo, Bills, Jackson, and P. Toner. Each Cosmo was ready for battle, guarding with enthusiasm and aggressiveness to not let their opponents score a basket.

The Cosmos worked as a team, followed directions, and persevered throughout the contest. With the increase in defense and perseverance, the Cosmos ended the quarter with a 28-24 lead.

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers could not keep up with the determination from each Cosmos player. Springfield doubled the Tigers' points with 12-6 in the 4th quarter. Bills and E. Toner each scored four, and a basket from Jackson and Sam Bailey allowed Springfield to stay on top of their game and end with the win.

For the evening, Lexy Bills led the Cosmo with 14 points, Tim Jackson with eight, Alana Blum and E. Toner each with six, and P. Toner, Brianna Salo and Sam Bailey each chipped in two.

north to take on the Middlebury Tigers on Wednesday, April 19. The trek was worthwhile, as Springfield brought home a win, which brings them to a 2-1 record with three games left to play before playoffs.

After the almost two-hour ride, the Cosmos began the game with points from Bills, E. Toner, and Blum. Senior Blum was a threat to the Tigers with her aggressive rebounds and steals, however, the Tigers took a lead of 12-8 in the first quarter and a 22-16 lead at the half. Tigers #24 Stephen Nucilo and #30 Jayden Mahoney scored a total of 14 points in the first half, and controlled the boards.

In the second half of the game, the Cosmos held the Tigers to scoring only two points, with strong defense from the whole team. Blum's strong defense and steals allowed her to land

## Saxtons River fishing derby

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – The Saxtons River Rec Area will hold its annual fishing derby Saturday, May 6, at the ponds on Pleasant Valley Road.

Following last year's schedule, there will be three different age groups in three shifts, to help ensure more children can participate with their families.

Children ages 4 to 6 will register at 8 a.m., with fishing beginning at 8:30 a.m. Age group 7 to 10 will register at 9:15 a.m., with fishing starting at 9:45 a.m. Age group 11 through 14 will register at 10:30 a.m., with fishing beginning at 11 a.m.

Children not showing up



Saxtons River fishing derby. PHOTO PROVIDED

appropriate-aged child registered and fishing during their given time. Siblings can be present, but cannot fish.

Adults are responsible for providing their children with all the gear, bait, and assistance needed while at the derby. Participants and families will be required to leave the derby once their age group's session has ended unless there is a sibling in the next age group.

Donations towards expenses will be accepted at the derby, and volunteers of all ages are welcome to contact [samanthamperry@hotmail.com](mailto:samanthamperry@hotmail.com), or to get in touch through the Saxtons River Rec Facebook page.

at their correct time will not be able to participate. Families with children in multiple age groups will only be allowed to have the

## Forts baseball off to 2023 start

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Baseball season has started in the Connecticut River Valley, and the boys of summer – or in this case, springtime – are playing their home openers.

The Charlestown Middle School Forts have entered the 2023 season with a fine roster of 16 eager players. The team came together with a fine, fast, and furious win over Sunapee in the coolness of the afternoon on Tuesday, April 18, at Patch Park in Charlestown.

Ten members of the team are sixth and seventh graders, five from each grade, who will cer-



The Charlestown Middle School Forts 2023 roster. PHOTO PROVIDED

tainly have some playing time, and gain much valuable field experience for next year's schedule. The core group of players this year is the team's six eighth graders,

who had rounded out last year's rebuilding team with some hard-fought wins.

Written by Smokey Aumann.

## Clean Water Restoration Roadshow

REGION – The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) is excited to announce a Clean Water Restoration Roadshow, planned in partnership with Marie Caduto from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC), aimed at highlighting natural resource restoration projects in the Black and Ottauquechee watersheds. Our goal is to increase awareness and transparency around environmental restoration work being done in the state of Vermont. Specifically, the multi-town tour will showcase six projects, from Springfield up to Woodstock, that were funded in part by Vermont's Clean Water Fund.

The event will be held on May 6, beginning at the Springfield Food Coop at 9:30 a.m., with an opportunity to arrive 30 minutes early for coffee and baked goods. From there, we will stop at several sites on the way to Woodstock, ending the day at the Sustainable Woodstock Community Garden. Participants are encouraged to join for one stop, come along for the whole ride, or hop on or off anywhere in between. Find more information or register at [www.ctriver.org/event/clean-water-restoration-roadshow](http://www.ctriver.org/event/clean-water-restoration-roadshow).

**About the Clean Water Fund** – With revenue from the Meals and Room Tax Allocation, Property Tax Surcharge, and unclaimed bottle deposits, the Clean Water Fund supports vari-

ous natural resource restoration projects which aim specifically to improve water quality, as well as provide many other co-benefits such as improvements to wildlife habitat, increased flood resilience, and improvements for recreational access.

This tour will help to illustrate the myriad ways that clean water funding can be used to address storm-water runoff, plant trees, remove unused dams, and protect our wetlands and natural resources. "Clean water funding from the state of Vermont is invaluable in implementing these projects that help to protect and restore our rivers and streams in the Connecticut River watershed," states Kathy Urffer, River Steward for the Connecticut River Conservancy in Vermont.

**OVER 2000**  
BROKEN-IN TIRES  
**MANY SETS OF 4**

**CANON TIRE**  
I-91, Exit 8, Ascutney, VT  
**802-674-5600**  
**NEW TIRES TOO!!**

**Walpole Valley Tire**

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00 • Saturday 8:00 - Noon  
Route 12 • Walpole, NH • 603-445-2060

**Get Driving**

**Spring Loan Sale**  
**1% OFF**  
Our Current Rates\*

Finance or Refinance your Car, Truck, Motorcycle, ATV, Camper, & More.  
**April 21 - 30, 2023**  
Ask us today or visit [802cu.com](http://802cu.com) to apply online.

**802** credit union let's connect

\*Rates will vary based on your individual credit. This special does not apply to current loans held with 802 Credit Union, and is for secured, non-residential loans only. Not all applicants will qualify. Share account required. All loans receiving this special offer must close by May 31, 2023. Loan applications must be submitted by April 30, 2023. Additional terms & conditions apply. Contact us for all of the details.

**P&M Auto & Service**

Quality Used Cars and Trucks and Auto Services

Ask about our **Guaranteed Credit Approval**

Bankruptcy • Bad Credit First Time • Divorce

**Specials of the Week**

<p><b>2014 Jeep Patriot</b></p> <p>Auto 4x4 Cruise A/C</p>	<p><b>2016 Jeep Compass</b></p> <p>Latitude Auto 4x4 Cruise Power Windows</p>
<p><b>2016 Kia Sportage LX</b></p> <p>Fully Loaded Cruise Control Auto Bluetooth</p>	<p><b>2015 Nissan Altima SL</b></p> <p>Auto Cruise A/C Power Windows</p>
<p><b>2017 Dodge Caravan SE</b></p> <p>4 Cylinder Auto Cruise Control 3rd Row Seating</p>	<p><b>2015 Volkswagen Jetta</b></p> <p>Power Windows Auto Cruise 4 Door</p>

280 River Street • Springfield, VT  
Tel: 802-885-4963 • 802-885-6200

# home improvement

## Pre-order your hanging baskets

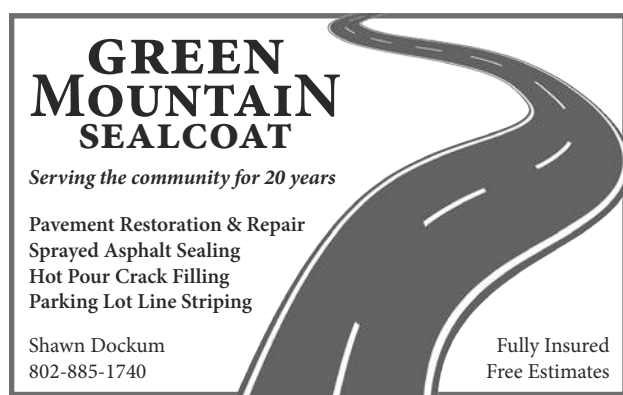
CHESTER, Vt. – Chester Townscape is offering hanging baskets to wel-

come spring and beautify your home or business. The hanging baskets – created by a new local grower this year – are in 12-inch fiber pots, to reduce watering

needs. Baskets feature mixed flowers in a choice of four different combinations: for sunny locations in either hot or cool colors, or for shady locations in either hot or cool colors. They are available by pre-order, and will benefit Chester Townscape, the volunteer organization which provides seasonal flowers in bridge boxes, planters, and public gardens in Chester.

To pre-order, download the form from [www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html](http://www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html), complete it, and mail it with your check (unless you indicate payment by credit card) by Monday, May 1, to Chester Townscape, PO Box 561, Chester, VT 05143.

Pick-up will take place on Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the information booth on Main Street, across from the Chester Village Green. All money raised helps fund Townscape's beautification projects. For questions or alternative pick-up arrangements, please contact Lynn Russell at [chester-townscape@gmail.com](mailto:chester-townscape@gmail.com) or at 802-875-2707.



**GREEN MOUNTAIN SEALCOAT**  
Serving the community for 20 years

Pavement Restoration & Repair  
Sprayed Asphalt Sealing  
Hot Pour Crack Filling  
Parking Lot Line Striping

Shawn Dockum  
802-885-1740

Fully Insured  
Free Estimates

CHARLIE RECORD  
802-875-3702 [recordconcrete@yahoo.com](mailto:recordconcrete@yahoo.com)


**RECORD CONCRETE INC.**  
QUALITY WORK SINCE 1971

- Slabs
- Foundations
- Floors

PO BOX 574  
25 TOWN FARM ROAD  
CHESTER, VT 05143

## ADDING VALUE TO YOUR HOME

Let us help! **Claremont Savings Bank**



**SOLAR POWER**

**HOME IMPROVER LOAN\***

- ✓ No processing fee
- ✓ No equity required
- ✓ Quick turnaround
- ✓ Competitive Rate 7.00% APR\*

Member FDIC **Apply online** [claremontsavings.bank](http://claremontsavings.bank)

\*The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) shown is accurate from 4/1/23 to 10/1/23 with auto-deduction from a Claremont Savings Bank deposit account. APR is 7.50% without auto-deduct from a CSB deposit account. Add 1.00% with credit score below 675. This is for closed-end loans only. Additional fees may apply. Offer of credit is subject to credit approval. Rates and programs are subject to change without notice.



**bmw painters**  
box 6, weston, vt

- commercial & residential
- paperhanging
- drywalls
- aerial truck
- free estimates

Ray Wilcox  
802-875-3391  
Cell 802-384-1933

• Since 1969 •

**ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS**



**DEPOT HOME CENTER**

**SPRING LAWN & GARDEN NEEDS**  
**LUMBER, BUILDING MATERIALS, HARDWARE, TOOLS**  
**PAINT SHOP & SUPPLIES**

Reg & Jan Bailey, Owners  
Box 390, 56 Depot St. • Charlestown, NH 03603  
Tel: 603-826-3251 • Fax: 603-826-5336  
Open 7 Days a Week

**Vermont's Largest Farm Stand Garden Center & Nursery**  
**Fresh pies and award winning cider donuts made daily!**



**Allen Brothers Farms**  
Visit us: Exit 5 off I-91  
Route 5 South, Westminster, Vermont  
802-722-3395 • [allenbrothersfarms.com](http://allenbrothersfarms.com)

Open 7 days a week: Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-8 p.m. • Sun 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

## Energize Vermont grant supports WindowDressers

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Energize Vermont, a nonprofit energy education and advocacy organization, recently announced two grant awards to the Guilford and Rockingham Energy Committees, to support the town's WindowDressers program. Over the last several years, Energize Vermont has granted thousands of dollars to WindowDressers communities. At WindowDressers workshops, community volunteers collaborate to assemble custom-fit plastic film inserts stretched over wooden frames. The Energize Vermont grant is intended to support participation in WindowDressers workshops by lower-income households.

Nancy Detra of the Guilford Energy Committee reflects, "working together in the fall of 2022, about 50 volunteers built 262 window inserts to warm 34 homes and help reduce fuel bills as well as carbon emissions. Our success is due to the goodwill and determina-

tion of community members. We are eager to continue providing free inserts to folks who need them in 2023."

For WindowDressers projects, town Energy Committee volunteers solicit orders for window inserts, and recruit and train volunteer workshop participants. The inserts work like storm windows, but are much less expensive and far easier to install and remove. They fit inside an existing window, adding two insulating spaces and improving the air seal. Window inserts improve the comfort of homes, reduce heating costs, and can reduce carbon footprints.

"I measured a lot of drafty windows in our first two years offering this program, and we heard from many of our customers what a difference the inserts made in their comfort and in lower fuel bills," said Peter Bergstrom of the Rockingham Energy Committee.

Support for WindowDressers is an element of Energize Vermont's Climate Action Project, which promotes a response to climate change that reduces

consumption, limits energy sprawl, and preserves the natural resources that defend Vermont against climate impacts.

The Vermont WindowDressers effort has technical and material support from Maine's non-profit WindowDressers, which developed the community approach to energy savings. Over the history of the project, WindowDressers has conducted hundreds of workshops in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The workshops have engaged thousands of community volunteers, and produced over 48,000 window inserts, with 25-30% of those supplied to low-income households without cost. More information is available at [www.windowdressers.org](http://www.windowdressers.org).

Town energy committees or other community groups interested in learning more about Energize Vermont's Grant Program or Vermont Window Project community workshops may contact Becca Dill at [beccad@energizevermont.org](mailto:beccad@energizevermont.org), or Jack Sumberg, WindowDressers President, at [jacksumberg@gmail.com](mailto:jacksumberg@gmail.com).

## For the love of forsythia

REGION – The forsythia has become a beloved and iconic springtime plant, with its dazzling yellow flowers signaling the end of

winter, dotting yards and forest margins throughout Vermont in April.

Forsythias grow readily in Vermont when provided

with full sun and well-draining soil. Those with these beautiful, arching plants in their yards know to give the vigorous growers plenty of space to spread, as forsythias are stoloniferous, which means they spread through the growth of adventitious roots along stem nodes.

Its blossoms, leaves, and fruit have a rich herbal history. In traditional Chinese medicine, forsythia has been used for its anti-inflammatory and anti-viral properties. While usually prepared as a tea made from young leaves, active medicinal compounds are found in the blossoms as well.

Forsythia blossoms can also be used in culinary creations. The delicate, slightly sweet flavor of the flowers pairs well with a variety of ingredients, making them a sustainable and colorful addition to the spring palate.

From traditional medicine to culinary creations and herbal skincare, forsythia blossoms offer a wealth of opportunities to add beauty, elegance, and sustainability to your life.

Written by Kate Ziegler. Full article online at [www.vermontjournal.com](http://www.vermontjournal.com).

• Carports • Carpentry • Additions • Decks

**GRACE'S M.H.M.**  
802-674-5892  
Steven E. Grace, Sr.  
[www.GracesHomeRepair.com](http://www.GracesHomeRepair.com)  
[SteveGracesmhm@gmail.com](mailto:SteveGracesmhm@gmail.com)  
For All Your Home and Manufactured Home Needs  
Fully Insured - Full Service Dept.

Porches • Finings • Remodeling • Decks

• Vinyl Siding, Skirting & Windows •

## CHAVES EXCAVATING

ALL MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE SITE WORK  
**Sand • Gravel • Stone**  
**Shurpac • Topsoil • Fill**



5,000 lb. Hydraulic Hammer for Ledge & Rock Splitting

Portable On-Site Crushing & Screening Equipment

**802-824-3140**  
**Londonderry, VT**

Come visit our **Beautiful Kitchen Showroom!**

The Best Home Improvement Value!  
Come Visit us Today to See all of our Kitchen Selections!

**KraftMaid**  
Has more than 40 years experience building quality, customized cabinetry

**Medallion**  
Builds beautiful and functional crafted cabinets inspired by and personalized for your lifestyle



**LaValley BUILDING SUPPLY, INC.**  
Jeff Schneider | [jschneider@lavalley.com](mailto:jschneider@lavalley.com)  
182 Pleasant St. | Ludlow, VT | (802) 228-4665

**AQUA AID SYSTEMS**

**SOLVING HARD WATER, IRON, BLUE STAINING, RADON, AND ARSENIC PROBLEMS IN THE CENTRAL VT AND NH AREA SINCE 1984**

Service Pumps & Tanks  
Water Conditioning  
Free on-site Water Analysis & Estimate

Radon & Arsenic Removal  
Systems Maintenance  
Home Supplies Delivery

**Hellenbrand**

**800-252-8484 • AQUAAIDSYSTEMS.COM**